



# YDMUN'25

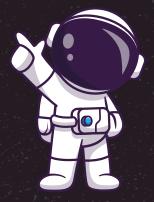


# Study Guide

# UNWOMEN

Addressing the Impact of Discrimination and Violence Against
Women in Global Contexts

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"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."

— G.D. Anderson

# **Letter from The Under Secretary General**

Dear Esteemed Delegates, Chairs, and Attendees,

It is with great honor and immense excitement that I welcome you all to the second edition of YDMUN! After the success of our inaugural conference, my team and I have been working tirelessly to ensure that this year's edition surpasses expectations and delivers an unforgettable MUN experience.

At YDMUN, our mission is not just to organize another Model United Nations conference, but to ignite a passion for diplomacy, debate, and leadership. We believe MUN should be more than just formal debates—it should be an inspiring journey that leaves every delegate with new perspectives, stronger confidence, and a deep appreciation for the art of negotiation. This is why my team and I are committed to crafting a conference that makes people "fall in love with MUN" whether it's your first time stepping into committee or you're a seasoned delegate.

This year, YDMUN is proud to present eight diverse and engaging committees: 1 General Assembly committees, 4 Special committees ,and 3 crisis committees.

Each committee has been carefully designed to challenge, engage, and inspire. Whether you find yourself negotiating in the halls of the United Nations, making tough calls in a historical crisis, or shaping policies in a semi-crisis setting, every moment at YDMUN will be an opportunity to grow as a diplomat and leader.

But beyond the debates, YDMUN is about the people. It is about the connections you will make, the friendships you will build, and the lessons you will carry beyond the conference. My team and I are dedicated to ensuring that every participant walks away with an experience that is not only intellectually enriching but also deeply memorable.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, I encourage you all to speak up, stand out, and make it count. Push boundaries, challenge ideas, and above all, enjoy the process. This is your stage to showcase your diplomacy, strategy, and leadership—make the most of it!

On behalf of my entire YDMUN team, I cannot wait to welcome you all to what promises to be an inspiring and extraordinary edition of our conference.

Let's make YDMUN not just a conference, but an experience to remember!

Sincerely, Menna Eraslan Secretary General

## Letter from The Under Secretary General

As Under Secretary General I feel privileged to collaborate with a group of devoted professionals who prioritize gender equality and justice for everyone. Real conditions of women remain visible across the entire world. The ongoing sufferings from discrimination together with violence destroy human existence and limit development possibilities while maintaining social inequality perpetuates the breakdown of societal structures.

Enabling those whose voices remain silenced and marginalized and oppressed requires our advocacy to support their empowerment in advancing world justice and equality. The strength we generate stems from our diverse population and their distinct expertise and perspectives which this committee receives. We must unite this diversity to create innovative solutions that tackle entire aspects of gender-based discrimination and violence. I strongly encourage every participant to bring empathy together with both humility and dedication. Let us face the substantial challenges ahead with motivation generated through collaborative efforts. The combined strength of our community enables genuine lasting changes to mold an upcoming society where women and girls achieve complete personal growth without constraints from fear or prejudices. Let us carry forward our essential mission through the words of Audre Lorde which state "I am not free while any woman is unfree even when her shackles differ from mine." The words function as a source of direction throughout our discussions to demonstrate the ways in which our challenges connect with each other and the mutual duties we have for supporting one another. I extend heartfelt appreciation to all delegates who demonstrated unending resolve along with dedication and passion throughout this process. Jointly we should confront this challenge ahead because we unite our determination to create actual gender equality for everyone in the world.

Fundamentally before proceeding with this vital issue the distinguished assembly members need to acknowledge compassion and tolerance alongside justice principles. Future research regarding discrimination prevention must concentrate on developing complete intervention frameworks to support women affected by prejudice across various manifestations during short- and long-term periods. A comprehensive plan should establish protected areas for discussion alongside strong victim safeguards in addition to broad communication efforts for building cultural acceptance toward diversity. Community leaders must focus on increasing female leadership representation when they develop policies that affect women throughout their organization. Previous life experiences combined with personal expertise and strong determination enable women to create lasting solutions that prove successful within extended durations. Our current priority should be to implement solutions against discrimination along with establishing an environment which values unity regardless of background or identity in women.

