

SI Oral Statement for CSW57 General Discussion

Soroptimist International, a global organization that has 92 years track record of education and empowerment programmes transforming the lives of millions of women and girls in our 127 member countries makes this statement together with other member organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women and participants of the Vienna Symposium on Femicide, held on 26 November 2012 at the United Nations Office at Vienna,

Alarmed by the fact that femicide is growing substantially all over the world and often remains unpunished, which not only intensifies the subordination and powerlessness of women and girls, but also sends the negative message to society that male violence against females may be both acceptable and inevitable,

Recognizing that femicide is a form of gender-based killing, that includes the killing of women as a result of intimate partner violence, accusations of witchcraft, killing of girls and women in the name of honour, killing in the context of armed conflict, dowry-related killing of women, killing as a result of sexual orientation and sexual identity, killing of aboriginal and indigenous women, female infanticide and sex-selected abortion, and other extreme, violent forms of killing women, often related to transnational criminal acts such as trafficking,¹

Emphasizing that traditions and culture cannot be used as justification for the violation of women's Human Rights, in particular the right to life and the right to be free from violence,

¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women: Causes and Consequences... (A/HRC20/16, 23 May 2012)

Recognizing that femicide requires efforts on all levels of society to achieve its eradication,

Reaffirming the commitment to work together towards putting an end to femicide, in full compliance with national and international legal instruments,

Urging Member States to adopt and implement legislation specifically targeting the crime of femicide, in line with the effective experience of some countries; to design, implement and evaluate programmes aimed at preventing femicide and ensuring legal protection and public policies for survivors of VAW; to conduct research on public education and practical interventions to promote a culture of respect without any form of discrimination;

Invite the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme to assist and support Member States to develop and adapt measures and strategies to prevent and respond to femicide.

Encourage the UNODC, UN Women, and other relevant United Nations entities, the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, and research institutions to conduct relevant research on femicide, particularly data collection, analysis, evaluation of existing programs and effective policies to facilitate efforts to eradicate femicide.

Encourage linkages and synergies between the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Recognize the key role of civil society organizations in preventing and combating femicide worldwide.

Suggest the creation of a platform where legal officers, prosecutors, academics, feminists, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, governmental and inter-governmental institutions, and other relevant actors could share their expertise, good practices, in order to transfer knowledge across regions.