

ATOP Meaningfulworld joins other NGOs around the world to sign on to a letter to the Commission on the Status of women to support the rights of women, especially during COVID-19

In the letter, ICP and other organizations called on all UN Member States to support several points:

- Ensure that women and girls in all their diversity are able to enjoy and exercise their full human rights, including the right to participate in making decisions that affect their lives, free from violence and discrimination.
- Enact policies and commit funds to enable women's full participation in public life, including: elimination of all discriminatory laws, structural barriers, social norms and gender stereotypes; strengthening institutions to promote gender equality; providing child care and parental leave to enable the redistribution of care work in households; recognizing the value of women's unpaid care work in gross domestic product or income account indicators.
- Implement social protection measures, wage subsidies and care services to counter the gender-specific impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and support women in the informal economy and women entrepreneurs.
- Eliminate all forms of gender-related violence including but not limited to femicide and rape as a weapon in conflicts and mitigate the adverse impacts of conflicts on women and girls.
- Address harmful social and cultural norms that normalize violence against women, and exercise zero tolerance for gender-based violence.
- Increase funding for support services for victims of gender-based violence and strengthen services for survivors.
- Provide access to quality education and training for women and girls, as education is fundamental to women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life.
- Close the gender digital divide to ensure that women and girls can participate equally with men and boys in distance learning and contribute to and benefit from technology and innovation.
- Provide equal access to digital tools and teacher training to ensure that distance learning does not broaden existing inequalities.
- Enhance collaboration with civil society to create safe spaces for women and girls to exercise their voice and leadership and ensure enjoyment of their human rights.
- Support protect and fund women's organizations and women's human rights defenders who provide services and exercise community leadership at the grassroots level.
- Involve women's groups and leaders meaningfully in all peace negotiations and peace-building efforts to increase the likelihood that conflicts will be resolved, and communities restored.

- Reduce military expenditures and increase investments in health care, education and social protections, particularly for women and girls.
- Mobilize women and men, girls and boys, to work together in intergenerational partnerships for human rights, equality, justice, peace and a sustainable environment.
- Recognize and ensure the value of including women's perspectives in decision-making, to achieve more just and equal societies.

The statement ended with the reminder:

Each of us is ultimately only as empowered as the most vulnerable among us. The world is crying out for equity, empowerment, inclusion, and justice for all. We must all work together to ensure that the voices of women and girls are included, heard, and respected in all fora at all levels