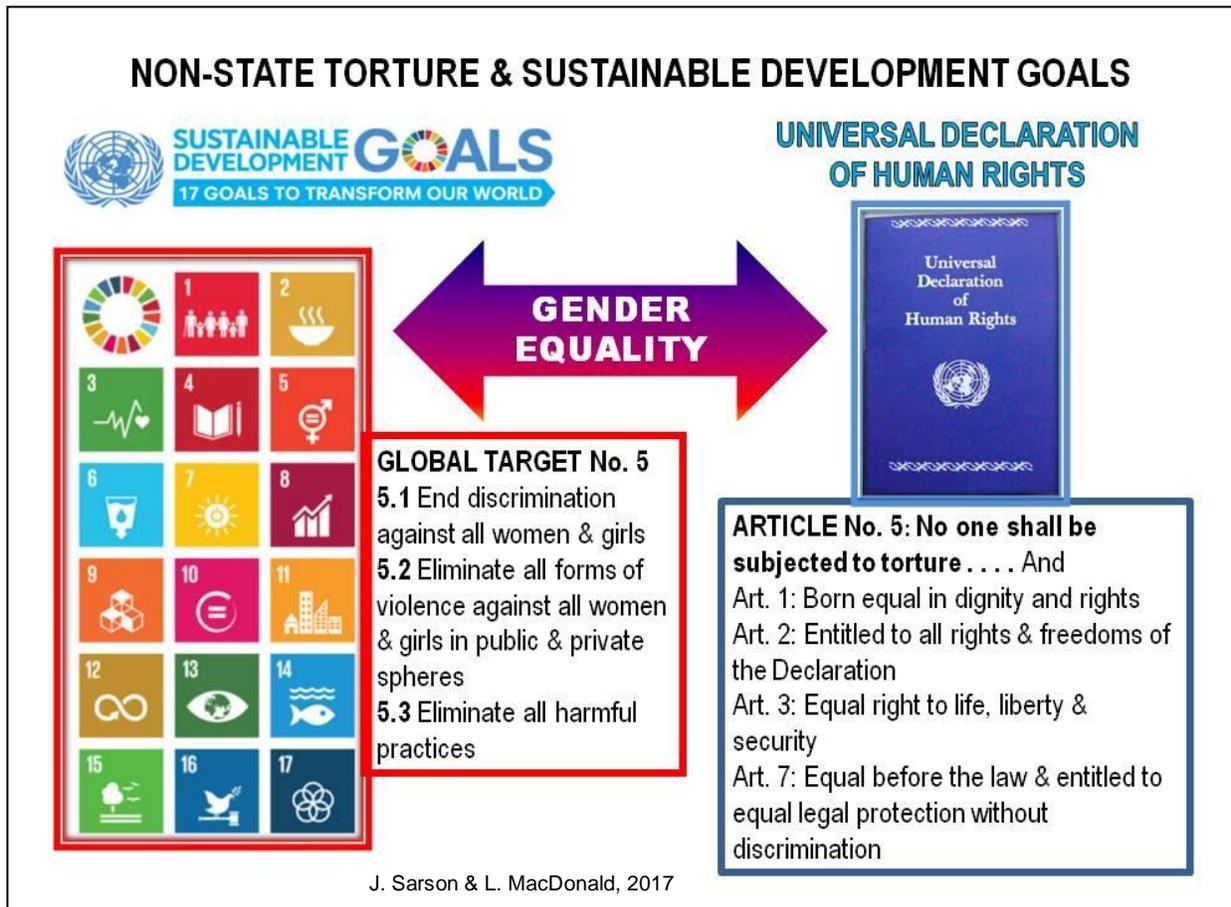


Fact Sheet:

Non-State Torture & Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, United Nations member States adopted achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. At its heart is people-centered inclusion or “leaving no one behind.” Grounded in equality and social justice for all, this means upholding the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These declare women and men as born equal in human dignity and rights, are to have equal protection of the law by operationalizing the principle of non-discrimination of international human rights law that legally obligates Governments to respect, protect, and fulfil the human rights of all—including the equality of women and girls. And to promote an inclusive environment that promotes “voice” for all.

