



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 November 2014

Original: English

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 Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council, 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.



Statement

The Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council is strongly committed to gender equity and social justice. It is closely connected to and cooperating with Yoga in Daily Life non-profit societies worldwide (Yoga in Daily Life USA has also been granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the Australian Association of Yoga in Daily Life has been placed on the Roster).

The Sri Swami Madhavananda World Peace Council and the member associations of Yoga in Daily Life have been collecting signatures for a petition to the United Nations to declare the traditional Indian festival of Raksha Bandhan — a day of brotherhood and sisterhood — as a United Nations international day for the protection of women. Raksha Bandhan is celebrated on the full-moon day in August by establishing a strictly non-sexual, protective relationship between men and women, whether relatives or biologically unrelated.

In celebrating Raksha Bandhan, the sacred thread that the “sister” and “brother” tie around each other’s wrists symbolizes the “sister’s” prayers for the “brother’s” well-being and the “brother’s” vow to protect her. If this symbolic act were implemented worldwide, aggression, injustice and violence against women would vanish from the planet.

We call upon all participants in the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women to support our petition to establish a United Nations international day for the protection of women.
