



Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmed, Counsellor, during the Annual Full Day Meeting on the Human Rights of Women Gender-based violence against women and girls in public and political life
30 June 2023

Mr. President,

We thank all the panelists for their contributions.

For OIC Member States, protecting rights of women and girls is not only a key human rights imperative but important part of religious, social, moral and legal obligations.

Islam accords great value to the protection and promotion of rights of women based on the principle of equality. It prohibits violence including sexual violence against women under any circumstances and provides guidance for their empowerment in all spheres of life.

We reaffirm our commitment to combat all forms of violence including sexual violence and to take steps aimed at women's political and socio-economic empowerment.

OIC's revised Cairo Declaration calls upon its members to take all necessary measures to eliminate difficulties that impede the empowerment of women, their access to quality education, basic healthcare, employment and the right to receive equal remuneration as well as their full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The OIC has also voiced its disappointment in-case of policy restrictions to education for girls in an OIC member states.

Unfortunately, our struggle to make this planet a safe, secure and better place for women is witnessing multifaceted challenges that are often rooted in prejudice based on race, colour, religion ethnicity and nationality as well as migrant or refugees status.

Some of the glaring manifestations of such policies are visible in the form of ban on hijab, prohibiting their access to education and employment opportunities, obstructing political empowerment and denial of right to inheritance.

Women and girls are also the most victims of conflicts, human trafficking, displacement and non-realization of social and economic rights.

We support cooperation with all human rights mechanisms and special procedures, in line with their respective mandates that are working on protecting rights of women and girls.

In this regard, the OIC recommends greater efforts and cooperation aimed at upholding women rights in line with CEDAW commitments; and exchange of good practices to integrate efforts for combating all forms of violence against women and girls in public and political life. I thank you.