AMIMUN'22

AMITY INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

PERSEVERANTIA OMNIA VINCIT

UNCSW
BACKGROUND GUIDE

22ND - 23RD JANUARY 2022

ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT AND POST CONFLICT SITUATIONS

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Delegates,

It gives us great pleasure to invite you all to the second e-Edition of Amity International Model United Nations, a two-day conference scheduled for January 22nd and 23rd, 2022. AMIMUN has established a name for itself on the international stage, as indicated by its status as one of Asia's top MUNs. AMIMUN delegates obtain a better understanding of the UN's inner workings by engaging in diplomatic debates and broadening their awareness of global relations.

Model United Nations allows students to stand up for what they believe in and create a mark on the world. This platform assists delegates in developing into future pioneers who are certain, determined, and energetic. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that MUN has formed us into the people we are today. We are recognized by the United Nations as a conference, and our collaboration with various international and national bodies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Global Compact Network India, Fridays for Future Delhi, Youth for Peace International, the United Nations Population Fund, and PETA India allows us to further enhance the learning experience of the individuals taking part in the Conference.

By adhering to the theme of AMIMUN'22, "*Perseverantia Omnia Vincit*: *Perseverance Conquers All*" the AMIMUN family hopes to inspire delegates from all over the world, to foster powerful discussions that result in solutions, solutions that are borne out of a steel-like determination and perseverance to lead each debate to its rightful conclusion, and to ensure that delegates can navigate the diplomatic complexities that come with representing the agendas and resolutions they have crafted. It is a platform for legislators to conceptualize their opinions in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether you are new to Model United Nations or a seasoned veteran, we are confident that you will have a beneficial engagement in the environment of learning that permeates each part of AMIMUN'22.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any inquiries.

Regards,

The Secretariat

AMIMUN 2022

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings,

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you to the academic simulation of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at AMIMUN 2022 organised by Amity University, Noida. We hope this experience enriches your public speaking skills and that you learn about a pressing world issue that complicates the lives of many people in our country as well as abroad.

Before coming to the conference, it is very important to break the larger agenda into smaller subtopics. It is also crucial to enhance your leadership skills and lobbying capacity since we would give equal importance to overall participation in the committee. With that being said, we would be using the UNA-USA rules of procedure to facilitate this simulation. It is imperative to understand that this guide is only meant to provide the delegates a brief understanding of the agenda and not to restrict their research parameters in any manner, as delegates are free to transcend the contents of this guide to raise new points provided the mandate of the committee is not breached. Kindly pay attention to the "Questions to Consider" given at the end of this guide to help you start your research.

Our Agenda is *"Addressing Human Rights of Women in Conflict and Post Conflict Situations"*. This guide aims to provide all the delegates the foundational knowledge and platform needed to have informative and deliberative debate. We shall, to the best of our abilities, ensure that a fair simulation is conducted and there is ample scope for fruitful and meaningful discussion which paves the way for a nuanced learning experience.

Wishing you all good luck.

Sincerely,
The Executive Board

Kaveri Rawal   Ranjeet Hudda   Aanchal Khera
Chairperson   Vice Chairperson   Substantive Director

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN?

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) acts as the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It works as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and came into being in June 1946.

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Understanding the functioning of CSW would help the delegates understand the purpose of the committee while keeping the debate and other activities within certain definitive boundaries. It`s current modus operandi or mandate being:

- Convenes a ministerial conference to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights, and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission, including through ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned, and good practices.
- Engages in general discussion on the status of gender equality, identifying goals attained, achievements made, and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges.
- Convenes interactive expert panel discussions and other interactive dialogues on steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation and measures to build capacities for mainstreaming gender equality across policies and programmes.
- Considers one priority theme, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly and linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Discusses emerging issues, trends, focus areas, and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration.
- Agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions.
- Contributes gender perspectives to the work of other intergovernmental bodies and processes.
- Reports on the aspects relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to its work.

UPCOMING THEMES

2022: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. Review theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session).

2023: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Review theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session).

2024: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. Review theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session).

ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF EVIDENCES

1. Government Ministries and their reports – places from where the official business of any governmental authority is transacted and allocated including those of subordinate tiers of government. Example: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and United States Department of State.

2. State Operated News Agencies – those media platforms which are owned, controlled or managed by the government on an official basis and perform the task of public relations management for the government or its institutions on record. Example- Islamic Republic News Agency for Iran, Xinhua News agency for People's Republic of China.

3. United Nations Reports – All reports of the United Nations such as that of its institutions and subordinate bodies which are funded and administratively controlled by the UN staff and personnel. Example – Special Representative Reports, Security Council reports. However, this does not include any acts done or statements made by any United Nations staff member in his personal capacity.

4. Selective International News Agencies – this is done on a case-to-case basis and primarily includes bodies like Reuters which is a United Kingdom based agency but there is precedence to show that it's report have been deemed credible in CSW before.

Note – Even though the above sources are accepted as credible pieces of information, nothing is beyond the scope of refutation and dispute as the diplomats (delegates) have the authority to not accept the credibility of the above sources as subjectivity and interpretation also figures in as far as state actions are concerned. Moreover, the delegates are not free to use other sources to substantiate their arguments in the committee.

INTRODUCTION

Women in Conflict and Post Conflict Period

The international community faces growing demands to protect the most vulnerable from the effects of war and armed violence. While conflict inflicts suffering on everyone, women are particularly affected by its short- and long-term effects. Sexual assault and exploitation are frequently employed as tools of war; victimization leads to isolation, alienation, prolonged emotional trauma, and unwanted pregnancies that often result in abandoned children. As culturally designated caregivers, women must struggle to support their families and keep their households together while the traditional bread winners – husbands and sons – are caught up in the fighting and are unable to provide for their families. The new role as primary provider exposes many women to further abuse. Conflict shatters the comfort of predictable daily routines and expectations. Women and girls are equally affected in a fragile environment where social services they once depended on degrade or disappear.

In this guide when we talk about conflict, we are referring to both the legal notion of conflict as provided by international law of the United Nations and the traditional notion of conflict used in day-to-day terms where the conflict situation may not qualify the legal parameters of the United Nations. The legal aspect of conflict includes both the International and non-international armed conflict defined by the four Geneva Conventions by Common article 2 and 3 respectively along with their two additional protocols. In both the legal and traditional terms, a situation of conflict or war places extensive social, economic and political stress on the population of countries involved making international assistance and policy making necessary to protect the basic human rights of people especially the vulnerable sections like women and children as stated in international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Although conflict may, in some cases, improve gender relations as a result of shifts in gender roles - some changes even improve women's rights - by and large its impact on women is devastatingly negative. Conflict arises due to a complex set of variables coming together and reinforcing each other at multiple levels and at critical junctures of a country or region's development. It leaves in its aftermath significant development and humanitarian challenges. There is a widely accepted recognition that conflict is an inherent and legitimate part of social and political life, and is often a precursor to positive change. Yet the consequences of conflict can also be alarmingly high. Even though there is little opposition to the basic principle of protecting non-combatants primarily women and children, a commitment which if strengthened would make the world a safer place for all people, not just sovereign states, there are serious disagreements as to how this goal of ensuring wellbeing of women in conflict and post conflict times is to be achieved.

Key Issues Faced – How are Human Rights of Women Affected by Conflict?

Women are among the most vulnerable groups during and after conflict for more reasons than just **violence** considering the fact that large amounts of migration and internal displacement of population is associated with each armed conflict uprooting millions of lives. War-induced migration and mobility put unaccompanied women and children at greater risk of violence during flight. They frequently lack documentation to prove their entitlement to food, health services, and shelter, and consequently may be obligated to exchange sex for survival. Lack of protection exposes women and girls to sexual abuse - including rape - and increases their risks of exposure to various sexually transmitted diseases.

In addition to food and shelter, women affected by war also need means of generating incomes. Widows are often unable to provide for themselves and their families in traditional societies, such as in parts of Afghanistan. Due to cultural and religious restraints, lack of education or child-care responsibilities, women are not always able to obtain meaningful employment and are therefore unable to provide for their families. Given their isolation and seclusion, it is

difficult for NGOs to assist them, and governments may be either unwilling or unable to provide the necessary social services.

Legal and political processes often fail to recognize the role of women in maintaining social order during conflict and post-conflict reconstruction. They also fail to adequately recognize the particular harm suffered by women. Women's lack of awareness of matters such as property and inheritance rights - also culturally determined - may lead to further disempowerment. In general, conflicts exacerbate gender disparities, both in society at large and in families.

Trafficking involves the abduction of women and girls (in some cases boys) for the purpose of transporting them across borders to locations where they are forced to work in brothels or as domestic or industrial "slaves." Conflict and post-conflict environments provide favourable conditions for trafficking because of the poverty that war causes. Traffickers who promise families they will look after their daughters, by providing employment as domestic workers in another country, take advantage of the destitute circumstances of war-affected households.

Human trafficking as defined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as "the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them". (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Human Trafficking) The global scale of human trade has reached the heights of illegal drugs and weapons trade. Considering that during armed conflicts, States cannot effectively police and prevent human trafficking, women to a dramatic extent are vulnerable to human trafficking. Moreover, poverty, lack of food, medicine, and other supplies can push women to become victims of human trafficking. The list above provides a comprehensive summary of the process, means, and purposes of human trafficking. The process starts with the recruitment, in the context of armed conflicts, the recruitment can be conducted through force, threats, coercion, or through consent due to the economic hardship of women in armed conflicts. After the recruitment, the process involves transportation, transfer, harbouring and the receipt of the trafficked persons. Throughout the process, the victims of trafficking are in constant danger from various sources. As to the purpose of the trafficking, the women are mainly exploiting through prostitution or sex slavery. To a lesser extent, the women can be exploited through forced labour, involuntary servitude, and removal of organs. In terms of the international framework, the United Nations bodies and other international actors have established a network to combat human trafficking. Delegates are invited to consult the following documents:

1. Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery
2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children
3. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air
4. International Labour Organisation Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
5. International Labour Organisation Abolition of Forced Labour Convention.

Moreover, the United Nations bodies adopted several documents to combat human trafficking. The United Nations Refugee agency adopted different guidelines to prevent and combat human trafficking among refugees. A particular attention in the guidelines is given to women and children. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote a fact sheet regarding the States' obligations to combat human trafficking. Namely, the obligations of States to identify, protect, and support victims of human trafficking. Besides this, the High Commissioner outlined a necessity to provide effective remedies and return trafficked persons to their homes. At the current stage, a significant amount of attention is given to the prevention of human trafficking. The World Bank outlines ways to prevent human trafficking. The main measures include: social protection, employment, labour safeguards, education, health support, awareness campaigns, and access to law and justice. (The World Bank, Social Development Notes).

Women As Combatants- An important dimension of the relationship between women and conflict is women's involvement with combatant forces. Women are found among combatants as forced participants (often as a result of abduction), as dependent "followers" of fighters, in supporting roles assisting fighters but not carrying weapons, as "shields" for combatants, and as active combatant soldiers. Women and girls may have multiple roles among fighting forces—at times domestic servant, cook, sexual partner, porter, guard, informant, and soldier.

Women who have been associated with fighting forces need specialized assistance during the process of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, but they are often overlooked. This may be due in part to the fact that there are

typically fewer female combatants than male, yet it is also the case that the number of women combatants or associates of combatant forces may be partially hidden because of long-standing attitudes that classify soldiers as male.

Addressing the needs of women combatants presents particular challenges. Female ex-combatants may have experienced a newfound degree of autonomy and even prestige within armed groups. Women combatants may have held the same responsibilities as male soldiers in terms of fighting, in addition to functioning as porters, cooks, cleaners, nurses, and camp "wives." However, they often face severe feelings of personal guilt and may be rejected by society, depending on the extent of their involvement and the circumstances under which they became part of the armed group.

TYPES OF CONFLICTS:

While there exist different categories of armed conflicts, it is necessary for us to be able to draw a distinction between those categories to get a clear picture and understand the laws which apply to different circumstances. The different categories of armed conflicts that exist are as follows:

1. **Internal Armed Conflicts**: These refer to conflicts that are non-international in nature and occur in at least one of the High Contracting Parties. This means that at least one of the parties, which is involved in the conflict, has not been backed by any government. For any conflict, to be considered as an internal armed conflict, it should fulfil two criteria.
    i. Protracted armed violence takes place which raises hostility to a certain minimum level of intensity.
    ii. Parties who are involved in the conflict must exhibit a certain degree of organization.

   These criteria were made clear when the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia states that the threshold for an internal armed conflict reaches when the situation can be defined as "protracted armed violence". To understand this type of conflict, one can look at the Syrian Civil War as it proves to be an accurate example of an internal armed conflict. However, one needs to understand that every situation of civil unrest, violence, or riots in any country does not amount to an internal armed conflict. Thus, the Geneva convention of 1949 does not apply to these situations. The classification of a conflict as an internal armed conflict can be done according to Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as well as Article 1 of the Additional Protocol II of 1973.

2. **International Armed Conflicts:** Any international armed conflict takes place one or more states have resorted to armed force against another state. The intensity of the force used, or the confrontation is not a factor as opposed to an internal armed conflict. One also doesn't require any formal declaration of war for the same. The Additional Protocol I extends the definition of international armed conflicts to include armed conflicts in which people fight against colonial domination, alien occupation or racist regimes in the exercise of their right to self-determination. A state can always make the statement that when it commits a hostile act against another state, it doesn't amount to war, therefore, the term 'armed conflict' makes such discussions more convenient.

Thus, any difference that arises between two states which leads to the intervention of armed forces classifies as an armed conflict, even if one of the parties denies the existence of a state of war. This was also confirmed in the Tadic case by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

GENDER AND ARMED CONFLICT

In order to analyse the connection between trafficking and conflict, the study distinguishes between acute armed conflicts and post-conflict situations although their boundaries are often fluid. Acute armed conflicts are ongoing military fighting between different conflict factions within one country, across borders or internationally. Post-conflict

situations are understood as situations where acute military fighting has been terminated either by a military victory or some sort of peace agreement. Such situations are often unstable and may involve spontaneous eruptions of violence, lead to a "cold war" situation, low intensity conflicts or a new war.

Trafficking of women during and after armed conflict is a gender-based human rights violation and criminal activity. Important contributing factors are the economic vulnerability of women, the existence of war and post-war economies built on criminal activities, and lack of an accountable justice system which leads to impunity of the perpetrators of gender-based violence. For understanding the links between trafficking in women and armed conflict a Gendered analysis of conflict and post-conflict rebuilding is useful. The following summarizes some central themes Wars rely on and reinforce hierarchical notions of masculinity and femininity Militarism and warfare produce exaggerated notions of masculinity, in particular the image of the strong, fearless, powerful soldier with the mission to conquer foreign territories. Femininity on the other hand is associated with weakness and fear. Thus, enemies are constructed as feminine, that is incapable, weak and fearful. These ideologies are often internalized by soldiers and they offer an identity for male soldiers. Sexual dominance over or even exploitation of women structurally belongs to the creation of such a masculine soldierly identity.

Women and men are targeted differently as victims during conflict: Majority of today's wars are intrastate, involving governmental and non-governmental military and paramilitary forces and militias. Civilians are increasingly purposefully targeted by all forces. While men are either killed or forcibly recruited to become soldiers, women generally become victims of various forms of sexual violence, which is often deliberately employed as a war strategy. In addition, armed conflicts exacerbate gender hierarchies. Today's wars are increasingly protracted if not initiated by actors who thrive on and create war economies, relying on extra-legal and violent activities, such as trafficking and slavery. This creates high levels of poverty, destruction and displacement, from which in particular women suffer.

Gender-specific challenges in post-conflict rebuilding: In post-conflict situations, violence against women continues or even increases, often in different forms. This is enabled by a high level of insecurity, the absence of law enforcement agencies and impunity for gendered war and post-war crimes. Women and children often constitute the majority of war survivors. Wars increase the number of women and children headed households. As sole family carers, women are faced with the challenge to rebuild their lives, where their economic livelihood bases and social structures have been destroyed.

While women play an important part in the rebuilding of a nation, they are at the same time often excluded from decision-making at the local, national and international levels about the economic, social, legal and political rebuilding processes.

POST CONFLICT SCENARIO

Even after hostilities cease, a variety of conflict-related health issues persist, such as post-traumatic stress, malnutrition, war-related injuries, and the scars of sexual abuse. The lack of reproductive health services in particular has harmful long term ramifications for women and their children. Maternal and child mortality rates soar when services are absent. Women are often forced to give birth away from their traditional medical practitioners.

The risk for contracting communicable diseases also rises during conflict, as heightened population mobility, increased presence of soldiers, relaxed social behaviour controls, and widespread poverty are common in conflict situations,

leading to high-risk behaviour and increased exposure to HIV and other diseases. Another lasting consequence of

conflict for women is the impact on children. In cases where rape has been a weapon, unwanted pregnancies often lead to the abandonment of the resulting children.

Despite extensive documentation on the detrimental effects of trauma on reconstruction, a very small percentage of post-conflict reconstruction funding covers programs to address mental health. In order for reconstruction efforts to be successful, and for civil societies to become rehabilitated, implementers of health programs in post-conflict situations should include funds for mental health components. It is important to bear in mind that women are likely to have

suffered psychologically in different ways than men as a result of personal loss, separation from family, rape or other physical abuse. Rape in particular affects not only the female victim, but also her family and community who are forced to witness it.

Violence against women in the context of conflict has a broader effect on the viability and sustainability of other development programs and dimensions of social welfare. The trauma, adverse health impact, and loss of educational opportunities and productivity suffered by women has an effect both through the additional burden on social institutions and the loss of the full social contribution of women, whose critical role in overall development is now axiomatic.

Given the nature of post-conflict assistance, it is easy to overlook the specific role that women may have played during the conflict or the ways in which they may have helped mitigate conflict. The general needs of the population are overwhelming in countries emerging from conflict, and priorities for aid organizations providing emergency assistance are humanitarian in nature. As aid organizations grapple with where to even begin in such situations, the temptation to avoid gender issues is great, especially given the immediate needs of reconstruction and enabling a fledgling government. It is during this transition from emergency response to stabilization efforts that the opportunity to include women in conflict programming can be seized or lost.

CASE STUDIES

Syria
Recently the Syrian conflict has been characterized by a significant reduction of human rights and humanitarian law. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs around 2 million people lived in besieged areas and were denied humanitarian aid. Thousands of civilians have been subjected to torture, ill-treatment, kidnapping and execution. It is estimated that non-state armed groups opposing the government use child soldiers, block humanitarian aid and violate human rights.
Joint Investigative Mechanism between the Organisations for the Prohibition of Chemical weapons during their attack in Idlib in March 2015. ISIS was also accused of using The Joint Investigative Mechanism between the Organisations for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the UN in their reports stating that the government used chemical sulphur mustard gas in their attacks. In October 2015 Russian Federation lost its seat at the Human Rights Council and several human rights organisations accused Russia of their involvement in war crimes. Human Rights Watch accused the Russian-Syrian coalition of targeting civilians and using internationally banned cluster munitions. In 2016 the UN alleged that the Syrian government created obstacles for the supply of the Humanitarian Aid to be delivered to the civilians. While the UN and the International Community work with determination to protect the human rights of civilians, the human rights violations still occur.
The conflict resulted in displacement and death of thousands of persons. Some Syrian citizens seek refuge and support abroad but often they face challenges during their journeys. Thus, at the present moment Syrian Conflict is considered one of the most dangerous and requires
immediate resolution.

Yemen
For now, the United Nations envoy's attempts at bringing the different sides to the table have failed. The UN estimates more than 10,000 civilians have been killed and 3 million displaced from their homes since 2015. In addition, UNICEF states that more than 2 million Yemeni children suffer from acute malnutrition. What is unfolding there is a huge humanitarian disaster that every member state should feel the need to address urgently. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is now the largest in the world, with more than 18 million people in need of assistance and 7 million already at risk of famine. These figures come on top of 50,000 casualties due to armed conflict
The disaster created by the protracted civil war will weaken state institutions and the Yemeni population for many years to come. Among other horrors unfolding in the country is a large-scale cholera outbreak that must represent a public health priority, giving a new sense of urgency to an already acute situation. Yet, even if Yemenis receive aid

from the international community, the armed conflict cannot be solved with aid alone: it requires a political solution. That is why it is now crucial that countries which are fuelling the conflict by supplying arms to the parties' cease doing so as soon as possible. NGOs among which Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International reported that the Saudi-led coalition launched attacks into populated civilian areas near the Saudi- Yemeni border. In a series of investigations undertaken between 2015 and 2017, a UN panel of experts concluded that the coalition had breached international law and intentionally targeted civilians and residential areas.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

Since the Beijing Conference there have been important developments at the international level in the treatment of crimes committed against women in situations of armed conflict.

- **Rape is explicitly incorporated as a crime against humanity in the statutes of the Ad Hoc Tribunals created by the UN Security Council** to address crimes committed in the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Both Tribunals have issued several indictments relating to sexual violence, and the Rwanda Tribunal has convicted one defendant of genocide, including as a result of sexual violence.
- **At the regional level, inter-American and European human rights bodies have found sexual violence and rape in conflict situations to constitute violations of human rights treaties.** Several have initiated criminal and civil proceedings against individuals alleged to have perpetuated gender-based violence against women in conflict situations.
- **The International Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, with jurisdiction over individuals responsible for the most serious international crimes, was adopted in June 1998.** The definitions of the crimes under the Court's jurisdiction take gender concerns into account: **Genocide** is defined to include measures intended to prevent births within a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.
- **Crimes against humanity include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy and enforced sterilization.**
- **War crimes include rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, and any other form of sexual violence constituting a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.**

IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS/ CONVENTIONS & TREATIES

- S/RES/1325 (2000)
- S/RES/1820 (2008)
- S/RES/1888 (2009)
- S/RES/1889 (2009)
- S/RES/1960 (2010)
- S/RES/2106 (2013)
- S/RES/2122 (2013)
- S/RES/1261 (1999)
- S/RES/1308 (2000)
- S/RES/1314 (2000)
- S/RES/1325 (2000)
- S/RES/1379 (2001)
- S/RES/1460 (2003)
- S/RES/1539 (2004)
- E/CN.6/2000/PC/2
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Bill of Human Rights
- Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice
- International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

- The Geneva Conventions
- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Beijing Platform for Action
- The Convention on Rights of Child (CRC)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
- Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
- Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict
- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR)

PEACE BUILDING MEASURES

- The best way to safeguard human rights of women during and post conflict is by **involving and integrating women in conflict prevention, management and resolution measures considering the fact that they are important stakeholders in a process which affects all aspects of their life.** Denying them a voice in the peace process would mean neglecting the opinion of almost half the population which could delay the arrival of peace and stability to a region indefinitely. Often women do not have the same level of influence that men do in most countries, they are easily marginalized. Keeping the peace may be viewed as a 'male' role and women may be left out of that important area of responsibility.
- **Bringing women into the decision making process** can be a daunting task given cultural, political, and often practical constraints (such as lack of a pool of women with formal education). However, in countries around the world, it has been shown that when women have a voice in the decision-making process, they can **often assist in mitigating conflict even before it starts.** Program options in this area can be cross-cutting and easily fit into larger objectives, including targeting information campaigns on voter education for women, promoting community-based and/or grassroots organizations that include roles for women, working with state lawmakers to draft laws that guarantee women's participation in parliaments or other decision-making bodies, etc.
- Involvement of women in conflict management and resolution has certain prerequisites to be achieved without which all international efforts will be in vain. The primary responsibility of the international community and the host governments is **to provide physical safety to women during and after conflict from all kinds of violence and harassment. This can be achieved through a comprehensive international legal framework and provision of foreign aid to the parties involved for humanitarian purposes only.**
- As soon as a conflict ends another priority area should be **to promote rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts directed at the women population which would reunite them with their families and reinstate them to a minimum standard of living.** This would require extensive diplomatic exchanges and international mediation as often in conflict a significant portion of affected population flees to other countries for safety.

Achieving the above objective is better said than done as it requires significant efforts to empower women socially, economically and politically which would make them capable enough to withstand and mitigate the effects of conflict or war conditions. International assistance in this regard is a must as any host government facing political turmoil would be more focussed on ensuring survival and not women rights. This would require having a firm cultural understanding of gender roles in the country which is essential to any programmatic response to women and conflict. Programming must be sensitive to cultural practices, and both women and men must be consulted and actively engaged in planning and implementing assistance programs.

Another area to focus upon is **to provide livelihood protection to women in terms of job opportunities which provide them financial autonomy in the post conflict period only after which can we expect any significant**

involvement of women in post conflict political processes. This can be done by extensive skill enhancement programs which can be undertaken by both host and foreign government or civil society groups.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER UPON

1. What is the importance of the various international legal documents in reducing the human rights violations against women in conflict and post-conflict situations?
2. What can be done at the global level in order to curb the issue of sexual violence and sexual slavery in post-conflict scenarios?
3. What changes are to be made in the legislation in order to combat the problem of human trafficking?
4. What are the various socio-economic impacts of armed conflicts on women, and what are the measures to solve them?
5. In what ways can the international community contribute in reducing violations of the rights of refugee women, and providing them with legal protection?
6. In what ways can all the solutions be legally enforceable in the member states?
7. What is the role of the international community in tackling the issue of human trafficking in conflict situations?
8. How are political commitment, impunity and crime interrelated in this context? What steps are feasible to protect women?
9. How can women be involved in peace processes?
10. How to prevent re-victimisation of women in the post conflict regions?
11. How can the process of reparation, repatriation, and asylum adopt a gender sensitive angle?
12. What steps need to be taken towards security sector reform?