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REFERENCE:

Subject: Violence against Women and Girls and Disability– Human Rights Council resolution 17/11

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to Human Rights Council resolution 17/11.

In that resolution, the Human Rights Council invites the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights “to prepare a thematic analytical study on the issue of violence against women and girls and disability, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development of the Economic and Social Council, other relevant special procedure mandate holders, States, United Nations entities, regional organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders, and to report to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth session” (paragraph 11).

The Office of the High Commissioner would be grateful to receive any relevant information for the preparation of this study. In particular, views and information would be welcome in relation to the questions contained in the attached questionnaire.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be grateful if any information could be sent to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10; Fax. (+41 22) 917 90 08; E-mail: registry@ohchr.org) by 18 November 2011 with a copy to Veronica Birga (vbirga@ohchr.org). The information provided will be made available on the OHCHR website.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations.



18 September 2011

Questionnaire for the preparation of the OHCHR analytical study on Violence against women and disability (A/HRC/RES/17/11)

Data/Statistics

Have studies/research been conducted on the prevalence, nature, causes and impact of violence against women and girls with disabilities in different settings (family/home, work-place, medical institutions, schools, etc.?). What forms of disability and violence do they cover?

Please provide the available data on the number of women and girls with disabilities who have accessed services and programmes to prevent and address violence in the past year? Is this information disaggregated by disability, as well as by sex, age, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds?

Please provide available data on the number of households in which persons with disabilities reside. How many of these are women-headed households?

Please provide any statistics, information or studies on disability/ies resulting from violence against women and girls?

Legislation and Policies

Is there a legal framework addressing violence against women and girls with disability in different contexts (within the family, at the community and in the workplace, and in State and non-State institutions such as medical, education and other service providing institutions)?

Are practices such as 1) forced psychiatric intervention, 2) forced institutionalization, 3) solitary confinement and restraint in institutions, 4) forced drug and electroshock treatment, 5) forced abortion 6) forced sterilization and 7) harmful practices, prohibited by law?

What specific policies/programmes are in place to prevent and address violence against women and girls with disabilities and/or to address harmful practices that can result into disabilities? How do general policies and plans/programmes on violence against women ensure the inclusion of and accessibility by women and girls with disabilities?

How has the participation of women with disabilities in the development of such laws, programmes/policies been ensured?

Prevention and Protection

What measures/initiatives are in place to combat negative perceptions, stereotyping and prejudices of women and girls with disabilities in the public and private spheres?

What initiatives exist to inform women and girls with disabilities about their rights, including sexual and reproductive health issues? To what extent do these initiatives address also women in institutions?

What programmes/initiatives have been developed to train women with disabilities to develop skills and abilities for economic autonomy and participation in society and to use technological and other aid that lead to greater independence?

What measures exist to ensure access by women and girls with disabilities to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes?

Please provide information on other measures (legislative, administrative, juridical or other) aimed at the development, advancement and empowerment of women with disabilities

Are there provisions for regular home visits and inspections of medical institutions where women and girls with disabilities are living/receiving treatment? How do these work?

What measures have been adopted to provide information and education to women and girls with disability and their families, caregivers and health providers on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse?

What are the means to report violence against women and girls with disabilities in different settings, including medical centres and institutions? To what extent are these known and accessible?

To what extent are public institutions, such as police stations and hospitals, accessible to women and girls with disabilities?

Are there shelters for women victims of violence? To what extent are they physically accessible to women with disabilities?

Prosecution and Punishment

Are there disaggregated statistics on crimes against persons with disabilities?

Please provide information on the total amount of registered complaints for violence against women and girls with disabilities? Of the total amount how many were dismissed? What were the main reasons for dismissal? Of the cases that were prosecuted, how many resulted in convictions?

What system is in place to ensure legal aid for women and girls with disabilities who have been victims of violence?

What special measures have been envisaged in legislation and practice for victims and witnesses with disabilities?

What specific training is conducted for law enforcement and legal personnel on the rights of women and girls with disabilities and effective ways to communicate with them?

Recovery, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration

What measures (legislative, administrative, social, educational or other) are in place to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of women and girls with disabilities who have been victim of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse?