



THE GLOBAL UNITION 2014 PRESENTS :
THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
UNDER THE SECRETARY
GENERAL'S CAMPAIGN :
UNITE TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN.

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UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CAMPAIGN

In July 2012 the Secretary-General's *UNiTE to End Violence against Women* campaign proclaimed every 25th of the month as Orange Day. Initiated and led by the UNiTE campaign's Global Youth Network, worldwide activities implemented on this day by UN country offices and civil society organizations strive to highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls, not only once a year, on 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), but every month.

In 2013, the UNiTE campaign focused its Orange Days on highlighting recommendations of the agreed conclusions of the 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57), focused on the theme of the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. Orange Day highlighted issues including safe schools, safe work places and cyber space as a safe space for women and girls. Activities culminated in a call to 'Orange the World in 16 Days' from November 25 and throughout the 16 Days of Activism. The Call resulted in 'orange activities' in over 50 countries and over 76 million people being reached through social media.

In 2014, Orange Day continues to spark actions around the world on specific themes and issues towards ending all forms of violence against women and girls.

The committee shall function under the UniTE campaign by the Secretary General in order to discuss the ongoing atrocities against women all over the world and shall look for solutions to curb the heinous crimes and stop the gender-bias.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

WORKING OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an international organisation functioning under the United Nations, the members of which are elected by the majority of members of the General Assembly of the United Nations through direct and secret ballot. The General Assembly takes into account the candidate States' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.

The UNHRC is the successor to the UN Commission on Human Rights, and is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly. It is funded from the United Nations regular budget and from voluntary contributions from Member States, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and individuals.

Since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, promoting and encouraging respect for human rights for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion, as stipulated in the United Nations Charter, has been one of the fundamental goals of the organization. The UNHRC are tasked with mainstreaming human rights within the United Nations to ensure that peace and security, development, and human rights, the three essential pillars of the United Nations system are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

The UNHRC is mandated to promote and protect human rights for all, and leads global human rights efforts, speaks out objectively in the face of human rights violations worldwide. It provides a forum for identifying, highlighting and developing responses to today's human rights challenges, and acts as the platform for human rights research, education, public information, and advocacy activities in the United Nations system. Since Governments have the primary responsibility to protect human rights, the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provides assistance to Governments, such as expertise and technical training in the areas of administration of justice, legislative reform, and electoral process, to help implement international human rights standards on the ground.

MANDATE

The resolution creating the Council gave it the following main responsibilities:

- To promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner;
- To promote human rights education and learning, advisory services, technical assistance, and capacity building;
- To serve as a forum for dialogue on thematic issues on all human rights;
- To make recommendations to the UN General Assembly for the further development of international law in the field of human rights; and

- To contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, toward the prevention of human rights violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies.

The resolution requires that the Council's work "shall be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation with a view to enhance the promotion and protection of all human rights. . ."

MEMBERSHIP

When voting for Members of the Council, Member States must take into consideration a candidates' contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights. Upon election, new Members commit themselves to cooperating with the Council and to upholding the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights. Candidates to the Council also submit voluntary pledges and commitments with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. The regions represented are as follows:

1. African States.
2. Asia-Pacific States .
3. Latin American and Caribbean States.
4. Western European and other States .
5. Eastern European States .

WORKING OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The method of work focuses on three major dimensions: standard-setting, monitoring, and implementation on the ground. The UNHRC works to offer the best expertise, and substantive and secretariat support to the different United Nations human rights bodies as they discharge their standard-setting and monitoring duties. Its main focus is to help member states meet their human rights obligations through dialogue, capacity building, and technical assistance.

An example of the standard-setting and monitoring dimensions of the work done by the UNHRC is the legal research and secretariat support it provides to the core human rights treaty bodies. These committees of independent experts are mandated to monitor State parties' compliance with their treaty obligations. They meet regularly to examine reports from State parties and issue their recommendations.

The UNHRC works to ensure the implementation of international human rights standards on the ground through greater country engagement and its field presences. This is how implementation on ground is ensured. Field offices play an essential role in identifying, highlighting, and developing responses to human rights challenges, in close collaboration with governments, the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, and members of civil society. Among these responses are monitoring human rights situations on the ground and implementing projects, such as technical trainings and support in the areas of administration of justice, legislative reform, human rights treaty ratification, and human rights education, designed in cooperation with member States.

The UNHRC can also make recommendations to the General Assembly for further development of international law in the field of human rights.

RELEVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

DEFINITION : Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law, in the forms of treaties, customary international law , general principles and other sources of international law. International human rights law lays down obligations of Governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

HISTORY : During World War II, a major genocide was carried out by Adolf Hitler and the German Nazis working under him when an approximate number of 6 million Jews were tortured and killed in a program of systematic state-sponsored murder called the Holocaust. The merciless slaughter of the Jewish population left the international community in shock. The world then realized the importance and necessity for Human Rights in order to prevent such a massacre from occurring again in the future.

The atrocities committed during the Second World War led the United Nations General Assembly to adopt The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.

RELEVANCE : The UDHR urges member nations to promote a number of human, civil, economic and social rights, and is the first international legal effort to limit the behaviour of states and press upon them their duties to their citizens. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and The International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) are the two other major international instruments that protect the human rights of people all over the world which have achieved broad international consensus.

The world has been a witness of the disasters that have taken place in the course of history when human rights were disregarded and not granted their due importance. Human rights today protect people from exploitation by granting them basic moral rights which are inherent to every individual. It is the duty of each State to take measures to protect the human rights of each of its citizens as these rights make people aware and help them to fight the crime, terror and violence rampant today against themselves and society.

RELEVANCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

"Break the silence. When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act."

-Ban Ki-moon, Secretary – General, United Nations Organisation.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) requires that countries party to the Convention take all appropriate steps to end violence. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948, enshrines "the equal rights of men and women" and addressed both the equality and equity issues. Unite to End Violence Against Women, United Nations secretary General's campaign that aims at removing all kinds of violence against women has been in action since 2008. However, the continued prevalence of violence against women and girls demonstrates that this global pandemic of alarming proportions is yet to be tackled with all the necessary political commitment, action and resources. Over 80 percent of Ethiopian Women and fifty percent of Ethiopian men believe that beating ones' wife could be justified under certain circumstances. Women and girls across the world still suffer harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and early marriage. More than 60 million girls world wide are not in school, 20 million in Africa undergo female genital mutilation and 80 percent of girls in rural Africa don't have access to education. Female foetuses are aborted and baby girls killed after birth, leading to an appallingly skewed sex ratio. Many of those who survive face discrimination, prejudice, violence and neglect all their lives, as single or married women in India. Women in Middle Eastern society have been victims of ill treatment, humiliation, torture, and exploitation for as long as written records are available. Indeed, it is not a new phenomenon. Iran, Cuba, China, Russia, Sudan, North Korea and Zimbabwe have worst records in female trafficking. What happened to our shouts for human rights? Who talks about equality in today's world? Nothing is as easy as said than done, they say. True, that. These facts prove that mere campaigning is not enough. One must act. And that is exactly wherein the challenge lies. The United Nations Human Rights Council is expected to solve international crises that affect women across the world. From sexual harassment to domestic violence, UNHRC shall deal with it all.

In spite of The United Nations Secretary General Campaigning for human rights, the world is not affected. In spite of a campaign being conducted in full swing, atrocities against women are committed. Women are sexually harassed. Girls are brutally raped. House wives are beaten up at home. If the 2014 modern day world is this unfortunate for women, it is time for introspection. There is never any excuse for any form of abuse against women. It is a crime and an abomination.

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

Human trafficking is the trade in humans, most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others; or for the extraction of organs or tissues, including surrogacy and ova removal; or for providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage. Human trafficking can occur within a country or trans-nationally. Human trafficking is a crime against the person because of the violation of the victim's rights of movement through coercion and because of their commercial exploitation. Human trafficking is the trade in people, and does not necessarily involve the movement of the person from one place to another.

Human trafficking or trafficking in persons is defined by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons as 'the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs'. Gender inequalities play a vital role in the process of human trafficking. Women and girls are more prone to trafficking, especially for sexual exploitation, because of social norms that marginalize their value and status in society. Women make up two thirds of the world's human trafficking victims. The vast majority of these female victims are young women who are lured with false promises of employment and then raped, drugged, imprisoned, beaten or threatened with violence, have debt imposed on them, have their passport confiscated and/or are blackmailed.

Prosecution of human traffickers is rare, and the relatively high reward-to-risk ratio makes it particularly profitable. Traffickers include a wide variety of criminals, including individual pimps, family operations, small business, decentralized criminal networks and international organized criminal operations. Traffickers include those who recruit, transport, harbour, obtain, and exploit victims, often using force, threats, lies, or other physical and psychological methods of control. Often the traffickers and their victims share the same national, ethnic, or cultural background, allowing the trafficker to better understand and exploit the vulnerabilities of their victims.

As with other forms of organized crime, trafficking has globalized. Traffickers use explicit sites and underground sites to market, recruit, sell, and exploit females. Groups formerly active in specific routes or regions have expanded the geographical scope of their activities to explore new markets. Some have merged or formed cooperative relationships, expanding their geographical reach and range of criminal activities. Trafficking victims have become another commodity in a larger realm of criminal commerce involving other commodities, such as narcotic drugs and firearms or weapons and money laundering, which generates illicit revenue and reduces risks for traffickers.

Corrupt and inadequately trained police officers can be complicit in sex trafficking and/or commit violence against sex workers, including sex trafficked victims. Poor implementation, enforcement and execution of laws facilitate human trafficking, therefore making it a low risk and high reward crime. Sometimes situations of human trafficking are mistaken for situations of migrant smuggling; this can result in inappropriate and inadequate sentences applied to crimes. Another potential obstacle to securing convictions may also be corruption. Further, prosecutions are not always successful because of the unwillingness of victims to cooperate with the criminal justice system where they have been threatened and intimidated by traffickers.

FACTORS INFLUENCING TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

Many factors compel women to seek employment outside their home country. It is usually a combination of factors that push women and girls into situations in which they are exploited and become victims of trafficking. The various factors that contribute to trafficking are sometimes categorized as "supply side" factors, such as the feminization of poverty, and "demand side" factors, such as weak border controls in destination countries.

While this analysis is useful in explaining the complex nature of trafficking, the factors that play a role in trafficking are actually interdependent and interconnected. Some factors, such as military conflict, do not fit neatly into either the "demand" or "supply" side of trafficking, but nevertheless have contributed to this problem in some regions. For example, internal conflicts force people to leave their home country, which may encourage trafficking across borders. On the other hand, an increase in military personnel in a specific region also increases the "demand" for women to be brought from outside to work in the commercial sex industry.

Effective strategies to eliminate trafficking necessarily involve addressing the multiple factors that contribute to trafficking in women.

ECONOMIC FACTORS :

At its core, trafficking is a result of women's unequal economic status. Of the world's poor, a large portion are women. The number of women living in poverty has also increased disproportionately to the number of men. Women, more frequently than men, have the additional economic burden of caring for children. Women also face discrimination that limits their employment opportunities. In the employment setting, women are often the first fired and last hired. Women also disproportionately experience sexual harassment in the workplace. This situation forces many women to look abroad for work and makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation.

Women's lower economic status is worse in countries undergoing economic transition. All of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States are experiencing dramatic economic and political transitions as they have moved from centralized economies to free market systems. While there is tremendous variation in how individual countries in this region have experienced the transition, women have been negatively impacted by high unemployment rates and the loss of social programs that existed in the past. For many women in post-Soviet countries, the transition has meant they are less economically independent than they were previously.

