

XXVI

TECMUN Jr.

United Nations Entity for
Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women

Delegates:

It is an enormous honour for me to be writing this to you. First of all, I would like to congratulate you for making such a great decision as coming to TECMUN. Here is the place where you debate in order to make a much better world, which you have started to create in this very moment. The world in this moment has an incredibly large amount of trouble, which we are able to notice from the inside of our homes, but now I think it is time for us to raise a voice for every person who cannot. Words may be said on a forum at a school, but we do not know how powerful those may become.

As youths, we are always told that we are, at some point, going to be the change that this country needs, but how about being the change that this world, that this ill society needs. Perhaps you will not feel like changing the world sitting in a chair and talking on behalf of one certain nation, but you are. We can never forget that we have a voice, one that is loud and clear that will always be listened when spoken. Of course, three days talking about a problem will not be sufficient in order to actually eradicate the whole trouble, but it will be better than spending days watching how it goes through. In spite of being young, we are able. If you are here, reading this, means you care, you care about women, you care about children, you care about the unbelievable amount of people who lose their lives being innocent, you care about education and how governments may not do the appropriate. So now, go ahead, take one more shot and give your best. Life as we know it is not the same for everybody, truly take advantage on it and do not waste it. The only one who has the power of making each day count is you. So now, I want to wish you nothing more than success and this next three days, I want you to enjoy them but also give quite a participation.

Do not hesitate at the first obstacle, there will be plenty, just remember you are able; keep it, truly believe it, but never give up. Because, at the end, it is not the prize what matters, but the privilege of getting to improve the world a little.

Mariana Ruth Ángeles Franco

President of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

XXVI TECMUN Jr.

Outline of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was created by the United Nations General Assembly in the resolution 64/289 on July 2, 2010. Its headquarter is located at the United Nations in New York. UN Women works to create an environment in which every girl and woman can exercise their human rights. Focuses on priority areas that are fundamental for the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights and humanitarian action; areas that can unlock progress across the board. These priority areas range between working against discrimination towards women, for their empowerment, for equality between both genders, in protection of their human rights, for a world with peace and security, for leadership and political participation, and for ending violence against women.

Topic A

Measures to reduce the gender pay gap with a focus on Latin America.

By: Mariana Ruth Ángeles Franco

Background

Through the years, Latin America has experienced an inequality in the wage received by women and men. Despite gains accomplished recently, the gender pay gap still prevails, leaving women with a perceived 26% percent less salary than men, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The gender pay gap is influenced by a number of factors, including: discrimination and bias in hiring and pay decisions, such as the unfavourable rises unrelated to performance, obeying the gender stereotypes on how and where “should” men and women work, women and men working in different industries and different jobs, with female-dominated industries and jobs attracting lower wages, women’s disproportionate share of unpaid caring and domestic work, lack of women in leadership (approximately 1 out of 10 executives are women), lack of workplace flexibility to accommodate caring and other responsibilities, especially in senior roles, women’s greater time out of the workforce impacting career progression and opportunities.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), on a recent study entitled “New Century, Old Disparities”, compared surveys of emblematic households in 18 Latin American and Caribbean countries, pointed out that, although the average gender pay gap decreased from 25 percent to 17 percent between 1992 and 2007, it is starting to widen again. Thus, despite women working the exact same amount of time as men, and with quite similar capabilities, women are not paid equally.

Causes attributed to gender pay gap

According to UN Women, the countries with the highest pay gaps in Latin America include Suriname, Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala and Chile, and this is often related to the culture of sexism-like machismo- in each country. Mexico is one of the main countries where machismo is practiced; its government defines machismo as “*a group of attitudes and behaviors that unfairly violate the dignity of women compared to men*” (CONAVIM, 2016). Alike cultures include an ideology of men being better than women in senses such as strength, toughness, leadership, intelligence, etcetera, which is one of the main causes why several enterprises open vacancies “men only”. There are stereotypes created by society about the jobs “made for” each gender, for example, an investment banker is likely to be a man; in the same way, a nurse is more likely to be a woman. Employers contract men for the high charges and women for low charges because of such stereotypes. Despite women have demanded a conclusion to such problem, there has been no success.

Discrimination against women is the main factor of their lower salary compared to men. There are several countries in which women do the same job men does, and they are still paid a lower wage. In nations like the United Kingdom, women have a legal right to receive the same payment for the same job, and when this is not complied, people in charge of paying the employees may get into legal trouble.

Age is one of the factors, as well. Women aged 50 and more are likely to be less paid than men, while women aged 20-29-years-old are paid almost the same as men, with only 4% of difference. The BBC NEWS, on an article about the causes behind the gender pay gap, mentioned that, while a 35-year-old woman working full time can now be paid the same as a man, in 15 years her situation may change.

Another factor is related to the fact that women occupy an important place in family. That is the reason why women look for vacancies where they can have a workday and take care of their families at the same time: these jobs are known as “jobs for women only”. Single mothers are the ones who struggle the most to find jobs in which they are able to earn enough to raise an entire family by themselves and also take care of their children; this includes all the domestic tasks. Thus, since women have to find jobs in which they need to have a decent salary and watch on their families, they have to turn to “unprofessional employments” such as house cleaners or babysitters.

Gender pay gap in Latin America

Latin America has been worried about the gender gap through the last years. Most of the countries in this region are discussing about laws that demand that women and men have to be paid equally in private enterprises and public institutions. The goal was placed after Iceland established this law on January 1st of the current year, 2018. The International Labour Organization (ILO) for Latin America and the Caribbean director, José Manuel Salazar, pointed out that the pay gap is a very complex problem that is not totally related to cultural factors, but to the employment’s composition and women’s education level, as well. Director Salazar also mentioned that despite all the efforts conducted in the recent years, there is still a pay gap in Latin America.

Salazar also mentioned an advanced on the pursuit of equal wages despite the gender. Panama recently joined the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC). Led by ILO, UN Women and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), this multi-

stakeholder coalition, launched on September 2017, during the United Nations General Assembly in New York, has a main goal: *“By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value”* (EPIC, 2017).

Thus, since Panama is the first Latin American in the EPIC, other Latin American countries such as Chile and Colombia are looking forward to making more advances on the topic. On the Global Gender Gap score ranking by the World Economic Forum, Panama is currently in the 43th place; being the first place- Iceland- the country with the smallest gender gap. The next are some of the Latin American countries present on the ranking with their respective places:

- Nicaragua - 6th
- Bolivia - 17th
- Colombia - 36th
- Costa Rica - 41st
- Ecuador - 42nd
- Panama - 43th
- Mexico - 81st
- Suriname - 86th
- Brazil - 90th
- Paraguay - 96th
- Guatemala - 110th

The Republic of Chile’s government published, in an article on education, that the more educational level there, the more gender pay gap. The article mentions that in the case of people with no formal education, where men receive the 100%, women receive the 77% for doing the same job. And in the situation of people with finished professional careers, women win the 61% of the men’s salaries for performing the exact same job. The text also includes a paragraph where they mention machismo as the main cause of the gender pay gap in Chile, but also, emphasizing that the women’s lack of value decreases their laboral participation on a 23%.

True is that women take different roles in each country: they have different value worldwide. In some countries, like India, women are undervalued in society to the point where they are sold to men as servitude even cheaper than cows. This is related to the type of culture in the nation. *“...girls are not valued before they are born, and neither are they valued or well*

treated even after being born” (Muttreja, 2016), Poonam Muttreja, director of the Foundation of the Population of India, mentioned for a *Play Ground* article on the value of women in India.

Alicia Barcena, ECLAC’s executive secretary once mentioned that earning the same salary as men for realizing the same work is a woman’s right. She also highlighted that in order for women to accomplish an economic autonomy, the end of the gender gap was the main step forward. Barcena pointed out this statements in order to create consciousness of the fact that Latin America is a region where gender equality is a backward topic that other regions have worked on quite hard. Nevertheless, recently, Latin America passed across laws which attempt on protecting domestic workers, mostly women, through setting minimum hourly pay rates, plus a rise in the monthly minimum wage. Actions like this have lifted the earnings of less educated female domestic workers with the goal of promoting the empowerment of women.

The nations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela are the recognized Latin American countries that have implemented laws as efforts to address the gap. These laws demand the equal pay for equal work, embracing the International Labor Organization’s notion of “work of equal value”. Peru recently adhered to this group by implementing a law prohibiting gender pay discrimination, which is forbidden in these countries. In general terms, Peru’s recent law bans wage discrimination between men and women, obliges companies to prepare and keep wage scales detailing employee categories and duties, requires companies to inform employees about salary and remuneration policies, performance evaluation criteria and any other factors impacting remuneration. These laws provide different legal actions for employees to use in case the employer tolerates gender discrimination in the workplace. In Mexico, for example, employees can file a dismissal claim for payment of the mandatory severance, and a complaint before the National Commission to Prevent Discrimination seeking for payment damages, a public warning or a public or private apology. Also, employees can bring civil actions requesting payment of “moral damages” and discrimination actions. Notwithstanding, the closure of the gender pay gap has been slow. According to the Global Gender Gap score ranking by the World Economic Forum, these countries are in the middle places, meaning these laws haven’t shown the hoped-for outcome since they were established.

