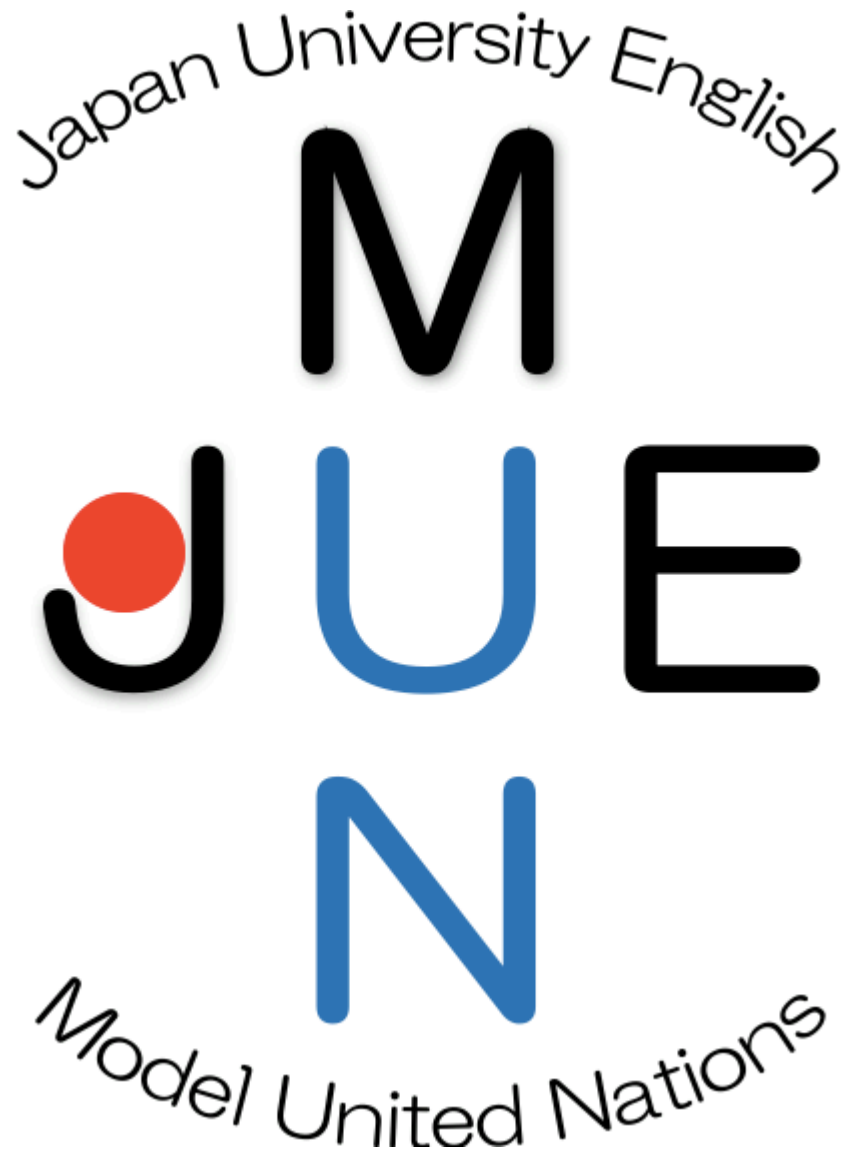


Meeting 1: Protecting Women and Girls from Gender-Based Violence



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Country Matrix

	Committee A	Committee B	Committee C	Committee D
Africa	South Africa	Kenya	Nigeria	Egypt
	Morocco	Cote D'Ivoire	Zimbabwe	Uganda
	Gabon	Mauritania	Eritrea	Madagascar
	Gambia	Cameroon	Burkina Faso	Equatorial Guinea
Asia-Pacific	India	China	Japan	Republic of Korea
	Viet Nam	Saudi Arabia	Qatar	Thailand
	Lebanon	Bangladesh	Turkmenistan	Nepal
	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Afghanistan	Tajikistan
Europe & Others	Canada	Australia	United Kingdom	France
	Denmark	Sweden	Latvia	Switzerland
	Albania	Bulgaria	Poland	Ukraine
	Ireland	Netherlands	New Zealand	Belgium
Latin America & Caribbean	Mexico	Cuba	Argentina	Brazil
	Peru	Chile	Trinidad and Tobago	Antigua and Barbuda
	El Salvador	Paraguay	Bolivia	Suriname
	Dominican Republic	Panama	Guyana	Columbia

Conference Flow

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Formal Session	Formal Session	Formal Session
Informal Session Regional Bloc	Informal Session Committee	Informal Session Regional Bloc
Formal Session	Formal Session	Formal Session
Informal Session Committee	Informal Session Regional Bloc	Informal Session Regional Bloc
Formal Session	Formal Session	Formal Session
Informal Session Committee	Informal Session Committee	Informal Session Regional Bloc
Formal Session	Formal Session	Formal Session
Informal Session Committee	Informal Session Committee	Informal Session Regional Bloc
Formal Session	Formal Session	Formal Session
	Informal Session Regional Bloc	Informal Session Committee
	Formal Session	Formal Session
	Informal Session Committee	
	Formal Session	
	Informal Session Committee	
	Formal Session	

UN Women

In 2010, the [United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women \(UN Women\)](#) was created by the UN General Assembly (GA) in UN [GA resolution 64/289](#) (2010). Historically, the UN has faced challenges in funding, coordination, and efforts toward gender equality. The creation of UN Women marked a major milestone in UN history, strengthening prior efforts to advance women's rights. UN Women plays a crucial role in supporting intergovernmental bodies in formulating policies, helping Member States implement international standards through technical and financial support, forging partnerships with civil society, and leading the UN's work on gender equality and accountability through monitoring progress. As of 2024, [UN Women drives change in 109 countries](#), supporting 4 billion women and girls as a global advocate and partner for women's rights and gender equality. UN Women supports in particular the implementation of [Sustainable Development Goal 5](#), on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, based on five strategic priorities in: 1) strengthening global norms and standards, 2) increasing women's leadership and political participation, 3) enhancing economic empowerment, 4) ending violence against women, and 5) promoting Women, Peace and Security (WPS) humanitarian actions. Together, these efforts position UN Women as an essential driver toward change for women and girls worldwide.

UN Women Structure

The [UN Women Executive Board](#) serves as the governing body of UN Women, providing intergovernmental support and supervision of its operations and activities. ECOSOC selects 41 Member States for 3-year terms: 10 from African States, 10 from Asian States, 4 from Eastern European States, 6 from Latin American and Caribbean States, 5 from Western European and other States, and 6 from the top-contributing countries. Specifically, the Executive Board provides guidance to UN Women representatives on operational matters, ensuring that its activities and strategies are consistent with the policy guidance issued by the GA and ECOSOC. It also monitors the organization's performance, approves its Strategic Plan, and discusses its budget, programmes, and activities. The Executive Board holds an annual session and two regular sessions each year, which discuss topics as required, and joint meetings with other UN entities, funds, and programmes that focus on overarching agendas. In addition, it holds inter-sessional meetings, informal briefings, and consultations to discuss

issues of specific interest to members. The Executive Board makes decisions by consensus, and they should be short, action-oriented, and address specific issues.

UN Women is unique in having two multi-tiered governance structures; one consists of the GA and ECOSOC and the Executive Board, which provides policy guidance to organizational operational activities to UN Women; the other consists of the GA, ECOSOC, and the [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#), which oversees its support functions and offers normative policy guidance to UN Women. UN Women's operations rely primarily on three financial sources: voluntary contributions from governments, private-sector donations, and assessed contributions from the UN regular budget. UN Women is administered by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, in accordance with policies set by the Executive Board. As the lead UN entity on gender equality, UN Women serves as the secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the most significant global policymaking body focused on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. ECOSOC is responsible for establishing concrete linkages between the CSW and the Executive Board of UN Women to ensure consistency between the policy guidance set by the CSW and the operational strategies and activities approved by the Executive Board.

UN Women Mandate and Functions

UN Women seeks to advance women's rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of all women and girls. This is the UN organization that has primary responsibility for ensuring that every woman and girl realizes her full potential by delivering programmes, policies, and standards that protect women's rights. UN Women's work towards gender equality has two pillars: supporting international political negotiations to formulate global standards, and helping Member States implement those standards by providing expertise and financial support. The institution also collaborates with other UN entities to advance gender equality across a broad spectrum of human rights and human development issues, and coordinates their work to deliver greater results by optimizing the use of scarce resources.

As a standard-setting organization, UN Women is responsible for ensuring the equal and active participation of women at all levels of the UN system and for integrating a gender perspective into UN policies and programmes. UN Women's formation in 2010 aimed to accelerate progress on gender equality and empowerment of women by merging and strengthening four previously separated UN bodies: the Division for the Advancement of

Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Before the founding of UN Women, these four organizations worked separately on international gender issues. Although the UN made significant progress in advancing gender equality through its actions, gender inequality remains deeply rooted in every society, with women suffering from violence and discrimination and being underrepresented in decision-making processes in every part of the world. The GA created UN Women to address these challenges and accelerate the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide, serving as a responsible driver that brings resources and manpower together for greater impact.

Key Resolutions / Conventions for the Conference Theme

[The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) was adopted by the GA on 18 December 1979 and came into force in 1981 as an international treaty. Bringing the female half of humanity into the focus of human rights concerns, the convention plays an important role in ensuring the fundamental human rights, dignity, and worth of the human person, as well as the equal rights of men and women. CEDAW defines equality and how it can be achieved by establishing an international statement of women's rights and an action agenda for Member States to enable women to enjoy those rights.

[The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action \(PFA\)](#) aims to achieve gender equality and human rights for all women and girls, everywhere. The Beijing Declaration was agreed by 189 Member States at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. Each Member State establishes its own plan in accordance with the declaration, and the [Beijing Platform for Action](#) is the most comprehensive global policy framework and blueprint for action on women's empowerment and gender equality. The platform serves as a guideline, providing Member States with direction for their policy-making and programme implementation. Countries review their work and accomplishments every five years to sustain progress, while recognizing the urgency of gender equality.

In 2015, world leaders from all Member States adopted the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2030 Agenda\)](#) and set the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), an urgent call to action for all countries, with 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved worldwide by 2030. Each Member State works to implement the Agenda at the national,

regional, and global levels. While [SDG5](#) specifically targets gender issues, achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is integral to all 17 goals. UN Women set its [Strategic Plan 2026-2029](#) to meet the 2030 Agenda deadline, embarking on urgent and sustained action to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Also playing a central role in monitoring and reporting on SDG progress through the [SDG indicators](#), UN Women publishes the annual [Gender Snapshot](#), a report on gender equality across all SDGs.

Basic Research Sources

- [CIA World Factbook, Country Profiles](#)
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Countries and Regions](#)
- [UN Women, Country Fact Sheet](#)
- [UN Women, Global Database on Violence against Women and Girls](#)
- [World Development Indicators | DataBank](#)

Conference Theme: Building a Gender Inclusive Society

As the lead agency for girls and women in the UN system, UN Women plays a role in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. Today, women and girls continue to face major barriers, including gender-based violence, limited economic opportunities, and unequal participation in political life and peacebuilding. Specifically, in the financial and social aspects, both physical and mental violence negatively affect their well-being and prevent women from fully participating in society. Women also remain excluded from many economic opportunities and are disproportionately engaged in unpaid care and domestic work, which limits their ability to realize their economic potential. In political and peace processes, women's voices are underrepresented in decision-making and negotiations, despite their abilities to strengthen resilience and contribute to inclusive peace. Regardless of their situation, every woman and girl must be protected from violence and empowered with resources and opportunities.

[The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), proclaimed by the GA in 1948, affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and declares that all human beings are born free and equal, without distinction of any kind, including gender. Still, oppression towards women and girls persists in every social context, making them especially vulnerable to poverty, hunger, climate disasters, and a variety of other problems. Ten per cent of women

live in extreme poverty, and an estimated 351 million women and girls could still be trapped in extreme poverty in 2030. About 26 per cent of women are facing food insecurity, which is a population of 64 million more than men. One in five girls is married before turning 18, and four million girls undergo female genital mutilation (FGM) each year, half of them before turning 15. UN Women's latest report, [Women's Rights in Review 30 Years After Beijing](#), published in 2024, also states that one in four countries reported a backlash on women's rights. Despite continuous efforts by governments and international organizations, including UN Women, we still have a long way to go to achieve gender equality worldwide. It is our duty to build a gender-inclusive society where women and girls can enjoy their rights, and everyone can reach their full potential, regardless of gender.

Meeting 1: Protecting Women and Girls from Gender-Based Violence

[Gender-based violence \(GBV\)](#), defined by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, is violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. GBV is a form of discrimination that hinders women's ability to enjoy their rights and freedom, and women and girls have been facing this violation of human rights. GBV is deeply rooted in society, occurring in settings such as schools, workplaces, health care systems, and households. Today, almost 1 in 3 women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence globally. Every 10 minutes, a woman or a girl is killed by a partner or member of her own family. It is essential for international entities, including UN Women, to work towards eliminating GBV and to involve both men and women in gender-related actions, fostering shared responsibility for a more equitable, inclusive, and resilient society.

Meeting 2: Empowering Women's Economic Participation

Supporting women's [economic empowerment](#) is one of the most effective ways to advance gender equality and promote more inclusive economic development, as women make enormous contributions to economies, whether in business, farming, entrepreneurship, or as employees. However, gender inequalities remain entrenched in every society, leaving women lacking access to decent work and facing occupational segregation and a gender pay gap. They also remain disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination, and exploitation, restricting the prospects of women contributing to economic and social aspects. UN Women advocates for women's ability to secure decent jobs and influence institutions

and public policies by engaging partners around the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW.

Meeting 3: Integrating Women in Political Decision-Making and Peace-Building Processes

[Women's leadership and political participation](#) are restricted both locally and globally. Especially, in the current global peace and security contexts, with war and violent conflicts threatening women and girls' lives, women play critical roles in leading movements for the [Women, Peace and Security \(WPS\)](#) agenda. Despite the prospect that women's participation in democratic governance and peace processes contributes to longer, more resilient peace after conflicts, women are excluded from peace processes, negotiations, and decision-making. Given the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's call to leave no one behind, the UN must work to eliminate obstacles to participation in political life and promote peace by supporting women's participation in preventing conflict and building peace. UN Women supports women's representation by providing programmes and knowledge to ensure women's participation and inclusion across all aspects.

Committee A: Ending harmful practices to protect sexual and reproductive health and rights

Definitions

[WHO](#) defines [sexual and reproductive health \(SRH\)](#) as a broad range of services that cover access to family planning, fertility and infertility care, maternal and perinatal health, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), protection from GBV, and education on safe and healthy relationships. In addition, according to [the 69th session of CSW](#), sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are essential to achieve [SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being](#) and [SDG 5 on Gender Equality](#) because the lack of SRHR services and poor reproductive outcomes have a risk of worsening the situation of poverty, health, education, and household well-being.

Harmful practices are a violation of human rights that put women's and adolescents' SRHR at great risk, as stated by the [UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner \(OHCHR\)](#). Furthermore, the [UN Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#) describes harmful practices as

persistent practices and behaviours that are rooted in discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, age, and other grounds, which often involve coercion and violence, and cause physical and psychological harm or suffering. Child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM), female genital mutilation (FGM), witchcraft accusations, and son preference are recognized as harmful practices, and the UN does not accept cultural or traditional justifications for their continuation. Therefore, as noted by the [OHCHR](#), the United Nations has reaffirmed through consensus agreements, including [the International Conference on Population and Development \(ICPD\)](#), the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda, that women and girls are entitled to the highest attainable standards of health, including sexual and reproductive health, without exception, based on cultural or traditional practices.

Facts & Problems

According to the [WHO](#), the number of women aged 15-49 years who use a modern contraceptive method has increased from 470 million in 1990 to 864 million women in 2023. Furthermore, more than 60% of countries have liberalized abortion laws in the past 30 years. However, several harmful practices such as CEFM, FGM, witchcraft accusations, and son preference remain that should be addressed to protect SRHR. [OHCHR](#) defines CEFM as marriages where at least one party is under 18 years old, and unions entered into without full, free, and informed consent. [UNICEF](#) claimed the observed and projected percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 18 has decreased from 25% in 1997 to 19% as of 2022, which shows that the progress needs to be nearly 20 times faster to reach the target of ending child marriage by 2030.

FGM involves the partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to female genital organs for non-medical reasons, as stated by [OHCHR](#). As the [WHO](#) has insisted, more than 230 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, where it is practiced and is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15. This shows that more than 4 million girls are estimated to be at risk of FGM annually.

Witchcraft accusations are often deeply rooted in harmful social beliefs and gender inequality, resulting in the victims being frequently abandoned in so-called “witch camps” or forcibly removed from their communities. [OHCHR](#) argues that the exact number of victims is unknown; however, it is assumed to be thousands of cases of people accused of witchcraft each year at the global level, and that the number is increasing. [UNECA](#) defines son

preference as a range of values and attitudes that accord a male child status over a female child, in which the female child is disadvantaged in the quality of parental care and investment in her development. Globally, 142 million girls are unwanted, neglected, abused, or malnourished due to son preference, according to [UNFPA](#).

Past & Ongoing Actions

In 2008, UNICEF and UNFPA introduced the [UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation](#) to tackle FGM through interventions in 18 countries with the aim of shifting social norms in affected communities while working with governments to put in place viable national response systems. Furthermore, it prioritizes global movement-building among allies working to eliminate the practice of FGM as its strategic approach. As a result, 1,450,136 girls and women received FGM prevention and protection services, and 304,820 girls aged 0–14 were protected from undergoing FGM in 2024.

In 2016, UNICEF and UNFPA launched the [UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#) to tackle child marriage in 12 of the highest-prevalence or high-burden countries. This promotes the rights of adolescent girls to prevent marriage and pregnancy, and enables them to achieve their aspirations through education and alternative pathways by supporting households in demonstrating positive attitudes, empowering girls to direct their own futures, and strengthening the services. It also addresses the underlying conditions that sustain child marriage, advocating for laws and policies that protect girls' rights while highlighting the importance of using robust data to inform such policies. In 2022, one of the countries reported that 64% of the girls had increased self-efficacy and that they could negotiate the delay of marriage after joining this program.

Key Resolutions / Conventions / Treaties

The General Assembly (GA) has adopted [the Convention on the Rights of the Child \(1989\)](#) to ensure that every child, no matter who they are, where they live, or what they believe, has rights. In particular, article 24 mentions that States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children, such as CEFM and FGM. In addition, the Secretary-General strengthens the need for human rights-based measures aimed at addressing the root cause of CEFM, eliminating this harmful practice and supporting survivors in the issue [of child, early, and](#)

[forced marriage \(2024\)](#). The SG has also provided information on the prevalence and impact of the practice on women and girls, referencing recent data and evidence through [Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations \(2015\)](#) by including information about root causes and factors contributing to FGM, challenges and needs, and trends impacting efforts aimed at its elimination.

