



CONFERENCE A

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Documentation of the Work of UN-Women

UN-Women

Committee Staff

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Agenda

- I. Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Beijing +20 Review
- II. Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015 by Eliminating Violence against All Women
- III. Strengthening Women's Political Participation

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UN-	Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015	25 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 6 abstentions
Women/1/1	by Eliminating Violence against All Women	
UN-	Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015	26 votes in favor, 0 votes against, 5 abstentions
Women/1/2	by Eliminating Violence against All	
	Women	
UN-	Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015	Adopted without a vote
Women/1/3	by Eliminating Violence against All	
	Women	
UN-	Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015	22 votes in favor, 3 votes against, 6 abstentions
Women/1/4	by Eliminating Violence against All	
	Women	

Summary Report

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Beijing +20 Review
- II. Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015 by Eliminating Violence against All Women
- III. Strengthening Women's Political Participation

The session was attended by representatives of 31 Member States and one non-governmental organization. In the preliminary session, delegates began a passionate discussion regarding the adoption of the agenda. On Sunday evening, the committee adopted the agenda II, III, I, beginning discussion on "Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015 by Eliminating Violence against All Women."

By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of four proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including: education and prevention strategies, providing rehabilitation and resources for victims, increasing women's participation in politics and decision-making roles, and also the need for specialized efforts to protect marginalized groups of women from violence. Further discussion on the topic prompted delegates to consider how media campaigns can have an affirmative role toward raising awareness on issues concerning gender-based violence (GBV). The committee maintained a spirit of collaboration and partnership consistently throughout the day.

On Wednesday, four draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, one of which had amendments. The committee adopted four resolutions following voting procedure, one of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues including expanding the United Nations definition of violence against women to include economic and psychological abuse, as well as the need to raise awareness on the severity of GBV.



Code: UN-Women/1/1

Committee: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women **Topic:** Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015 by Eliminating Violence against All Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

Bearing in mind the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), specifically MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women, emphasizes the importance of the inclusion of all women, and encourages the governments to take effective measures in order to eliminate gender inequality and draws attention to the post-2015 agenda as a prerequisite for gender equality matters in its own right and the health and development of families and societies.

Recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) (1995), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) and previous Security Council resolutions such as 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and all relevant statements of the Security Council President,

Reaffirming that women's and girls' empowerment and gender equality are cornerstones to maintaining international peace and security and that persisting barriers to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to gender equality,

Noting with satisfaction the implementation and progress after the 2014 launch of the HeForShe initiative, a movement for gender equality that brings together one-half of humanity, men and boys, as allies in support of women and girls in eliminating both intimate partner and non-partner violence such as rape, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual violence,

Bearing in mind General Assembly Resolution 69/150 on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations (FGM), with the understanding that female genital mutilation is an extremely dangerous and irreversible procedure with serious physiological and psychological consequences,

Acknowledging CEDAW (1979) which states that discrimination violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity and defines in Article 1 that discrimination is understood as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex,"

Deeply conscious of the fact that violence against women (VAW) directly relates to the systematic and historical oppression of women, and understanding the inter-correlation between lack of education and VAW,

Further emphasizing the commitment of UN-Women in Partners for Prevention (P4P), together with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) to create safe public spaces and how this can help women expand their full social, economic, cultural and political participation as equal citizens,

Reaffirming the notion that men and women should be on equal planes in all aspects of society such as educational institutions and the workforce.

Emphasizing the need for education in schools regarding indigenous, immigrant, refugee, and disabled women, and women who are traditionally marginalized because of sexual orientation and gender identity and suffer greater degrees of violence due to their status,

Bearing in mind that because VAW comes in many forms and not only physical violence, that there is a need to expand the definition to include psychological, physiological, emotional and financial abuse,

Noting with deep concern the need for political participation and measures necessary to enforce laws and policies to combat, prosecute, and convict perpetrators of VAW,

Recognizing the need to enhance monitoring systems, that will enable the periodical review of Member States' policies to ensure that they are enacting laws that are relevant to VAW, as proposed by General Assembly resolution 40/34.

Fully aware that prosecutors hold a critical role in the fight against VAW and reconfirming the recommendations made in this regard by the General Assembly resolution 65/228 (annex),

1. *Encourages* that the General Assembly expand the UN definition of VAW as expressed in both General Recommendation 19 to the CEDAW and paragraph 113 of the BPfA to include, but not limit to:

a. Economic abuse, including the control of access to resources, as well as financial and workplace discrimination,

b. Psychological abuse, such as emotional and verbal violence,

c. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity with respect to state sovereignty, low socio-economic status, and victims of FGM and sex-trafficking;

2. *Recommends* physical training programs provided by trained individuals which are funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women to train women and girls self-defense skills;

3. Stresses the need to advance international policies to provide support to the UN General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), to ensure that the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the post-2015 development agenda include the elimination of violence against women and girls as part of a standalone goal to achieve gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment;

4. *Recommends* Member States to implement educational, incentive-based in school and after school programs to teach women and girls to accurately identify existing symptoms of intimate partner violence (IPV);

5. Calls Upon Member States to create educational curriculums that help local communities and government officials to identify with indigenous, immigrant, refugee and disabled women, and women who are traditionally marginalized because of sexual orientation and gender identity and suffer greater degrees of violence due to that status and identify the cultural and systematic biases that lead to the violence perpetrated against them, through incentive-based programs implemented for Member States who are modeled after Brazil's Bolsa Escola program, and:

a. Implement the programs on a national level through women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community organizations,

b. Utilize the funding provided by grants through the UN-Women Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Zonta International Foundation to end VAW;

6. Calls Upon Member States to strongly support awareness programs for the prevention of female genital mutilation by including the help of social workers and medical professionals and provide developed documentations on the physical and mental consequences associated with genital mutilation to stop the continuation of the social norm, and:

a. With the expressed support from the United States to utilize USAID, the United States Agency for International Development, as a source of funding,

b. Encourages collaboration with the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), to implement the main framework;

7. *Recommends* the creation of an advisory board consisting of members of the P4P to define infrastructural standards that ensure a safe environment and a common understanding of sustainable gender-responsive urban

planning, as well as offering new funding through the UNFPA for infrastructural projects that further a genderinclusive environment, and:

a. Further recommends the creation of accessible places by Member States for women and girls to resort
to in order to speak up and take action in a safe environment via a network of leaders and actors in
different sections of society,

b. Supports the specific training of officials including in particular policemen and other security staff, architects and urban planners to encourage not only participation in, but also coordination of, actions for increased safety;

8. *Suggests* the financial support of Technical Assistance United Nations Trust Fund, USAID, UNDP and organizations such as Australia Aids for promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability as well as private donors in order to reach expertise in development and humanitarian assistance to respond to gender based-violence by providing funds to the relevant programs;

9. Invites the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) to help women who are affected by violence by:

- a. Extending on a national and regional level the Orange YOUR Neighbourhood campaign to spur awareness of violence against women targeting women affected in developing countries by taking into account cultural norms,
- b. Involve worldwide population by using media for their significant role in current societies to expose women's reality and show experiences of women to manage the issue in order to change the mindset of society,
- c. Providing help through ECOSOC to support agencies, such as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNDP, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organization (WHO) and civil society organizations (CSOs),
- d. Supporting the worldwide UNiTE to End Violence against Women and "The Line" campaign;
- 10. Further recommends grants made by the UN-Women Trust Fund to End Violence against Women to programs designed to alleviate the physical, psychological, and monetary abuse of women, with a specific consideration placed upon criminal proceedings through the creation and enforcement of harsher punishments, ultimately providing psychological support that those affected by and affective of need;
- 11. *Reiterates* the use and expansion of international NGOs which aim to promote empowerment of vulnerable women and girls to engage women, as well as men in eliminating VAW, and:
 - a. *Calls upon* the Asia Foundation which fully commits to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia by addressing critical issues with concrete solutions and therefore:
 - i. Supports the expansion of the Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) program, which has had success in having 2600 men participate in workshops to prevent VAW, and
 - ii. Establishes a help desk service for survivors of sexual crimes and access to female police officers in such cases.
 - b. Suggests Members States collaborate with Promundo, a global leader in 22 countries in promoting gender justice and preventing violence in communities by working to engage men and boys in partnership with women and girls and:
 - i. Reiterates the use of campaigns and local activism to build community in support of positive changes in gender norms and advocates research on gender equality, health and evaluating programs that promote positive changes in individual behavior and gender norms, and

- Encourages institutions and governments to adopt policies and scale up programs that ii. reinforce personal and social change that advocates the integration of gender equality initiatives in public policies: 12. Further requests the utilization of highly trained individuals from NGOs or other professional organizations to provide these services to victims of VAW as well as their children; Encourages these trained individuals to assist victims of VAW in achieving financial stability in regards to housing, transportation and income by providing victims with financial training, b. Recommends that trained individuals provide counseling services such as Cognitive Behavior Therapy and group therapy to victims of VAW to increase their emotional stability and overall well-being,
 - c. Suggests medical care supported by the WHO in the regional Economic and Social Commissions, United Nations E level and National Health programs developed in every Member State,
 - d. Recommends assisting women to obtain access to legal justices;
 - 13. *Recommends* the Commission on the Status of Women to evaluate and collect information about VAW on a national level to have a better understanding of the issue, and works as a supporting group on an international level;
 - 14. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate in the international forum, modeled after the National Agency of Women's Rights (NAWR) in Brazil, to conclude in a comprehensive report encompassing the data, that through this accountability framework, will gradually show the diminishing accounts of VAW;
 - 15. *Encourages* Member States to establish specific initiatives to prevent and tend to cases of VAW, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Specially trained and VAW-oriented police units,

- b. Courts solely for the purpose of addressing and trying cases of violence against women and other gender-based violence,
- c. Care centers devoted to assisting victimized women and addressing cases of violence;
- 16. *Encourages* Member States to apply a long-term strategy to prevent VAW and girls using National Plans to Reduce Violence against Women to uphold women's rights and strengthen efforts to support women in shelters affected by domestic violence;
- 17. *Draws attention* to the importance of disabled, elderly and indigenous women in every avenue of the social and economic sphere and deplores any act of violence in which their physical, mental, financial integrity could be put in danger and the importance of assisting and protect them from exclusion, restriction, and discrimination;
- 18. Further requests the creation and expansion of shelters and hotlines within the communities of Member States to provide counseling and health related services to victims of VAW, such as the Federation SOS Hotline in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the National Domestic Violence Hotline in the United States of America, as an essential step in opening discussion regarding VAW in the public sphere.



Code: UN-Women/1/2

Committee: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Topic: Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015 by Eliminating Violence against All Women

1 The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

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Guided by Article 2 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) stating that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms within the UDHR regardless of how they identify,

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Keeping in mind Article 7 of the UDHR that articulates that all are entitled to equal protection from the law, without being subjected to discrimination,

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Reaffirms the UDHR, Article 4, which states that "no one shall be held in slavery or servitude,"

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Recalling the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) definition of violence against women (VAW), specifically paragraph 113 stating that VAW refers to all forms of gender-based violence that lead to physical, sexual, or psychological harm, suffering from coercion, and arbitrary deprivation of liberty in both public and private spheres,

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16 Reaffirming paragraph 116 of the BPfA considering groups particularly vulnerable to violence, including minority 17 groups, indigenous women, refugee women, women migrants, including women migrant workers, women in poverty 18

living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in mental institutions or in detention, girls, women with disabilities, elderly women, displaced women, repatriated women, those in situations of armed conflict, foreign

occupation, international warfare, civil wars, and terrorism, including hostage-taking,

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Taking into consideration the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly on the increased vulnerability and marginalization of minority groups due to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities,

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Noting the imperative role that civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played at the international, national, and regional levels in advancing gender equity and the elimination of VAW, specifically in regards to women of marginalized groups, such as those that identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, or asexual (LGBTQIA+),

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Affirming the necessity of tackling the root causes of VAW, as stated in Human Rights Council resolution 23/25 on "Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: preventing and responding to rape and other forms of sexual violence,"

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Alarmed by the discriminatory violence that affects women within the LGBTQIA+ community, such as corrective rape, which often results in physical, emotional, and psychological harm, and/or death,