WHO IS BEING LEFT BEHIND? Women and girls who are entitled to the human and legal right not to be subjected to torture by non-State actors are being left behind because seldom are forms of gendered non-State torture (NST) globally identified in law as a specific criminal human right violation!



WHAT IS AND WHO COMMITS ACTS OF NON-STATE TORTURE (NST)?

NST refers to acts perpetrated in the private or domestic sphere by parents, other family members, spouses, guardians, like-minded others including human traffickers, exploiters, pornographers, pedophilic rings, gangs, and buyer-perpetrators who derive brutal and cruel pleasures from torturing girls and women who have been prostituted. Women can be perpetrators; however, our professional experience is that men

are the dominate perpetrators. Non-state actors can have backgrounds in politics, healthcare, social work, media, military, policing, religious orders; be childcare workers, lawyers, fishers, farmers, pilots, therapists, psychologists; in other words, there are no social or class limitations. As 'expert' manipulators they blend into the mainstream; they may appear to be perfect community volunteers to use good causes as a cover. Or, as stated, are buyer-perpetrators, affiliated to gangs, pedophilic rings, are human traffickers, exploiters, and pornographers manufacturing torture porn and 'snuff' crimes. The next figure shows examples of physical tortures, how these become sexualized tortures causing severe harms to women and girls.

Torture acts translate →→→→	Into sexualized torture →→→→	Harmful consequences
1. Physical torture of immobilization: i.e., tied down, handcuffed, chained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Spread eagled and immobilized for torture raping ◆ Gang raped in every orifice of her body ◆ Object or weapons raped ◆ Choked by oral raping, forced to swallow body fluids of torturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Terrorized, left suicidal ◆ Vaginal tearing pain ◆ Psychological tortures of humiliation, shame, Self-blame ◆ Forced dissociation ◆ Powerlessness ◆ Severe pain and suffering
2. Physical torture of being cut or forced to Self-cut for torturer's pleasure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Her vagina cut and her vaginal blood smeared on her body ◆ Knife used to cut off part of her vaginal and nipple tissue ◆ Forced Self cutting to bleed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Terrorized ◆ Horrified of bleeding to death ◆ Mutilation and scarring ◆ Conditioned to Self-harm ◆ Severe pain and suffering
3. Chemical or pharmaceutical drugging tortures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Can cause short term paralysis ◆ Increases torturers' pseudo-necrophilic pleasures making girl/woman silent and motionless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Terrorization ◆ Powerlessness and helplessness ◆ Severe pain and suffering

(J. Sarson & L. MacDonald. 2017)

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

1. **Non-State torture is not sex.** Patriarchal discriminatory attitudes and behaviours contribute to gender based NST thus discourse must include how patriarchy sexualizes, commercializes, and prostitutes acts of NST victimization, specifically sexualized non-State torture against babies, girls, and women.
2. **Eliminate impunity.** NST must be legally criminally named regardless of who the torturer is in efforts to eliminate its ongoingness. Without a law NST human right crimes are seen not to exist, thus NST data is not available, women and girls so tortured are invisibilized, and NST informed care is not developed.
3. **Torture is a specific and distinct criminal human rights violation.** NST victimization is not abuse or aggravated assault—it is torture. It is a distinct human rights crime that must not be trivialized, minimized, invisibilized, or misnamed another crime as occurs in many countries including Canada. NST victimization is life-threatening. It involves inhuman, cruel, and degrading acts intentionally and purposefully inflicted to cause severe physical and mental pain and suffering. State parties know NST crimes occur. These UN human rights instruments say that no one should be subjected to torture; the:
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), article 5;
 - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), article 7;
 - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), General Recommendation 19: Violence against women, 7(b);
 - Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, article 3(h);
 - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), General Comment No. 2, paragraph 18 addressing manifestations of gender based non-State torture.

To achieve gender equality by 2030 SDG No. 5 must uphold UDHR Article 5 to promote the inclusive human right “voice” of women and girls to truth-tell, to be believed, to seek justice and NST care.