

# **Memorandum of Justice for Girls Regarding Situation of Indigenous Teenage Girls in British Columbia**

For consideration by  
Mr. Miloon Kothari  
United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Submitted October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Vancouver British Columbia

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Justice for Girls, a Canadian Non Government Organization, respectfully submits this memorandum for consideration by Mr. Miloon Kothari, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, at its consultation October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Vancouver, British Columbia.

1. Justice for Girls is a Canadian non-profit organization that promotes the human and equality rights of teenage girls who live in poverty. Justice for Girls is the only equality rights organization for girls in the country. Since its inception in 1999, Justice for Girls has documented and challenged the ways in which Municipal, Provincial/Territorial and Federal governments in Canada fail to uphold and protect the rights of teenage girls who live in poverty. For more information about the organization please see [www.justiceforgirls.org](http://www.justiceforgirls.org).
2. Justice for Girls has provided individual advocacy to incarcerated girls, monitored court processing of teenage girls, conducted a national study of marginalized girls' access to education in Canada, and developed a housing strategy for teenage girls who live in poverty. On the basis of these experiences, which include, the insights of many young women living in poverty, and our review of current literature, we offer the following observations.
3. Justice for Girls acknowledges the legal basis of the Rapporteur's mandate drawn from article 25, paragraph 1, of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**; article 11, paragraph 1, of the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**; article 27, paragraph 3, of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**; and on the right to non-discrimination as reflected in article 14, paragraph 2 (h), of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**, and article 5 (e) of the **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**.<sup>1</sup>

### **Right to Adequate Housing**

4. Justice for Girls adopts the United Nations framework in which all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,<sup>2</sup> and the Rapporteur's working definition of the right to adequate housing; "*The human right to adequate housing is the right of every woman, man, youth and child to gain and sustain a secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity.*"<sup>3</sup>
5. Justice for Girls affirms the Rapporteur's statement that:  
*"The placing of the housing and discrimination aspects within the context of the indivisibility and universality of human rights is critical. The realization of the right to housing in an environment free from racial discrimination will have a direct bearing on the realization of congruent human rights, including the right to life, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to freedom of movement and*

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Mr. Miloon Kothari, submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 2000/9. Commission on Human Rights, Fifty-seventh session

<sup>2</sup> Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993.

<sup>3</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Mr. Miloon Kothari, submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 2000/9. Commission on Human Rights, Fifty-seventh session.

*residence, the right to protection against arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family and home, and the right to popular participation.”*<sup>4</sup>

6. Housing forms an indispensable part of ensuring human dignity. Adequate housing is essential for normal healthy living by fulfilling needs for privacy and personal space and physical needs for security and protection. We believe that the right to housing should not be interpreted in a narrow sense, but should be seen as the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity. It should be ensured for all persons irrespective of income or access to economic resources.
7. In view of the above and as we outline in the memorandum which follows, ***Justice for Girls respectfully submits that Canada is failing in its obligation to progressively realize the right to adequate housing for Indigenous teenage girls in British Columbia.*** We believe that this right is inherently tied to other human rights and can not be considered in the absence of a full understanding of various interlocking forms of oppression and full consideration of the impact of colonization that continues to shape the day to day lives of Indigenous teenage girls in Canada.

### **Specific Needs of Girl Child in Canada**

The rights of girls and the specific conditions of oppression they face are often overlooked within Canadian society and indeed worldwide. Marginalised within the category of children as females and within the category of women as minors, the girl-child<sup>5</sup> and the issues that affect her tend to be eclipsed by concerns general to youth or adult women.

The *Platform for Action on the Girl Child*, arising from the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as the *World Programme of Action for Youth on Girls and Young Women*, articulate numerous strategic objectives to eliminate violence and discrimination in the lives of girls worldwide and set out a framework for situating the girl-child within international human rights.<sup>6</sup> Despite this, girls seem to remain a low priority for many countries and concerns specific to this group tend to be overlooked by international human rights bodies.

