**Subject: Report of the OHCHR on engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against all women and girls, pursuant to HRC Res 35/10**

**Information from Norway (Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Children and Equality) in response to the request for information from the OHCHR.**

*1. What are the concrete steps your Government has taken, at normative, institutional and programme levels, to engage men and boys in promoting and achieving gender equality and challenge gender stereotypes and the negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that underlie and perpetuate violence against women and girls?*

The Norwegian government has developed a large range of measures to prevent violence against women and girls. They are anchored in several action plans and strategic documents: the action plan against domestic violence, *A Life without Violence* (2014-2017), the action plan to combat violence and sexual abuse against children and youth, *A Good Childhood Lasts a Lifetime* (2014-2017), and the *Escalation plan against violence and abuse (2016-2021)*.

**Grants**

Norway has established several grant schemes to support NGOs working in this field. Non-profit organisations may for instance apply for funding for preventive measures.

**Raising Awareness**

In November 2013, the police launched the campaign "Good guy" that targetsyoung people and is intended to prevent so called "party rape”. The campaign emphasizes young men's own ability to take responsibility for themselves and others. The campaign, which has a dedicated website and more than 66,000 followers on Facebook, provides facts about "party rape” and information on where to obtain assistance. The campaign uses animation, posters, urban billboards, cinema advertising and stickers to convey its message. The campaign is especially directed towards youth finishing high school, students and the music festival season. The website is also available on the Norwegian police intranet.

The website ung.no (young.no) runs the campaign #notokay on sexual abuse, party-related abuse, dating violence and online violence. It targets young people. Ung.no is funded by the Ministry of Children and Equality. It delivers public information to youth between 13 and 25 on a large range of issues. Ung.no receives on average 450.000 visitors and over 2000 questions each month.

The government also funds Red Button – End Violence against Women, which is an awareness campaign fronted by a broad alliance of civil organizations. In line with the goal articulated in Resolution 35/10, 9 h), the campaign encourages men and boys, alongside women and girls, to see themselves as agents and beneficiaries of the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls. Red Button also contributes to goals 9 a) and 10 a), as the alliance behind it models involvement by community and religious leaders alongside women’s organizations in a joint effort.

**Treatment of perpetrators and family counselling**

The government provides funding to the NGO Alternative to Violence (ATV). ATV provides treatment to perpetrators of domestic violence.

The government has also strengthened the family counselling services with provisions for abusers, as well as families and children who have suffered violence.

**Prevention at school**

In the period 2014-2016, county governors have organised courses on talking to children about violence and sexual abuse for kindergarten staff, child welfare staff, school staff, and healthcare staff.

The school's role in preventing violence and sexual abuse has been strengthened in recent years. The goals concerning pupils' knowledge about violence, violations, violence linked to sexuality, and violence in close relationships were clarified in the learning objectives in 2013. Staff skills in this area were also improved via changes to framework plans for relevant training.

**Reform – Resource Centre for Men**

On an institutional level, the Norwegian government has supported the engagement of men and boys through maintaining a core funding for the NGO Reform - Resource Centre for Men. Reform is a national centre for gender equality, established in 2002 and specializing in the involvement of boys and men. The centre’s daily work contributes to many of the operational goals articulated in Resolution 35/10, in particular 9 a) Fully engaging men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and 9 f) Engaging, educating, encouraging and supporting men and boys to be positive role models for gender equality and to promote respectful relationships. With the core funding from the state, Reform is able to actively participate in social and political forums, and continuously develop new initiatives and knowledge aimed at engaging men and boys in gender equality issues. Reform has also fronted this work internationally, through participation in the global MenEngage Alliance and in the official Norwegian delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

The Norwegian government has also supported several measures on the programme level. One example is the Nordic MenEngage-conference that was financed through the Nordic Council of Ministers and hosted by Reform and Nordic partner organizations in February 2017. The conference provided a forum for organizations and activists interested in engaging men and boys for gender justice and violence prevention, and encouraged the sharing of best practices, thereby supporting goals 9 a), f) and h) of the resolution. The conference also involved the participation of women’s groups and organizations (ref. 10a).

Through the Ministry of Justice and Public Security’s funding scheme for violence prevention, the government has supported Reform’s educational program for youth, Stop the Dating Violence, which contributes to goal 9 g) by promoting and building decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships based on gender equality and human rights.

In addition, the government has provided project funding for the service Kast, which directs itself towards men buying sex and aims to make men take responsibility for their actions and reduce trafficking and exploitation.

**Recognizing men as victims of violence**

The Government has also challenged the gender stereotypes and the negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that underlie and perpetuate violence against women and girls, through efforts to render men visible as victims of violence. An example of this is the inclusion of male victims in the 2010 Shelter Act that made it mandatory for municipalities to provide shelter and support services for victims of domestic violence and their children. The government has also initiated and funded several studies looking at different forms of domestic violence, including violence against LGBT persons and mothers' violence against their children. While these measures might appear antithetical to combatting violence against women, these efforts are about challenging the same sort of gender stereotypes and negative social norms that underlie violence against women and girls. From a strategic point of view, recognizing that men too are victims of sexual and domestic violence can also encourage more men and boys to engage in anti-violence efforts.

*2. What are the challenges that your Government faces, at normative, institutional and programme levels, in engaging men and boys in said efforts?*

Treatment and support programs for perpetrators of violence need to be further developed. The government stated in its *Escalation plan against violence and abuse* that its goal is to develop Alternative to Violence (ATV) to ensure a more comprehensive treatment offer to perpetrators and their families.

In addition, Norway still has a very gender-segregated education system and labour market, with men overrepresented in technical professions and education, and women in care work. This perpetuates gender stereotypes and social norms, and segregates women and men, thus posing a challenge to engaging men and boys in gender equality efforts that can end violence against women and girls.