

ORAL STATEMENT

56th Session of the Human Rights Council, Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on
Violence against Women and Girls, Its causes and consequences
24 June 2024

Oral Statement delivered by Anna Zobnina
On behalf of Equality Now, Brussels' Call Coalition, European Network of Migrant Women,
CAP International and National Council of Women Canada.

Mr President

I deliver this statement on behalf of Equality Now, Brussels Call Coalition, European Network of Migrant Women, CAP International and National Council of Women Canada.

Representing thousands of women worldwide, including survivors, we thank the Special Rapporteur for her truthful, compassionate, based on a proper consultation report.

As women human rights defenders, we know that equality is impossible when prostitution exists. In a world where every 3rd woman is assaulted, the globalised trade in women makes every woman a sexual prey.

So why did it take so long for the UN to produce a report with basic facts on prostitution? Facts on torture and violence systematically inflicted on prostituted women; facts on perpetrators of this violence, and its the catastrophic global dimensions.

And why are there still advocates who try to persuade us that there must be a group of humans whose dignity and bodily autonomy it is permissible to violate because this violation is paid for?

We all know the answer: Profit. Not for prostituted women, but for the pimps, and "the pimp States". Sexual desires. Not of the women, but of the men who buy them.

Today is the day to take stock of the grave violations of human rights in prostitution. It is the day when women say '*Enough ! The world in which we are treated as humans is possible*'.

And for this, we thank Reem Alsalem.