Though legislation is still slow on gender pay-related issues, several multinational companies are demonstrating strong proclivity to tackle the gender pay gap. Multinational companies with headquarters in more developed countries (like the UK) have created a trickle

down of progressive policies. These initiatives show candidates and employees an inclusive culture environment, which attracts talent. Thus, multinationals in Latin America have started implementing help like mentorship programs, home office and flextime schemes, and maternity and paternity leaves among other in order to promote women. An example shown in Mexico: some multinationals have chosen to adopt the “Mexican Standard for Equality and Discrimination” issued in 2015 by the Labor Ministry and the National Commission to Prevent Discrimination. With this, companies are awarded a certificate recognizing workplaces with anti-discrimination environments. In order to acquire the certificate, there has to be an audit that reviews the company’s recruitment and hiring process, training, promotion, equal pay and anti-harassment policies, designation of a committee in charge of implementing policies on the topic and gender quotas.

Obstructions for the concrete end of gender pay gap in Latin America

Though it is said that the gender pay gap in this region has been in constant development to achieve an end, it has faced issues to apply strict strategies through each nation. The principal argument of an obstruction is that women are not paid equally because men are the ones in charge for raising a whole family: providing the basic needs to them, as well as the attempt of a good life quality.

Thus, the fact of the existence of women being single mothers developing two rolls seems to be out of the line. Familiar responsibilities affect women’s opportunities of a job promotion and this leads to a bigger gender pay gap due to the fact that women have to look for part time jobs. Women commonly occupy jobs in areas with lower wages, such as teaching, or being a secretary. The fact that these are female-dominated areas contributes to the stereotype of these jobs as “only jobs for women”.

Also, the slow, or nonexistent, creation of quality jobs is obstructing the eradication of this complication since well prepared women face several systematic obstacles to take important places in enterprises. Among others, working women often face workplace harassment, bias according to their looks, merit dismissal and lack of working benefits like the paid maternity leave. The above is clear in the area of customer service, a female-dominated workplace with few requisites; among others, companies request “good presentation”, which translates as needing a woman who fits certain physical description. As the European Union once mentioned, women finish a career in order to serve and help their countries develop forward, but they do not have the chance to do it.

Since Latin America has searched ways to construct a no gender pay gap environment like Iceland, arguments like this one should be taken into account. Normally, hiring a woman in a high position disrupts the hierarchy Latin American enterprises have. The ILO remarks only 21% of companies in Latin America hire women in managing positions. In some jobs, for example the steel and mechanic industries, there are vacancies reserved for men *de-facto* because of the misconception of prepared women being physically unable to use the tools and operatives. Argentinian women aren't legally allowed to drive a train, and it is even difficult for them to work as taxi drivers, they only have the opportunity to work as subway drivers. Whereas in Europe, well prepared women with finished careers take highstandard berths in jobs because the employers know they are going to contribute something to the enterprise, and that has brought them to the first places of the nations with the less gender pay gap, according to the *World Economic Forum*.

The most alarming problem, however, is that men which hold privileged positions ignore these obstacles. A survey launched by the freelancing site *Workana (2017)* shows that 84% of men in Latin America believe that women have equal working conditions. They believe that women can achieve economic independence or at least achieve the same professional development as them, with the same effort and on the same footing of socioeconomic equality. Nonetheless, 10% of the surveyed males have incomes between USD \$2000 and USD \$4000; only 4% of the women surveyed declared the same level.

References

1. Collen, C. (2017). Gender Equality Actually Got Worse in 2017, World Economic Forum Says. Recovered 7 June 2018, *Global Citizen*. Web. <<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/gender-equality-actually-got-worse-in-2018-world-e/>>
2. Moloney, A. (2016). Latin America gender pay gap shrinks slowly, harms development: U.N. Recovered 7 June 2018, *REUTERS*. Web. <<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-latam-women-pay/latin-america-gender-pay-gap-shrinks-slowly-harms-development-u-n-idUSKCN0WC2KJ>>
3. Inter-American Development Bank. (2012). Latin American and Caribbean Women: Better Educated, Lower Paid. Recovered 7 June 2018, *Inter-American Development Bank*. Web. <<https://www.iadb.org/en/news/webstories/2012-10-15/wage-gap-between-men-and-women%2C10155.html>>
4. Pérez, B. (2016). Las causas que explican por qué demonios ellas ganan menos que sus compañeros. Recovered 8 June 2018, *LA INFORMACIÓN*. Web. <https://www.lainformacion.com/asuntos-sociales/mano-de-obra/empleo/las-causas-que-explican-por-que-demonios-ellas-ganan-menos-que-sus-companeros_aijol88w0avsjvtlhxlvq4>
5. BBC Mundo. (2016). Los verdaderos motivos detrás de la diferencia salarial entre hombres y mujeres. Recovered 8 June 2018, *BBC NEWS*. Web. <<http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-37217241>>
6. Comisión Nacional para Prevenir y Erradicar la Violencia Contra las Mujeres. (2016). ¿Sabes qué es el #Machismo? Recovered 8 June 2018, *gob.mx*. Web. <<https://www.gob.mx/conavim/articulos/sabes-que-es-el-machismo?idiom=es>>
7. World Economic Forum. (2017). Global Gender Gap Report 2017. Recovered 8 June 2018, *World Economic Forum*. Web. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2017/dataexplorer/?doing_wp_cron=1528602583.5671210289001464843750>
8. World International Labour Organization. (2018). Equal Pay International Coalition launched in Latin America and the Caribbean. Recovered 8 June 2018, *World International Labour Organization*. Web. <http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_616471/lang--en/index.htm>

9. World International Labour Organization. (2018). Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC). Recovered 8 June 2018, *World International Labour Organization*. Web. <<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/equality-and-discrimination/epic/lang-en/index.htm>>
10. EFE. (2018). América Latina terminará prohibiendo la brecha salarial de género como Islandia. Recovered 8 June 2018, *Agencia EFE*. Web. <<https://www.efe.com/efe/america/economia/america-latina-terminara-prohibiendo-la-brecha-salarial-de-genero-como-islandia/20000011-3509117>>
11. Fortuño, M. (2018). Estos son los motivos de la brecha salarial de género. Recovered 15 June 2018, *World Economic Forum*. Web. <<https://www.weforum.org/es/agenda/2018/02/estos-son-los-motivos-de-la-brecha-salarial-de-genero>>
12. Enfoque y Equidad de Género. Convivencia Escolar. Recovered 15 June 2018, *Ministerio de Educación, Gobierno de Chile*. Web. <http://www.convivenciaescolar.cl/index3.php?id_portal=50&id_seccion=4653&id_contenido=27246>
13. Ulianov, B. (2017) La mujer en América Latina: desafíos laborales e igualdad. Recovered 18 June 2018. *Workana*. Web. <<https://www.workana.com/blog/freelanceando/la-mujer-en-america-latina/>>
14. M.Y. (2016). En la India, comprar una mujer cuesta menos que comprar una vaca. Recovered 21 June 2018. *Play Ground*. Web. <https://www.playgroundmag.net/now/India-comprar-mujer-cuesta-vaca_22650022.html>
15. Moloney, A. (2016). Closing the gender pay gap in Latin America - why is progress so slow? Recovered 21 June 2018. *World Economic Forum*. Web. <<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/03/closing-the-gender-pay-gap-in-latin-america-why-is-progress-so-slow>>

Glossary

B

Bias: inclination or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair.

Berths: a position in an organization or event.

E

Economic autonomy: sense of women's capacity to generate income and personal financial resources, based on access to paid work under conditions of equality with men. This parameter takes account of time use, and of women's contribution to the economy.

G

Gender pay gap: the difference between the amounts of money paid to women and men, often for doing the same work.

H

Hierarchy: a system in which members of an organization or society are ranked according to relative status or authority.

M

Machismo: strong or aggressive masculine pride.

Multi-stakeholder: Of or pertaining to more than one person who has an interest in or investment in something and who is impacted by and cares about how it turns out.

P

Proclivity: a tendency to choose or do something regularly; an inclination or predisposition towards a particular thing.

Q

Quality jobs: the standard of a job as measured against other jobs; its degree of excellence involving enough salary according to the done work.

R

Role: the function assumed or part played by a person or thing in a particular situation.

S

Severance: the action of ending a connection or relationship.

U

Unprofessional employments: the state of working without having a regulated salary, which depends on the employer.

V

Vacancies: unoccupied positions or jobs.

W

Wage: a fixed regular payment earned for work or services, typically paid on a daily or weekly basis.

Workday: a day on which one works.

