



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 April 2019

English only

Human Rights Council

Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

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 Afro-European Medical and Research Network, 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.

[7 March 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Violations against women and children

The Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN), together with the Inter African Committee on Practices that Affect the Health of Women and Children (IAC), would like to thank the Council and the Special Rapporteurs for their insightful reports on violence against children and welcome the clustered interactive dialogues as well as the annual debate on the rights of the child that took place this week.

The statements shared within the plenary sessions reflect the urgent need for the International Community to strengthen our collaborative efforts to combat violence against children in all forms, may it be child trafficking in the context of sport, child soldiers, female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, child widowhood, prostitution, child sexual exploitation, neglect and abuse of children.

While international standards and human rights mechanisms lay the normative foundation for universal recognition for child rights, including the achievement of the Universal Health coverage of Health for all and Leaving no one behind in the SDGs, we need significant changes to better protect children. Inclusive collaboration and synchronisation of efforts cannot be exclusive. Therefore, a multi-level approach is required permeating across different levels of society, to reach communities at the grassroots to the top.

It is important to remain mindful of the root causes of violence against children, such as sociocultural discrepancies, influence of media and technology, breakdown in family values, discrimination, gender inequality and systematic criminality - contributing factors to a seemingly unending vicious circle of the physical, mental and social well-being of children and their families.

- As we celebrate women all over the world today, we must not fail to remember that the protection of children and their rights must include measures to support women and mothers in their unpaid caring roles. They are the front liners and play a paramount role in child protection. We urge the Council and the International community to hold member states more accountable to the different agreements they have signed up to.
