



**OAS**  
**UPDATE PAPER**

**Secretary-General**

**Grace Stanton**

**Director-General**

**Zoie Petrakis**

**Conference Directors**

**Jena Liebscher**  
**Dimitri Henry**

**Chiefs of Staff**

**Justin May**  
**Kevin O'Dell**

**Directors of Security**

**Zachary Boros**  
**Joe Cohen**

**Under-Secretaries-**

**General**

**Alex Burr**  
**Antonio García**  
**Luis González**  
**Merve Karakas**  
**Ashish Kaushik**  
**Anthony López**  
**Emily Michels**  
**Vijitra Puckdee**  
**Mateen Saki**  
**Ana Treviño**  
**Althea Turley**  
**Andrew Zhao**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to NHSMUN 2019! My name is Sabrina May, and I am the Assistant Director of OAS for Session I. I am so excited to see you guys thrive in committee and discuss our very interesting topics! I know that you all have dedicated time and effort into this, so I am confident that together, we will have an amazing NHSMUN. I remember participating in NHSMUN as a High School delegate because I wanted to empower myself to make change—a change in my own ability as a human and a woman, a chance to see how I could help others, and an opportunity to see what motivates me.

I am a freshman at The College of New Jersey studying Biology and Psychology. My interest in infectious diseases led me to work in bacterial lab, where I currently spend most of my time. Although I have not participated in any fieldwork yet, I am the secretary and event manager of the outdoors club which allows me to fulfill my need to explore. I hope to hear about some of the cool places you have gone and where you hope to go!

I know that you all have worked hard and done your research, so I am very excited for our debate! I first want to commend you on doing this program. Whether you do MUN out of a love for debate or a passion to change the world, your small step can lead to a goal. In our committee, we will be addressing solutions for critical global issues including, 'Instability in the Northern Triangle' and 'Reducing Gender Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean.' Through our committee, you will be assuming a leadership role and I encourage you to take this opportunity to speak often and share your innovative ideas.

I wish you the best of luck! Tip number one in committee and life is to read, read, read! It can't hurt to investigate and educate yourself of any matter tiny or large! Meanwhile, I hope you find the Background Guide useful. Be prepared and be confident, don't be afraid to trip up in committee. In science, mistakes are what make discoveries! When life gives you lemons, make penicillin!

Best of luck!

Sabrina May

[sabrina.may@imuna.org](mailto:sabrina.may@imuna.org)

Organization of American States

Session I



**Secretary-General**

**Grace Stanton**

**Director-General**

**Zoie Petrakis**

**Conference Directors**

**Jena Liebscher**

**Dimitri Henry**

**Chiefs of Staff**

**Justin May**

**Kevin O'Dell**

**Directors of Security**

**Zachary Boros**

**Joe Cohen**

**Under-Secretaries-**

**General**

**Alex Burr**

**Antonio García**

**Luis González**

**Merve Karakas**

**Ashish Kaushik**

**Anthony López**

**Emily Michels**

**Vijittra Puckdee**

**Mateen Saki**

**Ana Treviño**

**Althea Turley**

**Andrew Zhao**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ann Williams and I am so excited for my first year on the NHSMUN staff, serving as the Assistant Director of the Organization of American States (OAS) for Session II! I cannot wait to meet you in March for NHSMUN 2019!

I am currently a freshman at the University of Alabama majoring in International Studies with minors in Chinese and BUI, the Blount Undergraduate Initiative. Blount, as we call it, is a liberal arts program and living learning community that has made my college experience so fulfilled and valuable and has made me even more of a staunch liberal arts supporter. Since I could not get enough Model UN from just NHSMUN, I also staff the Alabama Model UN conference as the chair for European Union. As an international studies major, I love international affairs and appreciate Model UN for everything it has done for me in developing leadership skills, a global perspective, and awareness. My days are filled with reading, writing essays, and enriching my soul with knowledge. I love backpacking and being outdoors for any length of time, but only if wearing the right clothing. Additional interests include traveling, yoga, redecorating, and listening to any and all types of music.

This Update Paper is designed to further help your research as you prepare for the conference. These topics are constantly updated and my co-AD, Sabrina, and I have made sure to monitor the news closely and used the information to elaborate upon the topics discussed in the Background Guide. While this Update Paper touches on many important and recent facets of the topics, it is important that you as the delegates pay attention to the news as the conference nears. Please do not hesitate to email me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Best of luck!

