 Helsinki 24th June 2020

The Coalition of Finnish Women’s Associations NYTKIS thanks The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences for the opportunity to contribute to raising visibility on the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on violence against women.

Our contribution focuses on the impacts of the current restrictive measures on women’s access to services for victims of domestic violence. Due to official government guidelines, gambling games (such as slot machines) have temporarily been closed and put out of operation by Veikkaus Oy, the Finnish gaming system operator, owned by the Finnish State. The revenue (estimated to generate one billion euros a year) is distributed to various beneficiaries by the relevant ministries. The Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA) manages the funding granted for non-profit projects. The beneficiaries of the revenue include youth work and social welfare and health organisations and service providers.

It is our concern that due to the restrictive measures, the revenues of Veikkaus Oy have declined, thus effecting the funding of organisations that provide services for victims of domestic violence. The government of Finland must ensure the adequate funding of organisations and service providers that provide essential services for victims of domestic violence. In Finland the NGOS have a crucial role in organizing support services for victims of violence, especially gender sensitive services.

Further information on the Funding for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA): <https://www.stea.fi/web/en/stea>

Further information on Veikkaus Oy: <https://www.veikkaus.fi/fi/yritys?lang=en>

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The Coalition of Finnish Women’s Associations NYTKIS

The Coalition of Finnish Women’s Associations NYTKIS is an umbrella organization, whose member organisations are the women’s associations of all the political parties represented in the Finnish Parliament, as well as three non-political organisations.