

For too many girls, violence—deliberate attacks on body, mind, freedoms, and opportunities, is an inescapable part of life. We, the girls of this, the UN's 57th Commission on the Status of Women, propose that these girls, so many of them taught that they are powerless, be given the chance to defend themselves. We, the authors of this document, are privileged with education. We are not among the 100

Through education, girls will realize that they have the right to protect and control their bodies. We need to educate girls, mothers, and religious and traditional leaders about the adverse health affects of FGM/C and encourage them to find alternate rites of passage for girls within their communities.

If a girl is educated, she might escape the cruel cycle of human trafficking. Indeed, many victims of human trafficking experience physical and sexual violence, but many of their cases fall through the cracks. As well as being fought with education, human trafficking should also be combatted with legislation worldwide that is not only written, but enforced by national government.

We of this 57th Commission on the Status of Women demand that girls around the world be given the tools that we too often take for granted. We want them to know their rights, and be given the platform to use their voices. Knowledge, not violence,