Ann Williams

[ann.williams@imuna.org](mailto:ann.williams@imuna.org)

Organization of American States

Session II



## Table of Contents

<b>Instability in the Northern Triangle</b>	<b>5</b>
Introduction	6
Mexico Acts in the Northern Triangle	6
Guatemala's Rejection of the CICIG	7
Conclusion	8
<b>Reducing Gender Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>10</b>
Introduction	11
Migrant Caravans	11
Grassroots Women's Movements	13
Impact of Elections	13
Conclusion	14
Works Cited	15



OAS  
NHSMUN 2019

## TOPIC A: INSTABILITY IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE

Photo Credit: Joint Task Force-Bravo / Staff Sgt. Westin Warburton

## Introduction

Leading into 2019, there has been escalating violence stretching from Nicaragua to Guatemala. Crimes within the Northern Triangle grew to be severe, ranging from targeted attacks on individuals to widespread gang violence. Most shockingly, on 6 December 2018 a Nicaraguan Catholic priest became the victim of a devastating acid attack while performing his priestly duties.<sup>1</sup> According to a report by the United Nations Refugee Agency, “2.4 million refugees are expected to require shelter in a third country next year,” largely as a result of such violent acts and socioeconomic instability.<sup>2</sup> The issues in the Northern Triangle have international ramifications and continue to grow at a rapid rate. Not only has the instability in the region affected the residents of the Northern Triangle, it also created great concern within the OAS and as a result, prompted neighboring countries to act.

## Mexico Acts in the Northern Triangle

On 10 December 2018, Mexico’s Foreign Minister, Marcelo Ebrard, announced that Mexico would be willing to work with Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador in an attempt to resolve the issues within the Northern Triangle.<sup>3</sup> Ebrard proposed a policy focused on the high rates of human flight, expressing that the countries should work in tandem to determine what drives populations out, how to protect their safety in transit, and whether to anticipate their possible return.<sup>4</sup> The ultimate goal of strategically evaluating these concepts within the Northern Triangle is to break the cycle of injustice and crime within the Northern triangle, hopefully cutting the number of migrants fleeing the region. In an effort to develop a successful plan, the Mexican government pledged 30 million USD to development plans in the Northern Triangle region.<sup>5</sup> Following this Ebrard tweeted and confirmed Mexico’s mission to change its own immigration policy and ensure safe migration.

Mexican efforts continued into 2019, where in January, Guatemala’s Deputy Foreign Minister, Pablo Cesar Garcia, met

with Mexican officials.<sup>6</sup> At this monumental bilateral meeting, both countries discussed the arrival of the so-called caravan and how the countries would best be able to “provide all the necessary support to the migrants,” according to Guatemalan Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marta Larra.<sup>7</sup> On 9 January 2019, head of Mexico’s immigration office, Tonatiuh Guillen, and Interior Ministry spokesman Hector Gandini met with other Central American counterparts from El Salvador and Honduras.<sup>8</sup> At these meetings and amidst the growing pressure placed on Mexico, the Mexican government advocated that the group of countries discourage a mass migration exodus from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Following these multilateral meetings, Gandini reported to the press that, “the doors to Mexico are open to anyone who wants to enter in an orderly fashion... but whoever wants to come in illegally will be deported.”<sup>9</sup> To spectators, this public statement has indicated that Mexico is committed to taking the migration crisis very seriously.

With a similarly closed attitude, the United States has reaffirmed Mexico’s strictness on the matter. Most notably, Heide Fulton, the US Chargé d’Affaires to Honduras has been ac-

1 “Nicaragua Priest Injured in Acid Attack,” *BBC News*, 6 December 2018, accessed 3 January 2019, [www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46466278](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46466278).

2 “Resettlement Needs Set to Rise to 1.4 Million People in 2019, UN Refugee Agency Reports,” *UN News*, 25 June 2018, accessed 27 December 2018, [news.un.org/en/story/2018/06/1012972](http://news.un.org/en/story/2018/06/1012972).

3 “Mexico Pledges \$30 Million to Northern Triangle Development,” 11 December 2018, accessed 3 January 2019, [www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=2&objectid=12174705](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=12174705).

4 Ibid.

5 “Mexico Prepares for Arrival of next Central American Migrant Caravan,” *Reuters*, 9 January 2018, accessed 10 January 2019, [www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-mexico/mexico-prepares-for-arrival-of-next-central-american-migrant-caravan-idUSKCN1P406O105112](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-mexico/mexico-prepares-for-arrival-of-next-central-american-migrant-caravan-idUSKCN1P406O105112).

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.



