



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-ninth session

10–21 March 2025

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 Fraternite Notre Dame, 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.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

Fraternite Notre Dame founded by His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie Kozik, through its charitable work, deals with and helps the elderly. We are all future elderly men and women. How would we like to be considered at this moment of our life?

In developed countries, elderly women are discriminated against. Why? They are discriminated against because they have given their time, their care at the service of their family, their children. Without paid employment, they are often considered old-fashioned by today's youth, who believe they know everything, whereas elderly women have experience of life, of education and knowledge to pass on. Considered to be annoying, they are driven out of their homes and abandoned in retirement homes where they are treated like numbers or worse, stupefied and affected by medication. Our Soup Kitchens welcome many elderly women living on the streets or in makeshift shelters. They are helped by our visits where we bring them food, clean clothes and comfort.

The real treasure for a family is not material wealth. First, as Most Rev. Bishop Jean Marie teaches us, it is the mutual dedication that unites its members. Without this mutual devotion, the richest family often remains a poor family.

In underdeveloped countries, elderly women are no longer productive whereas in their youth, through her work, they ensured their family's precarious income. They are no longer good for anything. They are also driven out of her home.

Peddlers of sensational news do not help the world, but those who do help the world are the charitable souls who attract little attention. His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie gives us the example: give love and kindness wherever you can, but always out of love for God. If everyone started doing this today, it could very quickly and surely improve and renew the world, we experience this every day.

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