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**United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention
and criminal justice: effective crime prevention**

Effective crime prevention

Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non- governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement,¹ which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

Soroptimist International,

Welcoming Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/23, entitled “Work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme”,

Paying special attention to the information on the elimination of violence against women presented in the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2001/9),

Focusing on the information on the issue of effective crime prevention presented in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.15/2001/9),

Giving high importance to the conference on prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation held in Vienna in 2000, in which African female non-governmental organizations prepared multifarious measures to prevent and combat female genital mutilation and provided statistics,

* E/CN.15/2001/1.

¹ The statement has been reproduced without formal editing.

Emphasizing Soroptimist International as a worldwide organization for women in management and professions that is deeply concerned with the issue of crimes against women and its position, which is reflected in the implementation of its model projects,

Stressing more intensely the importance of the inclusion of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,

Expressing deep concern over the increasing sexual violence against women, particularly the girl child, in relation to the sex trade in both national and international dimensions,

Deploring the violent crimes committed against women and girls, such as pornography, forced prostitution, sexual slavery, sex trade, rape during armed conflict and the use of the Internet as a channel facilitating violence against women,

Highlighting the preference for minors in the globalized sex trade, the demand for virgins being extremely high as sex customers need not fear venereal disease,

Alarmed by the uninhibited behaviour of sexual exploiters such as pimps, procurers, traffickers and clients, who have no fear of being prosecuted,

Condemning the crime of female genital mutilation, which is committed around the world, together with the various forms of irreversible damage that it causes, affecting the victim's whole life and even leading to death,

Concerned about society's silence and therefore its tolerance towards female genital mutilation and dowry murder,

Invites Governments, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system:

1. To implement multidisciplinary strategies within the criminal system and to use all possible means to protect the girl child and teenagers who are particularly vulnerable;
2. To avoid the gap between de jure and de facto situations, as legislation alone is useless without appropriate and careful implementation and monitoring;
3. To challenge Governments to enforce stringent controls and punish appropriately the sexual exploiters such as violent pimps, criminal procurers and traffickers, as well as the consumers;
4. To request Governments to adopt legislative and executive measures to prohibit sex tourism and to penalize those who organize and advertise tourism for the purpose of sexual exploitation especially of minors; such measures should be adopted and implemented not only in the country where the sexual crime takes place, but also in the home country of the sex tourist;
5. To request Governments to put special stress on the penal prosecution of the crime of female genital mutilation by considering it an especially important criminal issue that has been long neglected and requires particular emphasis;

6. To provide all possible information in order that society develops a consciousness that the toleration of female genital mutilation is unjust; non-governmental organizations have a decisive role in cooperating with Governments in raising awareness on this topic.
