

24th Session of Human Rights Council

Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims

UPR

CANADA

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Today is the second round of UPR for Canada while Canada has not implemented the recommendations which it accepted during the 2009 UPR, a number of which have particular relevance for women, including recommendations 44 and 45, and recommendations 33 through.

We are deeply concerned about the alarming patterns of violence afflicting indigenous women. The evidence is that in federal prisons in Canada, Aboriginal women's serious mental health needs are not being addressed and that programming is inadequate to meet their needs for education, training counseling, family and community connection. Even worse, their needs for supports and programming are equated to risk and result in Aboriginal women being disproportionately classified as higher security and therefore less likely to be released from prison when they are legally entitled to be.

We believe national inquiry in Canada is needed in order to address the many issues affecting the families of murdered and disappeared Aboriginal women and girls; to review police policies and procedures on searches and investigation.

Governments in Canada have not put in place the measures necessary to address and overcome the deeply embedded and long-standing structural and systemic inequalities that women face. In fact, over the last decade, Canada has been moving backwards on implementation of the rights of women in important ways deep social and economic disadvantage experienced by particular groups of women, including single mothers, Aboriginal women, women of color, women with disabilities, and older women lower employment earnings, underemployment, gendered division of labour, and disability discrimination in the labour force, including race discrimination in pay and inadequate protections for migrant workers.

we urges the Human Rights Council to ensure that the 2013 UPR holds Canada to account for its general and nation-wide failure to implement fully and effectively its human rights obligations to women. The Human Rights Council made a commitment to ensure that the issues of women's equality would be thoroughly canvassed and attended to during the Universal Periodic Review process.