

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN- **STUDY GUIDE**

INTRODUCTION TO UNHRW

The Executive Board of UNHRW have concocted for you a unique blend of two very important UN bodies- United Nations Human Rights Council and UN Women, making it United Nations Human Rights for Women.

Working for the empowerment and rights of women and girls globally, UN Women's main roles are: To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.

The committee will be either be discussing:

- i. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**
- or**
- ii. MICRO FINANCING AND ITS BENEFITS FOR WOMEN**

With an interesting mix of countries and discussions, we expect to be helpful in providing you with a fun, engaging, energetic and informative experience.

WHAT WE EXPECT

The executive board of the UNHRW would like to inform the delegates that country specific research is crucial for effective participation during the conference. In order for the committee to function with efficiency and accuracy, it is imperative that the delegates research well in relation to their country and their stands on the given agenda(s). the delegates must be informed about the conditions of violence against women in their countries, they must be well versed with their country's legal framework and actions in relation to violence against women .

The delegates should know their country's stand on laws for/against violence against women, self help groups and micro financing for women.

INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA 1

Violence Against Women

Understanding the framing of violence against women and how this has evolved over time enhances the contextualization of women's access to justice programming in this field.

Definitions of violence against women have evolved over the years in different legal frameworks and contexts. The following definition of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 48/104, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, was

reaffirmed by the Agreed Conclusions of the 2013 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls:

“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

Women across the world, regardless of income, age or education, are subject to physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. Intimate partner violence accounts for the majority of women’s experiences of violence. Experience of violence can lead to long term physical, mental and emotional health problems; in the most extreme cases, violence against women can lead to death.

Violence against women affects women everywhere. It impacts women’s health, hampers their ability to participate fully in society, and is a source of tremendous physical and psychological suffering for both women and their families.

The kinds of violence that take place are

- i. intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide)
- ii. sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber-harassment);
- iii. human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation);
- iv. female genital mutilation; and
- v. child marriage
- vi. Forced pregnancy or abortion
and many more.

➤ International Laws For Violence Against Women

- Article 4 of the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the General Assembly, requires Member States to:
 - Condemn violence against women and not invoke custom, tradition or religion to avoid their obligations to eliminate such violence;
 - Develop penal, civil, labor and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs caused to victims;
 - Provide access to the mechanisms of justice and, as provided for by national legislation, to just and effective remedies; and
 - Ensure that the re-victimization of women does not occur because of laws insensitive to gender considerations, enforcement practices or other interventions.

➤ 1993 World Conference on Human Rights

It recognized Violence against women as a human rights violation and called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

➤ Beijing Platform for Action

In 1995, it identified specific actions that the Governments should take to prevent and respond to violence against women,

➤ The First Comprehensive Report

In 2006, the Secretary-General's In Depth Study on All Forms of Violence Against Women was released, the first comprehensive report on the issue.

➤ CSW in 2013

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) adopted, by consensus, Agreed Conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

Despite numerous measures, Violence against Women continues to be growing day by day. UNHRW aims at resolving this maladaptive behaviour and correcting these faulty actions, globally to make the society equal for men and women.

INTRODUCTION TO AGENDA 2

Micro financing and Self-Help Groups

What Is Microfinance?

Microfinance, also called microcredit, is a type of banking service that is provided to unemployed or low-income individuals or groups who otherwise would have no other access to financial services. The participation of women in Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Micro Finance made a significant impact on their empowerment both in social and economic aspects. the goal of microfinance is to give impoverished people an opportunity to become self-sufficient.

What Are Self Help Groups?

Self Help Groups (SHGs) are informal associations consisting of 10-20 members whose purpose is to enable members to reap economic benefits through mutual help, solidarity and joint responsibility. The SHGs ease availability of microcredit to women as they lack capital and have very little or no access to credits.

Microcredit plays a critical role in empowering women, helps deliver newfound respect, independence, and participation for women in their communities and in their households. Microfinance services lead to women's empowerment by positively influencing women's decision-making power and enhancing their overall socio-economic status.

By the end of 2006, microfinance services had reached over 79 million of the poorest women in the world. As such, microfinance has the potential to make a significant contribution to gender equality and promote sustainable livelihoods and better working conditions for women.

Seventy percent of the world's poor are women.

Yet traditionally women have been disadvantaged in access to credit and other financial services. Commercial banks often focus on men and formal businesses, neglecting the women who make up a large and growing segment of the informal economy. Microfinance on the other hand often targets women, in some cases exclusively.

Female clients represent eighty-five percent of the poorest microfinance clients reached. Therefore, targeting women borrowers makes sense from a public policy standpoint. Children of women microfinance borrowers also reap the benefits, as there is an increased likelihood of full-time school enrolment and lower drop-out rates. Studies show that new incomes generated from microenterprises are often first invested in children's education, particularly benefiting girls.

According to Microcredit Summit Campaign Report 2015, 3,098 microfinance institutions had reached over 211 million clients by 2013, 114 million of whom were living in extreme poverty. Of these poorest clients, 82.6%, or over 94 million, were women.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER DURING YOUR RESEARCH

1. AGENDA 1

- ❖ Does your country have an effective framework to tackle violence against women?
- ❖ Is there anything/anyway your country can do to improve the state of women globally?

- ❖ Should offenders be punished vigorously on a standard global scale, or a differing, Nation-wise scale?
- ❖ Has your country openly violated international laws for violence against women?
- ❖ What laws have been/ have not been set by your legislation to reprimand violence against women?

2. AGENDA 2

- ❖ What is your country's stand on micro financing?
- ❖ What are the major self help groups of the world and how do they affect your country? (if)
- ❖ What is the financial condition of women in your country?
- ❖ Is there an alternative to SHGs and Microcredit?
- ❖ Measures to equally distribute credit globally to women (execution)?

Kindly keep in mind that these are suggestions and examples to give you a basic idea of how to research and for the committee to work effectively the delegates must do an extensive country specific research related to the agendas.

A good research is one which characterizes facts, the country's status and a delegates opinions, intermingled with each other. Looking forward to an energizing session.

You will find attached a few **links** which will help with more knowledge about the same:

AGENDA 1

www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/global-norms-and-standards

www.stopvaw.org

<https://ijrcenter.org/thematic-research-guides/womens-human-rights/>

https://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue/up-next?language=en

AGENDA 2

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.youtube.com/watch%3Fv%3Dp6a20XV6wSs&ved=0ahUKEwiqupG3k7XjAhXRQ3wKHxI9B8UQo7QBCDk_wCQ&usg=AOvVaw1aX0uvUHbDMuF6GgjjdHTU

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/microfinance>

<https://opportunity.org/what-we-do/microfinance/>

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40dgreports/%40gender/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_091581.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwinm9Xtk7XjAhW1mOYKHW9dAuM4ChAWMAR6BAgEEAE&usg=AOvVaw2Z6ujpyK823_9M027ydAhS