



Human Rights Council
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Item 3 - ID with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women
Speaker: Ms. Annabelle Marquez

Oral Statement Submitted by
VIDES Internazionale

Co-sponsored by
IIMA Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Thank you, Mr. President,

VIDES and IIMA welcome Ms. Simonovic's findings for Canada regarding violence against women. As NGOs committed to promoting the right to education, we recognize the adverse impacts of violence on a woman's pursuit of this fundamental human right. The protection of women in society upholds their dignity. Furthermore improving the safety of women will remove obstacles towards their empowerment, which can only benefit a society. For this reason, we reiterate the following recommendations of Ms. Simonovic:

- Establish adequate distribution and sustainable funding for victim's services, including shelters in Indigenous communities and rural areas.
- Improve collection of data on trafficking of women and girls to determine gaps thereby strengthening the plan for prevention
- Amend the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act to guarantee protection to survivors of trafficking and offer adequate support to trafficked persons

In accordance with recommendations outlined in the Report of the Special Rapporteur, VIDES and IIMA call upon Canada to:

- **Undertake data collection and analysis on the causes of sexual violence against women at universities in order to identify effective measures to prevent these assaults. In addition, research in particular the links between the consumption of sexually explicit content, such as pornography, and violence against women.**
- **Provide education and training for women regarding their health and informed consent, so that they will be more knowledgeable when making decisions about health-care procedures, and incidents such as the sterilization of Indigenous women do not reoccur.**

Thank you, Mr. President