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Date: 29th September, 2016

To: Ms. Dubravka Šimonović
Special Rapporteur on violence against women,
its causes and consequences

Regarding: *Call for submissions to all stakeholders regarding the gap in incorporating and implementing the international and regional standards related to violence against women*

1. Do you consider that there is a need for a separate legally binding treaty on violence against women with its separate monitoring body?

Yes. Considering that there is no specific international legally binding document that addresses the gross violation of rights that is violence against women and girls. We believe that a separate monitoring body focused on violence against women and girls can ensure all countries are upholding their due diligence and a global high standard to protect women and girls and prevent violence.

2. Do you consider that there is an incorporation gap of the international or regional human rights norms and standards?

Yes. Because there is no specific global legislation or 'hard law' on violence against women and girls, it is up to individual governments to incorporate international 'soft law' or recommendations such as CEDAW General Recommendation 19 into domestic policy. Regional mechanisms such as the Belem do Para in the Americas, The Maputo Protocol in Africa and the Istanbul convention in Europe may have legally binding provisions for those countries who have signed on, but there are no regional mechanisms in Oceania, Asia or the Middle East.

3. Do you believe that there is a lack of implementation of the international and regional legislation into the domestic law?

Yes. The lack of global standards ensuring effective and meaningful implementation of domestic law across countries represents a significant gap in the protection of women and prevention of violence.

4. Do you think that there is a fragmentation of policies and legislation to address gender-based violence?

Yes. There is no single, comprehensive legal definition of violence against women within the articles of any of the United Nations human rights treaties and countries must be progressive enough or driven by a strong civil society to enact strong domestic law on violence against women and girls.

5. Could you also provide your views on measures needed to address this normative and

Development of a Global Treaty on Violence against Women and Girls, with its own monitoring body, and working in conjunction with CEDAW and other established international and regional mechanisms.



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