If you have any questions regarding the committee / study guide, contact me via my email:

ellenacbalkan@gmail.com

Warmest regards, wishing you all an effective debate,

Ecenaz Balkan (Ellenacia), Under-Secretary General

#orangetheworld #16Days #GenerationEquality

## Introduction to the United Nations

On October 24, 1945 the United Nations (UN) was initiated as an international organization dedicated to resolving problems from the destruction of World War II. The core purpose of the United Nations remains to sustain worldwide peace together with international security while promoting worldwide cooperation between countries and advancing social advancement through human rights and economic growth. The foundation of the UN occurred when 51 countries agreed that a worldwide institution was vital for avoiding new wars while promoting diplomatic relations. Currently it embraces 193 countries as members making the United Nations stand as one of the widest-reaching and most influential organizations worldwide. There are six principal organs that guide the United Nations including the General Assembly and the Security Council which respectively perform duties to represent every nation equally and uphold global peace and security. Through its specialized agencies including World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) the organization manages different global challenges.

The United Nations emerged through the learning process from preceding international organization the League of Nations which failed to stop global warfare during its existence after World War I. The United Nations incorporated better framework elements to deal with disputes and to maintain worldwide security and enforce global laws. The organization's governing documents stand as pillars of sovereign equality together with non-mediation of internal politics and maintaining peace through diplomatic methods. Throughout its history the UN has successfully undertaken duties in conflict resolution including peacekeeping operations along with humanitarian assistance towards disaster zones. The organization has established conflict intervention through its activities in African and Middle Eastern conflicts alongside the Balkans where it performs ceasefire negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction tasks.

The United Nations works as an essential organization to resolve various urgent global problems in addition to providing peace and security. The organization leads climate change mitigation through Paris Agreement enforcement along with implementing Sustainable Development Goals for poverty elimination and hunger elimination while supplying emergency aid and refugee support. The organization remains dedicated to human rights advocacy through its leading position in developing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. Due to the constantly changing world the UN maintains its essential role as a vital platform which spans international dialogue and collaboration and coordinated action to build a better and sustainable future for universal humanity.

### Introduction to UNwomen

United Nations Women serves as the United Nations entity which focuses on advancing gender equality and enabling women and girls throughout the entire world. The General Assembly of the United Nations established UN Women as a new entity in July 2010 to fill gender equality and strengthen rights advocacy at the global level. The founding of UN Women resulted from uniting four distinct United Nations entities whose focus was gender issues: DAW, INSTRAW, OSAGI, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. The establishment of UN Women brought together multiple resources which improved organizational efficiency and established a unified strong global approach to promote gender equality. The organizational mandate of UN Women includes enabling states to implement gender equality standards and collaborating with governments and civil society to establish enabling policies as well as supervising UN system gender parity commitments. The organization devotes resources toward eliminating domestic violence against women and economic empowerment programs and political leadership advancement for women and gender perspective inclusion to enhance peace efforts.

The establishment of UN Women has transformed how both policies and world dialogue regard gender equality. UN Women works together with international bodies along with governmental authorities and grassroots organizations to defend women's rights and maintain women's presence in all decision-making processes. UN Women supervises gender-related SDG targets under the fifth development goal that targets gender equality and female empowerment.

# Introduction to the Agenda Item

Gender equality has shown significant progress since the past decades yet millions of women and girls face discriminatory treatment and experience physical harm together with economic limitations throughout the entire world. Social progress along with economic stability and sustainable development face serious interference because of these violations to basic human rights. The item on this agenda serves as a practical initiative instead of theoretical analysis. This document focuses on evaluating the worldwide consequences of these problems as well as uncovering both systematic and cultural foundations behind them to establish workable solutions for establishing safe and inclusive communities. The discussion evaluates international mechanisms alongside policy interventions as well as global collaborative programs designed to fight gender-based violence and discrimination alongside analysis of remaining vacant areas for intervention.

Solving issues of discrimination combined with violence targeting women stands as a fundamental human rights matter and equally represents a threat to security and growth of national economies which creates instability in nations. Attaining the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 5 for Gender Equality depends heavily on the simultaneous empowerment of women and gender-based violence elimination. The current state requires our united effort to provide all women and girls with dignity while protecting them from violence and discrimination and eliminating their fear.

## Key Terms for the agenda

#### 1. Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

<del>Definition:</del> Gender discrimination results in any hurtful behavior toward someone because of their sex which tends to target women and girls more often. GBV refers to physical violence together with sexual violence and psychological mistreatment and economic threats and coercive intimidation.

Examples: The four categories of gender-based violence include domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

#### 2. Discrimination Against Women

<u>Definition:</u> Women's fundamental freedoms and human rights would suffer when any distinction, exclusion or restriction occurs that is based on sex or gender.

<u>Examples:</u> Organizations restrict educational and employment opportunities while offering lower pay rates to women and male-centered inheritance laws exist alongside minimal political recognition.

**3. Gender Equality** Definition: Sexual equality denotes the condition where people of various genders achieve identical access to resources and opportunities together with their constitutional rights and economic possibilities and educational participation and political participation rights. Gender equality upholds the principle that women and men differ yet their rights along with responsibilities and opportunities should not depend on their sex. Importance: The implementation of gender equality creates economic expansion together with social development alongside better governance systems.

#### 4. Gender Mainstreaming

<u>Definition:</u> The purpose of a strategic approach consists of integrating gender perspectives throughout policies as well as programs and legislation to support gender equality in every societal aspect.

<u>Example:</u> A government that uses gender-sensitive budgeting enables public funds to meet equally the needs of women and men.

#### 5. Patriarchy

<u>Definition:</u> A society follows patriarchal norms when male authority exceeds leadership positions across government structures together with economic and public institutions which frequently excludes women from full participation.

<u>Impact:</u> Patriarchal systems create gender-based discrimination opportunities with gender stereotype reinforcement as they restrict rights and remove chances for women.

#### 6. Feminism

<u>Definition:</u> People who fight to gain equal standing as men in political matters and social life and economic areas of society.

<u>Misconception:</u> The essence of feminism advocates for equal rights and opportunities for both genders instead of raising female dominance above men.

**7. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** – **Goal 5** Definition: Goal 5 of the <u>Sustainable</u> Development Goals operates under the United Nations to achieve equality between genders while guaranteeing empowerment for both women and girls. Key Targets: Total elimination of women's discrimination and violence along with removing damaging social <u>practices should</u> be accompanied by full equality in leadership positions.

#### 8. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

<u>Definition:</u> An individual's right to decide based on information about their health needs includes contraception access and safe abortions combined with maternal healthcare and sexual health education.

<u>Challenges:</u> The restrictions on women's reproductive rights in numerous areas stem from both cultural traditions along with legal statutes and deficient medical care provisions.

#### 9. The #MeToo Movement

<u>Definition</u>: This worldwide movement originating from 2017 seeks to inform society about workplace harassment and assault and shield survivors who want to challenge their abusers. <u>Impact</u>: Company officials and legal entities have started to expand their discussions about workplace harassment policies and related accountability measures and structural changes.

#### 10. Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda

<u>Definition:</u> As defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) women hold vital positions in both peace creation and reconstruction processes after conflicts. <u>Key Components:</u> The implementation of strategies must involve increased female participation in peace processes as well as female safety inside conflicts and gender-focused security measures for both defense institutions and civilian populations.

#### 11. Digital Gender Divide

<u>Definition</u>: Social identity components such as gender along with race, class and disability demonstrate multiple relationships which generate different experiences of discrimination and privilege for individuals.

<u>Impact:</u> Women with a lower financial position along with minority ethnicity experience systematic biases which stem from their dual socio-economic and gender situation.

#### 12. HeForShe Campaign

<u>Definition:</u> The gap between men and women in access to digital technology, internet connectivity, and digital literacy skills, limiting women's participation in the digital economy. <u>Objective:</u> The limitations affect education along with employment options and digital activism participation for women.

The Istanbul Convention

<u>Definition:</u> The Council of Europe enacted this internationally enforceable human rights agreement under its name in 2011 to deal with domestic violence together with violence against women.

The organization strives to create complete legal protection systems which safeguard survivors from abuse and court their perpetrators to justice by raising gender-based violence awareness through education and policy modifications.

## The Global Challenges of Women

These systemic problems extend across all social levels since they target individuals within households up to national economies and worldwide stability. Gender-based violence together with discrimination appears through different forms of abuse including:

Physical, Sexual, and Psychological Violence: Women and girls endure physical and sexual attacks and psychological abuse because they suffer assault inside their own homes and face harassment in public spaces and experience human trafficking activities and endure harmful custom practices along with forced marriages and female genital mutilation.

Economic Inequality and Workplace Discrimination: Economic differences become worse due to existing disparities because women face workplace discrimination and unequal opportunities throughout education and employment sectors and in leadership roles as well as with payment standards.

**Legal and Political Barriers:** Many women encounter legal systems which routinely block their access to basic rights including inheritance claims together with property control and voting freedoms. Some national legal frameworks show inadequate protection of women which results in attackers being able to stop worrying about legal consequences.

**Discrimination in Healthcare and Education:** Healthcare discrimination restricts women from exercising reproductive rights through discriminatory legislation and education systems bar girls from attending quality educational institutions across various parts of the world.

**Increased Vulnerability in Crisis Situations:** Women facing increased dangers of sexual abuse alongside economic discrimination and sexual exploitation during times of crisis within conflict areas and refugee settlements and humanitarian emergency zones.

## The Stark Reality: Unveiling the Numbers

● Globally, 1 in 3 women, approximately 736 million, have experienced physical or
sexual violence at least once in their lives. This alarming statistic highlights the
pervasive nature of gender-based violence.
● Female genital mutilation (FGM) remains a grim reality for over 200 million women
and girls, predominantly concentrated in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. This
practice not only violates human rights but also poses severe health risks.

