

Statement of the Holy See Delegation
Commission on the Status of Women
55th Session
(New York, 28 February 2011);

REV

Interpretation CSW

Mr. Chairman,

On the occasion of this fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), my delegation takes this opportunity to focus on the priority and revision themes presently under consideration. Due to time constraints, I have attached a short statement. I ask the official full text be circulated.

The principles by which educational agencies, institutions and schools operate must be firmly rooted in a profound respect for the dignity of the human person and his or her cultural values.

Values rooted in the natural law common to humanity play a key role in the proper education of the human person. Those who receive an education should be able to discern and avoid that which is good for themselves and for others and that which is not good for themselves and for others. Primary education should focus on basic skills and it must fully respect the primacy of the family, the basic unit of society, but not limited to, the area of human sexuality.

Mr. Chairman,

The true advancement of women requires that women do not have to pay for their advancement by abandoning their families and at the expense of the family, in which women are the foundational instruments of the United Nations Organization. The family, founded on the marriage between a man and a woman, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State. (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 16, 17; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 23, 1)

Mr. Chairman,

All States must enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from trafficking, violence and exploitation from conception onwards, including abortion, especially sex-selective abortion, and female infanticide.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking up the issue of human trafficking, I would like to address the effects of this heinous crime on girls and women.

Commission on Human Rights, 1993, para. 10. The Commission also expressed its concern over the increasing number of children and adolescents who are victims of prostitution, pornography and sexual exploitation.

The human advancement of women begins with full respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Such respect must take into account the entire life cycle, from conception to natural death, and States have the responsibility to ensure this in their national legislations.

Mr. Chairman,

The authentic advancement of women necessarily entails recognition of the deep and fundamental spiritual truth about the word and meaning of human dignity and the equality and complementarity of the masculine and the feminine. It is through the recognition of this truth that we can achieve the collaboration and to communion. The more we respect this truth of human nature, the more we will be able to confront the challenges which we must face women in order to achieve authentic advancement around the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.