The economic disparities that exist both within and between countries are another factor that promotes trafficking. Trafficking takes place from low-income countries to high-income countries, where the demand for cheap and low status labor exists. Typically, traffickers target women and girls who are economically disadvantaged in their home country or region and transport them to wealthier countries or regions that can support the commercial sex industry.

Finally, trafficking in women has proven to be a lucrative business that has become a significant source of income for organized crime enterprises. By some estimates, trafficking is the fastest growing source of profits for organized crime rings. Immigrant smuggling, which includes trafficking, is estimated to generate gross earnings of between five and seven billion USD annually. From, Summary of the Report of the Rapporteur. International cooperation in fighting illegal immigration networks, IOM Seminar on International Responses to Trafficking in Migrants and the Safeguarding of Migrant Rights (1994). According to a 2000 report by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), "In most of the major recent trafficking cases in the United States, the traffickers made anywhere from one to eight million [USD] in a period ranging from one to six years."

Traffickers profit from the "sale" of the trafficking victim and also exploit the women themselves. The CIA also notes, "Traffickers typically charge the women inflated prices for securing the alleged jobs, travel documentation, transportation, lodging, meals, and incidentals. To increase profits, the women are kept in poor, crowded conditions. It is also common for trafficked women to be charged to buy their passports back. The fee is usually around USD \$900 for women from the Newly Independent States and Central Europe."

DEMAND FOR WOMEN'S SEXUAL SERVICES:

Much of the work being carried out internationally to combat trafficking focuses on the need to address the unequal economic relations between men and women. Preventative work usually involves either reform of the political system, such as legislation and ending government corruption, and education campaigns directed at women and girls who might be at risk for trafficking. Some women's advocates, however, argue that the missing dimension to effectively address trafficking is male demand for women's sexual services.

The trafficking of women into the commercial sex industry is primarily to countries in which prostitution and the provision of other sexual services are either tolerated or legal. An article by Sari Kouvo of the Department of Law, University of Göteborg, Sweden explains "Trafficking in women and children is connected to the existence of legal, semi-legal and illegal sex markets, and the existence of these sex

markets is directly connected to the fact that there are men who are willing to pay for sex (in all its varied and exploitable forms)." Ms. Kouvo also maintains that anti-trafficking initiatives in Europe rarely address the demand for sexual services, "Although many European countries are seemingly upset with the increasing trafficking in women, few are prepared to make these links, and take political action aimed at questioning the demand side, i.e. the behavior of potential customers (men). Although it is evident that without men buying sex there would be no basis for trafficking and sexual exploitation of women." From *The Swedish Approach to Prostitution*.

The issue of male demand for sexual services often becomes confused with debate over the legitimacy of prostitution as a form of work. In brief, some women's activists view prostitution, in any form, as men's sexual exploitation of women that is always harmful. Other advocates take the approach that the harmful effects of prostitution are related to the fact that it is often stigmatized and relegated to the informal sector, where women cannot receive the protection of labor codes. In her article, *Regulating the Global Brothel*, Leah Platt argues that women who chose to travel to work as prostitutes are part of a larger phenomenon of the "feminization of migration" and that women who decide to sell sexual services should be afforded the same basic protections as they would in other forms of work.

Regardless of the approach one takes to prostitution in general, comprehensive policies that address the demand for sexual services are necessary. Kvinnoforum, a Swedish Women's Forum that operates Q-Web, a women's network, created a resource manual for NGOs working on the issue of trafficking titled *A Resource Book for Working against Trafficking in Women and Girls-Baltic Sea Region*. The Resource Book includes research which found that the demand for sexual services is "an issue of attitudes that . . . vary in its expression in different parts of the world - but that can be addressed." The Kvinnoforum study suggests that general educational and public awareness programs may be effective in changing male attitudes about women and commercial sex work and in protecting potential victims of trafficking.

THE SEARCH FOR A BETTER LIFE AND DESIRE TO TRAVEL :

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, new opportunities to travel, study and work abroad arose for women living in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Poverty as well as other factors, such as a desire to travel, compel many women to look abroad in search of better lives. Many women attempt to explore the world through employment agencies or study abroad programs, without knowing whether the agencies are legitimate. While it is possible in some countries to verify the legitimacy of an educational or employment agency, often through hotline services, non-governmental organizations have determined that there is still a need for basic information about safe employment or travel opportunities.

Understanding that women have equal rights to travel where they wish, some advocacy organizations have developed guidelines to assist women who have decided to travel in search of new opportunities. For example, a set of guidelines, *Things to Think About for Women and Girls Who Decide to Work Abroad*, were designed by La Strada, Bulgaria to help women and girls protect themselves and remain safe when they leave their home country. The U.S. government has also created a brochure titled, *Be*

Smart, Be Safe, which includes information for women on how they can protect themselves when they travel to and work in the U.S.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE :

Domestic violence is one of the most widespread violations of women's rights in the world. Due to limited legal mechanisms and support for abused women in many communities, women often see few opportunities to end the abuse. Research suggests that victims of domestic violence may also be at risk to become victims of trafficking when they seek work abroad in order to leave the abusive situation. Research conducted in Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights on Trafficking in Women in Moldova and Ukraine identified domestic violence as a key factor that influences women's decisions to leave home for work. A report by Save the Children on Child Trafficking in Albania confirms these findings. The following case studies, from the Save the Children report, illustrate how women who are subjected to violence are vulnerable to being trafficked.

ORGANIZED CRIME :

Organized crime rings operate throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States and are connected to organized crime throughout the world. Organized crime in the region includes activities such as money laundering, racketeering, extortion, bribery of public officials, trafficking of narcotics and weapons and trafficking of women and children. According to the United Nations Center for International Crime Prevention, "Over the last decades, smuggling and trafficking have become a major activity and source of income of criminal organizations, at the national and international levels. Different criminal networks, both local and transnational, are facilitating and/or managing smuggling and sexual exploitation, while making substantial profits. . . . An ever increasing networking among different organized crime groups provides for economies of scale and for full control of the smuggling-trafficking sequence; from smuggling to the control of sex markets." From Global Program against Trafficking in Human Beings: an outline for action, Center for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (1999).

The Center for International Crime Prevention also points out that the development of effective counter-trafficking strategies, at both the national and international levels, is hindered by the lack of research on the "overview of the size, nature and development of organized crime involvement [in trafficking]." The fact that criminal enterprises conduct much of their recruitment activities through legitimate front businesses, for example newspaper advertising, local travel agencies or visa services, makes it difficult to track who is conducting the illegal activity. Furthermore, local recruiters may often be acquaintances or family members (frequently they are women who were once victims of trafficking themselves) who have little information about the structure of the larger criminal enterprise. Thus, because of the difficulties in gathering high-level criminals, people with low-level involvement in trafficking are most often prosecuted.

The transnational and highly-organized criminal dimensions of trafficking make it unique from other forms of violence against women. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that advocate for women's rights, therefore, must approach the problem of trafficking with an understanding of the potential danger involved, the possibility of government complicity in trafficking and the need to cooperate extensively with NGOs in other countries.

CONFLICT ZONES AND MILITARIZATION :

Internal conflict destabilizes a country's economy and disrupts social patterns. Conflict situations can force women to prostitute themselves in order to support their families. In some cases, women are forced into prostitution when rape is used as a weapon of war by enemy soldiers. Conflict and the resulting instability weaken border controls and facilitate the movement of women from country to country. High levels of corruption are also found in conflict zones where separatist regimes may be funded by such activities as kidnapping, trade in narcotics or trafficking in people.

Combat results in an increased military presence. The stationing of troops in both conflict and post-conflict areas is often followed by the development of the sex industry there. This phenomenon has been recognized around the world during every war. Victims of trafficking are sometimes delivered to brothels that serve military bases. Military involvement in trafficking and prostitution ranges from ignoring the problem and failing to discipline troops to actual regulation of the sex trade. As Isabelle Talleyrand explains in *Military Prostitution: How the Authorities Worldwide Aid and Abet International Trafficking in Women* the military's involvement in trafficking includes "regulation of the prostitution industry in "officially approved brothels," ensuring a steady supply of available military prostitutes, acting as procurers, keeping track of the prostitutes that had contracted sexually transmitted diseases (with the intention of protecting the servicemen and not for the purpose of informing the prostitutes), and in some instances, government to government agreements that keep track of prostitutes through identification."

In December 2001, the international media reported on a United Nations investigation into whether members of the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF) in Bosnia directly participated in trafficking in women for forced prostitution. The Washington Post reported that among the various charges under investigation, two policemen with the peacekeeping forces were accused of recruiting Romanian women, purchasing false documents for them and selling the women to Bosnian brothel owners. Ultimately, the UN halted the investigation, and the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a statement that "no U.N. international police officers had been found to be involved in the trafficking of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES :

Trafficking in women persists, in part, due to the fact that many national governments neither control nor prevent the problem. Government policies and practices may actually facilitate trafficking. The connections between national government practices and trafficking vary. At one end of the continuum,

government inaction and lack of attention to the matter make it possible for trafficking to exist. At the other end, corrupt government officials may be actually involved in the trafficking process.

At a minimum, a government may lack legislation on trafficking or existing regulations may be out-dated and thus ineffective in addressing the problem, particularly in the case of trafficking perpetrated by transnational crime rings. Combating organized crime at this level requires sophisticated investigation, monitoring and prosecution procedures as well as constant cooperation with colleagues in other countries. Related to the lack of legislation, government agencies, especially those involved in law enforcement, border control and immigration must receive specific education and training to effectively work against trafficking. Many national governments do not provide this type of support for government servants. Likewise, many governments have not implemented national policies that coordinate the work of the various branches that deal with trafficking, including law enforcement, immigration and social welfare agencies. Many countries lack the capacity to respond to trafficking, either due to infrastructure weaknesses or lack of material resources.

In the middle of the continuum, a government's national immigration policy can inadvertently impact trafficking routes. Weak border controls and untrained immigration officials make it possible for victims of trafficking to be transported both through transit countries and to destination countries without detection. On the other hand, strict border controls and entry requirements limit the possibility of legal migration. In such situations, women seek out agencies that will aid them to travel, and the agencies themselves are often fronts for traffickers.

In extreme cases, individual government officials, such as border guards, police officers, court officials, participate in or benefit directly from trafficking. Government corruption may take the form of receiving bribes from traffickers or profits from the trafficking industry, cooperation with traffickers or refusing to provide trafficking victims with assistance. Non-governmental organizations have raised concerns about reports of government officials demanding bribes from trafficking victims in order to begin investigation, police colluding with traffickers to return women to brothels and of border guards assisting in the abduction of women. Strategies for fighting government corruption can include the creation of internal affairs departments within the government structure as well as prosecution of members of the government who are found to have been complicit in trafficking.

TYPES OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Victims trafficked into prostitution and pornography are usually involved in the most exploitive forms of commercial sex operations. Sex trafficking operations can be found in highly-visible venues such as street prostitution, as well as more underground systems such as closed-brothels that operate out of

residential homes. Sex trafficking also takes place in a variety of public and private locations such as massage parlours, spas, strip clubs and other fronts for prostitution. Victims may start off dancing or stripping in clubs and then be coerced into situations of prostitution and pornography.

Victims of trafficking are forced into various forms of commercial sexual exploitation including prostitution, pornography, stripping, live-sex shows, mail-order brides, military prostitution and sex tourism.

COMMERCIAL SEX TRADE

When an adult is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution—or maintained in prostitution through coercion, force, or deceit—that person is a victim of trafficking. The commercial sex trade can include street prostitution, massage parlours, escort services, strip clubs, and brothels.

SEX TOURISM

Generally, people who travel to engage in sexual activity with an adult prostitute are subject to prostitution laws of the destination country. When the sexual activity involves child prostitution, is non-consensual or involves sex trafficking, it is generally illegal, both in the participating country and sometimes in the individual's home country.

Sex tourism may be domestic, which involves travel within the same country, or transnational, which involves travel across national borders. Sex tourism is a multibillion dollar industry that supports an international workforce estimated to number in the millions that also benefits service industries such as the airline, taxi, restaurant and hotel industries.

Most sex tourism involves males and several countries have become preferred destinations for sex tourists. These include Morocco, Cambodia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands (particularly Amsterdam), Kenya, the Philippines, Colombia, Thailand, Cuba, and Indonesia (particularly Bali).

PORNOGRAPHY

Pornography is the explicit portrayal of sexual subject matter for the purpose of sexual arousal. Pornography may be presented in a variety of media, including books, magazines, postcards, photographs, sculpture, drawing, painting, animation, sound recording, film, video, and video games.

The term applies to the depiction of the act rather than the act itself, and so does not include live exhibitions like sex shows.

MAIL-ORDER BRIDE

A mail-order bride is a woman who lists herself in catalogues (online or otherwise) and is selected by men for marriage. In the twentieth century, the trend was towards women living in developing countries seeking men in more developed nations. In the twenty-first century, the trend is now based primarily on

internet-based meeting places which do not per se qualify as mail-order bride services. The majority of the women listed in the twentieth-century and twenty-first-century services are from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova. Thailand, China, and Philippines are countries where this practice is prevalent.

PROSTITUTION

Prostitution is the business or practice of engaging in sexual relations in exchange for payment or some other benefit. Prostitution is sometimes described as commercial sex.

Types of prostitution:

1. **Street:** Clients solicited on the street, park or other public places. Serviced in side streets, vehicles, or short stay premises
2. **Brothel:** Premises explicitly dedicated to providing sex. Better security than street. Often licensed by authorities
3. **Escort:** Client contacts sex worker by phone or via hotel staff. Most covert form of sex work. Relatively expensive because of low client turnover. Service provided at client's home or hotel room
4. **Private:** Client contacts sex worker by phone. Similar to escorts except services provided in sex worker's premises. A variant in London and other big cities is 'flat' prostitution—high cost services in rented, serviced, inner city units. United Kingdom, Europe, United States, and Australia. Sometimes doorway (see below) and street sex workers bring clients home.
5. **Club, pub, bar, karaoke bar, dance hall:** Clients solicited in alcohol vending venues and serviced on site or elsewhere Ubiquitous depending on types of male club available
6. **Other methods of solicitation:** Through various media including noticeboard and newspaper advertisements, 'sex worker catalogues' with mobile phone numbers, the internet via virtual brothels, etc. Services are delivered mostly in brothels and other indoor venues
7. **Massage parlour:** Premises ostensibly dedicated to providing massage, but a range of sexual services may be provided. In South East Asia similar arrangements may apply in barbershops .
8. **Beer girls:** Young women hired by major companies to promote and sell products in bars and clubs. Sexual services sold to supplement income. Lap dancing is a recent development involving erotic dancing at close quarters without sexual contact which these girls engage in.
9. **Street vendors and traders:** Ostensibly marketing rural produce or other goods but supplementing income with sexual services
10. **Opportunistic:** A person approached in a social venue may occasionally choose to charge for sexual favours if the client appears wealthy enough

11. **Femme libre:** Women, usually single or divorced, who exchange sexual services for gifts. The gifts are then converted to cash
12. **Individual arrangements:** The single mother who may have sex with her landlord in place of rent. Older sex workers who only deal with a small number of regular clients, by appointment. 'Kept' women. Concubines. The number of possible arrangements is vast
13. **Swingers' clubs:** Some swingers or couples sex clubs employ (undisclosed) sex workers if there is a shortage of female guests
14. **Geisha:** Women engaged primarily to provide social company, but sex may ensue
15. **'Sex for drugs':** Women providing fellatio for crack cocaine in crack houses.
16. **Survival sex:** A matter of degree, where starvation or other serious deprivation is imminent, particularly for dependants. Food or security may be the currency, rather than money
17. **Military prostitution:** This is practiced and enforced prostitution in areas near military bases or camp

HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORLDWIDE

BANGLADESH : Bangladesh is a source and transit country for women and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced prostitution. A significant share of Bangladesh's trafficking victims are men recruited for work overseas with fraudulent employment offers who are subsequently exploited. Girls – are trafficked within Bangladesh for commercial sexual exploitation. Women and

children from Bangladesh are also trafficked to India for commercial sexual exploitation. Women typically work as domestic servants; some find themselves in situations of forced labor or debt bondage where they face restrictions on their movements, non-payment of wages, threats, and physical or sexual abuse. Some Bangladeshi women working abroad are subsequently trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation. Bangladeshi children and adults are also trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and bonded labor. Recent reports indicate many brothel owners and pimps addict Bangladeshi girls to steroids, with devastating side effects, to make them more attractive to clients; the drug is reported to be used by 90 percent of females between 15 and 35 in Bangladeshi brothels.

GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS : Bangladesh does not have a comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation but prostitution, trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, or other immoral acts are covered in the Penal Code of 1860,²¹ the Suppression of Immoral Trafficking Act of 1933, the Children Act of 1974 and the Prevention of Repression against Women and Children Act of 2000 (as amended in 2003).

Complementary laws that tend to create a preventive environment and mechanism against human trafficking also exist, in particular, the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980, the Primary Education Act, 1990, and the Labour Act, 2006. The Penal Code prohibits procurement of a girl under the age of 18 to illicit intercourse with another person.²⁴ The Code also prohibits the selling, letting, hiring, or disposing of minors under the age of 18 for the purpose of prostitution, along with buying minors for the same purpose. In addition, the code prohibits abduction. The Bangladesh Constitution also prohibits forms of forced labor. The Factories Act of 1965, prohibits forced and underage labor and establishes an inspection system to enforce this.

The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act prohibits keeping a brothel or allowing premises to be used as brothels, soliciting for the purposes of prostitution, living on the money transacted in prostitution, procuring individuals for the purpose of prostitution, importing a female for the purpose of prostitution, and detaining a woman for the purpose of prostitution. The act also prohibits encouraging a girl under 18 to engage in prostitution.

As a part of the National Plan of Action against the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children including Trafficking (NPA SAECT), the government established mechanisms to regularly review the situation of trafficking in people and of programs to prevent child trafficking and punish the perpetrators.

The Bangladeshi government, consulted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is currently working to develop a National Anti Trafficking Strategic Plan for Action. In recent years, NGOs have recognized the importance of Muslim leaders in Bangladesh and have turned to religious leaders for help. Bangladesh has begun to encourage local Imams to speak out against trafficking in local gatherings and religious ceremonies in hopes of raising awareness on the issue. Local imams have begun to organize community advocacy groups as well as 'watchdog' organizations to try to prevent future instances of trafficking

NEPAL : Human trafficking in Nepal is a serious concern. Nepal is mainly a source country for women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. The Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) compiled by the US State Department rates Nepal as Tier 2, the explanation of which is “the government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so.” Nepali victims are trafficked within Nepal, to India, the Middle East, and other areas such as Malaysia and forced to become prostitutes, domestic servants, beggars, factory workers, mine workers, circus performers, child soldiers, and others. Sex trafficking is particularly rampant within Nepal and to India, with as many as 5,000-10,000 women and girls trafficked to India alone each year. Trafficking victims often are taken to locations within Nepal, often from rural areas to the urban centers. Mainly young girls and women are trafficked for sexual exploitation in places such as cabin/dance restaurants, massage parlors, and other places within tourism sector. However, these spaces also host many women who entered sex work voluntarily, and those who might have entered voluntarily but were later not allowed to leave and end up in slave-like conditions. The trafficking of girls from Nepal into India for forced prostitution is perhaps one of the busiest slave trafficking routes anywhere in the world, with estimated 5,000-10,000 Nepali women and girls trafficked to India each year. An estimated 100,000-200,000 Nepali trafficked persons are in India. Nepali girls are especially desirable as prostitutes in India because they are considered more attractive due to their lighter skin color, and because Nepali virgins are believed to be able to cure AIDS.[Voluntary prostitution in Nepal is neither legal nor illegal. Thousands of sex workers work in Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, and urban areas within Pokhara and Terai. There is no record of whether these workers voluntarily or involuntarily offer their services for money, but investigations have evidence of both within these areas. Sex workers can work anywhere from brothels to bars, in their homes, or on the streets. There are a number of massage parlors in Thamel, a tourist area of Kathmandu, where sex is also bought. Another form of prostitution is in cabin restaurants and dance bars where clients go and drink with girls. Afterwards, clients pick out a girl to go home with and pay her to have sexual encounters with them.

GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS : Although there are no laws in Nepal criminalizing sex work specifically, there are some laws that were enacted throughout the 1980s that criminalize trafficking within and outside of Nepal that are wrongfully used towards sex work. Many of these laws are sometimes interpreted to accuse sex workers as well, which comes from a lack of knowledge in the distinction between the sex trafficking scene and sex work. Sex work is a term used to refer to all aspects of the lawful and unlawful sex industries around the world. There are various forms of sex work, including physical and verbal forms. This distinction is one that is not truly understood; thus, many of the policies and laws enacted within Nepal against trafficking—many argue—should not be applied to sex work. Authorities and laws trying to stop true slavery—trafficking—get misapplied to sex workers, clients and others involved in the sex industry.

In 1986, the Traffic in Humans (Control) Act was passed in Nepal and was aimed at stopping trafficking in the form of prostitution. However, this act, like many others, proved to be ineffective, mainly due to the fact that the act was “largely aimed at criminalizing prostitution rather than curbing trafficking activities.”

HAITI : Haiti is a source, transit, and destination country women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Most of Haiti's trafficking cases consist of the estimated 150,000-500,000 children in domestic servitude in households throughout Haiti. In addition to experiencing forced labor, these children are vulnerable to beatings, sexual assaults, and other abuses by family members in the homes in which they are residing. Dismissed and runaway children from domestic servitude make up a significant proportion of the large population of street children who end up forced into prostitution, begging, or street crime by criminal gangs in Haiti. Children working in construction and agriculture are also vulnerable to forced labor. Children in some unscrupulous private and NGO-sponsored residential care centers are at a high risk of being placed in a situation of forced labor. Women and children living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps set up as a result of the 2010 earthquake were at an increased risk of sex trafficking and forced labor. Of the estimated 1.5 million Haitians that entered the camps following the earthquake, some 357,785 remain as of March 2013. There have been documented cases of Dominican women in forced prostitution in Haiti. Haitians are exploited in forced labor in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere in the Caribbean as well as the United States. The groups most at risk of trafficking were Haitians without documentation and those from the lowest income backgrounds, especially women and children. One Haitian government report estimated that the births of more than 10 percent of Haitians were not registered.

There have been incidents of foreigners engaged in the commercial sexual exploitation of Haitian children, including incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse reported by the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). There were also incidences of child sex tourism; in 2013 a U.S. citizen was convicted in the United States of engaging in child sex tourism at a residential facility in Haiti that provided shelter, food, clothing, and school tuition to Haitian children. Although a majority of the modern day slavery cases in Haiti are due to the practice of the restavek system, trafficking for sexual exploitation is widespread and a pressing issue in Haiti. In recent years, Haiti has become a magnet for sex tourists. Sex slavery includes the practices of coercion, forced prostitution, and trafficking for any sexual purposes. Sheldon Zhang defines sex trafficking as "migrants [who] are transported with the intent to perform sexual services...and in which the smuggling process is enabled through the use of force, fraud, or coercion." Most victims are trafficked for prostitution, but others are used for pornography and stripping. Children tend to be trafficked within their own countries, while young women may be trafficked internally or internationally, sometimes with the consent of their husbands or other family members.

GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS : The 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report has placed Haiti on the Tier 2 Watch list. The Tier 2 Watch List placement is given to countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards AND the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or significantly increasing. The provisions of the UN Trafficking Protocol, ratified by Haiti, still have no effect domestically because they have not been transposed into national law. Haiti does not have a law that specifically prohibits human trafficking and all of its forms. This results in a lack of formal protections for human trafficking victims, insufficient accountability for trafficking offenders and it does little to encourage victims to assist in the

investigation and prosecution of their own trafficking offenders. The absence of legislation, policies and laws criminalizing all forms of human trafficking severely limits the government's ability to prosecute trafficking offenders and protect victims.

The government took steps to legally address the issue of trafficking of women and children by submitting a bill to Parliament, in response to its ratification of the Palermo Protocol which required it. If the bill is passed into law it would make human trafficking in Haiti a criminal offense and consequently strengthen the government's ability to prosecute traffickers. However, this draft law is still pending in Parliament and has been since before the 2010 Haiti earthquake. In addition to the absence of a solid law, other impediments to combating human trafficking included widespread corruption, the lack of quick responses to cases with trafficking indicators, the slow pace of the judicial branch to resolve criminal cases, and scant funding for government.

SUDAN : Sudan is a source country for men, women, and children trafficked internally for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Sudan is also a transit and destination country for Ethiopian women trafficked abroad for domestic servitude. Sudanese women and girls are trafficked within the country, as well as possibly to Middle Eastern countries such as Qatar, for domestic servitude.

GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS : The government's anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts were negligible during the reporting period; it did not investigate or prosecute any suspected trafficking cases. Sudan is a large country with porous borders and destitute hinterlands; the national government has little ability to establish authority or a law enforcement presence in many regions. Sudan's criminal code does not prohibit all forms of trafficking in persons, though its Articles 162, 163, and 164, criminalize abduction, luring, and forced labor, respectively.

The Interim National Constitution prohibits slavery and forced labor. No trafficker has ever been prosecuted under these articles

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC : The Dominican Republic has the highest rate of human trafficking in the Caribbean. Dominican women and children are reportedly subjected to forced prostitution in their own country and throughout the Caribbean, Europe, South America, and the United States. Women from other countries are brought to the Dominican Republic for prostitution, and an unknown number may have subsequently become trafficking victims, even if they came voluntarily at first. Dominican women have been subjected to forced labor in the United States and Argentina. Most trafficked victims are sent to Western Europe, and some are sent to North America. Out of all areas in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic has the highest amount of trafficked persons; women are trafficked to Costa Rica and Panama as well as to Western Europe. There are over one thousand Dominican commercial sex workers in Spain and 3,675 in Switzerland.[Child sex tourism is a problem, particularly in coastal resort areas, with child sex tourists arriving year-round from various countries.

GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS : The Government of the Dominican Republic does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so. The government has not convicted any trafficking offenders, including officials possibly complicit in

trafficking, since 2007, although Dominican law prohibits all forms of trafficking through its comprehensive anti-trafficking Law 137-03, which prescribes penalties of up to 20 years' imprisonment. Results in the areas of victim protection, and trafficking prevention were also limited.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is unfortunately one of the scourges of our modern society, even if its origin may be debatable and have a long, both; cultural and historical background. It is a problem that affects most parts of societies worldwide, despite their religion, ethnic group or social system. Although in many cultures it might be considered as a form of discipline, the critical considerations (thus the legal framework) vary from one country to another, which is why this “practice” is still far from being entirely considered, thus controlled. The different social perspectives, the governments’ variation margins and the large number of effects, make out of this particular subject a very difficult question to solve. Over the past recent years, a dynamic classification process has been implemented to exhaustively explain each one of the factors involved in the apparition of this problem, such as: social groups’ search of domination, biographical anamnesis, and behavioural disorder patterns among others. The consequences may be as different and drastic as the causes; countless numbers of interdisciplinary groups formed by psychologists, public health specialists, social scientists and economists have all summed up efforts to establish theories to limit the damages inflicted by this pandemic phenomenon. Several different authors have tried to list a variety of violent actions that may be included on a large definition of what a “Domestic violence” case might be. In order to provide a delimitation of our subject, we could state then the following: domestic violence can be defined as any form of aggression committed in detriment of the physical, psychological or socio-cognitive integrity of one individual, by another in their intimal relation context (family, cohabitation, etc.) Considering that cases do not always point to an exclusive gender victim, there are various studies that have determined that there is a large body of cross-cultural evidence in different countries where women are subjected to domestic violence significantly more often than men and children 1994/45, adopted on 4 March 1994, decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur on violence against women, including its causes and consequences. The mandate was extended by the Commission on Human Rights in 2003, at its 59th session in resolution 2003/452. Also, in some large countries with a considerable level of multiculturalism, there is a general consensus that women are more often exposed to severe forms of cruelty and violence, they are as well more likely to be harmed by an abusive partner. Since women are then the most affected population, we will focus our study on this specific matter. The UNCHR sources have exposed: “The United Nations Commission on Human Rights in resolution.

In the same resolution the Commission on Human Rights: "Strongly condemning all acts of violence against women and girls and in this regard called, in accordance with the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State, and emphasized the duty of Governments to refrain from engaging in violence against women and to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women and to take appropriate and effective action concerning acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by armed groups or warring

factions, and to provide access to just and effective remedies and specialized, including medical, assistance to victims.

CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Abusers choose to behave violently to get what they want and gain control. Their behaviour often originates from a sense of entitlement which is often supported by sexist, racist, homophobic and other discriminatory attitudes. Domestic violence against women by men is 'caused' by the misuse of power and control within a context of male privilege. Male privilege operates on an individual and societal level to maintain a situation of male dominance, where men have power over women and children. In this way, domestic violence by men against women can be seen as a consequence of the inequalities between men and women, rooted in patriarchal traditions that encourage men to believe they are entitled to power and control over their partners.

1. Should all domestic violence be seen in the context of power relations?

No, not all domestic violence occurs within a context of traditional power relations. Ultimately, responsibility for the violence must lie with the perpetrator of that violence, despite any societal influences that we may draw on in order to understand the context of the behaviour.

2. Is domestic violence a consequence of things such as stress?

Domestic violence is learned intentional behaviour rather than the consequence of stress, individual pathology, substance use or a 'dysfunctional' relationship. Perpetrators of domestic violence frequently avoid taking responsibility for their behaviour, by blaming their violence on someone or something else, denying it took place at all or minimizing their behaviour.

Whilst responsibility for the actual violence is the perpetrators alone, there are belief systems in our society that perpetuate abusive attitudes and make it difficult for women and children to get help. These include:

- Blaming the victim for the violence
- Putting the 'family' before the safety of women and children
- Tolerating the use of violence
- Privileging men over women and children's needs
- Treating domestic violence as a private matter

Research shows that violent men are most likely to perpetrate violence in response to their own sexual jealousy and possessiveness; their demands for domestic services; and in order to demonstrate male authority. Some men also believe that sex is another type of domestic service that they can demand. Violent men will also typically justify or ignore their behaviour by:

- Minimising the violence eg, saying it was "just a slap" or "isn't that bad".
- Justifying the behaviour to themselves and blaming the victim.

- Denying the violence happened or refusing to talk about it and expecting the victim to just "move on". (Dobash & Dobash, 2000).

3. Can alcohol or drugs cause domestic violence?

Many people who drink too much or take drugs don't abuse their partners or family members. Likewise, abuse doesn't exclusively occur when an abuser is drunk or under the influence of drugs. Substance use isn't the underlying cause of domestic violence.

Abusers who use alcohol or drugs may use this as an excuse for their behaviour saying "I was drunk" or "I don't remember". Even if they genuinely don't remember what they did, it doesn't remove responsibility for their behaviour. The causes of domestic violence are far more deep rooted than simply being an effect of intoxication or alcohol/drug dependency.

If an abuser is alcohol/drug dependent, it is important that this is treated in tandem with addressing the violent behaviour. Addressing only one without the other is unlikely to prove successful.

Women experiencing domestic violence may also turn to alcohol or drugs as a form of escape from the violence. Sometimes abusers will use their partner's addiction as an excuse for violent behaviour, saying they have been provoked into using violence. Excuses such as these are used by the perpetrator to deflect responsibility from themselves and put the blame for the violence onto the victim. In these situations it is vitally important that women receive the support they need, but also, that the perpetrator is held accountable for their actions and that they are not excused because of the woman's behaviour.

A study of 336 convicted offenders of domestic violence, found that alcohol was a feature in 62% of offences and 48% of offenders were alcohol dependent (Gilchrist et al, 2003).

4. Is domestic violence caused by a lack of control?

Domestic violence is about gaining control, not a lack of control. If an abuser is careful about when, where and to whom they are abusive, then they are showing sufficient awareness and knowledge about their actions to indicate they are not 'out of control'. Abusers use violence and tactics of coercion as a way of exercising control and getting what they want.

5. Can domestic violence be caused by mental illness?

The vast majority of people with mental health problems do not abuse other people. However, there are a small number of people who are in mental distress who may behave abusively, though this may not be caused by the mental health problem itself. If an abuser is careful about when, where and to whom they are abusive then they are showing sufficient awareness and knowledge about their actions to indicate they are making choices about their behaviour. If an abuser is random and unpredictable, being abusive

to strangers as well as people they know (eg: in public and in the workplace), then mental illness may be a possibility. Even if it is, it still doesn't mean anyone must put up with abusive behaviour. In these situations, it is important that the safety of survivors is prioritised and that the person experiencing mental distress obtains the professional care they need.

FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence can take many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects, battery), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic deprivation. It can also mean endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, and harassment.

PHYSICAL :

Physical abuse is abuse involving contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm. It includes hitting, slapping, punching, choking, pushing, burning and other types of contact that result in physical injury to the victim. Acid attacks, also seen in domestic violence, occur when acid is thrown in anger or vengeance at the victims, usually at their faces, burning them, and damaging skin tissue, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. This can result in long term blindness and permanent scarring of the face and body.

Denying the victim needed medical care, depriving them of sleep or other necessary functions, forcing the victim to engage in drug or alcohol use against their will, or creating any physical harm are forms of physical abuse. It can also include inflicting physical injury onto other targets, such as children or pets, in order to cause emotional harm to the victim.

Both women and men have been killed as the result of domestic violence, but the rate is generally lower for men. For instance, in the United Kingdom, 37 percent of murdered women were killed by the intimate partner and for men, 6 percent were killed by an intimate partner. From 40 to 70 percent of the women murdered in Canada, Australia, South Africa, Israel and the United States were killed by an intimate partner. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that globally, about 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner.

