



## **Economic and Social Council**

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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 United States Federation for Middle East 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.



## Statement

### Preventing and ending violence against women and girls

The United States Federation for Middle East Peace has been striving to effectuate the goals set forth by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, in her report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session (A/67/227). To that end, it hosted a major event on 23 October 2012 for various permanent missions to the United Nations and entities dedicated to the cause of ending violence against women and girls.

The Federation stresses the need for the international community to recognize the fact that women and girls with disabilities experience higher rates of gender-based violence, sexual abuse, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation than women without disabilities. Violence may be experienced in the home and in other settings, including institutions, and may even be perpetrated by caregivers, family members or strangers, among others. Violence against women and girls can also take the form of forced medical treatment or procedures, including forced sterilization, in many countries and regions. The Federation therefore recommends the following:

(a) Promote sustained and accelerated efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls throughout the world, as both a human rights and development issue, and to increase the participation of women and girls in decision-making in anti-violence programming processes;

(b) Promote strategies to remedy the lack of accessible information or education regarding violence and the inescapable reliance upon a perpetrator for assistance with essential life activities, and also ensure the inclusion of a disability perspective in care and recovery programmes for women who are victims of such violence;

(c) Advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities through their participation and inclusion in initiatives, including human rights reporting, elimination of gender-based violence and caregiving;

(d) Work with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to advance the situation of women and girls at the country level, including through activities to promote the inclusion of concerns and views of women and girls in relevant development and policy processes in developing countries.

The Federation believes that the Economic and Social Council should demonstrate leadership to ensure that these worthy goals are achieved. The Federation has endeavoured to monitor the treatment of women and girls in specific countries, such as Egypt, with a view to advancing proposals and coordinating with local entities to ameliorate the suffering that such women are forced to endure.