



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on the Status of Women

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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 The National YWCA of Korea, 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

Founded in 1922, the National YWCA of Korea has been involved in various movements to achieve gender equality in Korean society throughout its 102-year history. Throughout the long history of Japanese colonization, the Korean War, and dictatorship, the National YWCA of Korea has worked continuously to protect women's rights and dignity, from gender discrimination, and to continue its work for gender equality and human rights. With the goal of building an inclusive world where justice, peace and integrity of creation are promoted and sustained through the practice, the National YWCA of Korea works to create a gender-equitable world by eliminating all forms of gender-based violence and empowering women to enhance their independence.

Korean society still faces structural gender discrimination. Women are unequally represented in politics, the economy, and society at large. The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2024 indicates that the Republic of Korea ranks 94th out of 146 countries in the Gender Gap Index. According to the "2024 Statistics on the Lives of Men and Women" published by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, South Korea's women's hourly wages were 71 per cent of men's in 2023, making it the country with the largest gender pay gap among OECD countries. In terms of women's representation, the proportion of women managers in government, legislatures, and private companies was only 14.6 per cent, which is less than half of the OECD average of 34.2 per cent. In addition, various forms of gender-based violence, such as sexual and domestic violence and workplace sexism, are still prevalent. The pattern of violence against women is changing and growing in severity, especially as digital technology advances. However, the government's response has been inadequate. Sexist culture and legal loopholes leave victims without adequate protection, and perpetrators are punished lukewarmly. The government's indifference and tardy response encourages the recurrence of sex crimes and perpetuates systemic sexism. Deepfake sexual offenses are a particularly serious problem. Republic of Korea is facing a proliferation of technology-based sex crimes, in which sexualized images of women's faces are created and distributed using AI technology called deepfakes as profile pictures of unspecified women on private social media. Victims are being blackmailed with fake videos or images generated through deepfake technology, causing devastating psychological, social, and economic damage and grossly violating their personal dignity. The abuse of technology to violate women's human rights has been foreseen in various forms, but the lack of punishment and preventive measures at the Korean government level has caused damage beyond recognition. Recently, the South Korean government has resolved to revise the Sexual Violence Act and announced its intention to take measures, although belatedly. This is not just an individual problem, but a serious societal issue rooted in gender inequality.

The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action sets international standards for women's human rights and gender equality, and sets the elimination of violence against women as an important goal. We reaffirm the Platform and recognize the need for international cooperation to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TfGBV). The National YWCA of Korea strongly supports the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and strongly opposes all forms of violence against women, and calls for proactive action to address not only deepfake sexual offenses, but all forms of TfGBV. In addition, the National YWCA of Korea is actively conducting research on TfGBV prevention education and will continue to work in solidarity with the international community to respond to and prevent all forms of gender-based violence.

Therefore, the National YWCA of Korea strongly recommends:

- In accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action D. Violence against Women, UN Member States should establish international standards for technology-facilitated gender-based violence(TfGBV), such as deepfake sexual offenses, and strengthen legal frameworks to combat it.
- UN Member States should strengthen victim support systems and expand education and campaigns to prevent digital sexual offenses.
- Further supplement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action D. Violence Against Women with a section on technology-facilitated gender-based violence(TfGBV) and establish a system to evaluate States' implementation of Commission on the Status of Women and Economic and Social Council resolutions.

The year 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the 10th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals. It should be an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action across its 12 areas including violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, and women and the environment.

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