

UNITED NATIONS DIVISION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

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Study of the Secretary-General on violence against women

Guidance note for inputs from non-governmental organizations/civil society entities

The study of the Secretary-General, requested by resolution 58/185, will be submitted to the General Assembly in the fall of 2006. The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has responsibility for preparing the study, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, and by soliciting information from Member States and **non-governmental organizations**.

Non-governmental organizations are invited to make succinct inputs for use in the study's preparation. This note suggests guidelines for the preparation of those inputs.

Many **non-governmental organizations** have immediate knowledge of the challenges of violence against women and the experiences of survivors. This knowledge is a critical factor in the successful preparation of the study and follow-up to its recommendations, once completed. NGOs thus have a key role in the preparatory process: they are invited to use the study as a vehicle to galvanize action for policy outcomes and work within their communities, and with Governments at national, regional and global level, towards a more determined, committed and effective effort to eliminate violence against women. After its completion, NGOs should continue to use the study as a tool for advocacy and monitoring implementation of its recommendations.

NGOs are part of the Task Force for the study, and several have participated in the expert group meetings organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women. NGOs are preparing a calendar of previously planned events where there may be opportunities to promote the study and solicit inputs from civil society.

The **goals of the study** are to:

- Highlight the persistence of all forms of violence against women in all parts of the world, and the unacceptability of such violence
- Strengthen political commitment and joint efforts of all stakeholders to prevent and eliminate violence against women
- Identify ways and means for better and more sustained and effective implementation of Government commitments and obligations to combat all forms of violence against women, and increase accountability.

The study will enhance the knowledge base with regard to the extent and prevalence of violence against women, and expose the gaps and challenges in the availability of data, including methodologies for assessing its prevalence. It will synthesize causes and consequences, including costs, of such violence. It will also identify good practice examples and effective strategies to combat violence against women. Importantly, the study will include action-oriented recommendations that encompass effective remedies and prevention and rehabilitation measures.

The study's preparatory process is also an opportunity to put in place better monitoring for implementation of commitments in the study's follow-up phase.

The study, which will not exceed 120 pages, will be submitted to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly for consideration by Member States, in the fall of 2006.

Governments, entities of the United Nations system, as well as human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights have been invited to submit information.

NGOs are invited to make succinct inputs for use in the study's preparation. Drawing from their experience, NGOs should flag trends and highlight key issues requiring attention, and give examples of good practice in combating all forms of violence against women. Such information should not exceed 3 pages (up to 1500 words) and reach the Division by 15 October 2005. Inputs will be considered for the analysis and recommendations of the study, and may be posted on the website. NGOs are also encouraged to disseminate through their networks information about the study to organizations that may not have access to the Internet.

Inputs by NGOs could address in particular one or several of the bullets below:

- Data and statistics: the results of any study, survey or routine data collection undertaken by the NGO that have been published, on any type of violence against women, and/or covering any particular group of women, undertaken within the last five years (summarize the findings and attach the study/survey)
- Good practice examples from the actual experience of the NGO: describing the area (prevention, support services, legal aid, institutional response, multi-sectoral intervention), the type of violence targeted (such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, forced marriage, etc), and the reason why the example provided is a good practice
- Key issues the study should be addressing
- Key recommendations the study should be proposing

NGOs are also invited to bring to the attention of the Division for the Advancement of Women any additional resources, including experts, studies and reports on violence against women, to be used as references in the study.

Inputs should be sent to the Division for the Advancement of Women by 15 October to daw@un.org, reference "study on violence against women." Inputs may also be mailed to: UN Division for the Advancement of Women, 2 United Nations Plaza, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA; Reference: Study on violence against women.

An **online discussion** will take place in September/October 2005. This will be an additional opportunity for NGOs to contribute their ideas and suggestions to the study's preparation. Details will be posted in due course on the website.

Further information about the study, including the preliminary outline, is available on the website at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm>