



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
22 February 2010

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

Thirteenth session

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 February 2010]

---

\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

## **Women's rights**

The women's rights issue today has become a centre of attention of domestic and international circles, because any form of violation of their rights is followed by economic, social, and family repercussions.

Despite women's efforts to reach their human rights, more and more obstacles and problems appear in the way, to such an extent that living in conditions that they enjoy equal rights has turned into an unaccomplishable dream. The thing that is important in this regard is the international community and states' call upon the realisation of women's rightful rights in all aspects of their lives and we must not forget that the accomplishment of lasting peace and security and a world free of discrimination cannot be achieved without guaranteeing the human rights of half of the population of the world, women in other words. And by adopting common policies and with having universal perspectives, governments must fight against women's problems and challenges.

One of the cases that affects the lives of people (women in particular) in the world is the economic crisis issue and its repercussions and effects. By affecting the family lives of families and financial problems, this crisis causes the increase of violence and abuse being committed against women and children. This violence is not just necessarily physical but is extensively committed in the emotional and economic sense. Furthermore in the employment market women are faced with unemployment which results in economic exploitation. In other words by applying pay cuts, the employer is after cheap replacement workforce and this includes lack of work stability.

As a nongovernmental human rights organization, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence and in line with the realisation and promotion of women's rights draws the attention of the Human Rights Council towards the fight against the economic crisis and its effects on human rights, women's rights in particular, and gives the following recommendations for the reduction of the negative effects of this crisis and women's employment crisis:

1 – Employment rights related matters are ratified in the Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (144), but it does not comprehensively cover the vacuums with regards to women's rights, and a protocol must be considered for this so that women do not suffer more and more against financial and economic crises, and enjoy employment and social security. Furthermore with the ratification of the protocol, the governments will have to conform their domestic laws with international laws and at least attention towards women's employment becomes more concentrated.

2 – We call upon the Human Rights Council to draw the attention of governments towards women's unemployment situation that is a result of economic crisis. These women are often self-supportive or heads of households and their unemployment affects people around them. Governments must provide them with monthly supplement for these individuals and not to forget women's role in the employment market. Any conflicts between domestic laws and their implementation with the Employment Policy Convention must be pursued through international monitoring mechanisms and the Council must encourage governments to amend laws to fall in line with the Convention.