In Canada, Indigenous girls in particular face high levels of violence as well as deeply rooted patterns of marginalization and discrimination. As we will demonstrate below, this has placed Indigenous girls in situations of increased vulnerability to violence and exploitation and has denied Indigenous girls adequate protection of the law and of society as a whole.

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<sup>4</sup> Mr. Miloon Kothari, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on adequate housing as a component of an adequate standard of living. Contribution at World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Durban, 31 August-7 September 2001, Item 9 of the provisional agenda

<sup>5</sup> We use the term “girls” and the “girl-child” interchangeably to mean “girl-child” as defined by the Beijing Conference. This category includes both girl children and young women who are not legally adults; in Canada, girls younger than 19 years of age.

<sup>6</sup> The United Nations Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action <http://www0.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/girl.htm> and The World Programme of Action at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wpaygirls.htm>

As a result, there is an urgent need to re-acknowledge girls as a distinct group with specific needs and to recognise the importance of protecting girl's human rights in international law. Indeed, girls/young women, especially those who are homeless, have recently been recognized by the Rapporteur as a group that is especially vulnerable to human rights violations and in particular the right to adequate housing.<sup>7</sup>

**In this regard, we urge the Rapporteur on his official mission to Canada to pay specific attention to the conditions and right to adequate housing of the girl-child in Canada.**

### **Canadian Legal Framework**

8. In Canada, there is no explicit right to adequate housing for children or adults alike. No commitments on the part of the Government to this right are found in the *Constitution Act*, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* or in provincial or federal human rights legislation.
9. While the rights contained in international human rights treaties ratified by Canada are not directly enforceable by domestic courts unless they have been incorporated into Canadian law by parliament or provincial legislatures, it is important to note that the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*<sup>8</sup>, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*<sup>9</sup>, the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*<sup>10</sup> and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*<sup>11</sup> all note the vulnerable position of children in society and the obligation of states to provide adequate protection for children.
10. Regarding legislation that is relevant to Indigenous communities in particular, Indigenous people living on reserves are subject to the *Indian Act*<sup>12</sup>, which covers social benefits including housing. However, the *Indian Act* applies only to those Indigenous people living on federally recognized reserves and the Government is therefore not responsible for Indigenous peoples living in non-reserve settings, such as cities. At the same time, the provinces are not responsible for providing services for non-reserve and non-status Indigenous peoples, on the basis that the federal government has full responsibility for providing services to Indigenous peoples regardless of where they live.<sup>13</sup>
11. Of concern to the rights of Indigenous people more generally is Canada's decision to vote against the adoption of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in June 2006. The draft Declaration clearly affirms diverse rights regarding lands, territories and resources that are essential to the cultural identities of Indigenous peoples and the fulfillment of their basic human rights.

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<sup>7</sup> Kothari, page 10 paragraph 30

<sup>8</sup> *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 2 September 1990, UNTS vol 1577 p 3, CTS1992/3 (entered into force 2 September 1990, accession by Canada 13 December 1991)

<sup>9</sup> *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948

<sup>10</sup> *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 16 December 1966, UNTS vol 993 p 3, CTS1976/46 (entered into force 3 January 1976, accession by Canada 19 May 1976).

<sup>11</sup> *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, 16 December 1966, UNTS vol 999 p171, CTS1976/47 (entered into force 23 March 1976, accession by Canada 19 May 1976).

<sup>12</sup> Indian Act ( R.S., 1985, c. I-5 ) <http://lois.justice.gc.ca/en/I-5/>

<sup>13</sup> Reid, C., (2002), "Urban aboriginal communities in Canada", in "Indigenous peoples in urban areas", Indigenous Affairs, No. 3-4, IWGIA. Pg. 50

12. While the Canadian Government defended its position on the basis that some provisions of the Declaration are incompatible with Canadian law including the *Constitution* and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*<sup>14</sup> it should be emphasized that the Declaration is a non-binding statement that would not override domestic laws. Instead, it is a call for the international community to respect the rights and the unique circumstances faced by Indigenous people in Canada and around the world.
13. The following memorandum indicates a pattern of human rights violations directed at Indigenous young women in British Columbia with respect to adequate housing.

### **Conditions of Indigenous Teenage girls in Canada**

14. Indigenous teenage girls are denied access to the most basic human rights in Canada. More often than not, Indigenous teenage girls live in poverty and tend to be criminalized for the oppression they face—homelessness, systemic racism/colonization, male violence. Furthermore, Indigenous girls encounter additional abuse in State run facilities such as youth prisons and child welfare agencies.
15. The colonization of Indigenous girls in present-day Canadian society is the root of Indigenous girls' inability to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development in Canada. Cultural genocide--exemplified by an epidemic of suicides, murders, and disappearances of Indigenous girls-- criminalization, systemic racism, racialized male sexual violence, especially childhood sexual abuse, and sexist discrimination against Indigenous girls are poignant examples of how colonization ravages the lives of Indigenous girls. Indigenous girls' identity--a key factor in their ability to be self-determining--is fragmented and devastated by the process of colonization. Although Indigenous girls and their communities work hard to decolonize their lives by regaining connections to their land, family, and identity, the current process of colonization in Canada is a breach of Indigenous girls' economic, social and cultural rights.
16. Indigenous girls face extreme social and economic marginalization in contemporary Canadian society and in their own communities. There is no question that Indigenous girls bear the brunt of colonization. However, the intense sexual abuse they face in their homes and in the larger community/society goes largely unnoticed, unreported and unpunished. In fact, many Indigenous girls do not report sexual abuse, rape, and sexual assault out of fear of being disbelieved, blamed, or even criminalized for the abuse.
17. In 2004, Amnesty International released a report documenting violence against Indigenous women in urban areas of Western Canada. The report pointed to the legacy of Residential School abuses, state apprehension of Aboriginal children, systemic racism & sexism, and economic marginalization as factors leading to

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<sup>14</sup> Canada's Position: United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - June 29, 2006 [http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/spch/unp/06/ddr\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/spch/unp/06/ddr_e.html)

- high rates of violence against urban Aboriginal women. Many urban Native women were impoverished, homeless, and forced into prostitution<sup>15</sup>.
18. The colonizing policies/practices of the Canadian Government can be seen across institutions including child welfare/social services, health, education, criminal justice and policing. While professing a desire to right the wrongs of the past, the Canadian Government continues its process of colonization with the effect of controlling virtually every aspect of Indigenous life. The impact of both historical and current colonization of Indigenous nations and lands is extreme and brutal for Indigenous girls:
    - Up to 75% of victims of sex crimes in Aboriginal communities are female under 18 years of age, 50% of those are under 14, and almost 25% of those are younger than 7 years of age.<sup>16</sup>
    - The poverty rate amongst Aboriginal children is more than double the rate for non-Aboriginal children in Canada.<sup>17</sup>
    - About 70% of on-reserve Indigenous youth will never complete secondary school. The numbers are similar for Indigenous youth attending provincial schools.<sup>18</sup>
    - According to Justice Canada's 2004 One-Day Snapshot of Aboriginal Youth in Custody across Canada, 33% of youth in custody are Aboriginal even though Aboriginal youth make up only 5% of the Canadian population.
  19. Aboriginal children in British Columbia are 7 times more likely to wind up living in government care than non-Aboriginal children.<sup>19</sup> It is likely that this high rate of child apprehension in BC is related to the large number of single Indigenous women who are raising their children in abject poverty<sup>20</sup>, and because of racism, including Canada's long history of apprehending Indigenous children into state care.
  20. The United Nations Committee on Economic Cultural & Social Rights recently noted with concern that "low-income families, single-mother-led families and Aboriginal and African-Canadian families, are over-represented in families whose children are relinquished to foster care. The Committee is also concerned that women continue to be forced to relinquish their children into foster care because of inadequate housing."<sup>21</sup>
  21. As a result of historic and current colonial child welfare policies and practices, many Aboriginal girls are removed from their families and communities and forced into State care. In March 2002 in BC there were 10, 450 children in care,

