

InterMUN 2025

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

**Addressing the diverse forms of violence
against women, including domestic
violence, sexual violence, femicide,
between others, and the trauma it causes.**



Moderator: Sofia Victoria Canales Villarreal

Director: Mateo Cuéllar

Welcoming message from the chair:

Dear and fellow delegates,

It's a pleasure to be able to guide you during the duration of this event. We hope that all of you get benefitted from this experience and leave knowing more than you did when you first arrived. We expect full participation and commitment to the debate, including the engagement that goes hand-in-hand with it. We as chairs know that this debate will be finished and achieved with excellence and fulfillment.

Sincerely,

Victoria Canales & Mateo Cuellar

Committee's Background:

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a key United Nations body established in 1946 with the purpose of promoting gender equality and the advancement of women's rights and equal participation worldwide. It plays a vital role in reviewing progress, identifying challenges, setting global standards, and formulating policies to

improve the current situation. CSW counts with 45 member states elected for four-year terms, representing different regions of the world, and it meets annually at the UN Headquarters in New York, where governments, civil society organizations, and UN entities come together to discuss strategies, share experiences, and recommend actions on issues affecting women. Its work includes monitoring the implementation of key international agreements, such as advising ECOSOC on gender-related matters, and promoting international cooperation to accelerate women's empowerment and gender equality. Over the decades, the CSW has been instrumental in shaping global policies, raising awareness about discrimination and driving initiatives to ensure women have equal opportunities, rights and participation in all aspects of social, economic and political life.

Topic Background:

Gender-based violence is addressed as violence committed against a person because of his or her sex or gender, the sole definition engages female and male individuals, but even so, one in three women worldwide suffer from a variation of GBV, this includes:

- Domestic violence
- Sexual harassment and/or abuse
- Physical assault
- Verbal violence (often referred as *catcalling*)
- Forced Marriage
- Forced abortion
- Socioeconomic differences
- Psychological violence
- Female reproductive system's mutilation
- Intimate partner violence
- Femicide.

The current topic tends to strongly address Violence Against Women and Girls more than Gender-based Violence since it refers to a broader and more inclusive term, taking into consideration both genders and all diversifications of violence referred to a specified gender, while the sub-category VAWG specifically addresses any act of GBV that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, often taking into consideration threats, intimidation or deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Studies have shown strong correlations between VAWG and PTSD, since approximately 64% of domestic violence and sexual harassment and/or assault cases (which result in the most common ramifications of GBV) eventually develop a number of mental disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, eating disorders, social anxiety, suicidal tendencies and a likelihood to increase possible dependencies towards illicit substance abuse behavior.

Current Situation:

According to the World Health Organization, approximately one in three women worldwide has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or non-partner at some point in their lives, emphasizing the magnitude of the problem. Domestic violence is the dominating type of GBV, with statistics indicating that between 25% and 33% of women globally have been subjected to physical or sexual violence from a partner or family member. Sexual violence, which remains significantly underreported due to a biased shame and fear, with around 55% of cases remaining unreported, affects roughly one in four women worldwide and many survivors face barriers to seeking justice or support.

Femicide, the gender-based killing of women, is alarmingly frequent, with an estimated 137 women murdered every day by intimate partners or family members, representing a tragic indicator of the severity of gender-based violence. Despite ongoing efforts to implement legal protections and promote awareness, many cases go unreported, and enforcement of laws varies widely between countries, undermining the effectiveness of these measures.

The trauma inflicted by such violence often results in long-term mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and physical health problems, while survivors also frequently encounter social stigmatization, economic hardship, and barriers to rebuilding their lives. This strongly asks for legal reforms, improved access to healthcare and psychological support, education campaigns to challenge societal norms and community-based prevention strategies. It is crucial to strengthen international cooperation and national policies to not only respond to incidents of violence but also to prevent future abuses and promote gender equality, thereby creating safer environments for women worldwide.

