Will W7 be legislatively bold? That’s our question!

On this planet women’s and girls’ victimizations of torture by non-State actors is legally denied, dismissed, minimized, renamed, invisibilized thus so are they as equal human beings, as is their suffering. We seek that this be a legislative mandate to the G7 that the human right, article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights belong equally to women as to men regardless of who the torturers are! We ask that this be stated clearly to the Ministers of the G7.

“When society minimizes [non-State torture] ... they are reinforcing the feeling of how the [torturers] minimized my worth when they tortured me....Not having the law care enough reinforces what the [torturers] said: ‘What makes you think you are so special that someone would even want to save you or care about you?’”

Alex, suffered non-State torture from earliest of memories

The following diagram is one we created to illustrate categories of violence that manifest as torture by non-State actors—by private individuals, such as spouses, parent(s), relatives, parents’ friends, traffickers, pimps, buyers, pornographers, and others. Category 1 includes acts that are the same as acts perpetrated by State officials. Category 2 identifies acts perpetrated specifically by those who benefit financially or in other ways when inflicting non-State torture. Category 3 lists manifestations of non-State torture as declared by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on torture.

**CATEGORY 1**

‘CLASSIC’ NON-STATE TORTURE, i.e., parental, partner, extended family, guardian, foster carer, peer; or others

- Electric shocking
- Beaten, burned, cut, whitened
- Immobilization tortures, tied, hung, caged, forced into painful positions for prolonged periods of time
- Water tortures: face held under water in sink, submerged in tub
- Suffocation & choking tortures, chest compression when sat on
- Sexualized continuous tortures individuals/groups/rings, weapon or object rapes & human-animal violence-bestiality
- Chemical torture, forced drugging, polydrugging
- Deprivations of food, drink, sleep
- Exposure to extreme heat/cold/light/darkness
- Psychological tortures: Humiliation, mocked & laughed at, dehumanization, animalization (i.e., made to be on all fours & eat like a dog), degradation, terrorization, horrification
- Forced nakedness
- Forced witnessing the torture of others
- Powerlessness & risks of suffering more torture pain
- Ritualistic tactics, sado-drama to heighten perps’ pleasures

**CATEGORY 2**

‘CLASSIC’ COMMERCIAL BASED TORTURE, i.e.,

- Trafficked & tortured
- Tortured in prostitution
- Torture porn & snuff pornography
- Torture of migrant domestic workers (OSCE et al., 2013)

**CATEGORY 3**

SOCIO-CULTURAL NORMS, TRADITIONAL OR RELIGIOUS-BASED ACTS, i.e.,

- FGM
- Acid burning
- Widow burning

Acts of non-State torture (NST) women identify suffering as female children and as adults.
Acts of State torture perpetrated by officials have been repetitively documented. This evidenced-based documentation was then utilized to compare the acts of non-State torturers that women have disclosed.

The final model displays examples of physical tortures and provides insights into how different acts of physical non-State torture are transposed into sexualized non-State torture and the harmful consequences that women suffer that can never be forgotten.