<sup>15</sup> <http://warriorpublications.com/?q=node/14>

<sup>16</sup> FREDa Center for Research on Violence against Women & Children. <http://www.harbour.sfu.ca/freda/articles/stats.htm>

<sup>17</sup> Campaign 2000 ---<http://www.campaign2000.ca/rc/rc05/05NationalReportCard.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> First Nations Education Action Plan. Assembly of First Nations. May 2005. <http://www.afn.ca/cmslib/general/Education-Action%20Plan.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Aboriginal Child Welfare: Wounds, Healing and Hope (Spring 2005). Society for Children & Youth BC [http://www.scyofbc.org/site\\_assets/www.scyofbc.org/images/dynamic/scy\\_vp\\_extract.pdf](http://www.scyofbc.org/site_assets/www.scyofbc.org/images/dynamic/scy_vp_extract.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> *ibid*

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Committee on Economic Social & Cultural Rights, Concluding Observations, Thirty-sixth session 1 – 19 May 2006

40% are Aboriginal.<sup>22</sup> Aboriginal girls often become homeless because they leave State foster homes and other housing placements that are alienating to them as Aboriginal persons, and which are sometimes blatantly racist and abusive.

- 42% of homeless girls were Aboriginal in a 2000 Vancouver (British Columbia) study on youth homelessness<sup>23</sup>
- 61% of youth interviewed were female and 40% of all the youth were Aboriginal in a Williams Lake (British Columbia) 2002 study on youth homelessness<sup>24</sup>
- 19% of homeless female youth in Ottawa were Aboriginal in a recent study on youth homelessness<sup>25</sup>

22. Historically the child welfare system in Canada has acted as a colonizing force in the lives of Aboriginal children and families and should be viewed as an agent of cultural genocide. Far from protecting the interests of Aboriginal mothers and children, child welfare authorities in Canada devastated entire communities by removing the children and placing them in the care of the government where they were forced to adopt the language and culture of the dominant white society. Residential Schools were notorious for their physical, psychological and sexual abuse of Aboriginal children.

23. In a recent review of BC youth safe houses, one youth shelter stated that many of the Aboriginal youth who come to their shelter became homeless because they left government placements in white families, because these homes were alienating to them.<sup>26</sup>

24. Canada has severely restricted Indigenous girls' right to self determination through the *Indian Act*<sup>27</sup>. Indigenous societies, many that were traditionally matrilineal with genealogical descent traced through the mother's line, were subjected to the patriarchy of European laws -now internalized by many Indigenous men and women.

25. Indigenous girls' daily lives are shaped by the *Indian Act*. Homelessness, sexual abuse, immense poverty, poor health, mental illness, criminalization, alienation from education and a loss of culture among Indigenous teenage girls are symptoms of colonization under the *Indian Act*.

26. Traditional economic systems of Indigenous peoples in Canada are critically disrupted by colonization. The failure of Canada to respect Indigenous ownership of land, that was formally recognized in *Delgamuukw v. British*

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<sup>22</sup> Children in Care in Canada- BC Stats Table 1,

[www.nationalchildrensalliance.com/nca/pubs/2003/children\\_in\\_care\\_march\\_2003.pdf](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.com/nca/pubs/2003/children_in_care_march_2003.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Between the Cracks: Homeless Youth in Vancouver, 2002, [www.hvl.ihpr.ubc.ca/pdf/mccreary2002.pdf](http://www.hvl.ihpr.ubc.ca/pdf/mccreary2002.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> Youth Homelessness and Housing Needs in Williams Lake and Area, 2002,

