

## UN WOMAN

**Authors: Juan Pablo Soto, Valerie Ustariz  
and Maria Jose Lizarazo**

**Time for opening speech: 90 seconds**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE:**

UN Women, is a fundamental entity characterized for being an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organization. Its principal pillar fulfills matters such as gender equality, women empowerment, leadership, equal political participation, along with building a more inclusive society. UN women emphasizes greatly on seeking solutions which involve freedom of all forces of violence, sustainable peace and resilience, and the support of intergovernmental bodies, to generate much more international recognition. Notwithstanding, it works closely with the Commission on the Status of Women, which promotes and ensures international security of all women, along with compliance of women's rights.

Additionally, UN women was founded on the 21st of June of 1946, with the main objective of discussing constitutional and consuetudinary rights of women, gender

stereotypes, gender pay gap, the repercussions of a society governed by only one gender, femicides, gender identity and several other perspectives which emerged to the situation of women in society. Moreover, the UN women's executive board relies on 41 member states, which are elected through three-year terms by the Economic and Social Council. Needless to say, Its jurisdiction has several principles for women, such as establishing a corporate leadership for gender equality and promoting education for girls.

### **TOPICA: FEMICIDES AN UNAVOIDABLE SOCIAL CLEANSE**

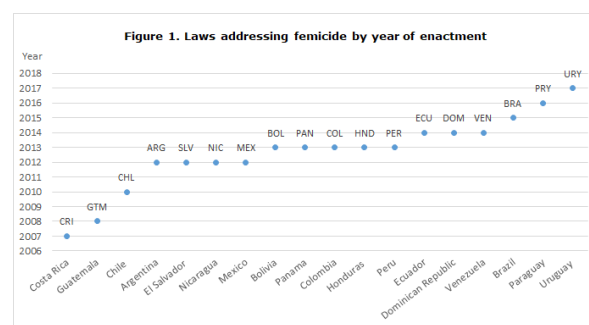
#### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

There can be no question behind the implications of the term "*femicide*". Though such prejudicial felony, can be traced back to the very beginnings of human history. Unfortunately, the modern age has seen a heightened rate of such disturbing acts. From the liquidation of Marjanna Fynch in 1899 to Debanhi Susana Escobar Bazaldúa, this pattern of taking women's lives for the

mere fact that they are women is not simply a feminist matter, but a transgression of basic human rights. Through evolution, society has experienced a great anguish of coexisting in a patriarchal society. A society where the jurisdiction of the male gender predominates over any other. A society, where women's rights and opinions are constantly overlooked, and misinterpreted. A society, where the power corresponds to the male gender, without even thinking of providing it impartially for both genders to be fully satisfied.

These patterns started from the beginning of human existence. Despite religion or beliefs, misogyny and prejudice by the male gender have always been present. Nowadays, women are the ones facing the consequences, arriving to the point of millions of loss of lives. The term *femicide*, is and has been, extremely recurrent in Honduras, Dominican Republic, and in El Salvador. This, merely corresponding to the result where gender expectations and roles, become much more important than recognizing an individual (independently of its gender), as a human being. The sexist ideals of society have been in charge of placing both genders in particular scenarios, limiting them from exploring and demonstrating their true selves. Historically, men grew with the idea that they are strong and that they should have a woman by their

side to serve them. Women, on the other hand, grew up with the belief that their purpose in life is to undertake themselves into holy matrimony and to serve their husband for the rest of their lives. Beliefs such as this ones, are ones which society has implanted on the human minds. The consequence of possessing said ideologies, is the extermination of a woman just for being a female. The *femicides* which are caused through the generalization and pure fact of men believing that they possess power over women, and that therefore, they are allowed to perform any act, of any kind, to be satisfied, without the loss of a life of a women (in this case) being an impediment.



Laws addressing femicides statistics . Retrieved from: <https://www.oecd.org/gender/data/addressing-femicide-in-the-context-of-rampant-violence-against-women-in-latin-america.htm>

## GLOSSARY:

**Misogyny:** "Hatred, dislike, or mistrust of women, manifested in various forms such as

*physical intimidation and abuse.”... Misogyny can be defined as any negative act perpetrated towards women because they are women. This can be found in many ways, such as comments made by men with misogynistic intentions all the way to the extinguishment of the life of a woman. Misogyny plays a fundamental role through gender discrimination based issues, due to the fact that is the trivial misogyny what establishes the gender parameters, expecting that both genders comply with them. For example: misogyny is what endows men with the characteristic of being strong and possessing power, while giving women the role of the victim. The acts of femicides are what comply with these standards explicitly: (men, the figure of power which carries out the act of the liquidation of a woman. Women, the role of victim which cannot alter the actions of power, corresponding to the male representative)*

