

“Strengthening protection of women and girls with disabilities from violence continues to be a priority”, said Mona Rishmawi, the Chief of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non Discrimination Branch in the UN Human Rights Office in Geneva during a side event hosted during the 20th session of the Human Rights Council. Surveys and studies have shown that women and girls with disabilities experience a high rate of violence by a variety of actors within a range of situations and that this violence remains largely hidden.

In its resolution 17/11, the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a “Thematic analytical study on the issue of violence against women and girls and disability”. In its findings, the study noted that both men and women with disabilities are exposed to greater risk of violence. In reference to the study, the Branch Chief stated that societal barriers limit access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with other members of society. Sentiments that have also been credited to Special Rapporteur on torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment.

However women and girls face an even greater risk of violence due to complex intersectional forms of discrimination as well as gender based assumptions and expectations. It also found that women with disabilities are also more exposed to forms of violence which are not experienced by women without disabilities. Acts of violence against women and girls with disabilities also include other forms of physical and psychological violence and neglect including the withholding of medication and assistive devices, refusal of caregivers to assist in daily functioning, psychological manipulation and harming or threatening to harm. In addition, they are also particularly vulnerable to forced sterilization and other medical interventions carried out without their consent. (...)

The article:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Strengtheningtheprotectionofwomenandgirlswithdisabilities.aspx>