



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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

### **Written statement\* submitted by International Muslim Women's Union, 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.

[23 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.



## Discrimination Against Women

The United Nations charter states that "We the peoples of the United Nations are determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." Unfortunately, the promises are not fulfilled by the international community which they promised to the people of Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir. Women and children rights are being violated by the Government institutions in Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir.

Abuse of the rights of the women has become a routine practice for Indian forces, because, they believe through abuse, humiliation, torture, and injustice, it is possible for them to suppress the struggle of the people of Indian Administered Kashmir.

Not only the occupation forces, but the people at the helm of affairs are also using the same tactics. The intelligence agencies are harassing women during search operations. No FIR is lodged against them. The working women are feeling insecure at the workplace because of the army presence and check posts. Decades of turmoil have a significant impact on women in Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir, say, experts. Life is quite difficult without any support to them. They are raising their children without male members.

In Indian Administered Kashmir women's life without male members is difficult. There are reports from psychologists that "half widows and widows are taking difficult responsibilities to shoulder family and children's needs. "The years of uncertainty have made women more resilient to suffering says Isha Malik" a well-known sociologist

Their houses are destroyed by using heavy explosives. Young children are arrested by forces. Women are imprisoned In Indian jails booked under the public safety act. Their families feel unsafe when army is patrolling in streets and destroying houses and shops. They are living in fear. Women are getting mentally weaker in this situation.

The mental health cases among women have increased during abrogation of the article 370. The arrest of young teenagers have turned their mothers into distress and depression.

"Ufra Mir, a peace psychologist based in Kashmir, who also works regularly with women patients, said that while almost every woman in Kashmir has likely experienced distress at some point in her life, they are also likely unaware of what they are going through psychologically. And among those who do know, she said, many choose to hide it. The social stigma around the subject of mental trauma further adds to the despair."

"People here consider anyone visiting -or even seen around -a psychiatric clinic to be insane," said Mir. Women in need of psychiatric help often rely on faith healers instead, which helps with some emotional relief but cannot reliably stand in place of treatment from mental health professionals. "Even the difference between psychologists and counselors, is not known by many," said Mir. "That makes the healing process difficult."

The political uncertainty over the decades has directly affected thousands of families and children. Almost everyone is facing difficulties socially mentally physically and emotionally in Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir. The families of political prisoners are in emotional and psychological turmoil.

The drastic impact of half widowhood and single parents emotionally and psychologically makes the lives of orphans different from normal children. The term "Half Widow "has changed the social environment of our society. This has become the identity of both mother and child. who does not know about their fathers and husbands? This abnormal situation has changed a mother very drastically. Her health has declined. The social system is not supportive. Economic emotional support is missing. The absence of trauma centres and assistance is not available. Free education is not possible. Under these circumstances, UN agencies can provide relief and empower these women. But in the absence of relief agencies, women's clinical staff, and volunteers these women have to work hard for the education and peaceful life of their children. The statistical details and the record of the families and surveys are limited. The exact number of widows and half widows is not available due to the absence of international institutions, restrictions, and silence from Govt of India. The families of political prisoners are wandering around police stations and interrogation centers in different

cities of India. The fake encounter cases and the illegal arrests have affected generations and aggravated the problems. The justice system of India has failed to provide relief to these women.

The suffering is increasing. “Every one has the right to life with dignity. “But violence has increased in Indian Administered Kashmir with every passing day. More than 12 innocent women are booked under different illegal laws at present. The mandate of the United Nations and other international institutions has failed to provide relief to Kashmiri women. The disappearance of a male member affects the whole family. United Nations human rights councils two reports are eye-openers for everyone. India is not respecting the United Nations' mechanisms and international laws.

The convention on the status of women (CSW) is an instrument to promote women's rights. To document the reality and causes of women's lives throughout the world and shape global standards on gender equality and empowerment of women”.

In India Administered Kashmir journalists, human rights activists, and NGOs are in trouble documenting such cases. Govt agencies arrested and stopped them. They have been booked in different cases. Who will record or visit these families .it is a question mark for the United Nations Human rights council? To guide, Support, and encourage the women who were humiliated and gang-raped in different places of Indian Administered Kashmir, especially in Kunan Poshpora is a live example of the failure of the Indian judicial system. According to the reports in February, 1991 Indian soldiers and officers tortured men in the villages and gang-raped more than 52 young old and pregnant women. The victims and survivors are still waiting for justice. The accused were not convicted because of impunity provided to them by the law. The documents, reports, and state human rights commission recommendations are submitted at every forum. But truth is that denial of justice has encouraged the Indian forces to repeat it again and again. Women are living in fear. They feel unsafe at home and at workplaces. They are carrying the burden of living with humiliation.

International Muslim women union demands a commission of inquiry to investigate all cases of humiliation and human rights violations against women in Indian Administered Kashmir.

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