



**UNITED NATIONS 78<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**THIRD COMMITTEE**  
**Item 73: Promotion and protection of human rights**  
**Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**  
***Belgian intervention***  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Mr. Tidball-Binz,

Thank you for your report, which clearly affirms that it is the duty of all States to investigate and prevent gender-based killings of women and girls. It is their obligation under international law. Belgium regrets that despite advances in norms and standards, femicide investigations remain deficient worldwide.

My country is especially worried about femicides directly perpetrated by the State. Currently, an estimated 5.000 women are on death row in at least 41 countries. As you mention in the report, the death penalty can in some cases constitute femicide, because many capital laws are applied in ways that exacerbate prior gender discrimination and violence. This raises serious doubts about whether these women should have been convicted, let alone sentenced to death. On death row, women are often subject to torture, inhumane or degrading treatment.

Mr. Tidball-Binz, gender-related killings constitute an extreme and widespread manifestation of existing forms of gender-based violence. With the report however, you also deliver a hopeful message. My delegation especially appreciates the numerous and inspiring best practices from various regions of the world that prove how reforms can lead to the effective prevention of gender-based killings.

*Special Rapporteur, as you mentioned in the report, States' investigation units often fail to incorporate a gender perspective into their investigations. How can professionals incorporate this perspective so that their ability to correctly identify and reliably document gender-based killings can be enhanced?*

Thank you.