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Deeply concerned with the lack of enforcement of prior UN initiatives regarding VAW, leading marginalized women to not only run the risk of becoming the victims of hate crimes but also absence of protection from governmental authorities,

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Recognizing the importance of gender equality in the workplace as noted in the International Labor Office Geneva Resolution Concerning the Promotion of Gender Equality, Pay Equity, and Maternity Protection which allows women to participate in the realms of employment,

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Acknowledging the increased vulnerability of both elderly and disabled women to the risk of violence and abuse, such as that illustrated by the 2014 UN News Centre's feature "UN findings flag violence, abused of older women accused of witchcraft."

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51 Deeply disturbed by the fact that 7 in 10 disabled women report to have been physically and/or sexually assaulted in 52 their lifetime, as cited by UN-Women's report "Forgotten Sisters: Violence Against Women and Girls with 53 Disabilities."

Further deeply disturbed by many Member States having not implemented national legislation to combat female genital mutilation (FGM) despite the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO),

Reaffirming the Commission of the Status of Women resolution titled "Ending female genital mutilation" (2008) and the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme and the UNICEF report titled *Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation* in Somalia on accelerating change and condemning the destructive and continued practices of FGM and cutting,

Viewing with appreciation the nonviolent efforts of grassroots organizations, such as those of the Gulabi Gang of India, towards encouraging solidarity among all women, particularly those who are marginalized, and reducing VAW,

Further reaffirming Member States' strong stance against sex trafficking and work to ultimately end all forms of exploitation, prostitution, and trafficking of women that the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) demands for,

Recognizing that education of all individuals, including men and boys, plays a vital role in the rate of VAW, as those who are more educated in issues of diversity and general violence are less likely to commit violent acts against women, shown by the Iranian Journal of Psychiatry study Effect of Education on Prevention of Domestic Violence against Women,

Concerned that many first-responders are not well versed in how to handle violence against marginalized groups, as cited in a study done by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force,

Keeping in mind the HeForShe campaign launched in 2014 that has already made immense progress in societal awareness so far by the 380% increase in participation within social media,

Further recognizing the progress that has been made towards achieving gender justice through the Millennium Development Goals which will continue to be upheld by Member States post 2015 through Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the Open Working Group,

Alarmed by the minimal progress that has been made in increasing funding for women's organizations and gender equality as shown in the 2013 report "New Actors, New Money, New Conversations: A Mapping of Recent Initiatives for Women and Girls" conducted by the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID),

Strongly emphasizing the importance of inclusion of local populations in the design and implementation of programs addressing VAW, as demonstrated in the United Nations Development Fund for Women 2010 program report, "From Communities to Global Security Institutions: Engaging Women in Building Peace and Security,"

1. *Encourages* the UN General Assembly to expand the UN definition of VAW as expressed in both General Recommendation 19 to the CEDAW and paragraph 113 of the BPfA to include but not limited to:

a. Economic abuse, including the control of access to resources, as well as financial and workplace discrimination,

b. Psychological abuse, such as emotional and verbal violence,

c. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity with respect to state sovereignty, low socioeconomic status, and victims of FGM and sex trafficking;

2. *Further encourages* that the following groups be defined as marginalized: LGBTQIA+, minority races and ethnicities, minority religions, indigenous people, disabled and elderly individuals, individuals of low

socioeconomic standing, immigrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons, women and girls who have been inflicted with FGM, women who have been or currently are victims of sex trafficking;

