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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Women's Federation for World Peace International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

Addressing the Situation of Honor Crimes in Jordan

Ahlam, the 30-year-old Jordanian woman, dashed out screaming into the street, begging anyone to intervene, her father close behind. When her lifeless body lay on the street next to him, he seemed shockingly detached, calmly waiting for authorities to arrive, according to witnesses, police, and local media accounts. While this behavior seems unfathomable to most, it does occur. How can public authorities and families come together honestly, to discuss these tragedies, to understand them, and ultimately prevent them? Responsibility must be shared, and failure to reach a solution is no longer an option.

Transparency and partnership

Women's Federation for World Peace stands in solidarity, with extreme concern, for the vulnerable women in Jordan, who are facing human rights violations under the title of honor killings at this time. We recognize the important work done by the Jordanian government to achieve better equality laws. WFWPI has been an important support for women and girls Jordan for over 25 years now, in addition to offering microfinance systems, presenting scholarships, opening training centers in poverty-stricken areas, supporting character education and more. We strongly appeal for transparency and good governance in response to various human rights violations, and cases of honor crimes. We urge for the security of the women and targeted persons in the immediate, and their right to continue to contribute to a thriving and inclusive community in the long term.

It is critical to note that honor killing cases have increasing rapidly especially because of frustrations due to the pandemic. We have seen how these cases are being committed amid community justifications. Considering this, we appeal to the application of all CEDAW articles. Jordan is a country that has signed and ratified this convention. We appeal to legal support for human rights groups and women's rights associations in Jordan, particularly regarding the issues related to honor crimes.

We commend the importance of women's advocacy raised at the public level, where women, alongside men, have an important role in the stabilization of family and society. Moreover, we laud the UN bodies for their recognition that for women to be able to fulfill these roles, they have to feel safe in their own homes where they are provided by law support that preserves their rights and dignity and implements the education of men's role to achieve this goal, as women and as major players in the society must be upheld today.

Cultural norms vs harmful practices

Marital relations have often been relegated a private and sensitive family matter. Some examples women in Jordan are experiencing:

ownership where a male guardian must give his consent to any subject related to an unmarried woman under the age of 40

subjection to administrative detention, which is imprisonment without a proper trial, in case of disobedience to her male guardian. In very extreme cases, "Honor crimes"

and the non-consideration of some violence types against the law like “marital rape”.

We commend the preservation of the preciousness of Jordan’s unique culture, traditions, and norms, yet we appeal to protect women from harmful traditional practices.

Amid justifications of society and the minimum sentences given to perpetrators of such crimes, several articles, like articles 98 mandates reduction of penalty for a perpetrator of honor crime in the state of great fury. article 99 where honor killers often receive a sentence of 6 months, where the sentence is considered served if the killer has served this time awaiting trial and article 340 stating that any man who kills his female relative because she committed adultery benefits from reduced penalty.

Our concern is that women and girls that are facing gender-based violence like sexual violence, including sexual exploitation/abuse; domestic violence; forced/early marriage; marital rape, harmful traditional practices such as honor killings; and widow inheritance enable, are not considered against the law. We commend the support of the government to combat the law that justifies such practices. This law will be an obstacle for women to be productive members of society, hindering their autonomy, and violating their basic freedom and rights.

Being a woman leads to different experiences of violence and justification of discrimination. The current situation is critical and dire. Even though the government has made strategic promises, some women are struck with uncertainty about trusting the law to protect their lives. An environment of fear remains, and is not conducive to the mental, emotional, and even physical health and growth of the women, and their children.

With the above in mind, the Women’s Federation for World’s Peace International strongly urges the following:

We call on member states to strengthen the role of women and local communities in the planning and implementation of awareness and educational programs on women’s rights, and qualifications as important contributors to social issues

We commend on emphasizing the preciousness of local traditions and norms to preserve the essence of the country, with awareness of the danger of some harmful traditional practices like honor killing

We highly commend our proposal of implementing “Famili-Archy” where men and women complement each other, are equal in value, value the experience and wisdom of family elders and wholesome creativity of the young, live together for the greater good, and live for the sake of others, raise each other, and establish a network of cohesive families makes communities strong, in addition to government similar to parents, where men and women share the responsibility to guide and nurture their people

We request and insist the councils and UN Bodies upon the juridical system to implement various UN conventions and international accords be upheld, such as The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR), and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), with all articles.

Extend their maximum support for humanitarian aid. Supporting NGOs and the government for providing an easy-accessible aid program, to be reached effortlessly by violence victims.

We commend applying all CEDAW articles, and amending laws that state relevant punishment statements to killing crimes, eliminating the reduction of sentences under what is called Honor Crimes.

We call for substantial actions that will ensure the monitoring and protection of women. We urge UN Bodies and agencies to coordinate the planning and implementation of Human Rights and Women's Rights Monitoring Mechanisms.

Funding for the creation of educational materials, lectures, and workshops to educate the society including men about the importance of women's role in society. We recommend for this be facilitated by various NGOs, specifically those run by Jordanian women

We call for support to increase programs and activities that focus on men's roles in preventing violence against women, informed by the understanding that men can have an important influence on reducing violence by changing their attitudes and behavior and by intervening to prevent other men's violence and to approach combatting violence by preserving traditions and norms

It is of central importance to ensure transparent communication and fear-free reporting of violence perpetrators without the concern of getting a reduced punishment, facilitating open and safe communication with the NGOs or international community.

We commend the importance of the media's role which is highly critical for the future of women's rights preservation, for both the government and civil society actors, in addition to the importance of support for the media to highlight the cases of violence against Jordanian women and especially Honor Killing cases, also for the media to bring attention to the important work done by the government, NGOs, and international community to combat this scourge.
