

**STATEMENT OF FEMINIST AND WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS ON THE VERY ALARMING TRENDS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE 57TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

We, the undersigned organisations and individuals across the globe, are again concerned that the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is wavering in its commitment to advance women's human rights as demonstrated in the constant negotiation of the language in the outcome document.

On the occasion of celebrating the International Women's Day we call on the states to reaffirm its commitment to agreed upon standards in promoting women's human rights as articulated in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action as well as other international humanitarian and human rights law.

We say NO to any re-opening of negotiations on the already established international agreements on women's human rights and call on all governments to demonstrate their commitments to promote, protect and fulfill human rights and fundamental freedoms of women.

We commend those states that are upholding women's rights in totality. We urge states to reaffirm standards that they have agreed to. Considering the lack of an outcome document last year we hope that this is not the pattern when it comes to advancing women's human rights agenda. Women's human rights are not to be negotiated away.

Similar to last year, we strongly hold the position that given the progressive development in the international era on standard setting there should no longer be any contention on any issues related to the definition and intersectionality of women and girls experiencing violence against women, including in relations to sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, harmful practices perpetuated in the context of negative culture and traditions, among others. We remind states that the CSW is the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women with the sole aim of promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. Its mandate is to ensure the full implementation of existing international agreements on women's human rights and gender equality.

We strongly demand all governments and the international community to reject any attempt to invoke traditional values or morals to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope. Customs, tradition or religious considerations must not be tolerated to justify discrimination and violence against women and girls whether committed by State authorities or by non-state actors. Given the current global activism around violence against women it is imperative that member states take the lead in agreeing on a progressive outcome document that reaffirms its commitments to universal human rights standards.

This is an important moment as we are planning the post 2015 process. The outcome document has to advance women's human rights and not lower the bar for women's human rights. Future international negotiations must move forward implementation of policies and programmes that secure the human rights of girls and women.

We call upon the member states of the UN and the various UN human rights and development entities to recognise and support the important role of women's groups and organisations working at the forefront of challenging traditional values and practices that are intolerant to fundamental human rights norms, standards and principles.

Endorsed by:

*Organizations*

Acid Survivors Foundation  
Actionaid Nigeria  
Agricultural Missions, Inc. (AMI)  
Alliance F-Alliance de sociétés féminines suisses  
Altsean-Burma  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
Amnesty International  
Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE)  
Antalya Womens Counselling Center and Solidarity Association  
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)  
Asia Safe Abortion Partnership  
Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW)  
Association for Monitoring Gender Equality (CEID), Turkey  
Association for Progressive Communications  
Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)  
Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE)  
Association pour le développement et de la promotion des droits Humains (ADPDH)  
Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes (APDF), Mali  
Association Suisse pour les Droits de la Femme - ADF-SVF  
ASTRA Network-Central and Eastern European Women's Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights  
Aurat Foundation  
Autonomous Women's Center, Serbia  
Ayvalık Bağımsız Kadın inisiyatifi, Turkey  
Bahamas Crisis Centre  
Bahrain Young Ladies Association  
BEDARI  
Blue Veins  
CAFRA, Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action, St. Lucia  
CAFRA, Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action, Trinidad and Tobago  
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)  
Caribbean Women's Association  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Argentina  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Bolivia  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Brazil  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Chile  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Colombia  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Ecuador  
Catholics for the Right to Decide El Salvador

Catholics for the Right to Decide México  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Nicaragua  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Paraguay  
Catholics for the Right to Decide Perú  
CDO Pakistan  
Center for Economic and Social Rights  
Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA)  
Center for Partnership Studies  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), Rutgers University  
Center for Women Policy Studies  
Centre for Research and Action on Peace (KEDE), Greece  
Centre for Secular Space  
Centre for Social and Gender Research "New Life", Ukraine  
Centre for Social Research  
CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality  
Church Women United  
City and County of San Francisco, Department on the Status of Women  
Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC), Nigeria  
COC Netherlands  
Comité d'action contre la traite humaine interne et international  
Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres (CLADEM)  
Commission for Filipino Migrant Workers, RESPECT Network  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Network, Sweden  
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada  
Community Development Organization (CDO Pakistan)  
CONNECT  
Connecting Gender for Development (COGEN), Nigeria  
Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights  
Dominica National Council of Women  
East End Chapter of the National Organization for Women  
Education International (EI)  
Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement  
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights  
EIMAN  
European Women's Network (ENOW), Greece  
Equality Now  
Esitlik Izleme (Esitiz), Turkey  
European Women's Lobby  
EVAWG alliance KP-FATA  
EVAWG alliance (ICT)  
Executive Committee for NGO Forum on CEDAW -Turkey  
Federación Internacional de Mujeres de Carreras Jurídicas  
Federation Against Violence Against Women (FAVAW)  
Federation for Women and Family Planning, Poland  
Fellowship of Reconciliation, Nyack, NY  
Femin Ijtihad  
Feminist Atelier (FEMA), Cyprus

Feminist Task Force (FTF)  
Femmes Juristes Suisse – Women Lawyers Switzerland  
FIAN International  
Fiji Women's Rights Movement  
Flying Broom Women's Communication and Research Association, Turkey  
Foreign Spouses Support Group (Malaysia)  
Foundation for Women (Thailand)  
Foundation for Women's Solidarity (Kadın Dayanışma Vakfı), Turkey  
Fundacion para Estudio e Investigacion de la Mujer (FEIM), Argentina  
Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (GAMCOTRAP)  
Gay Japan News  
Global Allies for Human Rights, Disarmament and Development in Africa (GAHADA Partners)  
Gender and Water Alliance  
Gender at Work  
Global Health Awareness Research Foundation (GHARF)  
Global Fund for Women  
Global Justice Center  
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders  
Greater Los Angeles Chapter of National Committee of UN Women  
Group Development Pakistan  
Help & Shelter, Guyana  
Huairou Commission  
The Hunger Project  
Institut de recherche et d'études stratégiques de Khyber (IRESK)  
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.  
Institute for Women's Empowerment, Hong Kong  
Institute for Women's Leadership, Rutgers University  
Institute of Bioethics, Human Rights and Gender (ANIS), Brazil  
Interfaith Center of New York  
Interfaith Consortium for Ecological Civilization  
International Alliance of Women  
International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)  
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)  
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  
International Federation of Business and Professional Women  
International Network of Liberal Women (INLW)  
International Peace Bureau  
International Public Policy Institute  
International Trade Union Confederation  
International Women's Human Rights Clinic at Georgetown Law  
International Women's Anthropology Conference  
International Women's Rights Action Watch  
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific)  
International Women's Rights Project, Canada  
Ipas  
Isis International  
İstanbul Feminist Collective  
Izmir Women Solidarity Association, Turkey

Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights  
Jamaica Household Workers Union  
Kalyanamitra, Indonesia  
KARAT Coalition  
La Ligue du Droit International des Femmes (LDIF)  
Latin American Network of Catholics for the Right to Decide  
Lawyers for Justice and Peace (LJP)  
MADRE  
MARUAH, Singapore  
Media Equity Collaborative  
Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)  
Millennia2025 Women and Innovation Foundation, PUF  
Montgomery County NOW  
MOVISIE  
MUKADDER  
Namibia Women's Health Network  
National Association for Resource Improvement  
National Coalition on Affirmative Action (NCAA)  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA  
National Council of Women of Canada  
National Council of Women's Organizations  
National Organization of Women, Barbados  
Nepal International Consumers UNION  
Netherlands Council of Women  
Network of Expertise on Gender, Resilience and Interdependent Economics  
NGO Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)  
NGO-Coordination post Beijing Switzerland  
Ni-Ta-Nee NOW  
Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace and Development (NDWPD)  
Nodo Mexicano. El Proyecto del Milenio, A.C.  
Northeast Williamsport NOW  
Norwegian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (Sex og Politikk)  
Osez Le Féminisme  
Overseas Development Institute, Social Development Programme  
Oxfam International  
PACHAAN  
Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand), Inc.  
Partners for Law in Development, India  
Peace X Peace  
PEN International  
Pennsylvania National Organization for Women  
People's Movement For Human Rights Learning (PDHRE)  
Perak Women for Women (Malaysia)  
PODA  
PILIPINA Legal Resources Center, Philippines  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Public Service Alliance of Canada  
Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation

Quality of Citizenship, Jamaica  
 Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres de Latinoamerica y el Caribe (REPEM LAC)  
 Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeña y la Diáspora  
 Red Feminista Frente a la Violencia Contra Las Mujeres (REDFEM), El Salvador  
 Red Nacional de Jóvenes y Adolescentes para la Salud Sexual y Reproductiva (RedNac), Argentina  
 Red Thread, Guyana  
 Regional Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean (CATWLAC)  
 Regards de Femmes  
 Rights for All Women (RAW), Denmark  
 Roks, The National Organisation for Women's Shelters and Young Women's Shelters in Sweden  
 ROZAN  
 Rozaria Memorial Trust  
 RUMPUN, Indonesia  
 Rumpun Tjoet Nyak Dien, Indonesia  
 Rutgers WPF, Netherland  
 S4 Foundation, Guyana  
 Safe4Athletes, Los Angeles Ca.  
 SDPI  
 SEHER  
 SERR, USA  
 Shirakat - Partnership for Development  
 Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre, Pakistan  
 Siglo XXIII, El Salvador  
 Sisters Inside  
 Sisters in Islam  
 Sistren Theatre Collective/Groots Jamaica  
 Socialist Feminist Collective  
 Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)  
 Society for Promotion of Education and Development (SPED)  
 Soroptimist International  
 SOS line for victims of violence "by your side," Greece  
 SOS Sexisme, France  
 South Hills NOW  
 SRIA Rwanda Ltd  
 SUARAM (Malaysia)  
 SVAMV – Association (faitière) suisse des familles monoparentales  
 Swayam, Kolkata, India  
 Taller Salud, Puerto Rico  
 Temple of Understanding  
 Tenaganita (Malaysia)  
 Terre des Jeunes du Burundi  
 To Love Children Educational Foundation International, Inc.  
 UNESCO  
 United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
 United Methodist Women, Global Justice, Community Action and Public Policy Offices  
 United Methodist Women, Washington Office of Public Policy  
 Urban Justice Center  
 Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC)

