



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 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 Concepts of Truth, Inc., 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

Beyond Beijing: towards empowering the whole person

Great progress has been made in the twenty-five years since the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to ensure, “the full implementation of the human rights of women and of the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights”. (United Nations, 1995, Beijing Declaration, Par. 9). Yet, obstacles remain to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action’s goals of protecting the dignity and human rights of all women and girls including obstacles to eliminating female poverty, eradicating violence against women and girls, and enhancing sexual and reproductive health and education (see United Nations, 1995, Beijing Declaration, Par. 16, 29–31).

Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem, with origins in both the national and international domains. (See United Nations, 1995, Platform for Action, Par. 47). Material poverty frequently coexists with emotional poverty, and emotional poverty can be caused by traumatic events such as sexual violence and resulting reproductive loss. Emotional poverty increases women’s vulnerability to sexual exploitation and resulting unwanted pregnancies and disease, causing additional reproductive loss and resulting in further emotional poverty in a never-ending cycle of despair. Complications, *Abortion’s Impact on Women* by The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research documents the psychological and emotional consequences of reproductive loss and the often unreported effects of sexual violence that result.

Concepts of Truth, Inc, non-government organization acts to spread awareness of the possible trauma of reproductive loss and its consequences on individuals and societies by providing worldwide access to competent recovery programs and caring counselors, who acknowledge and affirm the client’s emotions. Concepts of Truth, Inc’s counselors and consultants communicate deeply and effectively with their clients, instilling in each individual a due sense of human dignity deserving of love. Concepts of Truth, Inc is committed to helping each person release the pain and guilt of past reproductive loss or sexual trauma, which often contributes to multidimensional poverty. Providing everyone with an equal ability to access this type of healing paves the way to overcoming emotional poverty. Over time, Concepts of Truth, Inc thus equips each person with the confidence they need to be free from the emotional suffering that impoverishes them and their relationships.

Concepts of Truth, Inc non government organization is similarly committed to educating each person with knowledge that will enrich their sexual and mental health. According to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, “(e)ducation is a human right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development, and peace” (par. 69). Concepts of Truth, Inc thus aims to educate the whole person to make healthy life choices that empower future generations using its curriculum, Concepts of Sexual Health, Sex & You, which relies on medical facts and research to transmit the truth about core values, self-worth, human rights, dignity, love and responsibility, and the science of sex to empower youth and families to make informed choices for themselves and the heritage passed on to future generations. The curriculum teaches that the human person exists as a multidimensional being and that one’s sexuality is integrated in all dimensions of their humanity. The lessons stress that one’s sexual health depends on making healthy informed choices in relationships and that these choices affect the whole person’s present and future well-being as well as the well-being of their progeny.

Successfully implementing holistic health care solutions requires a proven model of best practice and standard of care. The method consists of building Awareness, providing Access, effectively Communicating, fully Committing, and dedicating Time (also known as the AACCT model). The AACCT model, developed by Concepts of Truth, Inc, non-government organization can be supported by Member States and civil society and implemented by grassroots organizations. First, there must be an awareness of the problem. Many of the wounds that people suffer are completely invisible to outsiders. Building awareness incorporates the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its promise to leave no one behind. It allows individuals and communities to acknowledge and accept trauma as well as prevent those from discriminating against the ones who suffer. Building awareness brings those suffering out of isolation and reduces the risk of more victimization. With new awareness comes a new need: the need for access to holistic health education. This means providing the victims of trauma and loss access to those who can help them so that their voices can be heard. Communication is then key to processing past events and emotions in a restorative manner and plotting out healthy constructive strategies for the future. Next is commitment, a central component of the healing process. Committing to do no harm in a relationship between the clients and the counselors ensures that the former receive consistent and effective treatments. Finally, time is necessary to allow the wounded to reintegrate into society and pull out of their emotional poverty.

When the emotionally impoverished are bullied into silence or shame, their growth as a member of their community is halted, they become isolated, and are at a greater risk for victimization. When the trauma is processed through careful counseling, what results is not only the potential for healing but the potential to empower others to make healthy life choices. Concepts of Truth Inc's staff have experienced this first hand. They understand that when an individual walks through this process, they will continue to move forward to holistic well-being and make healthy life choices. In turn, the individual will have the ability to inspire others (each one, teach one) to seek out healing. No longer do those hurting have to try and ignore the pain of traumatic losses. With healing and sexual health education, they can find their voice, receive comfort, practical life-skills, and feel like a fully active and adjusted member of society. They are able to move forward and thrive in their community. Using the methods Concepts of Truth, Inc., non government organization has developed to help achieve critical areas outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, women and girls will have the opportunity to pursue healing and education, and will be empowered to step toward a whole person concept eradicating personal, familial, communal, and international poverty.