



## FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIERES JURIDIQUES

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### 57<sup>th</sup> C.S.W. Statement

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** has analysed the priority theme of the 57th C.S.W. Session - elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls - as well as its review theme - the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS - .

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers that today's world, worn out by numerous conflicts and wars those being the result of the inequalities of wealth division and exploitation of natural resources, increases economic and social inequality, both between and inside the countries, injures gravely Human Rights and generates poverty and social conflicts.

Poverty affects millions of Women, reinforces discrimination and increases their vulnerability and risk of suffering all kinds of violence: from domestic and family abuse to sexual and labour exploitation.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers that Gender Equality continues to be the main Human Rights issue in today's world all over the planet and that the promotion and respect of Women Human Rights, Equality, Peace and Development are indissociable and mutual reinforced values.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** reaffirms that the total eradication of all discrimination towards Women and their full



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*participation in all decision-making process is essential in order to attain the Millennium Goals.*

*Therefore exhorts Governments, all political authorities, and all those who have responsibilities in the decision making organs not to limit themselves to make simple proclamations of adhesion to the Millennium Goals, but instead to dare to put into practice politics that implement their effective accomplishment and the establishment of Equality, Peace and Development.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers that the starting point of the Violence which Women and Girls are victims is the discrimination against Women, and considers it as a flagrant violation of Human Rights.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers that breaking the cycle of violence against women is not a specific problem for women, but a question of Human Rights that needs an equal effort from both men and women and all national and international jurisdictions.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** alerts for the persistence of the fact, formerly denounced in 1995 by the Beijing Platform for Action, that in countries with economical adjustment programs, privatisation of public services and reduction of social programs, women are responsible for new obligations to avoid the effects of the reduction of public social budgets on their own families.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** believes to be indispensable to integrate a gender perspective in the evaluation*



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*of economic and social politics, namely by the adoption of gender sensitive budgets, in order to make women fully participate in all economic, social and political decision, and consequently achieve a real and effective women empowerment.*

*And regards as fundamental for all Governments, as well as national and international economical and financial institutions, to review the procedure of making National Accounting in order to recognise and account the economic value of women contribution in wealth production with their non-remunerated labour, specially domestic and family work.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** wants to reaffirm its commitment on the edification of a new paradigm of social and juridical organization of respect of human dignity and promotion of Women Human Rights.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** emphasizes the importance of the international juridical instruments on Human Rights, namely the two International Covenants, on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women – CEDAW.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** exhorts the CEDAW State parties to direct the competent executive, legislative and judicial authorities to take all necessary means and to allocate adequate budgetary resources to effectively start the promotion and protection of the Rights of Women.*



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The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** thinks that the need to empower women should also be highlighted in the two International Covenants on Human Rights, mainstreaming the traditional “roles” of women, showing clearly the universal understanding that sexual and reproductive rights are fundamental and universal Human Rights.

Therefore considers that the International Community should adopt on a new Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the fundamental right to equality of men and women on the exercise of family responsibilities.

And that it should agree on a new Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the fundamental right to care, and on the fundamental and equal duty of men and women to take care of dependents. As well as on the fundamental right to the recognition by the society and by the State of the imminent social value of unpaid work to support family life, equally shared between women and men.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** appeals to all States in order to effectively engage in the accomplishment of the International Criminal Court mandate.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** thinks that within the mandate of the International Criminal Court should be criminalised acts of an economic or financial nature, whose aims and effects directly and necessarily impact gravely economic and social fundamental rights, and considers that corporations and collective persons who are authors of economical aggression leading to war should be criminally responsible for their acts.



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The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** thinks that is essential for all States to implement National Action Plans in order to put into practice the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers all legal texts of International Humanitarian Law should be interpreted and applied with a gender perspective, meaning that it should be taken in consideration the difference of the impact that wars have upon women and men, in order to reduce the grade of violence against women.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers that it is necessary the elaboration of integral laws on the status of women, so as to facilitate the knowledge of egalitarian and anti-discriminatory legislation, as well as its widespread dissemination and its effective application by the Courts.

The progress made during the lasts years, regarding the starting of an adequate legislation to prevent and punish violence against women, specially violence inside the family, is not yet sufficient due to the absence of adequate resources and political will.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers the women and girls education as the most powerful tool in order to obtain Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality. And considers essential that Equality values should be taught, since childhood, in every school degree. Therefore, thinks that sexism, and all kind of stereotypes related to the traditional roles of women and men and gender bias, should be eradicated from all educational programmes.

The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** thinks



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*that all States should take all appropriate measures in order to guarantee that all professors, at all educational degrees, must have an instruction on Women Human Rights, Equality and, in the countries with a strong immigration, knowledge of the different cultures.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers, also, that all States should take all appropriate measures in order to guarantee a mandatory girl's school attendance, especially in cases of pregnancy, AIDS or extreme poorness.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** wants also to express its deep distress with the traditional or customary practices against girls children especially with Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting, stressing that those practices being an act of violence against girls are a violation of their fundamental rights to life, security, freedom and health.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** considers, therefore, such practices as a violation of Human Rights, and consequently that they should be typified as a crime against Humanity and also be object of massive campaigns of information and enlightenment in order to persuade the parents not to engage their daughters in such customs.*

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers** believes that abortion without proper security is a humanitarian disaster, increased through its criminalisation, which is a clear violation of Women's Human Rights, and it does not necessarily diminish its frequency, on the contrary, it forces women to pay with their life an interruption of an unwanted pregnancy. And, consequently, advocates for free access to reproductive*



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*health services including to the "morning after" pills and to safe abortion, as well as for the criminalisation of the deliberate spreading of the HIV/AIDS virus.*

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