

Thank you, Madame Chair,

The United Nations was established 70 years ago to put an end to hegemonies, totalitarian and other racist, discriminatory and fascist regimes threatening the future of all Humanity after two world wars.

And today, in 2016, we are guilty, ladies and gentlemen, yes, I said guilty, of participating in the perpetuation of totalitarianism, some of us, actively, and the majority, by remaining silent, deaf and blind in the face of the unacceptable. We cynically pretend to be moved, to want to help out, to denounce, but at the same time, we spend incalculable resources putting spokes in wheels and undermining the efforts deployed to honour the commitments, values and principles of the great organisation that was the United Nations.

Madame Chair, I would like to congratulate you and your colleague the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and particularly his predecessor Mrs. Navi Pillay, for the determination and courage with which you in Geneva do what should be done here in New York, at the UN Headquarters: promoting and furthering the most progressive human rights norms and standards, recognising and respecting the fact that they are indivisible and universal.

Just a fortnight ago, ladies and gentlemen, your colleagues representing the Member States in Geneva adopted yet another resolution to make the protection of the rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersexual Community a little more effective, by recognising the urgent need to set up a Special Rapporteur's office on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. I hope that you will, as in the case of all other rapporteurs, view him or her as an ally with whom to progress from promises of change to real transformation.

We also celebrate the adoption by this very General Assembly of the United Nations Human Rights Council, on 29th June of this year, of a resolution on the eradication of all forms of female genital mutilation.

Likewise, we celebrate the courage and determination of the Member States of the SADC who have once and for all, collectively rejected the worst type of public, socially-consented and unheeded paedophilia: early and forced child marriages. Limited as I am by time constraints, I would ask the Member States of Southern Africa, the SADC or the African Union Commission, to please share this commendable experience with the Assembly.

We also celebrate the growing awareness of the need to protect and respect the rights of sex workers and to limit criminalization to those who exploit them and violate their fundamental human rights.

As we are here to reflect on how to restore the reputation of human rights and our League of Nations, we believe:

That it is more than urgent, critical even, that we emulate the decision-makers and individual resistance fighters of the 1940s, who collectively and with far fewer means at their disposal than we have today, not only put an end to the criminal, murderous and exploitative regimes of Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan and even Stalinist Russia, but also did their best to rebuild countries, human beings and the planet.

We should refuse to remain silent and rather actively oppose all forms of totalitarianism, be they political, economic, social, religious or cultural, which like inexorable predators try to prevent us from loving who we want, as we want and where we want, to do with our bodies what we want, when we want and to choose collectively, within the framework of the Rule of Law, the shape that our freedom is to take.

These anti-transformation forces today come in various shapes and forms, Madame Chair: governments, industries, pseudo-religious illuminated armed groups, even, sadly for our American friends, candidates for the highest level of State Office.

It is our sincere opinion that if we want to successfully transform our world, we must denounce the flagrant, repeated attacks shamelessly unleashed with total impunity against the most sacred core of Democracy: people's choice and right to self-determination. The *coups d'état* of today, ladies and gentlemen, are increasingly less armed and increasingly more fomented. The current situation in Brazil, like the recent ones of Paraguay, Panama and Egypt, is frankly ignominious and abhorrent. Why is it that in some countries, ballot box results have to be respected while in others it is accepted practice that the demands of the street, or even the corporate sector, under the guise of human rights' defenders, have the last, decisive word?

The fact that regional and international intergovernmental organisations have for so long practised an excessive level of mini-lateralism and that the United Nations has become a place for exceptions rather than universality, of haggling negotiations rather than of solidarity, clearly explains how we have reached this point.

What are, you will ask me, the solutions, ways and means from here on in that can take us towards the famous better world that we have been promised for so long?

As you will see, the way forward is very simple:

Return to the values that underpinned this place 70 years ago!

Return to the sacred principle of one country, one vote, by carrying out an in-depth reform of the United Nations institutions and by ridding yourselves, you the United Nations General Assembly, of the arrogance, the yoke, the archaism and the criminal apathy of the Security Council and above all of its permanent Members.

Give the United Nations the means to carry out their immense work. Madame chair and her colleague the director of UN Women, here present, are too modest and honourable to tell you frankly that their organisations, which do so much in the fight against discriminations and inequalities have almost to scrape the bottom of the barrel at the end of each month to be able to function financially, retain experts, gain access to countries, individuals, etc.

So stop using budget and paper restructuration blackmailing; offer, once and for all, serenity and tranquillity to those who need it in order to implement your resolutions. As my friends in Nigeria say “Put your pocket where your mouth is to avoid being embarrassed”.

And of course, ladies and gentlemen, elect, elect, a feminist WOMAN Secretary General, with the vigour, the strength of conviction and the political courage to defend all the rights of all men and all women, of all countries, be they recognised or not, and living, or not, under foreign occupation.

Ladies and gentlemen, we know what we have to do to be able to look after and even cure our world. We know that it is possible, as there are a growing number of countries in all the regions of the world where:

- one can love and live freely without having to be accountable for their sexual orientation and gender identity;

- one can decide freely whether or not to have children, when, and with whom;

- one can refuse to have sexual relations even with their spouse without fearing that they may be raped with impunity;
- one can participate in political, cultural and social demonstrations without fear of harassment or sexual violence;
- or where one can protect oneself from sexual violence, sexually transmittable diseases, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions thanks to free universal access to family planning, safe abortion services and comprehensive sexuality education regardless of one's gender, age, sexual orientation, disability or marital status.

In sum, Mr. President, Madame Chair, we, feminist human rights defenders and our allies and comrades in this struggle, are not asking for anything new, only that you be coherent, apply the principles contained in the Charter of the organization to which you have all voluntarily decided to adhere. By joining, you have undertaken to keep your word, protect certain values and honour your commitments.

If some of your governments and countries think that these principles of non-discrimination and equality do not suit them, do not correspond to their cultural, religious, moral or other traditions, I sincerely think that it is the duty of all the other member States and the Secretary General of the United Nations to remind them what all are free to do, even in the case of a lowly neighbourhood association, and that is to leave!

Ladies and gentlemen, on this note I will come to a close. Yes, you heard me correctly, leave, UNExit, for I truly think that it is better to move forward slowly with 170 aboard than move backwards fast with 195.

Thank you.