**Patriarchy:** *”Control by men of a disproportionately large share of power”... The patriarchy would be any organization, governmental system, community or society with an unbalanced or full power given to men, not for skills demonstrated, but because they are men, and are seen as more capable to be in positions of power.*

**Sexism:** *”Prejudice or discrimination based on sex or gender, especially against women and girls... ” Any act of intolerance towards women for being women, or expecting certain acts, favors or positions from women, for the same reason; that they are women.*

**Hostile sexism:** *”A form of sexism in which people, especially women, who do not conform to traditional gender roles are viewed in a negative manner”...*

Hostile sexism includes anything from remarks to misdemeanors committed due to the perception of women as worse, or broken, for not following traditional roles expected for women.

**Benevolent sexism:** *”A form of sexism in which people, especially women, who conform to traditional gender roles are viewed in a positive manner”... Benevolent sexism, though it may sound harmless, leads to the idealization of women in traditional roles, therefore shaming women who do not adhere to specific gender roles.*

**Unlawful sexual intercourse:** *Means “rape”. Any sort of sexual intercourse which transgress a law is unlawful sexual intercourse. This includes sexual intercourse without consent, sexual intercourse with a minor, sexual intercourse outside of a legal union, along with other examples. However,*

unless the word “rape”, is added into the parliamentary language, it must be referred to, as: “*unlawful sexual intercourse*”.

**Constitutional Rights:**

The rights yielded by the law which benefit or generate an increasement within discrimination against women.

**Consuetudinary Rights:**

Rights or “titles” adhered by society. They do not necessarily correspond to laws entitled by the governmental system, but by social recognition. Referring to the perspective that the society may possess over a woman. An ideal share of consuetudinary rights among women in society would be : being recognized and valued in the same way as men.

**CAUSES**

As defined above, the word “femicide” is defined as the extermination or attempted extermination of a woman, because she is a woman. Despite the fact that there could never exist an act that a woman could do to deserve being eliminated through a femicide, there are certain existing causes which allude to the root of the issue.

**I. Intimate femicide**

Intimate femicides are felonies either committed by current or former romantic/sexual partners, predominantly

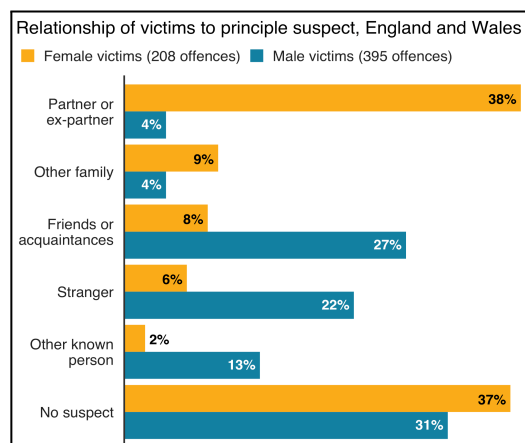
due to jealousy. This type of femicide is characterized by the perpetrator’s close relationship with the victim, leading to the liquidation being committed. More often than not, intimate femicides are the result of past intimate domestic violence in the relationship.

**II. Non-intimate femicide**

Non-intimate femicides include most other femicides committed that did not encompass a close relationship or familiarity between the victim and the perpetrator. This can cover many other different types of femicide.

**III. Honor replacement**

Most seen in patriarchal societies, honor replacement consists of taking the life of a woman to “restore honor to her family”. Perpetrators believe that by taking the victim's life they will balance out the wrongdoings she ‘committed’.





Victim's principal suspects. Retrieved from [:https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-51572665](https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-51572665)

#### **IV. Institutionalized Discrimination**

The term 'gender institutionalization' refers to a collection of formal and informal regulations followed, as well as the methods by which they are carried out, and the goals and activities of organizations. It indicates that society's inequitable system of power relations between sexes is acknowledged in that situation. If there is a previously imposed system which endows particular gender characteristics, its structure must be complied with, opening much more space for femicides to take place. In a structured and roboticized society, it is easy to be a changing agent and be discriminated against because of it.

#### **V. Impunity of the justice system (power imbalance)**

In the first instance, laws such as the '*Constitution of men*', established in 1828, or the '*Declaration of Independence*', are what have established since history, the power imbalance which takes place in the international community. Apart from this, access to justice for all is significantly hampered by gender-based discrimination in the criminal justice system. Women continue to suffer enormous obstacles in pursuing justice, whether they are victims, witnesses, alleged offenders, or inmates,

and they are disproportionately affected by this issue. In spite of the fact that the majority of offenders and prisoners worldwide are male, criminal justice systems frequently prioritize meeting their demands. With this said, the main issues include gender bias, stereotyping, stigma, and impunity, as well as discriminatory criminal laws and practices, along with a lack of gender diversity among criminal justice professionals. A complete set of targeted interventions is required to address the challenges that women encounter throughout the legal system in order to effectively address gender based discrimination against women, a conflict with the law.

#### **VI. Sexual Orientation (Gender Identity)**

In a close minded society, where the stereotypes and gender expectations legislate over any other factor, not complying with said standards, can be often explained as a '*femicide*'. Despite the fact that through time, society has improved into accepting the diversity regarding sexual orientations, there are still some individuals who are not in accordance with exploring the so called '*gender identity*', and as an opposition to it, they decide to do something about it, perpetuating another individual's (in this case a women's) life. The ongoing discrimination and marginalization that LGBTI women, experience due to their



SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression, and Sex Characteristic), in addition to their gender, leave them open to numerous human right transgressions such as femicides. In this sense, femicide also refers to liquidation motivated by a victim's sexual orientation, gender identity or expressions. Such passes have frequently only been classified as *"hate assaults"* or *"gender prejudice crimes"*.

#### **VII. Targeted execution of females in armed conflict**

Women are often denominated as 'easy targets', within armed conflict. This can be due to the fact that they are perceived as weak, or considered as a 'soft spot', for a man. The fact that women are contemplated as less prepared within the armed conflict, makes reference to the fact that they won't receive the same type of training that a man would, when combating within the armed conflict. This is the main reason why the rates of femicides within the armed conflict increase particularly in the women's cases.

#### **REPERCUSSIONS**

The grief, anguish and destruction brought on by femicides cannot be simply restricted to the waves of suffering that the loss of a woman's life can bring to her surroundings, but is the most notable of events after such an event. Femicides push the ideology that being a woman is punishable by liquidation not only to the victim's family but to any woman who hears about her passing. Furthermore, every woman that is lost due to bigotry-driven violence, such as femicides, is a lost opportunity.

#### **Socio-cultural repercussions:**

In a society where the patriarchy is the factor which perpetuates women's rights every day, it can be concluded that: Women are the root of life. If women are perceived as less, just for having a smaller share of power, the whole perspective is altered. If a femicide is carried out, it is just honoring the patriarchy. If there are no individuals held accountable for an act of femicide, it will generate men the possibility of carrying out any type of action, without facing the consequences. Acts such as these ones, just promote more violence and interfere within the values and education which are being provided to children. The acts of femicides promote a much more sexist and misogynist society, ruled by male power. As if it were not enough, globally, 66,000 women are



executed violently each year, making up roughly 17% of all international slaughter victims. 87.000 women and girls were slaughtered worldwide in 2017. This demonstrates that on average, 238 women are victims of femicides, everyday.

### **Monetary and laboral repercussions:**

An economy's general health can be negatively impacted by violence against women and girls, in a variety of ways, both immediately and over time. Violence against women makes females work fewer hours and produce less when they do work on the short run. Long-term, high levels of domestic violence, can reduce the number of women in employment, limit the skills and education that women can acquire, and lead to a reduction in overall public investment as more funds are diverted to health and judicial services. Notwithstanding, violence against women reduces an economy's GDP of 2%. Overall, violence against women is sufficiently negative for the economy and laboral aspects. If this is what happens when women suffer from violence, how bad would it be if they later experience extermination? It would simply produce the negative effects to a higher extent.

### **Political repercussions:**

All forms of abuse, pressure and discrimination against women, should be considered as a public and societal concern. Femicides result from the transgression of one's right to life. This includes, but is not limited to, sexual, physical, economical, political, and psychological abuse. Femicide is a crime against humanity, (consult Roman Statute), and it is characterized by its systematic nature. Main qualities of being systematic are its being continuous, conscious, sequential, desensitized, conditioned and naturalizing violence against women in the social, legal, educational and cultural systems, by the way of misogynist actions, discourses and practices. Femicide carries all these features, so it is a systematic and deliberate state policy. Femicide is a problem for women everywhere, beginning in early life. The fight against femicide should unite the national and worldwide feminist movements. The primary duty of the state is to protect life, but if it is still in power and unable to uphold a democratic and legal state, it is being trivial and ignoring the executions of women in Turkey. The only nation that has not yet put in place the required national processes is Turkey, one of the candidates for EU membership that has signed international conventions to advance women's rights.



