



*Promoting and strengthening
the Universal Periodic Review*
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United Nations Human Rights Council: 46th Session
Oral statement Item 6 – General Debate
UPR Info – March 17th, 2021 (delivered by Mona M’Bikay, Executive Director, UPR Info)

Madame President,

March is traditionally the month where we raise awareness about women’s rights.

This year it is critically important to set off an alarm as the Covid-19 pandemic threaten to roll back decades of progress made. Women and girls were indeed further exposed by the financial consequences of the crisis, gender-based violence is on the rise and access to economic, social, and cultural rights is made difficult.

Women’s rights are the second most raised issue at the UPR.

UPR Info therefore encourages States during the review to take actions to:

End all forms of discrimination, eliminate violence and harmful practices, promote economic empowerment and financing, and address the care economy (paid and unpaid), support participation and leadership in decision-making and ensure healthy life for all women and girls.

The Covid-19 has also jeopardized for many vulnerable groups the rights to health, housing, food, livelihood and education. In the post-Covid phase, the restoration of these rights will require immediate attention. UPR Info proposes to strengthen the focus on ESC rights during the review to respond to protracted issues exacerbated during the pandemic.

To achieve greater equality, ensure protection and respond to the socio-economic impacts the roots causes of the violations have to be addressed. We invite States to tackle structural barriers to gender equality, strengthen accountability mechanisms and increase investments and financing for human rights in all sectors.

I thank you.