In the realm of employment, women continue to face significant disparities. On
average, women earn about 16% less than their male counterparts for performing
the same roles, a gap known as the gender pay gap. This issue is compounded by
workplace discrimination, where women are often overlooked for promotions and
leadership positions.
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● In conflict zones, the situation worsens. Women and girls are disproportionately affected, constituting the majority of the 70.8 million people forcibly displaced worldwide. They are also at a higher risk of sexual violence, with reports indicating that 1 in 5 displaced women have experienced sexual violence.

# The Fundamental Elements Triggering Discrimination & Physical Abuse Against Women

#### 1. Patriarchy and Gender Inequality

Over time societies throughout the world have followed male domination which manifested in systematic oppression of women.

Society expects female population to obey traditional gender norms that reduce their professional options and maintain hierarchy systems.

#### 2. Cultural and Religious Norms

# ☆ Many parts of the world practice damaging traditional customs like child marriage along

with female genital mutilation (FGM) and also experience honor killings and the problem of dowry-related violence because of cultural values.

☆ Interpretations of texts at religious institutions which support male

## superiority make

improvements difficult for gender equality.

#### 3. Economic Disparities and Financial Dependence

# ☆ The system of pay discrimination and restricted job availability and property ownership

barriers primarily affects women throughout the world.

☆ Women who obtain their economic needs from male household members often encounter obstacles when attempting to depart from abusive relationships.

#### 4. Lack of Legal Protection and Weak Enforcement

- ☆ Laws which protect people from gender-based violence (GBV) exist in a weak state or have no enforcement or no laws at all in many parts of the world.
- $\stackrel{\leftarrow}{\sim}$  Bias alongside corruption existing within legal systems creates barriers that stop survivors from seeking justice thus discouraging them from making official reports.

#### 5. War, Conflict, and Political Instability

- A Wartime violations include the employment of rape and sexual slavery together with trafficking which serve as military weapons against populations.
- $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$  Female residents of displaced communities alongside refugee camps become more vulnerable to exploitative violence and physical attacks.

## Barriers to Ending Violence Against Women

#### 1. Institutionalized Gender Bias

- $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$  The protection of victims against gender-based violence remains poor because legal systems, government institutions and law enforcement agencies do not treat this matter as a priority.
- \( \triangle \) Multiple survivors encounter inappropriate treatment from others while victims who report abuse meet resistance because of societal stigmas.

#### 2. Limited Access to Education and Awareness

- ☆ Millions of girls across the world lose their access to education which stands as a fundamental power tool for women's empowerment and social perception modification.
- ☆ Women's rights receive inadequate awareness that results in the normalization of violence and discrimination against them.

#### 3. Healthcare Barriers

- ☆ For survivors of abuse access to needed reproductive services and mental health support along with trauma specialist care remains out of reach which prevents adequate patient treatment
- ☆ Legal restrictions on contraception and abortion access in particular countries drive women toward unsafe health conditions.

#### 4. Media Representation and Stereotypes

- ☆ Media texts alongside entertainment and advertisement continue to personalize women through unsubstantiated gender roles.
- $\stackrel{\sim}{\sim}$  Societal perception about violence against women remains difficult to change because of misinformation and commonly shown violent content.

#### 5. Lack of Representation in Leadership and Decision-Making

- $\frac{1}{2}$  Institutional underparticipation of women in government as well as business roles and policy-making positions restricts their ability to influence legislative processes and establish social frameworks.
- $\gtrsim$  Decision-making bodies that do not include women tend to create legislation which neglects distinct female requirements.

## **Historical Context**

### What is #orangetheworld

The worldwide #OrangeTheWorld movement works for both GBV education dissemination and solution activation. Every year #OrangeTheWorld activates globally under the United Nations but exclusively within the period between International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25 and Human Rights Day on December 10. The campaign uses orange to represent the hope which emerges from efforts seeking freedom from violence. A large number of women and girls around the world require urgent protection

from domestic abuse and harassment and various forms of violent treatment. The #OrangeTheWorld initiative works to establish a safer environment through awareness raising together with policy advocacy and survivor support until it creates a just world.

#### **Historical Context on The Campaign**

The Women's Global Leadership Institute established the movement through its leadership of the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) in 1991. In 2008 the UN Secretary-General created the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women campaign using #OrangeTheWorld as its main initiative. Through the years the campaign has developed global attention by bringing buildings throughout the world to display orange lighting and by making arenas host activities to spread awareness. Through its efforts the campaign has motivated institutions to develop better survivor support systems and further develop laws against gender violence while disrupting cultural patterns that allow violence against women.

#### **Spread Awareness**

Different strategies exist to enhance public awareness about #OrangeTheWorld. The population needs to wear orange and utilize #OrangeTheWorld hashtag while distributing survivor stories on social media platforms to actively participate. Educational workshops and awareness events organized by schools and workplaces teach their members about the violence experienced by genders. National shelters together with advocacy groups receive community support through events, march initiatives and fundraising campaigns. Every person can support the movement by simply doing basic tasks which include petition signing and financial donations to women's rights institutions together with maintaining active dialogues about the issue. Our responsibility lies within both the beginning and the awareness of transformation. We must unite to make our voices heard and advance efforts that will establish a world without violence. Join the movement—wear orange, share the message, and be a voice for change!

#EndViolence #ffa200

## International Legal Frameworks

#### **Afghanistan**

- Since 2003 Afghanistan ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) yet implementation is consistently weak especially following the Taliban takeover in 2021.
- The Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law (2009) made rape and forced marriage and other violence acts illegal but the government did not adequately enforce these rules. The Taliban implemented a policy which shattered the effectiveness of this law during 2021.
- The education of Afghan girls beyond primary levels has been completely denied to 80% of them in 2023.

Position:

- The Taliban's control of Afghanistan from 2021 onwards has led to an extreme decline of women's rights in the country.
- All educational institutions remain off-limits to women together with employment opportunities and most public areas.
- The availability of justice for survivors of gender-based violence is nonexistent while victims confront widespread gender-based violence throughout Afghanistan.

#### Efforts:

- The Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law (2009) along with legal protection for women's shelters existed in Afghanistan before the year 2021.
- The United Nations and international non-governmental organizations persist with their efforts to defend the rights of Afghan women.
- Freedom-seeking Afghan women activists outside their country work to gain diplomatic pressure on the Taliban through advocacy programs.

#### India

- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) defined domestic violence as an illegal crime while offering protective measures to female survivors.
- The Criminal Law Amendment (2013) introduced enhanced anti-rape legislation that included higher punishment terms and death penalties for persistent offenders following the Delhi gang rape in 2012.
- The Indian public experienced 31,677 cases of rape during 2021 with an average of 86 incidents daily according to (NCRB, 2021).

#### Position:

- The nation has robust legal systems in place yet insufficient implementation occurs.
- The occurrence of gender-based violence in India stayed elevated throughout 2021 because more than 31,000 rape cases were recorded during that year.
- Honor killings together with dowry-related violence continue to occur mostly within remote rural communities.

#### Efforts:

- Following the 2012 Delhi gang rape India passed enhanced legislation to fight against rape incidents.
- The Supreme Court enacted a law in 2017 which outlawed immediate triple talaq which offered protection to Muslim women against careless divorce practices.
- The "Mission Shakti" program marked its inauguration by the government during 2021 for the purpose of enhancing women's security.

#### **Pakistan**

- The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010): Established penalties for sexual harassment at work.
- Under the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Ordinance (2020) Pakistan implemented fast-track courts that used chemical castration as a possible punishment option.
- Pakistan has experienced more than 4,000 honor killings throughout the period from 2014 to 2021.

#### Position:

- The practices of honor killings together with forced marriages and domestic violence continue to spread throughout Pakistan.
- Charity survivors encounter multiple obstacles to justice because police officers fail to uphold their duties and society maintains negative views about seeking help.
- Religious fundamentalist ideas affect lawmaking processes by establishing restrictions on female safety measures.

#### Efforts:

- In 2016 Pakistan passed a law to eliminate honor killing exceptions which results in legal consequences.
- Introduced the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Ordinance in 2020 to fast-track rape cases.
- The country created women-only police stations in 2022 specifically to enhance reporting from survivors.

#### Saudi Arabia

- Women received travel rights independently from their guardians (2019-2021) while the system of male guardianship persists in marriage and child custody regulations.
- Anti-Harassment Law (2018): Criminalized sexual harassment with penalties of up to 5 years in prison.
- The law prohibits Saudi women from marital decisions and legal separation and prison releases from being conducted independently of male approval.

#### Position:

- Female residents of Saudi Arabia secured several liberties yet remain under the authority of male guardianship for essential life decisions.
- Saudi Arabia has gender-based violence laws yet their enforcement rates remain irregular.

#### Efforts:

- Lifted the women's driving ban in 2018.
- Women received the right to travel and study and work independently of male permission during the period of 2019 through 2021.
- The government established an Anti-Harassment law in 2018 to address sexual violence crimes.

#### Iran

- Iran stands among the limited number of countries which failed to approve the CEDAW as it remains non-ratified.
- Women receive fines in addition to prison time along with physical assaults when they do not follow the dress code requirements between 1979 and the present day.
- Phenomenon caused Iranian protests against mandatory hijabs to intensify following the death of Mahsa Amini while detained by police (2022). The protests against the government resulted in the deaths of more than 500 people and the treatment of more than 20,000 people as prisoners.

#### Position:

- The government of Iran continues to keep its signing status for CEDAW while the country maintains harsh requirements regarding hijab regulations.
- Women endure discrimination that is embedded in legal processes for divorce and child custody and in employment circumstances.
- Government forces use violence against demonstrators who rally for gender equality rights.

#### Efforts:

- Current Iranian women activists battle for reform even though they experience official government suppression.
- The Mahsa Amini protests of 2022 generated increased worldwide pressure which demanded that Iran modify its laws.
- The grassroots movement "My Stealthy Freedom" stands as one of multiple groups that oppose hijab mandates.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

- Under the Sexual Violence Law (2006) the government fortified its punishments against rapes and sexual assaults but absence of effective law enforcement persists.
- Every hour within the DRC the UN calculates that 48 women fall victim to rape because of ongoing conflicts (2021).

#### Position:

- One of the worst countries for sexual violence, especially in conflict zones.
- Survivors of sexual violence rarely find justice because sexual assault perpetrators continue to remain at liberty in their communities.

#### Efforts:

- The country passed stronger sexual violence laws through legislation in 2006 although weak enforcement continued to be a problem.
- During the conflict situation, United Nations peacekeeping forces together with NGOs deliver assistance to survivors.
- The Nobel Prize winning doctor Dr. Denis Mukwege maintains his dedication to defend women who suffer war-based sexual assaults through his advocacy work.

## **Case Studies**

#### United States: The Brock Turner Case (2016) and #MeToo Movement

#### •Case Summary:

Brock Turner who attended Stanford University sexually assaulted an unconscious woman known as Chanel Miller during 2015.

Brock Turner received only six months in jail during 2016 causing widespread criticism about light sentencing for such sexual assault cases.

The case resulted in mass public support for judicial system reform together with increased protection measures for sexually assaulted victims throughout America.

#### •Impact & Legal Response:

The government of California made legal reforms in 2017 to establish higher penalties for perpetrators who assault sexually unconscious victims.

The #MeToo movement (2017-Present) created worldwide sex violence exposure that led to substantial workplace harassment law transformations.

President Biden made a move in 2021 to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which expanded support for victims of violence.

# United Kingdom: Sarah Everard Murder (2021) and Violence Against Women Protests •Case Summary:

The police officer Wayne Couzens kidnapped then killed 33-year-old Sarah Everard by raping her in March 2021.

Through this case the public learned that police organizations failed to safeguard women from violence at its core.

Mass protests created the "Reclaim These Streets" movement after public outrage arose following the tragic incident.

#### •Impact & Legal Response:

The UK government implemented safety measures through enhanced background screening of police officers as part of its response.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) expanded legal protections for survivors.

The government dedicated £125 million for active measures to stop abuse directed at females.

#### Afghanistan: Taliban Rule and Women's Rights (2021-Present)

#### •Key Facts:

Under current Taliban rule both girls must cease their secondary education while women face total job elimination.

The exclusive ban against women in higher education along with development organizations began in 2022.

UN officials used the term gender apartheid to describe the situation when more than 1.1 million girls were unable to attend school in 2023.

#### India: The 2012 Delhi Gang Rape Case

#### •Case Summary:

During December 2012 a 23-year-old female passenger was tortured with rape before being murdered on a Delhi bus system.

The fierce public discontent about the situation resulted in improved anti-rape legislation being passed in 2013.

The execution of four out of five rapists occurred in 2020 but one offender received three years of imprisonment after being classified as a juvenile.

#### Pakistan: Qandeel Baloch Honor Killing (2016)

#### •Case Summary:

The social media star Qandeel Baloch met her end at the hands of her brother who killed her in 2016 because her actions brought shame to her family.

The Pakistani government passed reforms to honor killing legislation during 2016 which eliminated the practice where perpetrators gained freedom with support from family members.

The brother who killed Qandeel Baloch received a life sentence from court in 2016 yet regained his freedom through acquittal in 2022.

#### Saudi Arabia: Loujain al-Hathloul's Imprisonment (2018–2021)

#### •Case Summary:

Loujain al-Hathloul served a prison term from 2018 until 2021 following her arrests for advocating women's right to drive.

Terrorism laws condemned her to almost six years of incarceration while she endured mistreatment in prison custody.

The government banned travel for this release after it granted freedom to the individual in 2021.

# Iran: Mahsa Amini and the "Women, Life, Freedom" Movement (2022-Present) •Case Summary:

The Iranian morality police arrested Mahsa Amini (22) for wearing her hijab incorrectly in September 2022 until she passed away while in custody.

•Impact: Led to nationwide protests. The Iranian government reacted by executing numerous people together with mass imprisonment.

According to the United Nations the recent protests in Iran have resulted in the death of at least 500 people with 70+ children identified among the casualties.

#### **DRC: Sexual Violence in Conflict (1996-Present)**

#### •Key Facts:

Rape served as an active tool of war throughout the Second Congo War duration from 1996 until 2003.

The 2021 UN report indicates that sexual attacks occur at a rate of 1,100 per month according to their estimates and children number 30% of these cases.

The 2006 rape laws have failed to reduce the extremely rare nature of convictions involving sexual assault cases.

This section presents documented cases of women's discrimination and violence in the USA and UK as well as four other countries accompanied by their respective legal reactions.

# France: The #NousToutes Movement and Domestic Violence Reforms <a href="en-outer-style-left-style-l

France stands as one of the European countries where domestic violence occurs most frequently. The domestic fatality of 149 women by their partners or ex-partners occurred in 2019.

The murder of Julie Douib by the violent former partner of the mother in 2019 triggered wide public condemnation in France.

The #NousToutes movement helped activate national support for enhanced domestic violence legislation similar to the way the #MeToo movement did.

#### •Impact & Legal Response:

France established an emergency protective order system during 2020 which authorized police to remove abusers from their homes right away.

Under government order in 2021 the administration started using electronic bracelets to monitor dangerous offenders.

All domestic violence survivors benefit from complementary legal defense services together with emergency housing programs.

#### Australia: Grace Tame and the Fight Against Sexual Violence (2021-Present)

#### •Case Summary:

The Australian legal system failed to protect survivors of sexual violence because laws made it illegal for Grace Tame to speak publicly about her experiences as an assault victim. She won the 2021 Australian of the Year award to advocate for robust sexual violence legislations.

#### •Impact & Legal Response:

The Australian government legalized sexual assault victim testimonies through the removal of restrictions in 2021.

Recent laws passed in 2022 made coercive control (also known as relationship psychological abuse) an offense subject to criminal punishment.

During the five-year period the Australian government committed \$1.1 billion for domestic violence prevention efforts.

#### **Mexico: The Femicide Crisis and Protests (2019-Present)**

#### •Case Summary:

Women face widespread killings across Mexico since 2022 because of gender discrimination which has caused more than 3,750 murders during this time period.

The 2019 killing and mutilation of Ingrid Escamilla by her male partner became a national outrage in Mexico.

The activists marched for official intervention to stop gender-based violence.

#### •Impact & Legal Response:

Goalkeepers noted Mexico raised its penalties for femicide from 2021 to a maximum of 65 years imprisonment.

Women's shelters received additional government funding while police received training as a part of the government's 2022 initiatives.

Public marches for women have successfully pressured the authorities to enhance their investigative processes.

"Based on the EU gender-based violence survey (wave 2021), 20% of women experienced physical (including threats) or sexual violence by a non-partner, with 9% experiencing degrading or humiliating acts other than rape, another 7% pointing to physical and not sexual violence and 4% having experienced rape.

The percentage of women who said that they had experienced non-partner violence

#### was

higher in Finland (47%), Sweden (42%), Denmark (38%), the Netherlands (36%) and Luxembourg (34%). In contrast, Bulgaria (6%), Poland (8%) and Czechia (10%)

#### registered

the lowest percentages.

The analysis of non-partner violence by type shows that the greatest differences

#### between

EU countries concerning non-partner violence are seen in the prevalence of degrading humiliating sexual acts other than rape. Values ranged between 24% in Finland and

#### 22% in

Sweden and below 2% in Bulgaria, Czechia, and Poland." (I)

# Possible Solutions of Violence Against Women: What Can We Do?

# Strengthen Laws & Policies – Implement and enforce comprehensive legal protections for women

Governments must create and enforce laws against domestic violence together with sexual harassment and human trafficking and discrimination. The law needs reform with no exceptions available for perpetrators while making child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) punishable crimes. Simple access to gender-sensitive law enforcement units together with dedicated GBV fast-track courts helps survivors of violence obtain their justice quickly.

Improve Law Enforcement & Justice Systems – Train police, judges, and legal professionals to handle gender-based violence cases sensitively and effectively Specialized training about GBV must be provided to law enforcement agents to help them respond to these cases with empathetic and professional conduct. The government needs to create laboratories which serve as safe spaces for victims to report crimes and must guarantee survivors get sufficient legal guidance from the start until the end of judicial proceedings.

# **™** Educate & Raise Awareness – Promote gender equality through education, media, and community engagement

The educational system serves as an effective instrument to dismantle gender-based myths while simultaneously building admiration and fairness between men and women. Academic institutions must teach gender studies alongside lessons about consent as well as respect and safe relationship behavior to young learners. The challenge of misogynistic norms becomes possible through public awareness efforts, social media initiatives and collaborative efforts between influencers to drive behavioral change positively.

# ► Enhance Digital Safety for Women – Strengthen laws and online protections to prevent cyber harassment and digital abuse

Digital communication platforms have produced three substantial safety hazards for women: online harassment alongside doxxing and cyberstalking threats. Technology businesses together with state institutions need to create powerful legislation alongside systems for reporting activities that fight cyber violence. The implementation of digital literacy programs must give women both online protection

abilities and the authority to prosecute their offenders.

# **™** Engage Men & Boys as Allies – Encourage men to become active advocates for gender equality and to challenge toxic masculinity

The elimination of violence against women requires social changes toward better understanding of what it means to be masculine. Men along with boys need to participate in discussions about gender equality in order to unlearn damaging stereotypes and stand

against violence. Schools and workplaces together with communities must support positive male leadership and adopt the UN's HeForShe movement to activate men against gender-based violence.

# **™** Support Survivors & Strengthen Services – Expand access to shelters, mental health care, legal aid, and financial assistance

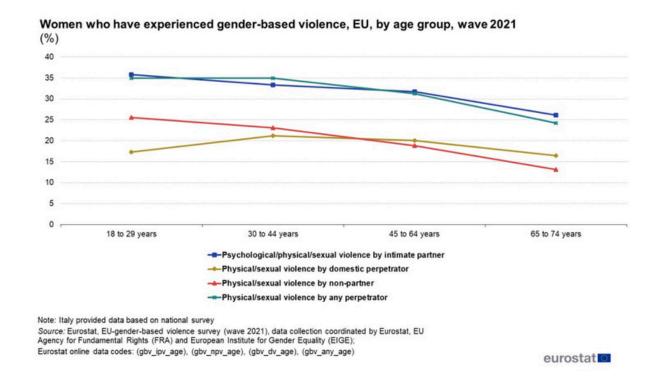
People who experience domestic violence or sex assault or experience trafficking require immediate assistance as well as sustained help to establish new lives. Neutral organizations and government bodies should use funding to establish comprehensive shelters alongside counseling programs and accessible hotline resources with complimentary legal advice for survivors seeking help. Through educational economic development programs survivors receive hands-on training with employment skills combined with microfinance support which helps them gain fiscal self-sufficiency and escape continuous victimization.

# **™** Encourage Bystander Intervention – Empower individuals to safely intervene when witnessing harassment or violence

Most incidents of violence happen at public locations together with workplaces and schools yet bystanders typically refrain from taking action. The "Step Up, Speak Out" training program instructs people about identifying abuse situations while showing them how to respond in ways that support victims without danger. Organizations must develop office harassment regulations along with educational institutions needing to ban sexual violence completely from their campuses.

- Ensure Accessible & Affordable Healthcare for Women Improve access to reproductive health services, mental health care, and trauma recovery programs

  Long-lasting physical and psychological harm affects women who go through violence. Providing a full range of health services to survivors needs immediate attention with special emphasis on mental health care coupled to sexual education and emergency medical care. Governments must eliminate all impeding factors for women to obtain contraceptive methods as well as safe abortion procedures together with post-rape healthcare services.
- Promote Women's Leadership & Political Representation Increase women's participation in decision-making at all levels When leadership roles are held by women such governance will create policies which uphold female rights and gender parity. Governments must establish gender quotas and additional affirmative action policies which ensure women obtain equal representation across political roles and corporate leadership positions as well as community leadership positions. Issues regarding GBV and reproductive rights and workplace discrimination achieve proper focus when women maintain representation in government decision-making bodies.



## Questions To Be Addressed

- 1. How could governments and groups make it easier for survivors to get justice and support?
- 2. What are the best ways for communities to prevent and deal with gender-based violence in different cultures?
- 3. How does education help stop violence and discrimination against women, and how can schools teach gender sensitivity?
- 4. What are the best legal and policy strategies to fight gender-based violence worldwide, and how can they be made stronger?
- 5. How can businesses help stop discrimination and violence against women at work and beyond?
- 6. How can economic empowerment programs cut down on gender-based violence, and what successful models are out there?
- 7. How can social media and digital advocacy challenge harmful gender norms and support survivors?
- 8. What's the best way to track progress in ending violence and discrimination against women, and how can we ensure accountability?
- 9. How can healthcare systems better respond to gender-based violence and provide survivor-centered care?
- 10. What legal protections and policy changes are needed to tackle gender-based violence in crisis and conflict situations?
- 11. What could be done to successfully involve men and boys in ending violence and discrimination against women?

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#### **Further Readings**

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