

Message from the World For World Organization on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 25 November 2010

“We Urges Ending Discrimination, Reaffirming Women s Human Rights”



The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 25 November 2010, will be commemorated. Since the General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the circle of engagement has widened. Let us acknowledge the widespread and growing efforts to address this important issue to achieve our common objectives. This Day presents an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and struggles women rights, WFWO's team and its partners, supporters "Stand Up and continue to support women rights, with its modest contributions to make difference" and to hear their voices.

According to article 1 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. The human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and recognizing further the need to promote and protect all human rights of women and girls, *Alarmed* that women do not fully enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and concerned about the long-standing failure to protect and promote those rights and freedoms in relation to violence against women,

The WFWO is *concerned* that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace, as recognized in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which recommended a set of integral measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women, and to the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, *also* that some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, the girl child, women with disabilities, elderly women and women in situations of armed conflict, are especially vulnerable to violence

The violence against women takes many forms – physical, sexual, psychological and economic. These forms of violence are interrelated and affect women from before birth to old age. Some types of violence, such as trafficking, cross national boundaries. Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems and their ability to participate in public life is diminished. Violence against women harms families and communities across generations and reinforces other violence prevalent in society. Violence against women also impoverishes women, their families, communities and nations. Violence against women is not confined to a specific culture, region or country, or to particular groups of women within a society. The roots of violence against women lie in persistent discrimination against women.

Up to 70 per cent of women experience violence in their lifetime. It is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. The practice of early marriage – a form of sexual violence – is common worldwide, especially in Africa and South Asia. Young girls are often forced into the marriage and into sexual relations, causing health risks, including exposure to HIV/AIDS, and limiting their attendance in school. One effect of sexual abuse is traumatic gynecologic fistula: an injury resulting from severe tearing of the vaginal tissues, rendering the woman incontinent and socially undesirable. Sexual violence in conflict is a serious, present-day atrocity affecting millions of people, primarily women and girls. It is frequently a conscious strategy employed on a large scale by armed groups to humiliate opponents, terrify individuals and destroy societies. Women and girls may also be subjected to sexual exploitation by those mandated to protect them. Women as old as grandmothers and as young as toddlers have routinely suffered violent sexual abuse at the hands of military and rebel forces.

More groups and individuals, including men and boys, are getting involved in efforts to prevent and address this heinous violation of women's human rights. There has also been significant progress at the national level as many countries have adopted laws and comprehensive action plans.

The efforts made by civil society and non-governmental organizations that have contributed to creating a worldwide social conscience of the negative impact, both on social and on economic life, of violence against women. Our common goal is clear: an end to these inexcusable crimes - whether it is the use of rape as a weapon of war, domestic violence, sex trafficking, so-called "honour" crimes or female genital mutilation/cutting. We must address the roots of this violence by eradicating discrimination and changing the mindsets that perpetuate it.

At the High Level Segment 2010, to implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations, participating including WFWO representative in the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York from 28 June to 2 July 2010, whose annual ministerial review has had as its theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women". The new entity will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and hold the United Nations system itself accountable for supporting measures to eliminate discrimination against women and end violence against them. Women around the world are the very linchpin keeping families, communities, and nations together. On this International Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to women's human rights; let us invest more resources in countering this violence; and let us do all it takes to end these horrific assaults once and for all. WFWO contribution to the Women issue as per the substantive session Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda, Annual ministerial review: implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women E/2010/NGO/5. The World For World Organization (WFWO) submitted written statement as, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to the Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council Resolution 1996/31.

WFWO will continue to "sharpen its tools" and work closely with a wide range of partners, NGOs, CBOs, within and beyond the UN system to support the women gender equality and violence against the women rights and most vulnerable people and communities to meet their development goals, if we want to see a beautiful world tomorrow. This it's not only United Nations, Government, Institution, NGO responsibility to erase poverty and fight against the women rights and the violence from world, but also a responsibility of all individuals who is thinking about a better tomorrow.

WFWO's Communications Team