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**10<sup>th</sup> session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on  
transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights**

**Article 4: Rights of Victims  
17 December 2024**

*Comments delivered by Franciscans International on behalf of Feminists for a Binding Treaty*

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Thank you, Chair.

This statement is on behalf of Feminists for a Binding Treaty, of which Franciscans International is a member.

In regard to 4.1 we suggest editing so that it reads:

**" States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of human rights abuses and violations in the context of business activities shall enjoy all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms."**

In regard to 4.2, we support Palestine's edit to include language on affected individuals and communities.

We suggest editing para 4.2 (a)

**"(a) be treated with humanity and respect for their dignity and human rights, and their safety, physical and psychological well-being and privacy shall be ensured; taking into consideration factors that affect the well-being of different genders and those in conflict-areas"** (This in part was proposed by Palestine and South Africa.)

We support Panama's edits to para. 4.2(c). We underscore the need for gender-responsive language throughout the LBI, and are concerned by the attempts of States to remove such language.

We suggest adding a para. 4.2(h) which would state:

*"be guaranteed access to appropriate diplomatic and consular means to facilitate access to effective remedy, especially in cases of business-related human rights abuses and violations of a transnational character."*

We suggest editing Art. 4.4 to read:

**"Victims shall have the right to request State Parties, pending the resolution of a case, to adopt precautionary measures related to urgent situations that present a serious risk of an ongoing environmental degradation and/or human rights abuse or violation."**