Workplace harassment: the act of disturb persistently in a place where people work; torment

Topic B

Forced pregnancies due to massive sexual violence and a machista ideology on Latin American countries.

By: Mariana Ruth Ángeles Franco

Background

The result from a vaginal penetration without a woman's or girl's consent is what is known as "forced pregnancy", which is the maximum expression of machista violence and a recognized torture method toward women. The UN considers it as a crime against humanity as well as an attempt towards the personal, social, sexual and existential personal integrity of a woman. This crime leads to extreme consequences to the victims: fear, panic, and insomnia, as well as physical ones such as internal bruises and bleeding which may lead to death, mainly when it comes to multiple violations and by groups. Consequences for women may not only be physical but also social. Women who are victims of sexual violence and get pregnant become single mothers, which leads them to often struggles with society. When the case is on young women or even girls, they usually present trauma afterwards; they fear most of the people near them. But consequences are not only for these women, but also for the babies; they are not born in "ordered" families, therefore, they are not able to develop several characteristics such as self control through their lives.

The source of forced pregnancies is the sexual violence which "*Includes unwanted vaginal, oral, or anal insertion through use of physical force or threats to bring physical harm toward or against the victim*" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018). In countries where conflict is frequent, forced pregnancies are often employed as a strategy to suppress ethnic or religious communities, however, this also occur in the everyday lives of women in Latin America. Reproduction is often used by men as a weapon of control in abusive relationships. Verbal threats, violence or birth-control sabotage are commonly employed to get women pregnant, and then go unpunished since this mostly take place in a private sphere.

This issue is most given in young girls; they end up pregnant due to sexual abuse -in most of the cases, from family members- and they do not receive the need they help and are forced to continue their pregnancies because of restrictive legislation; family, social or state pressures; or other obstacles, such as the lack of sexual education or access to methods of prevention. Though there are laws in almost every Latin American country with the object of protecting girls from problems like this, laws are not likely to be used. Instead, governments perpetuate violence against girls, rather than protect them from harm and ensure they are empowered to live safe, healthy and prosperous lives. These girls end up being very young mothers raising an infant when they should be studying at school.

Machista ideology in Latin America

Katy Watson, a BBC Mexico and Central America reporter, has been following women's lives since a young age; traveling from America to Asia, she has encountered differences on the way women act, behave and even dress. She pointed out how Middle East women are veiled from head-to-toe in black and during the Rio Carnival, women dance in front of many people in bikinis. In Saudi Arabia, Watson mentioned, you need a male guardian to travel, while in several Latin American countries, women walk all alone at night and are often kidnapped, which is a way of showing machismo. "*Whether it is honour or so-called machismo, the end result is the same. Women become second-class citizens*" (Watson, 2015), Watson added to a BBC article.

With the ideology of being superior in every way, men grow machista thoughts and violent women in various forms; the main one is sexually. Catalina Ruiz-Navarro, a Colombian feminist living in Mexico City, mentioned that machismo is a very Latin belief. She referred to a popular characteristic of machista men: if they are not being jealous and possessive, they do not want to be with you or they do not love you. She also pointed out that this is the way men are taught to behave like, and, at the same time, women are taught to want and accept it, as if it were a required characteristic for being a "real man". Thus, men in Latin America are often proud of being machistas and many women like their "protective" macho men. This ideology goes years ago, in Latin American countries, men have

Sexual violence in Latin America

Worldwide, several women become victims of sexual harassment and domestic violence, but in Latin America the statistics are unsurprisingly high. According to *Humanosphere* on an article on the sexual assault women face in Latin America, every woman who walks by the streets of cities like São Paulo, Lima and Bogotá are likely to be, at some point in their lives, a victim of sexual assault, leaving women often -if not in all cases- pregnant. Though these crimes should be all reported, only a few percent of the victims choose to realize it. There are many reason why women does not report them; these could be shame, fear, retaliation, disillusionment with the judicial system among them, etcetera.

Recently, there has been a resurgence of movements in favor of women, their rights and pride. The creation of female leaders around the world has become very important for women to feel secure in some way; countries like Argentina, Chile and Brazil are some of the nations that count with recognized female leaders. Also, Latin American countries signed the Convention of Belem do Para in 1994, which committed countries to improving women's rights and influenced several laws on violence against women.

Nevertheless, reality is other thing: laws do not adequately protect women from sexual violence. In Mexico, for example, despite having several laws on women's rights and punishments for people who won't accomplish them, women still fear walking on the street. It is a fact that women in this country have suffered extreme violence in the last years; cases of women being kidnapped, violated and found death are everyday in the news.

Violence against women has become a very popular topic among Latin American countries; some of the dangers that women face in this region are: according to the UN, a woman is assaulted every 15 seconds in Brazil's biggest city, São Paulo; in Mexico, it is estimated more than 120,000 women are raped a year -that is one every four minutes, according to Mexico's Femicide Observatory, 1,258 girls and women were reported to have disappeared between 2011 and 2012 in the State of Mexico alone; between 2011 and 2013, 840 women were killed, 145 of these killings were investigated as femicides, some 53% of Bolivian women aged 15-49 have reported physical or sexual violence in their lives, according to the Pan American Health Organization, about 38% of women in Ecuador say wife-beating is justified for at least one reason.

According to the information given from 2002 to 2010, thirty percent of pregnant women in Latin America are under the age of 18 and between 5 percent and 40 say they have suffered sexual abuse. In Guatemala, every four hours a girl or adolescent denounces an act of sexual violence against her, 2,190 a year. Every day there are five new pregnancies in children under 14 years and 30% of maternal deaths occur in children under 19 years. Eight out of 10 women victims of sexual abuse are under 13 years and 64% of reported cases occur In the home. 27% of all pregnancies registered in Nicaragua are of girls and adolescents. Of these, almost half (47%) were between 10 and 14 years old. In addition, 46% of adolescent mothers are illiterate.

In Mexico every day there are more than 1,640 complaints for sexual crimes, but organizations estimate that only 10% of what actually happens is reported. Nine out of 10 victims are women and of these, four out of 10 are under 15 years old. Half of the aggressions occur in homes and in 60% of cases the person responsible is a relative or acquaintance. In Paraguay every day two girls under the age of 14 give birth. 20% of pregnancies in the country are girls and adolescents. 19% of pregnant women between 15 and 19 years of age stop studying.

Transportation has become a problem spot as well: a recent survey by YouGov for the Thomson Reuters Foundation indicated that of the most dangerous public transport systems for women in the world, the top three were in Latin America: Bogotá, Mexico City and Lima. Thus, there have been some changes to avoid situations: Metro's women-only carriages is an

example, but despite, there have been men who get in those carriages and no one say a thing. In Mexico City, public transportation has become a quite important issue when it comes to women; there have been cases in which young women take taxis of an *Uber* and they are not seen ever again alive, and their bodies found in an abandoned place. The case of a 19-year-old woman named Mara Castilla, which was murdered by a *Cabify* driver, lead to extreme precaution for women; that is a reason why women are now choosing women-only transportation, such as *Laudrive*, which is an enterprise created by mexicans due to the femicide increasement in the city. The case finished with the aggressor being protected by the law, which involves a lack of justice in organisms especially seen on cases of femicides. *Laudrive's* goal is to make women feel safer when traveling through the city.

In other way, sexual violence is also given inside relationships. Women in Latin America have a hard time trying to survive, so they get married in order to live under the protection of a man; but safety is one thing they do not get. From a machista ideology, men in Latin America tend to hit women, but they will not leave their men because those are who maintain them and provide them their basic needs. A report presented in Panama, UN Women (a UN entity dedicated to the empowerment of women) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Latin America has the highest rate of sexual violence against women outside of relationships and the second-highest for those who are in, or were in, a couple.

Elizabeth Miller, an assistant professor of pediatrics at University of California, Davis, found that men often use verbal threats, violence, or birth-control sabotage to get women pregnant. "*Men use reproduction as a weapon*" (Miller, 2010), she mentioned. The reason is simple: men feel like they are in control of women when they are able to subdue them to a time where they are carrying a man's child.

Forced pregnancies in Latin America

The topic of forced pregnancies is disturbing, yet, it is more when it involves very young girls. There was a case in Paraguay in 2016, where a 10-year-old girl named Mainumby got pregnant after being raped by her stepfather. She was segregated from her family and friends, institutionalized and forced to give birth despite the extreme medical risks it involved. *Equality Now* and CLADEM (Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer) were involved in this situation, and while they did succeed on saving

both the girl and baby's lives, Mainumby had to face motherhood at the age of 11. The previously mentioned organizations followed and studied the case: the girl showed struggles with the physical and mental scars of being sexually abused and forced into motherhood at a really young age. Since she had to take care of a newborn now, she could not attend to school as a normal child of her age, and despite she was taken away many things in her life, she never saw justice against her rapist.

Cases like Mainumby's happen quite often in Latin America, only in Paraguay, the country's Ministry of Health reported that 684 girls between the ages ten and fourteen gave birth in 2014, most pregnancies were caused from a sexual abuse. Certainly, those numbers have now increased since the past years. Reports suggests that infants born to mothers aged 15-19 are nearly 80% more likely to die within the first year than infants born to 20-29-year-olds. Thus, the risk won't only fall on the young mother, but on the infant as well. When the case was taken to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights, they recommended Paraguay to review its domestic violence legislation and explore ways of reducing the potential for further violence by removing alleged abusers from the home more rapidly.

But Paraguay is not alone in Latin America with its inadequate protection of girls who are abused and forced to give birth. *Niñas Madres*, a new regional report by CLADEM on the issue showed that the number of births to girls under 14 years, in 12 countries in the region, was 60,690 in 2012. The countries that participated in the study are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Uruguay. Most of these pregnancies, again, due to sexual abuse from family members. Even though there are laws protecting girls from sexual violence including child pregnancy and forced childbirth, these are not likely to be implemented in most of the countries.

In Guatemala, teenage girls are the ones with the issue. In 2014, the Planned Parenthood Federation recorded over 5,000 forced pregnancies by girls under the age of 14. For 4 out of 5 girls, the rapist who caused their pregnancies were relatives: either it was a father (which is the 30 percent of the overall cases), uncle, grandparent, brother or cousin. The problem has grown so much, that in the last five years, a quarter of the newborn population in Guatemala were born to adolescent mothers. Mirna Montenegro, the head of Guatemala's Sexual and Reproductive Health Observatory (OSAR), once mentioned that "*...in the majority of cases of sexual violence against girls, some as young as 10, most are committed by family members, mainly by the girl's father or stepfather*" (Montenegro, 2017). Montenegro also mentioned that gender sexual violence in Guatemala goes a long way back, to the Guatemalan civil war from

1960 to 1996, when rape was used as a weapon of combat, so this woman mentions that it could be one of the main causes attributed to such a big percent of forced pregnancies in Guatemala.

With an unplanned pregnancy in such a young age, the risks are enormous; it could not result in childbirth. In El Salvador in 2013, 1,540 children pregnancies were recorded, accounting for 1.9% of the total number of pregnancies. Only two-thirds of those pregnancies (1,507) came to term. Mexico reported 10,264 cases (0.46%) in 2012, 8,347 (0.38%) in 2013 and 6,178 (0.28%) in 2014. But only one-fifth to one-third of these pregnancies resulted in childbirth, according to the *Child Mothers* study. As it is shown, most of the pregnancies result completed, but the scenarios for every girl vary, and so does the support they receive when in a prenatal care. There are now programs that give incentives to the prenatal care, and in some countries, the number of girls that receive attention from these kind of programs is huge. Only in Brazil in 2013, 28,236 girls were reported to be receiving prenatal care. In El Salvador, of the pregnant patients that received prenatal care services, 1,540 (1.9%) were girls, according to the *Child Mothers* study.

When a pregnancy finishes, maternity starts, and this is the part where most of the harm that girls feel starts. Life is transformed forever on a physical mental and social point of view, as maternity disrupts many opportunities, educational when young. Furthermore, maternity is the phase where the child mother relates herself with the society. If a 10-year-old girl like Mainumby gets pregnant and then the child is born, maternity occurs so the girl has to leave the pattern of a normal 10-year-old life to learn how to be a mother. A girl that age is not ready to be a mother, and yet, she has to.

Forced pregnancies show the level of violence, lack of autonomy, discrimination, and appropriation of the bodies of females by adult males, including relatives, in each country. It is also a way to display the inefficiency of state policies for the prevention of pregnancies. No sexual education programs, and most importantly, no serious implementation of the existent law. When on young girls, there are no effective appropriate policies for the prevention of child pregnancy and child maternity applied vividly, they only operate when pregnancies of young girls are already a problem and it is an emergency.

In Latin American countries, as shown, the main cause of forced pregnancies is sexual abuse, mostly committed by members of the family or people very close to the woman or girl. There are two main reasons why victims do not denounce their aggressors; the first one includes the feelings of submission, stigma, shame, fear, and the lack of symbolic factors in order to feel confident to do it; the second reason involves the fact that, if the denounce the aggressor, there

is no guarantee that legal proceedings will begin and the responsible will face justice through punishment.

The most alarming and important issue to fight in this situation is the guarantee of a good lifestyle for women or girls afterwards. Mental health is the most affected area in the life of a victim. Therefore, the relationships of the victim are not likely to be stable and neither does a normal social life. For women, job opportunities may be seriously restricted and for girls, the education, in most of the cases, may no longer be a viable possibility. The community around the victim will no longer treat her the same way, which damages her self esteem. The most important object to search for, is a way to decrease the cases of forced pregnancies in order to eradicate it from its roots.

References

1. Watson, K. (2015). Struggling with sexism in Latin America. Recovered 28 June 2018, *BBC News*. Web. <<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-33939470>>
2. Kimelblatt, M. (2017). Reducing harmful effects of machismo culture in Latin American domestic violence laws: amending the Convention of Belém Do Pará to resemble the Istanbul Convention. Recovered 28 June 2018, *George Washington International Law Review*. Web. <https://www.gwilr.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ILR-Vol-49.2_Meredith-Kimelblatt.pdf>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Violence Prevention. Recovered 28 June 2018, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. Web. <<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/definitions.html>>
4. The Advocates for Human Rights. (2010). Forced pregnancy. Recovered 29 June 2018, *The Advocates for Human Rights*. Web. <http://www.stopvaw.org/harmful_practices_forced_pregnancy>
5. PTI. (2017). Latin America is world's most violent region for women: UN. Recovered 29 June 2018, *The Business Line*. Web. <<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/latin-america-is-worlds-most-violent-region-for-women-un/article9970381.ece>>
6. Thomson Reuters Foundation News. (2014). Most dangerous transport systems for women. Recovered 29 June 2018, *Thomson Reuters Foundation News*. Web. <<http://news.trust.org/spotlight/most-dangerous-transport-systems-for-women/?tab=results>>
7. Kimelblatt, M. (2017). Reducing harmful effects of machismo culture in Latin American domestic violence laws: amending the Convention of Belém Do Pará to resemble the Istanbul Convention. Recovered 6 July 2018, *George Washington International Law Review*. Web. <https://www.gwilr.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ILR-Vol-49.2_Meredith-Kimelblatt.pdf>
8. Publimetro. (2017). Laudrive, la alternativa de taxis seguros para mujeres. Recovered 6 July 2018, *Publimetro*. Web. <<https://www.publimetro.com.mx/mx/noticias/2017/09/17/laudrive-la-alternativa-taxis-seguros-mujeres.html>>
9. Castañares, I. (2017). Se dispara 60% demanda de Laudrive, el 'taxi' para mujeres. Recovered 6 July 2018, *El Financiero*. Web.

<<http://www.elfinanciero.com.mx/empresas/se-dispara-60-demanda-de-laudrive-el-taxi-para-mujeres>>

10. Quast, S. (2016). Ending Forced Childbirth in Latin America and the Caribbean. Recovered 7 July 2018, *Thomson Reuters Foundation News*. Web.

<<http://news.trust.org/item/20160407143543-n7jvp>>

11. TeleSUR. (2017). Teenage Pregnancies in Guatemala on the Rise. Recovered 7 July 2018, *teleSUR*. Web. <<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Teenage-Pregnancies-in-Guatemala-on-the-Rise-20170503-0042.html>>

12. CLADEM. (2016). Child Mothers. Child Pregnancy and Forced Child Maternity in Latin America and the Caribbean. Recovered 7 July 2018, *CLADEM*. Web.

<<https://www.cladem.org/images/imgs-noticias/Executive-Summary-Child-Mothers-FINAL.pdf>>

Glossary

A

Adequately: to a satisfactory or acceptable extent.

Acquaintance: a person one knows slightly, but who is not a close friend.

F

Femicides: the killing of a woman or girl, in particular by a man and on account of her gender.

I

Illiterate: ignorant in a particular subject or activity.

Inadequate: lacking the quality or quantity required; insufficient for a purpose.

K

Kidnap: abduct (someone) and hold them captive, typically to obtain a ransom.

M

Machista violence: an exaggerated or exhilarating sense of power or strength.

P

Prosperous: bringing wealth and success.

Prenatal: before birth; during or relating to pregnancy.

R

Reproduction: the production of offspring by a sexual or asexual process.

Retaliation: the action of harming someone because they have harmed oneself; revenge.

Resurgence: an increase or revival after a period of little activity, popularity, or occurrence.

Rape: the crime, typically committed by a man, of forcing another person to have sexual intercourse with the offender against their will

S

Sexual harassment: the act of disturb persistently in a sexual manner; sexually tormented.

Subdue: overcome, quieten, or bring under control (a feeling or person).

Stigma: a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person.