**My personal statement**

My name is Marie Pierre Diop, a Senegalese lady living in New York (USA) since 2016, graduated from the faculty of law at the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar with a bachelor degree in law holder in 1996 and a professional Master in “Citizenship, Human Rights, Humanitarian actions” later. Two years before obtaining my bachelor, I was already a very committed activist on issues relating to the promotion and the protection of human rights by intervening as a voluntary member in a Senegalese non-government organization “ Rencontre Africaine pour la Defense des Droits de l’Homme” (RADDHO). My activities in RADDHO gave me the opportunity to be recruited by two others NGO as a manager of projects in which I acquired in more than 10 years of work a strong experience in Human Rights defender and participated actively to several advocacies in Senegal fighting social injustice (example: advocacy for the ratification of the convention on all forms of discrimination against woman, advocacy to criminalize rape against women and girls, advocacy for the immediate citizenship of a new born whose one of his parents is foreigner…). So, with that both NGO, I helped several victims of violence to recover their rights in Senegal. I am very sensitive to question relative to violence against women and girls that’s why I created an association named “Association Senegalaise pour la Promotion de l’Equite et l’Egalite de Genre (ASPEEG) that’s also a reason that led me to establish contact with Every Women Treaty (EWT) and become an active working group member to fight and end all kinds of violence against women and girls.

**Situation of violence against women and girls in Senegal**

Many dispositions exist to protect women and girls against violence in Senegal. Indeed, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is ratified in Senegal since 1999. Also, changes were recently made to the Senegalese penal code: sexual assault on children as well as rape are now considered as crimes and no longer as misdemeanors and the penalties incurred have been increased. However, violence against women and girls becomes more and more recrudesce in Senegal. The percentages on violence are discouraging. All types of violence against women and girls have increased during the pandemic, especially domestic violence. The United Nations report (December 2020) reveals 243 Million Women Abused by Their Partners.

In addition, the national statistic reveals 668 cases of violence against minors, 706 sexual abuse and more than 1200 case of rape in 2019. This situation is inhuman and merit to be solved. Time is for the Senegalese government to take more responsibilities and act for a result of 0 violence against women and girls.