



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

Twenty-seventh 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 International Network of Liberal Women, 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.

[25 August 2014]

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

## **Preventing and Combating Violence against Women through a Global Legal Framework based on the “Istanbul Convention” of the Council of Europe**

The International Network of Liberal Women is appalled by the fact that violence against women and domestic violence continues to be one of the most wide spread forms of human rights violations. Every day around the world, women face not just domestic violence but many other forms of violence, including female genital mutilation, sexual violence in peaceful circumstances as well as in war and conflict, stalking and “honor” killings.

Recognizing this fact, International Network of Liberal Women (INLW) welcomes the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Her Excellency Ms. Rashida Manjoo, on the issue of state responsibility in eliminating violence against women as submitted to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. INLW aligns fully with the report’s conclusions that it is imperative for States to create a dual assessment framework whereby accountability lies not only with the perpetrators of the violence but also with all those who fail to protect and prevent.

The International Network of Liberal Women welcomes the Special Rapporteur’s latest statement to the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women which explicitly notes the gaps within the current international normative framework in respect to preventing, eliminating and punishing violence against women.

This statement pays particular attention to these existing gaps and the urgent necessity for their resolution especially in light of the recent entry into force of the Istanbul Convention on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls.

### **Considering that:**

- Freedom from violence is the most basic human right, without which all other rights are negated
- the Council of Europe and its member states resolved to reverse the continuing trends of violence by establishing the Istanbul Convention on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls which entered into force on 1 August 2014

### **Stressing on the fact that the Istanbul Convention:**

- provides practical measures to prevent violence, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.
- can lead to safety from fear and violence, because it is already shaping legislation, policies and practices in member states.
- if implemented widely will influence states beyond the Council of Europe to take over the content and consequences of this Convention.

### **Commending on:**

-The on-going and past efforts of liberals around the world to eliminate and prevent domestic violence and violence against women such as Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi, The Nobel Peace Prize laureate of 1991; Mrs Kaba Fofana Yaya Fanta, former vice President of African Liberal Network and Director of Women Affairs of Ivory Coast; Elizabeth Sydney (UK †2011) , first President and cofounder of INLW; Mrs Annette Lu, former vice President of Taiwan, patron of INLW and many others

**Referring to:**

Liberal International's written statement to the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on this subject

**Recalling:**

-The Resolution on preventing and combating violence against women through the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe, which International Network of Liberal Women submitted to the 59<sup>th</sup> Liberal International Congress in Rotterdam (April 2014) and which was adopted unanimously by the Congress of Liberal International, which called upon all Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to work towards a worldwide Convention as an integral and effective instrument to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women.

-International Network of Liberal Women's written Statement (E/CN.6/2013/NGO/155) to the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the situation of women in various areas of the world.

-International Network of Liberal Women's written Statement (E/CN.6/2014/NGO/59) to the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women with the title "Human rights should be an integral part of universal primary education"

-And various previous INLW Statements and Resolutions submitted to sessions of CSW and Liberal International

**Calls:**

-For the signing, ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention by all member states of the Council of Europe as a first step towards the promotion of the regional framework on a global level

-On the United Nations to create a global women rights legal framework to effectively eliminate and prevent all forms of domestic violence and violence against women and girls by incorporating the content of the Istanbul Convention into new or existing UN women right's legal frameworks,

-On all UN member states to adopt specific national legislative measures against domestic violence and violence against women and girls

-On the international community to work together with the civil society and political internationals in order to organize educational and awareness-raising campaigns on ending violence against women and girls focusing specifically on preventive measures.

-On all UN member states to incorporate Human Rights into Primary Education curriculums so that respect for Human Rights is instilled from early age

**Commits**

- For the Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to take steps to get every member state of the Council of Europe to sign, ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;

-For all Liberals leaders and parliamentarians from countries not members of the Council of Europe to work on incorporating the framework of the Istanbul Convention into the legislature of their countries.

-For all Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to work towards a worldwide Convention to serve as an integral and effective instrument to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence.

- For all Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to engage in extensive dialogue and to support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, UN Women, CEDAW and all other relevant UN bodies as to help establish an all-encompassing global convention on the elimination and prevention of domestic violence and violence against women.