



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-first 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 SOS Éducation, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

We would like at the outset to express our gratitude to all those who respect the rights of women. We would also like to congratulate all States that have adopted laws to protect women. It is, however, lamentable and shocking that there are States and armed groups that continue, with the actions that they take every day, to disregard women and their rights.

Women and children are now the first to fall victim to abuse and violence in situations of armed conflict. Violence against women is rampant in various parts of the world. In Nigeria, as we have seen, Boko Haram abducted more than 200 schoolgirls. In Aleppo, Syria, Russian bombings of hospitals and civilians have resulted in numerous female casualties. In northern Mali as well, women have been raped and there have been forced marriages. We call for good sense and the responsible treatment of women.

May every person and State contribute to respect for the rights of women worldwide.

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