Virginia Gildersleeve Fund (VGIF)  
Vision Spring Initiatives, Nigeria  
WECF  
White Ribbon Campaign  
WIDE, Network for Women's Rights and Feminist Perspectives in Development  
Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD)  
Womankind Worldwide  
WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform  
Women Against Rape Inc., Antigua/Barbuda  
Women against Violence Europe (WAVE)  
Women against Violence Network Serbia  
Women Enabled, Inc.  
Women & Gender Equality Commission of Guyana  
Women Graduates USA  
WomenNC  
Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR) - New Ways, Turkey  
Women Graduates-USA  
Women Living Under Muslim Laws  
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)  
Women Peacemakers Program  
Women Studies Center, Punjabi University Patiala, India  
Women Transforming Cities International Society  
Women Won't Wait Campaign  
Women's Aid Organisation (WAO), Malaysia  
Women's Association of Romania  
Women's Centre for Change (WCC) Penang, Malaysia  
Women's Coalition, Turkey  
Women's Coalition for Justice and Democracy  
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)  
Women's Federation for World Peace, Intl.  
Women's Front, Norway  
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)  
Women's Intercultural Network (WIN)  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Philadelphia/Delco Branch  
Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau (Philippines)  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC), Jamaica  
Women's Sports Foundation  
Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF)  
WORD  
Workers Hub for Change (WH4C)  
World Federation for Mental Health  
World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women  
World YWCA  
WUNRN, Women's UN Report Network  
Zonta International Club Dhaka

*Individuals*

Joanne Abbensetts  
Hassan Said Abdourahman  
Waheed Ahmad  
Niaz Ahmed  
Gwendolyn Albert  
Florence Allen  
Molly Anderson  
Jodi Anthony  
Sally Armstrong  
Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford  
Katy Beaver  
Dr. Wolfgang Benedek  
Guerda Benjamin  
Cynthia B. Blake  
Joddah Bokhari  
Amber Bonnici  
Paola Brambilla  
Marti Britt  
Rosalind Buck  
Charlotte Bunch  
Noreen Campbell  
Elaine Chan-Scherer  
Marilyn Chang  
Hilda Rømer Christensen  
Corina Ciechanow  
Nadine Commergnat  
Emmeline Craig  
Aslı Davas  
Theresa Derlan Yeh  
Claire Desaint  
Audrey Desnoes  
Mary Diamond  
Denise Dias  
Emily Doherty  
Jocelyn Dow  
Josephine Dublin-Prince  
Crystal Easton  
Cynthia Enloe  
Dundeen Ferguson  
Cynthia Fuchs Epstein  
Uche Ewuzie  
Lana Finikin  
Dr. Helga Foster  
Laurice de Gale  
A. P. Gautam  
Elizabeth Gibbons  
Eunice Graham



Stephanie Grant  
Shera Grant Clarke  
Joan Grant Cummings  
Barbara M. Hall  
Leila Hessini  
Maliha Husain  
Leila Jagdeo  
Eunadie Johnson  
Deborah Kasman  
Beata Koropatwa  
Dr. Dashuriye Koshi  
Rebecca Landy  
Kate Langlois  
Michelle Lee  
Dr. Nancy C. Lee  
Bette Levy  
Shirley Lewis  
Georgia Love  
Mary MacDonald  
Houzan Mahmoud  
Havi Mandell  
Eleonora Barbieri Masini  
Terri Matlock  
Norah Matovu Winyi  
Caron McCloud  
Shiloh Sophia McCloud  
Dr. Lyla Mehta  
Vera Mehta  
Tufail Mohammad  
Martha Morgan  
Marcia L Morehead  
Hasna Moudud  
Dr. Fulata L. Moyo  
L. Uma Mulnick, DC  
Qamar Naseem  
Mr Amjad Nazeer  
Joyce Neu  
Hilary C. Nicholson  
Claytine Nisbett  
Hina Noureen  
Carole A. Oglesby  
Muradiye ORAL  
Meral Özaygen  
Dr Rukhshinda Parveen  
Joanne Payton  
William Pervaiz  
Elly Pradervand  
Angela de Prairie, MNM MA

Lily Pulu  
Danuta Radzik  
Vanda Radzik  
Md-Mamunur Rahman  
Betty Reardon  
Marilyn Rice-Brown  
Dr. Kay Richmond  
Sonia Robinson  
Dr. Marilyn P. Safir  
M. Angelica Sepulveda Salinas  
Mary Schilder  
Maggie Schmeitz  
Mab Segrest  
Tina Siebers  
Kathleen Sloan  
Fatou Sow  
Ann Stacy  
Jerilyn Stapleton  
Irene Sullivan  
Anne-Marie Swalens  
Tenin Toure  
Linnette Vassell  
Annette Wagner  
Michaela Walsh  
Judith Wedderburn  
Marie C. Wilson  
Everjoice Win  
Katherine Witteman  
Alexandrina Wong  
Rev. Bond Wright

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