

## Civil Society Statement for the United Nations Joint CND & CCPCJ Virtual Event

Commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and discussing how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting women and girls

### Non-state torture human rights crimes against women and girls

**Jeanne Sarson delivery** (Linda MacDonald supporting)

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Excellencies,

Thank you for these precious few moments to speak of the reality that there is **no secure place** on this planet for women and girls to be safe from violence, which has globally intensified by the COVID-19 stay-at-home policy.

In October 2019, we attended the civil society Beijing+25 forum in Geneva, developing a [fact sheet](#), explaining that women and girls suffer torture perpetrated by non-State actors—inflicted within family relationships, when trafficked, in domestic slavery, in prostituted and pornographic exploitations, and prior to losing their life to femicide. FGM and acid burning are ordeals of non-State torture ‘traditional’ brutalities.

Non-State torture can include electric shocking, being burnt, whipped, cut, and hung. Deprived of food, water, and toileting; strangled, suffocated, and choked; torture-raped with knives, guns, objects, and animals. Some women describe forced impregnations, abortions, and conditioned suicide.<sup>1</sup> Women may disclose not knowing or feeling human. Being dehumanized they may lose the knowing they have a body covered with skin.

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<sup>1</sup> Sarson, J., & MacDonald, L. (2018). Suicidal-femicide conditioning: A tactic of family-based non-state torturers and traffickers of a daughter. [Femicide Volume X Contemporary Forms of Enslavement of Women & Girls](#), 85-87.

Without legal recognition, non-State torture victimization-traumatisation informed care and reparation services will remain undeveloped.

To acknowledge non-State torture human right crimes, to promote gender-based equality and access to justice, and to assist in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 on equality we ask:

**The Commissions to Commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), to develop a declaration that clearly names torture perpetrated by non-State actors in the private or public spheres as a specific human right crime.**

Thank you.

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