



Oral Statement at the 44th Session of the Human Right Council

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Date: 7 July, 2020

Delivered by: Mr. Andrzej Owca

Madame President,

VIVAT International, Edmund Rice International, PRATYeK and Swayam would like to draw your attention to the widespread gender based violence (GBV) that women in India face at home, in the work place and society.

While there are no dearth of laws and policies around various aspects of GBV that range from the traditional Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) to The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (2012), cases of violence against women and girls in India continue to rise supported by the persistence of patriarchal gender and social norms.¹

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) suggests that 30 percent women in India in the age group of 15-49 have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 and 31 percent of married women have experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence by their spouses.²

Despite the scale of the problem, only \$127 million i.e. 3.17% of the total budget of the Ministry of Women and Child, Government of India is allocated to provide support services to women, including those facing violence³.

We urge the Government of India and world leaders to prioritise women's safety and security, to increase budgetary allocations and invest in sustained campaigns to end violence against women and to provide redress and quality support services.

I thank you.

¹ <https://yourstory.com/socialstory/2019/09/gender-violence-india>

² Ibid

³ Ministry of Women and Child Development Budget 2020-2021, Government of India

