



Check against delivery

Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

56th Session of the Human Rights Council

Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women

Panel 1: Economic violence as a form of gender-based violence against women and girls

28 June 2024

**Statement delivered by Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva**

Mr. President, High Commissioner,

Italy aligns itself with the EU statement and thanks the distinguished panellists for today's valuable discussion.

The elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls remains a key priority for Italy. Economic violence, in particular, can be hardly recognizable, being disguised as stereotypes and social roles, and is more widespread than some may think. It is closely linked to economic dependence and power imbalance, risking to make the path out of violence increasingly difficult.

Most importantly, this form of abuse is often a warning sign of a violent attitude that can lead to further acts of physical violence: it is therefore a wake-up call that deserves the utmost attention.

For all these reasons, it is essential to support women's empowerment and ensure their freedom to make their own choices.

In Italy, our National Strategic Plan on Male Violence Against Women provides specific actions to strengthen prevention by promoting social inclusion, access to adequate housing, a gender-based approach in the formulation of employment policies and above all financial independence thanks to measures such as an "*Inclusion Allowance*" introduced by 2023 Labor Decree.

These interventions are accompanied by concrete actions aimed at guaranteeing the protection of victims and survivors, the prosecution of perpetrators, training of professionals and communication and awareness campaigns.

I thank you