31st SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL















Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

SIDE EVENT AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S 31st SESSION SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

GENDER PERSPECTIVES ON TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN, AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

To date, the applicability of the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in international law has sparsely accounted for the unique experiences of women, girls, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. Historically, the torture and ill-treatment framework evolved in response to practices and situations that disproportionately affected men. The analysis has thus largely failed to have a gendered and intersectional lens, or to account adequately for the impact of entrenched discrimination, patriarchal, heteronormative and discriminatory power structures, and socialized gender stereotypes.

Based on the latest thematic report by Special Rapporteur Juan E. Mendez (SRT) on gender perspectives on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/HRC/31/57), the side-event seeks to sensitize member States to their heightened obligations to prevent and combat gender-based violence and discrimination against women, girls and LGBTI persons that amount to torture or other ill-treatment. The side-event also intends to highlight the wide range of contexts in which women, girls, and LGBTI persons are at particular risk of torture and ill-treatment, whether by State agents (i.e. when deprived of liberty) or by non-State or private actors (i.e. in the contexts of harmful practices; domestic violence; trafficking: or sexual violence in the context of armed conflict).

The panel will discuss practical challenges and the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur's new report and participants will have a valuable opportunity to provide input on both the substantive and the advocacy levels, offering strategies for member States, UN mechanisms, and civil society organizations on how to best raise awareness of and ensure meaningful changes in regards to prohibited treatment and practices affecting women, girls, and LGBTI persons.

Representatives of Member States, UN agencies and civil societies are cordially invited

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EVENT PLEASE VISIT THE ANTI-TORTURE INITIATIVE'S WEBSITE AT: www.antitorture.org

WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2016 12.00 PM; Conference Room XXIII

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

H.E. Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

MODERATED BY

Ms. Andrea Huber Penal Reform International

PANELISTS:

Mr. Juan E. Méndez

Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Dr. Dubravka Šimonović

Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

Ms. Marta Santos Pais

Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children

Ms. Therese Maria Rytter

DIGNITY (Danish Institute Against Torture), European Committee for the Prevention of Torture

Ms. Esther Major

Amnesty International

CONCLUDING REMARKS

H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations

The side-event is collaborative and organized by the Anti-Torture Initiative in cooperation with the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and cosponsored by Switzerland and Denmark.

The event is open to the public. Accreditation is required for entry. Interested guests without UN accreditation should send an email to anicoles@wcl.american.edu by 12:00 on Monday, March 7, 2016.