## **CURRENT SITUATION**

### International actors:

#### **1. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women:**

Adopted in 1993, this declaration penalises violence against women and seeks to punish these acts with harsher measures. Among the offenses incorporated in this declaration are unlawful sexual intercourses, female genital mutilation and female sexual slavery through the same processes, such as legislation, policies, and research, with the final goal being to achieve equality and a life without gender-based violence for any person. Another key point is to solidify and support women in positions of power, specifically within environmental-based domains. By recognizing women's value in such positions, the stigma against powerful women is broken down, giving more opportunities to more women..Due to the fact that this document is not binding, it had not been able to completely reduce violence against women and much fewer femicides, but it started to raise awareness and concern about gender-based violence and murders in our world today.

#### **2. Beijing Platform for Action**

Known as the first global convention with a focus on the girl child, this clearly stipulates the need for girls' protection during their early years of childhood. The particular focus of this act is gender mainstreaming, or the concept of acknowledging and understanding what different genders go within the signatory countries and even in non-signatory countries, and is causing positive changes for women everywhere.

#### **3. Istanbul Convention**

With over 30 signatory countries from the Council of Europe and certain others outside of the council, the Istanbul convention acknowledges violence against women as a violation of human rights and prejudice. Such violations cover physical, sexual and psychological acts of harassment or abuse. This convention aims to prevent, protect, prosecute and coordinate policies. This convention has already caused changes.



Rate of female homicide in South Africa compared with 6 other countries

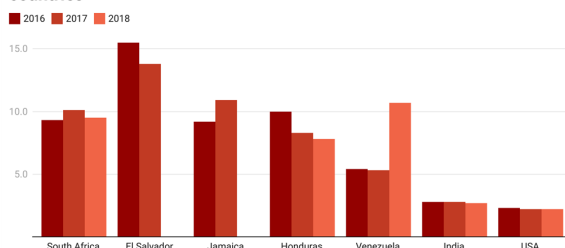


Chart: Media Hack Collective • Source: United Nations OCD • Created with Datawrapper

*Femicides rate comparison. Retrieved from:*

<https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/sayhername-the-faces-of-south-africas-femicide-epidemic-20210414>

#### **4. International Alliance of Women**

The International Alliance of Women (IAW) urges that gender equality be strongly emphasized in all recovery programs. Equal representation of women at the highest levels of decision-making, preferably through the adoption of quotas, in the formulation and implementation of all policies, particularly in the corporate and private sectors and the financial and economic sectors, in order to address the detrimental effects of these policies on women wherever they may exist. The development and implementation of macroeconomic policies that uphold human rights and gender equality. Gains in gender equality, fighting poverty, and actually achieving all of the Millennium Goals are all threatened by the economic recession that followed the financial crisis. Women were not in the same economic standing as men at the beginning of the present crisis, thus

their effects are more distinct. In comparison to men, women are more likely to work in dangerous jobs, be underemployed or unemployed, lack social protection, and have restricted access to and control over financial and economic resources. All types of violence against women—including a harlotry increase during economic downturns. Austerity measures, which include public budget cuts, have an impact on support services, making women who have already been the victims of violence even more vulnerable IAW has made the decision to execute feminist economics capacity building for its members in order to empower them to take significant measures on these concerns. We will set up a side event on this topic in conjunction with CSW 58 in New York City in 2014.

#### **5. Association for women's rights in development**

The AWID groups collaborate with decision-makers, donors, and activists in local and international arenas to advance feminist agendas. As part of their efforts to increase the group's power and influence, they also try to persuade feminist and women's rights movements to put historically disadvantaged movements front and center.



## **6. Womankind worldwide**

Womankind Worldwide is a global organization for women's rights that works to improve the lives of women by standing in solidarity and on an equal footing with other organizations and movements for women's rights. They exist to provide women with a position in society where they are respected. Additionally, they strive to strengthen and support female movements that aim to improve the lot of women. Their team is based in the UK and collaborates with movements and organizations dedicated to women's rights, mainly in Asia and Africa. Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe are the focal nations. Through our policy and campaigns, they also push for governments and international organizations to defend and advance women's rights.

