

YUNMUN XXX

Commission on the Status of Women

Topic 1: Ending Violence Against Women

The UNCSW was established in 1946 to promote, report on, and monitor issues relating to women's rights around the world. According to its official website, "the CSW 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."¹ Although, the proper name of the UN committee has changed to broaden women's overall statuses, this does not mean that all forms of discrimination have ceased, including violence against women.

Violence against women occurs in public and in private. These acts of violence can leave long lasting physical, sexual and mental health trauma for women and girls. Whether a woman is harassed or assaulted sexually, a victim of FGM (female genital mutilation), trafficking or violently treated in any other form, it has the ability to negatively affects a woman's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. About 35% of women worldwide have experienced violence from a partner, at least 200 million women and girls alive today have undergone FGM, and 1 in 10 women in the EU report having experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15.² In the two-page packet unwomen.org compiled, they describe the following, "violence not only has long- lasting consequences for women but also their families, the community and the country at large. It also has tremendous costs, from greater health care and legal expenses to productivity losses, impacting national budgets and overall development."³ Violence expands throughout a community and has large effects on future generations of boys and girls alike.

Although many countries have made incredible strides in writing laws to protect women, there is a lack in the enforcement of them. There are abundant opportunities to make a difference. UN Women is present in 85 countries where they support governments in adopting and enacting legal reforms aligned with international standards.

In 1994 in a General Assembly meeting regarding the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, they noted the concern that some groups of women, such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women

¹ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

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https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2013/12/un%20women%20evaw-thembrief_us-web-rev9%20pdf.pdf?la=en

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https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2013/12/un%20women%20evaw-thembrief_us-web-rev9%20pdf.pdf?la=en

living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, female children, women with disabilities, elderly women and women in situations of armed conflict, are especially vulnerable to violence.⁴ How can we ensure that by the UN's 2030 plan, women will no longer feel discriminated against and safe?

Questions to consider while researching:

- Has your country taken any steps to ending violence against women and girls?
- What are your country's statistics? Have they progressed over the past years or worsened?
- Are there cultural and/or social factors that play a role in your country's ability to ending violence against women and girls?
- I HIGHLY recommend watching this inspiring and powerful video as you research your country's opinions on the topic: [If not you, who?](#)

If you have any comments, questions or ideas as you go about your research, feel free to email me at takupfer@mail.yu.edu.

Best of luck,

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⁴ https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/48/104