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Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-second session

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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 Center for Family Studies, 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

The Center for Family Studies and Research on Values and Law has been actively involved in the areas that will be addressed at the sixty-second session of the Commission of the Status of Women, whose priority theme is “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls” and whose review theme is “Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women”.

The Center believes that those areas of United Nations activity are a priority for the empowerment of women. It has addressed them through scientific research and studies, using analysis and monitoring to assess the situation of rural women and change it for the better through scientific methods.

Based on our field experience and engagement with the topics at hand, we at the Center believe that the Commission on the Status of Women should focus on scientific study and research in order to preserve all that women have achieved and shore up the structures that make those achievements possible.

Our observations of the situation of women and the family at the regional level have yielded the following findings:

- Social peace and security have been eroded;
- Women have lost much of what they had gained in scientific and academic terms;
- Exile and alienation have caused a spike in psychological tension and disease;
- Cultural assets and achievements have been destroyed;
- Unequal opportunities have led to a regression in women’s empowerment;
- Racial discrimination on gender and religious grounds has persisted.

We urge the Commission and the United Nations to pay attention to the worsening situation of Arab and Muslim women and families.

We call for the following actions to be taken:

- When considering women’s and family issues, it is essential to foster universal human values.
- In order to find solutions, scientific research and analytic studies of women and their support structures must be encouraged.
- Scientific women’s studies should be supported.
- Women’s access to internet resources for learning purposes should be facilitated.

We find it worrying that the United Nations has responded so timidly to the current threat to international humanitarian law and human rights principles, especially the situation of Muslim minorities in Myanmar and the plight of women and children in the Middle East. We can only wonder whether the slogans of women’s empowerment and equal opportunities are meant in earnest.