### **Case Study 1: Breonna Taylor**

On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old African-American woman, was fatally struck in her Louisville, Kentucky, apartment after at least seven police officers broke down the door to search it as part of a substance selling investigation. The scene included three officers from the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD): Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove. When the armed officers in plainclothes pounded on the door and eventually forced access, Taylor's boyfriend,

Kenneth Walker, was already inside the flat with her. Walker claims he did not hear any announcement and mistook the policemen for invaders before firing a warning shot at them. The officers claim that they identified themselves as police before forcing access. After Mattingly was struck in the leg by the bullet, the police returned fire with 32 bullets. Walker wasn't harmed, but Taylor, who was standing behind Walker, was liquidated after taking six bullet wounds. Hankison moved to the side of the apartment during the confrontation and fired 10 'shots' through a glass door and covered window. Police claim that Taylor's house was never searched. Twelve months after Walker was charged with assault and attempted massacre of a police officer, the charges were dropped without a trial. On June 23, 2020, the LMPD dismissed Hankison for firing indiscriminately into Taylor's apartment's covered patio door and window. On September 15, Louisville came to an agreement to pay Taylor's family \$12 million while also changing police procedures. Hankison was charged with three charges of first-degree wanton endangerment for endangering on September 23, to Taylor's neighbors, by a state grand jury. It was concluded that Cosgrove fired the shot that struck Taylor and exterminated him. The tapes from the grand jury investigation into the incident were made public on October 2, 2020.



According to a statement made public by two of the jurors, the officers were not charged with liquidation before the grand jury. A number of jurors have also claimed that the police and Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron covered up what transpired. Numerous demonstrations against police brutality and racism were sparked by the killing of Taylor by white police officers and the original decision not to press charges in her passing. More civic turmoil followed after a grand jury decided not to indict the officers for her execution. Hankison and three other policemen were charged federally on August 4, 2022, with transgressing Taylor's civil rights, illegally conspiring, obstructing, and using excessive force. Apart from this, notable transgressions of both constitutional and consuetudinary rights of Breonna, were transgressed. One of the four policemen, Kelly Goodlett, later entered a guilty plea to two conspiracy counts, resulting in the case's initial convictions.

### **Case Study 2; Sarah Everard**

In June 1987, Sarah Everard was born in Surrey. She was raised in York and went to Fulford School there. From 2005 to 2008, she majored in human geography at Durham University's St. Cuthbert's Society. Everard was a marketing executive for a digital media agency and lived in the Brixton



Hill neighborhood at the time of her passing.

At the time of Everard's patricide (extermination from a man), Wayne Couzens (born 1972 in Dover, Kent) was employed by the Metropolitan Police (Met) as a police constable and a weapons officer. He transferred to the Met in September 2018 from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, and in February” *was assigned to the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection (PaDP) branch, the division responsible for uniformed protection of government and diplomatic premises.*” Prior to joining the PaDP, Couzens had not undertaken enhanced screening as part of his recruiting or completed the required two-year probationary period with the Met. As a result of Couzens' actions, Dame Elish Angiolini conducted a non-statutory enquiry into how Couzens was able to work as a police officer for three different forces despite his behavior raising concerns.

On February 28, 2021, Wayne Couzens made a reservation for a white Vauxhall automobile at a Dover car rental agency. On March 3 at 07:00 GMT, he finished a 12-hour duty at the US Embassy in London, after which he went to Kent to pick up the rental car. Following that, he took a car back to London, where he was seen in Earl's Court and on Battersea Bridge. He left



Clapham and traveled to Earl's Court once more before arriving back in Clapham at 21:23. Everard left his friend's home on Leathwaite Road west of Clapham Common at around 21:00. On her way to her Brixton Hill residence, she crossed the common while walking along the A205 South Circular Road. Prior to joining the PaDP, Couzens had not undertaken enhanced screening as part of his recruiting or completed the required two-year probationary period with the Met. As a result of Couzens' actions, Dame Elish Angiolini conducted a non-statutory enquiry into how Couzens was able to work as a police officer for three different forces despite his behavior raising concerns.

After around fifteen minutes of phone conversation, she agreed to meet her lover the following day. She appeared on Poynders Road doorbell camera footage at 21:28 and police car dashcam footage four minutes later. At 21:34, Couzens stopped Everard and displayed his police warrant to her outside Poynders Court, where he had parked the Vauxhall on the sidewalk, climbed inside, and Couzens made his way to Kent; Using CCTV and ANPR, the car's route was subsequently followed.

Couzens and Everard had switched to Couzens' own SEAT automobile by 23:43 and were now in Dover. On March 4th, between 23:53 and 00:57, Couzens'



cellphone was in contact with cell towers in Sibertswold, and it is thought that this is when he raped Everard. Couzens bought alcohol at a Dover gas station at 02:34; it's likely that he strangled Everard earlier, using his police duty belt. After that, Couzens traveled to Hoad's Wood in Ashford, where his vehicle was seen on surveillance footage there between 03:22 and 06:32, before returning to Dover to get back into his vehicle, before handing it back at 8:26. After dropping off the rental car, Couzens drove his own car where he threw Everard's cellphone into one of the town's waterways at 09:21. Later that day, after Everard failed to show up, So, her boyfriend called the police. Couzens informed his senior coworkers that he was stressed out and no longer desired to carry a gun in the days following the extermination.

