

Check against delivery

**STATEMENT
BY**

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Fifty-seventh session**

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Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to express Slovenia's full alignment with the statement delivered by Ireland on behalf of the European Union.

Slovenia welcomes the important dialogue on this year priority theme. We believe that violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women, which affects society as a whole. It is a manifestation of the historically unequal relations between women and men that constitutes an obstacle to women's active participation in society.

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For several years Slovenia is keeping the issues of violence against women and girls high on the political agenda.

We believe that adopted regulatory legal framework has to be strongly supported by research, awareness raising activities and training of professionals dealing with violence taking into consideration the importance to work with victims and perpetrators as well.

In Slovenia:

- Almost 65% of women are full-time employed,
- 65% of all university educated young people are women,
- 70% of judges are women in Slovenia.

Furthermore Slovenia records one of the smallest gender pay gap.

According to the above mentioned statistic Slovenian women can be considered as economic independent and highly educated.

However, in 2011 we got stricken by results after the first ever national study on extent and prevalence of violence in private sphere.

They show that every second women in Slovenia, from age 15, have experienced at least one form of intimate partner violence during their lifetime.

Findings of the study are used to support further efforts for more effective implementation of the national legislation on preventing and combating violence against women, including domestic violence.

In the context of preventing and combating violence against women and girls we believe that a special attention needs to be given to discriminatory traditional, social and cultural norms and gender stereotypes. Where needed harmful practices need to be addressed as well.

In 2012 the first national research on Gender Equality in Family Life and Partner Relations shown that traditional gender roles and stereotypes within a family still remain a big challenge for gender equality in Slovenia.

Slovene women spend more time than men on household work and taking care for their children, are more likely to be the ones who take more time off from work and are also more-likely to be employed part-time for child care reasons than men.

To tackle those challenges further steps have been taken in 2012 to encourage men to take up their family responsibilities to ensure equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men. However the results achieved continue to lag behind the ambitious commitments made in Beijing and standards that emanate from the CEDAW Convention.

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Madam Chairperson,

let me also briefly touch upon issues which find themselves on almost daily UN agenda. Slovenia is concerned over reports of violence against women and girls in conflict and postconflict situations, which remains widespread, and far too often unpunished.

Slovenia calls for full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 and other related resolutions. In situation of conflict, such as currently evolving crisis in Syria, violence against women and girls should be taken into special consideration. Slovenia joined over 50 other UN Members States calling Security Council to refer situation in Syria to ICC: reports of sexual violence and violence against women and girls played an important role in making such a decision.

But as recent events around the globe show, sexual violence is not limited to conflict situations. In contrary it is present in all societies, developing and developed, and our country is no exception. Therefore we believe action is needed, we must work on ensuring access to health services, especially sexual and reproductive health services and rights, for all women and girls. In this regard it is important also to end discrimination against women in law and in practice, give them access to justice and ensure accountability as well as raise awareness and educate women and men, girls and boys on human rights of all.

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Madam Chairperson,

Exchange of experiences and identifying good practices is an important element of strengthening work to overcome gender stereotypes, combating violence against women and girls and enforcing zero tolerance for violence against women and girls.

In these endeavours, Madame Chairperson, you have full support of my Government.

Thank you.