

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women – 57<sup>th</sup> session 852/ 784 735

Oral Statement, March 14, 2013

Read by Linda MacDonald on behalf of the  
Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and National Council of Women  
Canada (NCWC)

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you. Many member states have reported progress in their efforts to end violence against women and girls, including a good number that have developed national action plans or strategies. However, many of these plans and strategies are not comprehensive or coordinated and are lacking sufficient human and financial resources to ensure their success. Still, there are several Member States who have yet to develop comprehensive and holistic national action plans, including our own country, Canada.

It is clear from what we have heard during this session, that much more must be done in all Member States to strengthen and enforce legal frameworks, improve access to justice, expand the collection of sex-disaggregated data, and most importantly enhance prevention efforts by addressing poverty, gender discrimination and inequality. Therefore, we wish to express our support for the recommendations presented in the Secretary-

- x Ratification and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), as part of the strategies to end violence against Indigenous women. In Canada, a disproportionate number of Indigenous women and girls have suffered violence, gone missing, or been murdered over the past three decades. Much of this violence is a reflection of the underlying conditions of poverty, racism and colonial history; the full implementation of the UNDRIP is an integral part of the solution.

Finally, we further urge Member States to: