

Valdosta State University Model United Nations Conference
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Valdosta State's 2020 Model United Nations Conference (VSUMUN)! We are pleased to welcome you to the UN-Women committee. My name is Sabrina Viana and I am currently a senior at VSU majoring in Political Science with an International Relations (IR) concentration. I am a proud member of VSU's own Model United Nations (MUN) team and I am excited to be a part of this conference for the second time! I hope you are excited to further enhance your knowledge about the United Nations' (UN) international affairs and use this opportunity to explore your potential and today's global issues with the collaborative efforts of each other.

Coming into existence in 2010, the UN-Women entity of the UN has served as a vehicle to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in almost all areas of the world. The UN-Women body became whole with the merging of four separate entities that had a common purpose for women. The UN-Women platform serves as a body to support inter-governmental bodies such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in formulating policies, global ideas and norms. To further the progress and expand the achievements of women's rights, freedoms and opportunities, UN-Women aims to continue its work and development of all organizations attached with the common purpose to promote equality across all sectors of the globe. Currently, the committee is gearing up to hold its 64th session in 2020.

The topics set forth for the UN-Women committee are:

- I. Women's Bodily Autonomy and Reproductive Rights
- II. Women Equality in Political Representation
- III. Ending Gender based violence in and from the Armed forces and Peace Keeping Operations

Delegates, we are excited to witness your diplomatic skills and the hard work you have invested in preparing for this conference in March! Good wishes to all!

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History of United Nations Women

The United Nations (UN) Women Committee was created in July of 2010 and currently holds an executive board of 41 UN Member States.ⁱ After realizing that programs for women were being inadequately funded and directed, the UN General Assembly decided that a designated entity to promote gender equality and women's empowerment was necessary. GA Resolutions 63/ 311 (2009)ⁱⁱ and 64/289 (2010)ⁱⁱⁱ were fundamental in outlining the purposes of UN-Women. Moreover, the Report of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon—64/588 (2010)—presented the comprehensive proposal for UN-Women that outlined strategically what UN-Women would grow to become and signify.^{iv} Shortly thereafter, UN-Women was formed largely by a merger of several UN systems already dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls.^v

These systems included:

- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)
- Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)^{vi}

Since, UN-Women has dedicated itself to supporting UN Member States seeking to achieve gender equality in their own countries. The committee does this in a variety of ways. UN-Women, through government and civil society collaboration, works to design laws, policies, and programs that promote broad gender equality reform.^{vii} While the roles UN-Women plays in promoting equality for all women and girls are endless, some of their most common roles are outlined as follows:

- To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.
- To help Member States implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
- To lead and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality, as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.^{viii}

As an example, UN-Women play a vital role in countering issues such as occupational segregation and gender wage gaps that can be found in the most advanced democracies.^{ix} UN-Women also play a pivotal role in providing access to education and health care to women and girls who would otherwise be denied this right.^x UN-Women also collaborates with other UN entities such as the UN Peace Building Fund, international women's organizations, and national authorities to promote justice regarding women.^{xi} Most recently, UN-Women has been collaborating with national, regional, and international communities in order to assure justice in the Sepur Zarco case of Guatemala. A case that involved 15 women sexual assault survivors of the Guatemalan civil war. Today, military officers are rightfully being convicted of crimes against humanity and the women are being granted a total of 18 reparation measures for themselves and for their community.^{xii} UN Women will be there to guide the people living near the Sepur Zarco outpost ensuring complete fairness to all the parties involved, especially to the women and girls.

As illustrated, the duties of the UN-Women committee are complex and innumerable. The committee navigates their mandate through implementing their four strategic policies shared below:

- 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^{xiii}

The workings of UN-Women and organizations alike are key in the advancement of women and girls in all sovereign states. As an international community, we can rest assured that the efforts of UN-Women will be significant in shaping modern and future societies to come.

I. Women’s Bodily Autonomy and Reproductive Rights

*“No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her body. No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.”-
Margaret Sanger*

Background Information

A woman’s right to her own body has been a source of conflict for millennia. Women around the world, especially those living in poverty, face restricted or no access to information and services about their bodily autonomy and reproductive health and rights. Some of the barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights include discrimination, stigma, restrictive laws and policies, and entrenched traditions. Women throughout history have fought valiantly for the rights that they have today. However, full legal rights to a woman’s body rarely belong to women in the modern age.

Women’s bodily autonomy (also known as body integrity) is defined as the right to self-governance over one’s own body without external influence or coercion. This includes the right to consent, family planning, privacy, refuse medical treatment, legal rights, and education. Historically, women were denied nearly all rights of bodily autonomy by a patriarchal society. The United Nations [UN] set forth eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2000. These eight goals committed world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women by the year 2015.^{xiv} They were later replaced with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which served as a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people. These goals were adopted by the UN in 2015 and were developed with the purpose of improving health and education, reducing inequality, and spurring economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. Three of the 17 goals focus on equality and women’s empowerment (Good Health and Wellbeing), 5 (Gender Equality), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).^{xv} Only by ensuring the rights of women and girls across all the goals will we get to justice and inclusion, economies that work for all, and sustaining our shared environment now and for future generations.

In some part of the world we still see the rights to a woman's body belonging still mainly to men. While many women in the Global North have gained rights to their own personhood, many in the Global South do not. According to UN Women, "52 per cent of women married or in a union freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care."^{xvi} This number was lower until the turn of the 20th century when progressive philosophies presented the idea that women had the right to choose when it comes to their personhood. This in turn led to the development of contraceptives to allow women to prevent pregnancies, women's colleges where young women could receive an education, and finally, the right to vote in many developed States by 1920. Though there was significant progress in the international system to give women rights, rights to their own bodies were still severely monitored. The passing of Roe v Wade in 1973 allowed American women the right to an abortion which was a major catalyst for women's bodily autonomy.

Current Situation

In the near half-century since Roe v Wade, most women around the world still lack the rights to their bodies. According to the Center of Reproductive Rights, published in May 2019, "90 million (5%) women of reproductive age live in countries that prohibit abortion altogether, 359 million (22%) women of reproductive age live in countries that allow abortion to save the life of the woman, 237 million (14%) of women of reproductive age live in countries that allow abortion on health grounds, 386 million (23%) of women of reproductive age live in countries that allow abortion on broad social or economic grounds, and 590 million (36%) women of reproductive age live in countries that allow abortion on request."^{xvii} Of all the regions in the world, North America and Europe are the most progressive areas for the fight in women's bodily autonomy and women's reproductive rights. However, recently there was an attempt to halt the progression of these rights with a restriction to the access to abortions. Also known as the "heartbeat bill" in April 2019, US states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Ohio introduced bills that would ban abortions from the time a heartbeat is present in a fetus and criminalize doctors who perform these procedures. These bills made it to the lower house and were eventually blocked later that year. In many developing states within Africa, women are still denied the right to abortion. Some states even allow child marriages to occur. Girls in these regions are without education and can be punished for being a victim of sexual assault. According to the United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], "Child marriage is a human rights violation taking place on a vast scale in West and Central Africa, which disproportionately affect girls. Girls who marry young face physical risks, especially during pregnancy. Due to the social, health, and economic impacts of child marriage, the practice is a major obstacle to sustainable development of women and equality."^{xviii}

In Asia, there have been some strides in female body autonomy, specifically in China, Japan, and India. Japan has legalized abortion all together while both India and China have legalized it with permission. Women are also on the rise economically which has led to increased use of contraceptives and lower birth rates throughout most of Asia. This differs in the southeast, where, according to the Australian Institute of International Affairs, "In Cambodia, approximately 60 percent of the population is under the age of 30 and in the Philippines and Indonesia young people comprise 17 percent of the population."^{xix} It is also worth noting that Southeast Asia has the most restrictive laws for women's rights in the region. Both Indonesia and the Philippines have very

restrictive laws on abortion, with the latter banning it altogether.^{xx} This is concerning seeing as most women born in this region will come from these two countries.

South America overall has the most oppressive policies towards women. “The struggle for legal abortion has been one of the central causes of Latin America’s robust and radical feminist movement which transcends colonial, euro-centric, and North American notions of feminism. The feminist movement in Latin America holds at its core the voices of the most marginalized: poor women, peasant women, indigenous women, Afro-descendant women, sex workers, transgender people, workers who are deeply affected by the patriarchal capitalist system.”^{xxi} While States like Uruguay have legalized abortion, most countries in this region have only allowed it in extreme circumstances like instances of rape. However, South America is also rapidly changing. Countries like Argentina, Peru, and Colombia have passed legislation that is slowly empowering women by softening their stance on reproductive rights so that women can choose whether they want to start a family. While progress in the region is slow that doesn’t mean that it isn’t happening and hopefully, we will see a chain reaction amongst many other governments to give women bodily autonomy and access to quality reproductive healthcare.

UN Actions to Date

There are many UN actions that have positively affected women’s reproductive rights all over the world. Including the effort to eradicate the threat to women’s bodily autonomy and reproductive rights the UN created the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in specific SDG 3, 4, 5, and 10. The SDGs are ambitious in their size and scope, consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets that apply to all countries, rich and poor equally, and take into account the economic, social, and environmental challenges of our world. For the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), the SDGs include several relevant goals and targets, such as those related to health, education, and gender equality. The goals and targets encompass many key aspects of SRHR, including access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, comprehensive sexuality education, and the ability to make decisions about one’s health.^{xxii} Below are some major UN Actions that impact women’s rights to bodily autonomy and reproductive rights;

- *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* 1979. This convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly and took an important place in bringing the female half of humanity into the focus of human rights concerns. The spirit of the Convention is rooted in the goals of the United Nations: to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity, and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women. The convention establishes not only an international bill of rights for women but also an agenda for action by countries to guarantee the enjoyment of those rights.^{xxiii}
- *The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* 1995. This is the most progressive blueprint for advancing women’s rights of its time. It came about from the *Fourth World Conference on Women* and focused in many areas on the advancement of women in areas such as Human rights of women, education and training of women, and women in health.^{xxiv}

- *Women's Autonomy, Equality and Reproductive Health in International Human Rights: Between Recognition, Backlash and Regressive Trends* 2017. This is a report from the Working Group on the discrimination against women from the UN's Human Rights Council. This report discussed the concern for women's equality, bodily integrity, and sexual and reproductive health. The report discusses the overall status of bodily autonomy worldwide, specifically in terms of reproductive rights.^{xxv}
- *UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021*. This plan seeks to give all females from girls to women an equal opportunity to pursue their ambitions and leverage the comparative and collaborative advantages that their opportunities present in each country.^{xxvi}

Committee Directive

Delegates, UN Women was founded collaboratively as a global champion for women and girls and was dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. With the increasing fight for women's rights, it is important to consider these questions for this committee. How can we improve women's rights to bodily autonomy in developing countries? How can we help women achieve and or retain their reproductive freedom? How much more work is needed to achieve equality? Lastly, what can be done to achieve this equality?

II. Women Equality in Political Representation

"Whatever title or office we may be privileged to hold, it is what we do that defines who we are. Each of us must decide what kind of person we want to be-what kind of legacy that we want to pass on"- Queen Rania of Jordan

Background Information

The inclusion of women in areas such as academics and politics has for a long time been a struggle to achieve at an equal rate as men have. For as long as women's confidence and assertiveness has increased, they have promoted and fought for gender equality and the empowerment of women through the spirit of global partnership and solidarity. Women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital to achieve sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity. Often referred to as an International Bill of Rights for Women, the General Assembly (GA) adopted the Convention on the *Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) in 1979.^{xxvii} In 1985, a World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, was held in Nairobi. It was the birth of "global feminism". 157 participating governments adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies to the Year 2000. Ever since, women and those feminists have supported all movements with the notion and common purpose for gender-quality and the equal representation and participation in decision in national parliaments. The landmark declaration, adopted by the GA on 10 December 1948, reaffirms that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" and that "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, birth or other status."^{xxviii} The Economic and Social Council established its commission on the status of women, as the principal global policy-making body dedicated

exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. Promoting women's capacity, leadership, participation and engagement in political and economic decision making, and ensures an active and more visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policy programs. The international target of 'gender balance' in public positions established in the *Beijing Platform for Action* in 1995 realized that women face multiple challenges in taking up positions in political and public life.^{xxxix} The United Nations GA Resolution 66/130 (2012) on women and political participation, urges all States to act and encourage the UN and other organizations to enhance their assistance to States. The 2013 report of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/23/50) "stresses the need to accelerate efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and in political and public life, including by working towards a comprehensive national legal framework to combat impunity and by guaranteeing access to appropriate civil remedies and redress, and taking into account multiple, intersecting and aggravated forms of discrimination."^{xxxx} Few women keep being denied aspirations such as governors, mayors or other decision-making positions at the local level due to the continuous discrimination and threat of the patriarchal society.

Current Situation

According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, "*Women in National Parliaments*", as of February 1, 2019, only less than a quarter (24.3%) of all national parliamentarians were women. This representation has been a slow, steady paced improvement since 1995 when the percentage was at 11.3.^{xxxix} In comparison to the other regions of the world, Latina America leads in local and parliamentary positions held by women. Currently, the government is taking measures in order for women to have access to land and property rights by providing training designed to make the judicial, legislative and administrative system gender responsive such as: providing legal aid for women seeking to claim their rights, supporting the effort of women's group and networks and carrying out awareness campaigns in order to draw attention to the issue aforementioned. Women's participation in politics begins by acknowledging that in no country do women compose 50% of the national legislature. Gender ideology strongly affects the number of women in national legislatures.^{xxxix} Globally over 2.7 billion women are legally restricted from having the same choices of jobs as men.^{xxxix} The advocacy by the World Political Leaders (WPL) encourages well-financed shared parental leave and universal childcare, ensuring the benefits and efficacy of policies and parliaments with the inclusion of women participation in politics.^{xxxix} Violence Against Women in Politics (VAWP) has hindered many females to pursue a position in politics. Victim-blaming is a common feature in reactions to VAWP, used in the attempt to reinstate patriarchal hierarchies and punish women for entering politics in the first place.^{xxxix} Therefore, diminishing a woman's confidence in pursuing like careers.

UN Actions to Date

There are many UN actions that have had different effects on the world today concerning women's equality in political representation.

- The 2015 Women in Development General Assembly Resolution^{xxxix} is about how the UN strives to recognize that men and women should have equal access to education, skills training, health care, social security, fundamental rights at work, social and legal protections, including occupational safety and health and decent work opportunities. Also,

the international covenant on economic social and cultural rights upholds the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights. Equal pay for equal work, women not being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men.

- Empowering women in the economy and closing gender gaps in the world of work are keys to achieving the 2030 agenda for Sustainable development. The ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), is the most important and legally binding international document concerning the human rights of women. It has been ratified by 185 countries.^{xxxvii}
- Women's equal rights and opportunities in political and economic decision making and resource allocation and to the removal of any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy, and the resolve to undertake legislative and administrative reform to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources. New technology encourages the private sector to contribute to advancing gender equality by striving to ensure women's full and productive employment and decent work, equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value, and equal opportunities. In order to protect women against discrimination and abuse in the workplace the supporting the women's empowerment principles established by UN-Women and the United Nations Global Compact encourages increased investment in female-owned companies or businesses.^{xxxviii}
- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principle global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The commission is also contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.^{xxxix}

Committee Directives

Delegates, women's equality in political representation is a delicate topic that should be addressed accordingly. As delegates for this committee you should educate yourself on goals that deal with equalizing women in the political sector and seek potential solutions that still hinder the rights and freedoms of women to pursue leadership positions in politics. Member States are strongly advised to implement laws in respect to improve women's equality in political representation. What international policies can be implemented to assure the inclusion of women in parliaments and politics? What policies should be in place in order to improve women's equality in political representation? How can these policies be enforced?

III. Ending Gender-Based Violence in and by the Military and Peace Keeping Forces

“Sexual violence is a threat to every individual's right to a life of dignity, and to humanity's collective peace and security.” - António Guterres

Background information

Gender based violence has been something that plagues many countries for a long time, but these tensions become even more pronounced in the male dominated areas like the armed forces and in peace keeping missions. The willing neglect to look at these issues have caused not only emotional and physical strain, but it has put millions of dollars on the line trying to cover up these crimes. Gender based violence within the armed forces or perpetration by these officers creates a mass of problems that affects not only inter-governmental relations, but also those who are supposed to be protected. Taking note of the special report from the United Nations Secretary General this type of violence is classified as “rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict.”^{xi} These assaults are only on the rise, as of October 2019, 70 new assault allegations have been lodged against official UN personnel, a total of 43 allegations involve UN personnel, but overall all of these attacks were made by UN authorized envoys.^{xii} The Sustainable Development Goals have been a long-standing ideal for nations to reach, this topic deals specifically with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 and 10.^{xlii}

- Development Goal 5: Achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- Development Goal 10: Reducing inequality in and among countries

If women feel powerless, which is often a result of sexual assault then they will never be fully equal to their male counterparts. The 1981 *Convention on the Elimination of All Violence Against Women* (CEDAW) did not have specific language to protect women from danger but it did create a framework for State Parties to agree to condemn the violence that had been so common for women. Rashida Manjoo, the current UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women shares the idea that, “States must acknowledge that violence against women is not the root problem, but that violence occurs because other forms of discrimination are allowed to flourish.”^{xliii} Rape and assault have often times been used as a weapon of war, but the impacts often last a lot longer than the conflict that was being fought and has the ability to transcend any office of power.

Current Situation

UN-Women has taken significant steps to help bridge all inequality gaps, the dramatic rise in gender-based violence from armed forces and peacekeepers is new to the current political climate but such violence is commonplace within the already secretive but male driven armed forces. The Security Council (SC) has been able to highlight some key components of this issue through the passage of resolutions like Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019). This issue is not quarantined to any region and does not discriminate based on a nation’s development. Violence does not exempt any country. Whether developed, rich or armed with a large military defense line, violence at all levels is unacceptable. In 2005, U.K. Member of Parliament Ann Clwyd verified a report that U.S. soldiers tortured an elderly Iraqi woman by attaching a harness to her and riding her like a donkey. In the Al-Babel prison, girls were held with the adult population rendering them vulnerable to sexual assault and rape. In a letter smuggled out of the Al-Badel prison in 2003, one female detainee of Abu Ghraib described how American guards had raped (in some cases impregnating) the female detainees held at the prison and forced them to strip naked in front of men.”^{xliiv} A nation in the Global South like Zimbabwe, has had a

drastic incline in the sexual assault allegations by the members of the army and government officials. There have been similar reports from nations like Gambia, Nigeria, Nepal.

With the conclusions of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in mind, the prevention of gender inequality has been a pressing issue for all nations involved. The military has a significant microcosm of activity when it comes to gender-based assault, the United States Department of Defense reports that while sexual assault in the military is on the rise by 6% the percentage of what is reported has fallen once again to only 11%. The violence itself is rooted in discrimination and the violations of social norms; conflict related sexual violence is seen no longer as a by-product of after war times but as something that coincides with it. The 1993, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women* (DEVAW) was adopted by the General Assembly (GA) with the hopes of providing a framework to have a comprehensive set of standards in regard to international law to protect women against not only sexual assault but all gender-based violence.^{xlv} The United States Department of Defense (DoD) released an investigative report in April of 2019 which lists recommendations that can be applicable to hold those in the military accountable for any alleged assault, this document can be applicable to other nations as culpable in this topic. The historically unequal power relations between men and women remains a great obstacle to universal freedom for women across the globe.

The great secret that has been the gender-based violence in and by armed forces has been a plague on several nations no matter how big or small. The armed forces of these nations are sent to other nations many times with humanitarian aid in mind but that is often not the case. In the most recent report from Secretary General Guterres, several possible solutions were listed but the report also further highlighted the point that almost every major nation within the international community has major issues with gender-based violence being committed by the militaristic forces.^{xlvi}

UN Action to Date

The United Nations has taken several steps to attempt to alleviate some of the pressure that has been rising for the women in and around the military. Some of the resolutions that have been passed include several on post-conflict sexual assault and most recently, the Security Council ratifies resolution 2467 (2019) which calls upon all nations to adopt concrete commitments to sexual violence in conflict. All nations adopted the resolution except for the abstentions from the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) and the Russian Federation.^{xlvii} Several experts were called upon to bring to light the harsh truth that is the lives of these women, by highlighting that several thousand women remain enslaved only further illuminated the point that women who are enslaved are being faced with the same problems as the women that are free. The international landscape of the world is dictating a change that we have not yet been able to put forth.

The conversation about the impact that gender based violence has on the international community cannot be had without mentioning the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the preamble states the need to protect the dignity of all humans and all Members States pledged to do everything within their power to do so. While several articles listed in the UDHR are associated with the main points as it relates to gender-based violence. Many women are taking this issue into their own hands by obtaining grants from the United Nations to fund small clinics in their non-urban communities to help care for the women and children who have fallen victim to these crimes.

^{xlviii}Furthermore, the World Bank has taken up the initiative to address this issue through immense investment and research, through the World Bank Gender Strategy to lessen the financial strain of the women who are afraid to speak out. While many governments in the international community have shown a willingness to make great change, not many steps have been taken to make the remarkable change that is required of this monumental issue.

Other Actions taken by the UN include:

- Action for Peacekeeping(A4P)^{xlix}
- Endorsing the Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations¹
- Current and Emerging Uniformed Capability Requirements for United Nations Peacekeeping^{li}
- The United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines^{lii}

Committee Directive

While discussing this topic it is important to consider not only how to stop the rise in violence but also why it was able to continue for so long. Many monumental treaties, resolutions, and conference guidelines have been passed, nevertheless the violence continues. To what effect does cultural awareness play a part in this gender-based violence? To what extent does political or religious ideology play a role in the recent rise in Conflict Based violence? What legislation policies can be further enhanced to decrease gender-based violence? How has the recent rise in gender-based violence been addressed? Does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have a relevant role in this topic?

Resources

History of United Nations Women

- ⁱ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>
- ⁱⁱ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/63/311>
- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/64/289>
- ^{iv} https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/588
- ^v <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>
- ^{vi} Ibid.
- ^{vii} Ibid.
- ^{viii} Ibid.
- ^{ix} Ibid.
- ^x Ibid.
- ^{xi} Ibid.
- ^{xii} Ibid.
- ^{xiii} Ibid.

I. Women's Bodily Autonomy and Reproductive Rights

- ^{xiv} https://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/about/en/ (November 7, 2019).
- ^{xv} <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300> (November 7, 2019).
- ^{xvi} <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality> (November 8, 2019).
- ^{xvii} <https://reproductiverights.org/worldabortionlaws?country=MEX> (November 2, 2019).
- ^{xviii} <https://www.unicef.org/wca/child-marriage> (November 3, 2019).
- ^{xix} <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/sexual-reproductive-health-security-issue-southeast-asia/> (November 3, 2019).
- ^{xx} <https://reproductiverights.org/worldabortionlaws>
- ^{xxi} <https://peoplesdispatch.org/2019/03/31/the-struggle-for-legal-safe-and-free-abortion-across-latin-america/> (November 3, 2019).
- ^{xxii} <https://www.gutmacher.org/gpr/2015/10/onward-2030-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-context-sustainable-development> (November 3, 2019).
- ^{xxiii} <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cedaw.aspx> (November 3, 2019).
- ^{xxiv} <https://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/about> (November 3, 2019).
- ^{xxv} https://www.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/Issues/Women/WG/WomensAutonomyEqualityReproductiveHealth.pdf&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1 (November 3, 2019).
- ^{xxvi} <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/8/un-women-strategic-plan-2018-2021>

II. Women Equality in Political Representation

- ^{xxvii} <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/gender-equality/>
- ^{xxviii} <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

^{xxix}https://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/Beijing_Declaration_and_Platform_for_Action.pdf

^{xxx} Admin. “Preventing Violence against Women in Elections: A Programming Guide.” *International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics*, 3 Apr. 2019, <https://www.iknowpolitics.org/en/learn/knowledge-resources/preventing-violence-against-women-elections-programming-guide>.

^{xxxi} <http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

^{xxxii} https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_219.pdf

^{xxxiii} http://apps.who.int/tobacco/publications/gender/en_tfi_gender_women_rights_international_agreements.pdf?ua=1.

^{xxxiii} <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/action/womens-principles>

^{xxxiii} “Gender Equality.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/gender-equality/>.

^{xxxiv} <https://www.womenpoliticalleaders.org/>

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III. Ending Gender-Based Violence in and by the Military and Peacekeeping Forces

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