



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fiftieth session

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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 Al Baraem Association for Charitable Work, 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.

[21 May 2022]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



## **Women victims of gender based violence in India**

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women. Violence against women and girls is a fundamental human rights violation. Millions of women around the world are victims of gender-based violence. My organization deeply concerned at the situation of India, where preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence remains a serious legal and social challenge. The legislative instruments protecting women from crimes of sexual violence is the Indian Constitution, but the amended Penal Code is problematic in both nature and application. Rape in particular falls short of being clearly defined and of including a comprehensive range of non-consensual sexual acts. In the Indian context, patriarchal social norms coupled with deeply discriminatory State practices, not only fail to deliver justice to survivors but further subject them to revictimization and victim-blaming. As a consequence, women are discouraged to report these crimes and impunity is rampant. To reverse this trend, it is crucial that Indian authorities start independent investigations on all past and present crimes of sexual violence, bring perpetrators to justice, and provide survivors with medical, psychological, and legal support.

In light of this, what actions should the Human Rights Council undertake to ensure that States like India bring their legislation in line with international standards and provide a holistic framework for the protection and support of survivors?

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Universal human rights council, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.