

Life

Stages

Policy Booklet

January 2017



EVERY
WOMAN
TREATY

The next step in ending violence
against women & girls.

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NOTE: Memos were written using Everywoman, Everywhere, our original name.

Recommendations for a Global Treaty on Violence Against Girls and Women of All Ages

**by the Expert Special
Committee on Girls**

January 2017

1. Introduction of Treaty Content

1.1 Introduction

Violence against girls has been addressed in various international laws, human rights treaties, and regional protocols which place varying degrees/levels of obligations on States Parties to prevent violence or provide remedial support to victims and survivors of violence in varied social, political, economic, and cultural contexts.

Violence against girls is a human rights violation and a form of discrimination and occurs in many contexts including:

- the socioeconomic,
- the civil-political, and
- the private spheres of home and family.

There are short, medium, and long-term mental, sexual, reproductive health, economic, and social consequences of violence including adverse intra- and inter-generational outcomes for individuals and society.

1.2 Legal Framework

Foundational frameworks which address violence against girls include the:

- Beijing Platform for Action;
- 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;
- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325; and
- The Protocol on the Rights of Women (Maputo).

These frameworks are crucial and provide a universal understanding of violence.

There are some limitations worth noting:

- The CEDAW addresses violence against women and girls in the general recommendations section which is not legally binding;
- The CRC does not specify the vulnerabilities and needs of girls;
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 addresses violence against women and girls, with a focus on sexual violence during conflict; and
- The Maputo Protocol has had major challenges with successful implementation as it has yet to issue a judgement on a case involving violence against women even though a court was instituted for this purpose.

Given these limitations, state actors have expressed a need for implementation protocols which can effectively address violence against girls and women of all ages at the domestic level.

Two legally binding treaties specifically address the vulnerability of girls to experiences of violence:

- The Rome Statute, which requires States Parties to make legal provisions for the protection of girls. This is a crucial, foundational framework that has enabled the effective recognition of violence against girls and women of all ages as a major human rights violation.
- The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) is a comprehensive, highly progressive regional treaty. It defines women, girls, and the myriad forms of violence that women and girls may be subjected to in the socioeconomic, civil-political, and private spheres. The Istanbul Convention is currently open for ratification by all UN member states. The consultation and development of this Convention was conducted specifically within the framework of violence against women and girls in Europe, making the content challenging to apply to victims and survivors outside of Europe.

The proposed global treaty on violence against girls and women of all ages will build upon the established foundational framework highlighted above in several ways:

- Provide a universal understanding of violence against girls;
- Unify regional understandings of the specific violence faced by girls to define violence against girls in a globally relevant context;
- Provide clear language for implementation at the domestic level;
- Highlight the larger structural forces which shape violence against girls and extend beyond issues of domestic or intimate partner violence; and
- Develop a definition of students and include students in the framing of the key recommendations.

2. Summary of the Committee's Discussion of Treaty Content

2.1 A master table was developed by this committee to analyze the current global legal framework. A review of the legally binding treaties as one subset, along with a review of the other nonbinding resolutions, declarations, and prevailing text as another subset was completed. This illustrated the gaps on the definition of girls and the definition of violence against girls. This also clarified how this memo and the Global Treaty could address it. An analysis of strengths and gaps in the current legal frameworks was conducted by this committee to fully understand how best to frame effective recommendations for the proposed global treaty.

2.2 This committee spent considerable time discussing and developing a draft definition for violence against girls and the level of specificity and nuance it could contain. This committee analyzed age, context, circumstances, and types and forms of violence against girls. It was challenging to draft global language for this definition since we had some members with strong

opinions about some of the content in the draft definition. This included strong concerns about language to address the fetus, gender identity, and sexual orientation. This committee has included this content under section three (Concluding Comments) of this memo so that we clearly articulated the various concerns that came up during the discussion.

2.3 This committee deliberated between having an additional section on girls and students in the Recommendations from the Expert Special Committee on Domestic Violence Memo or staying with a separate memo in the current format. We decided to stay with a separate memo in the current format due to the complexity, depth, and breadth of violence against girls as a separate subject of grave concern.

2.4 This committee developed a broad framework of categories for the final recommendations and initially worked from the recommendation framework established by the Expert Special Committee on Domestic Violence for reference. Marital rape is an additional distinct area of sexual violence which requires serious recognition from States Parties. Young women should be educated on recognizing marital rape. States Parties need to address its consequences on their physical, emotional, and reproductive health.

2.5 This committee had a discussion on harmful practices and how they are practiced, identified, recognized, understood, and addressed through the lens of safety, tradition, and violence against girls.

2.6 Additional discussions on how girls experience access to justice and seek financial resources were also explored.

3. Concluding Comments by the Committee on Treaty Content

(Unresolved, sensitive, contentious issues)

- The committee had a general discussion about expanding the definition of girls to explicitly include both the fetus and those persons who identify as female. Female infanticide, violence directed at the female fetus, and persons with a female gender-identity occurs across the globe. This issue may be beyond the scope of this proposed treaty on Violence Against Girls and Women of All Ages.
- There was discussion about addressing issues of violence related to sexual orientation. Violence against girls is inclusive of sexual orientation and is being explored by the Expert Special Committee on Inclusive Groups.
- The committee acknowledged the reality that some girls are excluded or desisted from education, and therefore may not be represented within the umbrella definition of students.
- Committee discussion further underscored the need for defining harmful practices against girls within a variety of clinical, cultural, traditional, and religious contexts.

4. Recommendations by the Committee on Treaty Content

4.1 Proposed Definitions

- **Girls** are defined as persons under the age of 18 and young women are defined as persons under the age of 25.
- **Violence against girls** includes actual (or intended):
 1. physical, sexual, psychological, economic, interpersonal, and political harm;
 2. threats of violence and coercion; and
 3. discrimination.
- **Students** are a specific category of girls who can be disproportionately affected by violence in a wide range of settings including:
 1. urban and rural,
 2. formal,
 3. informal,
 4. community,
 5. cultural,
 6. religious,
 7. skills-based,
 8. apprentice, and
 9. primary, secondary, post-secondary, and tertiary educational settings.

4.2 States Parties will take effective measures to prevent violence against girls

States Parties shall prevent violence against girls, intervene when violence does occur, and remediate the negative effects of that violence.

- Prevention includes:
 - providing access to information and resources to girls in a safe, timely, meaningful, accessible manner and context;
 - awareness raising on gender norms;
 - addressing patriarchy as a root cause of violence against girls; and
 - education on what constitutes violence.
- Intervention includes:
 - availability of information and resources in a wide range of educational, community, and public health settings.
- Remedial measures include:

- access to safe homes and shelters,
- legal and financial aid,
- helplines,
- medical and emotional support to include counseling support, and
- follow-up services.

4.3 Access to justice

States Parties shall take actions to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against girls, including enabling:

- safe, effective access to a wide range of legal systems;
- in countries with dual legal systems it necessary to address both formal and informal mechanisms of justice;
- a process for girls to report and seek effective redress for acts of violence committed against them;
- improved implementation of existing laws on violence;
- more effective punitive action against perpetrators;
- the design and implementation of effective laws on marital rape; and
- access to justice to include counseling support services.

4.4 Financial resources

States Parties shall establish funding mechanisms to enable and support the design and implementation of a variety of programs to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against girls, including:

- improvement of education on violence against girls;
- training for health services, police, and legal personnel to work more effectively with girls who experience violence;
- increased availability of community-based safe homes and shelters;
- specialized legal aid programs;
- resources to support affected girls rebuilding their lives after acts of violence;
- immediate assistance for girls;
- data gathering;
- program evaluation; and
- assessment of community needs.

4.5 Data measurement and management

States Parties shall establish measures to:

- gather data to assess the incidence and prevalence rates of violence against girls;
- evaluate the effectiveness of available current services;
- conduct an assessment of community needs to identify gaps in service availability;

- gather data on education and awareness-raising programs on violence against girls; and
- assess reporting gaps on violence against girls.

4.6 State and non-state actors

State actors include:

1. government officials,
2. peacekeepers,
3. members of the police and military, and
4. teachers.

Non-state actors include:

1. parents, grandparents, extended family members,
2. community members,
3. health-care workers,
4. members of nongovernmental or other civil society organizations, and
5. any individual or group not directly operating as a representative or quasi-representative of the state.

State actors shall address and provide guidance for violence against girls:

- which may occur in all spheres emphasizing socioeconomic, civil-political, and private spheres of home and family;
- recognizing that violence against girls occurs on- and offline;
- during peace and war times;
- in pre- and post-conflict settings;
- in refugee camps; and
- in educational and health settings.

4.7 All types and forms of harmful practices against girls

In order to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against girls, state actors shall:

1. recognize that harmful practices affecting girls exist in a wide variety of public, private, formal, informal, community, customary, and educational settings;
2. address these harmful practices after effective consultation with girls and women in these affected settings;
3. work with stakeholders, especially girls and women from the communities affected, to define harmful practices against girls;
4. develop comprehensive assessment measures; and
5. create mechanisms to address harmful practices when and where they occur;

4.8 Special Note to the Global Drafting Committee

It is important to create a provision to effectively address treaty reservations by States Parties that perpetuate public, private, cultural, and/or religious justifications for violence against girls and enable harmful practices to continue.

Committee Member Bios:

(Co-Chair) Azra Abdul Cader – Sri Lanka

Azra Abdul Cader is a Sri Lankan Development Professional with over 10 years of experience working in the development sector in Sri Lanka and in the region including think tanks, civil society organizations, and the United Nations in Sri Lanka. She has engaged in research and advocacy, focusing on women in conflict, the environment, economic empowerment and social protection, influences of religion, extreme interpretations of religion, and culture and tradition on gender equality and SRHR. Her present work focuses on engaging in global advocacy processes to address the influence of extremism and fundamentalism on SRHR through an alliance of advocates working across the Global South. Her work also includes evidence generation and advocacy around human rights accountability mechanisms to ensure SRHR. She has experience working with civil society and the UN in Sri Lanka and the South Asian region in trying to effectively use evidence for policy, gender equality, and empowerment across diverse groups and in different contexts. She is a graduate in Sociology and Development.

(Co-Chair) Munara Beknazarova – Kyrgyzstan

Munara Beknazarova is an Activist who works at the national level to promote women's rights. She is the director of the PF "Open Line" since 2009. Munara has provided technical support in the preparation of the two alternative reports from women's NGOs in Kyrgyzstan to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee and she was one of the speakers at the presentation of the report in 2008 and in 2011. She managed the process of preparing a request for an independent investigation of committee members and requested the CEDAW Committee conduct an investigation in accordance with Article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention on the facts of bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan. She leads the social campaign against bride kidnapping, which was included in the database of the campaign Creative for Good on the World Economic Forum. Munara Beknazarova is involved in projects for the Open Society Foundation, the United Nations (in particular on access to justice), and the National Interagency Group on development and promotion of the law on protection and security from domestic violence. She also works with local groups and individuals in order to promote women's human rights. She is the author of several articles on violence against women as a violation of human rights, teaches a women's rights course for students in university, and is a member of the initiative group of the International School of Human Rights, working to organize the activities of representatives of the victims of crimes against women.

(Memo Drafter) Keerty Nakray – India

Dr. Keerty Nakray has a wide range of dynamic research interests which arise from her interdisciplinary training in social sciences. She is currently Associate Professor at Jindal Global

Law School in NCR Delhi, India and Visiting Fellow at the Feinstein International Center, Tufts University. Her recent co-edited book with Margaret Alston and Kerri Whittenbury is titled *Social Science Research Ethics for a Globalizing World: Interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Perspectives* (Routledge, 2015) which examines the ethical dilemmas in studying sensitive topics such as gender based violence, child abuse studying combatants, and climate change. Keerty's previous work includes another edited book, *Gender-based Violence and Public Health: International Perspectives on Budgets and Policies* (Routledge, 2013), which encapsulated some of the latest debates on the theoretical and empirical advances in the understanding of gender-based violence as a public health issue in developing economies. She has published in leading journals on gender budgets, child-sensitive budgets, and comparative social policy. She maintains a keen interest in research ethics and establishing linkages between academic research and policy. Dr. Nakray holds a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. She is also currently the Book Reviews Editor of the *Journal of South Asian Development* and she also serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Gender Studies* (UK).

(Memo Drafter) Stephanie Kennedy – USA

Stephanie C. Kennedy, MSW, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Connecticut. Her research examines the intersection of trauma and serious mental health issues for institutionalized women broadly, with particular attention to incarcerated women.

(Member) Obioma Nwaorgu – Nigeria

Obioma Nwaorgu is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science; a Takemi Fellow of the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA; and a Global Health Leadership Fellow of the World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland under the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) unit. She received a PhD in Public Health Parasitology from the University of Cambridge, UK in 1978. She has supervised over 10 PhD and 20 MSc students' projects. She has been Principal Investigator in at least 10 WHO-supported research projects. Obioma, a Professor of Public Health Parasitology and Epidemiology, is the Executive Director/President of a Nigerian-based nongovernmental organization with ECOSOC status at the UN involved in economic empowerment, sexual and reproductive health, and social rights issues among women and adolescent girls. She has managed and financially administered various large NGO and research project budgets and has consulted for various international and multinational agencies. Presently her NGO is involved in Voices for Change, a five year UK Aid/DFID-supported project targeted at empowering young girls and boys 16 to 25 years old in postsecondary institutions (colleges) in Nigeria for transformational change, tackling social norms in three key areas, namely violence against women, gender equality, and leadership.

(Member) Fadoua Bakhadda – Morocco

Fadoua Bakhadda is an MBA holder, working hard to promote sexual and reproductive health rights as human rights. Fadoua is deeply involved in research and knowledge sharing to improve women's rights, especially in developing countries.

(Member) Anu Radha – India

Anu Radha is a Producer, Director, and Media Communications Specialist based in the Indian capital of New Delhi. Her rich experience in documentary film production and business development has been garnered from decades of working with various national and international organizations. Anu Radha's background in journalism and deep involvement with social issues are reflected in her work. Her core strengths are her ability to ideate on concepts and research extensively, her methodical approach to proposal writing, and most importantly, the wherewithal to leverage the vast network of connections she has built and nurtured through years of working closely with various important ministries of the government of India. Anu Radha is well connected with the government, regulatory bodies, and media globally and works in a consortium with similar Consultants providing top-of-the-line solutions and services in strategy design, leadership, employee engagement, and change communication across the globe. Anu Radha has worked on projects with ministries to the government of India, Doordarshan (India), BBC World Service Trust, Bill & Melinda Gates Avahan Project for PSI (India), the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (London), Radio Netherland Worldwide, W.H.O (Geneva), FLAME (Pune), and Indian Express, to name a few.

(Member) Safeer Ullah Khan – Pakistan

Mr. Khan holds a master's degree in English Literature, with a work experience of over 15 years in the development sector. His skills include writing, advertising, project management, theatre (acting, playwriting, direction, and theater training), etc. He has performed in numerous plays and given theatre training to many volunteers working for different NGOs. He has managed quite a few projects including "Addressing Iodine Deficiency in District Okara," "Accountability of Humanitarian Aid Agencies in Mansehra" (in the aftermath of the earthquake in 2005), "Girls' Post Primary Level Education," and many projects on addressing gender-based violence, the latest among them being "Advocacy for Effective Legislation against Girls' Early Marriages in Pakistan." He has produced many posters, booklets, reports, and conducted innumerable radio programs for Bedari. He worked as Manager, Communications and Program Development for more than eight years. From January 1, 2016, he took over as Executive Director. He has been working for Bedari since April 2007.

Supporting Documents:

I. Initial Consultation on Framework

II. VAW Law and Policy on Girls

III. Notes on Definition of Violence Against Girls/Students

IV. VAWg Draft Definition Notes

V. Girls Memo Drafting Notes

I. Initial Consultation on Framework

1. What are the subject issues we want to address?

- Definition of violence with a focus on girls, students, and young women and what it entails. Do aspects of physical or psychological violence or any violation of their human rights have to be considered? This would help us decide what to include and what not to include.
- A definition of violence should encompass all forms and include emotional and psychological forms of violence.
- Considerations related to the lack of access to services.
- Types of violence:
 - Sexual harassment in the streets or public places, and in educational institutions
 - Child, Early, and Forced Marriages
 - Bride kidnapping
 - Religious marriages that lack safeguards for women and the related implications of this
 - Teenage elopement
 - Dowry related violence
 - Trafficking of girls and migration-related violence
 - Labor (child labor, child domestic labor, harmful forms of labour, etc.), including street children
 - Corporal punishment
 - Child Sexual Abuse and molesting
 - Female genital mutilation and cutting
 - Infanticide/feticide/sex selection
 - Gender inequality within the domestic sphere
 - Feminization of violence
 - Culturally accepted forms of violence
 - Violence in crisis and disaster contexts.
- Strategies that address the root causes of violence against girls.
- Taking note of country and region specificities and nuances on violence.
- Consider the influence that religious, cultural, and traditional factors have on violence against women.
- Consider the influence of narrow interpretations of religion and the influence of culture, cultural practices, traditions, and traditional practices have on justifying violence against women and girls.

- Consider notions and influence of the family in justifying violence and allowing violence to take place, definitions of the family that allow certain forms of violence (such as violence against sexually diverse groups, marital rape, intimate partner violence, incest, sexual violence against boys and girls, honor killings, etc.).
- The role of various actors in perpetrating and justifying violence, including the role of attitudes and perceptions.
- Being devoid of violence means that women and girls are protected, have bodily integrity, are in control of their lives and bodies, and have access to a range of sexual and reproductive health services and rights and human rights.

Other issues raised that need more clarity:

- Pressure of society on sexual cohabitation before marriage, as a consequence high ratio of abortions (single young women are afraid to give birth) or children born outside of marriage, etc.

2. What do we want to include/exclude from the treaty content?

- An appropriate framework for States Parties to report including as part of human rights processes and CEDAW processes so that these issues are reported adequately.
- Even though we are focusing on girls/young women we should be specific on the heterogeneity of this group, think about age groups and other factors used to define girls. It should also include a focus on adolescents.
- Think about the life cycle approach and the cyclical nature of violence and its effects on women and girls.
- Spaces and conditions where violence takes place—informal, formal, and other defined spaces, as well as in crisis situations, in times of natural disaster, etc.
- Legal and practice changes that are required, need to be developed and enforced.

II. VAW Law and Policy on Girls

Law and Policy	Definition of Gender-Based Violence Against Girls (and Students)	Citation
CEDAW: Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women	The CEDAW is legally binding and obliges States Parties to develop and implement legal provisions to address gender issues based on the approach of substantive equality. Article 1: "For the purposes of the present Convention, the term ' discrimination against women ' shall mean any distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." "The agenda for equality is specified in fourteen subsequent articles. In its approach, the Convention covers three dimensions of the situation of women. Civil rights and the legal status of women are dealt with in great detail. In addition, and unlike other human rights treaties, the Convention is also concerned with the dimension of human reproduction as well as with the impact of cultural factors on gender relations." Violence Against Women or Girls is not clearly defined in the text of the Convention. General Recommendation 19 was framed at a later stage and does discuss Violence Against Women though it is not legally binding. The 14 articles are an extension of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (available here: http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/)	Full text and PDF downloads by section available here: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm

Treaty 210 - Istanbul Convention: Council of Europe Convention on violence against women and domestic violence	<p>The Istanbul Convention is a legally-binding instrument which addresses preventive and remedial approaches to violence against girls and women.</p> <p>Definitions:</p> <p>“For the purpose of this Convention: (a) ‘violence against women’ is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life; (b) ‘domestic violence’ shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim; (c) ‘gender’ shall mean the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men; (d) ‘gender-based violence against women’ shall mean violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately; (e) ‘victim’ shall mean any natural person who is subject to the conduct specified in points a and b; (f) ‘women’ includes girls under the age of 18.”</p> <p>Purpose of the Convention:</p> <p>“The purposes of this Convention are to: (a) protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women and domestic violence; (b) contribute to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and promote substantive equality between women and men, including by empowering women; (c) design a comprehensive framework, policies and measures for the protection of and assistance to all victims of violence against women and domestic violence; (d) promote international co-operation with a view to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence; (e) provide support and assistance to organizations and law enforcement agencies to effectively co-operate in order to adopt an integrated approach to eliminating violence against women and domestic violence.”</p>	<p>Download the PDF at the lower right of the page, marked “share”</p> <p>http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210</p>
UN Security Council Resolution 1325	<p>UN SC resolution 1325 is legally binding in the areas of conflict prevention, protection, organizing for peace, rehabilitation, reintegration, and reconstruction.</p> <p>The term “Girls” is not explicitly defined.</p> <p>“The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. The resolution provides a number of important operational mandates, with implications for Member States and the entities of the United Nations system.”</p>	<p>Download the full PDF from the lower center of the page</p> <p>http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/</p>
Beijing Platform for Action	<p>BPFA is not a legally binding document.</p> <p>“Girls” and “girl children” are not explicitly defined, but in paragraph 268, page 111, pregnancy is defined for “girls aged 15–19.”</p> <p>Section on “The Girl Child” begins on paragraph 259, page 109.</p> <p>VAW is defined starting on paragraph 112, page 48.</p> <p>“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 private life. Accordingly, violence against women encompasses but is not limited to the following:</p> <p>(a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation; (b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution; (c) Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.</p> <p>114. Other acts of violence against women include violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy.</p> <p>115. Acts of violence against women also include forced sterilization and forced abortion, coercive/forced use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.</p> <p>116. Some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women,</p>	<p>Download the full PDF from the upper right.</p> <p>http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/</p>

	<p>refugee women, women migrants, including women migrant workers, women in poverty living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, female children, women with disabilities, elderly women, displaced women, repatriated women, women living in poverty and women in situations of armed conflict, foreign occupation, wars of aggression, civil wars, terrorism, including hostage-taking, are also particularly vulnerable to violence.</p> <p>117. Acts or threats of violence, whether occurring within the home or in the community, or perpetrated or condoned by the State, instill fear and insecurity in women's lives and are obstacles to the achievement of equality and for development and peace. The fear of violence, including harassment, is a permanent constraint on the mobility of women and limits their access to resources and basic activities. High social, health and economic costs to the individual and society are associated with violence against women. Violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men. In many cases, violence against women and girls occurs in the family or within the home, where violence is often tolerated. The neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and rape of girl children and women by family members and other members of the household, as well as incidences of spousal and non-spousal abuse, often go unreported and are thus difficult to detect. Even when such violence is reported, there is often a failure to protect victims or punish perpetrators.</p> <p>118. Violence against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement. Violence against women throughout the life cycle derives essentially from cultural patterns, in particular the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices and all acts of extremism linked to race, sex, language or religion that perpetuate the lower status accorded to women in the family, the workplace, the community and society. Violence against women is exacerbated by social pressures, notably the shame of denouncing certain acts that have been perpetrated against women; women's lack of access to legal information, aid or protection; the lack of laws that effectively prohibit violence against women; failure to reform existing laws; inadequate efforts on the part of public authorities to promote awareness of and enforce existing laws; and the absence of educational and other means to address the causes and consequences of violence. Images in the media of violence against women, in particular those that depict rape or sexual slavery as well as the use of women and girls as sex objects, including pornography, are factors contributing to the continued prevalence of such violence, adversely influencing the community at large, in particular children and young people.</p> <p>119. Developing a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the challenging task of promoting families, communities and States that are free of violence against women is necessary and achievable. Equality, partnership between women and men and respect for human dignity must permeate all stages of the socialization process. Educational systems should promote self-respect, mutual respect, and cooperation between women and men.</p> <p>120. The absence of adequate gender-disaggregated data and statistics on the incidence of violence makes the elaboration of programs and monitoring of changes difficult. Lack of or inadequate documentation and research on domestic violence, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in private and in public, including the workplace, impede efforts to design specific intervention strategies. Experience in a number of countries shows that women and men can be mobilized to overcome violence in all its forms and that effective public measures can be taken to address both the causes and the consequences of violence. Men's groups mobilizing against gender violence are necessary allies for change.</p> <p>121. Women may be vulnerable to violence perpetrated by persons in positions of authority in both conflict and non-conflict situations. Training of all officials in humanitarian and human rights law and the punishment of perpetrators of violent acts against women would help to ensure that such violence does not take place at the hands of public officials in whom women should be able to place trust, including police and prison officials and security forces.</p> <p>122. The effective suppression of trafficking in women and girls for the sex trade is a matter of pressing international concern. Implementation of the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, as well as other relevant instruments, needs to be reviewed and strengthened. The use of women in international prostitution and trafficking networks has become a major focus of international organized crime. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, who has explored these acts as an additional cause of the violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, is invited to address, within her mandate and as a</p>	
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	<p>matter of urgency, the issue of international trafficking for the purposes of the sex trade, as well as the issues of forced prostitution, rape, sexual abuse and sex tourism. Women and girls who are victims of this international trade are at an increased risk of further violence, as well as unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection, including infection with HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>123. In addressing violence against women, Governments and other actors should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programs so that before decisions are taken an analysis may be made of their effects on women and men, respectively."</p>	
Convention of Belém do Pará	<p>Convention of Belém do Pará is binding on States Parties.</p> <p>No specific definition of "girl," "woman," or "student" provided.</p> <p>Definition of VAW:</p> <p>ARTICLE 1: "For the purposes of this Convention, violence against women shall be understood as any act or conduct, based on gender, which causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, whether in the public or the private sphere."</p> <p>ARTICLE 2: "Violence against women shall be understood to include physical, sexual and psychological violence:</p> <p>a. that occurs within the family or domestic unit or within any other interpersonal relationship, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the woman, including, among others, rape, battery and sexual abuse;</p> <p>b. that occurs in the community and is perpetrated by any person, including, among others, rape, sexual abuse, torture, trafficking in persons, forced prostitution, kidnapping and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as in educational institutions, health facilities or any other place; and</p> <p>c. that is perpetrated or condoned by the state or its agents regardless of where it occurs."</p>	<p>http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-61.html</p>
Protocol To The African Charter On Human And Peoples' Rights On The Rights Of Women In Africa "Maputo Protocol"	<p>Does define violence against women and is legally binding.</p> <p>"Article 4: c) identify the causes and consequences of violence against women and take appropriate measures to prevent and eliminate such violence; d) actively promote peace education through curricula and social communication in order to eradicate elements in traditional and cultural beliefs, practices and stereotypes which legitimize and exacerbate the persistence and tolerance of violence against women; e) punish the perpetrators of violence against women and implement programmes for the rehabilitation of women victims; f) establish mechanisms and accessible services for effective information, rehabilitation and reparation for victims of violence against women; i) provide adequate budgetary and other resources for the implementation and monitoring of actions aimed at preventing and eradicating violence against women; Article 5: d) protection of women who are at risk of being subjected to harmful practices or all other forms of violence, abuse and intolerance. Article 11.3) States Parties undertake to protect asylum seeking women, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, against all forms of violence, rape and other forms of sexual exploitation, and to ensure that such acts are considered war crimes, genocide and/or crimes against humanity and that their perpetrators are brought to justice before a competent criminal jurisdiction. Article 22: b) ensure the right of elderly women to freedom from violence, including sexual abuse, discrimination based on age and the right to be treated with dignity. Article 23: b) ensure the right of women with disabilities to freedom from violence, including sexual abuse, discrimination based on disability and the right to be treated with dignity."</p>	<p>http://www.genderismyagenda.com/framework/docs/3_the_maputo_declaration.pdf</p>
African Union Gender Policy	<p>The first ever African Union Gender Policy includes Article 4 (L) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, which recognizes regional communities as building blocks of the African Union economic cooperation. However, it does not include "violence" with the words "gender" and "women" appearing only once. http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47566137.pdf</p> <p>"Work jointly with relevant UN bodies and other AU Organs in order to create and manage Truth and Reconciliation Structures with a view to bringing to the fore violations against women and young girls during conflict situations; and accelerate the admission of violation of human rights and find lasting solutions, including the provision of psychological support.</p> <p>Initiate innovative and regional flagship best practice projects and programs in the subregions, especially advocacy and campaigns on the acceleration of women's equal participation in development and in regional integration; and a strategy for leadership development and mentoring of young women."</p>	<p>http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/gender_policy_2009.pdf</p>
UN Security Council Resolution 1325	<p>"The UN Security Council adopted resolution (S/RES/1325) on women, peace, and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal</p>	<p>http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/</p>

	participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.”	
International Labor Organization	<p>ILO policy documents are not legally binding.</p> <p>“Reaching out to disadvantaged young women and men, effort needs to be directed towards meeting the needs of young people in the informal economy and/or in rural areas, and those who are otherwise marginalized from formal training systems. Key messages: i) Young people need to complete at least the basic education cycle, which is essential for further skills training and prospects of getting a decent job. ii) Active labor market training programs targeted at disadvantaged young people have been increasingly used with positive impact in the short, medium, and long term. iii) Innovative approaches to skills acquisition that combine training with opportunities to work and earn are essential. iv) Support services including literacy and remedial education, vocational, and job-readiness training, job-search assistance, and career guidance and counselling can also help young people to find their way into work.”</p>	http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--ed_emp/--ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_234467.pdf
Migration (IOM)	<p>IOM policy framework is not legally binding.</p> <p>“We would like to highlight the important role migration can play in human resources development. The Secretary-General’s report notes that promoting the mobility of researchers and students is an essential component in this regard. IOM would certainly agree. However, besides these groups, the migration of people generally is a powerful facilitator of human resources development and capacity building. Migrants in all sectors and skill sets can gain from increased access to education and training. Furthermore, migrants themselves offer new ideas and can foster innovation and trade, benefitting both their host and origin communities.</p> <p>While the loss of certain skilled individuals can create challenges to origin countries—the so-called “brain drain” effect—IOM emphasizes that robust policy can and does make a difference to how the impacts of migration are felt.”</p>	<p>68th Session of the UN General Assembly Agenda Item 23: Eradication of Poverty and Other Development Issues</p> <p>https://unobserver.iom.int/68th-session-un-general-assembly-agenda-item-23-eradication-poverty-and-other-development-issues</p>
International Conference on Population and Development	<p>The ICPD is not legally binding.</p> <p>“Owing to declining mortality levels and the persistence of high fertility levels, a large number of developing countries continue to have very large proportions of children and young people in their populations. For the less developed regions as a whole, 36 per cent of the population is under age 15, and even with projected fertility declines, that proportion will still be about 30 per cent by the year 2015. In Africa, the proportion of the population under age 15 is 45 per cent, a figure that is projected to decline only slightly, to 40 per cent, in the year 2015. Poverty has a devastating impact on children’s health and welfare. Children in poverty are at high risk for malnutrition and disease and for falling prey to labor exploitation, trafficking, neglect, sexual abuse and drug addiction. The ongoing and future demands created by large young populations, particularly in terms of health, education and employment, represent major challenges and responsibilities for families, local communities, countries and the international community. First and foremost among these responsibilities is to ensure that every child is a wanted child. The second responsibility is to recognize that children are the most important resource for the future and that greater investments in them by parents and societies are essential to the achievement of sustained economic growth and development. (b) To meet the special needs of adolescents and youth, especially young women, with due regard for their own creative capabilities, for social, family and community support, employment opportunities, participation in the political process, and access to education, health, counselling and high-quality reproductive health services; (c) To encourage children, adolescents and youth, particularly young women, to continue their education in order to equip them for a better life, to increase their human potential, to help prevent early marriages and high-risk child-bearing and to reduce associated mortality and morbidity.</p> <p>Actions: 6.8. Countries should give high priority and attention to all dimensions of the protection, survival and development of children and youth, particularly street children and youth, and should make every effort to eliminate the adverse effects of poverty on children and youth, including malnutrition and preventable diseases. Equal educational opportunities must be ensured for boys and girls at every level.</p> <p>6.11. Countries should create a socio-economic environment conducive to the elimination of all child marriages and other unions as a matter of urgency, and should discourage early marriage. The social responsibilities that marriage entails should be reinforced in countries’ educational programs. Governments should take action to eliminate discrimination against young pregnant women.</p> <p>6.14. Governments should formulate, with the active support of non-governmental organizations and the private sector, training and employment programs. Primary importance should be given to meeting the basic needs of young people, improving their quality of life, and increasing their</p>	http://www.un.org/popin/icpd/conference/offeng/poa.html

