



## Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
28 November 2014

Original: English

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### Commission on the Status of Women

#### Fifty-ninth session

9-20 March 2015

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women  
and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled  
“Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the  
twenty-first century”**

### **Statement submitted by International Network of Liberal Women, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Twenty years after Beijing Platform for Action, it is time for a Global Legal Framework to Prevent and Combat Violence against Women. Take the Istanbul Convention as an example.

The International Network of Liberal Women is appalled by the fact that violence against women and domestic violence continues to be one of the most wide spread forms of human rights violations. Every day around the world, women face not just domestic violence but many other forms of violence, including female genital mutilation, sexual violence in peaceful circumstances as well as in war and conflict, stalking and “honour” killings.

Recognizing this fact, International Network of Liberal Women welcomes the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Her Excellency Ms. Rashida Manjoo, on the issue of state responsibility in eliminating violence against women as submitted to the 23rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. International Network of Liberal Women aligns fully with the report’s conclusions that it is imperative for States to create a dual assessment framework whereby accountability lies not only with the perpetrators of the violence but also with all those who fail to protect and prevent.

The International Network of Liberal Women welcomes the Special Rapporteur’s latest statement to the 58th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which explicitly notes the gaps within the current international normative framework in respect to preventing, eliminating and punishing violence against women.

This statement pays particular attention to these existing gaps and the urgent necessity for their resolution especially in light of the recent entry into force of the Istanbul Convention on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls.

Considering that

- Freedom from violence is the most basic human right, without which all other rights are negated
- the Council of Europe and its member states resolved to reverse the continuing trends of violence by establishing the Istanbul Convention on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls which entered into force on 1 August 2014.

Stressing on the fact that the Istanbul Convention

- provides practical measures to prevent violence, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.
- can lead to safety from fear and violence, because it is already shaping legislation, policies and practices in member states.
- if implemented widely will influence states beyond the Council of Europe to take over the content and consequences of this Convention.

#### Commending on

- The on-going and past efforts of liberals around the world to eliminate and prevent domestic violence and violence against women such as Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, The Nobel Peace Prize laureate of 1991; Mrs. Kaba Fofana Yaya Fanta, former vice President of African Liberal Network and Director of Women Affairs of Ivory Coast; Elizabeth Sydney (UK †2011), first President and cofounder of INLW and many others.

Referring to the written and oral statements by International Network of Liberal Women and Liberal International to the 27th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on this subject.

#### Recalling

- The Resolution on preventing and combating violence against women through the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe, which International Network of Liberal Women submitted to the 59th Liberal International Congress in Rotterdam (April 2014) and which was adopted unanimously by the Congress of Liberal International, which called upon all Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to work toward a worldwide Convention as an integral and effective instrument to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women.
- International Network of Liberal Women's written Statement ([E/CN.6/2013/NGO/155](#)) to the 57th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women in various areas of the world.
- International Network of Liberal Women's written Statement ([E/CN.6/2014/NGO/59](#)) to the 58th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women with the title "Human rights should be an integral part of universal primary education"
- And various previous International Network of Liberal Women Statements and Resolutions submitted to sessions of Committee on the Status of Women and Liberal International

#### Calls

- For the signing, ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention by all member states of the Council of Europe as a first step towards the promotion of the regional framework on a global level
- On the United Nations to create a global women rights legal framework to effectively eliminate and prevent all forms of domestic violence and violence against women and girls by incorporating the content of the Istanbul Convention into new or existing United Nations women right's legal frameworks,
- On all United Nations member states to adopt specific national legislative measures against domestic violence and violence against women and girls
- On the international community to work together with the civil society and political internationals in order to organize educational and awareness-raising

campaigns on ending violence against women and girls focusing specifically on preventive measures.

- On all United Nations member states to incorporate Human Rights into Primary Education curriculums so that respect for Human Rights is instilled from early age
- On all United Nation Member States to engage in extensive dialogue and to support the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, United Nations Women, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and all other relevant United Nations bodies as to help establish an all-encompassing global convention on the elimination and prevention of domestic violence and violence against women and girls.

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