

The Thematic Discussions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the Implementation of the Kyoto Declaration, 10-12 November 2021

Thematic Session 1: Addressing the causes, including the root causes of crime; enhancing evidence-based crime prevention and promoting tailor-made crime prevention strategies (10 November 2021)

Jeanne Sarson delivery (Linda MacDonald supporting)¹

Excellencies,

Responding to thematic session 1, we call for the initiation of a *declaration*, to address the elimination of non-State torture (NST) human right violations of women and girls. Torture perpetrated by non-State actors, is a root “means,” used in violent crimes, inflicted against women and girls of all ages, as a social group. Non-State torture victimizations are generally unnamed, unacknowledged, and unpunished. Yet take many forms, inter alia: non-State torture inflicted by organized criminal groups, committed predominately against women and girls in sexualized human trafficking, in prostitution, in emerging pornographic cybercrimes, with specific attention to the commercial sexualized exploitation of the girl child, inflicted within family and non-family relationships; non-State torture of women during their smuggling journey, of migrant women in domestic labour, and in forms of modern day slavery practices or servitude; non-State torture relating to harmful practices against the girl child, in “child marriage,” in the name of “honour,” and in female genital mutilation (FGM); non-State torture of women and girls held in captivity, when kidnapped, and inflicted against women during civic uprisings; and the non-State torture of women human right defenders.

¹ As independent scholars this statement represents our professional expertise of 28 years including the grass root support of women who survived non-State torture and human trafficking inflicted by family and or non-family torturer-traffickers. This statement is not representative of the position of the NGO the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) which grants us as members this independent opportunity. We are also Associate Members of The Alliance which supports members’ interventions.

Such a *declaration* recalls Resolution 65/228, wherein the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, strongly condemns all forms of violence, whether perpetrated by non-State actors or condoned by the State, and calls for its elimination in the family, and within the community.

A *declaration* to address non-state torture crimes, would be similar to the *Vienna Declaration on Femicide*, and create a model strategy to promote global awareness and prevention, in its call to action to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, 5.1-5.2 to eliminate all forms of discrimination, and violence against women and girls, in their public and private lives; goal 8.7 to end forced labour including of children, modern slavery, and human trafficking, and goal 16.2, to eliminate all forms of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and torture of children.

Such a *declaration* would ensure “leaving no one behind.”

Thank you.