At a gas station in Whitfield, Couzens purchased and filled a fuel canister on March 5 at around 11:00. Then, after his vehicle was seen on surveillance footage at 12:37 in Hoad's Wood, he drove there and burned Everard's remains inside a refrigerator. He left B&Q at 13:47 with two large builder's bags before coming back to Hoad's. Wood on March 7, where he dumped Everard's remains in a pond using one of the bags. He reported being sick at work on March 8 and turned in his gear, including his police belt and handcuffs. On



March 10 at 16:20, officers investigating Hoad's Wood discovered human remains in a sizable builder's bag around 100 yards (110 yd) from a piece of property owned by Couzens. At the top of the White Cliffs in Dover, police also searched the location of a former body repair shop that had once been operated by Couzens' family. Everard's body was discovered on March 12 and identified using dental records. Two days later, Sandwich's The Rope Walk was the center of a search by police, who also roped off around 1 square mile (2.6 km) in the city. Police resumed searching forest in Kent on March 16 while police divers in Sandwich looked underwater for Everard's cellphone. On May 22, Everard's funeral service was held at Heslington Church in Heslington, a town close to York. On June 1, the findings of a post-mortem performed at William Harvey Hospital in Ashford were made public. The study came to the conclusion that she had died from neck compression. Couzens was detained at his Deal house on March 9th, on suspicion of kidnapping,

Police entered his home at 19:50 to make the arrest after arriving at his house at 17:45. Couzens attempted to delete the data from his cell phone around 40 minutes before he was taken into custody. He first asserted during an interview that he did not recognize Everard following: He was shown a picture of Everard and at first said he



didn't recognize her. After paying for sexual intercourses in Folkestone, he then claimed to be in financial trouble and that a group of Eastern Europeans had blackmailed him and his family by demanding he provide "another lady" since he had underpaid a prostitute a few weeks earlier. At the residence, a lady in her thirties was also detained on suspicion of aiding an offender, but she was later released without being charged.

On March 10, the day Everard's remains were found, Couzens was detained once more on a murder allegation. Couzens was admitted to the hospital on March 11 due to a head injury acquired while in prison; the following day, he was briefly admitted due to a different injury. Following the incident on March 11, police stated "He was shown a picture of Everard and at first said he didn't recognize her. After compensating for the injury he had while alone in his cell, he subsequently asserted that he was experiencing financial difficulties."

On March 12, Couzens was charged with kidnapping and killing Everard after the Crown Prosecution Service gave its approval. Afterwards, he made an appearance at Westminster Magistrates' Court on March 13 and was remanded in custody before making a video link appearance at the Old Bailey on March 16



from Belmarsh Prison. On June 8, Couzens admitted guilt for the kidnapping and committing unlawful sexual intercourse towards Everard and entered a guilty plea.

Widespread discussion about women's safety and violence against women in the UK was spurred by the case. The British government reopened its public consultation on its policy to end violence against women and girls after the murder, and in the two weeks that followed, it received an additional 160,000 replies. Feminist activists contended that not enough changed as a result of the murder. The End Violence Against Women Coalition's Andrea Simon said that "the resourcing is not where it needs to be" and that "the measures that may make a difference are not there." Reports of women slain by active or retired police officers in the UK since 2009 show that, unlike in this instance, they are typically partners. In a report issued on September 17, 2021, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services found "inconsistencies at every level in how the police respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG) and victims" and recommended a "radical refocus and shift in the priority given to VAWG offenses." The report was commissioned by the government in the wake of Sarah Everard's dreadful case..

## **ORIENTATION QUESTIONS**

1. What is your delegation's opinion on gender equality?
2. What acts has your delegation signed or neglected to sign on this matter?
3. Has your delegation been represented by women in positions of power?
4. What laws does your delegation have against or in favor of femicide and other acts of gender-based violence?
5. What is the current position of your delegation towards constitutional and constitutional rights of women?
6. Has your delegation construed to any relevant international actions which have helped bring international peace and security towards women?





