

Oral Statement | Prepared by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches

General Discussion | 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The World Council of Churches, a global fellowship of churches with a total membership of 580 million wrote in March 1992 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations "In various international fora, women are urging the United Nations to recognize that violence against

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Churches is the increasing religious extremism in all faiths and the dire consequences this has on women's legal, political and social rights.

These statements were made decades ago, but they are still valid and highly relevant in relation to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Today, more than ever, it is necessary to reiterate that women's rights are human rights, and that human rights are universal. Traditional values or religious beliefs cannot justify the acceptance of violence against women, nor can they be accepted as limitations on women's rights and freedom. Women as well as men are created in the image of God and deserve to be respected, protected, and cared for. It is necessary for member states to agree upon a more robust strong international framework. Civil