

Forum: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Question of: Securing Women’s Rights by Preventing the Abuse of Religion

Submitted by: Gambia

Co-submitted by: Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Gabon, Guyana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan



1 *The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Committee,*
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3 *Fully aware of the exclusion of women from certain religious rites and rituals,*
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5 *Emphasizing the religious diversity in many countries,*
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7 *Realizing the important role and influence of religion in individuals and society,*
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9 *Alarmed by the fact that religion misused to justify gender-based discrimination or violation of*
10 *Women’s rights,*
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12 *Declaring that the majority of women with adolescent pregnancies are not in education,*
13 *employment or training,*
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15 *Alarmed by the high numbers of girls suffering from the illegal practice of genital mutilation,*
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17 *Noting with concern that often times women are unaware of religious abuse due to lack of*
18 *knowledge about the topic,*
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20 **1. Seeks the equality of gender to fulfill the fifth agreement of the 2030 Agenda for**
21 **Sustainable Development by such as but not limited to:**
22 **a. promoting comprehensive and age-appropriate education that empowers**
23 **women and girls to make informed decisions,**
24 **b. establishing legal frameworks and policies that explicitly prohibit any form of**
25 **discrimination, violence, or harmful practices against women perpetrated under**
26 **the guise of religion,**
27 **c. taking effective steps to prevent gender-based intolerance, including domestic**
28 **violence, forced marriages, and harmful traditional practices, by:**
29 **i. strengthening laws to equally persecute suspects respectively protect**
30 **victims and providing support services such as, but not limited to:**
31 **1. easily reachable safe shelters for victims and those wishing to**
32 **break free of constrictive structures;**

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2. **Further requests** training camps for women to learn when they are being taken advantage off due to religion and then actively say no which includes:
 - a. to report offences,
 - b. to have a safe space to discuss,
 - c. to have a 24/7 text and telephone hotline number in English and the languages mainly spoken in the country,
 - d. to offer special therapy for women who suffer from religious trauma or experienced violence from partners or other people based on religion;

3. **Strongly urges** all member states to issue educational programs on sexual education based on the “international technical guidance on sexuality education” and prevention of manipulation by religious leaders and other members of the religious community in:
 - a. schools,
 - b. extracurricular venues accessible for children and adults,
 - c. busses called “Education Express” which drive to rural villages and educate residents multiple times a year to do also provide trust within these rural communities in order for people to be comfortable enough to share their experiences and be willing to learn;

4. **Proposes** that publicity campaigns will be run about:
 - a. as mentioned in clause 2.c, 2.d and 3.c,
 - b. psychological assistance for victims of religious trauma and abuse;

5. **Suggests** funding from the following places:
 - a. partnerships with women-empowerment NGOs, organizations and institutions
 - b. the UN trust fund to end violence against women
 - c. funds from the UN Women’s-empowerment principles fund
 - d. all nations, especially those with a 450 billion \$ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and higher, to participate in a separate fund to:
 - i. financing projects that provide psychological help in order to help victims of abuse,
 - ii. supporting small communities to educate those who will be religious leaders about the consequences of abuse,
 - iii. supply financial support so that publicity campaigns can run in all nations;

6. **Calls** for independent organisations, such as non-governmental organisations, to support and participate in the mission of providing safety, education and help for victims of religious abuse and in the mission of preventing religious abuse;

7. **Decides** to keep fighting for gender equality and preventing the abuse of religion to protect women’s rights and health;

77 8. **Supports** any further ideas, measures and strategies which can be helpful in the
78 problem-solving process;

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80 9. **Urges** all member states to stay active on the matter and pursue to improve the status
81 of women;

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83 10. **Calls** upon all member states to educate all of their citizens on their right as well as
84 gender equality through means such as but not limited to:

85 a. school policies

86 b. mandatory role model behavior by all civil servants and teachers.

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89 **Voting Results**

90 In favour: 24

91 Against: 4

92 Abstentions: 7