

SI Oral Statement for CSW57 General Discussion

Soroptimist International, a global organization that has 92 years track record of education and empowerment programmes transforming the lives of millions of women and girls in our 127 member countries makes this statement together with other member organisations of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women and participants of the Vienna Symposium on Femicide, held on 26 November 2012 at the United Nations Office at Vienna,

Alarmed by the fact that femicide is growing substantially all over the world and often remains unpunished, which not only intensifies the subordination and powerlessness of women and girls, but also sends the negative message to society that male violence against females may be both acceptable and inevitable,

Recognizing that femicide is a form of gender-based killing, that includes the killing of women as a result of intimate partner violence, accusations of witchcraft, killing of girls and women in the name of honour, killing in the context of armed conflict, dowry-related killing of women, killing as a result of sexual orientation and sexual identity, killing of aboriginal and indigenous women, female infanticide and sex-selected abortion, and other extreme, violent forms of killing women, often related to transnational criminal acts such as trafficking,¹

Emphasizing that traditions and culture cannot be used as justification for the violation of women's Human Rights, in particular the right to life and the right to be free from violence,

¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women: Causes and Consequences... (A/HRC20/16, 23 May 2012)

Recognize the key role of civil society organizations in preventing and combating