the underlying causes of the insecurity, with the result of *enhancing*, rather than curtailing, the liberties[6] of those at risk. With respect to girls at risk of sexual abuse, this involves removing and punishing the perpetrators of the abuse and embarking on community education campaigns to build a culture in which girls are empowered and communities are committed to ensuring everyone's safety. In the global context, this approach requires an understanding of security as something more than the absence or the containment of armed conflict, as many feminists have argued.[7] Such an approach is suggested in the words of the former United Nations (UN) Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali when he says, in his *Agenda for Peace*, that addressing the security crises of the post-Cold War world requires "our utmost effort to enhance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to promote sustainable economic and social development for wider prosperity, to alleviate distress and to curtail the existence and use of massively destructive weapons".[8] A liberating approach to security is obviously much more difficult to achieve than a protecive approach because it necessitates directly addressing issues of domination and inequality, and involves acknowledging the ways in which the most powerful states and economic interests contribute to global insecurities.

It is possible to find support for both protective and liberating approaches to global security in the *UN Charter*. The *Charter* clearly defers to the *status quo* of world power distribution in the way that the Security Council is constituted and

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Conferences, no.5, American Society of International Law (1995).

[6] I am using the term "liberty" in its broad sense to include not only civil and political liberties but also economic, social and cultural liberties.

[7] J Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Sceurity* (1992) 54-66. Tickner argues that security is multidimensional and is as much about economic security, social justice, sustainable development and environmental security as it is about military security and national interest.

[8] Boutros Boutros-Ghali, *An Agenda For Peace* (1992) para 5. This report was prepared by the Secretary General at the invitation of the first meeting at the level of Heads of States and Government held by the Security Council in January 1992.