

CSW  
(Commission on the Status of Women)  
**“Strengthening legal frameworks to prosecute perpetrators of gender based violence “**

1. General information:

Gender based violence is an issue that is present in every society on earth. In addition to that, forms of violence against women are more prevalent than violence against men, showing a result of gender inequality. Despite previous efforts to decrease cases of gender based violence and improving aid-serving organizations, this issue is still widespread not only in Europe but in all countries around the globe. Through enhanced legal frameworks, however, it is possible to detect and prosecute perpetrators more easily, potentially leading to a lowering in cases of gender based violence. It is up to the Commission on the Status of Women to improve the effectiveness of legal frameworks globally in order to reduce cases of gender based violence and lessen long term consequences for affected individuals.

2. Background:

Firstly, it is important to note that gender based violence refers to both men and women. However, the focus in this research report lies on women as they are particularly affected by this issue.

Despite previous attempts to eliminate this issue, including easier access to psychological help and better prosecution, an immense amount of women still experience gender based violence in some form. Concerningly, studies show that cases of gender based violence have been increasing since the covid pandemic and other crises. In the EU, 31% of women have experienced one or more acts of physical violence, 43% have experienced psychological violence by an intimate partner and 5% of the women in the EU state that they have been raped at least once in their lifetime since the age of 15. Furthermore, actual numbers potentially exceed these numbers as some participants in the poll may not feel comfortable telling the truth. Such studies, therefore, imply that gender based violence is a major issue in Europe as well as the rest of the world.

The causes of these shockingly high numbers are wide-ranging, as there is an array of hurdles that must be overcome before a case can be resolved, rendering it difficult to enforce prosecution in regards to gender based violence.

Before a case can be solved, a victim must report the case in the first place. The problem, which arises at this stage, is that victims are often unaware of where and how to report a case, showing a lack of education and public awareness. Besides that, a common form of violence against women is domestic violence, meaning that emotions play a huge role in this matter which may hinder victims from reporting a crime.

Even after a case is reported, more problems often arise, including difficult enforcement through missing evidence and inadequate governance to protect victims during and after trials. Moreover, police, judges and other officials are often unqualified to handle gender based violence with the sensibility required due to the lack of training. These issues are particularly prevalent in regions outside of industrialized countries, given the fact that legal systems are often biased due to

stereotypes and norms that are widespread across such countries. Thus, it is vital for delegates to be aware of norms and stereotypes in their country that may perpetuate inadequate handling of cases in regards to gender based violence. An ILO survey estimates that 80% of children are employed in agricultural to support their families income. Gender Norms and cultural perception of choosing play a huge role: Boys being often expected to work to support their families in dangerous and exploitive environments and girls frequently being expected to assist with home duties and provide care for younger siblings and being denied access to school. .

### 3. Issues that are likely to arise:

- Navigating privacy and governance: An often occurring issue regarding gender based violence is the lack of evidence. As such, these crimes are committed in domestic space where eyewitnesses and physical evidence are difficult and sometimes impossible to gather. By increasing governance, sufficient evidence may be recovered to prosecute individuals who committed domestic violence more easily. However, this could result in inappropriate handling of privacy, posing a challenge to navigate privacy and governance adequately.
- Varying definitions in different countries: As judicative definitions for terms such as gender based violence or domestic violence vary from state to state, legal frameworks created through international cooperation are potentially less effective in certain countries than in others. Therefore, creating uniformly effective frameworks can pose a challenge.
- Creating provisions that respect gender dynamics accordingly: When creating legal frameworks, an often encountered issue is that provisions do not account for gender differences like body strength, possibly even perpetuating existing gender inequality. This needs to be accounted for when creating legal frameworks.

### 4. Main Countries involved:

- Afghanistan: With an estimated 90% of women from the ages 15 to 49 having experienced physical violence, Afghanistan is dramatically affected by the issue of gender based violence. Due to the current political instabilities and the seize of power from the Taliban, Afghanistan is on a trajectory towards further confining women's rights and dramatically perpetuating gender inequality. Recently, Afghanistan has come under harsh critique due to its lack of policies addressing violence against women.
- India: Possibly, due to high poverty and partially lacking education, 31% of Indian women are estimated to experience some form of gender based violence by their spouses, showing a concerning status of women in this state. However, India has made major steps forward in tackling violence against women by enhancing its legal system, passing laws to contain sexual assault and to accelerate trials on court. In the discussion, India will pursue its goal of further improving life standards for its female citizens.
- United States of America: As the biggest economy on earth, the United States have passed dozens of laws that seek to prevent gender based violence. Yet, a concerning state of gender based violence is prevalent in the US which is shown by studies that suggest that one in three women experience physical violence and at least three women on average are murdered by their partners daily. The United States must act quickly to confine gender based violence and to ensure safety and freedom for women.

- Sweden: As Sweden is known for its feminist foreign policy and its low spread of gender based violence, the country will pursue its pro-women foreign policy while trying to further confine gender based violence domestically.

#### 5. List of questions delegates should ask themselves in regards to the topic:

- How severe is the impact of gender based violence in my country?
- Are there any widespread norms and stereotypes that possibly perpetuate gender based violence in my country?
- What policies does my country pursue in regards to gender based violence?
- What measures can be taken to tackle the impact of gender based violence in my country?
- How can my country assist other countries on this issue?

#### 6. Key-terms and explanations:

- Gender based violence: *Gender based violence is violence directed against a person because of their gender or violence that affects a person of particular gender disproportionately. It refers to a range of forms of violence, including physical, sexual, psychological and economic harm. It is important to note that violence in online space has increased in recent years, showing a new form of gender based violence that needs to be addressed. Bonded Labor: Circumstances in which children have to pay off debt that they often inherited by their parents.*
- Economic harm: *Economic harm means all direct, incidental and monetary harm suffered by a victim as a result of a criminal conduct.*
- Framework: *A framework is a particular set of rules, ideas, or beliefs which is used in order to deal with problems or to decide what to do.*
- Rape: *to force someone to have sex when they are unwilling, using violence or threatening behaviour.*
- Sexual Assault: *the act of forcing someone to take part in a sexual activity, or of touching someone in a sexual way when they do not consent.*

#### 7. Useful sources:

<https://commission.europa.eu>  
<https://www.standtoendrape.org>  
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook>  
<https://www.statista.com>  
<https://www.rescue.org>  
<https://commission.europa.eu>  
<https://www.collinsdictionary.com>  
<https://www.rescue.org>  
<https://www.standtoendrape.org>