

CELMUN XIX



**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL
UNHRC**

Handbook

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Topic a) Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of domestic violence.

The Human Rights Council is a body made to reinforce the protection of human rights. In it, the topics related to important human right issues can be addressed with the objective of making recommendations and providing assistance to governments. It is made up of 47 United Nations Member States, which are elected through the United Nations General Assembly.

In the past two decades, the United Nations General Assembly has had numerous resolutions on violence against women, some focused on domestic violence due to its recognition as a violation of human rights, specifically addressing three primary ways that domestic violence violates human rights: as a violation of the right to life a security of person, as a violation of the right to equality, and as a violation of the prohibition against torture.

Domestic violence is aggressive behavior within the home aimed at partners, siblings, children or elders. There are 5 forms of domestic violence: physical violence, sexual violence, economic control, psychological assault and emotional abuse.

Physical violence involves the use of physical force against another. It may include hitting, shoving, grabbing, biting, restraining, choking, burning, weapon assault, etc. It often results in the victim requiring medical attention.

Sexual violence involves the violation of an individual's bodily integrity, including coercing sexual contact, rape, and prostitution, as well as sexual harassment, including treating someone in a sexually demeaning manner or any other conduct of a sexual nature. It may also include behavior, which limits reproductive rights.

Psychological abuse is the act of intimidation, threats of harm, and isolation such as damaging property, constant supervision, controlling what the victim does or says, misusing spiritual or religious beliefs to manipulate and gain control over someone.

Emotional abuse involves undermining and individual's sense of self-worth, for instance, constant harsh criticism, name-calling, embarrassing, humiliating, mocking, etc.

Economic abuse involves making the victim financially dependent on the abuser, banning the victim from working or education, controlling the financial resources.

Psychological issues are involved in the cause of domestic violence, and there are two emotional dynamics that influence on domestic violence. One involves a destructive thought process that is experienced by abusers, it can be directed towards both themselves and their partners. The other factor or dynamic involves a damaging illusion of connection between the abuser and the victim, which produces a sense that another person can make you complete and is responsible for your happiness.

Physical violence is typically accompanied by emotional or psychological abuse that can lead to various consequences for victims, like anxiety, depression, symptoms of post-traumatic-stress-disorder (PTSD), antisocial behavior, suicidal behavior, low self-esteem, inability to trust others, fear of intimacy, emotional detachment, sleep disturbances, etc. Children that witness domestic violence in their families may suffer a range of behavioral and emotional disturbances, and can also be associated with committing or being a victim of violence later in life.

A global prevalence figures indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experiences either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. 30% of women report that they have experienced physical or sexual violence when being in a relationship. 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner. Domestic violence is the single greatest cause of injury to women.

Domestic violence is mostly inflicted by men towards women, and child sexual abuse affects both boys and girls. International studies reveal that approximately 20% of women and 5-10% of men report being victims of sexual violence as children. About 27% of women and 11% of men in the U.S. have experienced some form of domestic violence.

Surveys from the DHS (Demographic and Health Surveys) in Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Haiti, India, Nicaragua, Peru and Zambia, collected comprehensive demographic and health from women between the ages of 15 to 49. The percentages of women who said an intimate partner had ever abused them ranged from 48% in Zambia and 44% in Colombia to 18% in Cambodia and 19% in India.

The EDV Global Foundation is a charity that is trying to find new efficient ways to eliminate and reduce domestic violence, and even though it is based in the UK, it

focuses on eradicating domestic violence worldwide. There are many other foundations and organizations that target the elimination of domestic violence, but most of them are focused on domestic violence against women and only that. There is a project called *Stop Violence Against Women* of the Advocates for Human Rights, which monitors domestic violence laws all around the world.

Leading Questions:

1. What are the statistics of domestic violence against women in your country?
2. What are the statistics of domestic violence against men in your country?
3. What help is available in your country for domestic abuse victims?
4. How can your delegation help in globally abolishing all forms of domestic violence?
5. What can be done to totally erase domestic violence?
6. How does domestic violence affect society in your country?
7. What happens to victims after they report domestic violence?
8. What are the statistics of domestic violence against children in your country?
9. How does domestic abuse affect a victim's health?
10. What are the forms of domestic violence that are legally allowed in your country?

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Topic b) The protection of people with mental illness and the improvement of mental health care

Mental health is not only being free of disease, but rather a condition of complete mental well-being. The ability of individuals to cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively, recognize their abilities, and make a contribution to their communities are how the World Health Organization (WHO) seen the concept of mental health.

The spectrum of mental health is extremely wide; it goes from severe mental health problems- such as schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, bipolar disorder, severe depression, severe dementia or some other forms of personality disorder- to some milder conditions like moderate depression or anxiety.

The United Nations adopted various principles for the protection of people with mental illness and for the improvement of mental health care in 1991. These were elaborated to cover the basic rights and freedoms of people with mental illness that must be secured. The right to mental health provides the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognizes some of the measures states should take to accomplish the fulfillment of this right.

There are many ways people with mental illnesses are treated in that prevent them from exploiting many of their basic human rights. It is not an exaggeration when it is pointed out how little attention is paid to them. Some people are not able to contribute to economic property because of ill health. The mistake of dooming people to poverty because they are too ill to work has lead organizations to believe care must be taken to ensure that people with mental health problems are not coerced into work and that the appropriate help is given to whom work is not a realistic option.

Good mental health is required for a good quality of life, and a good quality of life is required too for a good mental health. Impact on mental health must be a min consideration for all action initiated with the purpose of bringing benefits to the quality of life of citizens.

It is estimated that one in four people has a mental illness at some point in their lives. Around 450 million people are currently suffering from such conditions, placing mental disorders among the leading causes of health illness and disability worldwide.

However, nearly two-thirds of people that have a mental illness never get professional help. The causes of this are mostly discrimination and neglect. There is neglect when people do not understand and decide to ignore a mental illness; it's a lack of information, and the fact that more than 40% of countries have no mental health policy and over 30% have no mental health program. Also, around 25% of countries have no mental health legislation.

Depression is the most common mental illness, and although it is treatable, a lot of people do not seek professional help. Depression is very serious because it interferes with daily life and causes pain for the individual as well as people around them. Most likely, depression is caused by a combination of genetic, biological, environmental, and psychological factors. 350 million people worldwide suffer from depression. Even though women are more likely to be diagnosed with depression than men, both are equally important and should be taken care of the same way.

Leading Questions:

1. How many people have severe mental illness in your country?
2. How can your country contribute to the improvement of mental health care worldwide?
3. What is being done in your country to improve mental health care?
4. What are the most common mental illnesses in your country?
5. How many mentally ill people are there in your country?
6. How can your delegation spread the recognition of mental illnesses?
7. How can your delegation encourage mentally ill people to get professional help?
8. What is your country's posture on mental health? Are there mental health policy, program and/or legislation?
9. Where can people get professional help to treat their mental illnesses?
10. What are the main causes, consequences and risks of mental illnesses in your country?

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