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Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**United Nations standards and norms in crime
prevention and criminal justice: victims of crime
and abuse of power**

Victims of crime and abuse of power

Statement submitted by International Abolitionist Federation, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Rotary International and Zonta International (non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council); and European Women's Lobby, Howard League for Penal Reform, International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care, International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, International Federation of University Women, International Society of Social Defence, Italian Centre of Solidarity, National Council of German Women's Organizations—Federal Union of Women's Organizations and Women's Group of German Associations, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students), Salvation Army and Socialist International Women (non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* E/CN.15/2001/1.

The above-mentioned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council,

Fully supporting General Assembly resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985 and the adoption of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, annexed to that resolution, as an important landmark in international efforts to improve the treatment of victims,

Highlighting Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/57 of 24 May 1989 on implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/30 of 21 July 1997, in particular section III, entitled “Plans concerned with child victims and witnesses of crime” of the Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System, annexed to that resolution,

Recognizing General Assembly resolution 52/86 of 12 December 1997, in particular section V, “Victim support and assistance”, of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, annexed to that resolution,

Stressing the importance of section III, “Victims of crime and abuse of power”, of Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/21 of 28 July 1998, in which the Council welcomed the guide for policy makers on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the handbook on justice for victims on the use and application of the Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the publication in English of the above-mentioned *Guide and Handbook*,

Appreciating the work of experts who met in January 2000 pursuant to resolution 1998/21 to discuss the possibility and feasibility of an international fund for victims of crime and abuse of power,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/15 of 27 July 2000 on the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,

Acknowledging with appreciation General Assembly resolution 55/59 of 4 December 2000 and in particular article 27 of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, annexed to that resolution,

Fully supporting General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 and referring in particular to article 6 of section II, “Protection of victims of trafficking in persons”, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, annexed to that resolution,

Deeply concerned about the continuing and even increasing victimization by crime, especially violence, organized crime, terrorism and abuse of power, in particular of vulnerable persons, such as women and children,

Gravely concerned about the situation of female victims and the even worse and alarming situation of child victims, who are seriously affected in their development and often badly hampered for the rest of their lives,

Welcoming the proposal for the foundation of an international fund for support of victims of transnational crime,

Urge Governments:

(a) To design specific projects for special victims' groups emphasizing support for:

- (i) Female victims of trafficking in persons;
- (ii) Female victims of sex tourism;
- (iii) Female victims of violence;

(b) To put highest priority on developing specifically tailored projects to support:

- (i) Child victims of trafficking in persons;
- (ii) Child victims of sex tourism;
- (iii) Child victims of sexual abuse;
- (iv) Child victims of violence;

as indispensable parts of a goal of the above-mentioned future fund;

(c) To prepare a manual on the child victim of crime taking into account his or her various developmental needs to serve as a guide for those working with children as victims, as was recommended by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography at the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

(d) To translate, publish and widely disseminate the *Guide for Policy Makers on the Implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* and the *Handbook on Justice for Victims on the Use and Application of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* in their respective languages in order to provide practitioners in the field with the necessary tools;

(e) To make effective use of the above-mentioned guidelines, plans of action and the handbook in order to provide access to justice and fair treatment, physical, medical, psychological, spiritual and social assistance, as well as reparation, restitution and compensation for the victim;

(f) To do their utmost to improve the victims' situation as the rights of victims of crime have been neglected too long.