

Thank you Mr. President,

Action Canada makes this statement on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty which clearly articulates the ways in which poverty and economic insecurity threaten the enjoyment of human rights. The report is a clarion call to the human rights system to address with urgency the deepening of inequality and poverty as an integral part of promoting, protecting and fulfilling human rights. Ignoring this call creates a real and imminent risk that the majority of the world's citizens will deem human rights as irrelevant to their lives.

Mr President, the domination of free market ideology and current system of capitalism has failed to trickle down, as promised, as those at the top accumulate vast wealth by exploiting workers and the environment with impunity. The results of this unabated greed continues to be felt most by those with the least social protection – women, migrants and young people.

Against this backdrop we welcome the report's review of the various arguments surrounding the introduction of a universal basic income. However, we note the absence of a gendered or feminist analysis in the otherwise strong report. Women have not only written about, but have often been at the forefront of struggles for unconditional, universal basic income. Due to a range of structural and institutional drivers that suppress women's economic autonomy, women, on average, face greater and more complex forms of insecurity than men and would benefit especially from its introduction. Feminist and intersectional analysis must be central to addressing poverty and economic inequality if the lives of those most affected are to be improved in a material and sustainable way.

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur on the possible entry points to promoting a feminist analysis of extreme poverty within the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms?

Thank you.