

**ICJ Oral Statement in the Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice**

**SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

17 June 2016

The International Commission of Jurists thanks both the Special Rapporteur and the Working Group for their reports, which acknowledge the pervasive problem of sexual and gender based violence and the consequences of failures to provide effective access to the services and remedies required.

Sexual and gender based violence often severely impacts women's physical and psychological health and it is essential that victims and survivors can access the range of health services they need. However, as the Working Group's report demonstrated, women often face discrimination in accessing these services. This problem is compounded when not only are services inadequate and/or inaccessible but women are stigmatized when certain services are required as a result of sexual violence, such as HIV treatment or termination of a pregnancy.

The ICJ welcomes the Special Rapporteur's recognition of the necessity of adequate service provision for women subjected to sexual and gender based violence. We also welcome the endeavour to establish a code of conduct for security officers and police and to enable capacity building for legal professionals who deal with violence against women.

The ICJ would like to ask the Special Rapporteur and the Working Group if there are any plans to develop a code of conduct for healthcare professionals dealing with incidences of sexual and gender based violence as part of a holistic approach?

Thank you Mr President.

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