



# MCGSMUN 2025



Eye of The Hurricane

United Nations Commission on the Status of  
Women

Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in conflict zones

## Letter from the Chair

Greetings Delegates,

It is indeed a great honor and a privilege to be welcoming you to the simulation of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) at MCGSMUN '25.

The agenda at hand that is vast and complex, and a successful discussion on it would necessitate the mutual participation of all of you. It shall be your choice to decide the direction in which you want to take this committee ahead.

This agenda demands to be seen from more than one perspective. Please note that the statistics used for the documentation of this study guide is till 18th February, 2025. Anything after that date shall certainly be accepted in the discussion, if deemed legitimate by the Executive Board.

A few aspects that delegates should keep in mind while preparing:-

**Mandate:** Every committee of the United Nations has a very specific mandate. The discussion of an agenda and proposal of solutions should be within the mandate of the committee.

**Procedure:** The purpose of putting in procedural rules in any committee is to ensure a more organized and efficient debate. Kindly take note that the committee shall follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure, a link for which has been provided in the last section of this Guide. Although the Chairing Team shall be fairly strict with the Rules of Procedure, the discussion of agenda will be the main priority. So delegates are advised not to restrict their statements due to hesitation regarding procedure.

**Foreign Policy:** Following the foreign policy of one's country is the most important aspect of a Model UN Conference. This is what essentially differentiates a Model UN from other debating formats. To violate one's existing foreign policy without adequate reason is one of the worst mistakes a delegate can make.

**Role of the Executive Board:** The Executive Board is appointed to facilitate the debate. The direction and flow of debate shall be decided by the committee. The delegates are the ones who constitute the committee and hence must be uninhibited while presenting their opinions/stance on any issue.

This committee will be discussing the agenda "Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in conflict zones". These agendas have an extremely broad ambit and require a fair amount of reading and research.

In lieu of your research, the following pages will guide you with the nuances of the agenda as well as the Council. The Guide touches upon all the different aspects that are relevant and will lead to fruitful debate in the Council. It will provide you with a bird's eye view of the gist of the issue. It will not, however, be deemed as sufficient for all of your research requirements since the Executive Board seeks to allow delegates to explore the topic at hand to gain insightful knowledge.

Wish you all the best for your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Sanya Harwani

Chairperson

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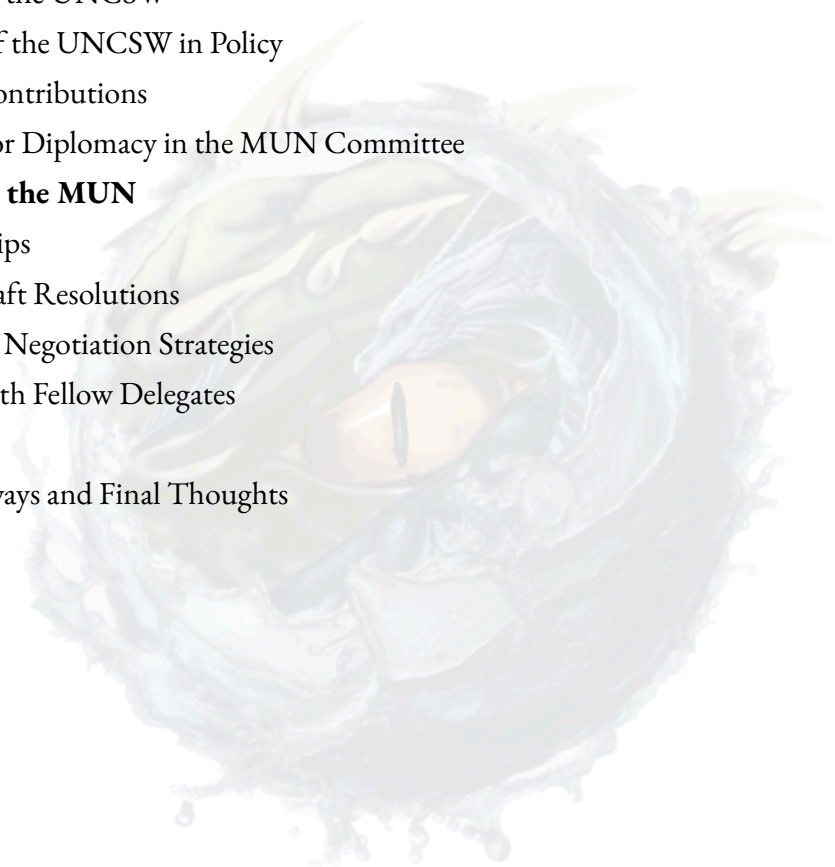
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**Committee: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Agenda: Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in conflict zones**

**COMMITTEE OVERVIEW**

**Purpose of the Study Guide**

This study guide aims to provide delegates with a comprehensive understanding of gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict zones and the role of the UNCSW in combating this issue. The guide is designed to equip delegates with the necessary background, key stakeholders, legal frameworks, and potential solutions to successfully participate in the MUN committee discussions.

**The Importance of Gender-Based Violence in Conflict Zones**

Gender-based violence becomes an acute issue in conflict zones due to the breakdown of law and order, the collapse of social structures, and the use of violence as a tool of war. Women, children, and marginalized groups are disproportionately affected. GBV during conflicts often includes sexual violence, trafficking, forced marriages, and other forms of physical and psychological harm.

**Overview of the UNCSW's Mandate**

The UNCSW, as a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), works towards promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its mandate includes addressing gender-based violence, providing policy advice, and influencing international standards and actions to prevent and address gender-based violence, particularly in conflict zones.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Understanding Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**

Gender-based violence refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. This violence predominantly targets women and girls, especially in conflict zones, and includes various forms of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse.

## Physical Abuse

Physical abuse involves acts that inflict bodily harm, pain, or physical suffering. In conflict zones, physical abuse can take many forms, such as:

- **Beating:** The use of hands, fists, or objects to strike someone repeatedly, causing bruises, fractures, and other injuries.
- **Mutilation:** Intentional infliction of severe injuries, including cutting, branding, or other forms of disfigurement. This can also include practices like female genital mutilation (FGM).
- **Other Forms of Harm:** Includes acts such as burning, choking, and forced labor under harsh conditions.

## Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse in conflict zones is particularly egregious and can include:

- **Rape:** Non-consensual sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration, often used as a weapon of war to terrorize and dominate.
- **Sexual Slavery:** The forced retention of women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation by combatants or civilians.
- **Forced Prostitution:** Coercing women and girls into engaging in sexual activities in exchange for survival needs, such as food, shelter, or safety.
- **Other Forms of Sexual Violence:** Includes acts such as sexual harassment, forced pregnancy, and sexual exploitation.

## Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse can be just as damaging as physical or sexual abuse and includes:

- **Threats:** Making threats of harm to the victim or their loved ones to instill fear and control.
- **Intimidation:** Using aggressive behavior, gestures, or statements to create a climate of fear.
- **Emotional Harm:** Inflicting emotional pain through insults, degradation, manipulation, and other forms of psychological manipulation.

## Economic Abuse

Economic abuse involves the control of a person's access to financial resources, limiting their ability to support themselves and forcing dependency. It can include:

- **Denial of Resources:** Restricting access to money, food, healthcare, education, and other essential resources.
- **Forced Labor:** Compelling individuals to work under exploitative conditions without fair compensation.
- **Exploitation:** Taking advantage of vulnerable individuals for economic gain, such as through human trafficking.

### **The Impact of Conflict on Gender-Based Violence**

In conflict zones, gender-based violence (GBV) escalates as violence becomes weaponized, targeting civilians to demoralize and destabilize populations. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable, often viewed as "spoils of war" by combatants. While men and boys can also be victims, the scale and impact on women and girls are disproportionately higher.

### **Heightened Vulnerabilities**

Conflict situations create environments where law and order break down, increasing the vulnerability of women and girls to various forms of GBV:

- **Displacement:** Forced displacement due to conflict leaves women and girls without protection, making them easy targets for abusers.
- **Breakdown of Social Structures:** The erosion of community and family structures leaves individuals without the support systems that typically provide protection.
- **Impunity:** Perpetrators often act with impunity in conflict zones, knowing that accountability mechanisms are weak or non-existent.

### **Long-Lasting Impacts**

GBV during conflict can have devastating long-term effects on individuals, families, and communities:

- **Physical Health:** Survivors may suffer from chronic pain, sexually transmitted infections, and reproductive health issues.
- **Mental Health:** Psychological trauma can lead to conditions such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- **Social Cohesion:** GBV can fracture communities, creating mistrust and stigma that hinders reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts.

- **Economic Stability:** The loss of productive members of society and the costs associated with caring for survivors can strain already fragile economies.

## **Historical Context: Examples from Recent Conflicts**

### **Rwandan Genocide (1994)**

During the Rwandan Genocide, widespread sexual violence was used systematically as a weapon of war. It is estimated that between 250,000 to 500,000 women were raped during the genocide. The violence had profound and long-lasting effects on the survivors, their families, and Rwandan society as a whole.

### **Syrian Civil War (2011–Present)**

The Syrian Civil War has seen numerous reports of sexual violence by armed groups against women and children. Rape and other forms of sexual violence have been used as tactics of terror to control and intimidate civilian populations. The war has also exacerbated vulnerabilities, leading to increased trafficking and forced marriages.

### **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

The DRC, particularly its eastern regions, is considered one of the most dangerous places in the world for women due to endemic sexual violence. Armed groups and military forces have used rape as a weapon of war, contributing to the long-standing conflict and instability in the region.

## **Global Statistics on Gender-Based Violence**

### **General Statistics**

- **1 in 3 Women:** Globally, one in three women will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, according to the World Health Organization.
- **Conflict Zones:** In conflict zones, rates of sexual violence can be 10-20 times higher than in stable societies.
- **Refugees and Displaced People:** Women and children make up 80% of refugees and displaced people, and they face heightened risks of GBV.

## **THE UN'S RESPONSE TO GBV IN CONFLICT ZONES**

The United Nations has undertaken numerous efforts to address gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict zones. These efforts encompass a range of initiatives, policies, and legal frameworks aimed at preventing and addressing sexual violence while promoting women's active participation in peace processes.

## **UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security**

One of the most significant measures undertaken by the UN is the adoption of Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security. These resolutions set a framework for international efforts to address GBV in conflict zones.

- **UNSCR 1325 (2000):** This landmark resolution was the first to explicitly link women's experiences of conflict to the international peace and security agenda. It acknowledges that armed conflicts impact women and girls differently from men and boys and emphasizes the importance of their participation in peacebuilding and peacemaking efforts. Key provisions include:
  - Ensuring increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional, and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.
  - Incorporating gender perspectives into peacekeeping operations and training all personnel on the protection of women and girls.
  - Supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.
- **Subsequent Resolutions:** Following UNSCR 1325, additional resolutions have been adopted to reinforce and expand its provisions. These include UNSCR 1820 (2008), which recognizes sexual violence as a tactic of war and calls for its cessation, and UNSCR 1888 (2009), which strengthens efforts to end impunity for sexual violence in conflict.

## **The Role of UN Women and Other UN Bodies**

UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Its activities include:

- **Policy Development:** Assisting member states in developing policies and action plans to address GBV and promote gender equality in conflict and post-conflict settings.
- **Capacity Building:** Providing training and resources to national governments, civil society organizations, and UN agencies to enhance their capacity to prevent and respond to GBV.

- **Advocacy:** Raising awareness and advocating for the rights of women and girls affected by conflict-related sexual violence.

Other UN bodies, such as UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), and WHO (World Health Organization), also contribute to addressing GBV in conflict zones by providing protection, support, and essential services to survivors.

## **International Legal Frameworks**

Several international legal frameworks provide mechanisms for addressing GBV in conflict zones:

- **International Criminal Court (ICC):** The ICC prosecutes individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, including acts of sexual violence. It aims to hold perpetrators accountable and deliver justice to survivors.
- **Geneva Conventions:** The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols provide legal protections for civilians in armed conflicts. They explicitly prohibit acts of sexual violence and other forms of GBV, establishing obligations for combatants to protect civilians.

## **Existing Programs and Initiatives**

The UN has implemented various programs and initiatives to address GBV in conflict zones. These efforts include:

- **Essential Services for Survivors:** Providing shelter, legal assistance, psychosocial support, and medical care to survivors of GBV.
- **Community-Based Approaches:** Engaging local communities in prevention and response efforts, including establishing safe spaces and support networks for women and girls.
- **Data Collection and Research:** Collecting data and conducting research on the prevalence and impact of GBV in conflict zones to inform policy and program development.

## **Successes and Challenges of UN Efforts**

The UN's efforts to address GBV in conflict zones have achieved notable successes, but challenges remain:

- **Successes:**
  - Increased awareness and recognition of GBV as a serious issue that requires urgent

attention.

- Development and implementation of comprehensive legal frameworks and policies to address GBV.
- Enhanced capacity of national governments and civil society organizations to prevent and respond to GBV.

- **Challenges:**

- **Impunity for Perpetrators:** Many perpetrators of GBV in conflict zones go unpunished, contributing to a culture of impunity.
- **Cultural and Social Barriers:** Deeply entrenched cultural and social norms can hinder efforts to address GBV effectively.
- **Inadequate Legal Frameworks:** Legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms in many conflict-affected countries are often insufficient to address GBV.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited resources and funding pose significant challenges to implementing comprehensive GBV prevention and response programs.
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Overall, the UN's response to GBV in conflict zones is a multifaceted approach that involves legal frameworks, policy development, capacity building, and community engagement. While progress has been made, continued efforts are needed to overcome the challenges and ensure the protection and empowerment of women and girls in conflict-affected areas.

## **KEY ACTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict zones requires a coordinated effort involving multiple actors and stakeholders. Each group plays a vital role in preventing and responding to GBV, providing support to survivors, and advocating for justice and accountability.

### **Governments of Affected Countries**

National governments hold a critical responsibility in combating GBV. Their roles include:

- **Law Enforcement:** Enacting and enforcing laws that criminalize GBV and protect survivors. Governments must ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and that survivors receive justice.
- **Resource Allocation:** Providing necessary resources, such as funding for shelters, legal aid, healthcare, and psychosocial support for survivors.
- **Policy Development:** Creating and implementing policies that promote gender equality and

prevent GBV. This includes integrating GBV prevention and response into national action plans and development strategies.

- **Public Awareness:** Launching awareness campaigns to educate the public about GBV, its impact, and the importance of reporting incidents.

## International Organizations

International organizations play a significant role in addressing GBV in conflict zones by providing humanitarian assistance, policy guidance, and advocacy. Key organizations include:

- **UN Women:** Works to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women into all aspects of UN operations and programs. UN Women supports the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda and provides technical assistance to member states.
- **UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees):** Provides protection and assistance to refugees and displaced persons, including those affected by GBV. UNHCR implements programs to prevent and respond to GBV in refugee camps and host communities.
- **UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund):** Focuses on protecting children and adolescents from GBV. UNICEF provides essential services, including healthcare, psychosocial support, and safe spaces for children and their families.
- **WHO (World Health Organization):** Provides medical and mental health support to survivors of GBV. WHO develops guidelines and protocols for healthcare providers to effectively respond to GBV.

## NGOs and Civil Society Organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations are often at the forefront of providing support to survivors and advocating for their rights. Notable organizations include:

- **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF):** Provides emergency medical care to survivors of GBV in conflict zones. MSF offers comprehensive healthcare services, including treatment for physical injuries, sexual and reproductive health services, and mental health support.
- **Amnesty International:** Advocates for the protection of human rights, including the rights of survivors of GBV. Amnesty International conducts research, raises awareness, and pressures governments to fulfill their obligations to prevent and respond to GBV.
- **Local NGOs:** Local organizations often have a deep understanding of the cultural and social dynamics of their communities. They provide tailored support to survivors, including legal

assistance, counseling, and empowerment programs.

## **The Role of Peacekeepers and Military Forces**

Peacekeeping forces, deployed under the auspices of the United Nations, can play a crucial role in protecting civilians, particularly women and children, from GBV in conflict zones. Their roles include:

- **Protection:** Peacekeepers are tasked with protecting civilians from violence, including GBV. They patrol conflict areas, provide security in refugee camps, and escort women and children to safety.
- **Gender Sensitivity Training:** Training peacekeepers on gender sensitivity is critical to the success of their missions. This training equips them with the skills to recognize and address GBV and to interact with survivors in a compassionate and respectful manner.
- **Support to Local Authorities:** Peacekeepers often work alongside local law enforcement and authorities to strengthen their capacity to respond to GBV.

## **Local Communities and Women's Rights Groups**

Local communities and grassroots women's rights groups are instrumental in providing direct and impactful solutions for survivors. Their roles include:

- **Community-Based Support:** Local groups offer resources and services tailored to the specific needs of their communities. This can include establishing safe houses, providing legal aid, and offering psychosocial support.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Women's rights groups advocate for the rights of survivors and work to change harmful cultural and social norms that perpetuate GBV. They conduct awareness campaigns and community dialogues to promote gender equality.
- **Empowerment Programs:** These groups implement programs to empower women and girls, providing them with skills, education, and opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.

Overall, a multi-faceted and coordinated approach involving governments, international organizations, NGOs, peacekeepers, and local communities is essential to effectively address GBV in conflict zones. Each actor brings unique strengths and perspectives to the table, contributing to a comprehensive response to this critical issue.

## CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict zones presents numerous challenges. These challenges are multi-faceted and interlinked, making it difficult to create effective and sustainable solutions. Below are detailed explanations of the key challenges:

### Impunity for Perpetrators

One of the greatest challenges in addressing GBV in conflict zones is the lack of accountability for perpetrators. Many individuals, including soldiers, armed groups, and even civilians, face little to no consequences for their actions. Factors contributing to this impunity include:

- **Weak Judicial Systems:** Conflict zones often have weakened judicial systems that are unable to prosecute perpetrators effectively.
- **Corruption:** Corruption within law enforcement and judicial institutions can lead to perpetrators avoiding punishment.
- **Lack of Evidence:** Gathering evidence in conflict zones is challenging due to instability, fear of retaliation, and lack of resources.
- **Intimidation and Threats:** Survivors and witnesses may be intimidated or threatened, preventing them from coming forward to report crimes.

### Cultural, Social, and Political Barriers

Cultural, social, and political barriers can significantly hinder efforts to address GBV. These barriers include:

- **Cultural Norms:** In many societies, cultural norms discourage speaking out against violence, particularly sexual violence. Survivors may fear shame, blame, or ostracization from their communities.
- **Gender Inequality:** Deep-rooted gender inequality and patriarchal attitudes often perpetuate the acceptance of GBV as a norm.
- **Political Instability:** Conflict zones often experience political instability and lack of rule of law, complicating efforts to implement and enforce GBV prevention and response measures.
- **Distrust of Authorities:** Communities may distrust authorities due to past abuses or perceived ineffectiveness, leading to underreporting of GBV cases.

## **Inadequate Legal Frameworks**

In many conflict zones, national legal frameworks are weak or non-existent, and international legal mechanisms may be underutilized or ineffective. Challenges include:

- **Lack of Comprehensive Legislation:** Some countries lack comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of GBV.
- **Inadequate Enforcement:** Even where laws exist, enforcement may be inconsistent or ineffective due to lack of training, resources, or political will.
- **Limited Access to Justice:** Survivors may face barriers to accessing justice, such as lack of legal aid, geographical distance, or fear of retribution.
- **Insufficient International Mechanisms:** International legal mechanisms, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), may be underutilized or face challenges in obtaining jurisdiction and cooperation from national governments.

## **Resource Constraints**

Humanitarian agencies and organizations often struggle to provide adequate resources in conflict areas. Resource constraints include:

- **Limited Funding:** Funding for GBV programs may be limited, affecting the availability and quality of services for survivors.
- **Insufficient Infrastructure:** Conflict zones may lack the necessary infrastructure, such as healthcare facilities, shelters, and legal aid centers, to support survivors.
- **Human Resource Shortages:** There may be a shortage of trained professionals, including healthcare workers, legal practitioners, and social workers, to provide essential services.
- **Competing Priorities:** In conflict zones, resources are often stretched thin due to competing humanitarian priorities, such as food security, shelter, and basic healthcare.

## **Stigma and Trauma Among Survivors**

Survivors of GBV often face significant social stigma, discrimination, and psychological trauma. These challenges include:

- **Social Stigma:** Survivors may be blamed for the violence they experienced and face rejection from their families and communities.

- **Discrimination:** Survivors may experience discrimination in accessing services, employment, and education, further marginalizing them.
- **Psychological Trauma:** The trauma of GBV can have long-lasting mental health impacts, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- **Barriers to Reintegration:** Stigma and trauma can make it difficult for survivors to reintegrate into society and rebuild their lives.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-dimensional approach that includes strengthening legal frameworks, improving access to justice, providing comprehensive support services, raising awareness, and promoting gender equality. Collaboration between governments, international organizations, NGOs, and local communities is essential to create sustainable solutions and support survivors effectively.

## **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict zones requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses prevention, protection, prosecution, and recovery. Here are detailed solutions and recommendations for effectively tackling GBV:

### **Prevention Strategies**

#### **Early Warning Systems**

- **Strengthening Mechanisms:** Develop and implement early warning systems to detect and predict the escalation of violence, including GBV. This can involve monitoring conflict zones for signs of increased tension and deploying rapid response teams.
- **Community Involvement:** Engage local communities in identifying and reporting early signs of GBV. Community-based alert systems can help prevent violence before it escalates.

#### **Gender Sensitivity Training**

- **Peacekeepers and Military Personnel:** Provide comprehensive gender sensitivity training for peacekeepers, military personnel, and law enforcement officers. Training should cover the recognition of GBV, appropriate responses, and the importance of protecting women and children.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Incorporate cultural sensitivity into training programs to ensure that peacekeepers and military personnel understand the cultural context of the areas they are deployed to and can interact respectfully with local populations.

## Protection Measures for Women and Children

### Safe Spaces

- **Establishing Shelters:** Create safe shelters and support centers for survivors of GBV. These shelters should provide a secure environment where survivors can access essential services, including medical care, legal aid, and psychosocial support.
- **Mobile Units:** Deploy mobile units to reach remote and conflict-affected areas, offering on-the-spot support and services to survivors who may not have access to fixed shelters.

### Legal Aid and Healthcare

- **Access to Legal Assistance:** Ensure that survivors have access to legal aid to navigate the judicial system, seek justice, and obtain protection orders. Legal assistance should be provided free of charge and be easily accessible.
- **Comprehensive Healthcare:** Provide comprehensive healthcare services to survivors, including medical treatment for physical injuries, sexual and reproductive health services, and mental health support. Health facilities should be equipped to handle GBV cases with sensitivity and confidentiality.

### Prosecution and Accountability

#### Strengthening Legal Frameworks

- **Adopting Laws and Policies:** Encourage states to adopt and enforce laws and policies that criminalize all forms of GBV, including sexual violence in conflict. Legal frameworks should be aligned with international standards and provide clear definitions and penalties.
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthen the capacity of judicial and law enforcement institutions to effectively investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate GBV cases. This includes training judges, prosecutors, and police officers on handling GBV cases with sensitivity and professionalism.

#### International Accountability

- **Role of International Tribunals:** Enhance the role of international tribunals, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), in holding perpetrators of GBV accountable. International tribunals can provide a platform for prosecuting high-level offenders and setting legal precedents.
- **Collaboration and Cooperation:** Foster collaboration between national governments and international bodies to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. This includes sharing

information, evidence, and best practices.

## **Post-Conflict Recovery and Reintegration Programs**

### **Economic Empowerment**

- **Education and Training:** Provide survivors with education and vocational training to enhance their skills and improve their economic opportunities. Programs should focus on empowering survivors to become self-reliant and financially independent.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Create employment opportunities for survivors through partnerships with local businesses, NGOs, and international organizations. Employment programs should prioritize safe and fair working conditions.

### **Psychosocial Support**

- **Counseling and Rehabilitation:** Offer counseling and rehabilitation services to help survivors heal from the psychological trauma of GBV. Services should include individual and group therapy, as well as support for families and communities.
- **Community Reintegration:** Facilitate the reintegration of survivors into their communities through social support programs, community dialogues, and awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and discrimination.

## **THE ROLE OF THE UNCSW IN COMBATING GBV**

### **Mandate of the UNCSW**

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) is a principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Established by ECOSOC resolution 11 (II) on June 21, 1946, the UNCSW has the following key mandates:

- **Advancing Gender Equality:** The UNCSW is committed to advancing gender equality and women's rights worldwide. It works towards eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, including gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict zones.
- **Advocacy for the Elimination of GBV:** The UNCSW advocates for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. It raises awareness about the prevalence and impact of GBV and promotes policies and actions to address it.

- **Collaboration:** The UNCSW brings together governments, civil society organizations, international organizations, and other stakeholders to create global standards and recommendations for policy. This collaborative approach ensures that diverse perspectives and experiences are considered in the development of solutions.
- **Monitoring and Review:** The UNCSW monitors and reviews progress in implementing global commitments to gender equality, such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It assesses the effectiveness of policies and programs and provides recommendations for improvement.

### **Influence of the UNCSW in Policy**

The UNCSW plays a significant role in influencing global policy on gender-related issues. It achieves this through various mechanisms:

- **Resolutions:** The UNCSW adopts resolutions that address critical issues related to gender equality and women's rights. These resolutions provide guidance to member states on implementing policies and actions to combat GBV and promote gender equality. For example, the UNCSW has adopted resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, the role of women in peacebuilding, and the empowerment of rural women.
- **Advocacy:** The UNCSW engages in advocacy efforts to raise awareness about gender-related issues and mobilize support for gender equality. It works with member states, civil society organizations, and other UN bodies to promote the adoption and implementation of gender-sensitive policies and practices.
- **Advisory Role:** The UNCSW advises other UN bodies, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, on gender-related issues. It provides expert analysis and recommendations to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into all aspects of the UN's work, including peace and security, development, and human rights.

### **Previous Contributions**

The UNCSW has made significant contributions to global discussions on GBV and has been instrumental in pushing for comprehensive legal frameworks and international cooperation to address the issue in conflict zones. Some of its notable contributions include:

- **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995):** The UNCSW played a key role in the development and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a landmark

document that sets out a comprehensive agenda for achieving gender equality. The Platform for Action includes specific measures to address violence against women, including GBV in conflict zones.

- **Women, Peace, and Security Agenda:** The UNCSW has been a strong advocate for the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, which aims to ensure women's participation in peace processes and the protection of women and girls in conflict situations. It has contributed to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions that address GBV in conflict zones.
- **Global Norms and Standards:** The UNCSW has been instrumental in developing global norms and standards for preventing and responding to GBV. It has pushed for the adoption of international legal instruments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Istanbul Convention, which provide frameworks for addressing GBV.
- **Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** The UNCSW provides capacity building and technical assistance to member states to help them implement gender-sensitive policies and programs. It offers training, resources, and support to strengthen national efforts to combat GBV.

Through its mandate, policy influence, and contributions, the UNCSW plays a vital role in advancing gender equality and addressing GBV in conflict zones. Its efforts have led to significant progress in raising awareness, mobilizing action, and creating a more supportive environment for the protection and empowerment of women and girls globally.

## **PREPARING FOR THE CONFERENCE**

### **Research Tips**

- Focus on understanding your country's position on gender-based violence and its role in peacekeeping missions.
- Study the previous resolutions passed by the UNCSW and the UN Security Council.

### **Key Points to Address During Debate**

- How your country can contribute to preventing GBV.
- Proposals for strengthening the UN's response to GBV in conflict zones.

### **Drafting Resolutions**

- Ensure your resolution is clear, actionable, and realistic, with specific measures to prevent, protect, and prosecute GBV in conflict zones.

### **Public Speaking and Negotiation**

- Practice your public speaking skills to effectively advocate for your country's position.

- Collaborate with other delegates to build consensus and draft comprehensive resolutions.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Key Takeaways**

Combating GBV in conflict zones is a complex issue that requires coordinated international efforts, a strong legal framework, and effective humanitarian interventions. The UNCSW plays a pivotal role in addressing this challenge by advocating for global standards, influencing policy, and supporting practical solutions for survivors.

### **Final Thoughts**

As MUN participants, it is important to engage in diplomatic negotiations, propose realistic solutions, and advocate for the protection and empowerment of women and girls in conflict-affected regions. By working collaboratively, we can help shape a world where gender-based violence is no longer a weapon of war.

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