



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2005/NGO/88
18 February 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sixty-first session
Item 12 (a) of the provisional agenda

**INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER
PERSPECTIVE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Written statement* submitted by Romanian Independent Society of Human Rights
(SIRDO), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2005]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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- (i) The Romanian Independent Society of Human Rights (SIRDO) is a non-government organisation set up in 1990 which focuses on the protection and promotion of human right and fundamental freedoms related to the engagements Romania took by ratifying the universal and regional international documents.
- (ii) In its objectives, SIRDO also included its preoccupations in reducing the difference between the “de jure” status and the real condition of women in Romania, seen through the perspective of the respect of women’s rights as integral part of human rights and of gender-equality policies. SIRDO’s activity in the field is especially important due to the accreditation of our organisation to the International Beijing Conference – 1995, as well as through our participation to the Special UN Session “Beijing +5” agenda, New York – 2000.
- (iii) In the field of analyses related to family-social justice-equality, starting 1994 SIRDO monitored the dynamic of domestic violence in Romania. In this respect, for the legal, moral and social regulation of women’s status under the impact of violence, we presented a statement before the Commission on Human Rights – Fifty-sixth Session (E.CN.4/2000/NGO/42). At that time, SIRDO considered the fact that Romania had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women since 1982 as well as the aspect that the legal protection of victims of domestic violence is inadequate.
- (iv) During 2000 – 2005, SIRDO’s efforts were focused in activities such as counselling for victims, prevention and intervention measures for making a national legal framework.
- (v) Law No. 197/of November 2000 instituted modification to some provisions of the Romanian Penal Code, such as introducing stricter penalties for perpetrators who raped or used physical violence against a family member. As a result of activities of the national Coalition on NGOs in Romania against domestic violence (CNIFIV) and the Romanian Parliament, Law No. 217/2003 for the prevention and cessation of domestic violence was adopted, according with which domestic violence is a crime and is punished according to the penal Code.
- (vi) Unfortunately, the efforts of parliamentarians and those of the civil society were not taken into account by governors in 2004 as follows:
 - the prolongation of the application of this law, thus sentencing many other women and children to violence;
 - the compulsory elimination of the state’s obligation (stipulated by law) to allot funds for shelters;
 - the elimination of the possibility (stipulated by law) to create independent structures in the territory belonging to the National Agency for the Protection of the Family;
 - the transformation of the National Agency for the Protection of the Family in a structure without direct intervention resorts that should move the real mechanisms of the state;

- the fact that the National Agency for the Protection of the Family was only given a role of “accreditation” of direct intervention forms of the civil society or of the local community.
- (vii) Considering the growing violence in Romania (which is revealed by the latest statistics of the Ministry of Administration and Internal Affairs, with a stress on murder, attempt of murder, serious body injury and family abandonment and endangering a person unable to care for herself) we request the intervention of the member states of the Commission on Human Rights and that of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, on:
- sustaining the initiative of the civil society for the revision of Law No. 217/2003 in order to include in our legislation the provisions on the order of restriction against the aggressor;
 - elaborating the methodology for applying Law No. 217/2003 according to the international standards and the objectives set in the national legal framework;
 - setting the objectives and the role of the National Agency for the Protection of Family as an active mechanism with direct intervention resorts for moving the state mechanisms.
- (viii) SIRDO expresses its trust in the intervention of the Commission on Human Rights in favour of victims of domestic violence in Romania and makes a special appeal to the member states of the European Union that should grant a special attention to this aspect, considering the perspective of Romania’s integration in the European structures in 2007.