In the Middle East and other parts of the world, planned domestic homicides, or honor killings, are carried out due to the belief of the perpetrators that the victim has brought dishonor upon the family or community. According to Human Rights Watch, honor killings are generally performed against women for "refusing to enter into an arranged marriage, being the victim of a sexual assault, seeking a divorce—even from an abusive husband—or (allegedly) committing adultery," or exhibiting behavior perceived to have dishonored the family. A woman may be subject to extreme violence, including an honor killing, if she is deemed not to be a virgin on her wedding night due to the absence of blood and where the social expectation for a bride to be a virgin is extremely strong.

Bride burning is a form of domestic violence in which a bride is killed at home by her husband or husband's family due to his dissatisfaction over the dowry provided by her family. The act is often a result of demands for more or prolonged dowry after the marriage.

SEXUAL :

Sexual violence, or sexual abuse, is defined by World Health Organization as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim. It also includes obligatory inspections for virginity and female genital mutilation. Aside from initiation of the sexual act through physical force, sexual abuse occurs if a person is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act, unable to decline participation, or unable to communicate unwillingness to engage in the sexual act. This could be because of underage immaturity, illness, disability, or the influence of alcohol or other drugs, or due to intimidation or pressure.

In many cultures, victims of rape are considered to have brought 'dishonour' or 'disgrace' to their families and face severe violence, including honor killings, from their families and relatives. This is especially the case if the victim becomes pregnant.

Marital rape is non-consensual sexual intercourse or penetration perpetrated by a person against his or her spouse. Marital rape may be experienced through patterns of physical abuse, force, or demeaning sexual behavior by the perpetrator. It is under-reported, under-prosecuted, and is still legal in many countries, partly because of a myth that sex between married partners, whether consensual or not, cannot be rape. For centuries non-consensual sex in marriage was not considered a crime because it has been held historically that by marriage a woman gave irrevocable consent for her husband to have sex with her any time he demanded it.

Feminists worked systematically since the 1960s to criminalize marital rape. In 2006, a study by the United Nations found that marital rape is a prosecutable offense in at least 104 countries. For instance, a few of the countries where it is illegal are Australia, Denmark, England, the United States, Argentina, Canada, and Zimbabwe. There are many countries in which marital rape is legal, including Afghanistan. Where marital rape is legal, women are instructed before marriage that sex with the husband is their absolute duty, that they do not have the right to ever refuse it and it has been considered the right of the husband to take it by force, if "necessary". In Lebanon, for instance, while discussing a proposed law that would criminalize marital rape, Sheik Ahmad Al-Kurdi, a judge in the Sunni religious court, said that the law "could lead to the imprisonment of the man where in reality he is exercising the least of his marital rights."

EMOTIONAL :

Emotional abuse (also called psychological abuse or mental abuse) can include verbal abuse and is defined as any behavior that threatens, intimidates, undermines the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or controls the victim's freedom. This can include threatening the victim with injury or harm, telling the victim that they will be killed if they ever leave the relationship, isolating them from others, and public humiliation. Constant criticism, devaluing statements, and name-calling are emotionally abusive behaviors. Emotional abuse may include conflicting actions or statements which are designed to confuse and create insecurity in the victim. These behaviors also lead the victims to question themselves, causing them to believe that they are making up the abuse or that the abuse is their fault. Perpetrators

may alienate a child from a parent or extended family member by teaching or forcing them to harshly criticize another person.

People who are being emotionally abused may feel that their significant other has nearly total control over them. Isolation damages the victim's sense of internal strength, leaving them feeling helpless and unable to escape from the situation. Victims often suffer from depression, which puts them at increased risk for suicide, eating disorders, and drug and alcohol abuse.

VERBAL :

Verbal abuse is a form of emotionally abusive behavior involving the use of language, which can involve threats, name-calling, blaming, ridicule, disrespect, and criticism. Less obviously aggressive forms of verbal abuse include statements that may seem benign on the surface that are thinly veiled attempts to humiliate, falsely accuse, or manipulate others to submit to undesirable behavior, make others feel unwanted and unloved, threaten others economically, or isolate victims from support systems.

ECONOMIC :

Economic abuse is a form of abuse when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. Economic abuse may involve preventing a spouse from resource acquisition, limiting the amount of resources to use by the victim, or by exploiting economic resources of the victim. The motive behind preventing a spouse from acquiring resources is to diminish victim's capacity to support his/herself, thus forcing him/her to depend on the perpetrator financially, which includes preventing the victim from obtaining education, finding employment, maintaining or advancing their careers, and acquiring assets.

In addition, the abuser may also put the victim on an allowance, closely monitor how the victim spends money, spend victim's money without his/her consent and creating debt, or completely spend victim's savings to limit available resources.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS PREVENTION WORLDWIDE

UNITED KINGDOM : Government sources report that only last year, around 1.2 million women suffered domestic abuse, over 400,000 women were sexually assaulted, 70,000 women were raped and thousands more were stalked. These crimes are often hidden away behind closed doors, with the victim suffering in silence. Fewer than 1 in 4 people who suffer abuse at the hands of their partner (and only around 1 in 10 women who experience serious sexual assault) report it to the police. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is determined to support all victims in reporting these crimes, and to make sure perpetrators are brought to justice. Among the actions they've considered to prevent violence against women and girls happening are;

- allocating and protecting nearly £40 million of funding until 2015 for specialist local support services and national helplines
- ensuring victims of sexual violence have access to specialist support, by part-funding 87 independent sexual violence advisers and pledging £1.2 million for 3 years from 2012 to improve services for young people suffering sexual violence in major urban areas
- piloting an 'Ugly Mugs' scheme to help protect sex workers from violent and abusive clients
- introducing new legislation to make forced marriage a criminal offence in England and Wales
- piloting a domestic violence disclosure scheme where individuals have a right to ask about any violence in a partner's past, funding independent domestic violence advisers and providing guidance for practitioners on conducting domestic homicide reviews.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : The Office on Violence against Women for the Department of Justice defines domestic violence as any pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

The areas of focus reassure public policies on all cases of physical, sexual, economic, emotional and psychological abuse. Face to the progressive augmentation in DV reports, the Justice Department will distribute a total of \$2.3 million to 12 cities and counties to support innovative programs dedicated to predicting potentially lethal behavior, stopping the escalation of violence, and saving lives. Furthermore The Department of Justice's Office on Violence against Women (OVW) announced \$12.6 million dollars in grants awarded to 20 communities as part of a new, consolidated program designed to more effectively reduce dating violence this year.

MEXICO : In Mexico, according to the National Statistics and Geography Institute (INEGI Spanish acronym) 46 of every 100 women (15 years old and older) suffer psychological, physical, patrimonial, economical or sexual violence, unfortunately almost 1 out of 10 cases the direct physical abuse may

cause the death of its victims. The state of Mexico takes the lead with 56.9% of women that suffer from at least one form abuse, Chiapas, however is the federal entity with the lowest –yet alarming- rate of female domestic violence (29.8%). There are several different forms of programs as well as very large legal frame on the matter, nevertheless the legislative assembly is currently working on a reform project, and the Government has been implementing ongoing assistance programs over the past ten years.

CHINA : Gathering up information from reliable sources from People’s Republic of China is not an easy thing to do, especially since the Domestic Violence is considered as a private matter. Gender equality is enshrined in China's constitution. But two unusual cases of domestic abuse and the discussion surrounding them clearly show that women and men remain unequal, reports the German online site DW15. However critical examination of well-known international press could throw some important data (mostly from surveys)

INDIA : “Indian culture” the patriarchal elements remain stubborn. Although this may offer some useful insights into the persistence of VAW in India, this framework is limited in analysing the experiences of VAW among women from ethnic minority groups within India, particularly those living in very different cultural, social, economic, and political contexts. This article is concerned with VAW in the Northeast states of India, particularly in the so-called hill states occupying the eastern frontier of India. The Northeast poses a complex conundrum. Most of the factors used to explain the causes of VAW in other parts of India, such as rigid religious norms, dowry, dependency in marriage, and caste-based inequality, do not apply to the majority of women in the Northeast. Most of the factors identified as reducing the risks of VAW, such as high female education and literacy rates, paid employment, and autonomous decision making, are prevalent. Yet levels of VAW are very high, among the highest in India when spousal and non-spousal violence are included. Literature on VAW in India has focused on spousal violence and familial violence, with some attention to political and communal violence. The causes of VAW are explained as deeply rooted in the ways gender is constructed, reproduced, institutionalized, and internalized in Indian society, a metacultural patriarchy. VAW is attributed to national cultural norms replayed throughout Indian society. There are four main components to this that are closely linked and will be discussed briefly in turn:

- The first is patriarchy derived from religious norms
- The second component is dowry. Dowry is seen as the main structure through which VAW is perpetrated
- The third component is dependency in marriage (marriage in India is virtually universal, and for women, it usually takes place once in their lifetime.

WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

Under the Fair Employment Law harassment in the workplace may be illegal under two circumstances. The first is when an employer, supervisor or co-worker singles a person out for harassment because of that person's race, color, creed, ancestry, national origin, age (40 and up), disability, sex, arrest or conviction record, marital status, sexual orientation or military services. The second situation is when the content of the harassment itself relates directly to any of these protected characteristics (i.e. sexual harassment, use of derogatory ethnic or religious terms, age or disability related comments, etc.)

It is important to note that the Fair Employment Law only prohibits harassment in the circumstances described above. There is no general prohibition against harassment. An employer who harasses an employee because of a personal dislike, for example, or who harasses employees in general is not violating the Fair Employment Law, no matter how abusive or hostile the environment might be.

Harassment may include verbal abuse, epithets, sexually explicit or derogatory language, display of offensive cartoons or materials, mimicry, lewd or offensive gestures and telling of jokes offensive to the above protected class members. The behavior must be more than a few isolated incidents or casual comments. It involves a pattern of abusive and degrading conduct directed against a person because of his or her protected class that is sufficient to interfere with work or creates an offensive and hostile work environment.

"Sexual" harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

Engaging in such conduct is made an implicit or explicit term or condition of employment. Example: A newly hired machine operator is told sexual jokes, touching and display of nude posters are just part of factory life and she should try to ignore it. Acceptance or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision affecting an employee. Example: A manager tells a worker applying for a promotion that the job would be his if he just "treated her right." The conduct interferes with an employee's work or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. Example: One worker experiences repeated advances from another asking her for dates.

FORMS OF WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

Quid Pro Quo ('this for that'): When employment decisions or expectations (e.g. hiring, promotions, salary increases, shift or work assignments, and performance standards) are based on an employee's willingness to grant or deny sexual favors. Examples of quid pro quo harassment include:

Demanding sexual favors for a promotion or raise.

Disciplining or firing a subordinate who ends a romance.

Changing work standards after a subordinate refuses repeated requests for a date.

HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT: A work environment is "hostile" when unwelcome verbal, non-verbal or physical behavior focusing on sexuality is severe and pervasive enough to interfere with the victim's work performance or be intimidating or offensive to a reasonable person.

Examples of behaviors that can create a hostile environment:

VERBAL :

Sexual jokes or insults

Comments about a person's body or sex life

Sexually demeaning comments

NON-VERBAL :

Making gestures or staring

Display of sexually suggestive or degrading materials

Giving sexually suggestive "gifts".

PHYSICAL :

Touching, hugging, kissing or patting

Brushing against a person's body

Blocking a person's movement

RESULTS OF WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

- Disparities in women's and men's earnings for equal work. Because many women are equally, if not more, qualified than men, differences in qualifications no longer provide an adequate explanation for why women earn less than men for equal work. With dramatic changes in women's educational qualifications, it is increasingly clear that sex discrimination is a significant contributor to the pay gap—now more than ever before. Research suggests that, were it not for sex discrimination, women would be earning just as much as or more than men.
- Significant overrepresentation of men in leadership positions. Also referred to as vertical occupation segregation, the overrepresentation of men and under representation of women in senior management positions within a specific sector or industry can also be a result of sex discrimination. Even if there is a very small bias favoring the selection of men over women for promotions, the impact on the gender mix within an organization can be quite dramatic over time.
- Stereotypes act in a cumulative fashion—at each level, as fewer and fewer women are promoted, the talent pool has fewer women to choose from.
- Limited occupational choices for women and men. Otherwise known as horizontal segregation, the over employment of women and men in different occupations or fields is also linked to sex discrimination. For example, fields such as nursing tend to be dominated by women, while fields such as construction tend to be dominated by men.
- Pay inequity. Pay inequity results in years of lower earnings. Over the course of a woman's life (based on 47 years of working full-time year-round), the average woman loses earnings worth:
 - \$700,000 if she is a high school graduate.
 - \$1.2 million if she is a college graduate.
 - \$2 million if she is a professional school graduate.

THE COST OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

- It can be difficult to measure the cost of sexual harassment. A survey of U.S. federal government employees estimated sexual harassment cost the U.S. government \$327 million between 1992 and 1994.
- Most people who experience sexual harassment do not report the harasser. The behavior may continue, creating high costs to the employee and employer.

The cost of sexual harassment to the employee includes:

- Increase in sick leave and time away from work.
- Decrease in individual productivity by victims of sexual harassment.
- Lost productivity by workgroups in which harassment occurs.
- Job turnover, including job transfers, being fired, and quitting.
- In another study, stress, depression, and other emotional and physical consequences, including alcohol-related, sleep-related, and weight-related problems may occur.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

Sexual violence is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting. It includes rape, defined as the physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus with a penis, other body part or object.

Sexual violence may also include female genital mutilation or cutting, also known as FGM.

Scope of the problem

Population-level surveys based on reports from victims provide the most accurate estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence in non-conflict settings. The first report of the "WHO Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women" (2005) in 10 mainly developing countries found that, among women aged 15-49:

- between 15% of women in Japan and 71% of women in Ethiopia reported physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime;
- between 0.3–11.5% of women reported experiencing sexual violence by a non-partner since the age of 15 years;
- the first sexual experience for many women was reported as forced – 17% in rural Tanzania, 24% in rural Peru, and 30% in rural Bangladesh.

A more recent analysis of WHO with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Medical Research Council, based on existing data from over 80 countries, found that globally 35% of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. Most of this violence is intimate partner violence. Worldwide, almost one third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner, in some regions this is much higher. Globally as many as 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners.

Intimate partner and sexual violence are mostly perpetrated by men against 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. Violence among young people, including dating violence, is also a major problem.

KEY FACTS :

- Violence against women - particularly intimate partner violence and sexual violence against women - are major public health problems and violations of women's human rights.
- Recent global prevalence figures indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.
- On average, 30% of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by their partner.
- Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner.
- Violence can result in physical, mental, sexual, reproductive health and other health problems, and may increase vulnerability to HIV.
- Risk factors for being a perpetrator include low education, exposure to child maltreatment or witnessing violence in the family, harmful use of alcohol, attitudes accepting of violence and gender inequality.
- Risk factors for being a victim of intimate partner and sexual violence include low education, witnessing violence between parents, exposure to abuse during childhood and attitudes accepting violence and gender inequality.
- In high-income settings, school-based programmes to prevent relationship violence among young people (or dating violence) are supported by some evidence of effectiveness.
- In low-income settings, other primary prevention strategies, such as microfinance combined with gender equality training and community-based initiatives that address gender inequality and communication and relationship skills, hold promise.
- Situations of conflict, post conflict and displacement may exacerbate existing violence and present new forms of violence against women.

RISK FACTORS :

Factors found to be associated with intimate partner and sexual violence occur within individuals, families and communities and wider society. Some factors are associated with being a perpetrator of violence, some are associated with experiencing violence and some are associated with both.

Risk factors for both intimate partner and sexual violence include:

- lower levels of education (perpetration of sexual violence and experience of sexual violence);
- exposure to child maltreatment (perpetration and experience);
- witnessing family violence (perpetration and experience);

- antisocial personality disorder (perpetration);
- harmful use of alcohol (perpetration and experience);
- having multiple partners or suspected by their partners of infidelity (perpetration); and
- attitudes that are accepting of violence and gender inequality (perpetration and experience).

FACTORS SPECIFICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INCLUDE :

- past history of violence;
- marital discord and dissatisfaction;
- difficulties in communicating between partners.

FACTORS SPECIFICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL PERPETRATION INCLUDE :

- beliefs in family honour and sexual purity;
- ideologies of male sexual entitlement; and
- weak legal sanctions for sexual violence.

The unequal position of women relative to men and the normative use of violence to resolve conflict are strongly associated with both intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.

Health consequences

Intimate partner and sexual violence have serious short- and long-term physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health problems for survivors and for their children, and lead to high social and economic costs.

- Violence against women can have fatal results like homicide or suicide.
- It can lead to injuries, with 42% of women who experience intimate partner reporting an injury as a consequences of this violence.
- Intimate partner violence and sexual violence can lead to unintended pregnancies, induced abortions, gynaecological problems, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The 2013 analysis found that women who had been physically or sexually abused were 1.5 times more likely to have a sexually transmitted infection and, in some regions, HIV, compared to women who have not experienced partner violence. They are also twice as likely to have an abortion.

- Intimate partner violence in pregnancy also increases the likelihood of miscarriage, stillbirth, pre-term delivery and low birth weight babies.
- These forms of violence can lead to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep difficulties, eating disorders, emotional distress and suicide attempts. The same study found that women who have experienced intimate partner violence were almost twice as likely to experience depression and problem drinking. The rate was even higher for women who had experienced non partner sexual violence.
- Health effects can also include headaches, back pain, abdominal pain, fibromyalgia, gastrointestinal disorders, limited mobility and poor overall health.
- Sexual violence, particularly during childhood, can lead to increased smoking, drug and alcohol misuse, and risky sexual behaviours in later life. It is also associated with perpetration of violence (for males) and being a victim of violence (for females).

IMPACT ON CHILDREN :

- Children who grow up in families where there is violence may suffer a range of behavioural and emotional disturbances. These can also be associated with perpetrating or experiencing violence later in life.
- Intimate partner violence has also been associated with higher rates of infant and child mortality and morbidity (e.g. diarrhoeal disease, malnutrition).

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS :

The social and economic costs of intimate partner and sexual violence are enormous and have ripple effects throughout society. Women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE WORLDWIDE

Although not as frequent as physical violence, sexual violence has consequences that usually severely affect the victim for a prolonged period of time and often last a lifetime. The term “sexual violence”, broadly interpreted, may include aggressive and abusive behaviours of different intensity and consequences, from unwanted touching to forced intercourse and rape. The percentage of women experiencing sexual violence at least once in their lifetimes ranges from around 4 per cent in Azerbaijan, 5 per cent in France, 6 per cent in the Phillipines to a quarter or more women in Switzerland, 28 per cent in Denmark, 34 percent in Australia, 35 per cent in the Czech Republic, 41 per cent in Costa Rica, and 44 per cent in Mexico. As is the case with physical violence, sexual violence experienced by women in intimate partner relationships carry a heavy toll on the victim and the partnership. In societies with traditional gender roles and attitudes towards marriage and divorce, it may be more difficult to leave a partner even if violent and women continue to endure more abuse.

AFGHANISTAN : The situation for women in Afghanistan is severe and, despite the diminished influence of the Taliban, remains unchanged in most respects. Decades of war have not only destroyed Afghanistan’s infrastructure and basic services, they have also contributed to the nation’s poverty and continued revocation of women’s human rights. A lack of national security has further intensified the situation for women in Afghanistan, as women are unlikely to venture far from home and women’s rights activists are hampered in their efforts to reach victims. Violence against women, including rape, is widespread in Afghanistan, according to a new United Nations report, which details the extent of the problem against a backdrop of impunity and a failure by authorities to protect women’s rights. When it comes to sexual violence, the report states that rape is both widespread and taboo, and it is the victims that are more likely to be punished than the perpetrators. “Only in a few isolated cases have public institutions taken appropriate action. In many instances, victims seeking help and justice are further victimized... Government action to address rape is woefully inadequate.”

The report notes that there is no explicit provision in the 1976 Afghan Penal Code criminalising rape, and a survey of convicted rapists in one Afghan prison indicated that they did not know that rape was a criminal offence.

In addition, police and judicial officials are often not aware or convinced that rape is a serious criminal offence, the report states, and “investigating a rape case is rarely a priority.”

CAMBODIA : More than 1 in 5 Cambodian men aged between 18 and 49 admit to having raped a woman, and more than half committed their first rape before the age of 20, according to a U.N. report. In Cambodia, where the statistics show a national average, 20.8 percent of 1,863 men interviewed admitted to having raped a woman, while 15.8 percent of those who admitted to having committed rape did so under the age of 15. “Research suggests that the key factors associated with the perpetration of intimate partner violence include poverty, a low level of education, witnessing abuse at

home, exposure to childhood trauma, alcohol abuse, anti-social personality disorder, attitudes that are accepting of violence, relationship discord and having multiple partners,” it states. Significantly, Cambodia was also unusual in the region for men reporting more sexual violence against an intimate partner than physical violence, while gang rape—known as “bauk” in Khmer—was shown to be a particular problem in Cambodia.

According to the report, Cambodia is the only country where rape by multiple perpetrators was the most common form of non-partner rape. “Gang rape was the least common form of rape except in Cambodia, where it was more common than non-partner rape by a perpetrator acting alone,” the report says. It adds that 49 percent of all men interviewed in Cambodia have had sex with a sex worker or paid for sex.

Rape is covered by Cambodia’s Penal Code and legislation on domestic violence was passed in 2005 with the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims. However, marital rape is not specifically illegal under any law, which may reflect wider cultural perceptions about what is permissible within the bounds of marriage, the report says.

Although Cambodia’s attempts to punish offenders compares favorably to other countries—almost 50 percent of those admitting to rape were arrested, and 28.3 percent faced some jail time—44 percent still faced no legal consequences.

INDIA : Violence against women in India is an issue rooted in societal norms and economic dependence. Discriminatory practices are underlined by laws favoring men. Inadequate policing and judicial practices deny female victims proper protection and justice. Although female participation in public life is increasing and laws have been amended, India still has a long way to go to make Indian women equal citizens in their own country. The NCRB statistics indicate that an Indian woman is most unsafe in her marital home with 43.6% of all crimes against women being "cruelty" inflicted by her husband and relatives. These numbers do not include incidences of marital rape, as India does not recognize marital rape as an offence. Of the 24,923 rape incidences in India in 2012, 98% of the offenders were known to the victim, which is higher than the global average of approximately 90%. This may also mean that children – boys and girls – in India grow up in a situation where they see violence against women as the norm. The distribution pattern of crimes against women has not changed much in the last few years, but between 2001 and 2011 the overall number of incidents of crime against women rose steadily, and was 59% higher than in 2001.

Rape and violence against women are among the most under-reported crimes worldwide because of the social stigma attached to the nature of the crime. The UN Office on Drugs and Crimes records that in 2010 there were only 1.8 cases of rape reported per thousand people in India.

