

26 September 2016

CEDAW Secretariat
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Submission of suggestions by KARAT Coalition
on behalf of CEDAW Coalition of Polish NGOs**

to the draft update of Recommendation No. 19 on Violence Against Women

CEDAW Coalition of Polish NGO respectfully suggest to:

Paragraph 9

substitute the last sentence of the paragraph with:

“These are affected by cultural, economic, ideological, political, religious, social and environmental factors, as evidenced in the case of harmful practices¹⁵, **abusive laws and practices in the area of reproductive health and rights**⁶ or in crimes against women human rights defenders or activists”.

Paragraph 10

substitute two last sentences starting with “The Committee regards it to be rooted in gender related factors” with:

“The Committee regards it to be rooted in gender-related factors such as ideas of men’s entitlement over women **and their sexuality**, the need to assert male control or power, enforce gender roles, or prevent, discourage or punish what is considered to be unacceptable female behaviour. These factors also contribute to the explicit or implicit social acceptance of gender-based violence against women, **including violation of their reproductive rights**, and the widespread impunity for it.”

Paragraph 13

add the following:

1) sentence at the end of par. 13 a):

“States should repeal the laws and policies that constitute or sustain institutional violence against women such as coercive approach to women’s reproductive rights and reproductive health.”

⁶ Report of Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, Juan E. Menendez, 2013

2) phrase at the end of par. 13 b):

This obligation underpins the Convention as a whole, and accordingly States parties will be responsible if they fail to take all appropriate measures to prevent or investigate, prosecute, punish and provide reparation for acts or omissions by non-State actors which result in gender-based violence against women, **including in the area of reproductive health and rights**.

Paragraph 14 a)

substitute the last sentence of the paragraph with:

“The Convention also requires the repeal of all laws that constitute discrimination against women, including those which cause, promote or justify gender-based violence or perpetuate impunity for these acts. Such laws may be part of statutory, customary, religious, indigenous or common law, civil law, including family law, **reproductive health law**, criminal law, evidentiary and procedural law, such as provisions based on discriminatory or stereotypical attitudes or practices which allow for gender-based violence against women or mitigate sentences in this context.