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United Nations Human Rights Council
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A Call to End Violence against Women in Politics

Mr. President,

He shouted “Britain First!” and proceeded to shoot and stab her. A few hours later, British Member of Parliament, Jo Cox, was dead. Her murder is a stark reminder of the violence that women engaged with politics face.

But she is not the only victim. A mere month later, former Minister Hafsa Mossi, a voice for moderation and peace in Burundi, was shot dead near her home in Bujumbura.

As a political federation of more than 100 parties from over 80 countries, Liberal International is way too familiar with the many dangers female voters, local politicians, and parliamentarians face – ranging from harassment to abuse and even murder.

This is why we have joined the National Democratic Institute’s *#NottheCost* campaign led by former US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright.

Acts of violence against politically active women reinforce stereotypes and traditional roles given to women by using domination and control to exclude them from politics. It is a clear violation of human rights and a major barrier to achieving gender equality as it prevents women from claiming their civil and political rights.

We can no longer ignore the urgency of addressing this issue. Violence should not and cannot be the cost that women pay for being in politics.

Mr President,

We call on the Human Rights Council to include prevention and elimination of violence against women in politics as a key policy issue.

Secondly, we call on the United Nations to develop a set of standardized and comparable indicators measuring the prevalence, nature and impact of violence against women in politics.

Thirdly, we call on the UN Special Rapporteur Dubravka Simonovic to include the violence against women in politics in her investigations and reports.

Thank you for listening.