Marcelo Ebrard

tively condemning emigration from Honduras, especially on social media platforms such as Twitter. In a public statement she directly addressed Honduran migrants, “The risks of illegal immigration are serious. Don’t waste your time and money on a trip destined to fail. The road is long and very dangerous. Thousands of Hondurans who participated in the caravan came back sorry.”<sup>10</sup> This controversial and aggressive statement coupled with her hashtag campaign, #TuNorteEstáAquí, has impacted how migrants view the United States and how they understand their safety.<sup>11</sup> The #TuNorteEstáAquí or “Your North is Here” social media campaign has been advocated by the Chargé d’Affaires to send the statement that the migrants are not welcome outside the borders of Honduras and can face punishment under the law.<sup>12</sup>

## Guatemala's Rejection of the CICIG

On 7 January, Guatemala rejected the treaty with the UN along with Mexico. Established in 2007, International

Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) was brought back into the spotlight. CICIG’s mandate and staffers are said to legally have nine months within the Country, however, “Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales gave its international staff 24 hours to leave the country. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the decision, saying he expected ‘the government of Guatemala to entirely fulfill its legal obligations under the agreement’”.<sup>13</sup> In the eleven years that this organization has existed, “CICIG has secured precious few successful prosecutions and none among high-level politicians.”<sup>14</sup> While the Guatemalan government pushed for the suspension of CICIG on a 24-hour evacuation, the Guatemalan High court suspended the request.<sup>15</sup>

Through Guatemala disbanding from the treaty, many organizations such as CICIG have emerged to target crime and illegal operations in Guatemala.<sup>16</sup> One organization is the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR). Working with CICIG, the IACHR has been training local officials and pushing for legal reforms to improve the efficiency of the justice system.<sup>17</sup> Furthermore, it is estimated that its work has contributed to a net reduction of 4,500 homicides between 2007 and 2017.<sup>18</sup> As the IACHR and CICIG both aided Guatemala with crime rates many began to suspect Guatemalan government for corruption because of its actions to remove such organizations.<sup>19</sup>

In August 2018, the Guatemalan president announced that the CICIG would not be renewed.<sup>20</sup> This conference

10 Ibid.

11 “Heide Fulton: Que No Te Mientan, Tu Norte Esta Aquí,” *Libertad Digital*, 16 January 2019, accessed 23 January 2019, libertaddigital.news/comparte/hiede-fulton-que-no-te-mientan-tu-norte-esta-aqui/.

12 Ibid.

13 Alfredo Ortega Franco, “Guatemala at the Edge of the Abyss,” *Al Jazeera*, 10 January 2019, accessed January 10, 2019. www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/guatemala-edge-abyss-190109211600314.html.

14 Mary Anastasia O’Grady, “Opinion | Guatemala Gives the U.N. the Boot,” *Wall Street Journal*, 13 January 2019, accessed 23 January 2019, www.wsj.com/articles/guatemala-gives-the-u-n-the-boot-11547411965.

15 “Guatemala Court Blocks UN Team Expulsion,” *BBC*, 9 January 2019, accessed 10 January 2019, www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46813367.

16 “IACtHR Expresses its Concern over Guatemala’s Decision to not Renew the Mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG),” *OAS*, 4 September 2018, accessed 23 January 2018, www.oas.org/en/iachr/media\_center/PReleases/2018/196.asp.

17 Ibid.

18 Renard Sexton, “How Guatemala Achieved What Was Once Thought Impossible: Major Reductions in Homicides,” *Washington Post*, 13 November 2018, accessed 23 January 2018, www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/11/13/central-americans-are-fleeing-violence-guatemalas-judicial-reform-model-could-help/?noredirect=on&utm\_term=.71c1a9cdæ01.

19 “IACtHR Expresses its Concern over Guatemala’s Decision to not Renew the Mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG),” *OAS*.

20 Alfredo Ortega Franco, “Guatemala at the Edge of the Abyss,” *Al Jazeera*.

held many military officials, whereas there were many reported military coups.<sup>21</sup> Though the 24-hour evacuation was suspended, “the government removed police support for the commission and more recently revoked visas for international investigators. However, the Constitutional Court has repeatedly overturned the president’s actions.”<sup>22</sup>

Though the treaty may have fallen apart, the Northern triangle now has an “Operación Escudo Regional”—Operation Regional Shield 3, where three countries (Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador) established police organized group to target gang operations.<sup>23</sup> Meanwhile, they have successfully captured two gang leaders as of 6 November.<sup>24</sup> “The operation affected eighteen structures of both gangs, and authorities arrested 501 leaders who ordered murder and extortion and facilitated narcotrafficking.”<sup>25</sup> Organizations like Operación Escudo Regional alleviated crime and established some trust in the depleting amount that the residents have in their government. José María Salgado, head of prosecutors in Honduras said that this operation taught local authorities



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> “Northern Triangle Launches Operation against Gangs,” *Dialogo Americas*, 2 January 2019, accessed 14 January 2019, [dialogo-americas.com/en/articles/northern-triangle-launches-operation-against-gangs](http://dialogo-americas.com/en/articles/northern-triangle-launches-operation-against-gangs).

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Sarah Bermeo, “Violence Drives Immigration from Central America,” *Brookings*, 26 June 2018, accessed 23 January 2018, [www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/06/26/violence-drives-immigration-from-central-america/](http://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/06/26/violence-drives-immigration-from-central-america/).

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

to better fight these gangs when they “realized that by just capturing and sending them to prison, the problem is not solved” and how instead they “need to deprive them of all illicit resources so they don’t have any operational or financial capability to operate outside the law from correctional centers.”<sup>26</sup> In order to unite their Countries forces and to be more efficient they soon started another program of “transnational task” to exchange information about criminals of the Northern Triangle.<sup>27</sup> “Unifying our efforts will allow for a direct and efficient fight against transnational crime structures, so as to dismantle them and bring their members to justice,” María Consuelo Porras, Guatemalan Attorney General, told the press.<sup>28</sup>

## Conclusion

Operations like this are slowly growing as gang violence in the Northern triangle exponentially grows. In order to resolve the instability of the Northern Triangle, the main aspect would be the understanding of gang culture. The effect, however, is tragic as Doctors without Borders elaborates how “citizens are murdered with impunity, kidnappings and extortion are daily occurrences. Non-state actors perpetuate insecurity and forcibly recruit individuals into their ranks, and use sexual violence as a tool of intimidation and control”.<sup>29</sup> According to surveys given to citizens in the Northern Triangle, 39% of the participants reported violence or threats of violence towards them or their family if they attempted to emigrate.<sup>30</sup> Around the same number had a family member who were killed in the midst of this conflict.<sup>31</sup> It was thought that gang motivation was just economic in these circumstances. Former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

speculated that because the U.S. has such a high demand for drugs origination in the Northern Triangle, the problem with violence continues to affect the citizens from these countries.<sup>32</sup> Within the Northern Triangle, anyone could be hurt at any time, and with that fear, many flee as the countries become weaker and more vulnerable to gangs.

---

<sup>32</sup> “The Northern Triangle Is Becoming Less Murderous,” *The Economist*, 8 December 2018, accessed 23 January 2019, [www.economist.com/the-americas/2018/12/08/the-northern-triangle-is-becoming-less-murderous](http://www.economist.com/the-americas/2018/12/08/the-northern-triangle-is-becoming-less-murderous).



OAS  
NHSMUN 2019



**TOPIC B:**  
**REDUCING GENDER VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Photo Credit: United States Department of State

## Introduction

Updates regarding the situation of women within the Organization of American States are important to consider when writing position papers, analyzing bloc positions, and considering solutions to gender-based violence in Latin America and the Caribbean. These updates have affected the levels of violence and status of women in the region including migrant caravans on the United States border and grassroots women's movements that empower women to report instances of sexual harassment or domestic violence. Recent developments within these subtopics influence the position of all member states and must be examined within research and debate between delegates and will undeniably affect the solutions addressed in this committee. Delegates are reminded of the Charter of the American States in which cooperation between member states is necessary to protect peace, justice, and rights of individuals within this organ.<sup>1</sup>

## Migrant Caravans

The migrant crisis on the border of the United States has recently emerged into the international spotlight due to migrant caravans that are stationed along the Mexican and United States border. Over 6,000 Central Americans are making their way north through Mexico to reach the United States in hopes of gaining asylum.<sup>2</sup> Once reaching Tijuana, a city along the US-Mexican border, their options include applying for asylum in the United States, accepting the one-year humanitarian visa that Mexico offers, or crossing the border illegally.<sup>3</sup> Peace, order, and solidarity of many member-states of the Organization of American States are all threatened by this situation, especially regarding the United States' response to the caravans. In late November 2018, this included the use of tear gas in response to protests by migrants wishing to accelerate the slow process of applying for asylum which can take months.<sup>4</sup> United States President Donald Trump labelled these caravans of migrants as "invasions" and responded accordingly, sending approximately 6,000 troops to the southern United

States border and adding concertina wire to some parts of the border fence.<sup>5</sup> This response ignited backlash in the international community, which considered the tear gas as an extremely harsh and non-humanitarian retaliation, especially considering a large number of the migrants in these camps are women and children.<sup>6</sup> The travel of migrants and refugees has been occurring for years, but the transportation in large groups—the caravan—is a new concept that rose as an effort to respond to the high risk factors associated with fleeing countries of Central and Latin America, including trafficking, kidnapping, corrupt officials, and gang violence that plagues all migrants, especially women.<sup>7</sup> However, women, even when travelling in groups, still face a high risk of sexual violence.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, women must manage many medical concerns, including birth control or pregnancy, as they journey often on foot. Many shelters in cities housing migrants offer volunteers assisting in various medical treatments; one such shelter in Mexico City supports women's health by offering free birth control.<sup>9</sup> Traveling in such a large caravan makes the journey

1 "Charter Of The Organization Of American States," *Organization of American States*, 27 February 1967, [www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/docs/inter\\_american\\_treaties\\_A-41\\_charter\\_OAS.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/docs/inter_american_treaties_A-41_charter_OAS.pdf).