IRAN : Iranian law is very discriminatory towards women. The Iranian constitution says a “woman’s life is valued only half as much as a man’s life” . The government “reserves its cruelest punishments for women”. While much of the punishment for crimes for men and women are the same, men often can find loopholes in the law. The punishment for both men and women for premarital sex is 100 lashes. When one is guilty of adultery, the convict is subject to being stoned to death. However, in Iran polygamy is allowed so men can oftentimes get around punishments for adultery. Also, the legal testimony of two women holds the same worth as that of one man, causing men to be able to get around the law with greater ease. Men associated with the Iranian government are guilty of being violent towards women. In Iran there are many feminists trying to obtain equal rights for men and women. Women’s rights demonstrations before the Revolution in 1979 were usually broken up by troops by force. More recently, women have been beaten in the streets by troops during protests. Women in prison are subject to constant, violent rape. Iran has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and does not recognize VAW in its laws. As a result of discriminatory laws, women face a wide range of violence, both in their domestic lives and in the public realm, without any legal protections. As this statement briefly describes, the state has failed to protect women from violence committed by non-state actors but also has committed VAW through its own policies.

SOMALIA : Women and children living in Somalia’s makeshift camps for displaced people face a high risk of rape and other sexual violence. Some of them, as young as 13, have recently been raped. Most victims said they hadn’t reported the attacks to the police because they feared being stigmatized and had little confidence in the authorities’ ability or will to investigate. Women and children, who have already been forced to flee their homes because of the armed conflict and drought, now face the additional trauma of living under threat of sexual attack. Investigations, prosecutions and convictions for rape and other forms of sexual violence are rare in Somalia, so survivors have little incentive to file complaints with the police. Some women have faced additional abuse and stigmatization if they do report the crime. Police practices in Somalia often compound the stigma associated with survivors of sexual violence who can be subjected to insensitive and intrusive questioning. Few female police officers are available to deal with sexual assault cases in spite of their frequency. According to the United Nations, there were at least 1,700 cases of rape in IDP (internally displaced persons) settlements in 2012 in Somalia, with at least 70 per cent of these being carried out by armed men wearing government uniforms. Nearly a third of the survivors are reported to be under the age of 18. The inability and unwillingness of the Somali authorities to investigate these crimes and bring the attackers to justice leaves survivors of sexual violence even more isolated and contributes to a climate of impunity in which attackers know they can get away with these crimes.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as "all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is practised as a cultural ritual by ethnic groups in 27 countries in sub-Saharan and Northeast Africa, and to a lesser extent in Asia, the Middle East and within immigrant communities elsewhere. It is typically carried out, with or without anaesthesia, by a traditional circumciser using a knife or razor. The age of the girls varies from weeks after birth to puberty; in half the countries for which figures were available in 2013, most girls were cut before the age of five. The practice involves one or more of several procedures, which vary according to the ethnic group. They include removal of all or part of the clitoris and clitoral hood; all or part of the clitoris and inner labia; and in its most severe form (infibulation) all or part of the inner and outer labia and the closure of the vagina. In this last procedure, which the WHO calls Type III FGM, a small hole is left for the passage of urine and menstrual blood, and the vagina is opened up for intercourse and childbirth. The health effects depend on the procedure but can include recurrent infections, chronic pain, cysts, an inability to get pregnant, complications during childbirth and fatal bleeding. Around 125 million women and girls in Africa and the Middle East have undergone FGM. Over eight million have experienced Type III, which is most common in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. The practice is an ethnic marker, rooted in gender inequality, ideas about purity, modesty and aesthetics, and attempts to control women's sexuality. It is supported by both women and men in countries that practise it, particularly by the women, who see it as a source of honour and authority, and an essential part of raising a daughter well. FGM has been outlawed in most of the countries in which it occurs, but the laws are poorly enforced. There has been an international effort since the 1970s to eradicate the practice and in 2012 the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to take all necessary steps to end it.

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRACTICE OF FGM :

There are several reasons provided to justify the practice of female genital mutilation:

- **Control over women's sexuality:** Virginity is a pre-requisite for marriage and is equated to female honour in a lot of communities. FGM, in particular infibulation, is defended in this context as it is assumed to reduce a woman's sexual desire and lessen temptations to have extramarital sex thereby preserving a girl's virginity.
- **Hygiene:** There is a belief that female genitalia are unsightly and dirty. In some FGM-practicing societies, uncut women are regarded as unclean and are not allowed to handle food and water.
- **Gender based factors:** FGM is often deemed necessary in order for a girl to be considered a complete woman, and the practice marks the divergence of the sexes in terms of their future roles in life and marriage. The removal of the clitoris and labia — viewed by some as the "male parts" of a woman's body — is thought to enhance the girl's femininity, often synonymous with docility and obedience. It is

possible that the trauma of mutilation may have this effect on a girl's personality. If mutilation is part of an initiation rite, then it is accompanied by explicit teaching about the woman's role in her society.

- Cultural identity: In certain communities, where mutilation is carried out as part of the initiation into adulthood, FGM defines who belongs to the community. In such communities, a girl cannot be considered an adult in a FGM-practicing society unless she has undergone FGM.
- Religion: FGM predates Islam and is not practiced by the majority of Muslims, but it has acquired a religious dimension. Where it is practiced by Muslims, religion is frequently cited as a reason. Many of those who oppose mutilation deny that there is any link between the practice and religion, but Islamic leaders are not unanimous on the subject. Although predominant among Muslims, FGM also occurs among Christians, animists and Jews.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION WORLDWIDE

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is practised in 30 countries in western, eastern, and north-eastern Africa, in parts of the Middle East and Asia, and within some immigrant communities in Europe, North America and Australia. According to a 2013 UNICEF report, Egypt has the world's highest total number with 27.2 million women having undergone FGM, while Somalia has the highest incidence rate of FGM at 98%. Estimates about the prevalence of FGM vary by source. Yemen and Iraqi Kurdistan, where 125 million women and girls have undergone FGM. The UNICEF report notes FGM is found in countries beyond the 29 countries it covered, and the total worldwide number is unknown. Other reports claim the prevalence of FGM in countries not discussed by the 2013 UNICEF report. The practice occurs in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Oman, and the United States. As a result of immigration, FGM has also spread to Europe, Australia, and the United States, with some families having their daughters undergo the procedure while on vacation overseas. As Western governments become more aware of FGM, legislation has come into effect in many countries to make the practice a criminal offense in the Arab Emirates and Qatar.

AFRICA : In July 2003, at its second summit, the African Union adopted the Maputo Protocol promoting women's rights and calling for an end to FGM. The agreement came into force in November

2005, and by December 2008, 25 member countries had ratified it.



As of 2013, according to a UNICEF report, 24 African countries have legislations or decrees against FGM/C practice; these countries are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria (some states), Senegal, Somalia, Sudan (some states), Tanzania, Togo and Uganda (see page 9 of the report) and Zambia and South Africa

DJIBOUTI : Estimates for FGM prevalence rate of FGM in range from 93% to 98%. According to a UNICEF 2010 report, Djibouti has the world's second highest rate of Type III FGM, with about two thirds of all Djibouti women undergoing the procedure; Type I is the next most common form of female

circumcision practiced in the country. Like its neighboring countries, a large percentage of women in Djibouti also undergo re-infibulation after birth or a divorce. Two thirds of the women claimed tradition and religion as the primary motivation for undergoing FGM. A predominantly Muslim country, Islamic clerics in Djibouti have been divided on the FGM issue, with some actively supporting the practice and others opposing it. FGM was outlawed in the country's revised Penal Code that went into effect in April 1995. Article 333 of the Penal Code provides that persons found guilty of this practice will face a five year prison term and a fine of one million Djibouti francs (approximately US\$5,600). Djibouti ratified the Maputo Protocol in 2005.

EGYPT : Egypt's Ministry of Health and Population has banned all forms of female genital mutilation since 2007. The ministry's order declared it is 'prohibited for any doctors, nurses, or any other person to carry out any cut of, flattening or modification of any natural part of the female reproductive system'. Islamic authorities in the nation also stressed that Islam opposes female genital mutilation. The Grand Mufti of Egypt, Ali Gomaa, said that it is "Prohibited, prohibited, prohibited." Egypt passed a law banning FGM. The June 2007 Ministry ban eliminated a loophole that allowed girls to undergo the procedure for health reasons. There had previously been provisions under the Penal Code involving "wounding" and "intentional infliction of harm leading to death", as well as a ministerial decree prohibiting FGM. In December 1997, the Court of Cassation (Egypt's highest appeals court) upheld a government banning of the practice providing that those who did not comply would be subjected to criminal and administrative punishments. According to a survey in the year 2000, a study found that 97% of the country's population still practiced FGM; a 2005 study found that over 95% of Egyptian women have undergone some form of FGM.

GUINEA : Guinea has the second highest FGM prevalence rate in the world. According to a 2005 survey, 96% of all Guinea women aged between 15 and 49 have been cut. That is a slight decline in the practice from the 1999 recorded FGM rate of 98.6%. Among the 15 to 19 year olds the prevalence was 89%, among 20 to 24 year olds 95%. About 50% of the women in Guinea believe FGM is a religious requirement. Guinea is predominantly a Muslim country, with 90% of the population practicing Islam. However, the high FGM rates are observed across all religions in Guinea; FGM is prevalent in 99% of Muslim women, 94% of Catholics and Protestants, and 93% of Animist women. FGM is illegal in Guinea under Article 265 of the Penal Code. The law sentences death to the perpetrator if the girl dies within 40 days after the FGM. Article 6 of the Guinean Constitution, which outlaws cruel and inhumane treatment, could be interpreted to include these practices, should a case be brought to the Supreme Court. Guinea signed the Maputo Protocol in 2003 but has not ratified it. Article 305 of Guinea's penal code also bans FGM, but nobody has yet been sentenced under any of Guinea's FGM-related laws. In Guinea, instead of stopping FGM, the trend is towards medicalisation of FGM, where the mutilation is advertised under hygienic conditions by medically trained staff, who see FGM practice an additional source of income. Per the above 2005 survey, 27% of girls were cut by medically trained staff.

IRAQ : Female genital mutilation is prevalent in Kurdish region of Iraq, with FGM rates exceeding 80% in Garmyan and New Kirkuk. In Arbil Governorate and Suleymaniya Type I FGM is common; while in Garmyan and New Kirkuk, Type II and III FGM are common. There was no law against FGM in Iraqi Kurdistan, but in 2007 a draft legislation condemning the practice was submitted to the Regional Parliament, but was not passed. A 2011 Iraqi law criminalized FGM practice in Iraqi Kurdistan, however this law is not being enforced. A field report by Iraqi group PANA Center, published in 2012, shows 38% of females in Kirkuk and its surrounding districts areas had undergone female circumcision. Of those females circumcised, 65% were Kurds, 26% Arabs and rest Turkmen. On the level of religious and sectarian affiliation, 41% were Sunnis, 23% Shiites, rest Kaka'is, and none Christians or Chaldeans. A 2013 report finds FGM prevalence rate of 59% based on clinical examination of about 2000 Iraqi Kurdish women; FGM found were Type I, and 60% of the mutilation were performed to girls in 4–7 year age group.

SAUDI ARABIA : Female genital mutilation is prevalent in Saudi Arabia. FGM is most prevalent in Saudi regions following Shafi'i school within the Sunni sect of Islam, such as Hejaz, Tihamah and Asir. In a clinical study, Alsibiani and Rouzi provide evidence of the practice in Saudi Arabia. Another 2010 report claims post-FGM medical complications are an indicator of widespread prevalence of the practice in Saudi women. A 2012 study finds, that of the Saudi women who had FGM, Type III was more common than Type I or II.

INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION

Violence against women is a grave violation of human rights. It is imperative for the global community to take necessary steps to curb this violation of women's rights and proceed in the path of empowerment. The United Nations and the agencies functioning under it have taken several steps to eradicate violence against women in the form of conventions, Protocols and Treaties which have been signed and ratified by countries worldwide.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly 10th December, 1948, by General Assembly Resolution 217 A and is a momentous document in navigating the course of history of human rights. The UDHR was conceived as a common standard of accomplishment for all people and nations across the world and marked the first time that the fundamental rights of human beings were being universally protected.

The Declaration consists of 30 articles which set forth civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights which all human beings are entitled to, without any discrimination on any grounds. Economic, social and cultural rights are set out in Articles 22-27, and are rights to which everyone is entitled to "as a member of society." The UDHR further states that these rights are indispensable for human dignity and must be realised through national and international efforts. At the same time, it also points out the limitations of realisation, the extent of which depends on the resources of each State.

The UDHR was a document which paved the way for many other permits, protocols and conventions which soon followed, addressing various different aspects of human rights. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are two other major international instruments that protect the human rights of people all over the world.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organised crime. The purpose of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, adopted by resolution 55/25 in November, 2000, is to promote cooperation between member states to prevent and combat transnational organised crime in a more effective manner. This convention may be applied to prevent, investigate and prosecute offences and serious crimes which are performed by an organised criminal group.

Each state that is party to this Convention is required to implement laws to identify criminals who may either be an active part of the criminal group or may be aiding the criminal group either directly or

indirectly as well as those involved in the crime. The Convention calls upon States to develop a comprehensive domestic regulatory and supervisory regime and adopt legislative, administrative and other effective measures to combat corruption.

State Parties are required to adopt measures to establish its jurisdiction over offences that are committed within its territory and offer one another the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions, and judicial proceedings for offences which are transnational in nature unless the State Parties are not bound by a mutual legal treaty. State parties are also required to take appropriate measures within its means to provide effective protection for victims, as well witnesses who give testimony concerning offences committed by organised criminal groups.

The United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime has three supplementary protocols- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition of trafficking in persons. The main purposes of the Protocol are to prevent and combat human trafficking, especially that of women and children, is to protect and assist such victims of trafficking and to promote cooperation among State Parties in order to meet these objectives.

The Protocol defines 'Trafficking in Persons' and also highlights that the consent of the victim is irrelevant if any means as mentioned in the definition of trafficking are used, further specifying that a child is anyone below the age of eighteen and that the recruitment, transfer, transportation, receipt or harbouring of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered trafficking, even if it does not involve any of the means as is set forth in the definition.

It applies to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of trafficking offences which are transnational in nature, as well as to the protection of victims. The Protocol requires State Parties to adopt legislative to provide complete protection to its victims, help in their rehabilitation and reintegration into society by providing for their physical, psychological and social recovery, offer them an opportunity to seek proper justice under law and provide them with the possibility of obtaining compensation for the damage suffered.

Law enforcement and immigration authorities of States shall coordinate with one another in order to study and determine the methods which are used by organised criminal groups for human trafficking and take possible measures to detect them. States are further required to strengthen border control to the maximum extent possible to prevent and detect human trafficking.

In Ancient civilizations Polytheism slowly gave place to monotheism and the male gods; this brought as a consequence the devaluation of the female figure based on "divine arguments". Sati(or suttee) practice in the Indian culture, the feminine infanticide in the Chinese culture, concerted marriages

among Muslims are all historical patterns that have tacitly institutionalized domestic slavery, practice that indicates the endemic presence of sexism and domestic violence perpetrated by men.

For much of history and throughout the world, social and legal traditions have tolerated or even promoted the physical assault of women by men. In ancient Rome, a husband could legally divorce, physically punish, or even kill his wife for behaviours that were permitted for men. Punishment of wives was called chastisement, a term that emphasized the corrective purpose of the action and minimized the violent nature of the behaviour. Under medieval English common law, a husband could not be prosecuted for raping his wife because the law provided that a wife could not refuse consent for sex to her husband.

Since the 19th century, women have acquired greater legal and political rights, such as the right to vote. As the status of women has improved, attitudes toward domestic violence have shifted and laws have been changed. The UNCHR in alliance with several other organizations have sponsored campaigns to raise public awareness of intimate violence. Whereas 30 years ago spouse abuse occurred behind closed doors and was largely considered a private matter, today it is widely recognized as an important, dangerous, and harmful social problem.

Early settlers in America based their laws on an Old-English common-law that explicitly permits wife-beating for correctional purposes. The states tried to break away from that law by saying that the husband is only allowed to whip his wife with a switch no bigger than his thumb.

Many measures have been taken to deal with domestic violence. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights in resolution 1994/45, adopted on 4 March 1994, decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur on violence against women, including its causes and consequences. The mandate was extended by the Commission on Human Rights in 2003, at its 59th session in resolution 2003/45. Affirmed, in this light, that violence against women constitutes a violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and that violence against women impairs or nullifies their enjoyment of those rights and freedoms."

Since March 2006, the Special Rapporteur reports to the Human Rights Council, as per Human Rights Council's decision 1/102. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur was lastly renewed in 2013 by resolution 23/25

According to his/her mandate the Special Rapporteur is requested to:

- (a) Seek and receive information on violence against women, its causes and consequences from Governments, treaty bodies, specialized agencies, other special rapporteurs responsible for various human rights questions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, and to respond effectively to such information;
- (b) Recommend measures, ways and means at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and its causes, and to remedy its consequences;

(c) Work closely with all special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and with the treaty bodies, taking into account the request of the Council that they regularly and systematically integrate the human rights of women and a gender perspective into their work, and cooperate closely with the Commission on the Status of Women in the discharge of its functions;

(d) Continue to adopt a comprehensive and universal approach to the elimination of violence against women, its causes and consequences, including causes of violence against women relating to the civil, cultural, economic, political and social spheres.

In the discharge of the mandate the Special Rapporteur:

(e) Transmits urgent appeals and communications to States regarding alleged cases of violence against women.

(f) Undertakes country visits.

(g) Submits annual thematic reports.

1.3.1 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women

One of the most important resolutions on domestic violence is the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW). Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993, DEVAW establishes the most comprehensive set of standards in international law for the protection of women against sexual and gender-based violence. DEVAW recognizes violence against women as “an obstacle to the achievement of equality” and a “manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women,” as well as a violation of fundamental freedoms including the prohibition against torture. The Declaration defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.” This includes, but is not limited to, “physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family.” The Declaration not only declares that State actors should refrain from engaging in violence against women, but also asserts that States should take affirmative measures to prevent and punish violence committed by public and private actors alike and establish support networks to care for victims of gender-based violence.

1.3.2. Resolution 18/147

In 2004, the UN General Assembly also specifically addressed domestic violence in Resolution 58/147, entitled “Elimination of domestic violence against women.” In this important resolution, the General Assembly, recognizing that domestic violence is a human rights issue with serious immediate and long-term implications, strongly condemned all forms of domestic violence against women and girls and called for an elimination of violence in the family. The resolution also recognized:

(a) That domestic violence is violence that occurs within the private sphere, generally between individuals who are related through blood or intimacy;

(b) That domestic violence is one of the most common and least visible forms of violence against women and that its consequences affect many areas of the lives of victims;

(c) That domestic violence can take many different forms, including physical, psychological and sexual violence;

(d) That domestic violence is of public concern and requires States to take serious action to protect victims and prevent domestic violence;

(e) That domestic violence can include economic deprivation and isolation and that such conduct may cause imminent harm to the safety, health or well-being of women.

The General Assembly also included in the resolution dozens of specific actions that States should take to eliminate domestic violence, including strengthening legislation, providing training to public officers, improving police response, and creating educational campaigns.

Some other supranational organizations, like the European Union have also designed legal tools to fight domestic violence; such is the case of the “Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence” opened for signature on May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey.

INTERNATIONAL OBSTRUCTION

Considering the largest number of countries affected are under the influence of very long and deep cultural and religious bases, the international community represented by this organ needs to reach an agreement that may overcome the Arab league blockage as well as the URSS ex-member countries followed by the opposition of China representatives and some other Asian countries. It is then imperative to control the access of actual facts as well as any other useful information to implement legally binding mechanisms to prevent more cases of Domestic Violence to happen. Western countries’ democracies are expected to do a lot of lobby work with Middle Eastern leaders as well as the eastern (Asian and Soviet) governments.

FACING THE FUTURE

There are several different steps and larger measures being currently taken by more than one body composing the UNCHR. Both, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee against Torture (CAT) are joining efforts with the special rapporteurs to

enable an internationally-applicable dispositive for Massive Domestic Violence reports (such as the recent cases censured in India, central African, west African and Latin-American communities in the USA)

States need to be held accountable not only for investigating all acts of violence against women but also for failing to prevent such violence, an independent United Nations human rights expert has said.

“The State has an obligation to investigate all acts of violence against women, including systemic failures to prevent violence against women,” declared Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, Rashida Manjoo.

“There is a need to create a framework for discussing the responsibility of States to act with due diligence,” she said.

“States are required to hold accountable those who fail to protect and prevent, as well as those who perpetrate, violations of women’s rights.”

The responsibility of States is generally based on acts or omissions either committed by State actors or by actors whose actions are attributable to the State. But a State may incur responsibility where there is a failure to exercise due diligence to prevent or respond to certain acts or omissions of non-state actors.

“The due diligence standard serves as a tool for rights-holders to hold States accountable, by providing an assessment framework for ascertaining what constitutes effective fulfilment of a State’s obligations, and for analysing its actions or omissions,” Ms. Manjoo said.

But human rights due diligence required constant investigation and evaluation to assess whether universally accepted human rights principles apply in a State’s own behaviour and in a State’s monitoring of third party behaviour – be they individuals or an organization, the Special Rapporteur added.

POSITION PAPERS

All delegates are required to submit a Position Paper, by ___. Submission of a Position Paper is mandatory and delegates failing to do so will be subject to penalties as per the discretion of the Executive Board.

Normally, Position Papers have three parts: Introduction and Statement of the Issue, your country's policy and initiatives and relevant solutions. In a committee like the Human Rights Council, a Position Paper will assist you in the formulation of your policy and will be an effective guide to the stance you will eventually take in the conference. The Position Paper also provides the Board with an insight into your level of understanding of the topic and your ability to arrive at substantive, concrete and practical solutions. All Position Papers must have:

- i. Names of Delegates
- ii. Name of School
- iii. Name of Committee
- iv. Agenda to be discussed

All Position Papers must be roughly one and half pages in Size 12, Times New Roman Font. Delegates are advised to strictly abide by the given format to ensure uniformity.

CONCLUSION

The Executive Board has tried its utmost best to cover all the aspects of violence against women and make this study guide as comprehensive as possible. However the scope of the agenda is vast and a lot more needs to be explored. It is strictly advisable for the delegates to research as much as possible, beyond the limits of this study guide. Deep research into the legislative system and the implementation of plans by governments will provide you the true picture about what is being done in the field of empowering women. The committee is extremely solution-based and requires quick, clear and logical reasoning. Coming up with innovative and practical solutions will stand the delegates in good stead as well as a lucid understanding of the stance of the countries present. There is immense scope to think outside the box, compromise and negotiate and the Board would urge you to use this opportunity intelligently. We wish you luck with your further research and hope that The Global Union 2014 shall be a different experience altogether for you. Looking forward to meeting you in September

