

**UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 4 March - 15
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**Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women
and girls**

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Chairperson, fellow delegates

The most dangerous day in a woman`s life is the day she is giving birth!

This is due to the fact that the too many states ignore their obligation to secure women`s and girl`s sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Women and girls shall have the freedom to decide on matters related to their sexuality, and not being exposed to violence due to their sexuality.

I would like to underline that violence against women and girls is a major violation of women`s and girls` human rights. It is one of the biggest obstacles for gender equality.

The cost of the violence is enormous, both in an economic sense and at a personal level. This applies both to the North and the South

If we shall succeed in reducing the numbers of violence the states must consider violence against women as a public matter and not something which belongs to the private sphere.

Furthermore, we must fight the perception that women are at fault when they are subjected to violence. The distribution of shame and stigma on the victim enables the global violence against women to continue. It is a devastating self-reinforcing effect!

Thus we need to mobilize both men and boys in order to create norms and structures that are based on gender equality and respectful relationships. In this respect, men serve as role models for boys.

Finally:

Disparities enable and reinforces violence. Gender inequality based on economic disparity amplifies women's vulnerability to violence.

Further, women and girls who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as LBT –women and women with disabilities, are exposed to increased risk of violence!

Allow me as well to focus on indigenous women. They have the same challenges as other women, but due to a minority situation with different

culture and languages, they have even bigger challenges to be heard (compared to the majority)

If we shall fight the devastating issue of violence against women and girls, we all need to strengthening our implementation of legal and policy frameworks.

Thank you for the attention.