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Statement submitted by Pathways to Peace, 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Gender equality is an action of policy based on the profound belief that all genders are equal. There should be zero discrimination based on one's gender, and gender equality should be established as the new norm in our global community. Pathways to Peace firmly believes in an integrated intergenerational approach to promoting women's rights and shaping global standards on gender equality. To accelerate progress, we believe that the course of action that will best serve the issue is to bring women and girls of all ages, racial and social backgrounds, and economic levels together to produce solutions that will positively affect multiple generations. This approach to increasing global gender equality will allow a broader range of women to be positively affected and will bridge the gap between the newer and the older generations. Assuredly, an integrated intergenerational approach is the most effective method of ending gender inequality and bringing about a worldwide end to gender discrimination. Inequity and inequality, for all people of all generations, present a significant barrier to building a culture of peace.

In 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action affirmed the United Nations Member States' commitments to preserving and protecting the human dignity of all women and protecting the women and girl child in matters of policy-making and social protection. Furthermore, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remarked and affirmed that the member nations would work to protect the older generation of women and help them to remain connected to society. Also, 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women at which the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted. Pathways to Peace was a presenter at that conference and continues to work for the goals outlined there. The time that has passed between the adoption and the present has given rise to a new generation of women and girls who are fighting for gender equality at local, regional, national, and global levels. This knowledge of a new generation and the remark regarding the protection of the older generations hold the basis for the Pathways to Peace approach to gender equality. As an organization, Pathways to Peace has been at the forefront of gender equality, working in concert with young activists and remaining connected to seasoned veterans of the fight for gender equality, to better address the far-reaching problems that affect multiple generations.

Modern-day solutions to fostering gender equality must address the diverse needs, perspectives, and challenges of multiple groups of women and young people. Pathways to Peace affirms that the dedicated efforts for global gender equality will not be finished until every last woman and girl can freely, and without gender influence, choose a path in life based on their own talents, beliefs, and ideas and not be limited by gender discrimination. Pathways to Peace firmly upholds that the professional "glass ceiling", which is referred to as a barrier that prevents advancement in a profession for women, must be eradicated and replaced with a fair system of advancement that is applied equally to both men and women. It is known that when women are in positions of leadership, the younger generation is better able to participate in overturning gender discrimination, resulting in a more equitable and prosperous culture for all women and girls, families, and communities.

Most important, Pathways to Peace knows that an inter-generational bridge will help solve many issues relating to gender inequality. The work of the current generation that is leading the way, coupled with the new and younger generations, will create a strong force for change that has the power to completely reshape the global culture that currently controls the success of women. Without a combined effort between multiple groups and generations, it is difficult for significant change to be made. Pathways to Peace will continue to bring different age groups together to more fully address the diverse and complex issues of women and girls in today's

world. Through cooperation and partnership, the critical issue of gender equality is being taken up with concerted action by women and girls of all ages, so that the future will shine as brightly as the ideas within the minds of the peace builders. There is no possible way for peace to be solidly formed and protected if the current climate regarding gender equality does not change. By preventing over 50 per cent of the world's population from having a secure and equal opportunity to live, peace will have no place in which it can survive.

In accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Council on Women, Pathways to Peace will create an integrated inter-generational approach to ending gender discrimination and inequality. As the sixty fourth session of the Commission for the Status of Women takes place, Pathways to Peace plans on incorporating multiple generational leaders in their list of United Nations representatives. Additionally, it will encourage women and girls of all ages to work on a local, regional, national, and global level to end gender discrimination and bring about an era of global gender equality, through the collective wisdom of an integrated, intercultural, and inter-generational group of peace builders. Together, we will build a culture of peace.

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