

Call for input to the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls to the Human Rights Council on prostitution and violence against women and girls

Input for SR VAWG's report on violence against women and prostitution

Emailed to hrc-sr-vaw@un.org on November 21, 2023

My name is Jessica Williams. I am an Australian permanent resident; having lived here since relocating from the United States of America in 2010. I am a survivor of male violence; both physical and sexual, and I am a survivor of non-state torture¹ and incarceration/deprivation of liberty.

As a Women's Advocate and founder and member of numerous organisations, including some which focus on the rights of incredibly vulnerable women, I represent and reflect the needs of women that have been prostituted and/or incarcerated, and other female victims of male violence.

I have worked diligently to research and analyse legislation pertaining to vulnerable women (incarcerated women, prostituted women, etc.) and I have identified gaps in legislative protections as well as occurrences of the human rights of these vulnerable women being undermined and breached.

I have created what I believe is a pathway to solutions for prostituted women and for incarcerated women, as these two groups of vulnerable women often intersect.

The aforementioned groups have produced material which address many of the points raised by the Special Rapporteur.

The information I have linked in this document forms my submission to the *Call for input to the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls to the Human Rights Council on prostitution and violence against women and girls*.

This submission should assist the Special Rapporteur to better understand the relationship between prostitution and male violence against women (MVAW), and should serve to help clarify terms, approaches and actions States should take in order to maintain the spirit of international human rights law and to effectively protect women and girls from all forms of violence.

The points of concern, solutions and other information contained within the documents that form this submission pertain to issues that exist on global and local levels.

Please review each linked document in order to review my submission in its entirety.

I welcome opportunities to give further information, or clarification (if needed), on the matter of the human rights of incarcerated women and girls.

Thank you.

Jessica Williams, Women's Advocate & Founder of International Network for Incarcerated Girls and Women²



¹ [Non-state torture](#)

² [International Network for Incarcerated Girls and Women](#)

Australian Government Guidelines on the Relief and Support of Girls and Women Exiting the Sex Trade in Australia: Proposal

Australian Government Guidelines on the Relief and Support for Girls and Women Exiting the Sex Trade in Australia: Proposal serves as a guide for the framework of a Bill (or other appropriate and efficient legislation), for immediate relief and ongoing support for girls and women exiting the sex trade in Australia, and any other country, to be drafted, introduced, passed and implemented by the relevant Federal Government.

<https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2021/09/07/australian-government-guidelines-on-the-relief-and-support-of-girls-and-women-exiting-the-sex-trade-in-australia-proposal/>

University of New South Wales CEDAW Hearing Witness statement (and annexure)

I participated in a (mock) hearing, led by the Honourable Dr Jocelyne Scutt - Barrister & Human Rights Lawyer, in preparation for Australia's upcoming ninth periodic report at CEDAW's 86th session, and reference may be made to it in a report of the hearings, and it may be used in an NGO submission to the CEDAW Committee.

<https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2023/06/02/university-of-nsw-cedaw-hearing-witness-statement/>

Universal Declaration on the Rights of Incarcerated Girls and Women (UDRIGW)

The UDRIGW was established to provide universal uniform definitions and standards regarding all matters pertaining to the incarceration of girls and women in any form of penal system or facility, including youth facilities, detention centres, post-release centres, probation & parole programs, community-residential facilities and transitional housing, particularly regarding the sex-based rights and treatment of incarcerated girls and women, and it should be used in addition to United Nations and State official rules and policies which meet the standards set forth therein.

The UDRIGW serves as a universal uniform set of standards of which, in order to achieve, states need to make necessary and crucial changes to better protect, support and value incarcerated girls & women. The UDRIGW can be used to form and strengthen other standards for legislation regarding incarcerated women, and regarding facilities that provide services for other vulnerable women (i.e.: domestic violence refuges, rape crisis centres, mental health facilities, women's health clinics and services etc.).

The Universal Declaration on the Rights of Incarcerated Girls and Women is open for all governments and official bodies to endorse, ratify and implement.

Download the UDRIGW here (either of the two links):

<https://theinigw.wixsite.com/inigw/declaration>

<https://jkwilliamsoriginalwork.wordpress.com/2023/02/08/universal-declaration-on-the-rights-of-incarcerated-girls-and-women/>

Please review the *Australian Government Guidelines on the Relief and Support of Girls and Women Exiting the Sex Trade in Australia: Proposal*, the *University of New South Wales CEDAW Hearing Witness statement (and annexure)*, and the *Universal Declaration on the Rights of Incarcerated Girls and Women (UDRIGW)*.

This concludes my stakeholder submission. Thank you.