



Committee: UN Women

President: Valentina Fernandez and Emilia Paez

jfmanchitas2006@gmail.com

emiliapaez05@gmail.com

Topic A

The involvement of women in decision-making and governance positions.

Topic B

Addressing gender-based violence during state emergencies and post-disaster recovery.



Index

Committee Summary	3
Introduction.....	3
Specific Functions.....	4
Topic A: The involvement of women in decision-making and governance positions	5
Introduction.....	5
Context.....	7
Current Situation.....	9
Questions to Guide the Discussion.....	13
Relevant Sources of Information.....	14
Topic B: Addressing gender-based violence during state emergencies and post-disaster recovery	15
Introduction.....	15
Context.....	16
Current Situation.....	18
Questions to Guide the Discussion.....	22
Relevant Sources of Information.....	22



Introduction to Committee

UN Women is the UN organization focused on upholding programs that ensure women's human rights around the globe. As well as creating an environment where women and girls are involved in decision-making processes at all social levels. Making its five thematic points: expanding women's voice participation in leadership, ending violence against women by strengthening the implementation of women's security, enhancing women's economic empowerment, making gender equality priorities at every level, and sectoral budgeting and statistics for women.

The UN women organization was established in July 2010, in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution 64/289. Furthermore set to be governed by multi-tiered intergovernmental overseers and to coordinate efforts with other UN organizations which seek gender equality. It's mission is guided by several international agreements: [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW), [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (PFA), [UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security](#) (2000) including subsequent [1820](#) (2008), [1888](#) (2009), [1889](#) (2009), [1960](#) (2010), [2106](#) (2013), [2122](#) (2013), [2242](#) (2015), [2467](#) (2019), and [2493](#) (2019), and [Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals](#).



Specific Functions

UN Women's fundamental function is to collaborate with other NGOs and formulate gender-responsive laws. From which it's main responsibilities include:

1. Providing demand-driven support to national partners to enhance implementation of international agreements and standards.
2. Supporting inter-governmental processes to strengthen the global normative and policy framework on gender equality.
3. Advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment, championing the rights of women and girls - particularly those who are most excluded.
4. Consolidating, leading and promoting the collaboration of the UN gender entities. Among them: the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.
5. Acting as a global broker of knowledge and experience, aligning practice with normative guidance.

Aspects to keep in mind about the community:

- *Participants* of the UN-Women Executive Board are made up of representatives belonging from 41 Member States and when elected serve a three-year term by the UN Economic and Social Council.
- *Military intervention* is not promoted nor discussed at any length in this committee.
- *Resolutions* tend to be programs at country, multi-country, and regional levels through implementing partners, which include government entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, non-UN intergovernmental organizations, and UN Women (direct implementation). A programme must be in line with the UN Women Strategic Plan to receive final approval from the UN Women's Executive Director



Topic A:

The involvement of women in decision-making and governance positions

Introduction:

There is established and growing evidence that the scope of women's leadership and political participation is restricted. Women are underrepresented as voters, as well as in leading positions, whether in elected office, the civil service, the private sector or the academia. This occurs despite their proven abilities as leaders and agents of change, and their right ottorged by most countries to vote and participate equally in democratic governance.

According to the *UN women organization*, as of September 2022, just 13 countries had a woman who served as head of State and 15 as head of Government. At the current rate, gender equality in the highest positions of power will not be reached for another 130 years. Furthermore, only 14 countries have achieved 50 per cent or more women in cabinets and there are still 24 states where women account for less than 10 percent of parliamentarians, including three with none at all. With an annual increase of just 0.52 percentage points, gender parity in ministerial positions and in national legislative bodies will not be achieved before 2077.

Under this, we can conclude that in reality women do face several obstacles when participating in political life. Structural barriers through discriminatory laws and institutions as well as societal norms still limit women's options to run for offices. These gaps mean women are less likely than men to have the education, contacts and resources needed to become effective leaders.

The other problematic situation women face in regards to their involvement in decision making and governance positions is the right to vote vs. the election day reality. Having the legal right to vote does not always guarantee a realistic opportunity to be able to exercise that vote. In some countries, despite the law, women are prevented from doing so by societal norms, harassment and violence at the polls, or pressure from their family members and husbands. This violence against female voters remains a concern. As the 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation notes;

“Women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, voting practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women.”

The General assembly then also concluded that freedom in governance for women is important in two ways. Not only is it an individual right to establish that anyone can use their voice freely but it is also a collective right, stating that each individual deserves truthful opportunity disassociated with bias in the means to look for tools that facilitate democracy, participation, dialogue, and sustainable development. This is why in the past decade, the rising evidence of the absurd amount of years it would take collectively to reach gender equity in governance has brought up the attention and fired the alarms of the international community. Now it is your turn to come up with solutions to effectively involve women in the different areas of decision-making.

Facts and figures: Women's leadership and political participation 2022 UN Women – Headquarters.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures#~:text=Notes- Women%20in%20 executive%20 government%20 positions.another%20130%20years%20%5B2%5D>

Women's leadership and political participation 2019 UN Women – Headquarters.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation>

Countries where women cannot vote 2022. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-where-women-cant-vote>



Historical context:

The fight of women for equality in the political scope has been a slow and limited one. Since its most official start in 1883 when for the first time ever, New Zealand granted women the right to vote in parliamentary elections, despite many other countries granting the same right years later and various other improvements in recent years with NGO's and institutions supporting the removal of gender stigmatizing barriers, as of very recently, in 2015 countries where still just granting female suffrage (Saudi Arabia). With this being the most basic and elemental right when talking about women participation in decision-making, we can conclude that from a global perspective there is still a lot of work to be done.

In the year 2011, a number of internationally agreed norms and standards relating to women's leadership and political participation were developed by the UN General Assembly, who noted them as of critical importance in all contexts. It calls on UN member states to take on a variety of measures. Among the most prominent are:

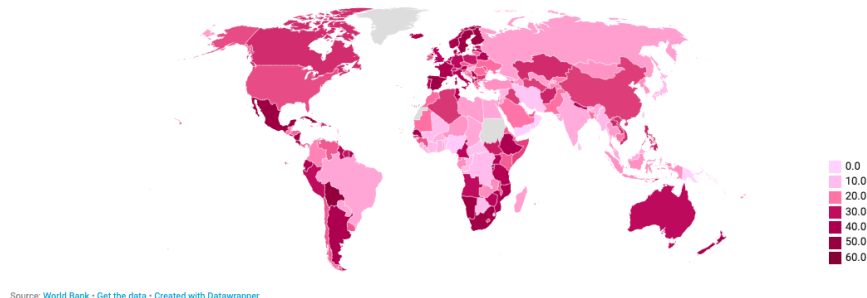
- To review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation and representation of women and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate.
- To strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyze issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies that promote the ability of women to participate at all levels of decision-making within those political parties.
- To promote awareness and recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the community, local, national and international levels.
- To investigate allegations of violence, assault or harassment of women elected officials and candidates for political office, create an environment of zero tolerance for such offenses and, to take all appropriate steps to prosecute those responsible.
- To encourage greater involvement of women who may be marginalized, including indigenous women, women with disabilities, women from rural areas and women of any ethnic, cultural or religious minority, in decision-making at all levels.
- To construct these agreed norms and understand which points were of most relevant and critical importance, various reports and investigations were taken into account. This new data showed growth but also set backs.

According to the attached report, developed by the world bank at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS> a span of 20 years saw an increase of women elected in office, but also recorded the highest rates of violence and harassment towards those serving their terms. The plan of action made by the UN also aimed at reducing the risk of this occurring.

Year	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	Women who reported experiencing violence while serving their terms (%)
1997	12	NA
2002	15	72
2007	18	NA
2012	21	76
2017	24	NA
2022	26	82

The following is a graph created by the World Bank on the percentage of women in the parliament by country. This is graph can be used to examine the patterns throughout the globe

Percentage of Women in Parliament by country



To this they noted that “Women are the world's most underused and misused resource”. As delegates, it is now your responsibility to investigate this resolution extensively, their main priorities, objectives, elements that could be strengthened and added, and most importantly the degree and extent to which they have proven to be effective members of the UN signing countries.

Global norms and standards: Leadership and political participation UN Women – Headquarters.
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/global-norms-and-standards>

Press release: Women in politics: New data shows growth but also setbacks UN Women – Headquarters.
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/press-release-women-in-politics-new-data-shows-growth-but-also-setbacks>



Current Situation:

- General View:

There is established and growing evidence that women's leadership in political decision-making processes improves them. For example, research on *panchayats* (local councils) in India discovered that the number of drinking water projects in areas with women-led councils was 62% higher than in those with men-led councils. In Norway, a direct causal relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage was found. To this, experts have concluded over and over again that when women participate in politics, it ripples out to the entire society.

The current landscape shows on a positive note more women becoming heads of State and Government. Nowadays, females occupy the role in 22 countries, up from 20 countries in 2020. In a bigger scope this means that as of January 2021, 5.9 percent of elected heads of State (9 out of 152) and 6.7 percent of Heads Of Government (13 out of 193) are women. In terms of demographics, European women take on the most amount of charges. Five out of nine Heads of State and Seven out of 13 Heads of Government are females, with Nordic countries leading in this matter.

However, on the other side of things, currently there are fewer gender-equal governments. The number of countries in which women hold 50 percent or more ministerial positions (a specific government department based on the country's needs) has dropped from 14 in 2022 to 13 in 2021 and contrary and even more worrying, the number of countries with no women ministers at all has risen with 12 in 2022 compared to 9 in 2020. As of January, no women serve in the governments of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Brunei Darussalam, North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, and Yemen.

- What is being done:

From a political viewpoint, one of the biggest impulses for women in governance is the IPU (global organization of national parliaments). It was founded 130 years ago as the first multilateral political organization in the world, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations. Today, the IPU comprises 179 national members, promoting democracy and helping parliaments become stronger, younger, gender-balanced, and more diverse. It also defends the

human rights of parliamentarians through a dedicated committee. Twice a year, the IPU convenes 1,500 delegates in assembly, bringing a parliamentary dimension to global governance, including the work of the United Nations and the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development where women are a key point of the agenda.

From an empowering perspective, women UN is the United nations entity that is dedicated solely to women and to gender equality. It works with women from all backgrounds and performs a variety of research to understand how prejudice and bias works in gender and how it can be improved. Their findings have led to many advancements and resolutions, however, as delegates, you must take into account that due to the historical context, granting and maintaining an equality of rights and duties between men and women in governance is a hard task. From the religious perspective to the point of view of societal pressures, females have always been at a disadvantage, and men, as “providers” and “intellectuals” have been sought to be the ones in power.

The following are pertinent factors that should be taken into account to further understand this:

1) Religion and the role of women in religion:

Religion influences both peace and conflict worldwide. Violent extremism is often framed in religious terms, and religious discrimination continues to increase as both a generator and a consequence of conflict. Under this, religion also influences gender roles in society with one of the secondary effects being prioritizing male leadership.

2) All countries are part of the issue:

Unlike what some may argue, in reality not only low income/ less developed countries are the only ones avoiding women in leadership positions. A study done in 2012 by the World Bank at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/women-ministerial-positions-worldwide> shows that most countries (at the time) with no women as ministers have a upper middle income or high income. This shows once again the issue is rooted as historical and social and is not economically based.

Table 1
Countries with no women ministers (2012)

Country *	Region (developing only)	Income level
Bahamas, The	--	High income
Belize	Latin America & Caribbean	Upper middle income
Bhutan	South Asia	Lower middle income
Brunei Darussalam	--	High income
Guatemala	Latin America & Caribbean	Lower middle income
Lebanon	Middle East & North Africa	Upper middle income
Papua New Guinea	East Asia & Pacific	Lower middle income
Qatar	--	High income
Saudi Arabia	--	High income
Singapore	--	High income
Solomon Islands	East Asia & Pacific	Lower middle income
Ukraine	Europe & Central Asia	Lower middle income
Vanuatu	East Asia & Pacific	Lower middle income

Women in ministerial positions worldwide: Looking at the data up close World Bank Blogs.
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/women-ministerial-positions-worldwide-looking-data-clos>



Major block positions:

The following countries, Finland, Cuba, United Arab Emirates, Rwanda, Yemen, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have proven to be some of the most involved and uninformed in granting space and opportunities for women in terms of decision making and governance positions.

Involved: Finland, Cuba, United Arab Emirates, Rwanda

Uninvolved: Yemen, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

294-212- 150

- 1) **Finland** has a history with gender equality, having been the first country to grant women full political rights in 1906 and to make discrimination against gender and gender expression illegal. It is also where women are most likely to be able to fully engage in the political and economic life of the country. Women typically work full-time, have equal access to education, healthcare and representation in the workforce. As an example, Prime Minister Sanna Marin.
- 2) According to the **Cuban** Constitution, "The state guarantees women the same opportunities and possibilities as men in order to achieve full participation in the development of the country." As of 2019, women held 53% of the parliamentary seats in the Cuban National Assembly ranking second worldwide and was commended for achieving and maintaining gender parity. Historically, women were also active in the revolutionary movements composing at least 15% of the Rebel Army fighters and taking key leadership positions.
- 3) **The United Arab Emirates** has achieved gender equality in the parliament with 50% of parliamentarians being women, compared to just 20% in previous years. The country made an impressive improvement, jumping from 85th in the world in 2019, to third this year. This came as a result of President Sheikh Khalifa calling for women to occupy half the seats.

- 4) **Rwanda** ranks first worldwide with the largest portion of females holding a place at the parliament scoring 63.7%. The country consequently continues to make it their priority to encourage women for leadership positions as it has proven to be beneficial after the years of conflict they have needed to surpass.

- 5) Women in **Yemen** are badly represented in their nation's politics despite decades of protesting for an expansion of their rights like in the 2011 uprising. Though they vote, and are also able to contest in elections, the representation of women in the Yemeni national parliament has severely decreased. The numbers dropped from 11 in 1993 to 1 in 2003 to none at the present time.

- 6) Women in **Qatar** enjoy the right to vote and contest elections, yet female representation is still remarkably low. To encourage participation, the 1999 elections for the Municipal Council were deliberately held on the 8th of March, the International Women's Day. Only one female candidate, however, contested without luck. Since then, in 2013 the first female cabinet minister was chosen by the Emir. However, despite this, Qatar still is lagging behind with a 0% female representation in the legislative body of the Monarchy, elected publicly.

- 7) Elections in **Saudi Arabia** are rare. Municipal elections were last held in 2015, which was also the first time women had the right to vote and stand as candidates. Compared to the rest of the world, the Kingdom offers very little freedom and autonomy. The Saudi government continues to target and repress women's rights activists and movements and because they require a husband's work permit, as their guardian, it can be very hard for females to get to the political scope in any way.

The 10 best and worst countries for female public leaders – in charts (2015) *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media <https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2015/mar/06/best-worst-countries-female-public-leaders>

Nag, O.S. (2017) *Countries with the worst female representation in National Legislatures*, *WorldAtlas*. WorldAtlas. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-worst-female-representation-in-national-legislatures.html>

Shirley (2022) *The world's best countries for women - updated in 2023*, GoVisaFree. Available at: <https://govisafree.com/best-countries-for-women>



Guiding questions for the delegates :

- What is the political and ideological position of my delegation?
- Historically, what have been the trends in relation to gender discrimination in my delegation? How is the current situation?
- How has my delegation acted towards those situations?
- What are the main priorities of my delegation? What benefits does it obtain by supporting what it does?
- Is my delegation being ethical? In what ways? In what ways is it not?
- Where does my delegation stand on gender equality?
- What are the possible solutions that my delegate finds to the problems discussed in this debate?
- Is my delegation one of the major bloc positions? If not, who is it most likewise with?
- How does my delegation seek to comply with research proving the need for women in government?

Useful resources:

- 1) [Gender Equality in Decision-Making Positions: The Efficiency](https://www.intereconomics.eu) <https://www.intereconomics.eu>
- 2) <https://www.unwomen.org/en/whatwedo/leadershipandpolitical-participation/facts-and-figure>
- 3) <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation>
- 4) <https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2015/mar/06/best-worst-countries-female-public-leaders>
- 5) <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/global-norms-and-standards>
- 6) <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/press-release-women-in-politics-new-data-shows-growth-but-also-setbacks>
- 7) <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/Guidance-note-Preventing-violence-against-women-in-politics-en.pdf>



Topic B: Addressing gender-based violence during state emergencies and post-disaster recovery

Introduction:

What is gender-based violence or GBV? According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Guidelines for *Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action* (2015), is defined as “a harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females.” This can include aspects such as physical, mental, economic, sexual or deprivation of any kind.

UN Women statistics estimates that Gender-based violence (GBV) affects one in three women worldwide, making it a critical point to address when talking about inequality and Women's rights. Many countries around the world have passed laws intended to protect women from violence, yet it is not enough.

During emergencies it is harder for countries to mitigate and minimize GBV cases but many countries have developed a variety of strategies and action plans to ensure all of their populations' safety during a disaster.

Some important points to have in mind when developing a contingency plan for GBV in emergencies is coordination among the different sectors, responsibility of each sector, ensuring accessible and safe services for women, and qualified actors to carry out the critical role of GBV programming. UN Women encourages all countries to revise their contingency plans and make sure that they are pleasurable in emergencies, taking into account transportation and forces available to them.



Historical Context:

Prehistoria Marylène Patou-Mathis explores the history of violence due to gender discrimination, her findings concluded that GBV was first spotted when the first civilizations started forming. She explains how discrimination or violence against our prejudice are not inscribed in our genes and were caused because of the values of society. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also affirms that “there is nothing in our neurophysiology that compels us to react violently, (therefore) how we act is shaped by how we have been conditioned and socialized.

For instance a Greek-Ptolemaic text from 2,200 years ago states “Do not disregard an insult from your wife. Beat her!” Within the context of the text the statement is made because men would not tolerate that women inferior to them ever disrespect them.

But if GBV has roots in the first civilizations, why do the modern age civilizations want to mitigate it? The answer to this question can be reduced to, humanity over the years has learned that violence with any cause, especially discrimination leads to war. Furthermore, as we reflect on the past and evaluate the mistakes of humanity we judge GBV with different moral laws.

In past disasters GBV is not mentioned, this is because of the ineffective response locals who respond to the emergency. The main gaps identified in previous disasters include: displacement that enhances GBV, health emergencies, increase in girls' vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation, and lack of information for disaster respondents when encountering GBV.

Displacement during disasters increases incidents of GBV as temporary shelters don't have clear protocols to keep girls and women safe.

Research also shows an increase in HIV/AIDS cases which have rape allegations to them post-disaster. This is connected to the increase in negative coping strategies after disasters. Additionally, virus crisis like Ebola can increase GBV.

Reports of missing girls, child marriages, and human trafficking incidents are increased during disasters due to the miscommunication that can happen between organizations trying to rescue survivors.

Lastly, in the past many local disaster respondents are completely unaware of the GBV increase and do not have the proper procedures to deal with these cases. As well as exclude GBV in national disaster plans or barely mention arrangements.



Current situation:

Actions

Many initiatives and actions had been taken in the past to help women in case of emergencies. One of the latest is a multi-stakeholder initiative launched in 2013 known as The Call to Action (Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies Road Map 2016-2020). It aims to transform the approach of humanitarian agencies' operation on gender-based violence, by collaborating with numerous partners and evaluating the gaps within contingency plans. The goal of the initiative is to drive change, foster accountability, facilitate communication and increase cohesion within the humanitarian sphere that is created in an emergency. After the initiative was taken, the Women's Refugee Commission evaluated the way three countries implemented the Call to Action initiative and ways to strengthen them, because of the intricacy of a real-life emergency.

Among past examples of nations implementing a program to protect women is Austria with Oxfam. The project is called "Ensuring accountability for SGBV and increased participation of women in Africa." Which works with 25 local organizations who are given grants by the International Rescue Committee in East Africa developing and improving GBV emergency contingency plans. Other countries such as Ireland and Switzerland are constantly improving their plans and recently added a sum of GBV experts to strengthen their rosters.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) developed training in their Area of Responsibility (AoR) that is focused on GBV. Some of the individuals participating in these trainings will later be programme managers, information managers, and coordinators that are deployed in case of an emergency. Additionally this UN branch created an Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, document and delivered it to governments to help them improve their contingency plan in necessary areas.

Populations at Risk

Some of the contingency plans in the past have been faulty due to the exclusion of vulnerable populations. Among them, people with disabilities and LGBTI members who are targeted.

Girls and women with disabilities are vulnerable due to isolation, lack of support networks, or increased reliance on others for care. Making it necessary for emergency plans to take these populations into account. For instance the International Deaf Emergency partnered with several organizations including World Deaf Federation and International Disability Alliance to investigate, report and mitigate reported crimes of sexual exploitation and abuse on disabled victims during and post disasters.

Gender based violence is also present when certain gender identities are violently targeted because they don't align with the “norm”. Putting at risk many trans, intersex and non-binary individuals at risk. The Netherlands and Belgium took this into account and developed humanitarian aid to emphasize special attention to LGBTI communities in efforts.

Measuring GBV:

During disasters it is hard to measure the true extent of GBV, as the circumstances don't allow many women to report. UNICEF and UNFPA collaborated in the development of Primero, an software platform that helps humanitarian workers manage report data and enable easy access to connect survivors to services. Other countries such as Belgium supported EyeWitness, a mobile app, which gathers and stores data related to GBV in the cloud at any circumstance.

Limitations

Some limiting factors and gaps in over 22 countries are explained by “Gender-based violence (GBV) coordination in humanitarian and public health emergencies: a scoping review” published in 2022 that explains that the biggest adversary to the contingency plans of GBV in case of disasters is commitment. During strained circumstances where many sectors have to work together their commitment, accountability and engagement with victims is poor. As monetary funds are generally unstable, and do not allow long-run budgeting or plans to be made.

Additionally there is a shortage of specialty GBV services, despite enhanced global commitments to addressing GBV in recent years. As this topic is often under-prioritized and under-resourced by most countries and governments.

Recommendations to strengthen GBV contingency plans in case of an emergency include: dedicating GBV specialists to coordinate the effort of different organizations, building a global GBV workforce, expanding inclusion of national as well as international actors, acknowledging the vital participation women play in leadership roles when it comes to GBV, and investing in a long term GBV mitigation fund.

Men and boys

Although women play a vital role in leading these efforts against GBV, men can also help intervene in situations where international committees don't reach. By engaging and educating men and boys in this issue it helps create social awareness and change the mentality of many people. For example, Iceland launched the Barbershop Toolkit through the HeForShe platform which aims to engage men and boys to address negative stereotypes of masculinity and to actively promote gender equality and eliminate violence against women and girls.

Mayor blocks

Irán:

Recently Iran has been under the international microscope as women have started fighting for their freedom. Taking off the hijabs in public and protesting, yet it has resulted in deaths, imprisonment and beating. As there is a cultural belief that if a woman is disobedient she could be beaten and injured; her children could be taken away from her. The laws are based on the *sharia*, Islamic law and didn't protect women's rights nor stop GBV which rose due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Afghanistan:

Afghanistan is under the Taliban's rule which has put the country in a humanitarian crisis as many Afghan women and girls seek to look for refuge in other countries. In the past decades there has been a lot of progress and development towards gender equality, but due to the food insecurity, economic crisis, and human rights abuses many programs have been dismantled. With the withdrawal of the U.S. military and the lack of contingency and evacuation plans for

vulnerable citizens as well as Afghan women and girls many are suffering from human rights violations, disguised as the law.

Ukraine:

The country's ongoing conflict with Russia has responded to the needs of women and adolescent girls affected by the armed conflict through international organization interventions.

Organizations like UNICEF are helping the nation in these critical times and also have GBV experts to help mitigate GBV, yet there have been many rape allegations of Ukrainian women towards Russian soldiers.

Norway:

Norway has supported the training of police officers to respond to GBV in several countries, in order to prepare for any possible national emergency. As its own contingency plan is well developed and takes into account vulnerable populations like the LGBTQ.

Spain:

Spain has openly talked about the main challenges it has encountered while developing a protection plan for women and girls during emergencies, as “there is a need to increase gender experts as well as financial resources in the implementation of gender policies in humanitarian aid and in the Women Peace and Security agenda.”

India:

The Constitution of India, the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and the Indian Evidence Act (IEA) all offer protection for women in the eyes of the law, yet in practicality these laws don't prevent GBV. The lax enforcement of these laws cause 1,635 rape between 2013 and 2018, many in which the case has been taken to court and women are judged by their “immoral character”. A rape or GBV allegation can be forgotten if the woman is deemed promiscuous under Section 155(4) of the IEA. Culturally there is also the idea that men can beat women in order to “keep the peace”.



Guiding Questions:

1. How would your country currently respond to GBV if there were a crisis?
2. Does your country have an action plan against GBV, and what organizations are part of your country's action plan against GBV? Are these actors competent and qualified?
3. Does your country have competent and qualified a
4. How does your country measure GBV, and how would they measure it in case of an emergency?
5. How does your country culturally look at GBV? What is your country's social view on GBV?

References:

- https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/media/disaster_law/2021-02/1297700-Gender-based%20Violence%20in%20Disasters-EN-LR.pdf
- <https://www.gov.nl.ca/vpi/tips-and-tools/tips-for-youth-to-prevent-gender-based-violence-and-inequality/>
- https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/uploads/documents/Addressing_the_Historical_Roots_of_Gender-Based_Violence_in%20Twenty-First-Century_India.pdf
- <https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-022-00471-z>
- <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/gender-based-violence-treatment-protocol-healthcare-providers-afghanistan#:~:text=In%20Afghanistan%2C%20some%20of%20the.and%20denying%20the%20right%20to>