



Oral Statement by the International Bar Association

57th Session of the Human Rights Council

Annual Discussion on Integration of A Gender Perspective

30 September 2024

No Decisions About Women Without Them

The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (the IBAHRI) welcomes this annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective and appreciates that the UN Human Rights Mechanisms address the mainstreaming of women.

We witness the ever-growing issue of gender-based violence (GBV) globally, including the use of rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war across all conflicts, but also femicide, among others. Despite the focus on education about GBV globally, cases of GBV are ever-growing and exacerbated by conflict, insecurity, and emergencies.

Yet, women continue to be excluded from many conversations and discussions that ultimately affect them.

We condemn that, during the last Doha meeting (Doha III), women were excluded from high-level discussions with the Taliban, and this on request from the Taliban. This is unacceptable. There should be no UN-led meetings or discussions with the Taliban if women - who are institutionally excluded from all aspects of the society in Afghanistan - are not included.

Similarly, Yazidi victims/survivors of the Daesh atrocities, many of whom are victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), have not been consulted before the decision was made to close the Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Daesh/ISIL (UNITAD).

There must be no discussion about women and girls - without their full participation. Unfortunately, this trend continues across too many situations.

The IBAHRI calls upon the High Commissioner and this Council to:

- Ensure that women and girls fully participate in all UN-led initiatives,
- Ensure that women and girls, and especially victims/survivors of atrocity crimes, are heard and they are fully involved in all decisions that concern them.

Thank you.

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