

Partnership for Global Justice: March Alert (2007)

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) takes place from February 26-March 9, 2007. The focus this year is on the violence against girls. Even before girls are born, they suffer from the widely prevalent preference for sons. Societies' strong preference for male children in some countries has led to female infanticide and selective abortion of female fetuses. Closely related to gender-based violence is discrimination that can be life threatening. In some communities, little girls are neglected and even denied food, education and medical care.

Send postcard to:

Ms. Patricia Brister
US Ambassador to the CSW
United States Mission to the United Nations
140 East 45th Street
New York, NY 10017

Or to the ambassador representing your country at the Commission on the Status of Women:

Dear _____

I am very concerned about the violence against girls. I urge you to address the discrimination and violence against girls and recognize their rights. Violations of their human rights still persist and many commitments have been unfulfilled. Supporting the empowerment of girls entails the elimination of all barriers that prevent them from developing their full potential including access to education, training, health services, community activities and space and time for interaction with their peers.

Sincerely,

Background Information for Letters:

-The protection of the rights of the girl child has not been fully achieved. Harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages persist.

-Girls are in high risk of sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.

-Other forms of violence against girls and young women include son preference, prenatal sex selection, female infanticide, early marriage and forced marriage and dowry-related violence.

-Violence against girls occurs within the family, local community including in schools. Many of these critical actors, including girls themselves, may not be fully informed of their rights.

-Despite sustained efforts to increase access of girls to education, estimates indicate that as many as 55 million girls continue to be left out of formal schooling.

-The empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and protecting and promoting their human rights.

For further information:

Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.6/2007/2

Economic and Social Council

Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-first session

26 February-9 March 2007

www.unifem.org

www.unfpa.org

www.internationalwomensday.com