



Dear Delegates,

Welcome you all in FIMUN 2020! It is great honor to see you in our committee, as your committee director Ezgi Ada Kaya in 7th annual session of FIMUN. It is my 3rd FIMUN Conference and I am currently studying at Final High School, where the conference takes place.

Before we are starting our agenda, we want to give you some information about our committee, The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UN Women.

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action

UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality, and in all deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda. The entity works to position gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, and a more inclusive world.

As a Director, we ensure you that we are waiting for constructive and fruitful debates also effective solution ideas from all of you.

You should research the topics and move on by your countries policy.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in FIMUN 2020.

Here is my email address. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask:

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STUDY GUIDE

TOPIC 1: Reducing Violence Against Women and Exploring Causes and Consequences

COUNTRIES HAVE HIGH RISK OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. India
2. Afghanistan
3. Syrian Arab Republic
4. Somalia
5. Saudi Arabia
6. Pakistan
7. Democratic Republic of Congo
8. Yemen
9. Nigeria
10. United States of America

COUNTRIES HAVE LOW RISK OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. Sweden
2. Denmark
3. Canada
4. Norway
5. Netherlands
6. Finland
7. Switzerland
8. Australia
9. New Zealand
10. Germany

1. Introduction

Violence against women is a grave violation of the fundamental human rights of women and girls and remains one of the most common crimes committed against them. Existing data on violence against women from sources such as UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women and WHO acknowledges that violence against women continues to be a global pandemic and therefore a matter of critical concern. Violence can occur in different private and public spaces, including on the internet and through other evolving technologies. It is rooted in historical inequalities between women and men, and can cause significant physical, social, psychological and economic harm to women.

Violence against women and girls is a virulent form of abuse and discrimination that transcends race, class and national identity. It takes many forms and may be physical, sexual,

psychological and economic, but all are usually interrelated as they trigger complex feedback effects.



The issue of gender-based violence reaches every corner of the world. Abuse takes place everywhere, from most obvious places, like a farm fields or refugee camps to not so apparent places like a common workplace and main streets of major cities. Women are being subjected to abuse at times by strangers but most often by people who are their close confidantes. According to World Health Organization (WHO) data from 2013, one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in some other way – most often by someone she knows. One in five women is sexually abused as a child, according to a 2014 report. The fact that much of this abuse takes place in the home and within family structures makes it difficult for legal systems to protect the victims. Less than 40% of victims are willing to ask for help, most will only ask for help from family or friends, only 10% go to the police.

WHO's data also indicates that women who have been physically or sexually abused are 16 per cent more likely to have a low-birth-weight baby, and they are twice as likely to have an abortion. In some regions, they are 50 per cent more likely to acquire HIV, according to a 2013 report from UNAIDS.

By threatening the safety, freedom and autonomy of women and girls, gender-based violence violates women's human rights and prevents their full participation in society and from fulfilling their potential as human beings. Gender-based violence is not only a violation of individual women's and girls' rights. The impunity enjoyed by perpetrators, and the fear generated by their actions, has an effect on all women and girls. It also takes a toll on a global level, stunting the contributions women and girls can make to international development, peace and progress.

Delegates must handle the issue of violence against women and girls through the different types of violence which exist (physical, sexual, psychological, economic), and the main phenomenon linked to these types of violence (intimate partner violence, sexual violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, and child marriage).

2. Definition of key terms

Equality: Equality is about ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents.

Autonomy: Women and girls have power and control over their own lives and acquire the ability to make strategic choices.

Discrimination:

- ***Sex and gender discrimination:*** Discrimination occurring due to interaction between sex (as the biological characteristics of women and men) and their socially constructed identities, attributes and roles and society's social and cultural meaning for biological differences between women and men.
- ***Direct discrimination:*** Discrimination where one person is treated less favourably on grounds such as sex and gender, age, nationality, race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, than another person is, has been or would be treated in a comparable situation.
- ***Indirect discrimination:*** Discrimination occurring where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice would put persons of one sex at a particular disadvantage compared with persons of the other sex, unless that provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim, and the means for achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary.

Intimate partner violence: Intimate partner violence refers to behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors.

Psychological violence: Any intentional conduct that seriously impairs another person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats.

Economic violence: Acts of control and monitoring of the behavior of an individual in terms of the use and distribution of money, and the constant threat of denying economic resources. In some countries this is called economic abuse or financial abuse.

Structural violence: A form of violence wherein some social structure or social institution may harm people by preventing them from meeting their basic needs such as housing, good quality health care, employment and education.

