



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 June 2016

English only

Human Rights Council

Thirty-second session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, 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.

[30 May 2016]

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

GE.16-09480(E)



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Special Rapporteur on Violence against women

Presenter: Awatar Singh Sekhon

Mr President,

On behalf of my organization, I convey our appreciations for the Special Rapporteur's (SR) report presented on Violence against women in 2014. It is encouraging to note that the European and inter-American systems, have adopted specific instruments to address the issue of violence against women. These systems have been developed based on regional needs, understandings and on lessons learned from the international systems. Discrimination against women, their summary executions, rapes in and outside their detention, lack of education, discrimination are the least areas where the Human Rights Council and other United Nations human rights mechanisms should pay immediate attention.

We note that the guidelines provided by the SR can be helpful for the international human rights systems, particularly of women, when addressing the normative gap.

My organization would like to draw attention of the SR on the violence against women in India. Violence and rapes of women in India is an issue that is deep rooted in social norms and economic dependence. Discriminatory practices are underlined by laws favouring men. Inadequate policing and judicial practices deny female victims proper protection and justice. Although female participation in public life is increasing and laws have been amended, India still has a long way to go to make Indian women equal citizen, in the name only, in their own country. The distribution pattern of crimes against women has not made much progress in the last few years, but between 2001 and 2011, the overall number of incidents of the crime against women rose steadily, and was 59% higher than the 2001.

These figures are, at best, indicative of rapes and violence against women among the most-unreported crimes worldwide because of the social stigma attached to the nature of the crime.

I thank you, Sir.