- 3. *Recommends* the addition of emotional, verbal, and economic abuse and violence to paragraph 113 of the BPfA in order to broaden the definition of VAW, as seen in South Africa's Domestic Violence Act;
- 4. *Further encourages* the addition of women within the LGBTQIA+ community generally to paragraph 116 of the BPfA;
 - 5. Welcomes Member States to invest in data and qualitative information collection in order to better understand the prevalence, causes, and consequences of intersectional discrimination, creating a better knowledge base for actions aimed at affected groups, such as the LGBT Centre at the Directorate of Children, Youth and Family Affairs in Norway;
 - 6. Further recommends that Member States establish a relationship with CSOs and NGOs to grant access to resources and develop comprehensive competence training and awareness-raising programs increasing knowledge and attention of public authorities to the causes and consequences of VAW in marginalized communities, such as the successful program, Queer Youth Norway;
 - 7. *Endorses* the call for women's political, economic, social, and cultural participation, and moreover including women from vulnerable and minority groups in these decision-making processes by:
 - a. Suggesting the use of national quotas for the participation of women, specifically, in the political sphere, such as Algeria's Electoral Law 12-03,
 - b. Requesting state support and encouragement of all women, including those in marginalized groups, to participate in political, economic, social and cultural spheres;
 - 8. *Encourages* the implementation of awareness campaigns to combat the causes of violence, such as corrective rape, including culturally-sanctioned homophobia and hate speech, stereotyping, stigmatization, and negative perceptions of homosexuality overall, such as the South Africa's Task Team which implements programs to promote and protect all people against such and other hate crimes with respect to state sovereignty;
 - 9. *Emphasizes* the need to have first-responders and safe-zone staff educated on the specific needs of intersectional marginalized groups by supporting measures that:
 - a. Urges the education of staff members from institutions such as national hot-line call centers and safe houses,
 - b. Encourages the development of numerous safe zones around the world, determined by: population density, area, rate of violent acts, infrastructure, any other issues to be determined by UN-Women as seen fit,
 - c. Implements more methods of providing marginalized groups with the specific resources needed when they become victims of violence, such as counseling and rehabilitation, recommending that every municipality provide these resources to help victims get the assistance they need;
 - 10. *Further recommends* that Member States work with law enforcement, judicial branches or other peace defenders to increase female representation in the general workplace in order to build confidence among women when reporting acts of violence;
 - 11. Further emphasizes the strengthening of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign to encompass the combating of stereotypes towards indigenous women by strengthening cultural values with safe public women centers and outreach programs like Beijing +20: The Voices of Indigenous Women created to place an emphasis on self-worth making indigenous women independent;

12. *Encourages* Member States to implement programs aimed at the protection of elderly and disabled women in order to end double discrimination as referred to in both the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) by:

- a. Advocating and campaigning for education of caretakers about the higher rate of rape among developmentally disabled women,
- b. Further strengthening rights in employment by creating safe work spaces and giving specialized training to potential employers and support for the elderly and disabled to increase acceptance of these women as equal members of society, thus further combating VAW by raising their socioeconomic status;
- 13. *Encourages* all Member States to work together with programs similar to the Leonard Cheshire Disability, as well as that which was done by India in partnership with Asmita Resource Center for Women, to address the root causes of gender-based violence and discrimination against women with disabilities, to provide counsel and legal aid support and to prevent violence against these women, specifically, domestic violence;
- 14. *Designates* international, regional and national efforts to implement programs such as education of individuals who participate in FGM practices by applying the Global Strategy developed by the WHO to stop health care providers from performing FGM-related practices;
- 15. Authorizes the expansion of the United Nations Trust fund to End Violence against Women in order to expand NGOs like Action Aid, 28 Too Many, and the 14 other NGOs dedicated to the elimination of all forms of FGM along with the development and enlargement of new NGOs to further expand into Member States whom have not tackled this deadly practice, which will specifically target rural developing areas by:
 - a. Declaring accordingly that most of the FGM cases are concentrated in Africa, and endorsing the expansion of FGM education programs implemented by the NGOs listed above, since it's been recognized that these NGOs have made significant progress,
 - b. Endorsing the creation of continuing education amongst FGM attendants that still have not abandoned this deadly practice,
 - c. Supporting the creation of incentive employment programs that will provide employment opportunities to former FGM attendants in the form of Traditional Birthing Attendants (TBA) and nurses;
- 16. *Further recommends* that monitoring initiatives will need to be addressed and implemented for the purposes of advancing birthing education to ensure the further eradication of FGM with the UN-Women structure;
- 17. *Urging* Member States to build upon human rights commitments by adding VAW as a stand-alone sustainable development goal post-2015 in order to properly address one of the biggest threats to gender justice;
- 18. *Encourages* the implementation of programs, such as the UN-Women and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Voices Against Violence curriculum, in order to educate local youth about the root causes of VAW, where to access services, and how to educate and include their peers and communities in preventing violence;
- 19. *Suggests* that NGOs and government agencies aiming to implement new programs related to VAW in specific communities identify community leaders in the local populations to act as representatives for the unique interests of those communities, and:
 - a. Recommends that at least one representative per community be selected by community consensus at an informal public meeting to which all community members are invited and have access;

b. Further recommends that these representatives, once selected, assist in both planning and implementation of programs, specifically advising on unique circumstances and needs present in those communities that affect the design and implementation of the programs;

