UNPFII Intervention on GBV - April 2025

Monday 21 to Tuesday 22, April 2025

Item 5 (e): Interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue

**Honorable Chairperson, esteemed members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, distinguished representatives of Indigenous Peoples:**

On behalf of CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks (Canada), the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (United States), and the Latin American and Caribbean Coalition of Indigenous Peoples in Response to HIV/AIDS in Latin America, we address the global crisis of gender‑based violence affecting Indigenous communities. This violence—not only undermining the rights, safety, and dignity of Indigenous women, girls, two‑spirit, and gender‑diverse people—often inflicted by state and religious actors, restricts access to justice for those who have suffered sexual abuse, harassment, and HIV infection. These survivors are further disadvantaged by a lack of culturally appropriate mental health supports and follow‑up care.

Insights from UNFPA publications[[1]](#endnote-11151) and recent UNAIDS press releases from March[[2]](#endnote-31898) and August 2024[[3]](#endnote-9521) underscore the urgency of addressing these issues in fragile and marginalized settings. Our own community‑based research and annual reporting at CAAN have consistently highlighted these gaps—particularly omissions affecting the right to life and health of Indigenous women and girls—while calling for culturally grounded, transformative interventions that prioritize Indigenous voices and scale up national responses globally.

Therefore, we reaffirm the need to revisit the report titled “Recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights & Gender‑based Violence: Report on Progress and Challenges”.[[4]](#endnote-13528) We call on an inter‑agency group of UN agencies to convene a multi‑country meeting, led by Indigenous community organizations, that focuses on the intersection of health, education, and culture as it relates to gender‑based violence against Indigenous women and girls in all their diversity.

We also urge the United Nations to convene an expert group meeting on gender‑based violence to address three critical gaps:

1. An absence of comprehensive policies and measures to prevent violence.
2. Inadequate avenues for Indigenous women and girls who experience sexual violence and harassment to access justice.
3. Insufficient recognition of Indigenous women’s organizations—key groups that denounce harmful practices in state, cultural, and religious spheres and mobilize communities against violence.

Addressing these issues is essential for building a safer and more inclusive society.

1. https://www.unfpa.org/featured-publication/recommendations-un-permanent-forum-indigenous-issues-regarding-sexual-and [↑](#endnote-ref-11151)
2. https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/march/20240325\_gender-based-violence-discrimination-inequalities [↑](#endnote-ref-31898)
3. https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2024/august/20240828\_end-gender-based-violence-in-fragile-settings [↑](#endnote-ref-9521)
4. https://unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA\_PUB\_2018\_EN\_human\_rights\_report.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-13528)