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CSW: Topic #2 - Domestic Violence Against Women

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The second topic that the CSW will focus on is the **response to domestic violence against women**. Domestic violence, according to the World Bank Group, is defined as “a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.” While commonly referred to as domestic violence, it is also labeled domestic abuse or intimate partner violence.¹

Many women have a limited understanding and definition of what domestic abuse is and presents as, and so they may become trapped in situations where their lives may be at stake. This may be due to limited access to resources or a cultural stigma as to what can be identified as domestic violence, causing women to excuse dangerous or abnormal behavior.

As a result, domestic violence has become one of the leading issues facing women globally, making finding urgent solutions critical. The World Health Organization reported that “over a quarter of women aged 15–49 years who have been in a relationship have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner at least once in their lifetime (since age 15).”² In some situations, a woman’s safety may be endangered when her partner resorts to lethal violence in response to her rejection of his control or dominance. The effects of these behaviors leave lasting damage to a woman’s well-being and prevent women from using their abilities in society. It can also contribute to suicidal ideation and other mental health challenges.

Although various approaches have been made to fix this problem, none have been entirely successful. With the UN Women’s “Ending Violence against Women” Act putting the issue on the table, it is time to make a shift. It is now essential to take concrete actions to better protect women against these acts of violence.³

Given the severity of this issue, the global community must find a more substantial resolution for future generations.

¹ https://www.worldbank.org/en/work-with-us/hsd/home/hsd_dapp_what_is_abuse

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

³ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>

Please use the following questions to help guide your research on this topic:

- What measures can CSW take to strengthen international and national efforts to prevent domestic violence, and to protect survivors?
- What initiatives can CSW propose to educate societies and shift cultural attitudes that normalize or excuse domestic abuse?
- How can CSW address economic dependency and financial barriers that prevent women from leaving abusive relationships?
- What steps can CSW take to amplify survivor voices and ensure their participation in shaping policy and reform?

These questions are meant to be a reference point, but you may use other angles and ideas to respond to this issue. As you research, remember that you represent your country's position, not your own, and all information must be cited. YUNMUN has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism, and AI use is strictly prohibited. All papers will be submitted through Turnitin, and the usage of AI may affect a delegate's chance of receiving an award.

I am available to answer any questions at kkramer1@mail.yu.edu. I am looking forward to seeing your ideas!

Wishing you all the best,

Kayla Kramer

Chair, Commission on the Status of Women

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