



Comments submitted by TRIS- Tjejers rätt i samhället (*Women's Rights in Society*) to the Draft Update of General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) on Gender Based Violence Against Women

TRIS hereby submits comments to the paragraphs listed below. Please find our additions marked in red.

Recommendation:

Prevention

- c) iii. Encouragement of the creation of self-regulatory mechanisms by the media aimed at the elimination of gender stereotypes, and
- d) ii. The understanding of the varying situations of women, including those affected by intersectional discrimination, who are victims/survivors of gender-based violence, and the appropriate ways to address them and eliminate factors, such as secondary victimisation, that weaken women's confidence in State institutions and threaten to impair their physical or mental health, and
- h) Ensure criminal proceedings are initiated in all cases of crimes of gender-based violence against women, bring the alleged perpetrators to trial in a fair, impartial, timely and expeditious manner and impose appropriate penalties. Fees or court charges should not be imposed on victims/survivors. Furthermore, ensure that cases of gender-based violence against women that are honour related are indeed recognized as such, and that the criminal proceedings of these cases are well informed of the specific nature of these crimes.
- j) i. provisions that allow child marriage, forced marriage including informal marriages that are not legally binding, and legislation that criminalises abortion, as well as legislation that enshrines or facilitate gender-based violence against women, including female genital mutilation;

Protection and redress

- a) ii. Providing appropriate protection to prevent further or potential violence. This should include immediate risk assessment and protection, comprising a wide range of effective measures and, where appropriate, the issuance of eviction, exclusion or restraining orders against alleged perpetrators. **In cases where women are victims of honour related violence, it is of paramount importance to assess the entire family situation of the women in order to ensure full protection of the women.** Perpetrators or alleged perpetrators' rights or claims during and after judicial proceedings, including with respect to property, privacy, child custody, access, contact and visitation, should be determined in the light of women's and children's human rights to life and physical and mental integrity, and the best interest of the child shall be the paramount principle.
- d) Disseminate accessible information aimed at women, in particular those affected by intersecting forms of discrimination such as those who live with **any kind of disability including learning disabilities**, are illiterate, or have no or limited knowledge of the official languages of the country, on the legal and social resources available to victims/survivors of gender-based violence through diverse and accessible media.

Data collection and monitoring

- b) Establish a system to collect, analyse and publish statistical data on the number of complaints about gender-based violence against women, including gender-based killings of women **no matter the intentions of the killing**, the number of protection orders issued, the rates of dismissal and withdrawal of complaints, prosecution and conviction rates. The system should include information on the sentences imposed on perpetrators and the reparation, including compensation, provided for victims/survivors. All data should be disaggregated by type of violence and the relationship between the victim/survivor and the perpetrator/perpetrators. **Honour related violence and killings should be acknowledged and addressed as such in all systems of data collections.** Data should also be disaggregated in relation to intersecting forms of discrimination against women.
- c) Undertake or support surveys, research programmes and studies on **all types of** gender-based violence against women, in order to, among other things, assess the prevalence of gender-based violence experienced by women and social or cultural beliefs regarding such violence. These studies and surveys should take into account intersecting forms of discrimination, based upon the principle of self-identification. **Particular measures should be taken to accommodate the specific needs of women with learning disabilities in order to facilitate their participation in surveys, research programmes and studies on all forms of violence against women.**

TRIS suggests that the following paragraph be added in the section about Prevention:

Strengthen the efforts on all levels in society to eliminate forced marriages among women with learning disabilities who are extra vulnerable to pressures from their family members. This is due to the impairment of their cognitive functions and strong dependence on their family members for their survival. As such, they become easy targets of forced marriages.

With kindest regards,

TRIS

My Hellberg

E-mail: info@tris.se

Phone: +46 774 406 600

About TRIS – *Tjejers rätt i samhället (Women's Right in Society)*

TRIS is a non-profit organisation that, since its start in 2002, has become one of Sweden's most leading organisations that actively work against honour related violence and oppression. Our work includes various preventive measures, but also developing methods and educational materials in order to better equip the authorities, Swedish schools, private corporations and other non-profit organisations with deeper knowledge about the specificity of honour related violence and oppression. TRIS also provides shelters for women and their children, but also couples in need of protection. In addition, TRIS is the very first Swedish organisation that has conducted a survey that measured the extent and identified the characteristics of honour related violence and oppression among youth with learning disabilities in Sweden.

For more information, please visit: www.tris.se (website is only in Swedish)