2 Maya Averbuch and Kirk Semple, "With U.S. Soil Achingly Close, Decision Time For Caravan Migrants," *The New York Times*, 3 December 2018, [www.nytimes.com/2018/12/03/world/americas/migrant-caravans-tijuana.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/03/world/americas/migrant-caravans-tijuana.html).

3 Ibid.

4 Daniel Gonzalez and Rafael Carranza, "US Border Agents Fire Tear Gas As Some Migrants Protesting Slow Asylum Process Try To Breach Fence," *USA Today*, 26 November 2018, [www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/11/25/immigrant-caravan-us-agents-fire-tear-gas-slow-migrants/2110267002/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/11/25/immigrant-caravan-us-agents-fire-tear-gas-slow-migrants/2110267002/).

5 "Migrant Caravan: What Is It And Why Does It Matter?" *BBC News*, 26 November 2018, [www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45951782](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45951782).

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Alice Driver, "An Intimate Look at Life Inside the Migrant Caravan," *Time*, 13 November 2018, [time.com/longform/migrant-caravan-mexico/](http://time.com/longform/migrant-caravan-mexico/).

9 Ibid.



Map of the Migrant Caravan's Route

safer for asylum seekers but the situation once they arrive at the border adds risk to their migration. Mexican cities including Tijuana have set up camps and shelters to accommodate the migrants, which resemble makeshift refugee camps. With so many people in such a small area, along with local governments struggling to provide the amount of resources necessary for so many people, there have been severe shortages of bathrooms and food.<sup>10</sup> Despite the lack of essential items in these camps the mayor of Tijuana was adamant that the situation was still not categorized as a humanitarian crisis in early November.<sup>11</sup> However, later in the month he revoked his statement, calling upon the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for aid with the situation. He references the lack of federal assistance as a need for outside support. The Mexican government contributed twenty tons of "supplies" to Tijuana, but only five of those tons

were actually for the migrants, the rest geared toward border security.<sup>12</sup> As both the Mexican government and the United States are focused on border security, the Organization of American States must consider the human rights implications of the situation, in accordance with its mandate and charter.

The situation with the migrant caravans urges delegates to keep a close examination into the issue of gender violence in the Latin American area. It requires a deeper look at the motives that push these women and children to undergo such a difficult journey. Both Mexico and the United States are major players that must collaborate upon the issue, as Mexican cities such as Tijuana cannot easily continue to withstand the massive influx of migrants it is currently experiencing. Even by traveling in such a large group, women still face violence, risks, and health concerns along the way that must be evaluated by

<sup>10</sup> Rebecca Plevin, "Migrants Makeshift Shelter in Tijuana Short on Bathrooms, Food, Many Say," *USA Today*, 18 November 2018, [www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/11/16/migrant-caravan-few-bathrooms-little-food-no-humanitarian-crisis/2034094002/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/11/16/migrant-caravan-few-bathrooms-little-food-no-humanitarian-crisis/2034094002/).

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> "Tijuana, Mexico, Declares Migrant 'Humanitarian Crisis,'" *NBC News*, 24 November 2018, [www.nbcnews.com/news/world/tijuana-mexico-declares-migrant-humanitarian-crisis-n939591](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/tijuana-mexico-declares-migrant-humanitarian-crisis-n939591).

delegates to holistically approach the status of women in the region in all areas, whether stationary in their permanent home country, fleeing violence on the road, or at makeshift camps outside the border of the United States.

## Grassroots Women's Movements

Thousands of women in the Latin and Central American region have recently been partaking in grassroots women's movements meant to empower women regarding their own sexual health and reporting of sexual assault, therefore legitimizing the voice and experiences of women in these areas. With the use of social media this newfound awareness can take feminism to a global level that unites women. These protests are worth consideration by delegates as they can galvanize a population and have the potential to assist in changing attitudes surrounding the health of women and gender roles in a society. Feminist activism in Latin America has included *Ni Una Menos*, or not one less, a movement that began in Argentina and included women's marches protesting the rape of a young woman followed by protests against femicide in Mexico that rallied around the slogan *Ni Una Más*, or not one more.<sup>13</sup> This year on the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, thousands marched in Santo Domingo to end the Dominican Republic's total abortion ban.<sup>14</sup> Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women spoke of these feminist movements, describing them as "setting collective demands for accountability and action and calling for the end of impunity, to ensure the human rights of all women and girls."<sup>15</sup> Even within migrant caravans, women are banding together, initiating a hunger strike to protest the amount of time it takes to process asylum requests in the United States.<sup>16</sup> Global feminist movements, local strikes, and



