



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Thirtieth 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 Women's Human Rights International Association, 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.

[31 August 2015]

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



## **Women & Sustainable Development Goals**

Despite positive developments in the delivery of basic education, girls and women still face numerous large hurdles to their equality in higher education and the labour market. The possibility to support oneself and one's children is crucial to female independence at any level of development. Salary disparities and other barriers in the labour market, often created rather than alleviated by states, therefore have consequences that reach deep into the private lives of women. We therefore ask all members of this Council to reconsider their educational, child bearing and employment policies from a female independence perspective.

We strongly agree with the 2015 report of the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice that "the transition towards equality between women and men, and girls and boys, in the culture and in the family is a prerequisite for a decent society" and that the state must act as an agent of change.

Women's rights and opportunities stand at the center of many of the world's key challenges; civil and international war, poverty, economic development that benefits all and dealing with climate change. A crucial component in overcoming all of these challenges must be solidarity between women around the world. It is encouraging to see positive developments in female political participation around the world, although we still have a long way to go. The time has come to leverage that achieved influence to leapfrog ahead and help all women disproportionately exposed to violence, poverty and risk.

In September, countries will have the opportunity to adopt a set of global goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Women's Human rights international Association specifically emphasizes over Goal 5 this program. We request for all countries to follow and implement it:

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decisionmaking in political, economic and public life

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels