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## **Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences**

Professor Myrna Dawson  
Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice Accountability  
Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence

30 November 2017

Dear Professor Myrna Dawson,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender based violence, I would like to officially congratulate the Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence for the upcoming launch of the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice Accountability.

In my report to the General Assembly (A/71/398), presented in October 2016, I recommended modalities for establishment of the femicide watch and/or observatory as an interdisciplinary body to collect and analyze data on femicides with the aim of preventing such cases, tackling impunity of perpetrators and protecting women and girls all over the world from violence. I have proposed a flexible model for the establishment of national mechanisms or review panels and recommend to States to collect femicide data under two broad categories: 1) intimate partner femicide/ family related femicide - based on relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and 2) other femicides (with subcategories relevant for the national context).

Since this report has been presented to the General Assembly in 2016, many initiatives aimed at establishing femicide and gender-based violence observatories are arising and growing worldwide. As Special Rapporteur of violence against women I am therefore actively working to collect and analyse existing good practices on data collection and prevention of femicides. I hope that we are moving in the direction of collection of comparable world data on femicide. Such data could then be turned into femicide rates in order to enable States to objectively assess where they stand on the regional and global scale and to adopt actions needed to prevent many preventable deaths of women. Within my mandate, I also recommended, among other measures, the establishment of a global database on shelters and protection orders. All these data should be considered as objective indicators under the target 2 of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on the elimination of violence against women.

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Hence, I am delighted to include the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice Accountability among the worldwide best practices of femicide observatory and I hope that this important body will be always implemented in compliance of the recommendations enshrined in my GA report A/71/398.

I am confident that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences will find in the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice Accountability a crucial ally in ending femicide and gender-based violence against women and increasing awareness on the urgent need to prevent this pandemic at the international, regional and national level.

In light of these positive developments, I also take this opportunity to reiterate my call to all States and stakeholders to establish femicide observatories and to improve, as a matter of priority, data collection and analysis on gender related killings of women.

Please accept, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Šimonović". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Dubravka Šimonović  
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences