

including domestic violence and rape, inflicted as punishment for failing to conform to the social or cultural norms advocated by their attackers.

On the issue of violence against refugee and internally displaced women, the report recommends, *inter alia*, that:

- ♦ states parties to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees adopt guidelines with respect to gender-related asylum claims;
- ♦ training be provided to health professionals to make them aware of the particular problems faced by women, particularly in relation to gender-based violence; confidential medical and legal assistance, and culturally appropriate, community-based psychosocial counselling for victims and their families be provided to prevent rejection of, and attachment of social stigma to, the victims;
- ♦ as a measure of protection against rape in refugee camps, special accommodations for unaccompanied women and girls be provided and, where practical, women and girls be able to lock their sleeping and washing facilities;
- ♦ women be allowed to make an individual decision regarding repatriation or resettlement;
- ♦ bearing in mind that refugee women almost always require legal assistance, they be given some legal literacy training to improve their knowledge of their legal rights; any such training highlight the interrelationship between protection and social services in the camp and address such issues as child marriage, child labour, adult marriage and abortion;
- ♦ interview procedures be designed to facilitate the detection of gender-based violence; female refugees be interviewed by female officers who have expertise in international human rights law as well as international and national refugee law and who have been trained and are aware of the circumstances and problems faced by women in particular countries; and
- ♦ governments seek to remove legal and administrative barriers to women seeking asylum on the basis of gender-based persecution.

Violence against women migrant workers

In May 1996, the Secretary-General convened an expert group meeting in Manila on the subject of violence against women migrant workers. The purpose of the meeting was to identify indicators related to violence against these women and to make recommendations on how to improve coordination among UN organizations in order to address the problem more consistently (see A/51/325).

The indicators of violence against women migrant workers were identified as including: economic exploitation, social/psychological violence, physical/sexual vio-

lence and failings in legal systems. The indicators of the vulnerability of women migrant workers were identified as including: invalid documentation, recruitment of under-age women/girls, unauthorized agents who are not subject to government control, inadequate preparation, inadequate sources of support, inadequate reintegration services, violence in the country of origin, and inadequate regulation. The resolution adopted at the 1997 session of the Commission (1997/13) corresponded to a number of points raised at the seminar and requested the Secretary-General to report to the 1998 Commission on the steps taken by states and others to implement the resolution.

The report of the Secretary-General to the 1998 Commission (E/CN.4/1998/74) summarizes information provided by and responses from Cyprus, Finland, Haiti, Jordan, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines and Russia as well as the UN Department of Public Information, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF and UNESCO. The addendum to the Secretary-General's main report (E/CN.4/1998/74/Add.1) contains information and comments received from two non-governmental organizations, Human Rights Advocates and World Young Women's Christian Association.

Integration of human rights of women

The report of the Secretary-General to the 1998 Commission (E/CN.4/1998/49) recalls key aspects in the resolution adopted at the 1997 session (1997/43), including the Commission's call for: an intensified effort at the international level to integrate women's equal status and human rights of women into the mainstream of UN system-wide activity; and the further strengthening of cooperation and coordination between the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women and between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the OHCHR. The 1997 resolution also drew attention to the need to develop practical strategies to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the expert group meeting on the development of guidelines for the integration of gender perspectives into human rights activities and programmes (E/CN.4/1996/105, Annex).

The report to the 1998 Commission states that the aim of mainstreaming women's rights is to ensure that the inevitable social construction of men's and women's respective roles does not permit a discriminatory bias which subordinates women to men or places women in any kind of inferior position.

The report provides an overview of activities undertaken by the OHCHR related to mainstreaming gender perspective. Among the points noted are: production of a second information kit for the 50th anniversary of the UDHR, entitled "Women's Rights, the Responsibility of All"; a campaign for the universal ratification of the Women's Convention and the removal of substantive reservations; provision of assistance to the Commission on the Status of Women in the elaboration of an optional