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## SUPPORT LINKS

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## TOPIC B: FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN MIDDLE EAST

Female Genital Mutilation, also known as FGM, is the non medical process to carry out removal or supresion of the sexual organ, which constitutes the body of a women. This non medical procedure has victimized a considerable number of women around the globe, due to the amputation, sewing, provocation of acid burns, and other highly painful procedures that women have had to face, constantly. This unlawful procedure has been taking place for more than 2000 years, more commonly in African and Asian communities. As it can be seen, patriarchal political structures have defined the future of women, within society. With this said, it is imperative to highlight the fact that if such practices take place, it is merely a result of the misogynistic traditions which characterize society.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

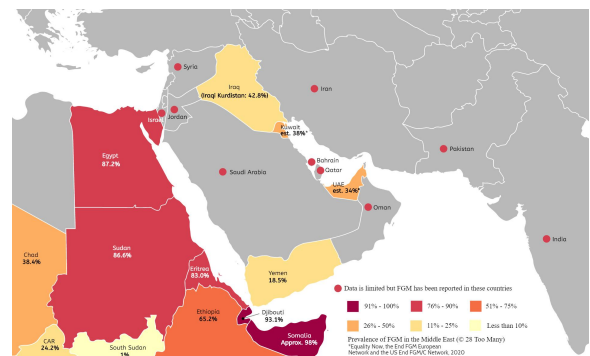
More than 2000 years ago, at the begining of the gathering of cultures around the Middle East, women were subjected into patriarchal traditions, which further promoted the female genital mutilation.



This "tradition" has been a cultural legacy even though each time more and more people refuse and protest against this practice due to the fact that globalization has taught people in the middle east about the unacceptance that Female Genital Mutilation represents, along with the lack of compliance of human rights, which symbolizes. This explains why so many protests and campaigns such as the one made in the Cairo in 2008 in which a social conscientization campaign used multiple medias such as televised advertisement in order to gather monetary resources and individuals who fought against FGM and help those primarily affected by the ongoing conflict. Female genital mutilation precise's genesis is still unknown.

On the basis of the discovery of circumcised mummies from the fifth century BC, some academics have suggested that Ancient Egypt (modern-day Sudan and Egypt) is where it originated. Other academics propose that the practice may have expanded along the lines of the slave trade, from the Red Sea's western shore to parts of southern and western Africa, or it may have traveled from the Middle East to Africa via Arab traders. Roman female slaves were also subjected to the technique, which served to prevent recipients from coitus and consequent conception A "multi-source

origin" has also been suggested for FGM due to its worldwide prevalence, which contends that it spread from "original cores" by fusing with already existing initiation rituals for both men and women. The practice of FGM is popular all across the world despite the mystery surrounding its origins, fulfilling a number of theoretical goals for the societies that support it.



fgm graphs and numbers, retrieved from [FGM GRAPHS AND NUMBERS](#)

### CAUSES

Though multiple cultures and individuals are blaming the religion of the community to be totally guilty of the crisis. However, there are three main pillars which constitutes the executement of the female genital mutilation.

The first cause of Female Genital Mutilation, is the fact that this practice is mostly seen as a tradition in Turkic and semetic governamental figures. Meaning, that is passed from generation to generation as a cultural obligation, such as any celebration

or ritual. This leads to a indoctrination of new generations into thinking that (fgm) is a necessary practice that the family line must continue to promote for future generations. This creates a wrongly normality in the community and culture about the dreadful ritual of Female genital mutilation, and its implementation on next generations.

The second cause of Female Genital Mutilation in middle east, is the fact that this brutal practice could be a misinterpretation of the religions of the zone. The main religion that has this prevarication is the Islam, due to the fact that on the Quran there are passages that say things such as " *زوجتك ستمنحك نفسها الزواج* " *البيحت* (Your wife will give you herself for pure marriage), that lead to multiple misunderstandings about the meaning of the word "pure". This leads to practices such as female genital mutilation in order to have "pure" womens since a yong age, even though the Quran never specifies the age in which this act is carried out, still, there are girls who are subjected to such acts. This means that many cultures have modified their religions in order to excuse the atrocities and transgressions of human rights that they are imposing on women, by claiming the practice as a requirement for "pure" marriage.

The final reason for female genital mutilation is pure cruelty and inhuman foolishment that leads people to do it without a public cultural or religious reason. This means that the individuals that practice (fgm) without any cultural or religious backgrounds, are doing such un-humane prosedures due to gender and cultural discrimination against women. Leading to a unknown cruelty and violence against women due to internal belives or goals that are uncertain for the rest of the world, and even for the person itselfe.

Researchers have suggested a more specific set of purposes for the practices of FGM to take place. The first one emphasizes the beliefs of "virginity, purity, and sexual restriction" that are perpetuated in the countries where FGM is performed by drawing on theories around a woman's "marriageability" The method safeguards young girls' and women's "sexual propriety" and "morality," demonstrating the obedience and respect required for marriageability, by lowering (or enhancing, depending on the cultural group) sexual pleasure. FGM was practiced as a technique of maintaining class inequality in the highly regulated social structures of the ancient Egyptian civilizations. Families would cut young girls and women to symbolize their fidelity to the powerful, polygamous men in their community.

