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

Statement submitted by Endeavour Forum, and JMJ Children’s Fund of Canada, non-governmental organizations 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

End Preventable Deaths of Women & The Girl Child by Protecting Them BEFORE as well as after BIRTH

The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session) should begin with an outcry against the extermination and elimination of the girl child in the womb.

Tragically, there are several United Nations Agencies and rich Non-Governmental Organization's who profit in the billions from the destruction and extermination of human beings before birth. They use euphemisms to dehumanize the lives of children who are growing in their mother's womb. Induced abortions are taking the lives of innocent human beings before birth, this surgical and or chemical practice is also killing adolescent girls and young women. It is not a "safe" procedure.

The science of how each person is created is incredible. From the moment of fertilization, our DNA is inherently activated. If we are male or female, how cells will differentiate to form every astonishing organ; the lungs, liver, immune system, kidneys, pancreas, every muscle, bone, joint, blood cells, hair, ears, nose, mouth, and limbs. We have a beating heart by three weeks after conception, and visible arms, legs, fingers and toes by eight weeks. From 10 to 12 weeks into a pregnancy, doctors can determine whether the child in the womb is a boy or girl.

The right to life & violence in the womb: Catastrophically, tiny, little girls are systematically poisoned, dismembered, and/or decapitated by abortionists; up to 28 weeks gestation in many nations. Aborting girls, simply because she is a girl, is the ultimate exploitation, discrimination, violence and human rights issue against girls in our generation!

It is a cultural belief — especially in China and India — that boys are more "valued" than girls. As a result, millions of girl children are targeted for abortion or left to die after birth (infanticide). These antiquated customs and policies must be unwaveringly addressed by all the Member States and condemned by the Commission on the Status of Women. We must form an alliance to protect the youngest and weakest of our girls who have no choice.

We denounce the One-Child Policy in China, which forces and coerces pregnant women to abort their children.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and the 'Declaration on the Rights of the Child', reinforce protection; "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth." Whether legal or illegal, induced abortion is not "safe" for the human child.

As a former abortion patient, I know that legal abortion causes much physical, psychological and irreparable damage to women; as well as taking the lives of my children.

Misinformation and rhetoric tout and promote abortion as "safe and legal." Yet, research shows that induced abortions are not "safe" for women's mental or reproductive health USA based 'Elliot Institute' has done research on the aftermath

of abortion, revealing many women suffer. www.afterabortion.org. Hundreds of women in the USA alone have died as a consequence of legal abortion. Operation Outcry and Canada Silent No More have over 5,000 testimony/declarations from former abortion patients stating thousands of injuries from legal abortion.

Violence against pregnant women has increased dramatically. Homicide has become the leading cause of death among pregnant women.

64 per cent of American women and teenage girls reported they were pressured to abort by others, and more than half said they felt rushed or uncertain about the abortion. In addition, more than 80 per cent, said they did not receive adequate counselling prior to their abortions.

Women's Health: A large study in Finland reported higher rates of suicide for women after abortion. Women who had an abortion had six times higher risk of death from suicide compared to women who carried their babies to term.

University of Minnesota researchers found a ten-fold increase in suicide attempts among teens within six months after their abortion.

A South African clinic found that 18 per cent of patients developed post-traumatic stress disorder after abortion.

More than forty studies published in peer-reviewed journals with statistical controls disclose that abortion is a risk factor for numerous psychiatric illnesses like depression, and eating/sleeping disorders.

The largest study of rape victims ever completed, indicates that most women not only experience severe trauma from the rape, but also experience additional trauma if they choose to abort the baby conceived in rape. Furthermore, 89 per cent of those who chose abortion regretted it, while none of the women who carried to term expressed regrets.

Born Too Soon: Researcher Brent Rooney found over 100 studies from more than thirty countries which concluded that induced abortions which have caused cervical and/or uterine damage to the women are directly linked to subsequent Pre-term births. See <http://justiceforkids.webs.com/chapter4140studies.htm>

Pre-term birth is known to increase the risk of blindness, deafness, respiratory distress and other disabling conditions for children; including cerebral palsy and death.

Following my abortions, I suffered an infection, damaged cervix, a badly scarred uterus, fertility problems, and a cancer scare. Dozens of credible worldwide studies since 1957 also connect Breast Cancer to induced abortion according to The Breast Cancer Prevention Institute and The Abortion Breast Cancer Coalition. www.bcpinstitute.org and www.abortionbreastcancer.com

Dreadfully, abortion has become a violent form of birth control. The choice mostly comes on when, where and with whom to have sex; but once conception takes place, another human being exists – one whose life and dignity must be regarded and protected.

The “Nazis” philosophy was to kill the “unwanted” Jews. The “pro-choice” philosophy is to have the right to have “unwanted” children killed, before birth.

This elective surgery should be condemned; not promoted as a reproductive right, and tolerated. Pregnancy is not a disease, and abortion is rarely a medical necessity.

In conclusion: The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, states:

“Women’s right to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health must be secured throughout the whole life cycle, in equality with men. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion.”

a. Governments: “Address the acute problems of children, inter alia, by supporting efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at adopting efficient international measures for the prevention and eradication of female infanticide, harmful child labour, the sale of children and their organs, child prostitution, child pornography and other forms of sexual abuse and consider contributing to the drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;”

b. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed clearly that “the human rights of women throughout the life cycle are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.” And science declares that the cycle of human life begins at the moment of conception.

For the elimination and prevention of abortion violence against pregnant women and the Girl child, we appeal to the Commission on the Status of Women and all Member States to prioritize these plans of action immediately to save women and children:

- Enact Education and Awareness Campaigns on the value of the girl child, fetal development and pregnancy healthcare.
- Awareness on the research regarding the harm of legal abortion to women’s bodies, minds and souls.
- Enact measures to end violence against pregnant women and babies.
- Produce accountable and firm measures against perpetrators of forced and coerced abortion.
- Enact legislation and policies condemning gender-selective abortions.
- Enact screening and fully informed consent laws for pregnant women seeking an abortion that include options and practical help to support her and her baby, as well as prenatal support.
- Procure accountability in the full reporting of abortions, complications/deaths and pregnant minors for possible statutory rape, rape or incest cases.
- Provide the basic human right to life for babies in the womb according to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights & Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

Abortion is not a black and white issue; it is blood red.