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Statement submitted by Restoration World Outreach Ministries, 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.



Statement

Back to basics on the issue of violence against women

Violence against women and girls is never more evident than in the nations where female babies are killed or aborted before birth and the male babies are allowed to live. It is so widespread that it seems almost uncontrollable; but there is hope yet.

Life is precious and every individual was created with a purpose that they ought to fulfil while they live. Many of the challenges that nations face — global warming, economic recession, continued strife between communities and nations — could very well be as a result of the fact that those who have the solutions were not given the opportunity to express them or to live to express these solutions. On the issue of violence against women and girls, this is even more so. This means that at this point, there is a vacuum and the wrong persons are in positions for which they have no solutions to offer.

While there are women who have the strength of 10 men, there are differences in physical build and capacity that balance out when both genders — male and female — work/function together. We must begin to change the mindset of the women and girls being abused.

Girls should be taught that they have something positive and valuable to offer to their families, their communities and to the world.

The cycle of fear that exists among abused women should be broken, not only through edification, but also through the formulation of support groups — not fuelled by feminism, but focusing on empowering women without bias.

Governments, regardless of their belief systems, must recognize that women can contribute tremendously to the economic growth of their communities and countries and help to take their countries out of debt. Therefore, legislators within the various countries must pay even greater attention to this fact and begin to review and change laws in favour of better treatment of women and girls. They must put in place laws that protect women and girls from abuse at all levels by both genders.

Sexual harassment of women on the job and women receiving lower salaries than their male counterparts for the same job are examples of violence against women as well, because the women are also part of the workforce and lower salaries limit their capacity to effectively provide for their families and that will bring serious negative repercussions all around.

There must be a general realization — by Governments and by men — that women have a great deal to contribute significantly to the numerical, economic and social growth of their countries.

Women outnumber men worldwide and so there could be a general fear, particularly in Middle Eastern countries, that women will not only outnumber the men by far in time to come, but may also rule over them; and for many men that is worse than a curse. So they employ stringent, drastic and immoral measures in order to control the female population. Sadly, that includes high rates of femicide, feticide and infanticide.

While we recognize that there are several challenges that exist when dealing with this violence against women and girls, we must first be willing to accept the fact that whether male or female, we are all human, susceptible to the same risk of injury in the face of physical adversity. We are all made with the same basic components with a few major points of differentiation for the sake of gender difference. So we must treat our women with respect.

In order to end violence against women and girls, the primary focus must be on the value of a human life, which makes it an issue of human rights, and every woman and girl has the right not only to life, but to a good life! It also means that this right to life goes beyond cultural and even religious practices — regardless of the length of their existence.

Since the creation of mankind, there has been violence against women. Women and girls must be protected; their roles at every level are vital. Women are mothers, with the capacity to nurture in a way that no one else can. Women bring balance to the harshness of the world. Women are gifts to the world that must be respected, loved, appreciated and cared for and if we do, then there will be major and positive changes worldwide.

Now more than ever, the eradication of violence against women and protecting our women and girls from violent actions of every kind are issues behind which we must necessarily put our full support. There is greater to be gained than lost when this takes place.
