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## **47<sup>TH</sup> Human Rights Council, 21<sup>st</sup> June – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

### **Annual Debate on the human rights of women – Violence against women and girls with disabilities**

On behalf of the Sikh Human Rights Group, we would like to lend our support to the report made at the Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women. We particularly would like to share in the discussion surrounding violence against women and girls with disabilities.

In recognizing trends in this form of violence, we must acknowledge the impact COVID-19 has had on the increased rates of violence against women and girls with disability. While the impacts of the pandemic are in no way uniform, those with underlying health concerns and the most vulnerable of our populations have faced additional barriers.

Women and girls with disabilities around the globe have suffered neglect, exposure, and abuse in alarming numbers as the world locked down. Without proper measures of accountability, this violence has gone under reported in countless States across all economic and social classes.

The intersection of gender and disability sits at an exceptional place of vulnerability. The importance of addressing this issue cannot be overstated as these women and girls can face stigma, communication barriers, and questions of credibility when trying to report instances of violence. Many do not even have access to systems for reporting such abuse.

In summation, we call for violence against women and girls with disability to be further investigated in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased present danger to this vulnerable population.