Ni Una Menos March in Buenos Aires

protests such as these are setting the stage to affect legitimate change in culture throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Impact of Elections

Recent elections in Latin America have the potential to impact legislation concerning both of these subtopics. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, the first United Nations-led accord that is meant "to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner" is a significant development that allows the chance for the international community to improve governance upon migration and develop solutions to challenges that recent immigration has posed.<sup>17</sup> The Global Impact has since adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in 2016, attempting to improve integration for refugees as well as improving protection for human mobility.<sup>18</sup> After running on a platform that focused on combating violent crime, Jair Bolsonaro won Brazil's presidency in October of 2018. His far-right administration has led Brazil to remove itself from the Global Compact, which is not bind-

<sup>13</sup> Laura Carlsen, "Latin America's Women-Led Movements and New Feminisms," *Alternatives International Journal*, 1 May 2017, [www.alternatives.org/spip.php?article4587](http://www.alternatives.org/spip.php?article4587).

<sup>14</sup> Raphael Minder, Yonette Joseph, and Iliana Magra, "Marching to End Violence Against Women," *The New York Times*, 25 November 2018, [www.nytimes.com/2018/11/25/world/international-day-violence-against-women.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/25/world/international-day-violence-against-women.html)

<sup>15</sup> Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, "Message from Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women," *UN Women*, 25 November 2018, [www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/11/statement-ed-phumzile-mlambo-ngcuka-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/11/statement-ed-phumzile-mlambo-ngcuka-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women).

<sup>16</sup> Jesus Rodriguez, "Caravan Women Launch Hunger Strike, Putting Pressure on U.S. and Mexico," *Politico*, 29 November 2018, [www.politico.com/story/2018/11/29/migrant-caravan-hunger-strike-1030649](http://www.politico.com/story/2018/11/29/migrant-caravan-hunger-strike-1030649).

<sup>17</sup> "Global Compact For Migration," *International Organization for Migration*, accessed 10 January 2019, [www.iom.int/global-compact-migration](http://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

ing for participating countries and focuses on improving the statistics and data surrounding migrants and migrant movements, ways to combat human trafficking, and increase legal migration into participating countries.<sup>19</sup> This decision has the potential to affect Brazil's neighboring country Venezuela, which is currently facing high rates of migration. While Venezuelans have had the opportunity to obtain work visas and opt for resettlement into Brazil in the recent past, this important announcement from Bolsonaro to remove itself from such a comprehensive international agreement foreshadows a more hard-lined approach to immigration in Brazil. The United States also failed to accept the Global Compact, with President Donald Trump's administration emphasizing the necessity of the border wall between the United States and Mexico.<sup>20</sup> The Mexican and American government's focus on aid and materials that advances border security, coupled with the rise of a far-right administration in Brazil, have the potential to affect women's safety as they wait in makeshift refugee camps and as they migrate across countries. Ignoring the Global Compact, which calls for greater action in diminishing human trafficking and other human rights abuses as they occur amongst migrants, may have a negative effect on gendered violence against women.

## Conclusion

As more migrants attempt to flee regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, women's lives continue to be in danger and levels of gendered violence remain extremely high for many countries in the Organization of American states. As national action plans are enacted, hashtags created, and women and children tear gassed at the United States border, the causes and effects of violence against women in this region warrants constant and updated evaluation.

<sup>19</sup> Ernesto Londono, "Bolsonaro Pulls Brazil From U.N. Migration Accord," The New York Times, 9 January 2019, [www.nytimes.com/2019/01/09/world/americas/bolsonaro-brazil-migration-accord.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/09/world/americas/bolsonaro-brazil-migration-accord.html).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

## Works Cited

### Topic A

#### UN Sources

“IACHR Expresses its Concern over Guatemala’s Decision to not Renew the Mandate of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG).” *OAS*. 4 September 2018. Accessed 23 January 2018. [www.oas.org/en/iachr/media\\_center/PReleases/2018/196.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2018/196.asp).

*This source talks about the CICIG and its collaboration with the LACHR. It discusses how this initiative has become unsuccessful in the conflict.*

#### Non-UN Sources

Bermeo, Sarah. “Violence Drives Immigration from Central America.” *Brookings*. 26 June 2018. Accessed 23 January 2018. [www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/06/26/violence-drives-immigration-from-central-america/](http://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2018/06/26/violence-drives-immigration-from-central-america/).

*This source provides statistical findings from surveys given in Central America. It gives numbers and percentages on how citizens have been affected by crime and violence.*

Franco, Alfredo Ortega. “Guatemala at the Edge of the Abyss.” *Al Jazeera*. 10 January 2019. Accessed January 10, 2019. [www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/guatemala-edge-abyss-190109211600314.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/guatemala-edge-abyss-190109211600314.html).

