



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/HRC/12/NGO/6  
4 September 2009

ENGLISH ONLY

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Twelfth session  
Agenda item 3

### **PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT**

**Written statement\* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 August 2009]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Considering the Universal Declaration of Human Rights accepts the non-discrimination principle, and states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”. Article 2 of the Declaration states: “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”

Considering all state parties to international human rights instruments are committed to guarantee equal rights between men and women in enjoying all fundamental social, cultural, civil and political rights.

Believing that the complete development of a country, global peace and welfare, requires the integrated participation of women in all fields and in equal conditions with men,

Reminding that discrimination against women violates the equality in rights and respect of human dignity principles, and prevents the equal participation of women in political and social life of their own country, and also the expansion of society and the family’s prosperity, and the blossoming of all women’s capacities and talents in serving a country and mankind becomes more difficult.

As a nongovernmental organization with over 2 decades of experience in human rights research and training, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) endeavours to promote women and children’s rights through holding seminars, conferences, education workshops with the cooperation of UN agencies in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The ODVV wishes to draw the attention of the members of the Council and all human rights activists to the following:

- The subject of violence against women, domestic violence in particular, factors in the occurrence of violence, its consequences, the victims, the perpetrators, and the conditions that cause violence to occur must all be paid attention to. To this aim it is suggested that the UN set up a body to study and conduct necessary investigations for the realisation of the following three:

- 1 – International support for the victims of violence
- 2 – International prevention of violence against women
- 3 – International criminal prosecution of the perpetrators

These three points necessitate the immediate realisation of women’s rights in the form of answering the pertinence.

- It is expected of the international community for the prevention of discrimination against women and children and the realisation of gender equality in all its proportions, to establish a balance between responsibilities in the family and home environment, guaranteeing of gender equality, concentration in laws, to foresee mechanisms the objectives of which are:

- \* Involvement of men and boys in the outcome process of gender equality
- \* Design and establishment of workgroups in the mass media with the aim of strengthening national policies towards enlightenment and change of behaviour.

\* Setting of gender-oriented solutions and the involvement of men and boys in the efforts to realise gender equality.

\* Making men and boys aware of clinics and social services centres.

- Gender equality is not solely a human right but it has a vital share in poverty reduction, economic growth and development. It is worth mentioning that the third goal of the MDG stresses on the importance of gender equality and its effect on economic and social development.

With the current global financial crisis vulnerable groups – women and children in particular – are more than ever threatened with marginalisation and further away from the attention of governments in allocating budgets and resources to them.

For this reason the ODVV calls for emergency technical sittings be held for finding solutions in the reduction of the effects of this crisis on women, particularly those in underdeveloped or developing countries.

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