20. Recalls the Swedish Government's program, Kvinnofrid Law (1999) (The Nordic Model), which criminalizes the purchase of prostitution, and has been incredibly successful in Sweden and has inspired similar regulations in Norway and Iceland (2009), South Africa (2007), and South Korea (2003), and encourages all Member States

to follow suit by:

- a. Recognizing the severity of issues surrounding the subject of sex trafficking as it is incredibly important in the recognition of the issue of VAW,
- b. Endorsing the inclusion of the social, political, and economic impacts of sex trafficking which allows citizens, government officials, and representatives to become conscious of, and give full consideration to, the responsibility that all Member States play in the abolition of VAW;
- 21. *Expresses* its hope to Member States in allocating the maximum available resources, including those from frameworks of international cooperation, for Women's Rights Organizations to protect and fulfill human rights.



Code: UN-Women/1/3

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Committee: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women **Topic:** Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015 by Eliminating Violence against All Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),

2 3 Recalling Article 13 of the 1945 Charter of the United Nations which seeks to promote the realization of human 4 rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of race, sex, language, or religion, 5 6 Noting with deep concern the limited access of support services such as Vulnerable Group Development Programs, 7 in their role as social safety nets for female victims of violence, 8 9 Recalling the note by the Secretariat to facilitate discussion of the high-level round tables of the Commission on the 10 Status of Women (CSW) for the Beijing+20 review process from December 2014 that recognizes the lack of employment opportunities and job security for women, and how this impacts women's societal empowerment, 11 12 13 Aware that already existing national, regional and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) deal with the issue 14 of Violence Against Women (VAW) and depend on the support of national governments and international 15 organizations, 16 17 Reaffirming the goal of ECOSOC resolution 1990/26 which recommends a 30 percent female leader quota within 18 politics in the perspective of achieving equal representation of the genders, 19 20 Affirming the 2013 Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict that emphasizes to protect the 21 rights of women especially in conflict and post-conflict situations, 22 23 Concerned by the high prevalence of violence among women who identify as LGBTQIA+ which the United 24 Nations' Free & Equal campaign addresses with respect to states' sovereignty, 25 26 Noting the role of programs such as Partners for Prevention (P4P) in offering support to victims of gender-based 27 violence (GBV) along with communicating prevention strategies in challenging the prevalence of such violence, 28 29 Emphasizing the use of social media as a new medium in the empowerment of female voices against violence, 30 31 Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/187 which discusses broadening the definition of abuse to reach more 32 victims which will help Member States by making sure the victims within their borders are aware of resources 33 available to them, 34 35 Highly alarmed by the violation of women's integrity and security through forced abortions and sterilizations, 36 unsafe abortions and prenatal sex selection addressed in the Commission on Population and Development resolution 37 2012/1, General Assembly resolution 68/147, Human Rights Council resolution 21/15, 38 39 Keeping in mind Secretary-General's special report 64/588 titled "Comprehensive Proposal for the Composite Entity 40 for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women," promoting efficiency in UN-Women's work to focus on and 41 impact gender equality activities, 42 43 1. Encourages that the General Assembly expand the UN definition of VAW as expressed in both General 44 Recommendation 19 to the CEDAW and paragraph 113 of the BPfA to include, but not limited to: 45 Economic abuse, including the control of access to resources, as well as financial and workplace 46 47 discrimination,

b. Psychological abuse, such as emotional and verbal violence,

- c. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity with respect to state sovereignty, low socio-economic status, and victims of FGM and sex-trafficking;
- 2. *Encourages* Member States to implement effective legislative and institutional frameworks for the protection of victims of gender-based violence by:

- a. Integrating a broader definition of violence and abuse in the legal frameworks of Member States, such as the New Zealand Police Victim Focus initiative which expands the legal definition of domestic violence to include economic abuse,
- b. Amending current criminal laws to enhance the protection of rights for victims such as easier access to restraining orders and Police Safety Orders, as New Zealand has done with its Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme, which delivers advice, training and operational support on domestic violence to police forces and communities across the Pacific and its Member States,
- Introducing strict laws that provide immunity and anonymity for the victim when stepping forward to
 express violent crimes while promising to invoke justice on the perpetrator such as the "Protection
 Against Abuse" law in Saudi Arabia;
- 3. Calls upon Member States to ensure access to safe abortions with respect to state sovereignty and especially in areas of crisis and rural regions as addressed by Norway in its Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation and establish programs and legislation that ensures women are not forced to abort their child because of the child's sex as implemented by the New Zealand Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004;
- 4. *Expresses its hope* for Member States to use social media and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a tool for the empowerment of women by:
 - a. Broadcasting and teaching ways to empower women as well as informing women where to go for help in times of crisis,
 - b. Raising national and regional awareness through social media that would allow women to express themselves and relate to other women,
 - c. Allowing women to have a medium in which to express their individual voice and experiences, while remaining anonymous to the public sphere,
 - d. Suggesting Member States bring the HeForShe campaign and the #YesAllWomen movement into sporting events, political meetings, schooling programs, and other social gatherings in order to engage young boys and men in raising solidarity and awareness of VAW,
 - e. Encouraging enterprises and brands to promote an adequate and non-stereotyping image of women through advertisements following the model of the National Television codes of the Australian Association of National Advertisers which works with civil society organizations (CSOs) in an effort to show women not as objects but as individuals;
- 5. Recommends the empowerment of NGOs to help eliminate violence against women, especially domestic violence, on a local basis, by installing an online NGO-Network organized by the UN Committee on NGOs and sorted alphabetically by Member State names to help all national NGOs regarding women's rights and especially VAW to communicate with each other in better coordination within the UN system and more effective, efficient, and coherent help in the future;
- 6. *Encourages* participation of CSOs in the UN Free & Equal campaign which promotes the awareness and tolerance of the sexual and gender spectrum and keep it in mind during policy making legislation;

7. Further urges Members States to recognize the crucial importance of providing health assistance to women suffering in conflict and post-conflict situations by providing funding where possible, like the funding of the Global Health Initiative (GHI) of the United States, to:

- a. Provide immediate health and sexual care services including access to rape kits and contraceptives,
- b. Establish strategies to prevent the risk of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to women in conflict situations, such as the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief gender strategy of the United States;
- 8. *Reaffirms* the work of NGOs such as the Bangladesh-based BRAC which aims to deliver aid to impoverished peoples of South Asia through unique mechanisms designed to transform cultural obstacles to women, pulling the region's poorest together, building solidarity, increasing literacy rates, teaching sustainable business techniques, and utilizing female employees in the engagement of impoverished women;
- 9. Strongly invites every Member State to establish a quota on women in police units that would focus on domestic violence and stalking in police forces in order to not only ensure more efficient interventions but also to help women to acquire a feeling of increased security and comfort in society, which enhances their participation and emphasizes the importance of their role in the society.



Code: UN-Women/1/4

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49 50 Committee: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Topic: Achieving Gender Equality Post-2015 by Eliminating Violence against All Women 1 The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), 2 3 Emphasizing the 1945 Charter of the United Nations and the need to raise awareness for women's empowerment 4 through ending violence against women (VAW), 5 6 Acknowledging the definition of discrimination against women as laid out in Article 1 of the 1979 Convention on the 7 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and VAW described by the Committee on 8 the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in General Recommendation 19 (1992), 9 10 Recalling UN General Assembly resolution 60/25, which established the human rights mechanism of Universal 11 Periodic Report (UN-UPR), which annually examines the human rights performance of all Member States, 12 13 Recognizing the need for education on both the symptoms and causes of VAW for all members of society, including, 14 inter alia, women, men, children, national officials, and law enforcement agencies, to better equip members of 15 society to recognize them, 16 Reiterating the values expressed in Article 3 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 17 18 which explains the inherent connection between ending gender violence and the protection of fundamental freedoms 19 in the political, economic, social, cultural, and civic spheres, 20 21 Recognizing the need for collaboration between private and public sectors in order to eliminate gender inequality and 22 increase women's empowerment and inclusion in the workforce, 23 24 Acknowledging Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security and the impact VAW has in 25 impeding women's political participation and their role in governmental decision-making, 26 27

