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Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-seventh session

4-15 March 2013

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”: implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Statement submitted by Association nationale Al Hidn, 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

Association Nationale Al Hidn (ANH), which has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, welcomes and appreciates the designation of the theme of “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” as the priority theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Association realizes that violence against women represents an obstacle to achieving equality, development and peace and is a violation of all aspects of women’s human security, especially in relation to the prevention and punishment of cases of trafficking of women or the forcing of women into prostitution and vice or any degrading and demeaning acts.

ANH is concerned that, despite the efforts exerted to combat violence against women and girls, accurate, quantitative monitoring of the scale and development of the phenomenon is sorely lacking. This is reflected in the absence of up-to-date and detailed data on the full scale, causes, forms, dimensions and repercussions of the phenomenon. The Association notes the lack of reception, psychological follow-up and legal advice centres for women victims of violence and the uneven distribution of these nationally, in addition to a lack of concern with violence against women during the pre- and postnatal periods and violence against working mothers. It further notes the lack of harmonization, coordination, competence and effectiveness among the various parties involved in combating violence against women, despite the existence of strategies and action plans.

ANH further urges Governments to fulfil their commitments to formulate and implement appropriate laws to ensure that women and children are protected from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect.

ANH further calls upon the international community to take the following recommendations into consideration:

- Prepare studies and research papers designed to reach an understanding of the true causes behind the subjection of women and girls to violence and abuse;
- Raise people’s awareness of this phenomenon;
- Family upbringing based on both sexes being brought up equally so that women may develop balanced and healthy personalities;
- Formulate national and international programmes to encourage values and attitudes supportive of the family (as the most influential environment on the child) and allow women and men to work together as partners;
- Foster ethical and behavioural principles in the minds of individuals, using all available means of education in the community;
- Open social centres to provide help for women subjected to physical and psychological assault;
- Strengthen and improve reception and medical and legal help services in hospitals, police stations and the courts for women victims of violence, particularly during the pre- and postnatal periods;
- Ensure health, economic and educational services for women, focusing on working mothers, particularly in rural areas;

- Pay adequate attention to the issue of intensifying awareness-raising, guidance and rehabilitation efforts for men themselves in programmes to combat the phenomenon, given that it is men who are primarily responsible for repeatedly causing the phenomenon;
 - Take the legislative and executive measures necessary to oblige men who engage in violence against women to undergo compulsory social and psychological rehabilitation programmes;
 - Formulate practical programmes and income-generating vocational projects to ensure the inclusion of battered women who can no longer remain in violent and abusive environments.
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