*This source talks about a commission committed to helping Guatemala. It also generally talks about Guatemala and the situation specifically within the country.*

“Guatemala Court Blocks UN Team Expulsion.” *BBC News*. 9 January 2019. Accessed 10 January 2019. [www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46813367](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46813367).

*This source discusses how Guatemala is preventing UN intervention. It explains how the government and courts are the ones deciding to forgo UN involvement.*

“Heide Fulton: Que No Te Mientan, Tu Norte Esta Aquí.” *Libertad Digital*. 16 January 2019. Accessed 23 January 2019. [libertad-digital.news/comparte/hiede-fulton-que-no-te-mientan-tu-norte-esta-aqui/](http://libertad-digital.news/comparte/hiede-fulton-que-no-te-mientan-tu-norte-esta-aqui/).

*This source talks about the U.S. ambassador to Honduras and her stance on the northern immigration. It explains her social media statement Tu Norte Esta Aquí.*

“Mexico Pledges \$30 Million to Northern Triangle Development.” 11 December 2018. Accessed 3 January 2019. [www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=2&objectid=12174705](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=12174705).

*This article discusses how Mexico plans to help with the crisis in the Northern Triangle. It explains how this money is meant to go to development and infrastructure causes to help the region attain stability.*

“Mexico Prepares for Arrival of next Central American Migrant Caravan.” *Reuters*. 9 January 2018. Accessed 10 January 2019. [www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-mexico/mexico-prepares-for-arrival-of-next-central-american-migrant-caravan-idUSKCN1P406O105112](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-mexico/mexico-prepares-for-arrival-of-next-central-american-migrant-caravan-idUSKCN1P406O105112).

This discusses how Mexico feels much of the strain of the immigration in Central America. It explains how citizens from the Northern Triangle are still traveling north in large numbers.

“Nicaragua Priest Injured in Acid Attack.” BBC News. 6 December 2018. Accessed 3 January 2019. [www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46466278](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46466278).

This article produced by BBC News recounts the growing violence witnessed in the region of the Northern Triangle. It specifically recounts the devastating acid attack that injured a Catholic priest.

“Northern Triangle Launches Operation against Gangs.” Dialogo Americas. 2 January 2019. Accessed 14 January 2019. [dialogo-americas.com/en/articles/northern-triangle-launches-operation-against-gangs](http://dialogo-americas.com/en/articles/northern-triangle-launches-operation-against-gangs).

This source talks about what the region as a whole is doing to counteract gang violence. Government forces are focusing on finding shops and business taking parts in criminal networks.

O’Grady, Mary Anastasia. “Opinion | Guatemala Gives the U.N. the Boot.” Wall Street Journal. 13 January 2019. Accessed 23 January 2019. [www.wsj.com/articles/guatemala-gives-the-u-n-the-boot-11547411965](http://www.wsj.com/articles/guatemala-gives-the-u-n-the-boot-11547411965).

This source discusses how it looks as if Guatemala is not welcoming help from the U.N. It discusses the complexity of the issue and how human rights organizations are struggling to intervene.

“Resettlement Needs Set to Rise to 1.4 Million People in 2019, UN Refugee Agency Reports.” UN News. 25 June 2018. Accessed 27 December 2018. [news.un.org/en/story/2018/06/1012972](http://news.un.org/en/story/2018/06/1012972)

This source talks about the strain that resettlement has on countries taking in refugees. It gives statistics for the rising costs caused by immigration.

Sexton, Renard. “How Guatemala Achieved What Was Once Thought Impossible: Major Reductions in Homicides.” Washington Post. 13 November 2018. Accessed 23 January 2018. [www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/11/13/central-americans-are-fleeing-violence-guatemalas-judicial-reform-model-could-help/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.71c1a9cdæ01](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/11/13/central-americans-are-fleeing-violence-guatemalas-judicial-reform-model-could-help/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.71c1a9cdæ01).

This discusses positive trends in Guatemala. It explains how the country has been able to lower its rates of violence.

“The Northern Triangle Is Becoming Less Murderous,” The Economist, 8 December 2018, accessed 23 January 2019, [www.economist.com/the-americas/2018/12/08/the-northern-triangle-is-becoming-less-murderous](http://www.economist.com/the-americas/2018/12/08/the-northern-triangle-is-becoming-less-murderous).

This source speaks further about how the conflict and violence has been diminishing throughout the Northern Triangle. It cites the high demand for drugs by the U.S. has been a large part of the violence in the past.

## Topic B

### UN Sources

Mlambo-Ngcuka, Phumzile. “Message from Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.” UN Women. 25 November 2018. [caribbean.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2018/11/statement-ed-phumzile-mlambo-ngcuka-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women](http://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2018/11/statement-ed-phumzile-mlambo-ngcuka-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women).

