

FORUM: General Assembly 3rd Committee

QUESTION OF: Taking action against the gender-related killing of women and girls

MAIN SUBMITTER: Saudi Arabia

The General Assembly 3rd Committee,

Guided by the definition of “gender-related killing of women and girls” as femicide, also known as the extreme manifestation of existing forms of violence against women according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Alarmed and deeply concerned by the continuing rise in the crimes of gender-related killing of women and girls, as well as the high level of impunity with regard to criminal justice,

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 1993 in resolution 48/104 setting clear definitions on violence against women, as well as the recognition of the urgent need for the universal application of inalienable rights and privileges of human beings towards women,

Recalling the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe signed in 2011, which reaffirmed the State’s obligation to prevent violence, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators, rather than regarding violence against women as a domestic private matter,

Further recalling the Beijing Platform for Action decided by the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 which stated that violence against women was an obstacle against equality, development, and peace, and also affirmed that it was against the enjoyment of fundamental human rights of women,

Mindful of its duties and responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Recommends the reform of the gender equality and female empowerment system in the United Nations in order to strengthen multilateral action against violence against women through ways such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Improving the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) by implementing a Universal Periodic Review (similar to Human Rights Council procedure) of the status of women in every member country, which will take place annually,
 - b. Further reforming the CSW by giving it the power to refer certain individuals suspected of being high perpetrators of intended violence against women (after giving them the right to reply) to the Security Council for possible referral to the International Criminal Court for crimes under its mandate,
 - c. Further promoting the “*HeForShe*” program of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in order to encourage active participation of both sexes,
 - d. Giving increased incentives to national governments to sign and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as well as its Optional Protocols,
 - e. Expanding the reach of United Nations Secretariat oversight of violence against women (VAW) by creating the post of Special Representative for Violence Against Women (who will be an advocate for their cause and advise other UN bodies on strategic actions), taking further the idea of the Special Representative for Sexual Violence Against Women in Conflict;

2. Supports the creation of National Commissions on the Status of Women in each and every country (not under control of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, UN-CSW) which will serve as the nation's focal point for violence against women (VAW) in the area, and will have a mandate to consist of, but not limited to:
 - a. Have silent oversight over VAW operations in the country, and independently audit the status of women and report back at the annual session of the UN-CSW on their findings,
 - b. Creating a Women's Defense Legal Aid Fund (WOMEN-AID) in every country in order to ensure that women have legal protection in cases of VAW, which will be funded through donations from individuals, corporations, and a small part of the UN budget,
 - c. Police and other local law enforcement agencies have to report to their National CSW every week on the conditions of VAW in their area, in order to get rid of impunity,
 - d. Implementing a national anonymous hotline in order for the public to anonymously report cases of VAW,
 - e. Improving the data collection on violence against women in the country in order to better represent the national condition,
 - f. Be composed of an odd number of independent commissioners (with a chair elected *inter pares*), handpicked by national governments to serve as part of the administration under recommendation of the UN CSW;

3. Suggests that United Nations agencies and offices concerned with the issue of gender equality and women raise public awareness of gender-related killing of women and girls through ways such, but not limited to:
 - a. Broadcasts with international coverage through social media, newspaper placements, radio transmissions, posters, and government communications,
 - b. Aid workers spreading information in the country through "word of mouth",
 - c. Appointment of a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the public promotion of action against femicide;

4. Asks that member states consider changes to their current legislation in order to better protect women and girls from gender-related attacks through ways such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Criminalize (if not already done) acts of abuse against women such as female genital mutilation, marital rape, forced marriage, and child marriage, actions which could lead to murder,
 - b. Consider an independent advisory executive, legislative and judicial board to have oversight on marriage customs in the country, such as dowries, marriage by abduction, etc.),
 - c. Facilitate criminal justice complaints on violence against women (due to current bureaucracy making it hard for people to pursue claims) by educating local law enforcement on specific actions to take on VAW,
 - d. Assure adequate protection of vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, the disabled, minority groups, and migrant women,
 - e. If laws on crimes against women are already in existence, strengthen them by giving them more teeth to act on (such as increased jail sentence).