



UN Commission on the
Status of Women



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXII

**COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN**

TOPIC: ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



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Commission On the Status of Women Ending Violence Against Women

Hello delegates! My name is Jocelyn Ferletic, and I will be your Head Chair at SOCOMUN 2023. I am a junior here at Santa Margarita and will be entering my third year of MUN this year! In participating in MUN, I have found that many pieces of my life have been impacted. MUN has given me the opportunity to work outside of my comfort zone, challenge myself, and has truly widened my perspective on the events of our world. I have learned what it means to be a successful public speaker and writer. MUN has taught me how to be confident under pressure and think quickly on the spot, both of which are components that make for a successful performance at conferences. In addition to being involved in MUN, I am also a competitive dancer, student ambassador, and was on the Song team for my freshman and sophomore year, receiving the position of team captain last year. Along with these activities, I am a part of the full International Baccalaureate program. I am very excited to chair this committee and hear about your ideas! Best of luck, delegates!

Hello, I am your Vice Chair Chloe Veneziano, and I am a sophomore here at Santa Margarita High School. I love to surf, go to the beach, travel, and shop at the mall with friends in my free time! So far MUN has been a very fun experience for me, and I have learned a lot about current issues in our world. I love this program because I always want to stay updated on what is happening around us and how we can use creative thinking to form solutions for worldwide issues.

Hello, my name is Tarun Douglas, your Rapporteur, and I am a sophomore. I have taken MUN for one year and have grown as a person through it. It has taught me valuable lessons on how to research as well as helping me get better and more fluent at public speaking. So far, I have enjoyed my MUN experience from the projects to researching, and I plan to keep doing it.

As a committee at SOCOMUN, we want to ensure that this is an experience of learning and enjoyment for all delegates. We want every delegate to have their voices heard and be able to share their ideas with the rest of the committee. Committee will begin with general speeches on delegate's solutions to begin discussion on the topic. This will take place with a speakers list that every delegate wishing to speak can be added on to. In addition, there will also be moderated and unmoderated consultations that will be held in between exhausting the speakers list. Moderated consultations include shorter speeches on a specific topic motioned for and voted upon by delegates. Unmoderated consultations include informal time for delegates to converse, collaborate, and expand on solutions with other delegates in order to form groups and write resolution papers. Nearing the end of committee, resolution papers will be presented by each group and voted upon by the rest of the committee. It is important to form resolution groups with countries that have policies and solutions that align with your own in order to create the most effective resolution. If you have any questions, please contact us at socomuncsw@gmail.com

Background:

Violence against women is a prevalent issue all across the globe and is seen on multiple different scales. The UN mentions that gender-based violence does not only result in physical harm, but also sexual and mental suffering. In a report from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, it is said that 1 in 3 women have experienced any sort of physical violence



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from their partner and 1 in 10 women have experienced rape from their partner. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that 27% of women in relationships have experienced violence by their significant other. This violence comes in many forms including rape, trafficking for sexual exploitation, sexual assault, physical violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriages, and numerous other methods that ultimately pose immense safety and health risks for women all across the globe.

Though this violence continues to rise, much action has been taken to combat this issue. For example, the End Violence Against International (EVAI), is an organization that tackles the importance of a caring response to sexual assault and domestic violence victims to help them fully recover. As a general overview, the EVAI tackles four main pillars of combatting this issue, including training professionals on how to combat gender-based violence activity, educating the public on the dangers of these violent instances, improving public policy on gender-based violence, and elevating sexual assault and violence survivors' voices.

Acknowledging the urgent need to end violence against women, the United Nations itself has also taken steps to alleviate the intensity of gender-based violence. The UN recognizes that violence against women and girls is one of the most devastating human rights issues in the world today. In combatting this, the UN in partnership with the European Union has launched the Spotlight Initiative, which has been created to keep the United Nations on track to their 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Spotlight Initiative is a plan that covers all forms of gender-based violence against women and focuses on bringing these issues to light in order to raise awareness and action around the world in support of taking steps to end this violence.

In addition, the WHO, along with much support from the United Nations, released the *RESPECT women* framework in 2019. This framework highlights seven general strategies that correlate to responding to gender-based violence against women and notes that the most important component is to prioritize the safety of women and ensure a lasting impact on the safety and health of women. Some examples of the *RESPECT women* objectives are the reduction of poverty, the strengthening of relationship skills, the transformation of social norms, etc. This plan also emphasizes the importance of legislation for condemning these acts of violence as well as the investment in organizations that promote women's rights.

Possible Solutions:

In creating solutions for the termination of gender-based violence against women, it is important to note the root causes of this issue as well as staying aware of the potential effectiveness of your ideas. Be sure to be as specific as possible when presenting ideas and ensure that these ideas align with your country policy. Also, note that splitting solutions up into short-term, mid-term, and long-term objectives helps to organize and more effectively relay your points of action. When creating solutions, it is important to answer the questions of who, what, when, where, why and how. Also, funding does not need to be considered nor should be used as a comment or topic during committee because any solutions that are approved will be assumed to be funded by the United Nations.

Possible solutions require multiple approaches in order reach all aspects of gender-based violence against women. Citizens of each country must be made aware of the dangers of the violences experienced by women and girls across the globe; additionally, the education system for children and young adults must be improved in order to provide awareness to these younger audiences and even protect women on a long-term scale. Not only should awareness target women and girls, but men should be educated as well to prevent future attacks and instances of violence against women. Response systems to the reporting of violence attacks could be taken into consideration as well. Improving, or even creating a new form of response would be



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effective in ensuring that women's cries for help are heard and that they feel safe in reporting instances of violence. Victim support is another great area of creating solutions to establish a safe place for victims to recover from their suffering, share their stories, and ultimately feel increasingly safe and secure as they heal.

These are only a few examples of some possible general ideas, but the chair encourages delegates to expand your thinking and come up with creative solutions that tackle the issue in an original way. Remember that country policy is immensely important to consider and that all aspects of the solution should be formulated to create a complete plan. I look forward to hearing all your great ideas in committee!

Questions to Consider:

As delegates research and create solutions, here are questions to consider as a guide for forming ideas. Delegates are not required to use these questions, but are encouraged to if they need assistance in forming action:

1. What are the most prominent ways that violence against women is carried out?
2. What is your country's policy and how has your country handled this issue in the past?
3. What resources does your country have that you can expand on to end violence against women?
4. What specific legislation does your country uphold regarding this topic?
5. How can your country cooperate with the United Nations to tackle violence against women at its core?
6. How will you endorse the end of this violence in countries with discriminatory beliefs and culture against women?
7. What can you do to provide solutions for countries with limited resources such as technology, electricity, and security?
8. How will you tackle violence against women on a global scale? How will these solutions differ from those specifically implemented on a domestic level?
9. How will you encourage women to speak up and report their experiences?

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