	<p>contribution to sustainable development.</p> <p>6.15. Youth should be actively involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their daily lives. This is especially important with respect to information, education and communication activities and services concerning reproductive and sexual health, including the prevention of early pregnancies, sex education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.</p> <p>Access to, as well as confidentiality and privacy of, these services must be ensured with the support and guidance of their parents and in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, there is a need for educational programs in favor of life planning skills, healthy lifestyles and the active discouragement of substance abuse.</p> <p>7.37. Support should be given to integral sexual education and services for young people, with the support and guidance of their parents and in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, that stress responsibility of males for their own sexual health and fertility and that help them exercise those responsibilities.</p> <p>Educational efforts should begin within the family unit, in the community and in the schools at an appropriate age, but must also reach adults, in particular men, through non-formal education and a variety of community-based efforts.</p> <p>7.41. The reproductive health needs of adolescents as a group have been largely ignored to date by existing reproductive health services. The response of societies to the reproductive health needs of adolescents should be based on information that helps them attain a level of maturity required to make responsible decisions.</p> <p>In particular, information and services should be made available to adolescents to help them understand their sexuality and protect them from unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and subsequent risk of infertility. This should be combined with the education of young men to respect women's self-determination and to share responsibility with women in matters of sexuality and reproduction. This effort is uniquely important for the health of young women and their children, for women's self-determination and, in many countries, for efforts to slow the momentum of population growth. Motherhood at a very young age entails a risk of maternal death that is much greater than average, and the children of young mothers have higher levels of morbidity and mortality. Early child-bearing continues to be an impediment to improvements in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world. Overall for young women, early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on their and their children's quality of life.</p> <p>7.43. In many societies, adolescents face pressures to engage in sexual activity. Young women, particularly low-income adolescents, are especially vulnerable. Sexually active adolescents of both sexes are increasingly at high risk of contracting and transmitting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and they are typically poorly informed about how to protect themselves. Programs for adolescents have proven most effective when they secure the full involvement of adolescents in identifying their reproductive and sexual health needs and in designing programs that respond to those needs.</p> <p>11.4. The education and training of young people should prepare them for career development and professional life in order to cope with today's complex world. It is on the content of the educational curricula and the nature of the training received that the prospects of gainful employment opportunities depend. Inadequacies in and discrepancies between the educational system and the production system can lead to unemployment and underemployment, a devaluing of qualifications and, in some cases, the exodus of qualified people from rural to urban areas and to "brain drain". It is therefore essential to promote harmonious development of educational systems and economic and social systems conducive to sustainable development (b) To promote non-formal education for young people, guaranteeing equal access for women and men to literacy centres; 3.15. Sustained economic growth within the context of sustainable development is essential to eradicate poverty. Eradication of poverty will contribute to slowing population growth and to achieving early population stabilization. Investments in fields important to the eradication of poverty, such as basic education, sanitation, drinking water, housing, adequate food supply and infrastructure for rapidly growing populations, continue to strain already weak economies and limit development options. The unusually high number of young people, a consequence of high fertility rates, requires that productive jobs be created for a continually growing labor force under conditions of already widespread unemployment. The numbers of elderly requiring public support will also increase rapidly in the future. Sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development will be necessary to accommodate those pressures.</p>	
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United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	UN Declarations are not legally binding. They reflect the existing human rights norms and international law. http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/pdf/FAQsindigenousdeclaration_FINAL.pdf "2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities."	http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Legally binding on member states. http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/convinfofaq.htm "Concerned about the difficult conditions faced by persons with disabilities who are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, property, birth, age or other status, Recognizing that women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home of violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, Recognizing that children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, and recalling obligations to that end undertaken by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child."	http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml

III. Notes on the Definition of Violence Against Girls/Students

From: **Azra Abdul Cader**

Date: Sun, Apr 24, 2016 at 9:31 PM

Subject: PLEASE REVIEW Prior to Next Meeting - 3 May 2016

Dear Girl/Student Sub-comm members

I hope this email finds you well. Please see below the revised definition (done by Keerthi and Stephanie from the drafting committee). This needs to be reviewed by you prior to our next meeting on the 3rd of May.

Please note that the next meeting of the Committee will be on 3 May 2016 at 8.30am Boston time. Pls check the time for your own country and confirm your availability.

The Agenda

- Discussion on the definition and inputs - pls see below for the definition.
- Discussion on other components of the memo for agreement on potential aspects that can be covered.
- Inputs by the drafting team focusing on definitions and their review of documents.
- Any other business

Best

Azra

Defining VAW for girls and students.

Girls are defined as female children under the age of 18 (defined by Treaty 210-Istanbul Convention).

Students are defined as girls and emerging adult females enrolled in primary, secondary, or post-secondary education, under the age of 25 (see Arnett, 2000).

Violence against women (VAW) is defined as any human rights violation, discrimination, or gender-based violence that are associated with actual (or intended) physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm to women, including threats of violence, coercion, or deprivation of liberty. VAW can occur in the public, economic sphere or the private, domestic sphere – the unifying factor being that the actions are motivated by the victim's[S1] status as a woman.

Outcomes: Myriad forms of violence occur in families and extended families and across social institutions. These include child abuse, early marriages, forced or unsafe abortions, bullying and cyberbullying (e.g., sexual grooming and revenge porn), the sexualisation of young girls and peer pressure to be in a relationship. In formal educational settings, girls and students are subjected to discriminatory practices such as gender stereotyping of professions, preference for male students, and sexual harassment. Girls without access to formal education are also at high risk for exploitation as child laborers, domestic workers, and are subject to human trafficking. Risk for these negative outcomes are amplified for girls and students from marginalized castes, classes, disabilities, sexual orientations and gender identities, races, ethnicities and migrant groups. The civil-political and socio-economic stability of geographical location further contributes to the violence experienced by girls and students.

[S1]This word is really problematic, but I can't think of another way to say this. J

From: **Keerty Nakray**

Date: Thu, Mar 17, 2016 at 10:34 AM

Subject: Exchanging notes for April 6 2016 Meeting

To: "Kennedy, Stephanie", "vidyasri"

Cc: Azra Abdul Cader, Asel Kojokulova

Dear All

As per our discussion today the Sub-Committee on Students and Young Women we will be meeting on April 6, 2016 (8.00 Boston EST).

Tasks Allocated:

1. Stephanie and Keerty will prepare and share a consolidated document based on the international covenants and policies on the various definitions of violence against students and young women (via email).
2. Azra and Munara will have reviewed the document beforehand and prepared notes in terms of what can be edited out of the document.

Thank you, Keerty

31 March 2016

Additional information since there are many reds already.

Under risk factors- disability

Outcomes: Unequal power relation, Lack of /inadequate water and sanitation facilities for management of menstruation in schools by girls

Best Regards

Obioma

31 March 2016

Dear Committee Members

Stephanie and I have compiled the list of international laws and policies with mentions of students and young girls. Stephanie has done bulk of the work in spite of the PhD submission earlier this week and child care responsibilities.

Based on this document I have further amended the definition below and look forward to discussions and amendments:

Definition of violence against young women and students:

Includes a range of *social*, physiological, sexual and psychological violence of varying intensity.

Risk Factors:

Age, Education, Caste, Class, Ethnicity, Race, Geographical Isolation, Disabilities; *culture*; Education; Economic (Lack of Sustainable and Formal Employability); Migration; Post-Conflict and Conflict Situations;

Lack of Gender RCH facilities (lack and availability of sanitary napkins and contraception; educational information on reproductive milestones; sex education and other life-skills)

Institutions: Family, Schools, Universities, Politics and Communities; by persons of authority such as parents (child abuse and early marriages; forced and unsafe abortions and lack of autonomy over the use of contraception); teachers (corporal punishments; bullying; sexual harassment by male students and teachers; use of social media to intimidate and threaten female students (grooming; revenge porn); gender stereotyping of professions; preference for male students; increasing sexualisation young girls and peer pressure to

be in a relationship – stigma and slut shaming);community leaders (teasing and stalking; Bride kidnapping; Honour Killings; Trafficking of girls and migration related violence Labor (child labor, child domestic labor, harmful forms of labour etc.)> including street children; Politics (Violence in crisis and disaster contexts); Refugee and Transit Camps; Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies; Systemic state violence against young women and students from Aboriginals, Castes and Religious Groups; Discrimination and *marginalization* based on ethnicity (tribal and aboriginal groups); race; caste, orphan and *social* class.

Outcomes: School drop outs especially at the onset *and awareness*> of menstruation (life course milestone); lack of availability of sanitary napkins and disposal facilities for napkins; Early Marriages and Pregnancies; Poor labour market skills; Lack of property rights; Higher levels of abuse in marriages and relationship violence (*due to lack of family & social support*)

Stakeholders: Parents or Guardians or Extended family members (*are we talking about extended families as Guardians? Otherwise extended families should be included- Foster Families and adoptive families?

as important stakeholders*); Teachers and School/ University Administrators; Child Care Facilities; Police and Judiciary; Public Health and Social Services; Refugee Services; Police and Judiciary.

Research Institutes; NGOs and Civil Society Groups (Lack of evidence based research and gender disaggregated data).

From: Azra Abdul Cader

Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 9:33 AM

To: Vidya Sri

Cc: Obi Nwaorgu; ibrarsworker; Fadoua Bakhadda; Thu Thuy Csaga; bfofanah; Aakaar Films; Safer Ullah Khan; Caitlin O'Quinn; Rachel Uemoto; Munara Beknazarova; Asel Kojokulova; Natalie Eslick; Kennedy, Stephanie; Keerty Nakray

Subject: REMINDER - MEETING & REQUEST FOR INPUTS: Girls/Students Sub-committee
Dear Committee Members

I look forward to speaking to you later today - **April 1 from 8-9.30am Boston time.**

I am sharing the latest inputted version for easy access. This has Fadoua, Anu's and my feedback.

Best

Azra

Definition of violence against young women and students

Includes a range of **social**, physiological, sexual and psychological violence of varying intensity. Also includes violence sanctioned by religion, tradition and culture such as marital rape, honour killings, child, early, forced marriages etc.

Risk (I would say root causes) Factors: Age, Education, Caste, Class, Ethnicity, Race, Geographical Isolation, narrow interpretations of religion, **culture, disempowerment and inequality of women and girls, lack of respect for women and girls, sexual orientation, position within the family - nuclear and extended and other forms.**

Institutions: Family (recognizing that a multiple form of family exist), Schools and other educational establishments including religious establishments, Universities, Political establishments, and Community spaces

Actors: by persons of authority such as parents (child abuse, incest, and child early and forced marriages; unsafe abortions and lack of autonomy over the use of contraception, bodily integrity and choice); extended family, older siblings, teachers and other students (corporal punishments; bullying; sexual harassment by male students; use of social media to threaten and abuse female students (grooming; revenge porn); gender stereotyping of professions; preference for male students; increasing sexualisation young girls and peer pressure to be in a relationship – stigma and slut shaming) community leaders (teasing and stalking; Bride kidnapping; Honour Killings; Trafficking of girls and migration related violence Labor (child labor, child domestic labor, harmful forms of labor, slavery, etc.) including street children; Politics (Violence in crisis and disaster contexts); Discrimination and **marginalization** based on ethnicity (tribal and aboriginal groups); race; caste, orphan and **social** class.

Outcomes: School drop outs especially at the onset **and awareness** of menstruation (life course milestone); lack of availability of sanitary napkins and disposal facilities for napkins; child early and forced marriages and adolescent Pregnancies; Poor labor market skills; Lack of property rights; Higher levels of abuse in marriages and relationship violence **(due to lack of family & social support)**, lack of choices, limited agency and decision making power, insecurity, unhealthy and lack of access to adequate health services, mortality

Stakeholders: Parents or Guardians (**are we talking about extended families as Guardians? Otherwise extended families should be included as important stakeholders - agree**); extended family, siblings, traditional leader, religious stake holders, Teachers and School/ University Administrators; Police and Judiciary; Public Health and Social Services, **babysitters???**

28 March 2016

Hello

Please find my suggestions:

Also, on 1st April (confirming participation) 8.30 AM BOSTON TIME should be 6 PM India time.

So please confirm if it is 8.30 AM or 9 AM?

Best regards

Definition of violence against young women and students

Includes a range of **social**, physiological, sexual and psychological violence of varying intensity.

Risk Factors: Age, Education, Caste, Class, Ethnicity, Race, Geographical Isolation, **culture**.

Institutions: Family, Schools, Universities, Politics and Communities by persons of authority such as parents (child abuse and early marriages; unsafe abortions and lack of autonomy over the use of contraception); teachers (corporal punishments; bullying; sexual harassment by male students; use of social media to threaten female students (grooming; revenge porn); gender stereotyping of professions; preference for male students; increasing sexualisation young girls and peer pressure to be in a relationship – stigma and slut shaming) community leaders (teasing and stalking; Bride kidnapping; Honor Killings; Trafficking of girls and migration related violence Labor (child labor, child domestic labor, harmful forms of labor etc.) including street children; Politics (Violence in crisis and disaster contexts); Discrimination and **marginalization** based on ethnicity (tribal and aboriginal groups); race; caste, orphan and **social** class.

Outcomes: School drop outs especially at the onset **and awareness** of menstruation (life course milestone); lack of availability of sanitary napkins and disposal facilities for napkins; Early Marriages and Pregnancies; Poor labor market skills; Lack of property rights; Higher levels of abuse in marriages and relationship violence (**due to lack of family & social support**)

Stakeholders: Parents or Guardians (**are we talking about extended families as Guardians? Otherwise extended families should be included as important stakeholders**); Teachers and School/ University Administrators; Police and Judiciary; Public Health and Social Services, **babysitters???**.

Anu Radha

Dear Azra,

Those are my adding to the definition:

Definition of violence against young women and students

Includes a range of **social**, physiological, sexual and psychological violence of varying intensity.

Risk Factors: Age, Education, Caste, Class, Ethnicity, Race, Geographical Isolation, **culture**.