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka outlines popular hashtag movements around the globe and encourages the continuation of these movements to decrease

gendered violence.

## Non-UN Sources

Associated Press, "Tijuana, Mexico, Declares Migrant 'Humanitarian Crisis.'" NBC News. 24 November 2018. [www.nbcnews.com/news/world/tijuana-mexico-declares-migrant-humanitarian-crisis-n939591](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/tijuana-mexico-declares-migrant-humanitarian-crisis-n939591).

*Informs Tijuana mayor asking United Nations for aid in newly dubbed humanitarian crisis.*

Averbuch, Maya and Kirk Semple. "With U.S. Soil Achingly Close, Decision Time For Caravan Migrants." *The New York Times*. 3 December 2018. [www.nytimes.com/2018/12/03/world/americas/migrant-caravans-tijuana.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/03/world/americas/migrant-caravans-tijuana.html)

*Provides anecdotal analysis of the options migrants have when they arrive in Mexico.*

Carlsen, Laura. "Latin America's Women-Led Movements and New Feminisms." *Alternatives International Journal*. 1 May 2017. [www.alterinter.org/spip.php?article4587](http://www.alterinter.org/spip.php?article4587).

*Describes the rise of feminism in Latin America and what that means for the region's people.*

"Charter Of The Organization Of American States." Organization of American States. 7 February 1967. [www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/docs/inter\\_amERICAN\\_treaties\\_A-41\\_charter\\_OAS.pdf](http://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/docs/inter_amERICAN_treaties_A-41_charter_OAS.pdf).

*Outlines the purpose and mission of the Organization of American States.*

Driver, Alice. "An Intimate Look at Life Inside the Migrant Caravan." *Time*. 13 November 2018. [time.com/longform/migrant-caravan-mexico/](http://time.com/longform/migrant-caravan-mexico/).

*An analysis of the life of Central American migrants outside the United States border, including the lives of women and children.*

"Global Compact For Migration." International Organization for Migration. 2019. [www.iom.int/global-compact-migration](http://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration).

*Outlines the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration*

Gonzalez, Daniel and Rafael Carranza. "US Border Agents Fire Tear Gas As Some Migrants Protesting Slow Asylum Process Try To Breach Fence." *USA Today*. 26 November 2018. [www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/11/25/immigrant-caravan-us-agents-fire-tear-gas-slow-migrants/2110267002/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/11/25/immigrant-caravan-us-agents-fire-tear-gas-slow-migrants/2110267002/).

*Description of the United States' response to migrants protesting at the border, and troop's retaliation of tear gas.*

Londono, Ernesto. "Bolsonaro Pulls Brazil From U.N. Migration Accord." *The New York Times*. 9 January 2019. [www.nytimes.com/2019/01/09/world/americas/bolsonaro-brazil-migration-accord.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/09/world/americas/bolsonaro-brazil-migration-accord.html).

*Detailing Brazil President's decision to remove itself from the first U.N. accord to address international migration.*

"Migrant Caravan: What Is It And Why Does It Matter?" *BBC News*. 26 November 2018. [www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45951782](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-45951782).

*An in-depth description of the caravan situation, including descriptions of the journey, what migrants face, and various responses to the situation.*

Minder, Raphael, Yonette Joseph, and Iliana Magra. "Marching to End Violence Against Women." *The New York Times*. 25 No-

vember 2018. [www.nytimes.com/2018/11/25/world/international-day-violence-against-women.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/25/world/international-day-violence-against-women.html).  
*A demonstration of a women's movement on International Day to End Violence Against Women, with the purpose of empowering women and spreading awareness of gendered violence.*

Plevin, Rebecca. "Migrants Makeshift Shelter in Tijuana Short on Bathrooms, Food, Many Say." *USA Today*, 18 November 2018.  
[www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/11/16/migrant-caravan-few-bathrooms-little-food-no-humanitarian-crisis/2034094002/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/11/16/migrant-caravan-few-bathrooms-little-food-no-humanitarian-crisis/2034094002/).

*Outlines the struggles Tijuana is facing in accommodating the large influx of migrants camped in its boundaries.*

Rodriguez, Jesus. "Caravan Women Launch Hunger Strike, Putting Pressure on U.S. and Mexico." *Politico*. 29 November 2018.  
[www.politico.com/story/2018/11/29/migrant-caravan-hunger-strike-1030649](http://www.politico.com/story/2018/11/29/migrant-caravan-hunger-strike-1030649).  
*Regarding the situation of women in migrant caravans, women have begun to strike in protest of the slow process to apply for asylum.*

The National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN) Conference is a project of the International Model United Nations Association (IMUNA), a non-profit organization formally associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI). IMUNA is dedicated to promoting global issues education through simulation.

© 2019 International Model United Nations Association, Inc.

All Rights Reserved.

