

Commission on the Status of Women



Written statement/Frida Ohlsson

Future perspectives on the promotion of Gender Equality: through the eyes of young women and men

Mr/Madame Chairperson

It is a great honour for me to be here today and to have the opportunity to participate in this

Panel Discussion on Gender Equality, organized by the National Association of Women's Rights, through the National

For many years now, Sweden has been seen as one of the most gender-equal countries in the world. Through my work I meet young people who know no other social reality than in Sweden, we are all equal to one another regardless of sex. However, the truth is that in many areas, we still have a lot to do: boys and young men speak out more and get more attention in schools, young men are paid better than young women and all young people experience a more sexualised media, although the way in which young women are usually depicted – undressed, passive and as objects, tends to be very different than how young men are usually portrayed – fully clothed, active and as subjects. All of these examples reinforce stereotypes of female and male behaviour that are not much different from those that applied in our parents' and grandparents' generations. The capabilities, feelings, experiences and ideas of young people must be taken seriously, by themselves as well as by others. Very often I meet young girls and boys who express personal feelings of uncertainty due to some experience that has reminded them of the way gender inequalities work; they feel that they do not have

~~the same opportunities that their world is limited because of their sex. One of the main~~

therefore have a much greater opportunity to influence decision-making. These results have

experience is that it is much easier to start a discussion with these statistics as a common