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Statement submitted by Fédération Européenne des Centres de Recherche et d’Information sur le Sectarisme, 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

Female sect members need serious assistance when facing the challenges of women's economic empowerment in the ever changing world of work in free and open societies.

When we consider the global economic forces at work in our present twenty-first century life styles. It is impossible to imagine that many families and employment requirements could function reasonably well without female partnerships and especially the role of women in the workplace. In open and democratic societies, the appearance of opportunities for gainful employment could appear to be quite attractive. The reality of sect lifestyles for women and other females is another story where serious restrictions interfere with international human rights and access to informed decisions concerning true gainful employment. We at the European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarianism have consistently observed over many years in our work with women and employable females is the lack the resources and appropriate skills required for gainful employment. This is due to highly restrictive cult environments and authoritarian abusive leadership structures. Where women, according to various academic or international studies, make up at least 70 percent of global cult membership.

It is essential in the observation of the Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarianism you factor in the nature and causes of these deficiencies and problems that interfere with female human rights and from abuses. The Commission on the Status of Women 60 achieved standards and policies for women and females whom denied access to where they need it most. It is essential to identify these contributing factors especially when you have to consider the closed totalitarian environments many of the cult afflicted females live in. It is having viable access to the accomplishments of Commission on the Status of Women that needs to be obtained when cult leadership restriction policies and practices interfere with fully informed choices when pursuing gainful employment for women and meaningful career choice options that have been denied. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including the 2015 developments, can have a direct impact on the global improvement for the lives of females through the implementation process of empowerment, self-improvement and dignity.

Women and their human rights are at the centre of the series of restrictions and limitations. We at the European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarianism have observed that women who seek help after their departure from destructive sects lack the financial resources to support even basic family needs. We could also include lack of schooling, training, career path and meaningful retirement resources seem so unavailable. The cult afflicted women and other females make up some of the most gifted individuals society can employ but cult life entraps them from achieving their full potential for themselves and the outside world at large.

Access to the work place for females in cult groups can differ from mainstream society. Many totalitarian cults require absolute obedience to the directives of cult leadership before they can apply. Female human rights for women are not respected by authoritarian male cult leadership dictates and have a history of physical and sexual abuse when compliance is not provided. Abusive sects and

Islamic terrorist organizations share much in common in the abuse of women and other females. Female forced child labour practices and sex abuse toward children have been reported worldwide by the international media and government agencies. When virtual and actual slave labour of children have been established even the rights of the child are violated. Protection is truly required here and their rights restored with accountability to the perpetrators where reparations should be imposed to assist the victims.

When addressing human legal rights, it is important to factor in gender discrimination that has real application in the world of the cults. Females are considered lesser beings in heavily authoritarian male centred organizations. The International Legal Organization and Convention 183 on maternity protection is just one example where female cult members lack access in some cases and must work to support their cult. Pressure to meet cult financial goals and just to survive rule out protection of female legal rights shielded from mainstream legal transparency. The larger questions of property rights and female inheritance issues will avoid gender equality examination. This is due to authoritarian cult directives where the sect organization controls the private assets or estate of the individual through surrender to cult control and eventual ownership. Women are especially vulnerable to this exploitation.

There is a growing international phenomenon of cult leaders serving terms in prison due to the sex abuse of female minors and women reported by the media worldwide. Due to the virtual slave labour conditions of minor female workers and their earnings are handed over to the cult bank accounts. They have access to these young girls without mainstream society protections where transparency in law to these cult families. This would provide much needed protection where child sex abuse law violations must be reported on an international scale. When we examine Islamic terrorist organizations there is a similar phenomenon but their leaders are escaping justice through avoiding capture by government authority in some cases.

We at European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarianism have also observed where unpaid domestic work and care for others that may interfere with the labour law requirements in a given location. Many cults avoid mainstream society labour laws by avoiding required reporting mechanisms when labour and tax collection legal requirements are violated. Reporting enforcement where legally required is something the Commission on the Status of Women could play a vital role. Educating cult women about the relationship to labour law to their families and themselves can go a long way toward empowerment of women everywhere. Much of the revenue due to the women who earned it and labour law tax requirements end up in cult leadership hands for personal gain and exploitation.

Unwanted pregnancies in cult groups and reproductive rights are in crisis when dealing with rapes of minor female members. Unwanted arranged marriages are common in some cults and Islamic terrorist organizations. Cult leaders have total control over minors who end up in forced marriages against their will. Again, human female rights are violated and many of these new born babies go unreported to civil authorities. Forced pregnancies interfere with female employment and serious career paths that could be seriously disrupted by these unwanted rapes and

the financial and psychological consequences have been devastating. Restoring the rights of women and females are vital in these circumstances.

Education is crucial for cult afflicted women to have equal rights access to economic resources to gainful employment and this requires access to economic resources. There are growing publications and policies from the Commission on the Status of Women that can be a vital tool for assistance. It is in networking with European Federation of Centers of Research and Information on Sectarianism and other relevant Non-Governmental Organizations where serious progress could be achieved. Ending this kind of avoidable poverty will go a long way toward solving the untapped human potential these gifted cult related women could achieve.

The truly avoidable issue of malnutrition in women and females in sect organizations is rooted in cult greed. Gainful employment is truly supported by sound nutrition but female cult members typically live a sacrificial cult lifestyle. Cheap food, low in nutrition, is quite normal because cult financial demands require sacrifice of your health in the process. Nutrition education is vital for the cult affected women and their families to overcome employment limitations.

When considering lifelong employment for women it is essential to include retirement planning. Cults are notorious for the lack of planning nor providing pensions and lack of retirement plans for cult members. Due to the sacrificial lifestyles and financial resources directed to the cult organizations primarily, these women have an austere financial future and many will become dependent on government and social welfare programs through tax revenues Member States will end up providing.

The hub of cult power is the lack of inclusiveness and promotion of discrimination and women need their rights restored and protected. We can empower cult female victims with the resources they need now and for the future.