Key players:

Sweden

Sweden is widely recognized as a global leader in advancing women's rights and combating gender-based violence through strong domestic policies and feminist foreign policy. The country has one of the world's lowest rates of violence against women due to comprehensive legal protections, survivor-centered services, and public awareness programs. Internationally, Sweden actively funds UN Women and promotes binding global agreements that classify violence against women as a human rights violation.

Canada

Canada has implemented a National Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence and is known for prioritizing Indigenous women, who experience exceedingly high levels of violence. The country invests heavily in trauma-informed care, shelters, and psychosocial services. On the global stage, Canada is one of the principal sponsors of UN resolutions on protecting women from violence and contributes significant financial support to international programs combating femicide, domestic violence and human trafficking.

Spain

Spain faces serious internal challenges related to domestic violence and femicide, but it has responded with some of the strongest laws in Europe, including the 2004 Comprehensive Law on Gender Violence. This law provides mandatory protection measures, specialized courts, and immediate response systems for survivors. Spain is also a major advocate for recognizing femicide as a distinct international crime and actively supports regional and global cooperation to track and prevent violence against women.

Mexico

Mexico has one of the highest femicide rates in the world, with widespread impunity and systemic gender-based violence. Despite these challenges, the government has introduced legal frameworks such as the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence and the Femicide Alert system to mobilize emergency resources in high-risk regions. Mexico plays a significant role in the UN and the Organization of American States (OAS) by advocating for international mechanisms to combat femicide and improve data collection on gender-based violence.

Argentina

Argentina has become a regional leader in awareness and policy against gender-based violence thanks to grassroots movements like "Ni Una Menos," which brought global attention to femicide in Latin America. Its government has implemented national

emergency measures, shelters, economic support for survivors and a registry to track cases of violence against women. Argentina supports stronger international frameworks to hold states accountable for failing to prevent femicide and is an active voice in Latin American cooperation on women's rights.

India

India experiences widespread domestic violence, sexual assault and honor killings particularly in rural areas. After high-profile cases such as the 2012 Delhi rape, major legal reforms were enacted under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act. However, marital rape remains legal, and enforcement issues persist. In international forums, India acknowledges the issue and supports UN actions but often emphasizes national sovereignty and cultural context, seeking flexible rather than binding commitments.

South Africa

South Africa faces one of the world's highest rates of sexual violence, driven by gender inequality, poverty and the legacy of apartheid. The government has launched a National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, establishing specialized courts and survivor support services. While South Africa supports international cooperation and UN resolutions, it frequently requests technical assistance and funding to help implement programs and address root causes such as trauma and poverty.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has made gradual progress on women's rights by reducing the scope of the male guardianship system and enacting laws against domestic violence. However, enforcement is weak, and cultural norms continue to limit women's freedom and protection under the law. Internationally, Saudi Arabia participates in UN debates but often opposes strong language on gender, preferring terms limited to "women" and "family," and resists external pressure for rapid reform.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the most concerning countries regarding violence against women, especially since the return of Taliban rule. Women face forced marriage, public punishment and total exclusion from education and public life, with no legal backup. Afghanistan is widely condemned in the UN for systemic gender-based oppression. The country does not actively cooperate with international mechanisms aimed at ending violence against women, making it a central focus of global humanitarian and human rights action.

Chair/Moderator Conclusion:

Director Conclusion:

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide. Despite growing awareness and legal reforms, millions continue to face abuse, trauma, and systemic barriers to justice and recovery. This crisis transcends borders, cultures, and socioeconomic status, demanding a unified global response. As delegates of the Commission on the Status of Women, we must approach this issue with empathy, resolve, and a commitment to action. Our work should prioritize survivor-centered policies, challenge harmful norms, and strengthen enforcement mechanisms. By sharing strategies and promoting international cooperation, we can help build safer, more equitable societies.

Moderator conclusion:

The current topic asks for efficient and immediate global solutions that involve the appropriate support for victims, the application of legal reinforcement, and according punishments. While progress has been made by leading nations and international organizations, GBV remains a persistent issue with severe consequences for individuals and communities worldwide. The diverse efforts and commitments of key players

underestimate the importance of sustained international cooperation and localized action to prevent violence, ensure justice, and promote gender equality.

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