

XXVII

TECMUN Jr.

United Nations High
Commissioner for Human
Rights

Delegates:

Fear has been utilised as a tool of control throughout history. One of my teachers told me a population was easier to control if everyone was afraid of the same thing. That governments and institutions, nowadays continue to use this tactic to remain in control. This statement, does not only apply to a population, but it also applies to a single person, because fear, paralyzes people.

Fear has always been an inhibitor of change, an impediment for people to do things differently, an obstacle in the way to progress. For centuries, people have tended to surrender to fear, giving it power over them and their actions. There have been few human beings who have controlled their fears and fought for those who had not achieved it yet. Mohandas Gandhi, Mary Wollstonecraft, Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks. They were world leaders that fought and inspired people to continue fighting to achieve equality. They battled against abusive government authorities, and beliefs that were not respecting people's basic human rights.

Delegates, it is your responsibility to speak in the name of people who have suffered or continue to suffer from social injustices. You must, set aside your personal opinions, and represent the ideals of your countries in order to ensure that the rights of its inhabitants are respected. Become the voice of those who can not speak. Behave diplomatically and professionally, to give viable and realistic solutions to the topic you debate.

You, delegate, shall not allow your fears to control you, because it is you who will make a big difference in the world.

Sincerely, your president

Alejandra Bañuelos González

President of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Background of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, founded in the 1960's, leads global human rights efforts and represents the world's commitment to the universal ideals of human rights inside the UN and in each of its member states. It provides assistance to governments, civil society, national human rights institutions and other UN entities as well as international organizations, in order to implement human rights. UNHCR provides help when human rights are violated, it identifies and develops responses to threats to human rights. The work done by the committee is partially, 40%, funded from the UN regular budget and partially through voluntary contributions from member states and other donors

Topic A

Measures to combat xenophobia in Western Europe due to the high immigrant income from the Middle East

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Introduction

Xenophobia is defined as the “attitudes, prejudices and behavior that reject, exclude and often vilify persons, based on the perception that they are outsiders or foreigners to the community, society or national identity.” (United Nations, 2015). Xenophobic attitudes include racial discrimination, legal and political restrictions, social outcasting that are directed against members of different ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or another mark of distinction.

Xenophobia has, unfortunately, had a major role throughout history and has presented obstacles to minorities or people who are different or have other ideals, mentality, and even ideologies. The origin of xenophobia can be traced back to the persecution of the Christians by the Roman Empire when Christians were hunted down by Romans for their faith and belief in a God different than theirs. But then the Christians became xenophobic and carried out the crusades to spread the teachings of their God and eradicate any other religion or profane belief that stood in its way. Religious differences are not the only cause for these historical xenophobic persecutions, but also race and the thought of superiority of a race above another one. An example of this hatred, because of race, is the creation of the Ku Klux Klan in the United States and the persecutions it carried out against Afro-American people. Xenophobia does not only result in the persecution of people, but also in the removal of their rights and liberties, just like what happened to thousands of Africans and Indigenous people that were enslaved and stripped from their rights.

Xenophobia continues to be present in our society, this is shown in propaganda against immigrants in countries like Hungary, anti-semitic acts in Germany, to the point that Jews are asked not to wear their *kippás* in public and attacks in Ireland against tourists, based on the fact that they are not Irish. In 2018, according to the data obtained by the United Nations, in Germany seven thousand seven hundred crimes were committed because of xenophobia: In France, more than 540 anti-semitic acts were registered, and in the United Kingdom a thousand five hundred and fifty-two. Countries like Sweden and the Netherlands are not far behind. Increasing about five to fifteen percent from the UN's data registered in 2015.

Human Rights as the priority

With the exponential increment in migratory movements and the big refugee waves hitting Europe, it is the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) duty to ensure that the rights of these migrants and refugees are respected and promote the diversity in those countries which receive refugees to avoid and prevent xenophobia. It is the responsibility of the UNHCHR to protect the rights of the one in every fifty human beings that live outside their countries of origin as migrants and refugees. It is the task of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to work towards a world of respect and diversity. The UNHCHR stands against xenophobia since it is a violation to the human rights of refugees and migrants, but most importantly it is a barrier in the way of the achievement of a tolerant world that respects and foments diversity.

One of the main causes of xenophobia is labor competence. Population in an unfavorable position consider the newcomers as competitors for jobs. This kind of environment in which the rivalry exists between the society and the migrants generates xenophobia. Foreigners become a threat to their jobs. As well as the increase of competition between states, leading to reduce social, educational and healthcare services for the population living on the margins of society, which are the main breeding ground of xenophobia and are in direct competition with migrants.

The economic inequalities give rise to tensions and manifestations of xenophobia in which migrants and refugees are the main targets of the habitants. A clear example of this is the anti-immigrant attacks in South Africa "The root of this problem lies in our inability to bring about economic growth and decrease the inequality that plagues our nation," said DA parliamentary leader Mmusi Maimane. "It is the hopelessness that results from unemployment that drives drug use and criminality in these communities, and underlies xenophobic attacks" she added afterwards in her speech. The incoming strangers are trusted to be a threat to local heritage, on the other hand, migrants feel uncomfortable when coexisting with a different culture.

Main violations of human rights against migrants

The main violations committed against the rights of migrants range from the aggression by the authorities of the country, where the migrants are located, to the marginalization of a part of the population. The unjustified retention of migrants and isolation from all contact with other individuals or with representatives from their own government. The bureaucracy within the legal system to deny their citizenship. And the unnecessary laws in the process of deportation and verbal and physical aggression by society, make it harder for migrants to get equal treatment and highlight their differences. This is the general look to the main violations of human rights to migrants, however, each country has its own policies to deal with the migratory crisis.

Republic of Austria

The Austrian government has taken important measures to prevent the passage of immigrants. An intent of a blockade has begun to be positioned between Austria and Italy to prevent illegal migration. The United Nations Secretary General intervened a few hours after the Vienna Parliament passed a law restricting the right to asylum in April, 2016. The Italian border with Austria is being monitored by mixed Italian-German-Austrian patrols that require documentation of all migrants who cross it. As Christa Pongratz-Lippitt mentioned in an article for the journal *The Guardian*, Austria's reputation for taking in refugees has been excellent. During the Hungarian uprising of 1956, it opened its borders to thousands of Hungarians.

Kingdom of Belgium

In 2017, 913 cases of xenophobia were registered according to the information provided by the Borgen Project. Since March 2016 measures started to be taken to prevent the stay of refugees and migrants for more than three months inside the country. The government stated that hotels would lose their support if they hosted migrants longer than three months, as reported by the NBC. The Mayor of the port city of Zeebrugge told locals not to feed refugees to discourage other refugees looking for asylum in Belgium. The Belgium refugees mostly came from Syria and it was predicted that for 2018 the population would increase about 85,000 people each year, half of this influx was attributed to refugees.

Czech Republic

The position of the Czech Republic concerning Xenophobia is as one of the European countries with the highest rate of Xenophobia. The treatment of foreigners is classified as demeaning, also abusing the system of detention of migrants and refugees. Aware of this, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights contemplates this as a violation of systematic and planned rights, stamping laws where each must meet 90 days in internment camps, removing their belongings.

Kingdom of Denmark

The majority of Denmark's refugees are mostly from Asia and Africa. The xenophobic stance in Denmark began in 2015, after the government placed ads that Denmark is not a country for migrants. According to the Borgen Project in their report *Refugees Struggles* in 2016, the refugees' programs were cut by fifty percent. The Danish border control increased to include multiple vehicle checks on the road, looking for prudent refugees from Asia or Africa, to continue to ask them to leave the country or apply for asylum.

French Republic

In 2015 with the high-frequency extremists attacks occurred, France found itself in need of strengthening its immigration policy in regards to the acceptance of refugees and the migrants, it closed its borders and decided to stop receiving refugees from the Middle East. The immigration laws in France have become so strict that around 85,000 people were rejected at the border as stated in the news report by France 24. France has taken the liberty to choose who meets all the requirements to receive asylum. According to the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights annual report of 2017, France has been considered xenophobic and racist due to the implementation of national security measures to prevent future extremists attacks.

Federal Republic of Germany

In the last few years, Germany has accepted a very large number of immigrants in a very short time, receiving an amount of 500,000 refugees only in the year of 2016, accepting multiple applications to reside in the country. It is due to this increasement of refugees in the

nation that the xenophobic acts have grown in number too, in 2017, 1,400 xenophobic acts were registered. After accepting about a million refugees from Syria and Iraq in 2016 and 2017, Germans' attitudes changed with confrontations on the rise. Politicians as Horst Seehofer, had begun to question how the migrants and their cultures were going to benefit the German society.

Italian Republic

The IOM in Italy was created as the coordination office for the Mediterranean countries, both in operational terms and in terms of developing strategies for the management of migratory flows, controlling the number of legal refugees entering each country.

Italy's plans for immigration have been created to be carried out this year, the Italian Interior Minister proposed an initiative of first the Italians in any work, not allowing the Africans to occupy positions, but always prefer the Italians. In 2018, approximately 113,100 people arrived in the European country, many people less than previous years. The number of refugees who lost their lives at sea, have increased due to the actions of the minister, which prevent their arrival.

Netherlands

Over the past years, the Netherlands has experienced a surge in racism, anti-Semitic, anti-Islam. There has been an increase in hostility towards refugees and asylum seekers in the country. As a result, Geert Wilders created an anti-Islam, xenophobic Party for Freedom. Human Rights Watch has also raised serious concerns about the extensive use of Dutch detention for immigrants and asylum seekers, the lack of safeguards in the asylum appeal procedure and the lack of support for rejected asylum seekers. that can not be returned to their countries of origin.

Kingdom of Norway

Since 2013, Norway has granted citizenships to over 260% more than its fair share of Syrian refugees according to the data obtained by the Red Cross and the Red Crescent groups inside the country. Norway has ensured that the refugees integrate into society by giving them jobs, access to education and health care services. In 2015 the Norwegian authorities decided

to tighten the restrictions for the refugees entering its countries, resulting in a sharp decline of the number of refugees they received. In 2017 Norway experienced the lowest number of migrants seeking asylum in its country due to those restrictions.

Portuguese Republic

Portugal has received relocated refugees from Italy and Greece within the country. It is ranked the second nation, behind Sweden, for integrating refugees into society. The number of refugees increased from four thousand to ten thousand refugees. Portugal is not the first option to send refugees to, because of its location, that is far away from where their journey begins. The arrival of the migrants has done good to Portugal both demographically and economically.

Kingdom of Spain

In 2015 Spain used to hold less than the minimum quota of refugees due to the economic instability. The citizens asked their government to accept more and they raised the quota to fifteen thousand refugees and supposedly accepted them but according to Spanish NGOs, only eighteen were truthfully accepted. In 2017 the number of immigrants that arrived from Morocco as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was about 600 people a day. Spain continued to lack the capacity to hold the refugees and deported them back to Morocco.

Kingdom of Sweden

Sweden has good welcoming asylum policies and generous welfare programs because of social democracy. Many immigrants and refugees are coming to the country, that is why the xenophobia is gradually increasing. Many Swedes began to express discontent toward foreigners because they are receiving free welfare, bringing economic, political and social problems. The xenophobia was less visible in Sweden until the European Crisis. Sweden's population is 9.5 million people and they planned to take 190,000 refugees, which is immense for such a non-dense populated country.

Swiss Confederation

Switzerland is ranked fourth in the number of refugees they accept. The Asylum act gives recognized refugees temporary protection, public social assistance and the ability to become a permanent resident. From twenty to forty percent of the refugees move to Germany. Eritreans make up most of the population of refugees in Switzerland.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

Because of the Brexit in the United Kingdom, a radical English nationalism was created that seeks to establish a new political, moral and social order reviving the sense of "English national identity", rejecting the foreign and diverse, advocating the denigration of multiculturalism within the United Kingdom and persecuting social minorities, thus violating liberties and Human Rights. The report indicates that while between January and May of this year the figures for this type of crimes remained at levels similar to those of 2015, the number of offenses aggravated by racial or religious reasons increased by 41% in July of this year.

A third of the crimes recorded last year in the city occurred in East Belfast. In the east of the city, crimes of racial-xenophobic motivation increased from 74 between May 1, 2013 and January 30, 2014 to 128 in the same eight months, in the following year. In the period up to the end of January 2015, 383 crimes of racial-xenophobic motivation were registered throughout the city; in the same period of the previous year, 268 crimes were recorded. Social networks in Ireland have been lent to unleash intolerance, xenophobia and racial discrimination.

Origin of the migrants

Islamic Republic of Iran

In 2015 there was a massive expulsion of Afghans because they were identified as the cause of poverty in Iran as well as accusations of rape, consumption of drugs and other crimes. As a result, Afghans are currently prevented from accessing many areas or provinces of Iran. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, pressure from the authorities to evacuate the country could already be affecting some 800,000 Afghans. Even in some cases, the police have confiscated their money to pay the expenses of their deportation or have attacked them to put them in containers without any ventilation for their later expulsion.

Republic of Iraq

The armed conflict atrocities that have been lived in Iraq, 264,100 refugees were sent aboard by the end of 2015. There are around 4,4 million internally displaced persons around the country, causing problems for Iraq. The refugee crisis brings consequences to both the receiving countries and Iraq. The cultural institutions of Iraq were the first to be dismantled, reducing the quality of life the citizens could get. Health indicators in Iraq are not good and people still look for ways to flee the nation.

State of Israel

Israel has been one of the main countries that have welcomed foreigners around the world, but in 2018 they have broadcast news about the deportation of thousands of refugees, mainly refugees from Africa, these notices were sent to men who asked for asylum, who are not married, do not have children and must renew their visa, approximately 20 thousand.

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

In 2017, Jordan deported hundreds of Syrian refugees—including the collective expulsion of large families—without giving them a meaningful chance to challenge their removal and failing to consider their need for international protection. During the first five months of 2017, Jordanian authorities deported about 400 registered Syrian refugees each month. Besides, approximately 300 registered refugees each month returned to Syria during that time under circumstances that appeared to be voluntary. Another estimated 500 refugees each month returned to Syria under unclear circumstances.

State of Kuwait

The State of Kuwait is an important destination for migrant workers from across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Despite its reliance on foreign laborers, the country has in recent years carried out a series of enforcement actions targeting non-citizens for arrest and deportation, in particular people without valid residence papers or work visas. Successive crackdowns have led to the expulsion of tens of thousands of people during the last two years as well as overcrowding in detention centers and prisons.

Lebanese Republic

The refugees that were held in Lebanon were mostly Syrian. Last year 3,664 refugees were forcibly evicted because of their nationality or religion. Other 42,000 refugees remain at risk of eviction. The refugees were not allowed to challenge their evictions or other due process protections based on international standards.

Palestine

Palestine suffers a particular case, is in belic conflicts with Israel, so many Palestinians have been deported to other parts because Israel now occupies the territories, approximately 20 thousand Palestinians are expelled and many more imprisoned by the Israeli government.

Saudi Arabia

Only in the year 2017 Saudi Arabia has expelled 40,000 foreign workers from the country and has put in place a law to deport up to 5 million foreigners mainly from Africa. Mainly the reasons for visa violations, security problems and crimes committed by foreigners, accusing them of collaborating with extremist groups. From 2012 to 2015, they expelled 243,000 Pakistanis. Foreigners represent 30% of the current population of Saudi Arabia.

Syria

Since the beginning of the Syrian civil belic conflict, more than 5.6 million people have fled the country. Another 6.2 million people were displaced inside the nation. Nowadays people that are still in Syria and the neighboring countries are facing winter storms. The main causes for living Syria are the violence, the collapsed infrastructures, and the danger children are in.

Republic of Turkey

Turkey made a treaty in which it helps Europe return to Turkey any migrant who arrives on the Greek islands, including refugees. This seeks to seal the Route of the Aegean Sea in which around 900,000 migrants arrived last year, and 1.8 million irregular inflows

were detected. But now with the threat of expulsion to anyone who illegally emigrates, Brussels expects Turkey to close the exits on its territory to stop illegal migration to Europe via that route.

Republic of Yemen

Three million people in Yemen were forced to abandon the country because of the armed conflict. More than fifteen million people are starving. About two million people have been displaced inside the country. The imminent consequences of the dispute have caused at least seventy-five percent of the population of Yemen lost their houses.

Global approach to the topic

In the words of the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres,

“Sadly, attitudes out of xenophobia persist in countries and among communities around the world, it is time all nations and all people live to the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity and the equal undeniable rights of all members of the human race.” (Guterres, 2018).

The UNHCHR needs to improve the conditions refugees and migrants arriving from the Middle East to Western Europe live in, safeguarding their human rights.

The director of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of the UN, Nouredine Amir, has said that xenophobia is a growing problem in recent years, generated from hate speech against certain ethnic groups in different countries of the world. The support of criminal legislation is urgent to stop racist hate speech and hate crimes. Amir also called upon all countries to take action against different extremist groups with xenophobic qualities. He added that religion in certain cases is used as a method of manipulation to exterminate other ethnic groups, and this has to come to an end.

The main obstacle is the culture that is already established in the society that lives in the countries which are used to reject foreigners and their cultures. In addition, the perception of locals is to feel threatened, either to their culture, to their lifestyle or their jobs against the foreigners and this can provoke a high tension within the whole social structure. The

indecisiveness of the government to adding new strategies for solving this issue gravely affects the situation and it's of high importance to find an effective solution.

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Topic B

Measures to prevent institutional violence against women as a violation to their Human Rights in Latin America

By: *Alejandra Bañuelos*
Mariana Cortes Gallardo
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Introduction

Institutional violence, commonly referred to as structural violence, is the concept that makes allusion to any scenario in which, an institution or social structure gives a different treatment to certain individuals. This kind of violence is specifically used to make it difficult or harder for people to be treated equally and fairly. Institutional violence, was considered by the sociologist Johan Gultang as the cause of modern inequality and the marginalization of all types of minorities. This social injustice in Latin America is frequently targeted towards women.

Despite the great improvements on the inclusion of women in politics across Latin America, there still exist many obstacles to eradicate institutional violence against women, but the most important is misogyny. Misogyny is defined as the unjustified hatred towards women. This kind of hatred has been one of the most vibrant ways of thinking since the decade of 1960, the beginning of most dictatorships across the region, this ideology is present in all individuals regardless of their sex, making it harder for it to be eliminated. It is also because misogyny has been around for a long time, that most of the inhabitants are being raised under such statements, internalizing misogyny, turning it into something usual, and not part of the problem.

Position of the committee

Institutions provide services to people, that is why they should ensure that people receive quality treatment and are not abused from. “If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.” (Charles Darwin, 1860). Institutional violence is a an abuse of power, a power given to them by the people who require their services. This type or any other kind of abuse is not tolerated nor promoted by the United Nations.

Any kind of violence is a transgression to the human rights of any individual. Every member state affiliated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should ensure that none of their inhabitants suffer from institutional violence. Sadly this is not the reality of many Latin American countries. This type of violence is present in the lives of women who deal with paperwork and abusive government authorities. The UNHCHR

should take measures to protect the rights of women who have suffered from this abuse of power and the rights of women who may be subject to this abuse.

Causes of the issue

Institutional violence against women in Latin America is mainly produced by gender based discrimination and misogyny, a cultural ideology that has not evolved enough to recognize women rights. Women's role, unfortunately in many Latin American countries, is still thought to be restricted to domestic work, give birth and raise children. Women are not allowed to receive education or get a job and they are treated as property. Women also suffer from job discrimination and they do not get equal employment opportunities as pointed out in the Economic Commission in Latin America.

Most institutions are mainly still driven by men and they tend to discriminate women and favor men. In many occasions, women's rights are violated in said institutions by delaying women access to justice, asking for bribes to help them or re victimizing women when they present charges against an aggressor. Many women do not report the violence they suffer because they do not trust institution authorities, or they do not have the resources, either money or time, to follow the long judicial process involved.

Institutional violence is also produced by the lack of women's knowledge of their own rights and how legal mechanisms work for them to get access to justice. Although several improvements have been made by introducing new laws and specialized agencies run by women these actions are not enough. Latin American women are unfairly treated, and their human rights are constantly violated. To end violence against women, states must not only provide regulations but must be efficient in their enforcement, they must commit economic resources and implement political policies that end the discrimination forms that generate this problematic.

Human Rights involved

The human right number 22 establishes that "Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security..." which is not being respected by institutions that do not protect women just because of their gender. Institutions do not give importance to the issues that women are going through. Women should be able to have a free and safe development ensuring their

safety inside the society. According to Johan Galtung, the person who introduced this concept, institutional violence is an “avoidable impairment of fundamental human needs.”

Institutional violence against women, as it has already been stated, occurs when organisms or institutions avoid satisfying the necessities of women, resulting in the restriction of their freedoms in different contexts. According to Human Right number two, humans have the right to freedom regardless of their gender or race. When institutions make a difference between genders and put women in a position of inferiority they are violating this right. Not to mention the human right number seven which mentions that all the people are equal before the law, which is being violated when there is no fair law enforcement. As well as the human right number five in which no one shall be subjected to torture or cruelty; institutions might resort to physical and psychological violence.

In addition, when we refer to institucional violence the main effects in the human rights of women is the isolation and restriction to their basic needs and developmental resources. This involves taking away their right of education giving rise to poor social functioning skills. Another consequence of the restriction of development resources is not having a job which leads to lower productivity and lower income. Because of the physical violence, women may suffer injuries or long-term physical conditions.

Cases of institutional violence

There are different cases which may be considered institutional violence according to the Mexican National Commission for Human Rights. These diverse situations have three main things in common. A federal authority refusing to do their corresponding duties when it comes to filing a lawsuit. A federal authority not giving the correct treatment to the client. Or a federal authority abusing from its power to hurt a person. These situations, along with being asked for a bribe to speed up the process of a procedure are the most frequent cases of institutional violence against women.

As it was previously established, institutional violence against women not only occurs when government or federal authorities decline an equal treatment to them, but also when this is done by a social structure. In many cults or religions, women suffer from institutional violence, because they are not allowed to occupy the most important charges within the

organization. At work women may be subject to live this violence, when they are declined a promotion because of a pregnancy, or simply because they are women. It is also considered institutional violence, being sexually harassed by an authority figure. This last case is suffered by 52.5% of working women according to the data of 2011 provided by the Mexican National Survey regarding Violence against Women (ENVIM).

Statistics regarding the problematic

Latin America has been working on laws directed towards eradicating institutional violence, although there has not been created an organization that looks specifically into this issue. Nine out of the thirty-three Latin American countries are working arduously to treat the matter of violence against women, amongst them there are Colombia, Nicaragua, Mexico and Bolivia. However, implementing this kind of laws does not have a real impact on solving institutional violence if the index of women who have reported this specific kind of violence is very low. Not having real statistics about institutional violence limits the knowledge about this issue.

Latin America has the highest rate in the world of violence against women. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean found that on average 12 women's lives are taken per day in this region. Not knowing the particular cause of this murders or who is responsible for them makes it harder for the governments to catch the criminals and to tackle down the issue. The collection of specific data about this topic is relevant to know the severity of the problem and what kind of measures should be implemented to solve it.

Solutions that have been taken to solve the problem

Governments of countries like Bolivia, Mexico and Colombia have created programs, which mainly focus on conscientization campaigns and the increasement of sanctions for those who attack women. The United Nations has also taken action, with the implementation of the general recommendation no. 19 made by the Committee for the Elimination of the Discrimination against the Women. Said recommendation, is conformed by the legal obligations, that could be taken to solve the issue of violence against women, addressed to the States. It is important to emphasize, this measures have been implemented for violence

against women, in general, and not only focusing on institutional violence. Among other solutions that have been put into practice, is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which involves a variety of types of violence.

The General Assembly of the United Nations designated November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women, by resolution number 54/134 of December 1999. The first article of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women states that: “violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical 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. “ (United Nations, 1999)

This article, is considered the one with the utmost importance, since it gives context to the following ones included in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women proclaimed by the General Assembly. This resolution takes into consideration previous ones, like the resolution 52/86 signed in 1997 and resolution 48/104 signed in 1993, making it the most complete out of the three of them made by the General Assembly.

Obstacles to solve the issue

There are two primary factors, that make it harder to stop institutional violence against women. The first one is the lack of support from various governments around the world to take different actions to lower the rates of the multiple types of violence targeted against women. Some strategies implemented by the governments in order to reduce the number of women who suffer from any kind of violence are the creation or modification of laws and the use of awareness campaigns. Even though these countries are trying to solve the issue of violence against women, they do not focus on institutional violence, making this measures not effective.

The second contributing factor to the problem, is the absence of an international, or in most cases even regional, organization that specializes on reporting how many individuals suffer or have suffered from structural violence. There aren't any non-governmental organizations that focus on reporting the index of persons who suffer from this violence or help the victims overcome their situation. The United Nations High Commissioner for

Human Rights has failed to help put this type of violence to an end because there are no special rapporteurs that research this issue. This committee has also not officially recognized institutional violence as a problem, due to the lack of statistics and information about it.

Trying to solve institutional violence against women, has become more difficult than it should be. The cause for this is the fact that only a few nations, have stated or defined which cases apply as institutional violence. The amount of reports, that exist about institutional violence against women specifically are very few. It is this deficiency of information that make this topic seem not like a problem, complicating it for the UNHCHR to officially recognize it as a matter that requires to be urgently solved.

Importance of solving the problem

Along the second half of the last century and the beginning of the 21st, a wide range of changes have been done to improve and achieve gender equality. The acquisition of women's right to vote and the multiple campaigns launched by the United Nations to promote and raise awareness about this issue have helped to empower women. In spite of this great advancements regarding the issue, there is still a lot of work left to do to reach true equality between the genders. Most countries have made changes in their laws to ensure women's human rights.

It is unfortunate that nowadays violence targeted against women still continues to be a reality. This violence can be presented in many manners, from assaults and rapes to institutional violence. Being that the reason for this committee to give a solution to this problem. Institutional violence is the kind of problem that might sound fictional, due to the lack of statistics, the uncommonness of governments that recognize this topic as a real issue and the absence of international organisms that make people aware of it.

The main responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to ensure that every person's human rights, despite their gender, sexual preference, religion, skin, country of origin, etc. are respected. Meaning that measures are implemented to obliterate institutional violence. Actions should be taken to stop this abuse of power against women, ensuring that their basic human rights are respected. The UNHCHR must

give a solution to this problem, in order to get closer to the goal of achieving true gender equality.

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