OHCHR adopted [Cross-border and transitional female genital mutilation \(2024\)](#) and reaffirmed that FGM constitutes a human rights violation and is a form of GBV that is inherently linked to deep-rooted gender inequality and stereotypes. It highlights the need to improve data collection, legal and policy frameworks, and regional and international cooperation and systematic coordination among States and other key stakeholders, including civil society. Furthermore, OHCHR depicts the severity of human rights violations and abuses rooted in harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks in the [Study on the situation of the violations and abuses of human rights rooted in harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks, as well as stigmatization \(2023\)](#). It also describes the adverse human rights impacts on persons in vulnerable situations and the factors that affect their vulnerability.

Lastly, [Preventing gender-biased sex selection \(2011\)](#) which is a joint interagency statement of OHCHR, UNFPA, UN Women and WHO, reaffirming the commitment of the UN agencies to encourage and support efforts by States, international and national organizations, civil society and communities to uphold the rights of girls and women and to address the multiple manifestations of gender discrimination including the problem of imbalanced sex ratios caused by sex selection.

Research Links and Questions

- [Sexual and reproductive health and rights](#)
 - [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights \(SRHR\)](#)
 - [Harmful practices](#)
 - [The future of sexual and reproductive health and rights](#)
 - [Advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights in the private sector](#)
1. What are the limitations of current UN programmes in addressing harmful practices?
 2. What harmful practices are most prevalent in your Member State or region?
 3. What challenges has your Member State faced in eliminating these practices?

4. How can policies balance the respect for cultural traditions with the protection of human rights?

Committee B: Eliminating domestic violence for women's and girls' safety

Definitions

Within the landmark 1993 [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#), Article 1 defines “violence against women” as any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) occurs in both public and private spheres, and often includes threats, coercion, and violations of liberties against women. VAWG directly undermines international human rights norms and impedes progress toward the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (2030 Agenda), particularly [SDG 5: Gender Equality](#).

[UN Women](#) defines gender-based violence (GBV) as any act of physical, sexual, or psychological violence perpetrated against an individual's will solely because of socially ascribed gender differences between men and women. GBV is often rooted in unequal power relations shaped by systemic and perpetuated discrimination against women, creating a self-reinforcing cycle in which inequality both causes and is exacerbated by GBV.

[“Femicide”](#) represents the most severe form of GBV and refers to the intentional killing of women. The [United Nations defines](#) “domestic violence,” also known as “intimate partner violence,” or “domestic abuse,” as a “pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power over an intimate partner.” Such patterns of abuse may occur in both public and private spheres, including online environments, and can take psychological, physical, sexual, or economic forms, as well as threats of such actions. Victims of domestic violence are not limited to intimate partners alone, but may also include children, other household members, and relatives.

Facts & Problems

A defining feature of domestic violence is its wide-reaching, persistent effect regardless of race, age, faith, or socioeconomic status. Due to its non-discriminatory nature,

domestic violence is one of the most prevalent and widespread human rights violations in the world.

- According to a [2025 report](#) published by the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2023, it is estimated that nearly 1 in 3 women, or 830 million women globally, have experienced some form of sexual and/or physical violence at least once in their lives. Additionally, 25.8%, or nearly one in four married or partnered women aged 15-49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a current or former partner.
- In many cases, domestic violence leads to serious injury or death. A [2025 report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC) found that in 2024, nearly 50,000 women and girls were killed by their partner or family member, or around 137 daily, underscoring the persistent reality of femicide as a result of domestic violence. Additionally, the [WHO's 2025 report](#) finds that progress in reducing domestic and intimate partner violence has been extremely slow, with only a 0.2% annual decline over the past two decades.
- A [2024 joint report](#) released by UN Women and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) found that Member States with legislation to mitigate domestic violence experienced lower rates (9.5% to 16.1%). However, a lack of comprehensive legislation addressing domestic violence among Member States remains prevalent, with only 104 Member States having adequate legal frameworks in place protecting women and girls.
- Furthermore, the collection of data and research is increasingly becoming difficult as Member States increasingly cease reporting or publishing data on intimate partner abuse. According to [UN Women](#), the number of Member States with adequate data collection has decreased by 50% since 2020, leading to significant gaps in tracking global progress and producing effective prevention mechanisms.

Past & Ongoing Actions

The [Spotlight Initiative](#), founded in 2017, is a joint initiative between UN Women and the European Union (EU) and is the largest global initiative to mitigate all forms of VAWG. Providing programmes in regions across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific, and the Caribbean, the [2025 Spotlight Initiative report](#) estimates that 21 million women and girls have been prevented from experiencing violence since its inception, with policy advocacy supporting the signing or strengthening of over five hundred laws and policies designed to

end VAWG. In addition to advocating for the expansion of policy signings and reforms, the Spotlight Initiative works with Member States to strengthen institutions, support VAWG prevention, provide essential services for women and girls, and promote data collection. Many of these initiatives have provided the foundation for addressing rates of domestic violence within Member States.

In 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) released the [WHO Plan of Action on Violence](#), a comprehensive framework providing Member States with strategic guidance and evidence-based recommendations to prevent domestic violence through prevention and response systems. Some strategic recommendations within the framework include strengthening health system governance and leadership, improving response capacities, strengthening educational programming, and improving monitoring.

[Data and research remain a key driver](#) in the prevention of VAWG and domestic violence globally. In its efforts to provide evidence-based data to facilitate effective solutions, the United Nations has established various working groups to develop robust, coordinated data-collection and analysis frameworks that strengthen global monitoring, reporting, and policy development on VAWG. The [United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Women Estimation and Data \(VAW-IAWGED\)](#), established in 2017, includes representatives from multiple United Nations agencies, is supported by experts and academics, and aims to strengthen global monitoring, estimation, and reporting of VAWG. In collaboration with WHO, VAW-IAWGED produced a [2025 report](#) outlining global and regional estimates for VAWG, including comprehensive data on domestic and intimate partner violence.

In 1994, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), the precursor to the United Nations' Human Rights Council (HRC), established the [Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls \(Special Rapporteur\)](#) through [UNCHR resolution 1994/45 \(1994\)](#). With the dissolution of UNCHR and the creation of HRC in 2006, the Special Rapporteur now reports to HRC as an independent expert on reporting, monitoring, and advising United Nations bodies. The Special Rapporteur produced [GA report A/75/144](#) examining the intersection between the COVID-19 pandemic and rising rates of domestic violence.

Key Resolutions / Conventions / Treaties

In addition to CEDAW and the PFA, the United Nations GA adopted the landmark 1993 [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#). This declaration provided the first international framework defining violence against women, recognizing it as a direct violation of human rights. Additionally, the right of children, including girls, to be free of all forms of physical and mental violence is upheld in the [Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\) \(1989\)](#). The CRC established binding obligations for Member States to protect children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect, and emphasizes equal protection to all children regardless of sex.

Domestic violence is captured within various General Assembly (GA) resolutions. [GA resolution 58/147 \(2003\)](#), titled “Elimination of domestic violence against women,” reaffirms the international community’s role in addressing domestic violence as a human rights issue. GA resolution 58/147 emphasizes the importance of establishing legislation aimed at targeting domestic violence, improving victim protection, and improving data collection on domestic violence. [GA resolution 79/152 \(2024\)](#), titled “Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: the digital environment,” addresses emerging forms of gender-based violence facilitated by technology. This resolution emphasizes how online forms of domestic abuse, such as cyberstalking, cyberbullying, death threats online, and other forms of technologically facilitated abuse, perpetuate detrimental effects on women and girls.

Regionally, the Council of Europe produced a human rights treaty called the [Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) (Istanbul Convention) (2011). This convention establishes obligations for Member States in the Council of Europe to promote prevention, protection, prosecution, and the development of integrated policies to address and combat domestic violence.

Research Links and Questions

- [Spotlight Initiative](#)
- [What is Domestic Abuse?](#)
- [Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#)
- [Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2023](#)

- [Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls](#)
- 1. How can Member States develop and implement stronger legislation addressing domestic violence?
- 2. What role does data gathering play in combating domestic violence, and how can Member States improve data collection efforts?
- 3. What role does emerging technology play in domestic violence, and how can Member States strengthen protections for women and girls in the online environment?
- 4. What past actions has your Member State taken to address domestic violence?

Committee C: Protecting women from harassment in the workplace

Definitions

According to the United Nations and the report from UN Women, [Workplace harassment](#) refers to unwanted behavior in a work-related environment that violates a person's dignity, safety, or equality. Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to any harmful act, such as physical, sexual, or emotional, carried out against a person's will based on socially constructed gender differences. Workplace harassment is a form of GBV that disproportionately affects women and girls.

As stated by the United Nations Development Programme, Harassment includes [sexual harassment](#), such as unwanted comments, advances, or physical contact, as well as verbal, psychological, and discriminatory behavior, including intimidation, humiliation, or unfair treatment based on gender. It can occur in both formal and informal workplaces, including offices, factories, domestic work, and online or remote environments. Harassment may be committed by employers, supervisors, colleagues, or clients, and many cases remain unreported due to fear of retaliation or job loss. Under the mandate of [UN Women](#), addressing workplace harassment is essential to ensuring safe, inclusive workplaces and promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

Facts & Problems

According to the first [global survey](#) on violence and harassment at work by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Lloyd's Register Foundation, and Gallup, more

than one in five people (almost 23 %) around the world have experienced violence or harassment in employment, whether physical, psychological, or sexual, at some point in their working lives. This represents a large global population of workers affected by harmful behavior at work, and includes millions of women and men across countries and economic sectors.

Workplace harassment not only causes emotional and psychological harm; it also undermines women's economic participation and career opportunities. [According to the UN Women](#), which is working on addressing violence and harassment against women in the world of work, violence and harassment reduce women's access to and progress in the labour market, reinforce occupational gender segregation, and hinder women's economic empowerment. This means women may leave jobs, avoid certain industries, or be prevented from advancing professionally because they fear harassment or do not receive adequate protection.

While workplace harassment is a global issue, regions show different patterns of impact. As noted in [ILO data](#), psychological violence and harassment are prevalent across countries and regions, and young women are twice as likely as young men to face sexual harassment at work. Although the data does not provide detailed national breakdowns for all regions, preliminary global surveys suggest that workplace harassment affects workers in the Americas, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and other regions, with variations often influenced by cultural, legal, and economic conditions.

Past & Ongoing Actions

Even within the UN system, sexual harassment is a topic that needs to be addressed. The [CEB Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment](#) was established to coordinate a system-wide response to workplace sexual harassment across UN entities. Its primary function is to harmonize practices that had previously been fragmented, including data collection, reporting standards, and investigative procedures. By facilitating inter-agency collaboration, the task force enables the development of shared benchmarks and promotes consistency in prevention and response efforts. The [Knowledge Hub on Addressing Sexual Harassment](#) in the UN System serves as a centralized repository of practical resources designed to support both prevention and response. Developed by UN Women, the platform provides access to training materials, guidance on reporting mechanisms, and tools for handling harassment cases. Its function is to reduce informational asymmetries within

organizations by ensuring that staff and management can easily access standardized, evidence-based resources. In doing so, it enhances institutional capacity to implement consistent and informed approaches to preventing workplace sexual harassment.

The initiative [Realizing Zero Tolerance Through Joint Leadership](#) exemplifies efforts to translate institutional commitments into concrete leadership practices. Convened by UN Women and partner bodies, this forum brings together senior leaders across the UN system for structured dialogue and peer learning on preventing workplace sexual harassment. Its core function is to realize “zero tolerance” by fostering accountability at the highest levels, encouraging leaders to share effective strategies, and aligning managerial behavior with organizational standards. By focusing on leadership as a key site of cultural change, the initiative aims to ensure that prevention is actively driven from the top down rather than remaining a formal commitment without practical enforcement.

Key Resolutions / Conventions / Treaties

The International Labour Organization (ILO), established in 1919, plays a central role in addressing workplace harassment through international labor standards. In particular, [Convention No 190](#) is a landmark international treaty that addresses violence and harassment in the world of work. It recognizes that workplace harassment is rooted in gender equality and also promotes a safe, inclusive, and equitable workplace. This is supported by [Recommendation No. 206](#), which provides practical guidance, including gender-sensitive workplace policies.

The European Union (EU) creates binding laws that all member states must implement into their national laws. The key law is the [Equal Treatment Directive 2006/54/EC](#), which clearly says that sexual harassment is legally defined as discrimination. Under the law, employers must prevent harassment in the workplace and ensure a safe working environment. The EU explicitly recognizes that women are disproportionately affected by workplace harassment, which is linked to gender inequality, power imbalances, and workplace hierarchies.

Research Links and Questions

- [UN Women-Ending Violence Against Women](#)
- [UN Women and ILO Handbook](#)

1. What policies and legal frameworks can governments implement to prevent workplace harassment against women?
2. How can reporting systems be improved to ensure that victims feel safe and supported when reporting harassment?
3. What role should the UN Women play in addressing workplace gender-based violence against women?
4. What actions should Member States include in a resolution to address workplace GBV against women?

Committee D: Ensuring safety by tackling human trafficking

Definitions

According to [the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#), human trafficking is defined as the act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Examples of exploitation include forced labor, organ removal, forced marriage, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, the use of child soldiers, and so on. Human trafficking can occur in victims' countries of birth, during migration, or across international borders, affecting people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. According to [the UNODC report](#), women and girls remain the most affected globally, accounting for 61% of identified victims as of 2022.

According to [the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#), human trafficking is closely linked to structural vulnerabilities affecting individuals and communities. Poverty and discrimination can limit life choices and lead individuals to take high-risk actions they would not otherwise take under normal circumstances. Groups facing systemic inequality, including migrants, minorities, women, and girls, are often at greater risk. In addition to economic hardship and social inequality, discrimination based on gender or race is also a significant factor in creating conditions that traffickers exploit.

Facts & Problems

According to [OHCHR](#), international human rights law prohibits debt bondage, slavery, servitude, child sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and forced prostitution, meaning that many acts related to human trafficking are prohibited under international human rights law. However, despite this international legal framework, millions of people of all ages and genders continue to fall victim to human trafficking each year. As explained by [the UNODC report](#), in 2022, at least victims of 162 different nationalities were trafficked to 128 destination countries.

Also, women and girls constitute the largest group of detected victims of human trafficking worldwide. In 2022, women and girls accounted for 61% of all detected victims. Of this total, women represented 39%, while girls accounted for 22%. The majority of identified women and girls were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In addition, they are trafficked for other forms of exploitation, including forced labor, domestic servitude, forced marriage, and other exploitative practices. Given their significant representation among victims, it is essential to further examine the specific forms and patterns of exploitation affecting women and girls.