Gender-related killing of women and girls: Gender-related killing of women and girls, which in some countries is criminalized in national legislation as '*femicide*' or '*feminicide*', is the killing of women and girls on account of their gender, encompassing intimate partner homicide, the targeted killing of women in the context of armed conflict, the killing of women in the context of criminal activity, including: gangs; organized crime; and the trafficking in women and girls. Gender-related killing of women and girls also encompasses the so-called honour killing of women and girls.

3. General Overview

3.1. Violence Against Women:

The United Nations established a general definition of violence against women as “*any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.*”

The term “*gender-based violence*” refers to ‘*violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately*’, including ‘*acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.*’

Violence against women is broad in scope, encompassing, but not limited to, the following:

- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation.
- Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution.
- Physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the State, wherever it occurs.
- Often ignored economic violence, which is recognized by the United Nations High Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment. The Panel adopts the definition of UN Women’s Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls: “*acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment, etc.*”

3.2. Different forms of violence:

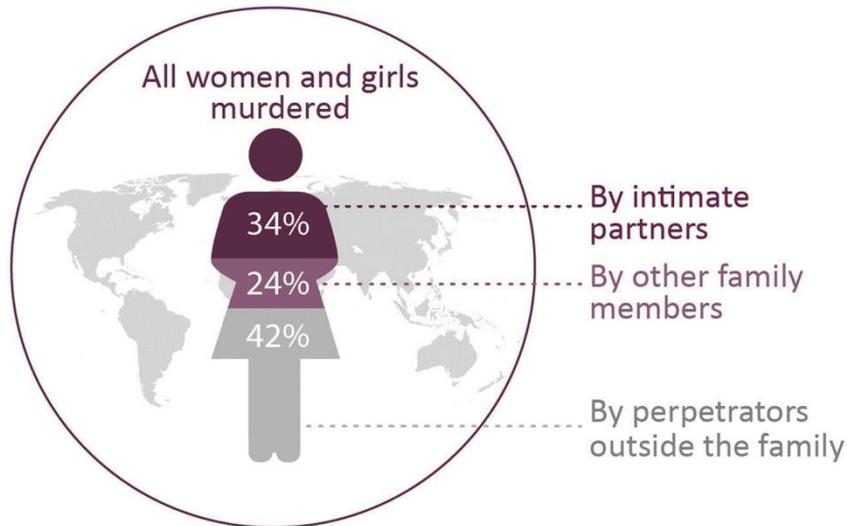
• Intimate Partner Violence

Violence by an intimate partner can be define as a “behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors.” It is the most common form of violence experienced by women and girls worldwide and refers to women being beaten, coerced into sex or abused in any other way.

A total of 87,000 women were intentionally killed in 2017. More than half of them (58%) - 50,000- were killed by intimate partners or other family members, meaning that 137 women across the world are killed by a member of their own family every day. More than a third (30,000) of the women intentionally killed in 2017 were killed by their current or former intimate partner -someone they would normally expect to trust.

Based on data, the estimated number of women killed by intimate partners or other family members in 2012 was 48,000 (47% of all female homicide victims). *The annual number of*

female deaths worldwide resulting from intimate partner/family-related homicide therefore seems to be on the increase.



The largest number of all women killed worldwide by intimate partners or other family members in 2017 was in Asia (20,000), followed by Africa (19,000), the Americas (8,000), Europe (3,000) and Oceania (300). Even though the largest number of women and girls are killed by intimate partners or other family members in Asia, Africa is the region where women run the greatest risk of being killed by an intimate partner or other family member. Europe (0.7 per 100,000 female population) is the region where the risk is lowest.



The United Nations General Assembly adopted two resolutions on gender-related killing of women and girls, in 2013 and 2015, encouraging Member States to adopt strategies and

responses to address violence against women and reduce the risk of gender-related killings. However, regarding internal laws, 2/3 of all countries have legislation regarding domestic violence and only 52 countries have legislations recognizing marital rape as a crime, which means that 2.6 billion women and girl are not legally protected.

•Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is defined by the United Nations as *'any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting.'* As a consequence, sexual violence refers to rape (within marriage, by stranger or during armed conflicts), unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, sexual abuse of children, and forced marriage or cohabitation.

This type of violence is present in all countries. For instance, in the European Union, studies have shown that 45% to 55% of women have faced sexual harassment by the age of 15.

