

United Nations Commission On The Status Of Women



Background guide

Agenda:

Examining the status of women's rights in time of
conflict with special emphasis on
Sexual Violence



TGES MUN 2024



Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) simulation at The Global Edge School Model United Nations 2024. By representing different member States, you will analyze and provide policy recommendations to address the issue at hand - the agenda.

While in committee and participating in the discourse, all of you must keep in mind the interests of the member State you represent, the mandate of the committee, and how practical its implementation will be. Though this may only be a simulation, all of you will be expected to behave like diplomats representing your respective States and be adequately researched so that you may receive the best of this experience. For those of you who are first-timers, we as Executive Board members hope to give you a holistic and unforgettable experience to take back after the conference. To those of you who are experienced debaters in the Model United Nations circuit, we hope to give you another illustrious experience to add to your collection.

It is for this committee to effectively identify what comes under 'Examining the rights of women at the times of conflicts with special emphasis on Sexual Violence,' and provide policy recommendations on how to combat this phenomenon. The sources used in this study guide are all open-source. The content that has been curated for you in this guide consists of extracts from various sites and journals and is not the work of the EB alone.

The Executive Board expects a Position Paper on the first day from all the delegates in *physical form only*. The sample format for a position paper is provided at the end.

Please note that the mandate of the committee is subject to change under the discretion of the Executive Board including but not limited to certain Rules of Procedure, allowing observer nations to vote, introducing a crisis, etc.

Most importantly, this guide is merely for research, do not quote from this guide! We wish you a great conference and the best of luck in your preparation for TGES MUN 2024. Do feel free to contact us regarding any queries you have or any clarifications you require.

Regards,

Sheikh Salamullah

Chairperson

Aanya Jain

Vice-Chairperson



How to use the Background Guide:

1. Do not be intimidated by the language used in the guide and the terms you might encounter during the process of your research. Official terms for the given instructions will be presented in the BG, later on.
2. The Guide has instructions in chronological order that you need to know for understanding the committee and your role in it. Also, it guides your research and understanding.
3. Read news articles on the situation, and try to holistically understand the situation, the problems, and also the stakeholders' viewpoints on the same.
4. Comprehend the opinion and official statement of your nation on the agenda and its aspects, and its relations with the stakeholders (if any). This is what you are expected to represent in the committee. (provided you justify otherwise)
4. Comprehend the opinion and official statement of your nation on the agenda and its aspects, and its relations with the stakeholders (if any). This is what you are expected to represent in the committee. (provided you justify otherwise)
6. Re-read your research here and start exploring other deep aspects of the agenda and also the committee's proceedings, which include international law, research papers, official government statements, official documents of international bodies, etc.
7. You can further delve into the understanding of the broader issue for a better performance in the committee, and a better knowledge base in general.



Introduction to the United Nations Commission on Status of Women Committee:

a) Work and priorities:

Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action.

UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality, and in all deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda. The entity works to position gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, and a more inclusive world.

b) Status of Women:

Gender equality is not only a basic human right, but its achievement has enormous socio-economic ramifications. Empowering women fuels thriving economies, spurring productivity and growth. Yet gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in every society. Women lack access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. They are too often denied access to basic education and health care. Women in all parts of the world suffer violence and discrimination. They are under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes.

Over many decades, the United Nations has made significant progress in advancing gender equality, including through landmark agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress in meeting their needs worldwide.

❖ UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and work with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programs, and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:



- ❖ Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
- ❖ Women have income security, decent work, and economic autonomy
- ❖ All women and girls live a life free from all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Working for the empowerment and rights of women and girls globally, UN Women's main roles are:

1. To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards, and norms.
2. To help Member States implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
3. To lead and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality, as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

c) The Formation of United Nations Commission on Status of Women

The UNCSW was established in 1946 as a mechanism to promote, report on and monitor issues relating to the political, economic, civil, social and educational rights of women. It was a unique official structure for drawing attention to women's concerns and leadership within the UN.

UNCSW first met at Lake Success, New York, in February 1947. All 15 government representatives were women, which distinguished UNCSW from other UN movements, and UNCSW has continued to maintain most women delegates. During its first session, the Commission declared as one of its guiding principles:

to raise the status of women, irrespective of nationality, race, language or religion, to equality with men in all fields of human enterprise, and to eliminate all discrimination against women in the provisions of statutory law, in legal maxims or rules, or in interpretation of customary law.



Historical context of the agenda:

Reflecting changes in the international system, theories of war have passed through several phases in the past three centuries. After the ending of the wars of religion, about the middle of the 17th century, wars were fought for the interests of individual sovereigns and were limited both in their objectives and in their scope. The art of maneuver became decisive, and analysis of war was couched accordingly in terms of strategies. The situation changed fundamentally with the outbreak of the French Revolution, which increased the size of forces from small professional to large conscript armies and broadened the objectives of war to the ideals of the revolution, ideals that appealed to the masses who were subject to conscription.

World Wars-I and II which were “total” in character because it resulted in the mobilization of entire populations and economies for a prolonged period of time, did not fit into the “Clausewitzian Pattern” of limited conflict, and it led to a renewal of other theories. These no longer regarded war as a rational instrument of state policy. Like the religious wars of the 17th century, war became part of “grand designs,” such as the rising of the proletariat in communist eschatology or the Nazi doctrine of a master race. Some theoreticians have gone even further, denying war any rational character whatsoever.

To them war is a calamity and a social disaster, whether it is afflicted by one nation upon another or conceived of as afflicting humanity. The idea is not new—in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars it was articulated, for example, by Tolstoy in the concluding chapter of *War and Peace* (1865–69). In the second half of the 20th century, it gained new currency in peace research, a contemporary form of theorizing that combines analysis of the origins of warfare with a strong normative element aiming at its prevention. Peace research concentrates on two areas: the analysis of the international system and the empirical study of the phenomenon of war.

From all these ages, the women, children, and elderly were the most affected community. Slavery, Sexual Violence, Devadasis, Women Discrimination, Forceful marriages, Polygamy, Child Marriages, etc. started to prevail in the great number. Women were dominant in the immigrants, especially widows of deceased soldiers who were captives of trafficking and sex slavery. This ended up with diseases, Maternity issues, problems associated with reproductive health, pregnancy issues, etc, emerging rapidly.



On the other hand, the disruptions of World War II allowed formerly isolated gay men and women to meet as soldiers and war workers; and other volunteers were uprooted from small towns and posted worldwide. Many minds were opened by wartime, during which LGBT people were both tolerated in military service and officially sentenced to death camps in the Holocaust. This increasing awareness of an existing and vulnerable population, coupled with Senator Joseph McCarthy's investigation of homosexuals holding government jobs during the early 1950s outraged writers and federal employees whose own lives were shown to be second-class under the law, including Frank Kameny, Barbara Gittings, Allen Ginsberg, and Harry Hay.

Awareness of a burgeoning civil rights movement (Martin Luther King's key organizer Bayard Rustin was a gay man) led to the first American-based political demands for fair treatment of gays and lesbians in mental health, public policy, and employment. Studies such as Alfred Kinsey's 1947 Kinsey Report suggested a far greater range of homosexual identities and behaviors than previously understood, with Kinsey creating a "scale" or spectrum ranging from complete heterosexual to complete homosexual.

Sadly women in the LGBTQIA+ community face disproportionate levels of violence at the hands of both strangers and intimate partners. A recent U.N. human rights report noted that LGBT people are at a disturbingly elevated risk of homicidal violence, highlighting the increased risk that lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women face because of gender-based discrimination. Another study by the Human Rights Campaign and the Trans People of Color Coalition estimates that transgender women in the United States face 4.3 times the risk of becoming homicide victims than the general population of women. Factors such as poverty or belonging to a racial minority exacerbated the incidence and rates of violence experienced. Transgender people are also more likely to experience violence from law enforcement, in homeless shelters, and in healthcare settings. The recent Transgender Day of Remembrance served as a stark reminder that transgender people around the world face disproportionate levels of violence: in the United States alone, at least 21 transgender people have been killed in 2015

The impact of violence against lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women goes beyond the immediate effects of physical attacks. Lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women face discrimination and criminalization in a variety of settings such as laws, healthcare, education and housing. 75 countries continue to criminalize consensual same-sex relationships and up to ten countries have the death penalty for "homosexual conduct." In every country, discrimination and stigma are a daily fact of life for most LGBT people.



Deliberating on the atrocities faced by Women in Conflict areas and Global prevalence:

War, conflict, and crises introduce women and girls to a very real fear: that their safety and human rights will be the last priority amid the violence. The current war in Ukraine is widely expected to hurt women and girls more than any other population, both in the short and long term. This is because the same has been true of almost all wars and conflicts in history; it is also something we have seen in violence that is currently ongoing in other parts of the world such as the Sahel, Tigray, and Afghanistan. Simply because of their gender, women and girls caught in the middle of war experience sexual violence, physical and verbal abuse, and barriers in accessing resources and having their human rights met; this is of course all on top of being directly exposed to conflict on the front lines and facing life-threatening conditions.

In its entirety, war is an enemy of progress and threatens to increase extreme poverty for people and nations. Citizens flee their homes toward uncertain displacement; food and other necessities for well-being become scarce; economies face huge losses; and nations see the mass destruction of infrastructure.

A) Gender-based impact of violent conflict:

Violent conflict affects men and women in different ways. As men comprise most combatants, they suffer to a greater degree from direct violence, injuries, and killings from combat. Many experience random arrests and forced recruitment into militias or state armies. Women, however, suffer disproportionately from conflict in various ways: through systematic rape and sexual violence; greater levels of displacement and presence in refugee camps where mortality rates tend to be higher; and social and economic vulnerability, due in large part to loss of access to sources of livelihoods (in particular, agricultural systems) and to basic services. A study by Plümper and Neumayer (2005) also finds that armed conflict has a more adverse effect on women in terms of male relative to female life expectancy. Women tend to live longer than men in peacetime but conflict reduces the gap in life expectancy.

Problems faced by Middle Eastern women in conflict zones

Women and girls have their health and safety, their human rights, and their futures placed at unbelievable risk during conflict. The United Nations' #TheEqualEverywhere campaign — which was started to help promote global gender equality — identified a few main areas where women and girls are most hurt by



war. These include gender-based violence (GBV), displacement, lack of access to reproductive health care, and child marriage. Girls' education, or lack thereof, is also a significant way that women and girls are impacted by conflict.

Multiple countries in the Middle East such as Saudi Arabia and Iran do not allow married women to leave their homes without their husband's approval, which is looked down upon by Western nations. Many Western countries condemn laws surrounding rights of women in some MENA countries and believe that the best way to move forward is to remove these laws and implement new ones that fit alongside laws found in Western society. This sparks tension between these two culturally diverse sides of the world and forming agreements is extremely difficult in this regard because the ideologies surrounding the interests of these groups of countries are at two ends of the spectrum regarding women's rights.

Along with this, the controversial law on the wearing of the hijab is also argued upon by many nations. MENA nations are extremely scattered in this respect. For example, Iran has a mandatory protocol where the hijab must be worn at any time a woman exits the four walls of her home, and if this law is not followed, the offender would face penalties such as fines and two months in prison. In Iran and Afghanistan, even non-Muslim women must follow this mandate, which contributes to religious disputes and disagreements. In Saudi Arabia, however, it is not required to wear a hijab unless you are in a mosque or any Islamic religious site, after the abolishment of the Abaya law.

When an issue between laws based on religion involve countries with that same religion, it becomes increasingly difficult to form a consensus especially because of the diverse interpretations of the Quran, which is used as justification for the implementation of some laws and in some countries, the abolishment of them. Western interference has also played a role in some MENA region countries wanting to stick to their current rules.

a) Gender based violence (GBV)

War and GBV are undeniably interlinked, with women and children being exposed to physical, verbal, sexual, and psychological abuse in times of conflict. This form of violence is also used as a tool in war to assert control, weaken families, carry out ethnic cleansings and genocide, and to discourage resistance and destabilise communities.



In Afghanistan, where the Taliban violently took over the nation in 2021, women and girls were already exposed to GBV as a by-product of the group's previous rule and violence experienced in the nation. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in 2020, 87% of women in Afghanistan had experienced at least one form of GBV, and 62% had experienced psychological, physical, and sexual abuse.

In Ethiopia's Tigray region, where a war has been ongoing since November 2020, violence against women and girls has also included torture and in some cases, resembled sexual slavery. Amnesty International campaigner for the Horn of Africa, Vanessa Tsehaye, told Global Citizen that accounts and reports of GBV in Tigray included "brutality, there were beatings, torture, and death threats, and ethnic slurs against the Tigrayan women."

Women and girls are also not safe in refugee camps, with a report by the UN finding that an estimated 1 in 5 female refugees living in humanitarian settings have experienced sexual violence.

b) Displacement

Women often carry the responsibility of relocating families, protecting livelihoods, and keeping everyone safe, and as a result it is mostly women and children that can be found in refugee camps. The UN Refugee Agency estimates that more than half of the world's 80 million displaced people are women.

The UN also points out that conflict situations have a tendency to reflect sexist gender norms, where women are expected to flee conflict, and men are expected to fight on the front lines — leading to a situation where women are responsible for feeding, housing, and protecting their families.

c) Child marriages

Child marriage is a by-product of war for a few reasons; as war and conflict results in declining economies and disrupts access to food, child marriage is seen as a desperate solution for financial stability for families.

Countries in West and Central Africa have the highest rates of child marriage in the world, and this can be attributed to political, environmental, and economic instability in the regions.



In fact, the three countries with the highest rates of child marriage in the world — Niger, Central African Republic, and Chad — are all in the Sahel region, where there is ongoing violence surrounding Lake Chad, as well as extreme drought conditions. According to Global Partnership for Education, this shows a correlation between humanitarian crises and risks for women and girls.

Child marriage also furthers control over a single gender in conflict situations, similar to GBV, objectifying girls and using them as a weapon of violence. For instance, when the Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021, there were immediate reports of Taliban leaders pulling together all unmarried girls in Afghan villages and forcing them to marry Taliban fighters. Forced marriage also forms a direct barrier between girls and their right to education, as once they are married, they're expected to assume a domestic role, filling shoes they're way too young to fill including childbirth, tending to the household, and feeding the family. This stunts their access to education and limits their futures.

d) Limited access to healthcare

As violence and war leads to the destruction of facilities and infrastructure, hospitals and clinics are often demolished and access to health care can become painfully limited. Not to mention electricity, water, sanitation, and supplies are disrupted, meaning that health and sanitation are inaccessible to those who need them most. This puts women and girls at significant risk as, with a lack of sexual and reproductive health care, there's a higher potential for unintended pregnancies as well as the spread of disease and infection. It also means that health services following gender-based or sexual violence are mostly inaccessible.

According to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Yemen's infrastructure loss as a result of war has led to just a handful of hospitals remaining, only 20% of which are able to provide maternal and child health services. As a result, a woman in Yemen dies in childbirth every two hours, with the causes almost always being preventable.

e) The status of education of women

In conflict and crisis, girls are often the first to be pulled out of school, and the last to return. According to the Global Partnership for Education, girls facing conflict are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys, and are less likely to return following a ceasefire.



Education can protect girls from being in harm's way, and protects their futures, keeping them from child marriage, domestic responsibilities, and violence.

In times of war and conflict, education can be inaccessible as in some cases, like in Tigray's ongoing war, schools are used as military bases. In other cases, such as in Afghanistan, education for all girls is prohibited under the Taliban's rule. The loss of girls' education to war and conflict can be felt in regions for decades, and is a direct enemy of gender equality.

B) SITUATION IN GAZA, UKRAINE:

As horrors continue to unfold by the minute in Gaza and Ukraine, the methodical onslaught on the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls in the territory highlights the vitalness of sexual and reproductive health, particularly around gendered violence.

Israel's longstanding violations of international humanitarian law predate the 7 October. Control and brutality towards the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls in Occupied Palestine and Ukraine has always existed as a systematic concern. Prior to October, 94,000 women and girls already lacked access to sexual and reproductive health services according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This figure has now risen to over 1 million in under five months.

70% of casualties during Israel's current military assault on Gaza and Ukraine, now amassing over 29,000 deaths in total, are women and children. Women and girls have historically been greater casualties in situations of conflict, apartheid, and genocide. In Gaza, the devastating, and ongoing, impacts are seen by the world in real time. The situation is dire, with little to no access to hygiene, medicine, prenatal and post-natal care, and period supplies. The United Nations estimated that 50,000 pregnant women were living in Gaza at the time of the initial besiege in October, and an estimated 183 women give birth every day – 15% of which will face some sort of complication. Alongside starvation, brutal hostility, and the very real threat of death and disease, reports of women undergoing labour and delivery without any form of medical aid have been made, including reports of Gazan and Ukraine women forced to undergo C-sections without anaesthesia.



Menstruating women and girls have no access to sanitary products, with many forced to use tent scraps and others missing their periods completely due to the stress. Women have been taking norethisterone tablets, which are typically recommended for disorders including excessive menstrual bleeding, endometriosis, and painful periods. Wafa, one of our health care workers at PFPPA told me, “There is lack of menstrual pads and women are using pieces of cloth and placing under them plastic bags, to avoid leakages on their clothing. At times, if they can find baby diapers, they use them after cutting them into a number of pieces.”

These are just some of the testimonies from thousands of cases of women’s sexual and reproductive health being compromised throughout this crisis. Pregnant women are miscarrying due to stress and shock, and the availability of medical facilities to birth safely is now virtually non-existent. Without a full and immediate ceasefire, we can expect to see this vicious cycle continue, with thousands more maternal and newborn deaths.

Since the beginning of February, NGOs in Gaza have been providing pre- and post-natal care in the internal displacement camps, particularly in the Deir AIBAlah and Rafah areas. We have five teams, consisting of a social worker, midwives, and doctors, who are also distributing UNFPA menstrual hygiene kits to women and girls. The same is almost in Ukraine and its North and South borders.

Within the last few days, concern over hundreds of Palestinian women and girls detained by Israel was voiced by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. It stated that at least two women had been raped and that others had been “subjected to multiple forms of sexual assault.” The same report revealed that Palestinians in Israeli prisons endure daily violence, and Israel has detained thousands of Palestinians since the start of the war. Gendered violence towards women, often sexual based, is deliberately used as a war tactic in an attempt to humiliate women and girls. The Israeli occupation in Gaza and the broader Palestinian territories amplifies the gender issue for Palestinians. Reproductive health and justice are issues in all conflict situations. This reality is acutely felt in Palestine.

The escalating situation in Gaza exposes the alarming fact of the sexual and reproductive health emergency that primarily impacts women and girls. Over a million people now lack access to basic amenities because of Israel’s ongoing breaches. The startling figures highlight the critical need for international



attention and involvement, as do eyewitness testimonies of difficult deliveries and a shortage of essentials.

The struggle is made even more horrific by the intentional use of gendered violence. In these terrible circumstances, our unrelenting advocacy highlights the crucial importance of an immediate and lasting ceasefire, and specific help for the neglected women and girls of Gaza.

C) SITUATION IN CIVIL UNREST AREAS:

There are multiple areas in various parts of the globe that has witnessed unrest in different parts of the countries for various reasons, Manipur incident in India is one such. The civil unrest in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir / Azad Kashmir region has also witnessed due to various political and economic reasons. The plight of women in Afghanistan due to political instability is also worrying. The alarming situations in the Syria, Yemen is not completely faded away. The poverty, education, health care eco system, etc. are not fully recovered. The intellectual fights in the US universities also the need of the hour. There are various sub- African countries which still suffers civil unrest due to various reasons where women and children are majorly vulnerable.

Executive Board looks for the broader interpretation of the agenda by the delegates to increase the scope of the debate and to develop resolutions to block them from developing further.

Challenges to the Agenda:

A) Challenges to women in the conflict areas:

1) The role of women in promoting security, peace building

- **Multi-Role:** Women are deployed in all areas – police, military and civilian – and have made a positive impact on peacekeeping environments, including in supporting the role of women in building peace and protecting women’s rights. Nevertheless, atrocities in peacekeeping forces are quite common.
- **Current Numbers:** According to the UN, in 2020, out of approximately 95,000 peacekeepers, women constitute 4.8% of military contingents and 10.9% of formed police units and 34% of justice and corrections



government-provided personnel in UN Peacekeeping missions, However, these numbers are not enough to ensure that the promotion of security for women can be established effectively.

- Global Effort Initiative: UN Police Division launched ‘the Global Effort’ to recruit more female police officers into national police services and into UN police operations around the world. The number of countries that practice this in reality is still worryingly low.
 - The 2028 target for women serving in military contingents is 15%, and 25% for military observers and staff officers.
- UNSC Resolution: UN Security Council resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325) has called for an expansion of the role and contribution of women in its operations, including uniformed women peacekeepers. In reality this resolution is not implemented effectively.
- Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative: The UN Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative views the Women, Peace and Security agenda as critical to enhancing peacekeeping operations’ performance.
- This can be achieved through supporting women’s full participation in peace processes and making peacekeeping more gender-responsive, including through increasing the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping at all levels and in key positions. Majority of West Asian countries have zero or very less participation in these, where the problem is overhead.

2) Role of women during and post conflicts:

Women have frequently suffered disproportionately from war or natural disasters. It is, thus, their fundamental right to have a voice in post-conflict development, so that their historical vulnerabilities and disparities in education, health care and income can be addressed in the reconstruction phase. Second, it is a legal obligation, as there is a myriad of international, regional, and national resolutions, declarations, policy statements, and action plans calling for women’s inclusion in decision-making and greater attention to their priorities and needs.

Among them, United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, and 1889, which obligate Member States to attend to the needs of women, especially as victims of sexual violence and to elevate the role of women in all stages of the peace process. Finally, there is a growing body of evidence confirming that women’s marginalization undermines efforts to resolve and



rebuild conflict stricken-societies, as it deprives these efforts of women's experience, expertise, and perspectives to deliberations, programme design, and implementation. Moreover, since women represent most of the population in post-conflict situations, failing to capitalize on the skills and views of this majority is simply poor practice and bad policy.

Hence, the Executive Board looks for fresh ideas for these challenges in your speeches and draft resolutions.

Important Conventions, Documents and Treaties:

Following is the list of documents that can ideally be perused by all delegates before they come to the committee, without which you may find yourself standing on shore, while the council will sail away. It is essential to know the following aspects regarding each of the mentioned documents: The reason why this document exists.

- 1) The nature of the document and the force it carries, i.e. whether it is a treaty, a convention, a doctrine, a declaration or a universally accepted custom or norm.
- 2) The areas where the document can be applied or has jurisdiction on (for e.g. international humanitarian law applies only to situations of armed conflict, whereas the human rights laws apply always of war and peace alike.
- 3) The contents of the document at hand. You need not memorize any articles or rules of any convention or treaty but should know what the document has to say in various situations that may arise in the committee

The following documents hold the international framework on human rights. Feel free to read the ones which you feel are relevant to the agenda:

1. International Bill of Rights

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.



2. Universal Human Rights Instruments

In addition to the International Bill of Rights and the core human rights treaties, there are many other universal instruments relating to human rights. A non-exhaustive selection is listed below.

3. Rights of Indigenous People

- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)
- Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

4. Prevention of Discrimination

- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice
- Convention against Discrimination in Education
- Protocol Instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be responsible for seeking a settlement of any disputes which may arise between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination in Education
- Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief
- World Conference against Racism, 2001 (Durban Declaration and Programme of Action).

5. Rights of the Women

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW-OP)
- Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women



6. Rights of the Child

- Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC-OPSC)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OPAC)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

7. Social Welfare, Progress and Development

- Declaration on Social Progress and Development
- Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition
- Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind
- Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace
- Declaration on the Right to Development
- Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights
- Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

8. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

- Principles relating to the status of national institutions (The Paris Principles)
- Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training

9. Slavery, Slavery-like Practices and Forced Labour

- Slavery Convention
- Protocol amending the Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926
- Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others



- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

10. Rights of Migrants

- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

11. Nationality, Statelessness, Asylum and Refugees

- Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees
- Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals who are not nationals of the country in which they live

12. War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, including genocide

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity
- Principles of international co-operation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity
- Statute of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
- Statute of the International Tribunal for Rwanda
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

13. Humanitarian Law

- Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War
- Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I)



- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)

Points to consider in the Draft Resolution(s):

As countries have different views on what is important to be included into a draft resolution, it can become difficult to come to a consensus on what the committee wants.

The Executive Board believes the following points are important to drive the committee towards building a resolution that works in favor of the most, if not everybody's interests. Keep in mind that these are merely suggestions and should not cloud your ideas, meaning that you can use the following points and your own ones that support your country's interests or foreign policy.

- 1) Discussing the rights of women in countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Gaza, Russia-Ukraine wars, Civil unrest areas
- 2) Discussing the effects of overturning the right to abortion in the United States of America
- 3) Implementations in constitutional laws in conflict-ridden nations relating to women's rights
- 4) Discussing the importance of non-profit organizations and peacekeeping forces in promoting women's rights
- 5) Possible amendments to treaties and documents in support of obtention of women's rights

Once again, these are simply suggestions for your use and their presence does not mean sticking to only these topics. It is important to come up with your own points to keep pushing the committee forward and not slip into a puddle which halts debate, and forms a poor draft resolution.

Sample position paper:

All delegates are expected to submit their Position Paper by the first day of the conference in the form of a hard copy/soft copy to be eligible for an award.



A Position Paper is an essay covering a country's perspective on the assigned topics of a conference. Crafting a thorough position paper not only allows you to gain a better understanding of your country and the intricacies of its foreign policy but also to position you to earn awards.

The most important thing to know is that a position paper is generally 2 to 3 pages long, excluding your references. It is not mandatory to cite your sources, but if done, then please refer to the APA format for citing your sources to do so.

The Executive Board recommends the use of the MLA format for your position paper, which you can find a template for in this link:

<https://www.scribbr.com/mla/formatting/>

An effective position paper can be broken into five simple parts:

1. Topic Background:

Here, you need to establish that you are aware of what your topic is. The topic background typically defines any key terms and buzz words related to the issue at hand and provides a summary of the history of the issue and potential consequences of ignoring the issue.

2. Past International Actions:

This portion of the essay addresses efforts the UN has previously made and endeavors your country specifically has taken on to combat the issue at hand. Consider what UN programs, events, resolutions, and agreements your country has participated in. Take note of the other participants in these efforts, too—they could serve as important allies in committee.

3. Country's Policy:

This section ought to summarize your country's own unique stance on the issue and what they believe the international community should do to resolve the issue.

*Here, delegates must remember that this area consists of their country's policy, rather than their own opinion on an issue. If your country does not completely condemn human trafficking, for example, because of their own stakes in the practice, then your policy must reflect that, despite your disagreement; this is called FOREIGN POLICY and is all delegates are expected to keep their country's policy in mind while making speeches, lobbying etc.



Finding speeches from your country's leaders, scoping out their government's website, and evaluating their actions in the UN are some ways to develop an understanding of your country's policy.

4. Possible Solutions:

Using the information you have gathered in previous sections of the paper, brainstorm your own solutions to the issue based on your country's perspective. Could you create a new program, or further develop another one? Could you provide aid to an area, and at what cost? Will you involve NGOs or peacekeepers? How can you collaborate with other countries?

*Note that whilst making solutions it is important to keep the committee's mandate in mind and abide by the rules outlined. Delegates are expected to read the mandate *UN Women* follows.

5. Sources:

Throughout your research, ensuring that your information comes from reliable sources is paramount. This increases your credibility. Delegates are expected to use sites such as un.org, UN Women, Reuters and other sites acclaimed by the United Nations. Also, government media agencies and media agencies recognized by the respective country are considered as reliable sources. Keep in mind that the member States being represented by other delegates may not recognize your sources to be credible ones, so make sure that you are aware of which sources your own country does not recognize.

Sample work: <https://www.scribd.com/document/31219056/5-Sample-Position-Paper/>

Appendix:

You can find the sources that the Executive Board have used to form this background guide below. Most of these sources are considered credible by the United Nations, but you may find some sources which are said to be credible by only individual member States. Feel free to start your research using the links below, or if you already began, then be sure to check these sources for additional information you may want for the conference. Articles and weblinks from UN agencies, reputable organizations of global importance and popular news journals are generally good places to obtain your research from.



[How Do Women and Girls Experience the Worst of War? \(globalcitizen.org\)](https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/how-do-women-and-girls-experience-the-worst-of-war/)

[Gender in fragile and conflict-affected environments - GSDRC](#)

[Gender in fragile and conflict-affected environments - GSDRC](#)

[Gender in fragile and conflict-affected environments - GSDRC](#)

[Gender in fragile and conflict-affected environments - GSDRC](#)

[Gender in fragile and conflict-affected environments - GSDRC](#)

[Gender in fragile and conflict-affected environments - GSDRC](#)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2023/03/13/1157657246/iran-hijab-protest-regime-politics-religion-mahsa-amini>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/us/abortion-laws-roe-v-wade.html>

<https://www.idea.int/sites/default/files/publications/women-in-conflict-and-peace.pdf>

<https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789210541701s007-c002#:~:text=Women%27s%20inclusion%20in%20decision%2Dmaking,together%20through%20generations%20of%20conflict.>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/what-is-gender-mainstreaming>

http://ncw.nic.in/sites/default/files/Booklet%20Gender%20Sensitization_0.pdf



TGES MUN 2024

Email: tgesmun2024@gmail.com

Instagram ID: [tgesmun_2024](https://www.instagram.com/tgesmun_2024)