

into the mainstream of society, and in preventing delinquency,

Mindful further of the social aspects of domestic violence and of the great importance of emphasizing and developing appropriate methods of conflict resolution between the parties involved,

Recognizing that abuse and battery in the family are critical problems that have serious physical and psychological effects on individual family members, especially the young, and jeopardize the health and survival of the family unit,

Recognizing further the adverse effects of exposure to domestic violence, especially at an early stage of human development, and the incalculable harm thereof,

Convinced that the problem of domestic violence is a multifaceted one which should be examined from the perspective of crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of socio-economic circumstances,

Convinced also of the necessity to improve the situation of the victims of domestic violence,

Concerned that the abuse of alcohol, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances may be an exacerbating factor in domestic violence and that the effects thereof should be further examined,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women as victims of crime;⁸⁰

2. *Invites* Member States concerned to take specific action urgently in order to prevent domestic violence and to render the appropriate assistance to the victims thereof;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to intensify research on domestic violence from a criminological perspective to formulate distinct action-oriented strategies that could serve as a basis for policy formulation and to report thereon to the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to invite the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to examine the problem of domestic violence;

5. *Urges* all relevant United Nations bodies, agencies and institutes to collaborate with the Secretary-General in ensuring a concerted and sustained effort to combat this problem;

6. *Invites* the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to consider the problem of domestic violence under a separate agenda item dealing with domestic violence;

7. *Invites* Member States to adopt specific measures with a view to making the criminal and civil justice system more sensitive in its response to domestic violence, including the following:

(a) To introduce, if not already in existence, civil and criminal legislation in order to deal with particular problems of domestic violence, and to enact and enforce such laws in order to protect battered family members and punish the offender and to offer alternative ways of treatment for offenders, according to the type of violence;

(b) To respect, in all instances of the criminal proceeding, starting with the police investigation, the special and sometimes delicate position of the victim, in particular in the manner in which the victim is treated;

(c) To initiate preventive measures, such as providing support and counselling to families, in order to improve their ability to create a non-violent environment, emphasizing principles of education, equality of rights and equal-

ity of responsibilities between women and men, their partnership and the peaceful resolution of conflicts;

(d) To inform the public, as necessary, through all available channels, about serious acts of violence perpetrated against children, in order to create public awareness of this problem;

(e) To deliver appropriate, specialized assistance to victims of domestic violence, as an integral part of social policy;

(f) To provide, as a temporary solution, shelters and other facilities and services for the safety of victims of domestic violence;

(g) To provide specialized training and units for those who deal in some capacity with victims of domestic violence;

(h) To initiate or intensify research and collect data on the background, extent and types of domestic violence;

(i) To make legal remedies to domestic violence more accessible and, in view of the criminogenic effects of the phenomenon, in particular on young victims, to give due consideration to the interests of society by maintaining a balance between intervention and the protection of privacy;

(j) To ensure that social welfare and health administration systems are engaged more intensely in providing assistance to victims of familial violence and abuses, and to make all efforts to co-ordinate social welfare and criminal justice measures.

*96th plenary meeting
29 November 1985*

40/37. Expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Italy on the occasion of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

The General Assembly,

Taking into account the significance and the results of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Milan, Italy, from 26 August to 6 September 1985,⁵⁷

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Italy for acting as host to the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

*96th plenary meeting
29 November 1985*

40/38. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/56 of 3 December 1982, 38/104 of 16 December 1983 and 39/122 of 14 December 1984, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/45 of 31 May 1985,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its activities,⁸¹

Taking note with interest of the Institute's mode of operation, through the use of networks, in carrying out its functions at the international, regional and national levels,

⁸⁰ A/CONF.121/16.

⁸¹ A/40/707, annex.