



Venice, September 5, 2016

The Centre for Human Rights (CESTUDIR), based at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy, which has also established an internal body aimed at dealing with gender studies, respectfully suggests to the Committee some aspects which might be relevant for the preparation of General Recommendation no. 19.

- 1) To add at para. 1 after 'a violation of human rights,' what follows: 'including women's right to health and reproductive rights.'
- 2) To add at para. 9 (end): As acknowledged in 1999 by the then Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, Radhika Coomaraswamy, 'Violence against women may occur within the context of reproductive health policy. Violence and violations of women's reproductive health may result either from direct State action, via harmful reproductive policies, or from State failure to meet its core obligations to promote the empowerment of women.'¹
- 3) To add para. 13 (a) end: 'States must also refrain from implementing reproductive policies which are harmful for women.'
- 4) To add para. 14 (a) where it is written 'including family law', add 'laws concerning women's access to health services' as well, to confirm point 2 and 3 above.
- 5) Page 13 on international cooperation: add a sub-para. c) in which it is written: 'ratify relevant international conventions on violence against women, such as the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, adopted in 2011, and entered into force in 2014, which is also open to non-Member States of the Council of Europe, as having growing synergies with the CEDAW Convention.'²

¹ Integration of the Human Rights of Women and the Gender Perspective Violence against Women, E/CN.4/1999/68/Add.4, 21 January 1999, para. 44.

² The synergies was stressed by the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka šimonović, at the Conference on Monitoring the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention: New synergies, Sarajevo, 20 October 2015, at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16705&LangID=E>



- 6) The centre considers important to emphasize the consequences of violence against women on children. Witnessing violence can be included at para. 13, b), ii.: ‘When committed in the private sphere, violence against women might severely affect children who witness violence. In providing assistance to female victims of violence, States are required to adopt measures to protect children’s right to a home environment that is free of violence.’

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