[www.hvl.ihpr.ubc.ca/pdf/williamslake2002.pdf](http://www.hvl.ihpr.ubc.ca/pdf/williamslake2002.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Environmental Scan on Youth Homelessness, [www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/publications/en/rhpr/socio086.pdf](http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/publications/en/rhpr/socio086.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> Review of Youth Safe Houses and Emergency Shelters in BC, Ministry of Children and Family Development, 2005

<sup>27</sup> Indian Act ( R.S., 1985, c. I-5 ) <http://lois.justice.gc.ca/en/I-5/>

*Columbia*, is a breach of the self-determination of Indigenous peoples including girls.<sup>28</sup>

27. Indigenous girls suffer poor health due to laws and legislation that limit or forbid access to traditional diets including wild fish, game, plants, and medicines and sacred sites. Spiritual and cultural power and development stems from the land for all Indigenous nations in Canada. Without traditional territories, Indigenous peoples' ability to live their cultures is severely fractured.
28. The suicide rate for adolescent Aboriginal girls has been measured to be 8-20 times the national average of non-Aboriginal adolescent girls.<sup>29</sup>
29. Indigenous girls continue to be over-criminalized and incarcerated as a form of forced assimilation in Canada: historically "attempts to 'rehabilitate' First Nations girls, mainly through incarceration in training and industrial [and residential] schools, were embarked upon with open admission that the aim of such ventures was to make the girls relinquish their cultural ties and embrace white, middle-class values."<sup>30</sup> Indigenous young women remain over-represented in Canadian prisons. In the province of BC, Indigenous girls make up 58% of incarcerated girls.<sup>31</sup> Until very recently youth were punished in a British Columbia youth prison for engaging in a Sacred Spiritual ceremony.<sup>32</sup>

#### **Failure to protect Indigenous Girls from Rape & Murder**

30. The United Nations Human Rights Committee, in its recent review of Canada's compliance with the *International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights*, expressed concern about the level of violence against Aboriginal women in Canada and the failure of the criminal justice response; "*The Committee is concerned that Aboriginal women are far more likely to experience a violent death than other Canadian women. While noting the State party's numerous programmes aimed at addressing the issue, the Committee regrets the lack of precise and updated statistical data on violence against Aboriginal women, and notes with concern the reported failure of police forces to recognize and respond adequately to the specific threats faced by them (arts. 2, 3, 6, 7 and 26).*"<sup>33</sup>
31. The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) launched a national campaign in 2004 to raise public awareness about the alarmingly high rates of violence against Aboriginal women in Canada. NWAC believes we are in an urgent state of affairs with respect to the safety of Indigenous women and girls in

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<sup>28</sup> *Delgamuukw v. British Columbia* [1997] 3 S.C.R.--see [http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/csc-scc/en/pub/1997/vol3/html/1997scr3\\_1010.html](http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/csc-scc/en/pub/1997/vol3/html/1997scr3_1010.html)

<sup>29</sup> National Forum on Health 1997, <http://www.nfh.bc-sc.gc.ca/publicat/finvol2/vol2.htm> and Raven's Children Aboriginal Youth Health in BC, McCreary Centre Society 2000

<sup>30</sup> Amber Dean, "Locking them up to keep them 'safe': Criminalized girls in British Columbia"

<sup>31</sup> McCreary Centre Society, *Time Out: A Profile of BC Youth in Custody*, 2001

<sup>32</sup> Aboriginal and Girls' Advocates call on MCFD Minister to stop racist shackling during Sacred Sweat Lodge Ceremony at Youth Prison, February 17th, 2006 [http://justiceforgirls.org/press/pr\\_02172006\\_shackling%20sweat%20lodge.html](http://justiceforgirls.org/press/pr_02172006_shackling%20sweat%20lodge.html)

<sup>33</sup> Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee: Canada. 20/04/2006. Eighty-fifth session

Canada.<sup>34</sup>

32. In early 2006, the Native Women's Association of Canada, Justice for Girls, and the BC Native Women's Society met with the BC Minister of Attorney General to request that he initiate a systemic, independent review of the criminal justice failure to respond to rape, assault and murder of Indigenous teenage girls in British Columbia<sup>35</sup>. No such review has been conducted by the BC Ministry of Attorney General despite what is has become known as an 'epidemic' of violence against Indigenous teenage girls, and in some cases, the involvement of Criminal Justice officials in the perpetration of these rapes and assaults.

