**YOUTH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS NAMIBIA**

**DECLARATION: THE PREVENTING OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

**We the** Youth For Human Rights Namibia having participated in a **Model United Nations** summit on the **Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict**, jointly organized by the **British High Commission**, the **Human Rights and Documentation Centre** of the Law Faculty of the University of Namibia and the **United Nations** agencies in Namibia, ahead of the global summit on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict in London, 10th – 13th June 2014;

**Having gathered** here on the **7th of June 2014, at the University of Namibia**, where twenty-one delegates came together to represent the Nations of the world in order to negotiate, debate and resolve concerns identified with violence of a sexual nature in conflict.

*Recalling* theSECURITY COUNCIL’s resolutions 1889, 1325, 1960, 2106/2122

*Further Recalling* the Geneva Conventions, the UNITED NATIONS Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,

*Noting with concern* that violence against women and children is often used as a weapon of war,

*Expressing deep concern* on the escalating statistics of sexual violence in war torn countries,

*Recognizing* the urgent need to bring an end to sexual violence in conflict,

*Deeply concerned* that gender based violence has reached endemic proportions in Namibia

*Reaffirming* the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security as set out in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the UNITED NATIONS.

WE THEREFORE, CALL UPON:

1. All member states to strongly condemn any act of sexual violence in conflict situations,
2. An end to impunity so that no perpetrator shall escape from the hands of justice including governments that find themselves guilty of this crime,
3. The establishment of a commission of inquiries to ensure that there shall be accountability to deal with perpetrators of sexual violence,
4. The providing of expertise in the investigating, documenting and prosecution of acts of sexual violence
5. For the mobilization of funds for the victims of sexual violence to provide various services to victims of sexual violence, included but not limited to;
	1. Screening for STD’s and STI’s and respective treatments;
	2. Adequate medical help in case of unexpected pregnancies in order to lower the rates of illegal abortions;
	3. Providing psychological help in order to combat long-lasting effects such as post-traumatic stress disorders and depression, as such measures could lower suicide rates;
	4. Providing legal counseling to the victims concerning their rights to pursue justice;
	5. Providing various types of educational programs in order to develop the victims’ inter-personal and professional skills, such as handicrafts and basic management skills, in order for the victims to be able to enter the work force;
6. Concerted efforts to educate the victims of sexual violence on their rights and the available legal remedies open to them.
7. The integration of education efforts for security personnel to be able to deal with gender based violence responses and the promotion of gender equality.

As the Youth of Namibia we declare to remain seized on the issue of sexual violence in conflict and non-conflict situations.