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Statement submitted by KinderEnergy, a non-governmental organization in 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.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

KinderEnergy is an environmental non-profit that believes children are Earth's most important natural resource. Understandably, the care and empowerment of girls of all sizes, shapes and colours is extremely important to us and to Earth too.

We have come here today as so many women have in the past to celebrate the many gains that were made towards the global advancement and enrichment of women. This year is different though because a new dawn is breaking which promises to put light on a terrible wound in the history of women's rights and human rights that has been shrouded in darkness and out of public discussion.

As a result, our joys as women and for women are incomplete because there is no doubt that the battle to ensure the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls is far from over. Despite the numerous gains made for women, those gains pale in comparison with the horrors caused by our fellow sister's continued silence and complacency regarding the greatest show of hatred and disdain for everything female than any time in modern history.

This tragedy has increasingly damaging effects on the environment, the global society of women and humanity as a whole. Despite increased public awareness campaigns highlighting the horrors of gender violence affecting girls and women all over the world, Gendercide continues to take place all over the world yet we rarely hear an alarming note about it by the press.

Due to advances in technology, increased wealth, cultural beliefs and a conscientious dislike for females, Gendercide is not being stopped despite international recognition of the value and need of young girls within society. Hatred in the form of sex selection abortions has taken the lives of over 1 million girls globally. Little girls are being killed before they are born simply because they are girls yet we hardly hear any outcry about this.

Sex selection of this magnitude has previously been documented in China, South Korea, and India, but not in the United States nor the United Kingdom. Official figures published by the Daily Mail in the United Kingdom in January of this year (2014) suggest as many as 4,700 females have disappeared from the latest national census records of England and Wales.

According to Ms. Mara Hvistendahl in her excellently researched book, "Unnatural Selection", this form of gender violence is fuelled by new and often beneficial technologies like ultrasound and the ability to identify sex before birth has become a death sentence for more than 160 million baby girls around the world, killed simply for being female.

As William Saletin so correctly states, "it is the marriage of technology, culture and new tendencies that has pushed this cultural habit to the forefront." Yet, sex selection abortion is made precisely against women.

Columbia University researchers Douglas Almond and Lena Edlund published an article in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and financed by "Institute for Social and Economic Policy Research" at Columbia University examining the ratio of male to female births in "U.S. born children of Chinese, Korean, and Asian Indian parents." Among whites, the boy-girl ratio was essentially

constant, regardless of the number of kids in a family or how many of them were girls.

There's no plausible innocent explanation for this enormous and directionally abnormal shift in probability. The authors conclude that the numbers are "evidence of sex selection, most likely at the prenatal stage." It is noted that according to a study done in 2011, in China, there are now 120 male children born for every 100 females — a far cry from the natural balance of 105 to 100. In that country, like many others dealing with skewed sex ratios, researchers suggest the paucity of females is beginning to drive demand for trafficked brides and increased prostitution. ("Unnatural Selection" by Mara Hvistendahl.)

Little baby girls, who would have one day made such a positive impact on society and the environment are missing due to gender violence in sex selection which is having an enormous impact not only on society as we speak but also on the planet as well; that vacuum that has been created has left a scar on Planet Earth far greater than any impact from natural disaster would ever leave. As essential parts of Earth's biosphere, girls add balance, beauty, wisdom and strength to all intelligent and non-intelligent life on this planet.

Over one million girls with names, brains, innovative dreams, creative abilities and individual missions have been wiped off the face of their planet. The Economist printed that millions of girls who could have added balance to nature, repaired, restored, protected and saved Earth have been innocent "victims of a malign combination of ancient prejudices and modern preferences." They were killed simply because they were (little) women. This ripping away of a living being from Earth's biosphere will have devastating effects on Mother Nature which will last an eternity and be far worse than those effects of Climate Change.

Female climate mitigators, global health advocates, political activists, transmitters of big data on culture and history will not be able to be who they were meant to be. The missing girls can never contribute to our Women's world nor will they create the socio-economic impact each woman has the potential and desire to make on society. With over 1 million girls missing, one can only speculate the financial impact these smart girls could have made on their social environment or wonder the positive impact their presence could have had on promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite the increased public outcry against violence against women, the issue of gender selection is hardly spoken of in the press yet its effects on the environment and the social fibre of society are devastating. The time has come for all women to unite courageously and stand up, as Malala has so valiantly shown us, in defence of our little sisters. Women of leadership can no longer sit on the sidelines and turn a blind eye to this attack on our sisters. Intelligently organized global campaigns from UN-Women, Zonta International and other powerful international women's organizations fully supporting a zero tolerance campaign against this documented hatred for little women will underline the seriousness of the problem and the commitment of all women to this cause.

Are we, the women of the world, going to stand by and watch our little sisters be denied their human rights and Earth to be laid to waste? Gendercide is a global menace that will end up destabilizing nature and society. Mother Nature is weeping and the pleading voices of our sisters can be heard in the wind. We need to move

from simple words to organized action, to ensure lasting peace, genuine dignity and educational benefits for all girls. What is needed is all women from all the corners of the Planet to come together to shout into the four winds that all violence to females, regardless of age, race, religious beliefs be stopped. Everyone from the most powerful women's groups to the young school girls in remote areas of the world must stand firm and committed to safeguarding the rights of their fellow sisters. Women standing together and firm must have the courage to speak out loudly so Gendercide is stopped today, for the good of all women and for Earth.

Will this be the year that all women stand together to stop, act and unite to end violence against women? Why have we allowed this to persist for so long?
