The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that the interchangeable use of the terms gender-based violence and ‘violence against women’ fails to acknowledge the vast landscape of gender identities that face violence,

Fully alarmed at the disproportionate amount of violence directed at women and those identifying beyond the cis-binary,

Recognizing that gender-based violence does not discriminate between age, race, economic class, physical and mental ability, religious affiliation, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation,

Further noting that individuals in conflict zones have an increased vulnerability to gender based violence,

Viewing with appreciation the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence’s definition for the effects of violence being “physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”,

Having adopted the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women’s expanded definition of gender-based violence to include prenatal sex-selection, female infanticide, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, and forced use of or forced denial of contraceptives,

a) Contemplating the scope of the definition of violence to formally include other non-physical forms of violence
Noting with approval Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which highlights gender-based violence in the realms of the family (battery, sexual abuse of children, female genital mutilation, intimate partner violence, and forced marriage), the community (sexual harassment, sex trafficking, rape, and social stigma), and the state (unenforced laws, discriminatory laws and law enforcement agents, unequal and inadequate education systems, lack of employment initiatives, and lack of social services),

Noting with regret that Iran, Palau, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga, and the United States have yet to ratify or accede the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women,

Acknowledging that the effects of gender-based violence include but are not limited to public health concerns, individual human rights, weakening community strength and cohesion, limiting social and public involvement, the deprivation of liberty, obstacles to international development, and barring full economic participation,

Deeply disturbed by the increased risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, HIV in particular, that victims of sexual violence are at and the consequential unchecked spread of STDs,

Emphasizing that two studies found that women in Uganda (15-49) and women in South Africa (15-26) who had experienced intimate partner violence were 50% more likely to have HIV than women who had not experienced violence,

Fully alarmed by UN Women’s estimate that 37% of married women in India have experienced domestic violence, resulting in increased infant mortality rates,

Deeply disturbed by UNICEF estimating that 1 in 10 women worldwide have been victims of rape in their lifetimes,

Alarmed by a survey of 3,706 elementary school children from Uganda, 24 per cent of 11 to 14-year-old girls with disabilities reported sexual violence at school, compared to 12 per cent of non-disabled girls of the same age,

Keeping in mind the contribution that women and girls make in the community in relation to family structure, stability, and preservation of culture,
Fully aware that domestic violence and social isolation lead to a decrease in workplace participation and therefore, a decrease not only in household income, but national and international GDP,

Affirming that gender-based violence can manifest itself in a multitude of ways including female genital mutilation, acid attacks, domestic violence, child marriage and/or sexual assault, cyber harassment, human trafficking, barring participation in the public sphere, and ect.,

Noting with deep concern the high number of acid attacks against women particularly in the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Colombia, Uganda, and Cambodia according to the Acid Survivors Trust International;

Noting with deep concern that, according to the United Nation’s International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) at least 200 million women and girls (15-49) have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting in 30 countries, and that more than half live in Indonesia, Egypt, and Ethiopia,

Concerns over the estimated hundreds of thousands of girls under 18 who are married in the United States and therefore at an increased risk of physically violence,

Bearing in mind that Niger, Chad, Central African Republic, Mali, Bangladesh, Guinea, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Mozambique, and India have the highest percentage of child (married by at least 18) brides worldwide between 2008-2014,

Further deploring that 1 in 10 women in the European Union reported that since the age of 15 they had experienced cyber-harassment,

Deeply disturbed that women and girls account for about 70 per cent of trafficked individuals,

Noting further specific events like the 2014 long-term kidnapping and sexual assaults of young Chibok female students by Boko Haram in Nigeria,

Noting with regret that the Ministry of National Education in Côte d’Ivoire found that 47% of teachers reported having elicited sexual relations with students in 2010,

Having studied the progress of the objectives created at the Beijing Conference of 1995 and found that while most states have introduced legislation to end gender-based violence, the problem still persists due to trouble enforcing- whether it be a cultural or federal problem- or actions by groups operating outside of the governmental structure including,
Noting with regret the religious and/or cultural standards used in Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, and Afghanistan that are used to justify violence against women,

Viewing with appreciation the United Nations Population Funds work in 135 countries to address violence against women by investing $93 million in 2015 alone in order to help eliminate gender-based violence,

Therefore, this committee:

1. **Affirms** the United Nations member’s commitment to ending gender-based violence and its intersections within other issues;

2. **Calls upon** member states to expand their legal definition of gender to include all forms of gender identity and to include all gender identities when discussing gender-based violence;

3. **Encourages** local, national, and international governing bodies to make gender-based violence targeting women a priority when handling social issues;
   a) **Further invites** nations to establish national committees funded by an increase in national taxes to measure and document violence, violence prevention, and the persecution of violent offenders;
   b) **Further requests** that proper sexual conduct and sexual violence prevention be taught in all federally funded institutions in every member state;

4. **Calls upon** member states to institute federally regulated comprehensive sexual education programs in all classrooms and community center:
   a) **Strongly affirms** the Netherland’s compulsory age-appropriate sex education that starts at age four and focuses on healthy relationships, consent, reproductive health, and how to have a safe, healthy, and fulling sex life for both partners;
   b) **Requests** that the curriculum be submitted to the UN,

5. **Requests** member states provide free access to condoms and birth control for all young women and men in order to combat unwanted pregnancies and STDs;
   i) Calls upon developed nations to aid in funding access to birth control in developing nations;

6. **Proclaims** that access to mental and physical health resources and better access to ways of reporting sexual and domestic violence for victims will offer better aftercare;
a) Encourages members to offer victims of gender-based violence support in healthcare by providing appropriate medical services and follow-up care, access to support groups and other therapy options, timely and supportive reporting infrastructures, and creating mandatory sensitivity training for health care and security professionals by decreasing funding for military development;
b) Designates members to create federal research committees to estimate the health care costs of violence against women;

7. Declares that all states provide women equal opportunity to representation in their governments on a local, domestic, and international scale;
   a) Further recommends the creation of gender quotas for political positions in all member states;

8. Emphasizes that all women have equal access to acquiring nationality and passing their nationality on to their children as men do;

9. Takes note of ASEAN’s estimate that its member states lost a potential 10% GDP increase in 2015 as a direct result of women not fully participating in the workplace;
   a) Supports ASEAN’s efforts to include women in the workplace by advocating for access to credit outside of the family structure, regulating unpaid labor that is typically done by women, and by providing vocational training for women outside of traditional female fields of labor so as to give all women the opportunity to be self-sufficient and avoid or escape violence;
   b) Further requests that member states reevaluate national laws on paid maternity leave and child care and implement better national standards for how private companies treat female employees with children;
   c) Recommends that all companies, private and public, give women two months paid maternity leave after giving birth and provide employees with a list of trusted, accredited child care institutions to which the employer will pay one-third of the tuition;

10. Condemns Egypt, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Sudan, Guinea, and Sierra Leone for the upwards of 85% of females between 15 and 49 who have undergone a form of FGM according to WHO;
   a) Calls upon all member states to make FGM illegal and declare all offenders and those with knowledge of FGM being performed and not alerting the authorities as felons;
   b) Proclaims that the member states above, who practice FGM, should be economically sanctioned by fellow member states for the continued widespread practice of FGM within their sovereign borders;
11. *Supports* the creation of national registration system for anyone who buys corrosive acids or items containing corrosive acids like sulphuric acid in order to aid the prosecution of acid attackers;

   a) **Draws attention** to the need for better health education that would teach how to treat wounds from acid attacks;
   
   b) **Encourages** the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Uganda, and Cambodia to make prevention of acid attacks a top federal priority and to ban all sales of any acid in the private sectors;
   
   c) **Recommends** that all member states refrain from providing acid products to these nations;

12. *Strongly condemns* the United States for allowing the marriage age to be determined by state law instead of federal law which has resulted in the marriage of more than 100,000 women under the age of 18; 91% of whom are married to adults and are, as a result, at a higher risk of being victims of domestic violence;

   a) **Further recommends** that the United States mandate that all marriages must contain two consenting participants over the age of 18 regardless of parental consent or judicial approval;

13. *Deplores* Niger, Chad, Central African Republic, Mali, Bangladesh, Guinea, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, Mozambique, and India for their high rates of child marriage;

   a) **Calls upon** these states and the powers in their regions to ban all marriages under the age of 18 even with judicial or parental consent;
   
   b) **Encourages** other member states to decrease trade relations with these nations until child marriage has been banned and national and international organizations have implemented structures to abolish it completely;

14. *Draws attention to* the increasing threat of cyber harassment against women;

   a) **Encourages** the United Nations to expand the official definition of violence against women to include cyber harassment;
   
   b) **Further invites** member states to create federal laws prohibiting cyber harassment on the basis of gender and provide the federal and local police forces with the funds and training to prevent and report;
   
   c) **Reminds** the member states that they need to work closely with internet providers in order to monitor online harassment and have access to personal information on the offenders;

15. *Authorizes* an international refugee council specifically focused on helping women in and escaping conflict zones by providing them with access to education, free and reduced reproductive services, and free child care funded by member states;
16. *Supports* a cross-regional, cross-border United Nations committee to foster nation states’ collaboration to end human trafficking both domestically and across state borders;
   
   a) *Recommends* a portion of United Nations funds from the Human Rights Council go to supporting the prevention of human trafficking and the rehabilitation of victims;
   
   b) *Further recommends* that public campaigns on preventing, spotting, and reporting human trafficking be mandatory in all member states;

17. *Supports* the prosecution of all sexual crimes committed in schools to be tried as felonies and have all offenders be placed on national and international registries and No-Fly lists for as long as the federal government sees fit;
   
   a) *Authorizes* the use of funds given by developed countries to developing countries within the United Nations to combat sexual violence in schools by providing education, counseling, and medical care;

18. *Accepts* that laws currently in place to protect, educate citizens, or rehabilitate victims need periodic review in order to adapt upon learning new information regarding gender-based violence or upon the failure of the laws to be upheld;
   
   a) *Recommends* that all member states uphold standards of gathering and addressing the success and failures of these laws and create comprehensive reports to give the United Nations;

19. *Calls upon* members to diligently work towards addressing gender-based violence nationally, regionally, and globally and to adapt their approaches to gender-based violence on an individual level as well as national so that every person may have full access to their human rights and opportunities;
   
   a) *Reaffirms* the need for and inclusive and equitable quality education that focuses breaking down societal gender norms that can lead to violence;

20. *Further suggests* that national laws addressing gender-based violence adhere to a global standard and are strictly enforced in each state;
   
   a) *Expresses its hope* that all member states encourage their neighboring nations to adopt these standards too;
   
   b) *Endorses* the establishment of tribunals and public institutions in order to ensure the protection from gender-based violence perpetrated by individuals, communities, organizations, and enterprises;

21. *Further invites* members to increase their national spending on issues of gender-based violence and to provide a fixed percentage of their annual GDP spent on military weapons development to the fight to end such violence.