

**XXVIII**

**TECMUN Jr.**

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Commission on the Status  
of Women

**XXVIII TECMUN Jr.**  
**Horario de sesiones**

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**Miércoles 18 de noviembre**

Ceremonia de Inauguración	9:00 – 10:00 h.
Receso	10:00 – 10:30 h.
Primera Sesión	10:30 – 12:00 h.
Receso	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Segunda Sesión	12:30 – 14:00 h.
Comida	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Tercera Sesión	15:00 – 16:30 h.

**Jueves 19 de noviembre**

Conferencia Magistral	8:30 – 9:30 h.
Receso	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Cuarta Sesión	10:00 – 11:30 h.
Receso	11:30 – 12:00 h.
Quinta Sesión	12:00 – 13:30 h.
Comida	13:30 – 14:30 h.
Sexta Sesión	14:30 – 16:00 h.

**Viernes 20 de noviembre**

Séptima Sesión	8:00 – 9:30 h.
Receso	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Octava Sesión	10:00 – 11:30 h.
Receso	11:30 – 12:00 h.
Novena Sesión	12:00 – 14:00 h.
Comida	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Ceremonia de Clausura	15:00 – 17:30 h.
TECMUN GLOOM <sup>1</sup>	18:00 – 19:00 h.

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<sup>1</sup> TECMUN GLOOM es una experiencia únicamente para los delegados donde habrá actividades en las que los delegados y las mesas se podrán conocer.

XXVIII TECMUN Jr.

**Agenda**

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*Secretaria General: Nuria Vidal Castillo*

**ASAMBLEA GENERAL**

*Subsecretaria General: Aiko Valeria Aguilar Jiménez*

**Sesión Plenaria de la Asamblea General**

*Presidente: Javier Márquez Saucedo*

- A) Medidas para controlar la creciente crisis social en Estados Unidos de América con enfoque al reciente movimiento *Black Lives Matter*
- B) Estrategias para la erradicación de los combates en el territorio de Libia provocados por los grupos del Gobierno de Acuerdo Nacional y el Ejército Nacional Libio

**Primera Comisión de Desarme y Seguridad Internacional**

*Presidenta: Daniela Mejía Salgado*

- A) Medidas para regular la fabricación, comercialización y el uso de armas letales autónomas (LAWS) para evitar una futura carrera armamentística a través de un marco legal a nivel internacional
- B) Estrategias para evitar la militarización del océano Ártico como producto de nuevas rutas de navegación

**Organización Internacional para las Migraciones**

*Presidente: Manuel Alejandro Rosales Portillo*

- A) Medidas para asegurar la integridad del pueblo migrante de Rohingya en su proceso de traslado hacia Bangladesh
- B) Problemáticas de la migración norcoreana causadas por el gobierno de la República Popular Democrática de Corea

**United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

*Presidente: Germán Osvaldo Nuñez Benitez*

A) Suppression from the government of the People's Republic of China upon human rights, focusing on the use of economic power, censorship, indoctrination and heavy surveillance in Xinjiang

B) Oppression of women, the LGBT+ community and civil society activists in Iran, focused on the extreme measures applied by the national penal code and the Supreme Court

### **Organización Mundial de la Salud**

*Presidente: Ángel Daniel González Jasso*

A) Estrategias para una segura reactivación de la economía en países de América Latina y El Caribe ante la reciente crisis causada por el COVID-19

B) Medidas para mejorar los servicios de salud pública en Yemen a causa de la presente catástrofe humanitaria

### **United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

*Presidenta: Alejandra Bañuelos González*

A) Measures for the regulation of space tourism and passenger safety

B) The increasing threat to the global astronomic and space observation community from the rise of satellite constellations and the number of space debris

### **CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL**

*Subsecretario General: Armando Daniel Navarro Sánchez*

### **Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia**

*Presidenta: Sofía Victoria Solís Uribe*

A) Estrategias para brindar apoyo y medidas adecuadas de salubridad y nutrición a niños desterrados a causa del conflicto bélico en la República Árabe Siria

B) Medidas para prevenir la existencia del matrimonio infantil forzado y sus consecuencias en las niñas con enfoque en África Occidental

### **Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente**

*Presidente: Arturo Rubio Díaz Vázquez*

- A) Medidas para evitar la sexta extinción masiva de fauna silvestre con énfasis en los incendios del bosque tropical de la Amazonia y el bosque de Malacura en Australia
- B) Medidas para disminuir la pérdida de agua potable causadas por el fenómeno de la industria de la moda rápida en la República Popular China y la República Popular de Bangladesh

### **International Criminal Police Organization**

*Presidenta: Andrea Michelle Martínez Lozano*

- A) Measures to contain and dismantle the triads, the Korean criminal organizations, and groups of organized crime in the Golden Triangle
- B) Strategies to prevent radical acts that involve the use of chemical and nuclear weapons by extremist groups, focusing on the Middle East

### **Commission on the Status of Women**

*Presidenta: María Fernanda Casillas Monroy*

- A) Measures for the attention of female victims of acid attacks due to its accessibility in the Middle East and United Kingdom with emphasis on the social consequences
- B) Measures to provide opportune prevention and support for women affected by female genital mutilation as sexual repression in regions of Northern and Western Africa

### **Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura**

*Presidenta: Samaria Sánchez Ramírez*

- A) Acciones para garantizar un avance en materia de equidad e igualdad de género educativa ante situaciones de crisis en países de América Latina y el Caribe
- B) Medidas para asegurar la libertad de expresión y estabilidad artística, como parte de la diversidad cultural, ante la pandemia de COVID-19 con enfoque en América Latina y el Caribe

### **United Nations World Tourism Organization**

*Presidenta: Rebeca Ávila Delgado*

- A) Measures to improve the development of alternative touristic areas in Latin American local communities and get rid of overtourism

B) Measures to reactivate the Latin American tourism sector after the global pandemic caused by the spread of COVID-19

### **Commission Économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe**

*Presidenta: Lianny Hernández Pérez*

A) Stratégies pour la protection et le placement des réfugiés Syriens en Europe pour éviter des problèmes sociaux et économiques dans l'Union Européenne, en mettant l'accent sur la République Fédérale d'Allemagne

B) Le développement des politiques pour soutenir la promotion de l'indépendance économique des femmes et l'éradication du fossé salarial dans les pays sous-développés de l'Europe du sud-est

### **AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES**

*Subsecretaria General: Montserrat Olivas Ramos*

#### **Organización de los Estados Americanos**

*Presidenta: Paola González Zapata*

A) Repercusiones sociales y políticas tras la censura de medios de comunicación en México, con énfasis en la persecución de periodistas por grupos de narcotráfico

B) El neocolonialismo como un obstáculo para el desarrollo económico de las comunidades indígenas en América Latina

#### **Comisión de Prevención del Delito y Justicia Penal**

*Presidente: Victor Daniel Meza Castillo*

A) Estrategias para mejorar el estado de derecho y reducir la impunidad de las autoridades latinoamericanas con enfoque en la violación de derechos humanos y la ineficacia de las garantías constitucionales presentes en los movimientos sociales

B) Medidas para erradicar las prácticas de tortura en las cárceles africanas con base en Las Reglas Mínimas de las Naciones Unidas para el Tratamiento de Reclusos

#### **United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation**

*Presidente: Santiago Makoszay Castañón*

A) Measures to ensure radiation protection in case of a nuclear reactor accident. A study based on novel information on the effects and risks of radiation exposure due to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station

B) Assessment of the biological mechanisms relevant to the inference of cancer risk after exposure to low-dose radiation

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

*Presidenta: Mariana Cortés Gallardo*

A) Political and military measures to prevent further naval and territorial conflicts between Ukraine and Russia

B) Reaffirm diplomatic and military strategies to increase the security of Afghanistan's inhabitants facing the current terrorist attacks by the Taliban

### **Security Council**

*Presidenta: Vanessa Arroyo Jerez*

A) Strategies to suppress the resurgence of the Islamic State in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq

B) Prevention mechanisms against the illicit trafficking of nuclear material within the Black Sea region

### **International Court of Justice**

*Presidenta: Carolina Elizabeth Vásquez Regalado*

A) Relocation of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem (Palestine v. United States of America)

B) Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)

*“Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement”.*  
-Golda Meir.

Delegada/o, Ministra/o, Juez,

Lo peor que puedes hacer es subordinarte al contexto en el que resides. Esta es tu oportunidad de demostrarte que por medio de tu investigación, ideas, trabajo e innovación puedes y vas a cambiar al mundo. Entre más conocimiento adquieres, más te das cuenta de que la sociedad en la que vivimos está lejos de ser perfecta. Lo que necesita un mundo en crisis es a personas como tú que están dispuestas a alzar la voz en contra de injusticias, violencia, inequidad, fobias, machismo, entre muchas otras cosas. Necesita a personas que, a pesar de vivir durante una pandemia mundial, toma tres días para participar en un modelo en línea. Sé esa persona que el mundo anhela, esa persona que va siempre un paso más allá.

Este modelo es una muy pequeña representación de lo que en verdad está sucediendo alrededor del mundo y que decidimos ignorar porque vivimos en una posición de privilegio donde podemos asumir que nada ni nadie nos va a hacer daño; Sin embargo, como el último año nos ha demostrado, esto puede cambiar en cuestión de segundos. Así que aprovecha y toma ventaja de tu posición de privilegio y de todas las oportunidades que se te presentan gracias a ella. Porque si decides ignorar los problemas, te conviertes en una gran parte de ellos. Pelea con todo lo que tengas por lo que crees y sé la voz por los que son silenciados. Cualquiera puede quitarte lo que sea, menos el poder de alzar tu voz.

Delegada/o Ministra/o, Juez, es tu oportunidad de pensar fuera del estatus quo, de romper tus estándares y esos de toda la gente que te rodea, de ser tú misma o mismo, de romper o mejorar el sistema, de expresar tus ideas únicas y creativas y de salir de tu zona de confort que lo único que te está haciendo es nublarlo. Sí, da miedo, pero no dejes que esos pensamientos frenen tu capacidad de expresarte; Úsalos a tu favor y véncelos, porque la falta de confianza, la duda y el miedo siempre van a ser las cosas más difíciles de sobrellevar, pero, el hacerlo genera el verdadero cambio. Espero que confíes en el modelo y en el Secretariado, pero especialmente, espero que confíes en ti, que abras tu mente, que aprendas sobre una gran variedad de temas, que salgas de este modelo con una visión completamente distinta del mundo a la que tenías antes. Quiero que salgas con la capacidad de analizar críticamente y empatizar con otras personas y situaciones para que llegues a tener la habilidad de resolver estos problemas de la mejor manera posible no solo dentro de las salas de debate, sino en la vida real.

Finalmente, quiero que aproveches el momento, tu momento. Lucha contra el problema y haz la diferencia en esa sala de debate, porque esta es una simulación del mundo real, y lo que hagas ahí dentro representa lo que haces y harás por el mundo si no permites que se quede en esas 4 paredes. Recuerda que no hay experiencias que se repitan dos veces y que la que estás a punto de vivir, te marcará de por vida. Confío en ti y en tu capacidad, porque estás aquí por una razón; porque hay una chispa en ti esperando ser encendida y puede que esta sea tu única oportunidad de hacerlo. El mundo está en las manos de ti, de la juventud; si no aprendemos a tomar ventaja de esto y hacer del planeta un mejor lugar, nadie lo va a hacer. Encuéntrate en esta experiencia y cree en ti, en lo que puedes aportar al modelo y en el gran impacto que esto tendrá en las personas, porque yo te aseguro que confío ciegamente en ti.

Nuria Vidal Castillo  
Secretary General for the  
XXVIII TECMUN Jr.



*“Success without fullness is the ultimate failure”*

*-Tony Robbins*

Dear Delegate:

We are about to achieve something great that will remain through the years and it is going to change our lives forever. For three years I’ve been part of this experience, TECMUN, as delegate, chair, president, subsecretary, and friend. I can tell you that the one who was at your sit is not the same person as the one who is writing this letter. TECMUN changed my life in ways that I couldn’t imagine; it gave me friends, family, humility, and a purpose. Now, you and I are part of this history and our work is to leave a legacy on it. For legacy, I am not referring to a prize, a trophy or a paper. A valuable legacy is a long friendship, an experience, an unforgettable feeling, a romance if you want to, or even the notion of saving the world in only three long days. Today my only goal is to help you build that legacy in order to give you what TECMUN gave me, to change your life. Nowadays, we are facing the most difficult problems that our world has ever faced. Terrorism, climate change, feminicides, homophobia and indifference are some of the challenges that we need to face and solve. Maybe you can think that they are impossible or irrelevant to solve but be sure that they are real. The most important element to face them is you. You are smart enough to understand, greatly empathic to face them and sufficiently human to know that you cannot do it alone; that is why you’re here reading this. With these words I want you to notice something, your legacy is not about yourself, it is for everyone else. Whatever it is, make sure that it remains in others and that it is powerful enough to send a message. Make sure that each word, each motion, each feeling you experience on these days is valuable. At the end you will get the most precious prize that anyone can ever win, fullness. Finally, I want to thank you for being brave to speak your truth and wise to listen to others than yours. For me it is an honor and a great responsibility to be your Subsecretary, guide and friend during these three days. I hope, with all my heart, that you’ll learn and that you leave this model with that prize I’ve told you before. As I mentioned you, now we are part of something greater than us. Delegate, thanks for changing my life one last time; let me do the same with yours. Because you are about to do something great that will remain through the years.

Armando Daniel Navarro Sánchez

Subsecretary for the Economic and Social Council for the

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“Don’t be afraid. Be focused. Be determined. Be hopeful. Be empowered.”

-Michelle Obama

Delegados,

A lo largo de la historia, la humanidad ha enfrentado toda clase de corrientes de paz y conflicto, pasando entre guerras y crisis sociales donde se nos ha obligado a callar, donde las minorías fueron oprimidas. Afortunadamente hubo unos cuantos que hablaron por los demás, demostrando una manifestación por la libertad, personas como tú y como yo. Hallar el camino al cambio no es fácil, son tus ideas las que revolucionarán el mundo que conocemos. Te doy las gracias por ser una pieza fundamental en la historia, por alguna vez tener un sueño y demostrar que no estamos dispuestos a quedarnos callados.

Estás a punto de adentrarte hacia un camino de constante cuestionamiento hacia tus ideales y la perspectiva del mundo en el que vives, te vas a dar cuenta que está bien cambiar de opinión y rectificar a cada paso que des. Estás a punto de entender que solo necesitas armarte de valor y pronunciar unas cuantas palabras haciendo que todos giren la vista hacia ti, y así comprender que tu voz puede mover masas. El mundo te está esperando, está esperando que desafíemos todo lo conocido. No dejes que nada ni nadie te frene, algún día lograrás lo inimaginable.

TECMUN es más que un modelo de naciones unidas, es una experiencia que te cambia la vida. Son tres días donde puedes demostrar que tan capaz eres, afrontando cualquier adversidad; descubriendo que tus sueños, esperanzas y acciones hablan. Jamás se dejen vencer, estoy orgullosa de ustedes porque sé que están a punto de emprender un viaje donde jamás abandonarán sus ideales pues estos los llevarán al cambio. Cometan errores, tomen decisiones, luchen contra ustedes mismos y aprendan con cada paso que den. Hace 3 años estuve en su lugar, sintiendo mil emociones recorrer todo mi cuerpo y esperando algún día poder volar y hacer todo realidad.

Maria Fernanda Casillas Monrroy

President of Commission on the Status of Woman for the

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# Background

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the main global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, development and peace for all women as well as the empowerment of them all. The CSW first met was in New York, in February 1947. This committee works to promote women's rights, to document the reality of their lives throughout the world, and to set global standards, which are fundamental to the achievement of the commission's principles including the urgent problems, such as the situation of women affected by a conflict. Counting with 45 Member States of the United Nations; every year, the CSW gathers in New York to evaluate progress in the advancement of women all around the world and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality.

## Faculties

Gender equality is a shared vision of social justice and human rights. This commission must seize all opportunities at national, regional and global levels and give new impetus to the achievement of gender equality (Mlambo-Ngcuka, 2000). Ruled by the aforementioned, some of the general and most important powers of the Commission on the Status of Women are:

- Convenes a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment for the realization of the committee ideals.
- Call interactive expert panel discussions and other interactive dialogues on steps and initiatives to accelerate implementation to build capacities.
- Agrees and evaluates actions to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting resolutions discussed by the member states.

# Topic A

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Measures for the attention of female victims of acid attacks due to its accessibility in the Middle East and United Kingdom with emphasis on the social consequences

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*By: Maria Fernanda Casillas Monrroy  
Marisol Stephanía Ramírez Herrera  
Ximena Serena Mendoza*

### *A form of suppression towards a gender*

Women and girls experience violence and discrimination in society just because of their gender. From the moment they are born, millions of girls around the world face many forms of violence including rape, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual exploitation, and acid attacks. Acid and burns from assaults, as any other form of violence against women and girls, reflect and perpetuate the inequality of women in society. Acid throwing also called an acid attack or *Vitriolage* is a form of brutality, in which a harmful substance is thrown at a person with the intention of disfiguring, mutilating, torturing, and destroying the image and the social life of the victim. Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI), a specialized organization that works along with the United Nations (UN), estimates that at least 1,500 assaults occur annually; more than 80 % of them against women. Approximately 40 % of the victims were under 18 years of age at the time of the attack.

The most common reasons for attacks on women and girls is the refusal of marriage, the denial of sex, and the sexual rejection to men and boys. It is a form of control over women's and girls' bodies. Gender-based violence and discrimination because an acid assault often occurs on 74 % because of relationship issues or the refusal of romantic and sexual advances and 15 % as a consequence of political rivalry and property disputes. In addition to physical and psychological harm, women victims face social stigma, guilt, and labels, and are therefore often in dire need of help, counseling, medical and financial services. Unfortunately, the governments of countries with a great amount of *Vitriolage* cases such as the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of India, Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Kingdom of Cambodia and Republic of Uganda, seem that the problem is not a major issue. In this way, before the blind eye of society, the victims are stigmatized and marked for life with no more help than a few private donations and minimal public subsidies.

### *The implications of an acid attack*

*Vitriolage* takes place with any type of deadly substance as long as it gets its purpose of causing severe harm to the victim. The perpetrator can damage any part of the body, nevertheless, the main objective is to throw the acid to the face causing physical disfigurement. Many consequences can occur as a result of the acid attack, such as severe burns, bone dissolution, and, in some cases, blindness. Depending on which part of the face was attacked, there are certain medical consequences, which depend on the concentration of acid and the time spent to neutralize or completely clean it out. If there is no reaction or the victim is not promptly helped, the substance damages the skin layer by layer. In some cases, the injury can lead to renal failure, sepsis<sup>2</sup>, skin depigmentation, or death. Victims are also treated psychologically after the post-traumatic episode in some organizations like Make Love Not Scars where they receive vocational training to encourage them to keep fighting and living as they used to. Different researches carried out by the ASTI and Meer Foundation detected according to the Rosenberg scale, which calculates global self-worth by measuring both positive and negative feelings about the self and increased self-consciousness, that women reported lowered self-esteem and most of the patients present anxiety, depression as well as low self-worth due to their appearance.

In addition to the medical and psychological effects, there are many social implications for acid survivors, especially women. For instance, such attacks usually leave victims handicapped<sup>3</sup> in some way, rendering them dependent on either their spouse or family for daily activities such as eating and running errands. These dependencies are increased by the fact that many women survivors are not able to find suitable work due to impaired vision and physical

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<sup>2</sup> **Sepsis:** a severe medical condition in which bacteria enter the blood after an operation or accident. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>3</sup> **Handicapped:** not able to use part of your body or your mind because it has been damaged. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

handicap. Their health condition negatively impacts their economic viability, causing hardships on the families that care for them. This criminal act results in discriminatory treatment of the victim during its healing process, which is caused by the lack of legislation and procedure on different governments around the world. In regions like the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of India, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, after a woman is attacked with acid, her social life changes, limiting her to get married or find a job because the disfigurement of her face is considered a mark of shame.

### ***The role of the United Kingdom***

According to the Acid Survivors Trust International, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has one of the highest rates of recorded acid attacks *per capita* in the world. In 2018, in London alone, corrosive substances were used in 310 crimes, compared to 456 in 2017, a substantial drop according to London Police Figures. However, nationwide there has been an increase in acid attacks with 452 reported crimes in 2017 and 501 reported crimes in 2018. Throughout, with a 500 % *Vitriolage* increase between 2012 and 2016. Statistics released by London's Metropolitan Police to the BBC (2017) "provide a breakdown of every recorded acid attack over a 15-year period by age, gender, ethnicity, borough, hate crime and outcome. It's the fullest picture yet of the capital's suspects and victims." The United Kingdom does not have tight controls on the sale of acid and nor does it have a specific legislation for acid attacks.

Most acid attack crimes happened in London, where over 1,200 cases were recorded over the past five years. From 2011 to 2016 there were 1,464 crimes involving acid or corrosive substances. The Kingdom of Northumbria, located in the United Kingdom, recorded the second-highest *Vitriolage* index with 109 documented attacks. Also, different counties across the United Kingdom reported several acid attacks: Cambridgeshire had 69 attacks, Hertfordshire 67, Greater Manchester 57, and Humberside 52. Of the 2,078 acid attack crimes

reported between 2011 and 2016 only 414 of those crimes resulted in legal charges being brought.

### ***The obligation for governments to prevent acid attacks on women***

Acid attacks perpetrated towards girls and women are part of the cultural practice where females are regarded as subordinate to men, or as having stereotyped roles that justify gender-based violence. As the Acid Survivors Trust International organization (2020) points out “given poses adverse effects on both the physical and mental integrity of victims, States have the obligation for the introduction and implementation of domestic policies around acid violence.” As part of assessing gender-based violence often inherent to religious and cultural tradition, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted the ‘due diligence’ standard. Due diligence bounds signatory States to prevent acid violence against girls and women, as well as to provide comprehensive services for the victims. The State's obligation also includes regulating the sale of acid and the enacting of criminal laws to punish perpetrators. The ‘due diligence’ standard was approved in 1992 as part of the General Recommendation (GR) 19 of the CEDAW. The main objective of the standard is for States to prevent and respond to violence targeting girls and women, including domestic abuse displayed in the form of acid attacks. A previous researcher and professor of the University of Fribourg, as well as a consultant of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Bourke Martignoni (2009), states that “it's up to States to exercise ‘due diligence’ to anticipate, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those are perpetrated by the State or private persons”.

In recent years, the application of the ‘due diligence’ standard could be held responsible for the creation of campaign strategies focused on women's human rights. The creation of mechanisms such as Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) and the Campaign and Struggle Against



Acid Attacks on Women (CSAAAW), as well as the adoption of the 'due diligence', have meant a significant advance in the prevention of acid attacks towards girls and women. Nonetheless, the scope<sup>4</sup> of the State's obligations often remain vague and the practice of violence against women is repeatedly justified under a cultural and religious ground. To sum up, States need actions committed on the prevention, investigation, punishment, and provision of remedies for violent acts, abstaining from invoking customs or traditions.

### ***Ongoing work of Non-Governmental Organizations to reduce acid attacks***

Many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) have been formed in the areas with the highest occurrence of acid attacks on women in order to combat such aggression. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has its Acid Survivors Foundation, which offers legal and medical counseling to *Vitriolage* victims, as well as monetary assistance in rebuilding their lives. The Republic of Uganda has its own Acid Survivors Foundation and the Kingdom of Cambodia which uses the help of the Cambodian Acid Survivors Charity. NGOs provide rehabilitation services for survivors while acting as advocates<sup>5</sup> for social reform, aiding to increase support and awareness on acid assaults. An Indian acid attack survivor, Shirin Juwaley, founded the Palash Foundation to help other survivors with psychosocial rehabilitation. She also leads research into social norms of beauty and speaks publicly as an advocate for the empowerment of all victims of disfigurement and discrimination. The lack of information and procedural laws<sup>6</sup> remains a challenge for organizations and advocacy groups.

Several foundations are in charge of supporting NGOs and social enterprises in order to create aid programmes. Therefore, Thomson Reuters Foundation is one of the major

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<sup>4</sup> **Scope:** the range of matters considered or dealt with. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>5</sup> **Advocates:** To publicly support or suggest an idea, development, or way of doing something. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>6</sup> **Procedural laws:** the part of the law that deals with legal processes such as rules for presenting information in court, rather than with rights, legal responsibilities, etc. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

organizations that manage to create the TrustLaw which is a pro bono legal program, with the association of law firms and associated legal teams all over the world, in purpose to create a social and environmental change. The foundation produces legal research and offers innovative legal training courses worldwide. Other NGOs such as the Meer Foundation, recognize the importance of the media in conveying their messages and awareness population on acid attack aggression to not increase further and affect more people. In the same way, organizations have the mission to provide dignity and independence to acid attack survivors through medical, legal, educational, vocational, and psychological rehabilitation.

*Actions of the Commission on the Status of Women to ensure women's safety from any form of violence*

In 2013, the 57th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was held, and the member states agreed on a wide-ranging action plan to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The Commission adopted conclusions covering all forms of situations that present a risk to the integrity of the world's female population, valid for the multiple environments and contexts that may arise. Among the issues discussed was the recent increase in acid attacks in the United Kingdom and South Asian countries such as the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The agreed conclusions also recognize the existence of religions and cultural factors that place some women and girls at greater risk, therefore requiring targeted responses.

The action plan sets out the framework of the current international commitments that serve as a basis for addressing the form of repression, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Commission condemns all forms of violence against women and girls, noting these present an impediment to the full enjoyment of their human rights; and reiterates neither tradition nor religion can be invoked to

avoid a State's obligation to ensure its elimination. However, it also stresses the importance of taking into consideration cultural relativism<sup>7</sup> for the creation of preventive measures, as well as support for the victims and survivors of gender-based violence. Furthermore, the process in which the Commission on the Status of Women (2013) creates the conclusion to propose to strengthen the current legal and domestic policy arrangements that address gender inequality, and violence against women and girls. To this purpose, it urges member states to take actions ensuring the accountability<sup>8</sup> of perpetrators and provide justice for the victims.

The Commission also includes measures focused on addressing the structural and cultural causes to prevent gender-based violence; said measures aim for the promotion and protection of women's human rights, including reproductive health and sexual rights, empowerment, and participation at all levels. UN Women (2013) states that “education, awareness-raising and community mobilization, including the engagement of men and boys, and of the media” are key to the preventive measures too. As part of the action plan, signatory States are bound to<sup>9</sup> establish responsive assesses to violence against women and girls, which incorporates the creation of essential services, programs, and policies for females, so as to immediately address all health-related consequences in the aftermath of gender-based violence. It highly encourages that said actions are socially available, ensuring its access to victims and survivors regardless of their economic condition. The CSW calls government, international and regional organizations, as well as other stakeholders<sup>10</sup>—within their respective mandates—to implement the necessary measures in the agreed conclusions so that all girls and women can exercise their right to a life free from any sort of violence.

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<sup>7</sup> **Cultural relativism:** the idea that a person's beliefs, values, and practices should be understood based on that person's own culture, rather than be judged against the criteria of another (The Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential, 2017).

<sup>8</sup> **Accountability:** The fact of being responsible for your decisions or actions and expected to explain them when you are asked. (Oxford Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>9</sup> **Bound to:** certain or likely to happen. (Oxford Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>10</sup> **Stakeholders:** a person or group of people who own a share in a business. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

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## Topic B

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Measures to provide opportune prevention and support for women affected by female genital mutilation as sexual repression in regions of Northern and Western Africa.

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## *Female Genital Mutilation as a women's sexual repression and the violation of their human rights*

In different parts of the world, being born a girl translates into a life of barriers and traditions that often place more value on her body than in its human value. These traditions often include cruel practices which aim to harm women's bodies. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), also known as female circumcision, comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia<sup>11</sup>, and any other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. These procedures are principally carried out between infancy under the age of 15. According to data collected by the World Health Organization (WHO), at least 200 million girls and women alive have undergone a form of female genital mutilation in 30 different countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where FGM is practiced. This activity presents a violation of a person's physical and mental integrity, as well as their right to a life free from inhuman or degrading treatment.

The World Health Organization (2020) classifies the female genital mutilation in four different types, which are:

- Type 1: partial or total resection of the clitoral glans<sup>12</sup> and/or the clitoral foreskin/cap (fold of skin surrounding the clitoral glans);
- Type 2: partial or total resection of the clitoral glans and labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora;
- Type 3: narrowing of the vaginal opening, which is sealed by cutting and repositioning the labia minora or majora, sometimes by sewing, with or without excision of the clitoral foreskin/cap and the clitoral glans;

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<sup>11</sup> **Genitalia:** the outer sex organs, especially the penis or vulva. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>12</sup> **Glans:** the end of the clitoris. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

- Type 4: all other non-medical procedures harmful to the female genitals, such as puncture, perforation, incision, scraping or cauterization of the genital area.

Female genital cutting had been officially recognized as a form of violence against women and a human rights violation in the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In order to recognize why FGM should be penalized and to explain how it is a form of gender-based sexual repression, the World Health Organization stipulates the following:

FGM is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. It reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. It is nearly always carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of children. The practice also violates a person's rights to health, security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the procedure results in death (World Health Organization, 2020).

### ***Cultural and social factors involved in Female Genital Mutilation***

Although female genital mutilation is recognized as a violation to the human rights, countries in Northern Africa, the Middle East, and Asia continue to excuse this practice on grounds of cultural, religious and social factors. A study conducted by UNICEF in 2013 states that “FGM is a social convention, the social pressure to conform to the cultural system of that society is a strong motivation to perpetuate the practice.” In societies where the action of female circumcision has been normalized and is highly praised<sup>13</sup> among the members of the community, young women and girls are forced to undergo such painful procedures. Since its recognition as an extreme form of discrimination against women and as a human rights

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<sup>13</sup> **Praise:** to express admiration or approval of the achievements or characteristics of a person or things. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).



violation in 1993, explanations have been put forward to justify the practice of FGM—these include the ideals associated with femininity and modesty; ensuring marital fidelity and paternity; the aesthetic<sup>14</sup> and community belonging; and the enhancement of fertility. However, scholar of GKT School of Medical Education<sup>15</sup>, James Whiteron (2002) explains that said reasons are driven by a social system wherein women are regarded as subservient<sup>16</sup> to men and as having a low position on the social sphere. In order to effectively take action, states and international organizations are highly encouraged to address sensitively and critically both cultural beliefs and long-established traditions.

In the regions where FGM is practiced, women are often perceived to be ineligible<sup>17</sup> for marriage if they have not undergone the circumcision. This occurs due to the fact that men have historically preferred chaste<sup>18</sup> women to ensure paternity, and female genital mutilation is considered to be a compelling measure to prevent extramarital sexual activities. Furthermore, as the practice is frequently motivated by the accepted conventions on female sexual behavior, it aims to ensure marital fidelity—which in turns fulfills the role of a moral, faithful wife. Female circumcision is considered to be a form of social control and identity for women, as it is thought to prepare them for adulthood and married life. It is also associated with the social agreements of women's qualities, including the notion that women can only be truly beautiful after the removal of body parts perceived as impure and unclean. In countries like the Republic of India and the Federation of Malaya female circumcision is considered to be a girl's introduction to society, as the organs removed are viewed as unfeminine or male.

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<sup>14</sup> **Aesthetic:** concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>15</sup> **GKT School of Medical Education:** medical school of King's College London. (King's College London, 2020)

<sup>16</sup> **Subservient:** prepared to obey others unquestioningly. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>17</sup> **Ineligible:** not suitable or desirable, especially as a marriage partner. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>18</sup> **Chaste:** innocent of unlawful sexual intercourse. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.).

Female circumcision is often motivated by ideas about what is considered an acceptable social conduct. “In more traditional societies, like the Republic of Sudan and Southern Kurdistan, FGM is a social convention inherent to a woman's honor, and is viewed as an important rite of passage that oughts to be cherished and even celebrated” (Whitehorn *et al*, 2002). To not abide by it equals to become a social pariah.<sup>19</sup> Therefore, it is likely that pressure would be brought by relatives and the community on women to undergo circumcision. Local power structures and authorities, such as religious and community leaders, can contribute to uphold FGM. Female genital mutilation frequently is considered to be a religious requirement. Though it is commonly practiced within certain Muslim communities, it also exists within Christian and animist groups despite the absence of religious scriptures supporting the FGM. For instance, the introduction of the *Shafi'i*<sup>20</sup> version of the Islamic jurisprudence in Southeast Asia has lead to the establishment of female circumcision as a legal and mandatory practice.

### ***Female Genital Mutilation without health benefits and its implications***

Female circumcision is recognized and defined as a non-medical practice with null health<sup>21</sup>warranties, which in most of the cases take place under a poor hygiene environment and without complete surgical knowledge. The ones who carry out are herbalists, members of societies, or sometimes a female relative. They use scalpels or razor blades to cut without applying anesthetic and antiseptics on them. For this reason, most of the consequences are presented at the moment of the mutilation, and others are developed over time. Some sequels could be severe pain caused by cutting a sensitive area, hemorrhage<sup>22</sup>, infections such as

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<sup>19</sup> **Pariah:** a person who has been rejected by society or a social group (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>20</sup> **Shafi'i:** one of the four schools of Islamic law in Sunni Islam.

<sup>21</sup> **Warranty:** collateral undertaking that a fact regarding the subject of a contract is or will be as it is expressly or by implication declared or promised to be ( Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>22</sup> **Hemorrhage:** a large flow of blood from a damaged blood vessel. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

tetanus<sup>23</sup> or gangrene<sup>24</sup>, or even death if the bleeding is not controlled. In addition, the girl could get stressed and panic because she would be experiencing a traumatic and painful time that provokes future mental health problems. Long-term consequences differ between victims, but some of them include dysmenorrhea<sup>25</sup>, renal infections, pregnancy difficulties, childbirth, and other side effects. Some obstetric complications depend on the medical resources used during the process and how patients were treated. Nevertheless, the most common of these complications are perineal trauma, postpartum hemorrhage, and prolonged labor that occurs when the mother last more than 20 hours to give birth. In addition, they can result in perinatal risks where there exists a high probability of infant resuscitation or neonatal death which are procedures associated with hypoxic-ischaemic tissue (brain, heart, kidney) injuries and also with breathing difficulties. Finally, victims could present mental sequels, such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

### ***The practice of Female Genital Mutilation along Africa***

#### *North Africa*

Female Genital Mutilation is a universal problem which involves many nations over the world. Although, it is mainly concentrated in almost 29 countries in Africa where it is contemplated as a common practice and is standardized among rural communities. FGM is considered a tradition that has lasted for thousands of years. The African continent is divided according to the geographical state of the countries that compose it, in North Africa which is constituted by the Republic of Sudan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab

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<sup>23</sup> **Tetanus:** a serious disease caused by bacteria entering the human body through small cuts, causing the muscles, especially around the mouth, to become tight and stop working. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>24</sup> **Gangrene:** decay of a part of a person's body because the blood has stopped flowing there (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>25</sup> **Dysmenorrhea:** painful menstruation (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.).

Jamahiriya, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Tunisia; there are two specific countries with the highest numbers of violence against women. According to statistics released by UNICEF in 2019, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Sudan, the cases of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who have undergone some type of FGM are over 80 %.

The 2000 Egypt Demographic and Health Survey showed that 97 % of the registered married women had experienced female genital cutting. Another survey conducted by the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population in 2003 reported that more than 94 % of married women had been exposed to FGM, and 69 % of them agreed that the procedure should be performed on their daughters. In addition, a pilot test carried out by the Health Insurance Organization showed that 41 % of female students in elementary, middle and high schools had undergone genital cutting.

On the other hand, in the Republic of Sudan, around 88 % of women and girls from 15 to 49 years old have undergone some form of FGM. Walsh (2020), a reporter of the New York Times, states that most Sudanese women undergo what the World Health Organization calls Type III circumcision, an extreme form of the practice in which the inner and outer labia, and usually the clitoris, are removed. The wound is then sewn<sup>26</sup> closed in a practice known as reinfibulation<sup>27</sup> that can cause cysts<sup>28</sup>, lead to painful sex and prevent orgasm. In the last decade different organizations of the United Nations (UN) have managed to accelerate the approval of laws to criminalize any procedure that performs female genital mutilation, but this violent practice is still carried out clandestinely and millions of women die in its realization.

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<sup>26</sup> **Sewn:** to use a needle and thread to join up the edges of a cut in the skin or other part of the body. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>27</sup> **reinfibulation:** in some communities, the raw edges of the wound are sutured again after childbirth, recreating a small vaginal opening. (General Practice Notebook, 2014).

<sup>28</sup> **cysts:** a round mass growing just under the skin or deeper in the body, that contains liquid. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

## *West Africa*

In West Africa, there are countries with more than 90 % of cases of female genital mutilation which are the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Sierra Leone, and the Republic of Mali. On the other hand the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Ghana register rates under 10 %. In the West Africa region, the types 1 and 2 of female genital mutilation are more common than those reported in the Horn of Africa defined as types 3 and 4. The realization of excision depends on the economy of the family, although it is usually carried out before marriage, specifically, during the age of 15 to 19 years old. Some of the reasons argued by most of the West African countries to continue performing this dangerous tradition is to defend the family honor, avoid future ostracism, and control her sexual development to keep the girl pure and virgin.

Nowadays, there are many changes on national legislations against female genital mutilation. For example, Burkina Faso is one of the first countries to criminalize and penalize FGM, but there are other entities such as Republic of Mali, Republic of Sierra Leone, and Republic of Liberia which do not prohibit this exercise, due to the objection of the habitants. Elseways, 79 % of population of women and men who go against the protocol that could eliminate female circumcision is because they already have it deeply rooted and they see it as something honorable and sacred that give status in their communities. Nonetheless, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa is set up and known as the Maputo Protocol that came in to force on the 25th of november of 2005 for all the African Union (AU), including West Africa, with the purpose of providing women a wide range of economic and social benefits rights and having on its fifth article public awareness, as well as prohibits all forms of female genital mutilation and gives necessary support and protection to all women.

## ***Measures taken by international organizations to eliminate the Female Genital Mutilation***

Even though female genital mutilation is a complex issue, often inherent to social and cultural factors of traditionalists communities, different actions have been taken aiming to prevent and eliminate this practice. In 1997, the WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA published the “*Joint Statement on Female Genital Mutilation*”. This document is built on the framework established by the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). The Joint Statement describes the implication of FGM for public health and human rights, as well as declaring its support for the abandonment of the practice. Since its issuance<sup>29</sup>, progress has been achieved at both international and local levels—these include a wider commitment to stop FGM; the creation of human rights treaties and bodies that condemn the practice; revision and improvement of legal policies; and political support for ending female circumcision. For instance, the implementation of these measures in 26 countries of Africa and the Middle East has contributed to a significant decline in the prevalence of FGM, as well as “and increasing number of women and men in practicing communities declaring support for its abandonment” (WHO, 2010).

In 2008, the World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA61, underlining the need for concrete action to counteract FGM in health, education, finance, justice and women's affairs. Likewise, the WHO issued the “Global strategy to stop health care providers from performing female genital mutilation” (2010) in response of the increasing rate at which FGM was becoming medicalized. To date, the WHO efforts to counteract female circumcision centers on strengthening the health sector response; developing and implementing medical guidelines; generating knowledge about the consequences of the practice; and increasing advocacy tools. Furthermore, the “Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting” (2007) is also a key measure in the prevention and elimination of FGM. It was adopted by

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<sup>29</sup> **Issuance:** the action of supplying or distributing something, especially for official purposes. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

UNFPA and UNICEF, and “leads the largest global response to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation” (UNFPA, 2018). The program harnesses the complementary expertise of both agencies to transform social norms from within, while also partnering with governments to enact laws banning the practice and to ensure girls have access to sexual and reproductive rights. Other important actions include the “Eliminating female genital mutilation: an interagency statement” (2008); and the “Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and Violence against Women and Girls” (2015) by UN Women. The latter explores policy issues common to gender-based discrimination, and focuses on more coordinate and effective ways to address FGM, as well as collaborative efforts to monitor, evaluate, analyze and develop consistent evidence. It considers starting points in the areas of domestic legislation, prevention strategies, compelling response for survivors—interlinked with the work of the WHO—, and the collection of data and concrete allegations. The policy note is intended for all parties involved in FGM, including those directly entitled with guidelines development, planning and implementing initiatives, technical support and advocates for ending FGM.

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## Glossary for Resolution Papers

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### *Preambulatory Phrases*

*Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.*

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

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**Glossary for Resolution Papers**

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***Operative Clauses***

*Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. It must be written in italics and bold.*

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly affirms
Congratulates	Further reminds	Strongly condemns
Considers	Further recommends	Supports
Declares accordingly	Further requests	Takes note of
Deplores	Further resolves	Transmits
Designates	Has resolved	Trusts