

**Human Rights Council – 32<sup>nd</sup> session**

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women its causes and consequences.**

**Report of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice.**

**Delivered on 20 June 2016**

**Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development**

Thank you Mr President.

I make this statement also on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative. We congratulate the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Working Group on discrimination against women on their reports presented at this session.

For any intervention to effectively address VAW and discrimination against women, an intersectional approach is required. History has taught us that the experiences of marginalisation and privilege are not only defined by gender, but by other factors such as race, class, age, disability and geographic location, only to mention a few, all of which are determined, shaped by and imbedded in the social systems of power.

Therefore we call on states to:

1. Adopt a holistic, integrated approach to violence and discrimination by addressing its systemic and structural causes including patriarchy, racism, heteronormativity, the crises in democracy, militarism and conflict and all types of extremisms and fundamentalisms;
2. Act collaboratively and support NGOs working on VAW to ensure that holistic, accessible, equitable, quality services are provided to survivors of violence against women
3. Continue the work to eliminate online violence while taking measures to recognise and protect the right to privacy and anonymity, the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association and the right to access information - including information on sexuality, sexual health and reproductive rights.
4. Adopt a holistic approach towards women's health and safety by looking at their full life cycle from childhood to old age as interconnected phases with distinct considerations and needs.....<sup>1</sup>

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/32/44, page 20.