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**24<sup>th</sup> session of Human Rights Council**  
**o Institute for Women's Studies and Research**  
**Universal Periodic Review**  
**x CANADA**

There are numerous reports about the degrading situation of aboriginal children in Canada. Some children had been deprived of their identity due to the illegal removal by Government authorities of their father's name on their original birth certificates, and urged Canada to review legislation and practices in the provinces and territories where birth registrations had been illegally altered or the names of parents been removed, and ensure that the names on such birth certificates are restored.

There may be as many as 45,000 eligible children and youth between the ages of 4-21 years old that are not attending school in Canada. There are a myriad of reasons for the drop-out, push-out or disconnect with education, one of which may be the absence of seeing their culture, histories and languages reflected in the curriculum or being taught by teachers and professors who lack cultural competency.

We urged Canada to ensure that Aboriginal children in the child welfare system are able to preserve their identity, claim their rights, including in respect of names, culture and language of children belonging indigenous populations; and revise the legislation to ensure that women and men are equally legally entitled to pass their Aboriginal status to their grandchildren.

Also the situation of indigenous peoples and minorities remains the most pressing human rights issue. Minorities are poorly represented in political structures and institutions at all levels of Government. Yet poverty is a problem disproportionately faced by people of color, including African-Canadian and specific Asian-Canadian communities. Income levels generally are significantly lower for minorities, unemployment rates are higher and minorities are predominantly living in the poorest neighborhoods and in social housing with relatively poor access to services.

We urged Canada to affirm its commitment to the implementation of the spirit and intent, obligations and socio-economic objectives of land claims agreements entered into with indigenous peoples and minorities.