Finding that several Member States have been successful in rehabilitating victimized women through the establishment of care centers and shelters, which provide political, legal, and health assistance,

- 1. Recommends that Member States financially and technically support rehabilitation initiatives and establish or expand existing care centers modeled after the Thuthuzela Care Centers in South Africa and Hope Center in Riga, Latvia, that are state-sanctioned, national programs which work in conjunction with UN-Women offering the necessary accommodation and safe haven for women who experience violence, and:
 - a. Provide services free of charge to impoverished women and victims of sexual assault and rape that need medical attention,
 - Introduce temporary psychological aid and counseling for women experiencing gender-based violence, particularly sexual, physical, or psychological violence,
 - Incorporate university professors, social organizations and relevant experts to offer legal aid, consolation, and consultation in the case of litigation, judgment, and identification,
 - d. Invite municipalities and local non-governmental organizations to participate in the care centers for the purpose of good management and operation and invite social organizations, social funds and individuals to make donations,
 - Further encourages Member States that cannot financially support these programs on their own to apply for grants offered by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women;

2. *Encourages* deeper collaboration between civil society organizations (CSOs) and Member States for the continuation of high-profile campaigns that support women to assume leadership roles in their communities, and enhance opportunities for more women to engage in political participation in the future by:

- a. Supporting the growth of CSOs through voluntary funding of the Member States for the establishment of political campaigns in their local communities, such as Zonta International, which acts in this capacity in local communities around the world,
- Encouraging all people in local communities to support or provide female political role models to create the opportunity for more proportional representation of marginalized groups including indigenous, aging, and disabled populations of women,
- c. Recommending equal access to campaigns, such as Get Out the Vote, that enable equal representation through media;
- 3. *Encourages* collaboration with the private sector with the assistance of established cooperation such as UN Global Compact and CSOs that advocate for programs that eliminate violence in the workforce increasing labor inclusion and cooperation of women's organizations with the private sector to focus on supporting women's economic advancement, securing equal access to food and resources, and micro-finance support;
- 4. *Emphasizes* the need for universal expansion of programs and campaigns that raise awareness on what qualifies as gender abuse and how to combat VAW, such as the instrumental HeForShe campaign, to:
 - a. Specifically target men and boys enhancing their knowledge of VAW and increase their support,
 - b. Make a concentrated effort to take advantage of the rising impact of social media campaigns,
 - c. Launch a campaign that advertises the benefits of ending gender-based violence, such as women's heightened status in society and a more equal and thus productive work environment, to gain support from the public in the eradication of VAW;
- 5. Calls upon Member States to expand educational programs that promote gender equality by:
 - a. Informing men and women about the importance of co-existence, and raise awareness about the multifaceted potential benefits, such as increased economic standing, stronger political presence, and more equal societal worth that come with eliminating VAW,
 - b. Including voluntary financial and professional assistance from UN-Women and Member States to realize proper training and education for national officials;
- 6. *Urges* Member States to enhance their voluntary technical and financial support for the annual reports to the UN-UPR in order to evaluate the progress of Member States on the issue of eliminating VAW;
- 7. Recommends that the UN General Assembly expand the UN definition of VAW as expressed in both General Recommendation 19 to the CEDAW and paragraph 113 of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to include but not limited to:
 - Economic abuse, including the control of access to resources, as well as financial and workplace discrimination,
 - b. Psychological abuse, such as emotional and verbal violence,
 - c. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity with respect to state sovereignty, low socio-economic status, and victims of female genital mutilation and sex-trafficking;
- 8. *Urges* Member States to take action to eradicate VAW and further societal empowerment of women while practicing solidarity between sovereign states and establishing equality in society.