

**Statement of the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of
Discrimination against Women on the Situation of Women and Girls in
Northern Mali**

Adopted on 19 October 2012 during the 53rd session

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW (the Committee) expresses its deep concern about the situation of women and girls in northern Mali due to the armed conflict.

The Committee asks for an immediate end to all violations of human rights, which seriously affect the civilian population, particularly women and girls who are victims of grave and severe gender-based violence in the current crisis.

In addition to systematic cruel and inhuman punishments being inflicted in the north of the country by extremist armed rebel groups, including summary executions, mutilations and stonings, women and girls are also victims of sexual violence and exploitation, forced marriages and forced displacement. In addition, access to employment, education and basic social services have been seriously curtailed by extremist armed rebel groups that now control the area.

The Committee calls upon the international community to urgently address the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Mali in accordance with internationally recognized principles, norms and standards of human rights and humanitarian law, particularly the human rights of women and girls, which are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.
