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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Statement submitted by Campaign Life Coalition, 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

Campaign Life Coalition is a national, non-profit organization involved in political action and advocacy for legal and cultural change in Canada with respect to protecting human life and the natural family. It works to identify and assist pro-life and pro-family candidates running for public office at all levels of government, promotes civic engagement at the grassroots level, and encourages voting based on principles, not party.

In reflecting on the 2024 priority theme of the 68th Commission on the Status of Women, “accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”, we call on this year’s Commission, to prioritize the safeguarding of motherhood from the earliest stage of pregnancy, so as to ensure the best outcomes for both mothers and their children through the development of comprehensive policies that guarantee social, healthcare, and financial protections.

If the Commission on the Status of Women is determined to help the United Nations to achieve its goals of eliminating poverty through the championing of equality and the empowerment of women and girls, it must focus on solutions that unite the international community, not cause division and confusion. Far too often, the achievement of genuine resolutions is derailed by self-proclaimed human rights activists who are determined to push through problematic language which aims to eradicate poverty by eradicating the poor through abortion and the sterilization of women – a significant component of the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) agenda they claim is the solution to poverty.

According to a 2016 Guttmacher Institute’s report on the ‘Characteristics of U.S. Abortion Patients in 2014’, 75 per cent of abortion “patients” cite a lack of financial resources as a motivating factor in ultimately choosing abortion. Notably, SDG target 1.3 seeks to “implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all” with “substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.” It furthermore lists pregnant women as key recipients of this social protection program. If these social protection systems were to foster sustainable development, then they should be capable of alleviating the sentiments of almost 64 per cent of post-abortive women who have reported degrees of reproductive coercion to abort their children due to the unbearable weight of financial instability coupled with their newly found maternity. No expectant mother should be forced to choose between the life of her child and financial security. Not in America, not anywhere in the world. That is not autonomy, that is coercion.

Evidently, the circumstances and challenges that surround pregnancy, including factors such as poverty, social status, conflict, and access to maternal healthcare, exacerbates the vulnerability of the pregnant woman and her need for support. We often hear the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child”, but often, pregnant women are left abandoned, pushed to the wayside, and into the callous arms of the abortion industry which far too often is promoted by United Nations partners and stakeholder organizations. Instead of addressing the root of the challenges women face surrounding their pregnancies, women are deceived into believing that killing their preborn children is their sole option.

Notably, SDG 5 concentrates on the direct implementation of SRHR in foreign policy in order to achieve the elimination of “all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere”. SDG 5.6 in particular, which seeks to “ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome

documents of their review conferences”, is used as a pretext for foreign aid to fund independent organizations which commit abortions and promote these ‘sexual rights’ to countries who are generally opposed to such controversial and harmful practices since these practices go against their deeply held values, traditions, and religious beliefs.

Finally, the lack of availability of social protection systems and public services for expectant mothers, especially those faced with circumstantial challenges, betrays a cultural valuation of motherhood. As a natural process that is intimately tied to the identities of women globally, motherhood maintains a special place of significance in the world and for the world. As a result of its inseparability from the woman’s identity, as well as its natural importance, motherhood should be supported by society and culture through a medium that empowers women to both thrive as mothers and successfully provide for those under their care. The Commission on the Status of Women should make it a priority to champion motherhood at this 68th Session.

In 2024, it is unfathomable that women around the world still face barriers to accessing maternal healthcare which includes prenatal and post-natal care, emergency obstetric care, nutrition and clean water, and basic social protections, all the while, hundred million-dollar budgets continue to be allocated towards abortion services and birth control.

Providing women with adequate maternal health care and social protection policies for her and her family rather than prioritizing abortion is a position that all member states can agree on. Additionally, the solution to poverty is not to kill the pre-born child growing in his or her mother’s womb, but rather working to eliminate the root causes of her poverty. That too is a position that all member states can agree on.

Call to Action

We call upon Member States to enact effective, comprehensive social protection programs that meet the needs of mothers without eliminating maternity. These programs should be responsible for creating social environments in which women and their families, are protected, empowered, informed, and free from any forms of economic, social or cultural pressure that would obstruct their access to the kind of adequate public services that make it possible for both mother and child to live healthy, fulfilled lives.
