

Human Rights Council 24th Session

Agenda Item 6

Mother's Legacy

Thank you Mr. President.

On behalf of Mother's Legacy we would like to commend Russia on the appointment of the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child and the National Action Plan for Children. We encourage Russia to develop a similar action plan for women. We hope that continual efforts will be put forth to promote children's rights as well as efforts made to enhance the opportunities for rights of women.

Mother's Legacy applauds the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and like them, are troubled by the insufficient representation of women in decision-making positions in government ministries and other institutions that are now presiding over major changes that will shape the future of society. Only 13% of deputies in the Russian State Duma are women, and only 6% are represented at the federal level. We encourage Russia to empower women to participate in the political arena, by encouraging, and supporting well qualified, strong, and independently minded woman leaders.

Mr. President, women bring valuable insight and experience into the political realm. Their heavy and unequal responsibilities often entrenches them in poverty, and affects their right to work, education, health and social security. Their active participation would help many more citizens to gain access to the political process and become agents for change.

Furthermore we affirm the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommendation's on "Promoting gender equality as well as portraying women in a non-stereotypical and non-discriminatory way." We also agree that adopting a gender equality law would promote a positive portrayal of women. Is the gender equality law of 2011 in effect in Russia now?

We are confident that Russia will attain real effective mechanisms and a strong framework to eliminate gender discrimination, and promote a woman's right to participate, to have their voice heard in what remains a traditional Russian society. It is our hope that the Russian Federation will develop an action plan for all members of their society.

Thank you Mr. President

20 September, 2013

Speaker: Courtney Jensen