



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 December 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 Association for Protection of Refugee and Internally Displaced Women and Children, 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

Women refugees in Middle East

Today, twenty years after holding international women sessions in Beijing and international and regional extensive efforts to improve women's conditions, we still face many daunting challenges in both the Middle East and Asia.

Regional changes and disagreements, which relate to the past three decades, resulted in forced individual and collective immigration. Consequently, owing to the problems, women have encountered a large number of physical and mental problems and concerns.

In Iraq, nowadays, over four million people, including two million domestic and two million refugees all over the world, have been looking for safe shelter.

In Afghanistan, after the collapse of the Taliban, there has been security, however, security is not stable. Many suicide attacks are taking place in Afghanistan. In addition, racial and tribal issues are rising.

Statistically, eight million immigrants and refugees in all over the world, two million dead, four million orphans and widows have been the consequences of long wars in Afghanistan.

Twenty-eight countries have gathered in Afghanistan so as to provide security and a great deal of money has been spent. Nevertheless, there is still war and insecurity. As a result, many women and children die. Moreover, due to economic down turn and a growing lack of security a large number of people are forced to leave for other countries.

Political, economic and security challenges in Afghanistan prevent women from achieving their rights. Despite all domestic and international efforts over the past thirteen years, the number of domestic and social violence against women is high.

In Iran, statistically, there are nine hundred and fifty thousand immigrants and one million five hundred thousand Afghan refugees without legal identity cards and the majority of them are children and women.

Limited sources for the government, governmental and non-governmental organizations have done a lot of damage to the people. Women refugees and asylum seekers are the victims of political and international equations that pay the least attention to these people and has created the poverty of female refugees.

On the other hand, the eroding length of immigration and asylum seeking of more than 2.5 million refugees and immigrants in Iran; serious security, economic and social barriers in war-seen neighbour countries and having political unrest and inadequate biological needs as for immigrants and refugees to return have reduced the social level of tolerance in country.

Worrying statistics related to social violence including verbal, mental and physical of refugees and immigrants and the limitations that have aimed at their presence and their rights, is an alarm for all of us who follow the human rights of refugees and immigrants as a part of global society.

The removal of all behavioural and structural violence in the world requires public and international efforts of all thoughtful people. The violence, that nowadays has caused the biggest human felonies in the Middle East under the name of religion, is a part of the uncontrolled international system that follows its power in the form of religious wars under the name of religion and with unforgiving behaviour.

The shortage or lack of suitable protective systems for women in armed disputes and local, regional or international quarrels has exposed women to sexual or gender-specific violence, to annihilation and physical and mental decline. It seems that despite the increase in concentration and the efforts of different governmental and non-governmental international organizations for warning against the reasons and results of sexual and gender-specific violence in armed disputes, which is specifically stated in 1325, 1888 and 1820 declarations of the United Nations, this has not made a significant improvement.

It seems that removing or reducing these sorts of problems, in addition to a political will in the highest levels of the United Nations and the other member countries, requires coordinated efforts of international, local and national activists to strengthen security services and punishment systems and increase gender equality.
