

The Center for Reproductive Rights Welcomes States' Commitment to Ensure Accountability for Women and Girls in Humanitarian Settings

As the 40th session of the Human Rights Council comes to a close, the Center for Reproductive Rights commends the leadership of Mexico and Finland in coordinating a cross regional statement on rights-based accountability for women and girls, including in humanitarian settings.

In a statement delivered by Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office in Geneva on March 8th for International Women's Day, 59 States¹ from across regions reaffirmed that accountability for human rights violations perpetrated against women and girls is central to fulfilling human rights obligations.

Recognizing that women and girls in humanitarian settings face an increased risk of human rights violations such as sexual and gender-based violence, forced pregnancy, and forced abortions, amongst others, and face barriers in reporting them and therefore accessing justice and reparations, States signatories reaffirmed international human rights standards on accountability.

In a progressive move centralizing the respect, protection and fulfilment of all women and girls' sexual and reproductive rights and their meaningful and effective participation in all areas that affect them, , the statement highlights that guaranteeing rights-based accountability *'includes the removal of legal barriers and discriminatory measures, and the implementation of policies and legislation that respect women and girls' right to bodily autonomy, guarantee universal access to education and protect their sexual and reproductive health and rights through access to information, care and services, including access to safe abortion and comprehensive sexuality education.'*

This cross-regional statement builds on the previous work of the Human Rights Council related to women and girls in humanitarian settings and urges the Council to remedy the accountability deficit in human rights violations of women and girls, including in humanitarian settings. States signatories invite the Council to include conflict, gender and age analysis in its work in humanitarian settings, including in the mandates of commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions.

The Center for Reproductive Rights welcomes this cross-regional initiative, especially at a time of global backlash against the rights of all women and girls, especially against their right to bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights, disproportionately impacts women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as women and girls in humanitarian settings. We look forward to working closely with member States in ensuring the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and meaningful, effective and rights-based accountability for all women and girls, including in humanitarian settings.

¹ **Cosponsors, Member States of the United Nations:** Albania, Armenia, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay. **Observer States of the United Nations:** State of Palestine