



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 8

### Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

## **Written statement\* submitted by Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, 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.

[26 August 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination by the Occupying Power Israel**

Gender integration is the process of promoting gender equality, and it aims to ensure women benefit from their human rights without gender-based discrimination. In the Gender integration strategy, focus is often placed on making sure that women's perspectives are reflected, as women and girls are generally among the more marginalized populations, and their perspectives can be made invisible by non-gendered analysis. Discrimination based on gender and violence against women exists in some places, especially in the occupied Palestinian territories by the occupying power Israel. The occupying power has failed to provide and maintain the basic components of human rights, especially the rights of women in its society. So now, we are witnessing an increase in women's human rights problems in this society, women who do not have the minimum need for security and do not have a place in the political decisions of the country and are working in the context of a society full of discrimination. Reports show that gender-based violence and discrimination against Israeli women is an old and deep-rooted issue, and their rights are always violated in various ways, and discriminatory behavior against them is becoming routine. Violence in the daily life of women in the occupied Palestinian territories has existed in various spectrums, such as physical violence, femicide, rape and sexual abuse, corruption, etc., against women and has had a negative impact on the psychological security of women in this society.

Despite the fact that the occupying power is a member of international treaties related to violence against women, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and even the Commission on the Status of Women, the way the power deals with women is contrary to the accepted principles in human rights documents. In the following, we discuss the most important cases of gender-based discrimination and violence in the occupied Palestinian territories:

### **Domestic violence**

As of May 2024, 12 women have already been murdered in 2024 due to domestic violence - a staggering statistic made more alarming by being higher than the number of women killed in the same period last year (data from the organization "Tizkur – Her Memorial"). An estimated 200,000 women in the occupied Palestinian territories are subjected to domestic violence.

A high percentage of women have experienced violence in the context of marriage and family: 56% of the cases are related to physical violence against women and only 50% of the complaints of women who are victims of physical violence have been registered. According to the Ministry of Social Security, from the beginning of 2023 to November 15, it received 5,877 reports related to domestic violence.

### **Femicide**

According to statistics provided by civil organizations supporting women's rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, from the beginning of 2023 to November, 11 women have been murdered in this territories. An average of 20 women are murdered each year based on their gender, and data shows that more than half of them knew their killer. Between the beginning of 2021 and August 8, 2022, women were 16% of the victims of murders in the occupied Palestinian territories.

### **Sexual Harassment of Women in the Workplace**

According to reports, in 2022, the most victims of sexual harassment among the ages of 20 and older are among young women aged 20 to 34 (88.5 thousand women). 75.6 percent (102.5 thousand people) of all women who were sexually harassed reported that they were harassed outside of their workplace. According to reports, in 2022, 24.4 percent (33.1 thousand people) also reported being sexually harassed at work.

About 60,000 women who were sexually harassed reported being harmed outside of the workplace in the past year, while about 32,000 reported being sexually harassed at work.

### **Rape against Women in the Army**

The abuse of women in the army of the occupying power Israel, where 33% of all army soldiers are women, has always existed in different forms. Of course, as the media admits, many of these scandals were not revealed, and their files were closed forever. According to an IDF report to the Knesset in 2020, 1,542 complaints of sexual assault and harassment were filed, but only 31 of those cases have since resulted in indictments, and 51 soldiers have faced disciplinary action within the military. The announced statistics show that during the 12 months of 2020, 26 cases of rape leading to complaints have been registered, 391 cases of immoral acts, and 92 cases of distribution of images and clips related to female soldiers have been registered within the Israeli army.

We are concerned that violence against women in the occupied Palestinian territories is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development, and peace. We request that the member states of the government put gender-based discrimination against women in the occupied Palestinian territories on the agenda of the council as a special and urgent matter. We also expect them to form a special and independent committee on gender integration in the occupied Palestinian territories to document the violations of the rights of women and girls and take effective action.

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