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Written statement* submitted by The Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR), 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.

[5 February 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Universal Periodic Review of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Violence Against Women In The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Introduction

Violence against women remains a key factor that undermines the ability of women to participate as full and equal citizens. Violence against women and girls is one example of gender inequality, creating extensive negative consequences for victims, families, and communities. Violence against women has attracted the government's and international organizations' attention and the issue is addressed in important international documents such as UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR, and CEDAW.

More research shows that in the past few years, the number of gender-related killings has actually increased, in part due to the global pandemic, lockdowns and the economic impact of these. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of gender-related killings increased. Most of the violence women and girls face is at the hands of intimate partners and family members, and it begins at an early age. Studies show that one in four young women (aged 15-24 years), who have been in a relationship, will have already experienced violence by an intimate partner by the time they reach their mid-twenties.

Violence against Women in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

According to universal statistics, women in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland experience a wide range of domestic violence, rape, sexual violence, physical violence, violence at the workplace, sexual slavery, etc. According to the reports of Human Rights institutions, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has not performed satisfactorily regarding women's and girls' rights. Women are more exposed to violence compared to the past and the rule are not that much efficient since they failed to end violence against women and the violence against women and girls has increased significantly in recent years.

- It has been estimated that one in three women over the age of 16 in Great Britain were subjected to at least one form of harassment in the year to November 2021. This increases to two in three for women aged 16 to 34.
- Meanwhile, an estimated 1.6 million women aged 16 to 74 experienced domestic abuse in England and Wales in the 12 months to November 2021.
- Around 5.1 million women aged 18 to 74 experienced some form of abuse when they were children
- In the 12 months to March 2020, 81 women were killed in a domestic homicide

According to The Office for National Statistics, 9,272 rapes were recorded in the capital in the year to the end of March, which is a new record. Police indifference to domestic violence has always been strongly criticized by Human Rights groups and, in some cases, has led to the need for urgent regulatory reform.

Human Rights Watch, in its 2022 report to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's fourth round of UPR, emphasized that the coronavirus epidemic period has been devastating for those exposed to domestic violence.

Recommendation

While emphasizing that the issue of violence against women should be of great paramount to the whole world and shouldn't be condoned, the Institute for Protection of Women's Rights (IPWR) urges the Human Rights Council to recall the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland Government its international obligations and seek to resolve the serious challenges regarding violence against women. We also request the Council to ask the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women to prepare a comprehensive report on the violation of women's rights and the increase in violence against women in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