Sexual violence comes with many health risks for women and girls suffering of this violence. Indeed, there is a high risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS and possibilities of traumatic gynecologic fistula for instance.

•Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

Human trafficking is defined as *'the acquisition and exploitation of people, through means, such as force, fraud or deception.'* This practice still occurs in the twenty-first century and often results in sexual exploitation. On the 21 million people estimated to be forced to labor, 4.5 million would face sexual exploitation, and 98% of these people are women, according to UN Women.

•Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation refers to the *'procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.'* This practice causes extreme physical and psychological pain to women and girls enduring it. FGM is also a great risk to health, especially regarding HIV/AIDS, and diseases or infections women could be subjected to due to FGM. However, it is a common practice in 29 countries of Africa and Middle-East, where more 133 million women alive have suffered of this practice.

•Child Marriage

Child marriage refers to forced marriages of young girls without their consent. 700 million women worldwide were married before the age of 18, and a third of them before 15. In many countries, child marriages results from poverty, and are a real threat to the education of young girls. Furthermore, young girls married under 18 are more exposed to intimate partner violence and sexual violence.

•Other forms of violence against women and girls

Violence against women and girls is expressed in many different ways, not only including the previously mentioned types of violence. There is also violence during pregnancy, sexual

harassment, economic violence, and many other forms of violence based on discrimination resulting from women's ethnicity, caste, class, migrant or refugee status, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, etc.

3.3. Historical context and Efforts to Eliminate Violence Against Women

Prior to the 20th century, violence within the home was generally ignored or seen as something not requiring outside intervention. Even where laws against domestic violence and marital rape existed, they were often not acted upon. This was due in part to the belief that women were property, firstly to their fathers, and then to their husband.

Attitudes towards women began to change during the 20th century, women's rights movements emerged around the world to call for equal rights and protections before the law against discrimination and violence. Through campaigning and collective action were used to achieve many rights for women, including the right to vote, and to have the same economic opportunities as men.

The United Nations and its specialized agencies and bodies take measures to end violence against women and girls. Many conventions and resolutions have been adopted as a result, progressively building an international Law ensuring the protection of women and girls against violence:

1946: Establishment of The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW or UNCSW)

1979: The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), originally not mentioning violence against women and girls explicitly but clarified by the General Recommendations 12 and 19, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly;

1985: The General Assembly Resolution on Domestic Violence (A/RES/40/36);

1989: The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);

1993: The General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (48/104);

1995: The Beijing Platform for Action, identifying the end of violence as one of the twelve areas for priority action ;

2011: The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;

2013: The General Assembly Resolution on Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls (A/RES/68/191).

2015: The General Assembly Resolution on Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls (A/RES/70/176).

In addition to the international frameworks mentioned above, in July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. Other specialized agencies of UN such as UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and WHO also contribute international efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls.

As mentioned above, several intergovernmental documents, standards and norms reflect the international community's commitment to addressing the problem of violence against women, and also gender-based violence against girls in the context of violence against children: from the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) to a series of United Nations General Assembly resolutions, starting with the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993. The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has also adopted decisions and resolutions on violence against women that have often culminated in General Assembly resolutions such as resolution, whereby the General Assembly adopted in 2010 the Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. These documents contain detailed provisions and practical guidance for criminal justice systems, building upon and complementing the different legally binding treaties mentioned above.

4. Key Questions and Possible Solutions

Despite the extensive work done by women's organizations, governments and other partners, violence against women across the world still increasingly goes on and many women and girls who are subjected to violence still lack access to essential services that support their safety, health and access to justice.

Delegates are encouraged to think about the following topics when they prepare for the conference:

- What are the causes and consequences of gender-based violence?
- What are the roles of social systems and social institutions (e.g., family, culture, education, economy, polity) on prevention of women against violence?
- What kind of support can be provided to victims?
- Which areas are the ones being the most impacted by gender-based violence?
- What are the main ways of action to reduce and eliminate gender-based violence?
- How to encourage states to adopt and implement laws against gender-based violence?
- How to highlight the strong links of gender-based violence with gender inequalities?
- How to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality?

Following measurements may use individually or in the aggregate to develop an efficient solution on prevention of women against violence:

- Education of boys and girls, and adult training (men and women) can be one of the main ways of action regarding the issue.

- Awareness campaigns may be an effective way in order to change attitudes and behavior towards women and girls.
- Internet and social media can be an effective device in a globalized world for various acts for the prevention of violence against women and girls.
- Providing comprehensive support including housing, health services, education to women and girls who experience violence may need in some regions.

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