Institutions: Family, Schools, Universities, Politics and Communities by persons of authority such as parents (child abuse and early marriages; unsafe abortions and lack of autonomy over the use of contraception); teachers (corporal punishments; bullying; sexual harassment by male students; use of social media to threaten female students (grooming; revenge porn); gender stereotyping of professions; preference for male students; increasing sexualisation young girls and peer pressure to be in a relationship – stigma and slut shaming) community leaders (teasing and stalking; Bride kidnapping; Honor Killings; Trafficking of girls and migration related violence Labor (child labor, child domestic labor, harmful forms of labor etc.) including street children; Politics (Violence in crisis and disaster contexts); Discrimination and **marginalization** based on ethnicity (tribal and aboriginal groups); race; caste, orphan and **social** class.

Outcomes: School drop outs especially at the onset of menstruation (life course milestone); lack of availability of sanitary napkins and disposal facilities for napkins; Early Marriages and Pregnancies; Poor labor market skills; Lack of property rights; Higher levels of abuse in marriages and relationship violence.

Stakeholders: Parents or Guardians; Teachers and School/ University Administrators; Police and Judiciary; Public Health and Social Services, babysitters???

best

Fadoua Bakhadda

On Mon, Mar 28, 2016 at 1:47 PM, Azra Abdul Cader wrote:

Dear Committee Members

I hope this email finds you well.

Following the email from last week, the broader group would greatly benefit from your inputs for the following definitions. May I pls suggest that you mark any changes in red so we can keep track. I will consolidate your inputs for discussion at the meeting this Friday.

Please note the date and times for the meeting 18th March has been postponed to April 1 from 8-9.30am Boston time. We hope you can all make it as its difficult to make a time that is suitable for everyone. Pls confirm. The meeting will be for 90 minutes.

Agenda

- Discussion on the definition and inputs - pls see below for the definition.
- Discussion on other components of the memo for agreement on potential aspects that can be covered.
- Inputs by the drafting team focusing on definitions and their review of documents.
- Any other business

Best
Azra

Definition of violence against young women and students

Includes a range of physiological, sexual and psychological violence of varying intensity.

Risk Factors: Age, Education, Caste, Class, Ethnicity, Race, Geographical Isolation

Institutions: Family, Schools, Universities, Politics and Communities by persons of authority such as parents (child abuse and early marriages; unsafe abortions and lack of autonomy over the use of contraception); teachers (corporal punishments; bullying; sexual harassment by male students; use of social media to threaten female students (grooming; revenge porn); gender stereotyping of professions; preference for male students; increasing sexualisation young girls and peer pressure to be in a relationship – stigma and slut shaming) community leaders (teasing and stalking; Bride kidnapping; Honor Killings; Trafficking of girls and migration related violence Labor (child labor, child domestic labor, harmful forms of labor etc.) including street children; Politics (Violence in crisis and disaster contexts); Discrimination based on ethnicity (tribal and aboriginal groups); race; caste, orphan and class.

Outcomes: School drop outs especially at the onset of mensuration (life course milestone); lack of availability of sanitary napkins and disposal facilities for napkins; Early Marriages and Pregnancies; Poor labor market skills; Lack of property rights; Higher levels of abuse in marriages and relationship violence

Stakeholders: Parents or Guardians; Teachers and School/ University Administrators; Police and Judiciary; Public Health and Social Services.

On 17 March 2016 at 22:31, Azra Abdul Cader wrote:

Dear Girl/Student Sub-comm members

PLEASE NOTE the meeting planned for tomorrow, 18th March has been postponed to April 1 from 8-9.30am Boston time. We hope you can all make it as its difficult to make a time that is suitable for everyone. Pls confirm. The meeting will be for 90 minutes.

The agenda for the meeting is for the group to discuss the definition prepared by a member of the drafting committee - Keerty. Please see below for the draft that she developed using the inputs you sent in to the two questions posed at the last meeting and over email. Pls include any other agenda items you wish to discuss.

I urge you to pls have a look at this and come prepared to the meeting with your feedback. As always your inputs are highly valued.

Best
Azra

Definition of violence against young women and students

Includes a range of physiological, sexual and psychological violence of varying intensity.
Risk Factors: Age, Education, Caste, Class, Ethnicity, Race, Geographical Isolation
Institutions: Family, Schools, Universities, Politics and Communities by persons of authority such as parents (child abuse and early marriages; unsafe abortions and lack of autonomy over the use of contraception); teachers (corporal punishments; bullying; sexual harassment by male students; use of social media to threaten female students (grooming; revenge porn); gender stereotyping of professions; preference for male students; increasing sexualisation young girls and peer pressure to be in a relationship – stigma and slut shaming) community leaders (teasing and stalking; Bride kidnapping; Honor Killings; Trafficking of girls and migration related violence Labor (child labor, child domestic labor, harmful forms of labor etc.) including street children; Politics (Violence in crisis and disaster contexts); Discrimination based on ethnicity (tribal and aboriginal groups); race; caste, orphan and class. Outcomes: School drop outs especially at the onset of mensuration (life course milestone); lack of availability of sanitary napkins and disposal facilities for napkins; Early Marriages and Pregnancies; Poor labor market skills; Lack of property rights; Higher levels of abuse in marriages and relationship violence;
Stakeholders: Parents or Guardians; Teachers and School/ University Administrators; Police and Judiciary; Public Health and Social Services.

IV. Violence Against Women and Girls Draft Definition Notes

Definitions

Girls are defined as persons under the age of 18 and young women are defined as persons under the age of 25.

Students are defined as girls and young women enrolled in any formal, informal, religious, or skills-based/apprentice primary, secondary, or post-secondary/tertiary educational setting.

Violence against girls and students includes human rights violations and discrimination associated with actual (or intended) physical, sexual, psychological, economic, social, and political harm, including threats of violence and coercion. Violence can occur in the socioeconomic and civil-political spheres and in the private spheres of home and family. There are short, medium, and long-term mental, sexual, and reproductive health, economic and social consequences of violence including adverse intra- and inter-generational outcomes for individuals and society.

TEXT WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCORPORATED INTO THE MEMO:

Violence can include child abuse (physical, sexual, or psychological), early and forced marriages, female genital mutilation/cutting, rape (including marital rape), forced and unsafe

abortions, bullying and cyber-bullying (sexual grooming and revenge porn), the sexualisation of girls, and any violence justified by religion, culture, or tradition. Additionally, students may suffer from gender stereotyping of professions, teacher preference for male students, and sexual harassment. Girls without access to formal education are also at high risk for exploitation as child laborers, domestic workers, and are at risk for human trafficking. Risks are amplified for girls and students from marginalized castes, classes, disabilities, sexual orientations and gender identities, races, ethnicities, and migrant groups.

SECTION C: (Added per Sept 9 discussion)

The committee had a general discussion about expanding the definition of girls to explicitly include both the foetus and those persons who identify as female. Although violence directed at the female foetus and persons with a female gender-identity occurs across the globe, these populations fall outside of the scope of this memo.

The committee also had a general discussion about acknowledging the reality that some girls are excluded or desisted from education, and therefore may not be represented within the umbrella definition of students.

V. Girls Memo Drafting Notes

On Mon, Nov 14, 2016 at 12:48 PM, Millicent Bogert wrote:

Dear Both,

The memo looks good. My one suggestion is to either increase or reduce the references to students, as there is only mention of them in the definition section. (I put that as a comment in the draft.) Will there be a summary of the discussion added to the memo as well?

2 Nov 2016

Dear Keerty and Stephanie,

Thank you for a very productive discussion today!

Update and Next Steps below:

1. General memo framing and content is complete.
All the content in this draft memo has originated from the larger committee discussion.
2. Keerty is finalizing draft language for section on Harmful Practices
3. Stephanie is finalizing draft language for Access to Justice, Financial Resources, Data Gathering & Measurement.
4. We will share the current draft, after current revisions are completed, with the larger committee on Tuesday, Nov 8.

5. We will invite the larger committee to review and provide feedback using track changes to the draft memo by Tuesday, Nov 22.
6. We propose a meeting time for the larger committee of Tuesday, Nov 22 at 9 am Boston time to discuss this final round of feedback to the memo.
7. Keerty & Stephanie will integrate feedback from this final round by Tuesday, Nov 29 and share with Vidya.
8. Everywoman Everywhere will be closed for annual leave for the month of December - any remaining work will be done in January.

Azra, Munara: please tell us if you could be available for this important round of feedback to this draft memo on Tuesday, Nov 22 at 9 am Boston time?

Warm Regards,
Vidya Sri
Co-Founder

On Sep 10, 2016 3:33 AM, "K Nakray" wrote:

Hi Vidya and Stephanie

Please check if I am on the right track

1. Access to information/resources

Girls, students and young women should have access to information on various forms of violence and the preventive and remedial mechanisms. Prevention refers to both improving the awareness amongst girls, students and young women about their legal, sexual and reproductive rights to encourage early reporting of any acts of violence to formal agencies of law enforcement or informal support networks such as family, teachers or counselors/social workers. Remedial measures include access to legal aid, victims help lines and medical and psychological support and trauma counseling. Both formal and informal educational institutions could play a role in improving awareness by the use of educational pamphlets, expert talks and use of visual and audio media. (is life-skills education an appropriate word?)

2. Access to justice

Girls, students and young women should have access to legal aid and social security support if they report acts of violence. These girls should have access to legal protection, awareness and trauma counseling. Gender sensitization programs should be instituted or strengthened (??) to train teachers, police, prosecutors, medical examiners, judges on the prevailing stereotypes to promote gender sensitive adjudication and enforcement. Various medical, legal and social services professionals should receive specialist training on medical-legal documentation; trauma counseling and provision of victims support services and grants to facilitate and reintegration into the society.

Gender sensitive budgeting of both preventive and remedial programs to provide access and improve the provision of legal aid and support, transitional homes and grants for victims and reintegration into society.

Sept 9, 2016

Dear Keerty and Stephanie,

Thank you for a productive discussion today!

Next steps below:

Broad framework of categories for the final recommendations:

1. **(Keerty - by Sep 10)** access to information/resources
2. **(Keerty - by Sep 10)** access to justice
3. **(Stephanie)**Definition for Violence Against Girls and Students **(Complete)**
4. **(Stephanie - by Sep 28)** Financial resources
5. **(Stephanie - by Sep 28)** Data gathering and measurement
6. **(Keerty - by Sep 28)** VAWg in the public and private space by (State and Non-State Actors
7. **(Keerty - by Sep 28)**All types and forms of Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls
8. **(Pending)**Integrating the SDGs (???)
9. **(Pending)**Tailor made prevention, protection, rehab and reintegration which entails, measures and structures - we can also use adequate measures and accessible and safe structures.

Other current pending tasks:

1. Stephanie to draft very brief language to address: the fetus, gender identity, excluded/desisted from education for section c of the memo.
2. Stephanie to revise and integrate today's edits to the definition.
3. We will review and complete the legal framework section done by Stephanie on Sep 28.

We will spend 2 hours on Sep 28 starting at 10 am est and work to finalize the 7 recommendations marked above.

Zoom invite will follow.

August 19, 2016

Dear Keerty and Stephanie,

Thank you for a very productive discussion today!

Our summary and next steps:

1. We started exploring the final recommendations section d of the memo today. We deliberated between having an additional section on "Girls and Students" in the DV memo or staying with a separate memo in the current format.

We decided to stay with a separate memo in the current format.

2. We discussed the current draft definition for violence against girls and the level of specificity and nuance it currently contains. It does not seem possible to draft more global language for this version since we had some members with fairly strong opinions about some of the content in the current definition so we will include the more specific definition in the memo as well as a broader, more high level definition so that the drafting committee has both versions and can review and reflect on both.

This way we capture everything we have developed.

3. I have shared a **broad framework of categories today for the final recommendations - see below.**

Azra and Munara: could you please tell us if you prefer a different framework, if anything is missing here, or if any revisions to these broad categories are needed?

Broad framework of categories for the final recommendations:

1. **(Keerty)** access to information/resources
2. **(Keerty)** access to justice
3. Definition for Violence Against Girls and Students (**Complete**)
4. Financial resources
5. Data gathering and measurement
6. VAWg in the public and private space by (State and) Non-State Actors
7. All types and forms of Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls
8. Integrating the SDGs (???)
9. Tailor made prevention, protection, rehab and reintegration which entails, measures and structures - we can also use adequate measures and accessible and safe structures

4. **Keerty** is currently drafting recommendation 1 and 2.

- After we have completed drafting all recommendations, we will come to Azra and Munara for feedback via email.
- After that step, we will complete the draft memo and share with the larger group for a final review in late September.

5. **Stephanie** is currently:

- completing a brief analysis of strengths and gaps for the legal frameworks referenced in section 1 of the memo draft.
- Including both versions of the draft definition into the final memo - section d

6. **Question for Asel and Azra:** Do you have any meeting notes that we can use to complete section b - the summary of discussion for the final memo?

If both of you could share a few high level bullet points or copy and paste some of your key meeting notes into an email - we can take it from there and write them up?

7. Keerty, Stephanie and I are scheduled to come back and meet online in Zoom on Wednesday, Sep 7 at 9 am Boston time. (**Caitlin**, kindly send a zoom invite?).

Vidya

On Tue, Jul 26, 2016 at 12:32 PM, Vidya Sri wrote:

Dear Eleanor, Pat, Meera, and Heather,

Please see notes below for current process and next steps as discussed today:

1. I have attached the final memo guide to this email.

2. I have also attached the draft documents/content that has been developed for section 1 so far. Please integrate this content into your memo draft.

(Meera, Heather, Judy if you have other content or more recent versions for any of these attachments kindly share with this group)

3. Each of you are currently working on section 1a and 1d in the memo guide.

4. For section 1a, please only focus on finalizing the legal frameworks you want to cite on Older Women and Widows of all ages respectively. This is half page or less of content.

We can only draft the executive summary (the other aspect of 1a) at a later stage.

One approach some memo teams are taking is to isolate those legal frameworks that address the subject and those that do not to show the huge current gap.

5. Each of you are also currently working on section 1d of the memo guide.

This is a list of brief recommendations for the Treaty on VAW on the specific subject of Older Women and Widows respectively.

Please also take this opportunity to finalize the definition of violence against older women and violence against widows of all ages respectively.

Both the definition and the list of recommendations will go under section 1d of the memo - your content will be integrated specifically under Part 4/Article 19 of the current Treaty Draft document.

Let us know if we can clarify further.

July 20, 2016

Thank you for this follow up Azra.

yes, August 17 is the next proposed date for memo drafting where we will be developing the final recommendations for the Treaty.

It will be helpful to have you in this discussion so please propose a date during the week prior so others may consider it?

Thanks much.

On Tue, Jul 19, 2016 at 7:53 PM, Azra Abdul Cader wrote:

Dear Vidya

Thanks for the update and noted on the various dates.

I wanted to get back about the next meeting in August as I don't remember if this date was discussed. Apologies in advance if it was. I will most likely be away that week so 15-18th will not work for me. This will be confirmed soon. Happy to catch up on email if the date can't be changed.

Best

Azra

On Jul 14, 2016 2:47 PM, "Stephanie C. Kennedy" wrote:

Vidya, Keerty, and Azra,

Here are the "where we are" documents that we discussed today.

I've attached the VAW law and policy doc (which Keerty will update with Rome Statute, 1993 Dec on Elim of VAW, and Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

I've also attached the Final draft of the definition which was sent out soliciting feedback (I left a comment in there about substituting the term "sexual preference" for "sexual orientation").

And I attached the messy track-changes version of the definition that was condensed by Keerty into the [beautifully succinct] final draft. This has some comments throughout identifying text which we liked, but wasn't a good fit for the definition section. We highlighted it as potentially useful for the main body of the memo.

