



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 December 2024

English only

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 Endeavour Forum 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

Addressing Challenges to Gender Equality and Empowerment for All Women and Girls: Inclusivity Across Size, Age, and Living situation

Gender equality for girls, must begin in the womb. Gendercide is the systematic assault and murder of members of a specific gender. Tragically, millions of girls have been, and continue to be executed before birth, in several countries, just because they are female. Gendercide commonly takes the forms of induced abortion and female infanticide. Lethal violence against any child, at any stage of life must be condemned.

United Nations stakeholders including UN member-states, agencies and especially the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) should be on the frontlines condemning gendercide as a grave human rights violation, declaring the inherent human rights to which every innocent child in the womb is entitled. They should never endorse or condone the practice of killing children before birth, as in the practice of induced or chemical abortions.

In a civil society, pregnant women should be protected and supported, never pressured or coerced to have an abortion as many are. Sadly, some health professionals who perform abortions and benefit financially are responsible for contributing to gendercide.

With the advent of ultra-sound technology, and the subsequent advances in our scientific understanding of fetal development, we can clearly see the humanity and personhood of every child in the womb. From the time we are conceived, our DNA already determines if we are a boy or girl and how cells will differentiate to form every part of the body – the heart, lungs, liver, immune system, kidneys and pancreas; also, every muscle, bone, joint, blood cell, hair, ears, nose, mouth and limbs, etc. Each of us had a beating heart by three to four weeks after conception. By eight weeks, arms, legs, fingers and toes are visible. From approximately 10 to 12 weeks into a pregnancy, doctors can determine whether the child in the womb is a boy or a girl.

Aborting girls is the ultimate form of exploitation, discrimination and violence in our generation against girls. Many reports document a common cultural belief – that boys are more valuable than girls. As a result, millions of “unwanted” girls are targeted for abortion or left to die after birth (infanticide). These antiquated customs deserve to be exposed and severely condemned by all the UN member-states including the Commission on the Status of Women.

We must form a global alliance to protect the youngest and weakest of our girls; who have no voice. The very idea of aborting one’s daughter, just because she is a girl, is horrific, and should never be deemed a component of “reproductive rights or health”.

According to the UN Charter, both the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of the Child state that “the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before, as well as after birth”.

Using communication technology to disseminate information

Tragically, misinformation, euphemisms and lies abound, touting and promoting abortion as “safe” which it is not. Several United Nations agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) have a conflict of interest as they rake in billions from the extermination of human beings before birth. They dehumanize the lives of children before birth. Induced abortions, whether legal or illegal are killing adolescent girls and young women too.

As a former (legal) abortion patient myself, I can testify that most young pregnant women are not informed about all of the risk factors associated with abortion. Legal abortion frequently causes physical, psychological and spiritual damage to women. The truth and reality of abortion's serious risks and downsides deserve to be widely disseminated in digital form among women in order to promote greater understanding, genuine gender equality and the real empowerment of ALL women.

Information and evidence

Induced abortion is not healthcare. Credible, peer-reviewed academic research reports that legally induced abortions are not “safe” for women's mental or reproductive health. Angela Lanfranchi, Ian Gentles and Elizabeth Ring-Cassidy's comprehensive book, *Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women* (Toronto: The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research, 2013; 2nd expanded edition, 2018), lists numerous studies which affirm that women do suffer for many years as a result of abortion. Hundreds of women, in the USA alone, have also died because of legal abortion. America's Operation Outcry has collected over 5,000 testimony/declarations from former abortion patients providing details of the physical and psychological injuries from legal abortions.

Physical and mental health risks to women

A large study in Finland reported that women who had an abortion had a whopping 650 percent higher risk of death from suicide, than did women who carried their babies to term.

University of Minnesota researchers found a ten-fold increase in suicide attempts among teens within six months after their abortion. Another study found that 50 percent of post-abortive teens (15–18 years) had suicidal thoughts and behaviours – twice the rate of teens who chose not to abort.

The British Journal of Psychiatry published a study in 2011, by Dr Priscilla Coleman, which reported that 81 per cent of women who aborted subsequently suffered mental health issues, compared to women who gave birth after “unplanned” pregnancies.

The largest study of rape victims ever, reports that most women not only experience severe trauma from the rape, but also experience additional trauma if they choose to abort their baby conceived in rape.

Researcher Brent Rooney found over 100 global studies revealing a significant increased risk of cervical/uterine damage by abortion, resulting in subsequent pre-term births in “wanted” children. According to the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, 61 credible worldwide studies also link induced abortion to an increased incidence of breast cancer.

The UN's Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing during September 4–15, 1995, issued at its concluding session the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which stated the following:

- “Women's right to the enjoyment of the highest standard of health must be secured throughout the whole life cycle, in equality with men” (para 92).
- “Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority, and every attempt should be made to eliminate the need for abortion” (para 106(k)).
- Governments were asked to address “the acute problems of children, inter alia, by supporting efforts in the context of the United Nations system aimed at

adopting efficient international measures for the prevention and eradication of female infanticide...” (para 230(m)).

- The Platform for Action reaffirmed that “the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights” (para 213). And science, declares that the cycle of human life begins at the moment of conception.

A platform of action for the elimination and prevention of female infanticide (gendercide)

We appeal to UN member-states, agencies and the Commission on the Status of Women to adopt a platform for the elimination and prevention of female infanticide (gendercide), and especially to:

- Enact media, education and awareness campaigns to publicise the value of the girl child, the importance of the unhindered development of the unborn and access to research on the damage of legal abortion to women’s mental and reproductive health.
- Enact measures to end violence against pregnant women and their children in utero.
- Enact legislation and policies condemning gender-selective abortions and provide stiff penalties for abortion practitioners who commit gendercide.
- Provide practical support for pregnant women and their babies before birth.
- Provide the basic human right to life for babies in the womb, as clearly stated to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of the Child.
- A girl is a girl, no matter how small. Every child, whether in the womb or newly born, is a valuable member of the human race. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, “The greatest destroyer of peace today is the cry of the innocent unborn child.”

The right to life empowers women and girls. What is the Commission on the Status of Women doing to stop this daily barbaric practice? UN Women in particular, should fight for the right to life of every girl child especially if they believe in gender equality.
