

**Questionnaire addressed to Governments for the preparation of the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, Yakin Ertürk, on  
“Political Economy and Violence against Women”**

Following on the Special Rapporteur's reports to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the "Due Diligence Standard" (E/CN.4/2006/61) and to the United Nations Human Rights Council on the "Intersections between Culture and Violence Against Women" (A/HRC/4/34), where she referred to the effects of global political and economic environment as being among the constraints to combating violence against women, her forthcoming annual report to the United Nations Human Rights Council will focus on the political economy of women's rights and its implications for violence against women. This report aims to elucidate the aspects of global and local political economic environments that serve to both constrain and enable efforts to end violence against women.

Violence against women represents a violation of women's civil and political rights but it also affects and is intimately related to their social and economic rights, including in the areas of work, land, water, housing, food, health and social security. Women's lack of social and economic rights makes them vulnerable to violence, while violence prevents women from realising and claiming their full human rights, including their social and economic rights.

This questionnaire is designed to consult member states on both general concepts as well as experiences they may wish to contribute to the process of developing both a better understanding and better strategies regarding the political economy of violence against women. The Special Rapporteur would like to specifically receive information on how local and global economic conditions may affect both women's ability to claim their full human rights and on how government efforts to address violence against women are consistent with their human rights obligations, including the due diligence standard.

Kindly submit your responses to the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences; c/o UNOG-OHCHR; CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland. Responses can also be submitted electronically to [vawpoliticeconomy@ohchr.org](mailto:vawpoliticeconomy@ohchr.org) or by fax at + 41 22 917 9006. Please provide references, addresses (including email addresses and internet links) to enable identification of relevant materials. While responses can be submitted in all official languages of the United Nations, responses in English, the working language of the Special Rapporteur, are preferable.

**Please submit your response no later than 26 January 2009**

Thank you for your time and cooperation

## Information and Data Collection

Economic vulnerability is a factor condoning violence against women.

- 1) Have there been any initiatives in your country to analyse the relationship between poverty or the economic status of women or girls and violence against women? Has your Government collected data, developed indicators or produced any information on this issue?
- 2) Have there been any initiatives in your country to quantify the economic cost of violence against women – such as to the health care system, the criminal justice system, employers, the social services sectors, or families?

## Monitoring the Political Economy of Violence against Women

- 3) Have you observed or analysed the impact of particular economic or labour policies on the prevalence of violence against women, including domestic violence?

*For example, such government policies might include poverty reduction strategies, unemployment and social assistance policies, privatisation and trade liberalisation policies, policies to address economic crises and recessions, or economic restructuring involving cuts to social expenditures.*

- 4) Have you observed or analysed the impact of international bilateral or multilateral agreements on women's economic and social rights and their effect on violence against women?
- 5) Does your Government take into account violence against women in particular sectors of the economy, especially but not limited to:
  - special economic or "free trade" zones
  - the sex industry
  - the tourism industry

Please give details of any general information or research-based reports here, as well as on programmes or activities carried out by your Government to combat violence against women in these sectors.

- 6) What measures and programmes are in place to monitor the impact of large economic developments projects (e.g. extractive industries, agro-business, dams, etc) on women's socio-economic rights and their protection from violence in communities affected by those development projects?

## Enabling Environment: Legislation, Policies and Programmes

Violence against women is often a barrier to women's access to education, employment, productive resources - such as land, water, credit-, and public goods- such as social security (contribution-based schemes such as social insurance and non-contributory schemes).

- 7) Does your Government have any policies or programmes that recognise and seek to redress violence against women as a constraint on women's economic participation, empowerment, and access to services/ benefits (e.g. education, employment)? If yes, please give details on the impact of those policies or programmes on women's economic status, empowerment, participation in public life, or access to services / benefits.
- 8) Does your Government have any policies or programmes to address the impact, especially on women, of poverty or important changes in the economy (e.g. economic crises) which may result in the loss of jobs, personal income or social security benefits for families and communities? Are women especially affected by such circumstances?
- 9) Does your Government provide access to adequate social security (through contributory or non-contributory schemes) for women outside the formal labour market, including women working in the informal sector, migrant workers, and women engaged in unpaid care work in families and communities? Has your Government made specific budgetary allocations in that respect?
- 10) What efforts have been made to ensure that national legislation protects the social and economic rights of women regardless of their civil or personal status? More specifically, has your government analysed how women's enjoyment - or lack thereof - of property and inheritance rights (both within and outside marriage) and their right to child alimony impact on their economic security and their protection from violence?
- 11) Has your government undertaken any analysis on how the division of labour between men and women in the household (e.g. who is the major breadwinner) affects violence against women and the economic welfare of women? If so, please provide details of findings, or of any measures undertaken to improve conditions for women in this respect.
- 12) Have you undertaken any initiatives aimed at reducing the vulnerability (e.g. to violence) and economic impact on women resulting from conflict, natural disasters or displacement situations (such as through gender-sensitive situation/ impact assessments, early warning systems, emergency response plans, or contingency plans)? Have there been initiatives to analyse the consequences to women, in the aftermath of these events, and to remedy them?