**Commission on the status of women**

TOPIC:Ending Violence against women


# SOCOMUN XXVII



CSW

Ending Violence Against Women

 Hello, my name is Aubrey Davenport. I will be your co-chair at SOCOMUN 2018! I am currently a senior at Santa Margarita Catholic High School, and this will be my fourth and final year in MUN. MUN has opened many opportunities for me. I have been able to attend many conferences for the past several years, having the ability to learn and speak about the world’s issues today. I find it so interesting to hear the very topics that I have researched about on the news headlines. There are times when I often consider a career in political science, probably a career protecting the environment. MUN has been a great way for me to become comfortable researching. When I first began MUN, I was really intimidated at the thought of writing such sizeable papers, however, now I am completely confident in writing long papers, a benefit that will carry me through college with ease. In addition, MUN has taught me my public speaking skills. I am happy to say that I am comfortable speaking in front of my peers in the classroom.

 I hope that you all have an exciting time at SOCOMUN! This is just the beginning of your path in MUN, so make it count and enjoy the journey! Remember to be prepared and have fun! We will begin debate with delegate speeches on solutions regarding the topic, “Ending Violence Against Women.” Along with speeches, we encourage delegates to motion for a caucus; through caucuses, delegates can discuss their solutions in-depth and collaborate to form a resolution group. In addition to knowing the topic itself, it is important to ensure that each of you are aware of your country’s policy/position on the topic you have been given. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at socomuncsw@gmail.com. I can’t wait to meet all of you at the conference! Good luck to you all!

**Background:**

Any act of violence against women is a serious violation of basic human rights. There are roughly eight forms of assault including sexual, psychological, and emotional abuse. Furthermore, there may often be cases that involve financial and material abuse, desertion, delinquency, and in some cases a loss of reverence. Brutality towards women may also result in either immediate or long-term damage to a woman’s physical and mental wellbeing. Violence can also affect families and the surrounding community. In addition, violence towards women can lead to outrageous health care and legal expenses, which in turn impacts both the family and the nation’s budget. According to the UN’s World Health Organization, 1 in 3 women have experienced a case of violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime. In relation to this, 38% of males have murdered their female partners. Violence can often lead to more serious cases that can negatively disrupt a woman’s reproductive health. For example, HIV is a common transmitted infection that causes life-long damage to the immune system if left untreated. The majority of studies have proven that due to both men and women having little to no education, this can indeed be a contributing factor to violence. For the past few decades of mobilizing women’s movements and governmental communities, many politicians and organizations have transported the agenda of violence against women to the top of the list of international topics to discuss. A growing number of nations have been strengthening or creating new laws to protect women against domestic violence. However, obstacles remain in the application of these laws, as many acts go unpunished. In many countries, many inhabitants believe that men are superior over women, due to either religious or cultural reasons. In places such as Chad, arranged marriages are common for girls at the age of 11-12 years old. Women living in refugee camps experience rape and a variety of other violent acts. These beliefs of male dominance have been instilled for decades, so it has been a difficult journey for the United Nations and other powerful organizations to reduce gender discrimination and violence. The journey of combating sexual assault or other acts of violence is still continuing.

**Possible Solutions:**

Below I have provided possible solutions that can be enforced to eradicate brutality against women. It is important that you come up with your own original solutions for this conference. Do not come to a conference with solutions that have already been promoted and/or carried out. Also, when you are creating your solutions ensure that they support your country’s regulations.

There are several solutions that can prevent violence against women. The first solution would be to notify governments about this issue. Governments need to understand that violence threatens the health and well-being of women. By educating governments about the effects of not penalizing assaults, this can hinder acts of brutality. Governments in the Middle East have loose laws regarding acts of physical and mental assault. Stricter laws need to be implemented and/or present laws need to be adjusted so that there is a penalty for acting out of barbarity. In addition, if psychological counseling groups were to be formed, women can learn to identify red flags of emotional abuse. Additionally, it is important that women learn basic self-defense. In these classes, they will learn how to defend themselves if they feel that they are in a situation where they feel unsafe or threatened. Along with these solutions, many colleges have emergency alert systems in place throughout their campuses. It would be beneficial to expand these types of systems in densely populated communities. Furthermore, men need to be educated on the topic of this issue. Men are responsible for the majority of violent acts towards women. The government needs to uphold strict consequences for violent acts against women.

**Questions to Consider:**

I’ve provided some questions for each of you to think carefully about as you write your position paper. You do not necessarily need to answer these questions at the conference, but I would highly advise you to be familiar with these ideas to think about listed below.

1. What is your country’s policy on this issue? And what countries have similar policies as you?
2. How can women defend themselves if they feel threatened?
3. Are there any current organizations in/or outside of the UN that works to prevent assaults?
4. What can the United Nations do to promote the safety and security to all women?
5. Does your country have any laws that highlight this issue? If so, what is their stance?
6. Would education be beneficial in ending this issue?
7. Can you create a solution that will accommodate all cultures and religions?
8. What solutions have failed in the past?
9. How will you implement these programs economically? (Aside from the UN)

Works Cited

*UN Women*. UnitedNations, n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2017. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>

This article summarizes the UN’s initiative and actions towards the topic of violence against women. It discusses previous UN Women solutions and speaks about the ways in which the United Nations (in specific). Includes CEDAW convention, CSW and the NGO’s involved. This article will be very helpful as it summarizes in short but still detail the actions UN and remains fairly unbias. It does, however, like much of these articles go against Women violence of women. This gives vital information regarding background plus some statistics but mostly would be helpful in the “UN involvement” section of a position paper.

"Violence Against Women Information." *Amnesty International USA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2017. <http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/violence-against-women/violence against-women-information>.

This source breaks down the different types of violence against women and gives background on the topic such as defining it, the different variations and other things relating to the topic itself. Also, this source speaks about the 3 different International Violence Against Women organizations such as: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW and The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This article is not bias in any direction as it gives an overview on the topic, and is not associated with any organization or place in specific, so no advertising of that organization is in play. This source would be most helpful in the background of the article and might assist in coming up with solutions as it gives a nice introduction into what is already out there to combat this issue.

"Violence against Women." *World Health Organization*. World Health Organization, n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2017. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>.

This article gives a great quick reference fact sheet for statistics and other facts about violence against women. It also provides some information on the different nations where this issue is most prevalent. Focuses mostly on the health side of this issue, and the health effects/factors it encompasses. It concludes with some past WHO solutions. This is very accurate and trustworthy as it is from the official World Health Organization (WHO) website, branched off of the United Nations. The only bias in play is the emphasizing of specific health issues that go along with this issue, but this is understandable given the goals of WHO to begin with. This article could be used in background (especially statistics), UN involvement and even country policies as some countries are included (not all).

*PBS*. Public Broadcasting Service, n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2017. <http://www.pbs.org/kued/nosafeplace/studyg/origins.html>.

This source speaks about the history and evolution of Violence Against Women in the world as it dates back to over 2000 years ago during the Roman times. It concludes with a short paragraph regarding how this topic has come up in pop culture today and is often disregarded in the media. This article is very beneficial as it gives a very good overview on the history of this topic which has not been spoken about much in the other sources I looked at. However, this article is slightly unofficial and I would recommend double checking any facts found in this before using them in a paper but the actual information seemed very helpful so it is definitely worth looking at. This article would be most helpful in the background section once again but this time, could target more on the historical aspect of this topic.

"Background Information for the Seminar on "Violence against Women"." *News | European Parliament*. EUP, 15 Mar. 2010. Web. 08 Apr. 2017. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20100315BKG70581/background-information-for-the-seminar-on-violence-against-women>.

This article speaks about the EU and all the actions it has taken as well as summarized European standpoint on the topic of Violence Against Women. It also overviews many of the solutions already existing from the UN which the EU Parliament has taken into consideration. The only bias that could possibly be in play is that this article comes mostly from the perspective of Europe and relates to Europe in specific, therefore does not give a global standpoint on this topic. This article could be used in both the country policy and in there could you speak about Europe in relation to this crisis. Additionally, this article could be used in the UN involvement as the ‘European Parliament’ has many associations with the United Nations and existing solutions from the UN.

Hooykaas, Janou. “A Comprehensive Guide for NGOs Working with Gender-Based Violence.”

*Funds for NGOs,* 2014, <https://www.fundsforngos.org/featured-articles/comprehensive-guide-ngos-working-genderbased-violence/>.

This article includes detailed descriptions for the different types of violence against women; including child marriage, female genital mutilation, sex trafficking, honor killings, sexual and domestic violence, conflict zones, and natural disasters. It also highlights the importance of NGOs and lists many that are fighting against women’s violence.

The website is credible, but the article is somewhat old, so the statistics may not be up to date.

This source is very informative and provides a lot of NGOs and organizations that can be included in solutions. This article will help in Background, UN Involvement, and Solutions.

“UNiTE to End Violence Against Women: About UNiTE.” *United Nations,* <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/goals.shtml>.

This page describes the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women campaign. Information and facts are given, but this page is mainly focused on the campaign. It states its five goals and proceeds to give background for each goal and how the UN plans to achieve it. Improvements made by various agencies of the UN, partnerships, and other campaigns related to ending violence against women are also listed and described.

This source is credible because it is from the United Nations.

This article is especially good for UN Involvement and Past Actions. Researching goals within this campaign can help with building strong solutions.

 “Violence Against Women and Girls.” *World Bank*, 4 April 2018,

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialdevelopment/brief/violence-against-women-and-girls>.

This article provides several statistics and great context on this topic. It describes risk factors such as social norms, exposure to violence in childhood, alcohol use, and poverty. It also includes actions the World Bank has taken and which of their approaches and strategies are most effective.

This source is credible because it comes directly from the World Bank, an international organization that has a close partnership with the UN. The page is updated quite frequently so the information is current and up to date.

This would be useful for Background and UN Involvement and can also help for thinking of effective and realistic solutions.

“Violence against women.” *World Health Organization*, November 2017, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>.

This article provides statistics and background as well as consequences and results of violence against women. It describes why violence against women is such an important issue and how it affects women’s health, family, and social and economic lives. It includes actions the WHO has taken and their collaborations with agencies and organizations.

This source is credible because it comes from the World Health Organization, a system within the UN.

This is especially helpful because the use of NGOs in solutions is highly encouraged and will make for better solutions. In addition to helping with solutions, this article will help in Background, UN Involvement and Past Actions.

 “What We Do: Ending violence against women.” *UN Women,* <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>.

This article gives a good introduction to the topic of violence against women. It also discusses past agreements/resolutions and actions made by UN Women, the main agency of the UN that deals with this topic. It specifically lists what UN Women works to do and achieve internationally.

This source is credible because it is from the United Nations.

This article would help in Background and especially in UN Involvement. It can also help with coming up with realistic solutions.