Hope this is helpful. Please let me know what else I can do to help. :)

Sincerely,

Stephanie

On 14 July 2016 at 21:12, Vidya Sri wrote:

Dear Keerty and Stephanie,

Great to talk with you both today and move the process forward!

You are both a great team, thank you for all the time and expertise you have contributed to this crucial process.

(The one thing we did not discuss today is whether either of you have any final feedback on the definition shared by Azra last week - if you do, kindly email using track changes to Azra and I).

Please see below for notes on our discussion today:

1. For the Legal Framework examples, Munara proposed 2 examples from the Master (table) document and Azra recommended that we go back and focus on the legally binding treaties as one subset and then focus on the other resolutions, declarations, etc. as another subset, (which are mostly non-binding) to illustrate that there is a normative gap on the definition of girls and the definition of violence against girls and how this memo and the Global Treaty will address it.

Today we decided to organize this content into 3 sections:

- Legally Binding (Rome Statute, Belem, Istanbul)
- Normative/Implementation Gaps (SC Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, Maputo, CEDAW General Recommendations 12 & 19)
- Not Legally Binding (1993 Declaration, Beijing Platform for Action)

2. Stephanie will develop and share these content notes to Keerty by Friday, July 15.

3. Keerty will then synthesize the notes and create a half page draft by July 20. Keerty will also update the master table with what we discussed today.

4. Keerty will send the half page draft to Azra by Friday, July 22.

5. Azra will review, revise, and feedback as needed. This goes under section 1d of the final memo.

6. Stephanie will send all the rough notes, documents, etc. from the research done so far on Girls to us so that we can review everything and come together to discuss and develop final recommendations for the Treaty on "Girls."

7. Keerty will develop a rough outline for the memo using the section headings from the memo guide and share with this group.

8. The next memo team meeting is confirmed for Wednesday, August 17, 8:00 am EST for 90 minutes on Zoom.

9. We should have reviewed our past meeting notes, documents, related reports, articles, texts, and what Stephanie will be sharing, prior to this so we have a clear focus on Girls and what needs to be recommended for this Treaty to be effective for survivors of violence who are girls.

10. The meeting agenda is to develop a draft list of final recommendations on Girls for the Treaty.

11. Please review the draft treaty outline (17 pages) as we will be building on that foundation for our recommendations.

--

Warm Regards,
Vidya Sri

On Thu, Jun 9, 2016 at 7:40 PM, Azra Abdul Cader wrote:

Thanks!

I have also copying below the timeline that was discussed at the last memo drafting comm meeting for your reference. We have missed some of them so would be useful to revise them.

Item 1 is done and needs confirmation from the Sub-comm. Since this has been shared by email with the larger group, we can do this at the next meeting.

Action - Schedule next call with Sub-comm.

For item 2 - Stephanie and I discussed this yesterday. Munara had shared her inputs via email suggesting CEDAW and the BPfA. We discussed potentially expanding on this to also include the CRC amongst others (pls refer the notes from the call).

Action - Stephanie and Keerthy to pls let us know when they can share a first draft of this para. There was also discussion on sharing the summary of the discussion by the Committee by Asel for section B of the memo. I don't see a timeline for this.

Action - Asel, pls let us know when you can share this for review.

We should try to schedule another Memo Drafting Comm meeting once we have the above content.

Action - All to decide via email when to meet next.

I hope this is useful. Pls feel free to add/suggest alternative ways ahead.

Thanks!

Best

Azra

1. Refining the definition of girls, students, and VAW (approximately 1/2 page)

Azra will integrate/clarify the definitions based on feedback from the Girls/students committee members using track changes and send to Munara by May 11.

Munara will make further refinements based on Azra's changes and send back to Azra by May 18.

Azra will send to Keerty and Stephanie for final refinements by May 19.

Keerty and Stephanie will work together to make a final draft of the definitions to be sent back to Azra for final review by May 25.

Then Azra will send back out to the Girls/students committee members for their review/discussion at the next meeting June 8 (8:30am Boston time).

2. Part 1a of the memo: Legal framework (approximately 1/2 page)

Munara will identify the primary treaties/legal frameworks to be included in this section and will send her feedback to Azra by May 11-12.

Azra will take this feedback and identify the primary treaties/legal frameworks to be included and will send to Keerty and Stephanie by May 18.

Keerty and Stephanie will attempt a first draft of this section and send to Azra and Munara for review at the next Memo drafting meeting June 9 (8:30am Boston time). Ideally, we can send it with a few days lead time for review.

We will also need to decide on a reference style and identify any works that should be cited in the memo.

Broader timeline:

All committees meet through August 2016. The finalized memo will be submitted no later than October 31, 2016.

On 9 June 2016 at 20:38, Vidya Sri wrote:

Okay, thank you for this feedback and notes, looking forward to moving the memo drafting forward!

We need to determine clarity on what those next steps may look like.

On Jun 9, 2016 10:30 AM, "Azra Abdul Cader" wrote:

Hi Everyone

Hope you are all well.

Stephanie and I had a call this morning/evening and we discussed the following aspects:

- To weave in different HR treaties and rights documents into the definition in terms of what has been captured/missing focusing on our target group.
- To bring into the ES a discussion on HR frameworks in a manner that identifies what is covered within selected treaties and rights documents and the existing gaps that a treaty on violence against women and girls can capture.
- We also discussed what can be included, and whether non-binding documents such as ICPD PoA and the BPfA should be included. We decided it should.

Stephanie, pls include any aspects that I may have missed.

Pls add your thoughts to this if you feel it needs further clarity and additions.

Thanks and best

Azra

On 9 June 2016 at 18:53, Vidya Sri wrote:

Looking forward!!!

Topic: Girls/Students Memo Meeting

Time: Jun 9, 2016 10:00 AM (GMT-4:00) Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Warm Regards,

Vidya Sri

8 July 2016

Dear Keerty, Stephanie, and Asel,

Azra and I checked in today, please see below for pending tasks:

1. Action Item: Part 1a of the memo - Introduction with examples of legal framework - @1/2 page

- **Keerty and Stephanie** Can you tell us when you may be able to complete and share a first draft for this para with the memo team please?

2. Action Item: Section B of the memo - summary of committee's discussion

- **Asel**, can you please review your notes and pull out 1 or 2 bullet points from each meeting discussion we have had up until now and make a list of these points?
- The next step with this is for you to share your list with Azra (I know Munara is away currently) so she can review and revise as needed.
- Please tell us by when you can share this list with Azra?

Warm Regards,

Vidya Sri

On 4 May 2016 at 19:49, Kennedy, Stephanie wrote:

Hello all!

Below are the working dates for our memo drafting timeline. I've also attached the legal framework document that Keerty and I put together for your review. (Keerty, there are two questions below for you to address about your availability and the workload. Sorry that your internet connection did not cooperate this morning!)

Refining the definition of girls, students, and VAW (approximately 1/2 page)

Azra will integrate/clarify the definitions based on feedback from the Girls/students committee members using track changes and send to Munara by May 11.

Munara will make further refinements based on Azra's changes and send back to Azra by May 18.

Azra will send to Keerty and Stephanie for final refinements by May 19.

Keerty and Stephanie will work together to make a final draft of the definitions to be sent back to Azra for final review by May 25.

Then Azra will send back out to the Girls/students committee members for their review/discussion at the next meeting June 8 (8:30am Boston time).

Part 1a of the memo: Legal framework (approximately 1/2 page)

Munara will identify the primary treaties/legal frameworks to be included in this section and will send her feedback to Azra by May 11-12.

Azra will take this feedback and identify the primary treaties/legal frameworks to be included and will send to Keerty and Stephanie by May 18.

Keerty and Stephanie will attempt a first draft of this section and send to Azra and Munara for review at the next Memo drafting meeting June 9 (8:30am Boston time). Ideally, we can send it with a few days lead time for review.

We will also need to decide on a reference style and identify any works that should be cited in the memo.

Broader timeline:

All committees meet through August 2016. The finalized memo will be submitted no later than October 31, 2016.

Keerty: Do these meeting times work for you (June 8 and 9 at 8:30am Boston time)? Do you think we will have enough time to accomplish these goals? I will be interviewing women in prison May 15-22 and so will have very limited time to work on this during that week.

Thanks, and have a great day/evening!

Stephanie

Recommendations for a Global Treaty on Violence Against Girls and Women of All Ages

**by the Expert Special
Committee on Older
Women**

January 2017

1. Introduction of Treaty Content

1.1 Introduction

The number of women age 60 years and older is projected to increase globally to over one billion by 2050 (UN, 2012). While old age is not synonymous with vulnerability, women tend to outlive men but with chronic health conditions in addition to unfavorable social, economic, and legal status. This results in heightened vulnerability for women in old age. Violence against older women is a large-scale global problem and is part of the most prevalent human rights violation in the world.

Women age 60 years and older are doubly marginalized. Age and gender make them vulnerable to physical, psychological/emotional, and financial abuse and victimization within relationships of trust and care, through intentional or unintentional acts of neglect, abuse, and violence. Older women, by gender vulnerability, face violence in both public and private spaces through acts of commission and omission, which are further aggravated by the lack of avenues and resources to stop or redress the violence. The culture of ageism that attributes minimal worth and dignity to older persons is magnified in the case of older women who are marginalized culturally as nonentities.

1.2 Legal Framework

- The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing promulgated in Spain, in 2002, highlights the special vulnerability of older women to violence by noting that older women face greater risk of physical and psychological abuse due to discriminatory societal attitudes and the non-realization of the human rights of women.
- The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recognizes that although both men and women suffer discrimination, the inequality and discrimination experienced by women throughout their lifetime is exacerbated in old age.
 - CEDAW General Recommendation No. 27 specifically addresses the implications of violence for older women. However, the observations and recommendations in these documents are nonbinding and advisory.

Further noted is that some harmful traditional and customary practices result in abuse and violence directed at older women, often exacerbated by poverty and lack of legal protection. In addition, neither the international violence against women's movement nor the ageing empowerment movement has mobilized to end violence against older women.

2. Summary of the Committee's Discussion of Treaty Content:

- Importance of using the term "all women" in the treaty body. This is inclusive of older women.
- The fact that older women are consistently marginalized across a diverse range of countries and cultures.
- The tendency to stereotype through the lens of ageism.
- The Committee agreed upon a definition of 60 years and older as an "older woman" with

the caveat that in many parts of the world older can be younger than 60. It was agreed upon because other instruments, treaties, conventions use this age.

- An extensive discussion on the types of violence which included an exploration of separate categories of psychological/emotional and neglect.

3. Concluding Comments by the Committee on Treaty Content

“Unresolved, sensitive, potentially contentious issues”

N/A

4. Recommendations by the Committee on Treaty Content

4.1 Proposed Definitions:

1. **Physical violence** against older women includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. bodily harm;
 - b. menacing;
 - c. sexual abuse;
 - d. forced marriage;
 - e. dress code;
 - f. forced immobility;
 - g. practices to eliminate older women including witch hunting;
 - h. public flogging;
 - i. stigmatization;
 - j. rites; and
 - k. denial of adequate nutrition, medical care, and access to space and facilities within the private and public space.
2. **Psychological/Emotional** abuse is:
 - a. inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an older woman through verbal or nonverbal acts;
 - b. deliberate attempts to erode self-esteem through references to incapacity, inferior and dependent status, denial of status within the family and the society by being treated as a nonentity;
 - c. deliberate emphasis on emotional vulnerabilities; emotional blackmail and threats; denial of emotional succor, company, and dignity; and a prevalent culture of ageism; and
 - d. humiliating, intimidating, threatening, demeaning, scolding, treating as a child, denigrating, isolating, controlling, coercion, causing fear, pain, and suffering.
3. **Economic violence** against older women includes:
 - a. exploitation of financial resources including taking of property without permission or through manipulation;
 - b. denial of access to economic resources, education, and training;

- c. lack of enforceable property and inheritance rights, and social security;
 - d. lack of accessibility to financial institutions;
 - e. lack of financial literacy; and
 - f. lack of the knowledge and resources to ensure legal rights.
4. **Neglect** is intentional or unintentional withholding of essential care, needed medications, food, clothing, safe living conditions, and other needs for care-dependent older women. In the absence of a reliable caregiver, States Parties have a duty to protect.

4.2 A life course perspective is essential and therefore all recommendations to prevent and protect women of all ages from violence are applicable to older women.

4.3 Legislation

1. States Parties to ensure the implementation of national, regional, and local laws related to all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and discrimination of older women and mandate both legal and enforcement procedures for prevention and protection to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against older women.
2. States Parties to ensure that there is implementation of both criminal justice and civil laws for older women who are abused by relatives to seek redress and protection to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against older women.
3. State actors to encourage and support the implementation of access to justice for survivors through a broad and inclusive range of protection and resolution mechanisms to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against older women.
4. States Parties to develop and disseminate a comprehensive charter of rights of older people, of the legal responsibilities of governments, and of moral and social responsibilities of families and communities to care for the elderly to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against older women.

4.4 Data Collection

1. Implementation of sufficiently broad definitional and measurement parameters of abuse across the lifespan that can generate prevalence data for all women's and girls' age cohorts.
2. Gather and disseminate country specific data on violence, abuse, neglect, and discrimination that are disaggregated by age.
3. Move towards a collaborative partnership for data, both quantitative and qualitative, on abuse of older women and remedies to prevent continued violence, abuse, neglect, and

discrimination to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against older women.

4. These recommendations on data collection can bring together public and private stakeholders to fill gaps in knowledge and establish norms. These standards will increase the ease and security of inclusive data gathering and sharing. This will help countries develop robust national strategies for data development from the local to the global level to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against older women.

4.5 Education

1. Include preventive education as part of an ongoing country-wide campaign on all forms of violence against women.
 - a. Special consideration for what constitutes violence, abuse, neglect, and discrimination that is ageist and demeaning behavior toward older women
 - i. As an example, treating an older woman like a child (World Elder Abuse Awareness Day—WEAAD; UN Elder Abuse Awareness Day—June 15).

4.6 Interventions

1. Mandate screening for violence, abuse, neglect, and discrimination of older women as part of all primary health-care facilities based on disseminated guidelines.
2. Provide community-based paralegal services based on the needs of the community to reduce violence against older women.
 - a. Special consideration to provide access to knowledge of inheritance and land law where applicable.
3. Develop and fund programs and models to address the needs of older women who are violated, abused, neglected, and exploited based on the needs of the community.
 - a. As an example, safe shelter models can accomplish this.
4. Build social service capacity to document and investigate reported cases of elder abuse; train long-term care staff, volunteers, and community members to increase awareness of elder abuse and how to recognize it.

Committee Member Bios:

(Chair) Judy Lear – Minnesota, USA

Judy Lear has actively participated in the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), serving as the Co-chair of the Sub Committee on Older Women (SCOW). She has been involved with the NGO CSW Consultation Day and the planning of the numerous parallel events during the CSW. She successfully worked with the Women’s Treaty (CEDAW) experts to establish General Recommendation #27 on Older Women. Her background includes National Chair of Gray Panthers, an inter-generational social and economic justice advocacy organization. She represented the Gray Panthers as the Main Representative at the UN and also acted as the Executive Director in Washington, DC. She

received the Gray Panther Speak Your Mind award in 2004. She attended the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China under the auspices of the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) as the organization's Status of Women Chair. Judy has traveled extensively attending UN Conferences and other meetings related to women and ageing issues. She is an ardent advocate, believing that "ageing is a woman's issue because we live longer and take care of those who live longer." Currently, she lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and has three adult children and five grandchildren.