Forms of exploitation in human trafficking are diverse and affect victims in various ways. As explained by [the United Nations \(UN\)](#), sexual exploitation remains one of the most common forms of human trafficking. In 2022, 36% of detected victims worldwide were trafficked for it. In this category, women and girls accounted for more than 90% of victims. It happens in many places, including hotels, nightclubs, and so on. In addition, according to [the UNODC report](#), it has increased online in recent years. In contrast, according to the UN, forced labor was the most common form of human trafficking in 2022, accounting for 42% of all detected victims globally. As explained by the UNODC report, women and girls trafficked for it are frequently exploited in domestic work, agriculture, and the entertainment sector, sometimes in combination with exploitation. Also, as explained by the UN, trafficking for the purpose of forced marriage is detected less frequently but remains a severe form of exploitation, particularly affecting women and girls. Victims of forced marriage often experience multiple forms of exploitation simultaneously, including domestic servitude and sexual abuse. Similarly, according to the UNODC report, between 2017 and 2023, approximately 175 victims of trafficking for the purpose of organ removal were detected across about 25 countries. As explained by the UN, many victims were recruited due to severe economic and humanitarian hardship, which traffickers exploited to facilitate

recruitment. Finally, as explained by the UN, forced begging is a form of trafficking where vulnerable individuals, especially children, are made to ask for money in public spaces. This often happens through threats or violence.

Past & Ongoing Actions

International efforts to combat human trafficking include a range of initiatives that focus on awareness-raising, victim support, and prevention. The [Blue Heart Campaign](#), led by the UNODC, plays a key role in raising global awareness about human trafficking and its impact on victims and society. It encourages government, civil society, the private sector, and individuals to take action against trafficking and show solidarity with victims. Efforts to strengthen global recognition of the issues are further supported by [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#), which was established by [UN GA resolution A/RES/68/192](#), which designated 30 July as a day to raise awareness of the situation of victims of trafficking in persons and to promote and protect their rights.

In addition to these awareness-raising efforts, [the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons \(UNVTF\)](#) was established by [UN GA resolution A/RES/64/293](#) in 2010 and is administered by UNODC. The fund provides grants to frontline NGOs to deliver direct support to victims, including shelter, medical care, psychosocial support, and vocational training. Also, more recent actions have focused on expanding prevention and support. For instance, in November 2025, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the global campaign “[Anyone a Victim](#)” to strengthen efforts to prevent human trafficking and expand support for survivors. The campaign seeks to mobilize public engagement, raise critical funds for protection programmes, and highlight trafficking as a widespread human rights violation affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. Furthermore, the [PROTECT project](#), implemented by International Labor Organization (ILO), UN Women, UNODC, and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) with financial support from the European Union (EU), aims to strengthen legal frameworks, improve victim protection, and enhance access to services, while addressing human trafficking, violence, and illegal movement of migrants in Southeast Asia.

Key Resolutions / Conventions / Treaties

The [United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons \(A/RES/64/293\)](#) was adopted in 2010 and provides a comprehensive plan of action to prevent

and combat human trafficking. It urges Member States to fully implement anti-trafficking measures and calls on those that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol, especially concerning women and children. In 2025, the [Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons \(A/RES/80/9\)](#) reaffirms Member States' commitment to fully implementing the Global Plan of Action, strengthens efforts on prevention, and calls for enhanced international cooperation and universal ratification of the UN Trafficking Protocol.

In addition, the [United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime \(2000\)](#), adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 on 15 November 2000 and entering into force on 29 September 2003, serves as the principal international instrument against organized crime. It requires States to criminalize participation in organized criminal groups and strengthens international cooperation through extradition and mutual legal assistance. It also provides the legal basis for the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

Furthermore, [SC Resolution 2331 \(2016\)](#) was adopted by the United Nations Security Council in 2016 and focuses specifically on cases of human trafficking beings occurring in situations of armed conflict. It particularly condemns the sexual exploitation of women and girls by terrorist organizations and armed groups. It also calls for stronger international cooperation to prevent human trafficking, punish offenders, and protect victims.

Research Links and Questions

- [UN News about Global perspective Human stories](#)
- [Human Rights Commission of the United Nations \(HRCUN\)](#)
- [International instrument \(HRCUN\)](#)
- [Transnational Organized Crimes by UNODC](#)

1. What forms of exploitation, particularly affecting women and girls, exist in your MS or region?
2. What are the underlying causes or factors contributing to these cases of trafficking in persons in your MS or region?
3. What actions has your MS or region implemented to address these issues of trafficking in persons?

4. How does your MS or region cooperate with international efforts to combat trafficking in persons?
5. What additional measures can UN Women develop or implement to more effectively address human trafficking, especially those affecting women and girls?