PyleaMUN 2026

Committee: **UN Women**

Topic: **Preventing Gender-Based Violence** – Establishing international guidelines for safe reporting mechanisms and prevention education.

Student Officers: Chair: **Karali Paraskevi**

Vice Chair: **Danai Mastrokosta**

Vice Chair: **Elizabeth Preradovic**

1. Personal Introduction

Dear delegates,

My name is Karali Paraskevi, I am an 11th grade student at The Arsakeio High School of Thessaloniki and I feel honoured to be serving as a Chair in UN Women at the 1st PyleaMUN conference.

My name is Danai Mastrokosta and I am a 10th grader at the American Farm School of Thessaloniki. It is a great honour to serve as a Vice Chair in UN Women at this year's MUN Conference. I am so excited to meet you all and make this experience unforgettable.

My name is Elisavet Preradovic and I am a 11th grade student at Anaxagoreio High School of Nea Erythraia and I feel honoured to be serving as a Vice Chair in UN Women at the 1st PyleaMUN conference. I'm really looking forward to working with all of you and make this experience as welcoming and enjoyable as possible.

Having said the aforementioned, we would like to welcome you to the conference! During this year's conference you will become familiar with current political affairs, understand the ramifications they may have on global peace and security, collaborate with fellow delegates,

come up with solutions that will benefit the international community and, of course, form friendships and have fun.

Now, without further ado, we will explain how to use the information provided to you through this study guide efficiently. The topic of this years' UN Women committee is: "Preventing Gender-Based Violence – Establishing international guidelines for safe reporting mechanisms and prevention education."

The following study guide should give you an overall understanding of the topic, highlight important events, countries and organizations involved as well as key-factors that have led to the present situation. However we would highly recommend that you enhance your research on the topic, using the links and resources found below and others that you may find. Furthermore, since you represent a country you should search your delegation's position/policy on the topic and any relation it may have to it.

Lastly, we would like to give you a tip for the conference, be as prepared as you can and enjoy it as much as possible, participate and don't let fear hold you back!

If any questions regarding the first topic, the committee or the conference as a whole arise, don't hesitate to contact us via our emails evakarali2009@icloud.com, dan.mastrok@gmail.com,

We are looking forward to meeting you all in January!

Sincerely,

Karali Paraskevi

Danai Mastrokosta

Elizabeth Preradovic

2. Introduction to the Topic

Gender based violence (GBV) is a highly widespread issue that today's society suffers from. It affects all countries, regardless of their geographic location, quality of life, or economic situation. Still, higher percentages have been observed in The Middle East, Sub-Saharan African, South Asian and North African countries, alongside countries of the Western-Pacific Region. Some other nations reporting significant rates of GBV are Sierra Leone, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, in addition to Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea, Finland and Sweden. Gender based violence can refer to any act intending to cause harm to a person on the basis of their gender. It has been associated with society's stereotypes about genders, and it can be detected in various forms. Some may include physical, verbal and psychological and sexual abuse, domestic violence, but more harsh practices have been

noted, such as female genital mutilation, with Africa, Asia and Middle East[1] holding the highest percentages, and human trafficking. Around the globe, 1 out of 3 women have experienced, or will experience physical and/or sexual abuse by an intimate partner, or a non-partner[2]. Regarding cases involving LGBTQ+ individuals, these communities are 5 times more likely to experience forms of GBV, than non-LGBTQ+ people, with rates of "106.4 victimizations per 1,000 people versus 21.1 per 1,000". Transgender people also face particularly high rates, noting around "93.7 victimizations per 1,000 people, and are 9 times more likely to be victims of violent hate crimes"[3].

Gender Based Violence is deeply rooted in various factors, including cultural, legal, economic and political ones. Often driven by patriarchal norms and beliefs, as well as, male dominance stereotypes, this phenomenon continues to exist and causes suffering to all of its victims.

The issue of Gender Based Violence has been concerning all nations around the world, resulting in heated debate. Its importance goes beyond simple consequences, as it can affect society in numerous ways. This phenomenon mainly influences women and girls, but also boys and men, as well as the LGBTQ+ community members. The problem has its effects on individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole. Gender based violence undermines the financial and social stability of victims and their families. The victims often find it difficult to hold employment and endure extended health problems, directly impacting their capability to earn an income and therefore completely engage in community life. Children, who witness Gender Based Violence, are more likely to face emotional and/or behavioural issues, further continuing the cycle of violence through generations.[4] At the same time, GBV strengthens and perpetuates gender disparities through social norms that support male dominance, entrenching unjust power inequalities. This form of violence often takes place in familiar environments, thus intensifying its traumatic effects and leading to severe both mental and physical health problems. Overall, the influence of Gender Based Violence is widespread, impacting not only individuals, but also larger social structures. Nations are taking this matter seriously, and therefore endeavours to amend it are being done.

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3. Definition of key terms

[1]UNICEF. "Female Genital Mutilation." *UNICEF Data*, UNICEF, 2024, data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/.
[2]World Health Organization. "Violence against Women." *World Health Organization*, 25 Mar. 2024, www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women.
[3] thisisloyal.com, Loyal . "LGBT People Five Times More Likely than Non-LGBT People to Be Victims of Violent Crime." *Williams Institute*, 27 Feb. 2025, williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/lgbt-volent-crime-press-release/.
[4]"The Ripple Effect: How Gender-Based Violence Impacts Families and Future Generations." *UNFPA-Caribbean*, 2024, caribbean.unfpa.org/en/news/ripple-effect-how-gender-based-violence-impacts-families-and-future-generations.

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is violence directed against a person due to his or her gender. It can take various forms such as physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm. The majority of GBV victims include young girls and women, but in some cases it can also refer to boys and men.[5]

Physical violence

This term refers to the 'act attempting to or resulting in injuries', physical and mental health problems, and in certain cases might even lead to death.[6]

Sexual assault

This term refers to any unconsented sexual act, as well as the attempts to achieve a sexual act through violence or threats.[7]

Emotional and psychological abuse

This term often refers to the act of a person, 'characterised by exposing another person to a behaviour' that can often result in 'psychological trauma'.[8] It can be often spotted in environments of power imbalance, and it can include threats as well as verbal abuse.

Economic and financial abuse

This term refers to the 'legally recognised form of domestic abuse'[9] that involves the control of another person's finances and income, limiting the access to economic related services and/or refusing the financial contribution in conjoined costs.

Stigma

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[5]UNHCR. "WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - UNHCR Türkiye." *UNHCR Türkiye*, 2025, help.unhcr.org/turkiye/information-and-resources-on-protection-from-violence/what-is-gender-based-violence/.
[6]UNESCWA. "Physical Violence." *United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*, 2022, www.unescwa.org/sd-glossary/physical-violence.
[7] World Health Organization. "Violence Info – Sexual Violence – Sexual Violence." *Apps.who.int*, 2022, apps.who.int/violence-info/sexual-violence/.
[8]Knowsley Council. "Emotional and Psychological Abuse | Knowsley Council." *Www.knowsley.gov.uk*, www.knowsley.gov.uk/adult-social-care/safeguarding-adults/types-abuse/emotional-and-psychological-abuse.
[9] Surviving Economic Abuse. "What Is Economic Abuse?" *Surviving Economic Abuse*, 2023, survivingeconomicabuse.org/what-is-economic-abuse/.

The term refers to the feeling of disapproval[10], followed by the feeling of disgrace and shame, often caused by society's stereotypes as well as discriminatory and prejudiced ideologies. This can lead us to viewing a group of people in a certain way, only by their characteristics.

4. Historical Background

GBV through history

In most early societies, legal systems neither recognized nor legitimized gender-based violence as a distinct crime, worthy of attention. Women and marginalized genders were frequently considered property of men, resulting in the creation of legal frameworks that overlooked or encouraged violence against them.

During the Middle Ages, law was in most cases patriarchal and gender hierarchy was not only present but enforced in societies, providing minimal to zero protection to victims of GBV. Women's intelligence and competence were constantly belittled and underrepresented, leaving women being depicted as "worthless" and as a man's property. This was also the case when it came to homosexuals back then, who often got exposed to GBV, due to societies considering them inferior.

It wasn't until the 19th century that some nations began redesigning laws, having been influenced by emerging feminist movements advocating for all genders' rights. The aforementioned, marked the inception of a shift in legitimate perspectives towards GBV. This period saw early feminist movements and campaigns gaining traction, fighting to mitigate marriage laws, property rights, and the idea of legal personhood regardless of the victim's gender. As a result some legal systems started to re-evaluate their viewpoint on, mostly on violence against women, but progress remained inadequate.

In the 20th century outstanding alterations were made on the way the public perceived women, as gender equality movements started receiving attention, more countries began to enact laws on the matter. Later during the century marital rape and sexual harassment started being recognised as distinct crimes in various jurisdictions. The 21st century has witnessed an increased international shift towards terminating gender-based violence, aided by organizations such as the United Nations and various human rights groups, while multiple international declarations and resolutions have been implemented, obligating countries to strengthen their legal frameworks.[11]

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[10]Cambridge Dictionary. "STIGMA | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge.org*, 2022, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/stigma.

[11]Admin. "The History of Gender-Based Violence in Legal Frameworks." *Gendercide*, 7 Feb. 2025, www.gendercide.org/the-history-of-gender-based-violence-in-legal-frameworks/.

However, studies of social attitudes show that even though the rate of GBV during the last decades has been alleviated, violence is now perceived as more or less serious depending on the gender of victim and perpetrator. People are less likely to report a man hitting another man or a woman hitting a man to the police than a man hitting a woman. A study in 2023 found that people, especially women, are less likely to accept violence against women than violence against men.

It is important to note that just because the chances are higher of women falling victims, it does not mean that men are not threatened as well. In some cases males are afraid of stigmatization and socially constructed gender stereotypes that could result in them being dismissed, accused of being the perpetrator, or ridiculed if they seek help following intimate partner violence. These fears are often confirmed by men who nonetheless seek it [12]

Types of GBV

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)[13] recognizes four types of crimes against women: domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking:

Domestic violence is the most frequently discerned form of GBV affecting people of all genders around the globe. It includes physical assault, sexual violence, emotional abuse, movement control, and economic deprivation. Its repercussions are ubiquitous and include: injury, mental health diseases, loss of economic independence, and intergenerational wellbeing. Domestic violence derives from gender inequality and patriarchal social norms that normalize abuse.[14] Specifically, 30% of women have fallen victims to domestic violence, while the reporting is very low with only 40% of them seeking assistance, with fear holding them back.[15]

Sexual assault rates rise in conflict affected zones and during periods of humanitarian crises. The phenomenon has lasting effects and consequences on the victim, such as but not limited to: exacerbating vulnerabilities, permanent emotional, psychological, and physical harm. International institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) have shifted their

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[12] Wikipedia Contributors. "Violence against Men." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 29 Jan. 2020, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violence_against_men.
[13] Library of Congress. "The Violence against Women Act (VAWA): Historical Overview, Funding, and Reauthorization." *Congress.gov*, 2025, www.congress.gov/crs-product/R45410.
[14]United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Killings of Women and Girls by Their Intimate Partner or Other Family Members*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Nov. 2021.
[15] Pycroft, Hollie . "Violence against Women: The Statistics around the World | ActionAid UK." *Www.actionaid.org.uk*, 1 Nov. 2022, www.actionaid.org.uk/blog/2022/11/01/violence-against-women-statistics-around-world.

focus on prevention through education, safe reporting mechanisms, survivor-centred legal processes, and raising public awareness to reduce stigma.[16] The UK, Grenada, Sweden, and Panama report some of the highest rates per capita. Nevertheless, sexual assault is a universal issue crossing all borders.

Dating violence is physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse from a romantic or sexual partner. It may occur to women, men and LGBTQ+ persons regardless of race, ethnicity, income, age, and sexuality and education level. [17]Globally, about 30% of women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner at least once in their lifetime.[18]

Lastly, stalking includes unwanted phone calls, messages, showing up uninvited and using technology to track victims. The crime is considered gendered, with circa 80% of victims being women and most stalkers being male. Victims face difficulty in reporting due to fear of the abuser, stigma, and concerns about inadequate institutional response.[19] Throughout the years the rate of males falling victims to stalking have increased as well.

The core of the problem

Gender-based violence, and in particular violence against women, directly depicts the unequal power dynamics in relations between females and males. Worldwide, four types of factors that act as the root of the problem can be identified: cultural, legal, economic, political.

Patriarchal and sexist viewpoints legitimise violence to uphold the dominance and superiority of men. Moreover, cultural factors include: gender stereotypes and prejudice, normative expectations of femininity and masculinity, a general acceptance of violence as part of the public sphere and the socialization of gender. Historical traditions have underpinned the physical punishment of women under their ownership. The concept of ownership legalizes control over women, which, according to many policies, has been considered essential to ensure patrilineal inheritance. Even in the 21st Century the concept of ownership is present in some societies, mostly Middle Eastern ones.

Traditional norms in these societies permit the murder of women suspected of shaming the honour of the family by indulging in forbidden intercourse, marrying or divorcing without the

[16] "UN Warns of Steep Rise in Sexual Violence during Conflict." *UN News*, 14 Aug. 2025, news.un.org/en/story/2025/08/1165650.
[17] Office on Womens Health. "Dating Violence and Abuse | Office on Women's Health." *OASH | Office on Women's Health*, 2014, womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/other-types/dating-violence-and-abuse.
[18]Office on Womens Health. "Dating Violence and Abuse | Office on Women's Health." *OASH | Office on Women's Health*, 2014, womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/other-types/dating-violence-and-abuse.
[19]*STALKING FACT SHEET*. Jan. 2019. Stalking Fact Sheet

consent of the family. Furthermore, belonging in the LGBTQ+ community may result in murders, physical and verbal abuses and blame for family dishonourment, by societies that refuse to accept that someone is different.

Being a victim of gender-based violence is perceived in many societies as shameful and a sign of weakness, with many women still being considered guilty of attracting violence against themselves through their provocative behaviour. Low levels of reporting and investigation are partially responsible for that. Until recently, the law in some countries still differentiated between the public and private spaces, which left women particularly vulnerable to domestic violence.

Norms around sexuality also help to account for the gigantic numbers of homeless LGBT+ young people, and for the prevalence of hate crimes against them. The same norms around sexuality can help to account for the mass rape of women. The lack of financial freedom and resources makes women, but also LGBT+ people particularly vulnerable to violence. It creates/encourages patterns of violence and poverty, making it challenging for the victims to extricate themselves. When unemployment and poverty affect societies, this can also result in them asserting their masculinity through violent means. [20]

5. Timeline Of Key Events

Date	**Event**[21]
1991	Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women adopted by UNHRC
1993	The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women formally recognizes violence against women as a human rights violation.
2000	UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is adopted.
2005	Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings are addressed by a task force of the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).
2011	2011: Council of Europe adopts the Istanbul Convention,

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[20] Council of Europe. "What Causes Gender-Based Violence?" *Gender Matters*, Council of Europe, 2022, www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/what-causes-gender-based-violence.

[21] "Historical Timeline." *Www.endvawnow.org*, www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1472-historical-timeline.html.

2008-2013	The UN Security Council adopts four resolutions framing conflict-related sexual violence as a threat to international peace and security: 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013)
2015	The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) issues comprehensive Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action

6. Current Situation

A topic that has always been a major issue is gender-based violence. It is not a local phenomenon but a global one. Societies were built in such a way as to favour men and boys, while women and girls were placed in subordinate positions. This resulted in limited freedom, fewer rights, and minimal protection for women.

Moreover, the scale of the phenomenon is particularly alarming. In the daily lives of millions of women and girls, violence occurs in private spaces — by their romantic partners — even though such spaces are generally considered more protected from acts of violence. In most incidents, the most vulnerable form of exploitation faced by women and girls is sexual exploitation. Distrust from others and shame surrounding sexuality, prevent many victims from seeking help for their sexual abuse. Furthermore, in many countries, harmful traditions continue to be practiced, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Services related to victim protection and support remain limited due to insufficient funding, and people often face difficulties accessing them.

In recent years, with the development of technology, the internet has introduced a new form of abuse that was not widely recognized in the past. This involves harassment and the non-consensual sharing of sensitive images. Significant progress has been made globally through three important international agreements, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The implementation of these agreements leads to positive results, although they are not always the desired ones.

Additionally, organizations such as UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and the HeForShe initiative have been established. Such programs now teach students about consent, healthy relationships, and gender awareness. Many countries have created shelters, helplines, legal assistance services, and specialized police units for protection. These services have helped many people in need. The struggle for ensuring safety, freedom, and dignity for all has already produced positive outcomes.

However, humanity has still a long way to go before it achieves the desired results. According to the UN, 35% of women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual

violence. Every day, 137 women around the world are killed by a member of their own family. Research findings by the FRA (European Agency for Fundamental Rights) confirm the global picture depicted by the UN: one in three women has experienced some form of physical or sexual violence since the age of 15.

In practical terms, it is clear that although support services such as helplines, shelters, and community networks have been created, many people still struggle to access them—especially those living in rural areas or conflict zones.

Preventing violence requires cooperation across many different policies and initiatives. It demands action within the family, in schools, in the workplace, and more broadly at the societal level. Prevention is a fundamental element of a healthy and participatory civil society. Only then can we truly speak of an effective response to the culture of violence and ensure safety, equality, and respect for all.

7. Major Parties Involved

United Kingdom

In 2025, the UK declared violence against females a "national emergency" due to its major prevalence and complexity. Specifically, Over 5.1 million were considered victims of GBV in the past year in The United Kingdom, with women distinctively impacted. To assist the situation, an innovative cross-government Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy was enacted in the summer of 2025. It aimed to severely mitigate violence against females within the upcoming ten years, highlighting evidence-based, multi-agency coordination including police, health, social care, housing, and specialist services. Despite significant progress having been documented, underreporting remains significant, with less than 24% of domestic abuse incidents reported to the authorities.[22]

Sweden

Sweden consistently ranks among the countries with extensive protections to alleviate GBV, various victim services, as well as, progressive legal frameworks. The country puts faith in prevention through education, public awareness, and policies focusing on gender equality.[23] It has implemented a ten-year National Strategy (2017–2026) to mitigate, if not to fully

[22]https://connaughtlaw.com/violence-against-women-girls-vawg-uk-statistics/. "Violence against Women Girls UK 2025 VAWG Statistics & Laws." *Connaught Law Limited*, 15 Sept. 2025, connaughtlaw.com/violence-against-women-girls-vawg-uk-statistics/.

[23] *Limited*, 15 Sept. 2025, connaughtlaw.com/violence-against-women-girls-vawg-uk-statistics/.

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eradicate, violence against women, through prevention, improved detection, support to victims and effective law adherence, covering all forms of GBV, including violence against women, girls, men, boys, and LGBTQI persons.[24]

Iran

Iran has dangerously high rates of femicides and domestic violence reports, with studies documenting hundreds of women killed by male family members in the year 2023-2024. That's an increase of nearly 60% compared to the year 2022-2023. Legal protections are prominently lacking, and the judicial system fails to punish perpetrators. Women face systematic discrimination through law. For instance, the 2023 strengthened Hijab bill and prohibitions on women's public singing or speaking law is violating article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human rights[25]. Lastly, Iran has not ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This further deepens the impact of gender inequality in the country.[26]

United States

The United States implements extensive GBV prevention and response programs, supported by government funding, policy reforms, and diplomatic efforts.[27]The government is taking multiple actions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, in order to ensure democracy and dignity for all people. In December 2022, the United States released an action-oriented update to the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.

European Union (EU):

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[24]Ministry of Employment. *Ministry of Employment*. 2022 https://www.government.se/contentassets/9f4260f9e1724682aada19ba2dff181c/informationmaterial-swedens-work-to-combat-mens-violence-against-women-003.pdf

[25] United Nations org. "ARTICLES NINETEEN 19 UNIVERSAL DECLARATION of HUMAN RIGHTS 1948 NATIONS UNITED." *Nations-United.org*, 2021, nations-united.org/Universal_Declaration_Of_Human_Rights/Articles_Human_Rights/Articles_19_Human_Rights_Universal_Declaration_Nations_United_Nineteen.htm.

[26] Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Killed Because You Are a Woman—Violence against Women in Iran Reaches New Heights." *Center for Human Rights in Iran*, 6 Jan. 2025, iranhumanrights.org/2025/01/killed-because-you-are-a-woman-violence-against-women-in-iran-reaches-new-heights/.

[27]U.S. Department Of State. "Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response - United States Department of State." *United States Department of State*, 17 Apr. 2024, 2021-2025.state.gov/gender-based-violence-prevention-and-response/.

The EU has been an active member in regulating GBV, through ratifying the Istanbul Convention and adopting laws and legal frameworks like the 2024/1385 that set minimum prevention and protection standards. The EU also promotes data harmonization and cooperation among member states to improve GBV response, while assisting in the creation of funding programs, such as Daphne, to support victims and education initiatives. [28]

World Health Organization (WHO):

WHO treats GBV as a major public health crisis, considering it a violation of vital human rights. It plays a crucial role in the lead of global health sector initiatives such as the Special Initiative on Violence Against Women and Girls (SIVAWG), provides technical guidance, policy frameworks, research, and health system strengthening for GBV prevention and response.[29] Furthermore, WHO published the pivotal "World Report on Violence and Health," including GBV as a public health issue, setting the foundation for global health sector responses.[30]

UNESCO:

UNESCO focuses on education and media-based prevention of GBV, while supporting member states in developing gender-sensitive school curricula and tackling online and media-facilitated violence.[31] The organization works in cooperation with governments, civil societies, and social media to build a safe environment free from GBV in both physical and digital space. In 2023 UNESCO launched strategies focusing on safe learning environments and combating GBV in education settings, including teacher training and policy strengthening in several low and middle-income countries. They intensified their efforts in 2025 by promoting and implementing gender-sensitive education through cooperating with ministries of education worldwide.[32]

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[28] "Violence against Women Remains Pervasive: Gender Equality in a Changing World." *OECD*, 2025, www.oecd.org/en/publications/gender-equality-in-a-changing-world_e808086f-en/full-report/violence-against-women-remains-pervasive_aa396d5d.html.

[29]. "Special Initiative on Violence against Women and Girls (SIVAWG)." *Who.int*, 2024, www.who.int/europe/initiatives/special-initiative-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-sivawg.

[30]. "Special Initiative on Violence against Women and Girls (SIVAWG)." *Who.int*, 2024, www.who.int/europe/initiatives/special-initiative-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-sivawg.

[31] UNESCO. "UNESCO Strengthens Efforts to Tackle Gender-Based Violence in Media and Technology in Tanzania." *Unesco.org*, 2025, www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-strengthens-efforts-tackle-gender-based-violence-media-and-technology-tanzania.

[32]"Safe to Learn and Thrive: Ending Violence in and through Education." *Unesco.org*, 2024, www.unesco.org/en/articles/safe-learn-and-thrive-ending-violence-and-through-education.

8. Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

In recent years, many governments, organizations, and activists have attempted to address gender-based violence, with varying degrees of success.

International agreements such as CEDAW (1979), the Beijing Platform for Action (1995), and the Istanbul Convention (2011) have set global standards and encourage states to reform their laws, criminalize violence, and improve the protection of victims of gender-based violence. Although these frameworks have been significant, laws alone have not proven sufficient to change deeply rooted social and cultural norms.

At the national level, countries have enacted laws concerning domestic violence, sexual harassment, marital rape, and human trafficking. Some have also created specialized police units, survivor support systems, and national action plans. Additionally, campaigns such as UNiTE to End Violence Against Women, HeForShe, and the 16 Days of Activism have helped break the silence, reduce stigma, and encourage public dialogue.

Another area that has come to the forefront is education and prevention programs. Schools, workplaces, and communities now offer initiatives on consent, healthy relationships, and gender awareness. These programs help prevent problems before violence occurs by addressing the root of the issue: people's attitudes.

9. Possible Solutions

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Legal and Policy Reforms:

Eliminating biased gender legislations and implementing thorough GBV laws establishes a solid legal basis for safeguarding and responsibility. Member states should endorse international agreements, regarding workplace violence and harassment, in order to safeguard victims in professional settings. Furthermore, establishing and organizing specialised police teams, prosecutors, and courts that effectively address the matter of Gender Based Violence with care and efficiency, in order to lessen secondary trauma and ensure accountability, is a plan numerous countries are taking into consideration[33].

Integration of GBV into Health Services:

In this addressing this issue, nations need to incorporate Gender Based Violence within the health care. Professionals in primary care, emergency, as well as mental health need to be

[33] *HANDBOOK for NATIONAL ACTION PLANS on VIOLENCE against WOMEN*.

educated, in order to effectively recognize, record, and manage injuries, while providing psychological assistance and connecting survivors to legal and social services.

Community Engagement and Norm Change:

This solution mainly focuses on the sustained efforts to alter society norms that permit violence, and alongside community engagement, decrease the tolerance of Gender Based Violence (GBV)[34]. Furthermore, initiatives that confront toxic masculinity and encourage positive role models are considered necessary, as they lower the risk of perpetration. Lastly, collaboration between Member States, in order to challenge practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage and/or honour-based violence, is of great importance, for the matter to be effectively tackled.

Promoting Equality through Education:

Teaching consent, respect, and gender equality from a young age is one of the main ways education can contribute to preventing GBV[35]. Training teachers, creating secure reporting channels, and encouraging positive interpersonal skills within the classroom environment, schools will be able to empower students, question the norms of society and reduce the likelihood of violence in the future.

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[34] UN Women. "What We Do: Ending Violence against Women: Focusing on Prevention to Stop the Violence." *UN Women*, 2019, www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/prevention.

[35] "Comprehensive Sexuality Education to Prevent Gender-Based Violence | UNESCO." *Www.unesco.org*, www.unesco.org/en/articles/comprehensive-sexuality-education-prevent-gender-based-violence.

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