



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 December 2019

English only

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-fourth session

9–20 March 2020

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 Grupo de Mujeres de la Argentina – Foro de VIH and mujeres y familia, non-governmental organizations 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 current system of state administration, with the acquiescence of conservative social sectors, has taken up to date, by action and omission, injurious decisions of the rights of young mothers and teenage girls.

In addition to being in a situation of social vulnerability, they have been “qualified” by those who have deprived them of exercising their maternity as “BAD MOTHERS” ignoring the causes of this invisible conflict.

Historically, both in the rule of law and in fact, these women have been victims of other people's resolutions that have marked their future by denying them the right to the exercise of motherhood, causing them substantial damage in the relationship with their biological children, for the loss of their bond and all activity oriented to the care of their babies.

The power, the money, the ambitious desire or despair of some to be parents at all costs, justified the appropriation and kidnapping of newborn children; not without the necessary participation of those who profit from this social problem, whose highest peaks have occurred during dictatorial governments (Argentina, Spain, Chile, Guatemala, etc.).

This systemic behavior, even today is accepted as a use and custom in different regions and countries; where society has knowledge of these facts but assumes reproachable neutrality and the states ignore the conflict.

The media often stigmatize the mother or girl who gave her baby because she was poor or because she had many children and cannot raise them, or because she is a minor and the family decided on her baby's future and gave it up for adoption without respect the will of the mother and ignoring the most elementary concurrent human rights. The cases of mothers whose babies die at birth and whose body is not delivered, while respecting grief, are known.

Also the theft of babies by nurses and nurses is a contemporary practice, which requires the participation of some members of the Judiciary and the cooperation of other state officials to make records of births of babies and irregular adoptions. In this context, the abduction of babies became visible through the capture of victims through social networks (youth, minors and women). Law 26.842 regulating the legal institute of Trafficking in Persons in Argentina defines, in its Article 2, that the theft of babies is not a crime unless the stolen child ends up being the victim of “exploitation”.

The theft of children is a clear undermining of their right to biological identity. This is usually described as “illegal adoption” by the State, which we consider to be an appropriation. This requires the concurrence, among others, of midwives, obstetricians, juvenile defenders, judges, civil registry employees, lawyers, nuns, priests, notaries, etc; who officiate as “bidders” and end up getting money or favors in return.

Remember that in most cases mothers give their children with the will vitiated by ignorance, hunger, poverty or social pressure. At an international level we can perceive how the smuggling of migrants is linked to trafficking in persons. Migrants are manipulated by those who intend to capture their children to market them. This situation still worsens when the migration policies of the countries separate the children from their parents, not respecting the unity of the family.

We cite some facts of systemic violence where the “bidders” have decided for a young teenage girl woman regarding the disposition of her baby, in a cooptation of one of the most elementary rights of biological identity. In this regard we say that:

Africa – A nurse gave more than 5000 babies, Mrs. Elizabeth Bwalya Mwewa recently claimed to have “developed the habit of exchanging newborn babies just for fun, for a period of 12 years, between 1983 and 1995.”, when working in the Lusaka University Hospital, Zambia. Mwewa told the agency that he has terminal cancer and will die soon, so he is now asking for forgiveness.

Argentina has more than 10,000 negative analyzes in the National Bank of Genetic Data and to date they have not intersected with public university laboratories in the country. We have space from the Secretary of Human Rights called “RETIB” where there are more than 600 interviews of people who seek their identity from 2017 to date and are believed to be 3,000,000 people who seek their identity and families of biologicals.

Congo: The Belgian prosecutor had strong indications that the biological parents of several Congolese children adopted in Belgium were still alive.

Chile – The meeting of 172 people between mothers and seekers was achieved through international laboratories, which in some cases are international meetings in America and Europe.

China: The government had decided that foreign people could adopt abandoned Chinese children. Some 80,000 babies, mostly girls, have left China for the U.S. in the last 25 years.

Spain: there are more than 300,000 illegal adoptions and cases of the Franco era clearly reflect the systematic violation of article 180.6 of the Civil Code, which states that the people adopted, reached the age of majority or during their minority through their representatives legal, they will have the right to know the data about their biological origins.

Guatemala: It is a typical case of the disposition of human beings, especially children by the surviving state to internal conflicts (civil wars). Unfortunately, many Guatemalan children were displaced to the United States and other European countries due to the irregularity of adoptions and their lack of international control.

Holland: 10,000 cases of forced adoption are investigated. A mother denounces the State for forcing her to give up her son. The cases occurred between 1956 and 1984. In 2017, Radboud University prepared a study at the request of the Ministry of Justice, where it numbered 15,000 Dutch children adopted between 1956 and 1984. Their conclusions ruled out “a formal coercion to force adoptions, but the pressure of doctors, families of single mothers, social workers and other instances of the sector could be so strong that it prevented them from keeping them together”.

India: Illegal adoption is a big business in the Indian subcontinent. So much so, that an estimated 10,000 children disappear each year in the country, well sold by their parents, well kidnapped in hospitals, train stations or slums.

Morocco: Doctors, nuns and parents trafficked with babies bought in Morocco. The Civil Guard accuses 19 people of this international network. The minors were from humble families to whom they gave money or promised a better future.

Peru – the reality of the mothers in vulnerability of the 1980s has been shown, the film is already with several international awards, called “Song without a name”.

Uruguay: Between 2000 and 2015, about 300 citizens who were adopted in Uruguay sought to know their origins on suspicion of being kidnapped children of militants detained during the dictatorship in the country (1973–1985), Eduardo Pirotto told Efe today, formerly in charge of attending them in a non-government organization of relatives and in the Government. “I got to register around 300 people in an accumulation of years, especially after Macarena Gelman appeared. It was like

an explosion of motivation that installed doubt in many people. Many donated blood to the genetic bank, and although many cases they are still open, none have yet been confirmed,” he said.

To conclude, for this sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women meeting, we observe a growth in the impact of this problem worldwide and think that states and all international organizations and national organizations of civil society should produce a greater effort to generate more dynamic and forceful mechanisms that allow raising awareness, training and executing open social participation programs to fight against this contemporary scourge. It is to take into account the lack of support and containment of women and young mothers who are discriminated against for reasons of gender and cultural as well as religious, that deepen the need to provide solutions that guarantee respect for the dignity of beings victimized humans involved.