### **Prince George, British Columbia<sup>36</sup> -- Extreme Human Rights Violations**

33. Since the 1980s, some estimate that as many as 30, mostly Indigenous, young women have disappeared along Highway 16, a stretch of highway between Prince Rupert & Prince George British Columbia. Highway 16 runs about 724 kilometers between Prince Rupert on the coast, & Prince George in the central interior. There are about a dozen Aboriginal communities/reservations situated along highway 16, including those of the Tsimshian, Nisga'a, Cheslatta, Gitksan, Wetsuwet'en, Carrier-Sekani, and others<sup>37</sup>.
34. Intergenerational poverty, lack of public transportation, and the need to escape male violence, results in many Indigenous young women hitch-hiking along this highway. Many young women travel from Reserves, which tend to be kilometers outside of town areas, to town centers via Highway 16.
35. After tremendous public pressure, including international media attention, the police are now actively investigating the most recent 9 disappearances/murders. There have been no arrests or charges to date.
36. In recent years the violence against Indigenous teenage girls in Prince George, a city in Northern British Columbia, has been committed by Criminal Justice officials including a Provincial Court judge who presided over his victims in youth criminal and family court. Nine police officers, a youth/family lawyer, and a prison guard have also been accused.
37. There are at least 20 Indigenous young women who have come forward accusing former judge David Ramsay and other criminal justice officials of sexual and physical abuse. All of these young women were in the "care" of the government at the time they were abused. Victims of the former judge David Ramsay state that social workers were informed when these incidents began yet did nothing.

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<sup>34</sup> See- <http://www.sistersinspirit.ca/>

<sup>35</sup> Kelly MacDonald, "Justice System's Response: Violence Against Aboriginal Girls." Brief submitted to Hon. Wally Oppal, BC Minister of Attorney General, September 2005. See: <http://justiceforgirls.org/publications/pdfs/Violence%20against%20Aboriginal%20Girls%20-%20Final%20Brief%20-%20Sept%202005.pdf?/20040213/newsPink.html>

<sup>36</sup> Prince George, British Columbia Prince George is the territory of Carrier and Sekani peoples. It is known as BC's northern capital and is a city of 72,000 situated at the crossroads of Highway 97 (north-south) and Highway 16 (east-west), and at the confluence of the Fraser and Nechako Rivers.

<sup>37</sup> The Highway of Tears Symposium Report. <<http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/files/PDF/highwayoftearsfinal.pdf>>

38. Community members believe there exists a network/ring of non-Aboriginal male sexual abusers who maintain positions of trust and authority within the community. For this reason, there is little hope that any of these cases will be solved without outside independent investigation. We believe this situation requires investigation by an international human rights agency/body.

### **Concluding Recommendations**

Justice for Girls respectfully urges the Special Rapporteur, in his report on the status of realization of the right to adequate housing and other related rights in Canada, to specifically acknowledge: (1) the epidemic of violence against Indigenous teenage girls in British Columbia, (2) the conditions of colonization that led to this epidemic of violence—abject poverty, dislocation from families, lands and communities, cultural genocide, imposition of patriarchal social structures and (3) the exacerbation of Indigenous young women's oppression and breaches of international human rights by child welfare agencies.

Justice for Girls respectfully urges the Special Rapporteur to pay specific attention to the urgent situation of Indigenous teenage girls in Prince George, British Columbia and along Highway 16. The role of the police, both in committing violence against Indigenous teenage girls and failing/refusing to investigate crimes of male violence against Indigenous teenage, must be exposed and investigated by independent authorities. We urge the Special Rapporteur to include this recommendation in his report.