(Member) Margaret Owen – England

Margaret Owen is a UK Barrister, with degrees from Cambridge and the LSE. She has a door tenancy at 9, Bedford Walk and has focused on women's and children's rights domestically and internationally for many years. She is the Founder and Director of the international NGO Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD), a Founder Member of GAPS-UK (Gender Action on Peace and Security) and a Patron of Peace in Kurdistan, and of the UK CSW Alliance network. She is a regular participant at the UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women), and has worked with CEDAW to raise awareness of the rights of the most vulnerable women and girls, including widows and wives of the missing especially in developing and conflict-afflicted countries. The WPD Widows Charter is based on the CEDAW. She was awarded the OBE in 2013 for her services for human rights, and especially the rights of widows in developing countries.

(Memo Drafter – Older Women Memo) Meera Khanna – India

Meera Khanna is a Writer, Poet, and Social Activist. She is the Executive Vice Chairperson, Kashmir Interventions of the Guild of Service, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC. She has also worked as a Consultant with the High Level Committee on the Status of Women with the government of India. Meera has written on career counseling (published by Vision Books); film scripts; and several papers on women's rights for newspapers, compilations, and the UN system; and has also presented many papers at both national and international forums. As a social activist she has worked extensively with the militancy affecting women and children of Kashmir and her main focus of work is on underprivileged women, particularly widows and single women.

(Memo Drafter – Older Women Memo) Patricia Brownell – USA

Patricia Brownell, PhD, is Associate Professor Emerita of Social Service at Fordham University and Emerita Scholar, Ravazzin Center on Aging. Dr. Brownell currently serves as President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and has served as a consultant to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) for an Expert Group Meeting on Neglect, Abuse, and Violence Against Older Women. Dr. Brownell is Past President of the State Society on Aging of New York and is a John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar.

(Memo Drafter – Widows Memo) Eleanor Nwadinobi – Nigeria

Dr. Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi is a Medical Doctor and a Gender and Human Rights Consultant. Currently, she is the Manager of Women and Girls with the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), a peace-building programme managed by the British Council and funded by UK Aid. Eleanor Nwadinobi is the holder of the European Union Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation from Venice, Italy. She is the immediate past Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Chair of the United Nations NGO/DPI Executive Committee. She sits on the board of several international and national organisations. She is an active member of her professional organisation the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN) where she served as National President. Dr. Nwadinobi is also the immediate past Finance Chair of Medical Women's International Association. Apart from numerous conference and workshop presentations, Eleanor Nwadinobi is the author of several books and publications and the recipient of numerous awards. Founding Member of Blossoms of the Vine Fellowship and Lady Knight of the Good Shepherd. Dr. Nwadinobi is happily married to Sir Okey Nwadinobi, and is the mother of four delightful children, two boys and two girls.

(Memo Drafter – Widows Memo) Heather Ibrahim-Leathers – USA

Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers founded Global Fund for Widows following the passing of her grandmother in 2009. Since then, she has endeavored to expand the reach of the Global Fund for Widows to three countries, and in doing so, has enabled more than 6,400 widows to become economically empowered and self-sustained. Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers has advocated for widows' rights at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Fordham University, and the United Nations. Prior to her career in non-profit, Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers served as a Vice President in Credit Suisse's Leveraged Investment Group, where she was directly responsible for over \$1 billion in high yield and leveraged loan assets. Prior to Credit Suisse, Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers worked at JPMorgan where she was an Emerging Markets Fixed Income Analyst responsible for over \$4 billion worth of debt issuance. Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers earned her Bachelors in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

(Member) Ferdous Ara Begum – Bangladesh

Gender Issues Specialist. Executive President, Forum for the Rights of the Elderly. Bangladesh Core Committee Member, Ministry of Social Welfare on Older Persons Rights. Member: SANWED (South Asian Women's Empowerment and Development). Former Member, UN CEDAW Committee. Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Former Chair of the Drafting Committee of the General Recommendation, "Older Women and Protection of their Human Rights," of the CEDAW Committee. The CEDAW Committee adopted the General Recommendation in 2010. Former Member, National Council for Women's Development, Bangladesh.

(Member) Lois Herman – Italy

Lois A. Herman is Founder and Coordinator of WUNRN, The Women's UN Report Network (www.wunrn.com). WUNRN, based on a UN study, addresses the human rights, oppression, and empowerment of women and girls all over the globe. The WUNRN Listserv, considered one of the most expansive and active gender Listservs in the world, goes throughout the UN system, and to governments, embassies and missions, academia, NGOs, religions, associations,

foundations, media, private sector, civil society, and more. Lois is a researcher and gender specialist, and has an extensive professional history in corporate management, including internationally. In the past two years, WUNRN has organized over 30 UN panels on issues of women and girls—Geneva, NYC (CSW & General Assembly), and Rome (FAO). WUNRN Europe is an officially registered ASBL NGO Association in Belgium and the European Union, and with European Parliament Accreditation. In 2015 Lois A. Herman received the Spirit of the United Nations Award for upholding the founding spirit of the UN. She has traveled through much of the world and experienced women’s and girls’ realities, building bridges and creating bonds that make WUNRN endeared to women and girls everywhere. She is also a well-known poet who can capture in verse the heart and soul of woman. Ms. Herman is a widow and has raised five children, including an adopted foreign orphan.

(Member) Aabha Chaudhary – India

Dr. Aabha Chaudhary is the Honorary Chairperson and Founder Secretary of Anugraha. She is an alumni of Lady Shri Ram College and Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University. Based on her outstanding professional achievements, she was awarded a fellowship by Rotary International foundation to visit California, USA. An internationally renowned expert and PhD holder in Gerontology and Gender Issues, she has worked with UN and government agencies, conducted research on innovative themes, and published papers on community development. She has edited two books titled *Active Ageing in the New Millennium* and *Coping with Ageing: Emerging issues & Strategies in India & South Asia*.

(Member) Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi – Nigeria

Dr. Akiyode-Afolabi is a Legal Practitioner and the Founding Director of Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC). She is a dedicated Human Rights Defender with specialization in gender, peace, security, and international human rights law. In recognition of her commitment and efforts on behalf of her fellow citizens, the International League for Human Rights USA named her a recipient of the 1999 Defenders’ Day Awards. Abiola has also led several coalitions including the Gender and Constitution Reform Network (GECORN), founded in 2003. She is also a specialist in policy advocacy and has contributed to the development and passage of several laws in Nigeria including the Gender Based Violence Ekiti State and Prohibition Law 2012, and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015). She has published extensively on gender, development, women’s political participation, and has also worked as a consultant on several projects for both local and international organizations.

(Member) Helen Hamlin – USA

Helen R. Hamlin has represented the International Federation on Ageing at the United Nations since 1991. There she served as Chair of the Non-Governmental Committee on Ageing from 1997 until 2003 and she continues to serve on the executive committee. Ms. Hamlin was instrumental in the committee’s involvement with the Division for Social Policy of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the development of the conceptual framework for the 1999 International Year of Older Persons. During preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, she was a member of the International Planning Committee for the parallel NGO World Forum and represented the NGO community in addressing an assembly plenary

session. She is a Founding Member and Vice President of an organization which has promoted self-advocacy for older persons and developed an assisted living apartment house in New York City. She is on the board of several social agencies devoted to services for older people; she is a Founding Member of a statewide multigenerational organization. Ms. Hamlin has published articles on a variety of topics related to gerontology in national and international journals. She is a Fellow of the Brookdale Center on Aging at Hunter College of the City of New York. She received the State Society on Aging President's Award for her work in 2003.

(Member) Sara Winkowski – USA

Sara Winkowski was born in Montevideo, Uruguay. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and a PhD in Environmental Education. Ms. Winkowski was an Assistant Professor at the University of the Republic of Uruguay and also worked for many years as a Translator for the United Nations Environment Program and the Center for Human Settlement in Nairobi, Kenya, and in Montevideo, Uruguay. Ms. Winkowski has actively participated in various World Conferences, including the UN Women Conference in Nairobi and in Beijing, the UN Environment Conference (ECO 92) in Rio de Janeiro, Beijing +5 and +10 in New York, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, the UN Human Settlements Conference in Istanbul and in New York, as well as several other environmental and human settlement conferences in Nairobi, Kenya, etc. She annually attends the United Nations CSW Conference in New York.

(Member) Asmaa Al Ameen – Iraq

Asmaa was the Project Manager for a project on returnees and IDP access to justice in Kirkuk Province for two years. Asmaa was the Manager for 20 staff members on a project dealing with 2500 women's cases related to divorce, segregation, alimony, and sexual harassment. Asmaa was dealing with each case in top secret and keeping all the documentation in a special location, and referring and presenting each case in front of the court. Asmaa has managed the deployment of a team of mobile human rights defenders in Kirkuk Province. She has extensively documented instances of sexual violence in conflict and assisted with the development of cases. Asmaa has managed a large project on access to justice involving 60 women's cases requiring extensive coordination of various service providers.

Supporting Documents:

- I. Sample Definitions Older Women/Widows
- II. Notes On Violence Against Widows
- III. Older Women/Widows Memo Drafting Rough Notes
- IV. Sept Committee Meeting Notes

I. Sample Definitions Older Women/Widows

Sample Definitions:

I Widows

Widows[1] are women and girls of all ages who have lost[2] their spouses[3] at a time in their life cycle.

[1] De jure and de facto widows: women who are widowed, half widows, child widows, deserted women, wives of missing men, wives of killed abductors and terrorists.

[2] Died due to natural causes, conflict, wars, terrorist attacks, or missing due to acts by state and non-state actors.

[3] Legally wedded husbands, abductors, and kidnappers who have forcibly married women and girls, non-state actors who have indoctrinated or forced women and girls into marriage and live in partners live as partners.

Contributed by Meera Khanna, Guild of Service, India.

Sample Definitions:

II Violence against Older Women, Widows, Girls, and Students

World Health Organization – Girls and Older Women:

Girlhood violence: Child marriage; female genital mutilation; physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; incest; child prostitution and pornography.

Elderly: Forced “suicide” or homicide of widows for economic reasons; sexual, physical, and psychological abuse.

United Nations – Older Women:

Older adult mistreatment (Social Gerontology): “...a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.” It can be of various forms: physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, and financial or simply reflect intentional or unintentional neglect (WHO/INPEA, 2002).

StopVAW.Org – Widows:

Widows face maltreatment that includes domestic violence, sexual assault, forced marriage, trafficking, property grabbing, conversion of property, and forced evictions, as well as discrimination against women in regard to marriage, its dissolution and divorce, property and land rights, and children and inheritance.

Report by the UN on Older People’s Rights:

How are older people’s rights violated? Older men and women are often subjected to abuse including verbal, sexual, psychological, and financial abuse.

CEDAW General Recommendation 27: On Violence against Older Women

“37. States [P]arties have an obligation to recognize and prohibit violence against older women, including those with disabilities, in legislation on domestic violence, sexual violence[,] and violence in institutional settings. States Parties should investigate, prosecute, and punish all acts of violence against older women, including those committed as a result of traditional practices and beliefs.

38. States [P]arties should pay special attention to the violence suffered by older women in times of armed conflict, the impact of armed conflicts on their lives, and the contribution that older women can make to the peaceful settlement of conflicts as well as to reconstruction processes. When addressing sexual violence, forced displacement and the conditions of refugees during armed conflict, States [P]arties should give due consideration to the situation of older women. States [P]arties should take into account relevant UN resolutions on women and peace and security when addressing such matters, including, in particular, Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008)[,], and 1889 (2009).”

United Nations Principles for Older Persons (1999):

“17. Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and be free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse.

18. Older persons should be treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability[,] or other status, and be valued independently of their economic contribution.”

II. Notes on Violence Against Widows

From: “Meera Khanna”

Date: Jun 6, 2016 10:25 AM

Subject: Re: List of Recommendations to Alleviate the problem of widowhood

To: “Vidya Sri,” “Judylear,” “Heather Ibrahim-Leathers,” “Brownell,” “Abiolaak”

Cc:

Dear All,

I am sending you the base document on violence against widows of all ages. and older women

Warm regards

Meera Khanna

Violence on widows and older women

I. Physical violence on widows and older women who could also be widows

Acts of Commission

Physical harm to the body

Sexual abuse

Forced marriage/forced pregnancy

Dress code
Prevention from personal adornment/hygiene (particularly in the case of widows)
Forced immobility
Practices to eliminate widows/older women through practices like witch hunting, public flogging
Stigmatization/cleansing rites

Acts of Omission

Denying nutrition
Denying medical care
Denying access to the space and facilities within the home

II. Emotional violence on widows and older women who could also be widows

Acts of Commission

Withholding care and custody of children
Emphasizing emotional vulnerabilities
Emotional blackmail
Forced to take blame for mishaps
Stigmatised as ill omens
Use of verbally abusive language
Threatening behavior

Acts of Omission

Denial of emotional succor
Denial of company
Denial of a status

III. Psychological violence on widows and older women who could also be widows

Acts of Commission

Deliberate attempts to erode self-esteem
Constant references to the inferior status as widow
Constant references to the dependent status

Acts of Omission

Denial of status within the family
Denial of social status

IV. Economic violence on widows and older women who could also be widows

Acts of Commission

Denial of economic resources
Denial of education professional and life skills
Denial of training

Acts of Omission

Lack of structured enforceable property and inheritance rights
Involuntary dependent status
Lack of access to credit institutions
Lack of financial literacy
Lack of knowledge and resources to enforce rights
Lack of social security

V. Spiritual violence on widows and older women who could also be widows

Acts of Commission

Forced spirituality and emphasis on austerity
Justification of discrimination by religious sanctions

Acts of Omission

Denial of participation in spiritual activities

III. Older Women/Widows Memo Drafting Rough Notes

Sept 1, 2016 - Memo Drafting Meeting - Older Women (Meera, Pat, Judy)

Dear Pat, Meera, Judy,

Thank you for a very productive discussion today.

It's great to move the memo forward!

Please find attached the current draft with revisions integrated from today's discussion. This also includes yellow highlighted notes that need further revision.

Based on what we discussed today, Pat and Meera will send their revisions to Judy before Sep 9 so that Judy and I can integrate everything and share a revised draft with the larger committee on the same day (Sep 9).

--

Warm Regards,

Vidya Sri

Aug 16, 2016 - Memo Drafting Meeting - Older Women (Meera, Pat, Judy)

Dear Pat, Meera, Judy,

Thank you for a very productive discussion today (August 16, 2016)!

Our next steps:

1. Pat will send her track changes to Meera @ Wednesday, Aug 17.
Meera will revert back @ Friday, Aug 19.

Pat and Meera will send a combined draft to Judy/Vidya @ Wednesday, Aug 25.

2. Memo Content:

- Pat and Meera to finalize section 1a - legal frameworks to be cited including brief analysis of strengths and weaknesses.
- section 1a(ii) - we will wait to draft this since we need to finalize section 1d for this introduction to 1d content.
- Please move the definition of older women content down to section 1d since the definition of "violence against older women" is part of the recommendations we are making in the final memo.
- Pat and Meera will finalize a definition of "violence against older women." and include in section 1d.
- Pat and Meera will collaborate and operationalize final recommendations for the Treaty on VAW specific to Older Women.
- Meera, to your point today that all recommendations for women may apply to older women - can you both please include a sentence in the memo (introducing the recommendations) on this point so it is clear to the drafting committee?

