



StarMUN 2025, GA3:

Research Report on the issue of the intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

Description of the Issue/Introduction/Background Information/Key Terms

One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, and the immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls can be devastating, including death.

Violence negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. It impacts their families, their community, and the country at large. It has tremendous costs, from greater strains on health care to legal expenses and losses in productivity.

Of the 165 countries with domestic violence laws, only 104 countries have comprehensive legislation addressing domestic violence. However, the countries with domestic violence legislation have lower rates of intimate partner violence than those without such legislation (9.5 per cent compared to 16.1 per cent).

Timeline of Events

Global norms and standards: Ending violence against women

There are a number of internationally agreed norms and standards that relate to ending violence against women:

- The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women does not explicitly mention violence against women and girls, but General Recommendations 12, 19, and 35 clarify that the Convention, as per Article 2 on non-discrimination, extends to violence against women, and also makes detailed recommendations to States to address violence against women.
- The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights recognized violence against women as a human rights violation and called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.
- The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women was the first international instrument explicitly addressing violence against women, providing a framework for national and international action.
- The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development drew links between violence against women and reproductive health and rights.
- The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action identifies specific actions for governments to take to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. Ending violence is one of 12 areas for priority action. In 2020, a major stock-taking UN Women report revealed that more than 80 per cent of countries (of 166 in total) reported that action to implement, and enforce, violence against women laws had been achieved in the previous five years, and 87

per cent of countries reported introducing, or strengthening, services for survivors of violence.

- In 2006 the Secretary-General's In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women was released, the first comprehensive report on the issue.
- The 2011 Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence became the second legally binding regional instrument on violence against women and girls.
- The UN General Assembly adopts biannual resolutions on the issue of violence against women. The resolutions, first adopted in 2012, include the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, trafficking in women and girls, and intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations. These resolutions are renegotiated biannually, and the most recent reports were submitted on these resolutions during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.
- The UN Human Rights Council first adopted a resolution on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women in 2012.
- In 2020, at the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, leaders pledged to ramp up efforts to fully implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including ending all forms of violence and harmful practices against women and girls.

Relevant Treaties, UN Resolutions and Action

Revised draft resolution on the topic: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/C.3/79/L.17/Rev.1>

Countries/Organizations Involved

Global Database on Violence against Women: Check the country profile of YOUR country!
<https://data.unwomen.org/global-database-on-violence-against-women/data-form>

Possible Future Solutions/Questions for the Delegates

UN Women has played a key role in developing evidence-based policy and programming guidance on prevention of violence against women and girls. As part of its prevention strategy, UN Women focuses on early education, respectful relationships, and working with men and boys, especially through, and in, the media, sports industries, and the world of work.

UN Women helps conduct research on attitudes, perceptions, and behaviours of men and boys, as well as young people, related to various forms of violence, and supports advocacy, awareness-raising, community mobilization, and educational programmes, as well as legal and policy reforms.

In Asia and the Pacific, for example, UN Women works with other UN agencies on the Partners for Prevention programme that aims to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence in the region through behaviour and attitudinal change among boys and men, as well as increased institutional capacity and policy enhancements. In partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and with inputs from young people, UN Women has also designed a curriculum—Voices Against Violence—for those aged 5–25 years. The curriculum includes tools to help young people understand the root causes of violence in their communities, and to help educate and involve their peers and communities in preventing violence against women and girls.

A woman's right to live free from violence is upheld by international agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Only 40 per cent of women seek help of any sort after experiencing violence, and so we advocate for, and support, women and girls' access to quality, multi-sectoral services essential for their safety, protection and recovery, especially for those who already suffer multiple forms of discrimination.

UN Women partner with governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other institutions to find ways to prevent violence against women and girls, focusing on early education, respectful relationships, and working with men and boys. Prevention is still the most cost-effective, long-term way to stop violence. As part of UN Women's comprehensive approach, we also work with partners to enhance data collection and analysis to provide a better understanding of the nature, magnitude, and

consequences of violence against women and girls. Data collection and analysis also helps UN Women and our partners understand what works and doesn't work to address this violence. For more than 10 years, UN Women's global initiative, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, has worked to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women and girls in public spaces, and since 2017 we have also been a key member of the EUR 500 million Spotlight Initiative that deploys targeted, large-scale investments in ending violence in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific.

Useful Links and Sources:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/faqs/faqs-types-of-violence-against-women-and-girls>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-ending-violence-against-women#83924>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/global-norms-and-standards>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>

https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/12/UN%20Women%20EVAW-ThemBrief_US-web-Rev9%20pdf.pdf

<https://data.unwomen.org/global-database-on-violence-against-women>

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day>