



## 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 Advocates for Human Rights, 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

The Advocates for Human Rights celebrates the 30th anniversary of the world's joint effort to achieve gender equality and advance women in their enjoyment of inalienable rights. We take pride in being a part of those who voiced their visions and dreams 30 years ago at the Beijing Conference, affirming that cross-generational support and learning from history can strengthen a new feminist dialogue. While collecting memories from the Beijing Conference participants within our "Beijing Oral History" project, we draw from their inspirational statements a strong hope for the world's feminist future. Women Human Rights Defenders repeatedly recall the diversity of inclusion at the Conference, which enabled fundamental conversations and created a safe space to discover a global solution collectively. Those feminist activists acknowledged the innate spirit of sisterhood, which then served as a breakthrough for allocating women's potential in combatting discriminatory treatment and violence in the patriarchal environment. They continue highlighting the pressing need for women's educational capacity and involvement in decision-making processes to continue developing Beijing's mainstream policy and enabling conditions for sufficient enjoyment of women's rights.

The Advocates for Human Rights endorses the Member States' commitment to honor women's status in society and recognizes the encouraging progress of the international community towards establishing representational policy bodies and mechanisms with a proactive agenda for reducing inequalities, discrimination, and violence. Among today's achievements stands out the widespread creation of national and local entities that collectively boost gender equality, apply gender mainstreaming, plan States' gender budgeting, and conduct impact assessments on every one of the 12 objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action. Commending UN Women's work in developing global standards of building a sustainable and resilient feminist network, we fully support a joint action on strengthening women's empowerment in community life, which is managed at the cross-institutional level by the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women. Additionally, The Advocates for Human Rights especially appreciates the structural dialogue conducted by the Commission on the Status of Women, which duly navigates global women's rights campaigns by identifying gaps in policy implementation and stressing priority issues to be achieved promptly.

Despite the significant advances due to the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, there remains work to do to accomplish gender-equal opportunities and outcomes in global intersectional realms. Although Member States keep investing in violence-preventing policies, millions of women and girls continue suffering from violence and discrimination in the private and public spheres. Poor health and domestic violence, when overlapping with household stress, disability, and unemployment, frequently result in the significant vulnerability of women. Prevention of gender-based violence, such as trafficking and exploitation, from a human rights lens requires further attention from States. After experiencing detrimental violent practices, women struggle from prejudices and stereotypes when daring to seek protection and then frequently face additional unjustifiable barriers and institutional challenges when referring to justice, rehabilitation, and reparation.

Additionally, feminist human rights defenders are continuously under attack, ranging from legal restraints to death threats, enforced disappearances, and torture. Women's civil society organizations and movements are strictly opposed by the far-right backlash against human rights, starting with under-investment in gender-inclusive agendas and ending with detrimental legislative interventions such as the passing of foreign agent laws. Moreover, adequate monitoring of women's rights empowerment remains complicated due to the lack of solid sex-disaggregated data

and comparable gender statistics regarding every objective in the Beijing Platform for Action.

The Advocates for Human Rights is especially concerned about severe retrogressions women's rights encounter around the globe, leveling any dignity and safety minimums. We stress the need for a future intersectional feminist agenda that is responsive to the current world's political, market, and environmental challenges.

The Advocates for Human Rights calls upon the international community to: ensure a substantial women's political representation in national and local governmental agencies to facilitate gender-sensitive agendas; monitor and prevent gender-violence incidents, especially cases of femicide, through awareness-raising campaigns, law enforcement training and adequate state investigative response; promote barrier-free women's access to justice, rehabilitation processes and reparations for violent acts; strengthen women's civil society engagement and protect feminist human rights defenders from oppression; prevent women's human right backlash from leveling the fundamental principles of gender equality as inclusivity and safety; develop reliable collecting and processing of sex-disaggregated data enabling to form gender statistics of objective quality.

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