3. The four of us will come back together on Zoom on **Thursday, September 1** at:

- 9 am Minnesota
- 10 am Boston & Ohio
- 7:30 pm India

Thank you for your leadership, time, and expertise!

Vidya

Memo Drafting Meeting - Aug 6, 2016

Dear Judy, Eleanor, Heather, Pat, Deanna,

Thank you for a very productive discussion today!

Our Next Steps:

1. Heather has re-confirmed and shared the current draft of the Widows definition today. Pat and Meera can refer to this version to collaborate on and finalize the definition for Older Women (which is also in a final stage).
2. Pat and Meera will try to schedule a collaboration meeting between now and Friday, August 19 to work on:
 - the final definition for Older Women
 - finalizing and writing the analysis for the examples of legal frameworks for final memo section 1,

- their combined feedback to the draft treaty outline which will be used to draft their final recommendations on Older Women.
3. Heather and Eleanor have collaborated on and delivered their feedback on the draft treaty outline on Widows. They will collaborate to work on:
- finalizing and writing the analysis for the examples of legal frameworks for final memo section 1
 - re-organizing their combined feedback to the draft treaty outline by relocating content to final memo section d for recommendations and further revising language, if needed, to meet the parameters of global, inclusive language that can be adopted by the vast majority of member states.
4. Judy will be sending out an email to the larger group asking if members could kindly share any notes they may have taken during the committee discussions (even rough notes) that we can use to be inclusive in documenting our summary of discussion for the final memo.
5. Judy and I will schedule time at a later stage to work through this task which will go under section b of the final memo.
- Judy, you and I will need to determine whether we need to go back through the meeting recordings to compile notes based on the response to the call for meeting notes.
6. Judy will send an email to the larger group with a LAST CALL for feedback on the draft treaty outline (suggested target date for this: August 31)
7. We are currently scheduled to come back:
- Older Women Memo drafting - Friday, Aug 19 at 10:30 am Boston time (tentative, subject to Meera's availability)
 - Widows of all ages memo drafting - Friday, Aug 19 at 12:00 pm Boston time, confirmed.
8. **Caitlin**, kindly send zoom invites.

--

Warm Regards,
Vidya Sri

IV. Sept Committee Meeting Notes

Older Women/Widows of All Ages - Committee Meeting Notes

Sept 23, 2016

In attendance (7): Judy, Heather, Millicent, Pat, Susan, Helen (phone), Asmaa, Eleanor, Meera
Feedback on memo from Ferdous (via email, she could not attend meeting):

- I want to thank you for mentioning GR 27 in the memo.
- But one point to correct that this is not a soft Law but a recommendation with state obligation when it is a part of discussion during CEDAW dialogue. I will explain to you when I am back to my home on 25th.

i: Susan: overall more emphasis on rights themselves, more human rights perspective - violence is a violation of human rights, period. Phrase it with a little more emphasis Put “economic” and legal status

Madrid National Plan - start with “Madrid” - add that this was the first time aging was added
Will pull that statement out for language

ii: Psychological and emotional seems redundant Psychological - framework of inflicting violence, emotional

Meera: Pat and I came to the point that we would combine these two and put that to the drafting committee. I would prefer to leave it at psychological and emotional. We’ll leave it to the larger group - I’m fine both way

Eleanor: Leave the slash - connotes perspective. Those who feel it is a psychological those that feel it is emotional. Survivors do get emotional. Feel it’s safe to leave the slash

Susan: I agree with Pat that emotional/psychological abuse are two sides of the same coin. I can accept the slash for all reasons Eleanor outlined. Add the word “coercion” in somewhere.

Eleanor: I agree with Susan about adding the word coercion, but wonder if we should we include coercion into the main body

Meera: Yes, we should use the word coercion and see where it should be added for maximum impact

Susan - Economic violence - shock that Russia didn’t understand what

Maybe add a slash - Economic violence/financial violence

Meera: if you use economic violence it is inclusive of financial violence so I would leave it like it is

Susan: I agree with you Meera

1b:

Eleanor:

Proxy - protocol to that treaty - VAW in conflict reconstruction need legal frameworks more specific to women. More recently - the convention on elimination of torture (private people can now be held accountable). Can be used as a proxy for widows

Judy - see on page 1 where there is committee member input needed - will be moved to the end of the memo, is that ok

Eleanor: that is absolutely fine

Judy: I think the 4 you mentioned are very important

Millicent: what the other committees are doing - one paragraph summarizing the key treaty documents and what the strengths and weaknesses are. Then the other docs you think should be referenced can go in an appendix

Judy: Important to go back to pg. 1

Heather: visible explanation of what we mean by social and economic - defn in practical purposes of what we mean

Pat: Should we qualify this a little - if this is a global treaty

Eleanor: I agree with Pat in saying - you made the very point in why it needs to state as it is an inclusive statement. Don't want to sub qualify b/c we remove the global scope of it. As soon as we say it pertains to one region or area - it loses its global nature as a global problem. Strong case of why we should use regional or sub regional

Meera: it is good for me

Susan: I heard your question - did this bring up the topic of violence strong enough. These customary practices promote physical violence against women. Maybe it could be a little stronger in the violence

Pg 3, after the four protocols, the brief summary, can we expand on this?

Heather: harmful practices, we moved away from that language - wasn't something we wanted to include

Harmful traditional practices: Vidya said we were going to try to take out the "traditional" and leave the harmful practices.

Eleanor: That's why we see the "harmful" in the definition

Meera: If we use the word of women and girls in plural - the plural and singular don't match here

Judy: good b/c it's inclusive

Meera: yes, broad and inclusive

Susan: yes, it's good

Pg 4 - 4 main types of violence

Helen:

Meera: what about forced marriage

Heather: would like to list out all traditional practices we can list these in an annex. We looked to answers from Vidya and they asked us not to list

List of Recommendations:

Judy:

Eleanor: This is a long list please let us know if we can shrink it

Millicent: b/c what we're looking for here is 4 or 5 recommendations. Useful to have categories like the OW memo did it. Fit this content into the categories

Eleanor: Good idea

Heather: I respectfully disagree - I went through the treaty and it goes into very much details to the rights of women but I've created a sub-treaty for article as it pertains to widows. Fitting it into categories doesn't take into account the specific rights and issues of widows so we've created a very specific treaty to outline what those specific needs

Millicent: I think it is very early to say the treaty doesn't work because the treaty hasn't been written yet

Heather: I feel we will be putting our recommendations into a box

Eleanor: Heather's point is very crucial. The whole point with starting by saying the current frameworks have not addressed. This offers that one opportunity - not something we should treat lightly. Can we go through all and jointly endorse this list of 22 - there is not one that can be subsumed by the others.

A: Switch - realization of all legal rights for "girls and women of all ages"

2: Judy - switch #2 to be #3 and #3 to be #2

3: Meera: witch hunting closely related to issues of land - witch hunted for their land

9: Judy: Reorder the list - so violence goes first

10: Meera: conflict with many law of land - 18 months so not in conflict. 18 months is very short time. Husband can be gone but come back in conflict areas. I would suggest as least 36 months.

Heather: I obsessed with this for a long time. In many places there is prolonged life span of widowhood. I would say 36 months is fine, I would like to see it shortened.

Meera: We have what's called an interim period while she has security. Most women do not want to be declared widows - certificate of disappearance. 18 months is a short time in a conflict area. Declare them widows after 36 months in interim some provisional security measure must be made for them.

Tuesday Oct 11 - Meera & Pat - Pat isn't available on Tuesday mornings

10:30 Tuesday Oct 11 - Laura

Recommendations for a Global Treaty on Violence Against Girls and Women of All Ages

**by the Expert Special
Committee on Widows
of All Ages**

January 2017

1. Introduction of Treaty Content

1.1 Introduction

There is no international convention, law, or protocol that specifically establishes, defines, protects, or advances the rights of widows of all ages against violence. It is also imperative to note that despite national or domestic laws that criminalize perpetrators of violence or harmful stigmatization rites imposed on widows, the reality is widows of all ages do not receive their rightful state.

It is also imperative to note that despite national or domestic laws that may guarantee inheritance/land ownership, the reality is that cultural, customary, religious, or traditional practices prevail, preventing widows of all ages from actually inheriting their rightful estate. As a result, widows are rendered bereft of land, home and property, and nationality, rendering them vulnerable to physical, economic, social, and emotional violence. Widows of all ages may often be forced to disinherit their own children, and may be subject to being “inherited” themselves in a levirate relationship. Although widows’ rights are women’s rights, because of the peculiarities and vulnerabilities they face, some conventions are more relevant than others in protecting widows of all ages, whereas others are more generic.

1.2 Legal Framework

Generic laws applying to women and girls in general include:

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):
 - Art. 25(1)
2. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
 - Discrimination against women is defined by Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1979 (referred to as the 1979 Convention) as “any distinction, exclusion[,] or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment[,] or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil[,] or any other field.”
3. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW - OP)
4. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
 - Art. 27
5. Convention of Political Rights of Women
6. Slavery Convention of 1926 as amended including
 - Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery
7. Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict

8. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
 - On the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography (CRC-OPSC)
 - On the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OPAC)
9. Minimum Age Convention, 1973
10. International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
 - Arts. 11(1) and 2(2)
11. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
 - Arts. 3, 17, and 26,13;
 - General Comment No. 28:
 - States Parties [to the ICCPR] must also ensure equality in regard to the dissolution of marriage, which excludes the possibility of repudiation.
 - The grounds for divorce and annulment should be the same for men and women, as well as decisions with regard to property distribution, alimony, and the custody of children.
 - Women should also have equal inheritance rights to those of men when the dissolution of marriage is caused by the death of one of the spouses.
12. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
 - Paras. 8 and 36, 26 and 35, and
 - 65(b)
 - Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources, and appropriate technologies.
13. UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2005/25
 - “Women’s equal ownership of, access to[,] and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing.”
14. UN Commission on the Status of Women Resolution 42/1
 - “Human rights and land rights discrimination.”
15. The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (African Charter)
 - The main regional instrument that protected human rights of women in Africa until very recent times. Apart from the general provisions in the African Charter that apply to all persons,
 - Article 18 has been devoted to: inter alia, the family, women, children, the aged, and the disabled.
 - Article 18(3), which provides specifically for women states:
 - The state shall ensure the elimination of every discrimination against women and ensure the protection of the rights of the woman and the child

as stipulated in international declarations and conventions

16. The Protocol to The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
On the Rights of Women in Africa

- Annex on Women's Rights (Article 21)
 - A widow shall have the right to an equitable share in the inheritance of the property of her husband;
 - A widow shall have the right to continue to live in the matrimonial house. In case of remarriage, she shall retain this right if the house belongs to her or she has inherited it;
 - The rights of widows seem sufficiently protected by article 2(1)(b) which prohibits discrimination that endangers the health and general wellbeing of women; and
 - The same point can be made for article 2(2), which deals with the elimination of harmful cultural and traditional practices.

17. UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security

- Widows should be part of the prevention of conflict, mediation, and post-conflict reconstruction.

18. UNSCR 1820, 1889, and 1890 on Women, Peace and Security

- Widows have never been specifically mentioned;
- As a consequence, very little data, except anecdotal, has been gathered on the situation and the number of widows affected by conflict;
- Those who suffered violent abuse during conflicts remain largely undocumented; and
- Widows are usually unrepresented in peace-building processes even though they constitute the majority of any displaced populations¹.

19. International Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

- The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez, recently argued for a more gender-sensitive application of the UN Convention Against Torture when it comes to violence against women.
 - "We need a legally binding international convention to protect women against violence."
- Jackie Jones is a professor of Feminist Legal Studies at Bristol Law School, said:
 - "Torture against women and girls is invisible. There are

¹ <http://www.widowsrights.org/researchdocumentkbrewerr0911.pdf>

currently no international, legally-binding laws that specifically prohibit violence against women, and that is one of the elements we need in order to tackle the widespread and systematic problem.”²

2. Summary of the Committee’s Discussion of Treaty Content

- To be inclusive of all ages because not only are older women widows but so are girls;
- To make sure widowhood was defined in a broad manner that included the death of a spouse and other causes of absences; and
- Harmful practices be addressed in relation to widowhood.

3. Concluding Comments by the Committee on Treaty Content

“Unresolved, sensitive, potentially contentious issues.”

N/A

4. Recommendations by the Committee on Treaty Content

All forms of violence against widows of all ages are “institutionalized” by state or non-state actors and therefore accepted and sometimes enforced by traditional, cultural, or religious doctrine even when prohibited by secular law.

Of critical note, half-widows, or widows whose husbands have disappeared or have been permanently missing because of political, religious, or social unrest which may have been caused by actions of state or non-state actors must be recognized as functional widows, and be granted the same protections as de facto widows.

4.1 Proposed Definitions

- **Widows of All Ages Include:**
 - women or girls of any age;
 - who have lost their husband due to death or disappearance;
 - due to actions by state or non-state actors;
 - whose marriage may have been legally recognized or not legally recognized; and
 - because of forced marriage, temporary marriage, abduction, or other coercive measures.
- **Widows of All Types Including:**
 - half-widows or wives of husbands missing due to social, political, religious conflict or unrest;
 - child widows, under local practice, married under the age of 18, including those forcefully abducted into marriage and having lost their husbands;

² <https://dignityinstitute.org/news-and-events/news/2016/the-invisibilized-torture-against-women-and-girls/>

- widows of conflict (forcefully married in context of conflict);
- widows of epidemics (such as HIV/AIDS and Ebola);
- widows subjected to harmful practices;
- widows of woman-to-woman marriage (infertile women who pay a dowry to another woman for purposes of bearing children; and
- widows accused of being witches.
- **Violence Against Widows of All Ages Includes**
 - **all forms of physical violence including:**
 - physical or sexual abuse;
 - forced marriage;
 - forced immobility;
 - prevention of personal adornment/hygiene;
 - harmful stigmatization;
 - cleansing rites often leading to death; and
 - the denial of nutrition, medical care, and access to space and facilities within the home or community.
 - **all forms of emotional violence including:**
 - withholding custody of children;
 - forced blame for the death of the husband;
 - stigmatization as an ill omen;
 - threatening behavior by members of her family or community; and
 - denial of her emotional succor, company, and community status.
 - **all forms of psychological violence including:**
 - deliberate attempts by others to erode her self-esteem;
 - constant references to her inferior, unwholesome, unwelcomed, and dependent status as a widow; and
 - denial of status within the family and community.
 - **all forms of economic violence including:**
 - the denial of economic resources, education, professional, or personal life skills;
 - the absence of structured enforceable property and inheritance rights;
 - involuntary independent status;
 - lack of access to financial resources;
 - lack of knowledge and resources to enforce her rights; and
 - and lack of social security.

4.2 States Parties to adopt or reform all legislative, administrative, and other measures for the effective implementation of the legal rights recognized in this proposed treaty:

- a. Including to uphold, protect, and enforce a widow's inheritance rights;
- b. Including to uphold, protect, and enforce a widow's rights to own land and property;
- c. Including to uphold, protect, and enforce a widow's rights to inherit her own children; and

- d. Including to uphold, protect, and enforce a widow's rights to inherit her own nationality.

4.3 States Parties to take all measures for effective access to justice for widows:

- rights and entitlement awareness to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against widows;
- where plural legal systems operate (including customary or religious law), statutory law protecting widows must prevail to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against widows;
- eradicate institutionalized limitations concerning religious and cultural barriers on rights to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against widows;
- prohibit the eviction of a widow and her children from her marital home by landlord or family as a result of the status of becoming widowed; and
- prohibit the rejection of a widow from returning to her maternal home or marital home following her abduction and/or forced marriage in peacetime and in conflict.

4.4 States Parties to take all measures to enable inheritance rights for widows including:

- an emphasis on the right to full inheritance of wealth, land, property, children, and nationality;
- in the context of inheritance disputes and imposed "blocks" as permitted by various religious and cultural codes, that courts abide and enforce statutory laws protecting the full rights of the widow to inherit and to exert such decisions expeditiously; and
- that local law enforcement officials investigate complaints from or on behalf of widows identifying cultural, social, and religious barriers to enforcing her access to full inheritance expeditiously and resolved in a timely fashion.
 - a. Upon receiving a complaint, conduct a coordinated risk assessment of the widow's complaint and respond accordingly in a language understood by her as a complainant from violence including harmful traditional practices or defendant of her rightful inheritance, including by:
 - i. Interviewing the parties and witnesses, including children, in separate rooms to ensure there is an opportunity to speak freely;
 - ii. Recording the complaint in detail;
 - iii. Advising the complainant or defendant of her rights;
 - iv. Fill out and file an official report on the complaint;
 - v. Providing or arranging transport for the complainant or defendant to the nearest hospital or medical facility for treatment, if it is required or requested;
 - vi. Providing or arranging transport for the complainant/survivor and the complainant/ survivor's children or dependents, if it is required or requested; and
 - vii. Providing protection to the reporter of the Violence Against Women and Girls.
 - a. Grant widows of all ages the right to their nationality
 - b. Protect immigrant women, girls, and widows (see definition of

widows) when immigration is due to migration or displacement because of climate change, natural disasters, poverty, economic challenges, and/or violent extremism and war

- i. When protecting immigrant women, girls, and widows it is imperative that legislation should be guided by humanitarian principles and understand the vulnerabilities that widows face due to stigmatization and harmful stereotypes placed upon the widow by society
- c. Recognize, define, and implement laws that highlight all violence committed against immigrant women, girls, and widows, in order to protect them from deportation, being subjected to any other forms of violence by police or other authorities, and/or being coerced by any persons into human and/or sex trafficking, while in their host country

4.5 States Parties shall employ a public awareness campaign:

- to inform widows of their rights and entitlements to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against widows; and
- to engage men, religious leaders, local leaders, and chieftains to achieve the paradigm shift of cultural and traditional practices that functionally prohibit widows from many rights including inheritance to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against widows.

4.6 Data Collection

- e. Conduct extensive, comprehensive census within the country, inclusive of all socioeconomic classes, racial groups, refugee/migrant communities and shelters; and
- f. Identify among widows of all ages the following, to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against widows:
 - i. Protection from violence
 - ii. Income and housing status
 - iii. Access to justice
 - iv. Access to inheritance
 - v. Access to health care
 - vi. Access to social services
 - vii. Access to education for children
 - viii. Agency of money
 - ix. Place and voice in society

4.7 States Parties to effectively address half-widows and functional widows

- whose husbands have disappeared or have been permanently missing as a result of
 - political, religious, or social unrest;
 - which may have been caused by actions of state or non-state actors

- MUST be recognized by Member States as “Functional Widows” after 18 months of her husband’s disappearance, during which interim period she is entitled to receive social security;
- Be offered an official “Certificate of Husband’s Disappearance,” thereby allowing her to the following legal entitlements:
 - Full and unfettered INHERITANCE of her husband’s estate
 - Full recognition as a legal single woman with the freedom to remarry
- Be offered the protections of government entitlements offered to widows including but not limited to
 - Health care and health services
 - Pension benefits
 - Food rations and subsidies
 - Nationality
 - Custody of her children

4.8 Implementation Mechanisms

- Appoint a UN Special Rapporteur to serve as spokesperson for the treaty;
- Mandate that States Parties require women's machineries to administer the implementation of the treaty;
- Mandate that States Parties dedicate budget to fund support of widows to produce a measurable reduction in rates of violence against widows;
- Mandate that States Parties dedicate a ministry or agency to be responsible for sanctions where there is a breach in the in laws relating to the treaty; and
- Mandate the establishment of a global observatory for monitoring Violence Against Widows.

Committee Member Bios:

(Chair) Judy Lear – Minnesota, USA

Judy Lear has actively participated in the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), serving as the Co-chair of the Sub Committee on Older Women (SCOW). She has been involved with the NGO CSW Consultation Day and the planning of the numerous parallel events during the CSW. She successfully worked with the Women’s Treaty (CEDAW) experts to establish General Recommendation #27 on Older Women. Her background includes National Chair of Gray Panthers, an inter-generational social and economic justice advocacy organization. She represented the Gray Panthers as the Main Representative at the UN and also acted as the Executive Director in Washington, DC. She received the Gray Panther Speak Your Mind award in 2004. She attended the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, China under the auspices of the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) as the organization’s Status of Women Chair. Judy has traveled extensively attending UN Conferences and other meetings related to women and ageing issues. She is an ardent advocate, believing that “ageing is a woman’s issue because we live longer and

take care of those who live longer.” Currently, she lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and has three adult children and five grandchildren.

(Member) Margaret Owen – England

Margaret Owen is a UK Barrister, with degrees from Cambridge and the LSE. She has a door tenancy at 9, Bedford Walk and has focused on women’s and children’s rights domestically and internationally for many years. She is the Founder and Director of the international NGO Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD), a Founder Member of GAPS-UK (Gender Action on Peace and Security), and a Patron of Peace in Kurdistan, and of the UK CSW Alliance network. She is a regular participant at the UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women), and has worked with CEDAW to raise awareness of the rights of the most vulnerable women and girls, including widows and wives of the missing especially in developing and conflict afflicted countries. The WPD Widows Charter is based on the CEDAW. She was awarded the OBE in 2013 for her services for human rights, and especially the rights of widows in developing countries.

(Memo Drafter – Widows Memo) Eleanor Nwadinobi – Nigeria

Dr. Eleanor Ann Nwadinobi is a Medical Doctor and a Gender and Human Rights Consultant. Currently, she is the Manager of Women and Girls with the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Program (NSRP), a peace-building program managed by the British Council and funded by UK Aid. Eleanor Nwadinobi is the holder of the European Union Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation from Venice, Italy. She is the immediate past Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Chair of the United Nations NGO/DPI Executive Committee. She sits on the board of several international and national organizations. She is an active member of her professional organization, the Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN), where she served as National President. Dr. Nwadinobi is also the immediate past Finance Chair of Medical Women's International Association. Apart from numerous conference and workshop presentations, Eleanor Nwadinobi is the author of several books and publications, and recipient of numerous awards. Founding member of Blossoms of the Vine Fellowship and Lady Knight of the Good Shepherd. Dr. Nwadinobi is happily married to Sir Okey Nwadinobi, and is the mother of four delightful children, two boys and two girls.

(Memo Drafter – Widows Memo) Heather Ibrahim-Leathers – USA

Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers founded the Global Fund for Widows following the passing of her grandmother in 2009. Since then, she has endeavored to expand the reach of the Global Fund for Widows to three countries, and in doing so, has enabled more than 6,400 widows to become economically empowered and self-sustained. Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers has advocated for widows’ rights at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Fordham University, and the United Nations. Prior to her career in non-profit, Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers served as a Vice President in Credit Suisse’s Leveraged Investment Group, where she was directly responsible for over \$1 billion in high yield and leveraged loan assets. Prior to Credit Suisse, Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers worked at JPMorgan where she was an Emerging Markets Fixed Income Analyst responsible for over \$4 billion worth of debt issuance. Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers earned her Bachelors in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

(Member – Older Women Memo) Meera Khanna – India

Meera Khanna is a writer, poet, and social activist. She is the Executive Vice Chairperson, Kashmir Interventions of the Guild of Service, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC. She has also worked as a Consultant with the High Level Committee on the Status of Women with the government of India. Meera has written on career counseling (published by Vision Books); film scripts; and several papers on women’s rights for newspapers, compilations, and the UN system; and has presented many papers at both national and international forums. As a social activist she has worked extensively with the militancy affecting women and children of Kashmir and her main focus of work is on underprivileged women, particularly widows and single women.

(Member – Older Women Memo) Patricia Brownell – USA

Patricia Brownell, PhD, is Associate Professor Emerita of Social Service at Fordham University and Emerita Scholar, Ravazzin Center on Aging. Dr. Brownell currently serves as President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and has served as consultant to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) for an Expert Group Meeting on Neglect, Abuse, and Violence Against Older Women. Dr. Brownell is Past President of the State Society on Aging of New York and is a John A. Hartford Geriatric Social Work Faculty Scholar.

(Member) Ferdous Ara Begum – Bangladesh

Gender Issues Specialist. Executive President, Forum for the Rights of the Elderly. Bangladesh Core Committee Member, Ministry of Social Welfare on Older Persons Rights. Member: SANWED (South Asian Women’s Empowerment and Development). Former Member, UN CEDAW Committee. Former Chair of the Drafting Committee of the General Recommendation, “Older Women and Protection of their Human Rights,” of the CEDAW Committee. The CEDAW Committee adopted the General Recommendation in 2010. Former Member, National Council for Women’s Development, Bangladesh.

(Member) Lois Herman – Italy

Lois A. Herman is Founder and Coordinator of WUNRN, The Women’s UN Report Network (www.wunrn.com). WUNRN, based on a UN Study, addresses the human rights, oppression, and empowerment of women and girls all over the globe. The WUNRN Listserv, considered one of the most expansive and active Gender Listservs in the world, goes throughout the UN system and to governments, embassies and missions, academia, NGOs, religions, associations, foundations, media, private sector, civil society, and more. Lois is a Researcher and Gender Specialist, and has an extensive professional history in corporate management, including internationally. In the past two years, WUNRN has organized over 30 UN panels on issues of women and girls—Geneva, NYC (CSW and General Assembly), and Rome (FAO). WUNRN Europe is an officially registered ASBL NGO Association in Belgium and the European Union, and with European Parliament Accreditation. In 2015 Lois A. Herman received the Spirit of the United Nations Award for upholding the founding spirit of the UN. She has traveled through much of the world and experienced women’s and girls’ realities, building bridges, and creating bonds that

make WUNRN endeared to women and girls everywhere. She is also a well-known poet who can capture in verse the heart and soul of woman. Ms. Herman is a widow and has raised five children, including an adopted foreign orphan.

(Member) Aabha Chaudhary – India

Dr. Aabha Chaudhary is the Honorary Chairperson and Founder Secretary of Anugraha. She is an alumni of Lady Shri Ram College and Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University. Based on her outstanding professional achievements, she was awarded a fellowship by Rotary International foundation to visit California, USA. An internationally renowned expert and PhD holder in Gerontology and Gender Issues, she has worked with UN and government agencies, conducted research on innovative themes, and published papers on community development. She has edited two books titled *Active Ageing in the New Millennium* and *Coping with Ageing: Emerging issues & Strategies in India & South Asia*.

(Member) Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi – Nigeria

Dr. Akiyode-Afolabi is a Legal Practitioner and the Founding Director of Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC). She is a dedicated Human Rights Defender with specialization in gender, peace, security, and international human rights law. In recognition of her commitment and efforts on behalf of her fellow citizens, the International League for Human Rights USA named her a recipient of the 1999 Defenders' Day Awards. Abiola has also led several coalitions including the Gender and Constitution Reform Network (GECORN), founded in 2003. She is also a specialist in policy advocacy and has contributed to the development and passage of several laws in Nigeria including the Gender Based Violence Ekiti State and Prohibition Law 2012, and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015). She has published extensively on gender, development, women's political participation, and has also worked as a consultant on several projects for both local and international organizations.

(Member) Helen Hamlin – USA

Helen R. Hamlin has represented the International Federation on Ageing at the United Nations since 1991. There she served as Chair of the Non-Governmental Committee on Ageing from 1997 until 2003 and she continues to serve on the executive committee. Ms. Hamlin was instrumental in the committee's involvement with the Division for Social Policy of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the development of the conceptual framework for the 1999 International Year of Older Persons. During preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, she was a member of the International Planning Committee for the parallel NGO World Forum and represented the NGO community in addressing an assembly plenary session. She is a Founding Member and Vice President of an organization which has promoted self-advocacy for older persons and developed an assisted living apartment house in New York City. She is on the board of several social agencies devoted to services for older people; she is a Founding Member of a statewide multigenerational organization. Ms. Hamlin has published articles on a variety of topics related to gerontology in national and international journals. She is a Fellow of the Brookdale Center on Aging at Hunter College of the City of New York. She received the State Society on Aging President's Award for her work in 2003.

(Member) Sara Winkowski – USA

Sara Winkowski was born in Montevideo, Uruguay. She has a B.A. in Linguistics and a PhD in Environmental Education. Ms. Winkowski was an Assistant Professor at the University of the Republic of Uruguay and also worked for many years as a Translator for the United Nations Environment Program and the Center for Human Settlement in Nairobi, Kenya, and in Montevideo, Uruguay. Ms. Winkowski has actively participated in various World Conferences, including the UN Women Conference in Nairobi and in Beijing, the UN Environment Conference (ECO 92) in Rio de Janeiro, Beijing +5 and +10 in New York, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, the UN Human Settlements Conference in Istanbul and in New York, as well as several other environmental and human settlement conferences in Nairobi, Kenya, etc. She annually attends the United Nations CSW Conference in New York.

(Member) Asmaa Al Ameen – Iraq

Asmaa was the Project Manager for a project on returnees and IDP access to justice in Kirkuk Province for two years. Asmaa was the Manager for 20 staff members on a project dealing with 2500 women’s cases related to divorce, segregation, alimony, and sexual harassment. Asmaa was dealing with each case in top secret and keeping all the documentation in a special location, and referring and presenting each case in front of the court. Asmaa has managed the deployment of a team of mobile human rights defenders in Kirkuk Province. She has extensively documented instances of sexual violence in conflict and assisted with the development of cases. Asmaa has managed a large project on access to justice involving 60 women's cases requiring extensive coordination of various service providers.

Supporting Documents:

I. Draft Definition Notes on Widows

I. Draft Definition Notes on Widows

Definition of Violence Against Widows of All Ages

Widows of all ages (defined as women or girls of any age that have lost their husbands due to death, or disappearance due to actions by state or non-state actors, and whose marriage may have been legally recognized or not legally recognized as a result of forced marriage, temporary marriage, abduction, or other coercive measures) are subjected to four main types of violence, physical violence, emotional violence, psychological violence, and economic violence. All forms of such violence are “institutionalized” by state or non-state actors and therefore accepted and even enforced by traditional, cultural, or religious doctrine even if prohibited by secular law.

Physical violence manifests in the form of acts of commission such as physical or sexual abuse, forced marriage, forced immobility, prevention of personal adornment/hygiene, and

harmful stigmatization/cleansing rites often leading to death, as well as acts of commission such as the denial of a widow of nutrition, medical care, and access to space and facilities within the home or community.

Emotional violence manifests itself in acts of commission such as withholding custody of her own children, forced blame for the death of husband, stigmatization as an ill omen, threatening behavior of members of her family or community, as well as acts of omission such as denial of her emotional succor, company, and community status.

Psychological violence manifests itself in acts of commission such as deliberate attempts by others to erode her self-esteem and constant references to her inferior, unwholesome, unwelcomed, and dependent status as a widow, as well as acts of omission such as denial of status within the family and community.

Economic violence manifests itself in acts of commission such as the denial of economic resources, education, and professional or personal life skills, as well as acts of omission such as the lack of structured enforceable property and inheritance rights, involuntary independent status, lack of access to financial resources, lack of knowledge and resources to enforce her rights, and lack of social security.