However, in places where female premarital sexual intercourse is legal, as the Rendille women in Kenya, female circumcision is still carried out today. In these regions, it is believed that the practice fulfills its second intended goal, which is to help people establish their "cultural identity" and make the transition to becoming "adult members of society." For instance, the name of the "Kipsigis" in Kenya translates to "we the circumcised," as it is believed that one is "reborn" following circumcision. Parents in regions where FGM is common worry that their daughter will be shunned by the community. The idea of safeguarding the health of women and their unborn children is its third potential use. FGM is thought to improve hygiene and boost a woman's likelihood of conceiving in some cultures. Henceforth, there are several existing types of female genital mutilation, along with the different procedures and parameters which must be complied effectively:

Type 1: "*Clitoridectomy*", which involves only removing the prepuce or removing the prepuce together with some or all of the clitoris.

Type 2: "*Excision*" of the clitoris and all or part of the labia minora

Type 3: "*Infibulation*": The labia minora are partially or completely removed, and the labia majora are then joined, concealing the urethra and vagina while leaving a small space for urination and menstruation

Type 4: Any additional damaging practices, such as pricking, piercing, incising, scraping, and cauterizing, performed on the female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

## REPERCUSSIONS

The practice of Female Genital Mutilation in the middle east, had led to multiple impacts not only in the internal communities that practice this inhumane procedure, but also in international communities. The main aspects to focus on are the health of the victims, socioeconomics of the countries affected, and international relationships.

Female Genital mutilation has been a **humanitarian issue** that has been affecting the health of its victims in a drastic and alarming way. As multiple medical studies have shown, the problem with this non-medical practice, is the fact that when an organ in the body is changed or damaged, the biological functioning of the person is affected in a negative way due to the change of an element in their system. This means that the cutting, sewing, or removal of the female genitals can lead to problems

in realizing things related with sexual and non sexual organs such as complications in childbirth, in urinating, in performing sexual intercourses, in menstruating, and many others besides the extreme pain and psychological repercussions that (fgm) will cause for the rest of life.

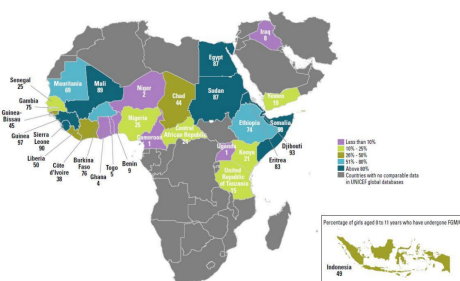
The **socioeconomic** impact of Female genital mutilation, is the fact that this practice produces that an important part of society (women) are unable to work or support the international community due to their health state. In other words, due to the health disadvantages and negative impacts that (fgm) makes on the individuals, who are directly affected, women often find themselves in a tough position to contribute a social, political, or economic development to the community. Above all, the practice of Female Genital Mutilation during the last 2000 years, has demonstrated how despite from harming it's primary victims, it also perpetuates the global economy, along with the political reputation which the country may possess.

Country	Prevalence (%)
Gambia	56
Mauritania	54
Indonesia	49
Guinea	46
Eritrea	33
Sudan	32
Guinea-Bissau	30
Ethiopia	24
Nigeria	17
Egypt	14
Burkina Faso	13
Senegal	13
Côte d'Ivoire	10
Kenya	3
Central African Republic	1
Ghana	1
Uganda	1
Togo	0.3
Benin	0.2

Prevalence per section retrieved from: <https://med.virginia.edu/family-medicine/wp-content/uploads/sites/285/2017/01/Llamas-Paper.pdf>

Another main issue that female genital mutilation has demonstrated, is the weakening of **international relationships** between the countries whose communities practice and the countries which are against it. This means that Female Genital Mutilation has affected multiple international perspectives in terms of diplomatic relations. A clear example of this is the perspective which the United States of America has towards The Republic of Iraq, which developed an extremely peculiar ideology, that caused disturbance between the possible bonds. This has shown to be an international problem due to the fact that countries and governments feel threatened by such actions. The roman statue is the

legal document which governs the ICC. One of its main focus, is crime against humanity, along with genocide. Undeniably, the countries in the middle east have proven successful among their actions, that they transgress every single law imposed by the Roman Statute, therefore by the International Criminal Court. Due to this, many countries such as Iraq, Oman, and other integrants of the middle east have been experiencing a segregation and dislike by communities and countries such as the United States of America, France, Great Britain, and multiple allies of the countries previously stated that see this middle east governments as un humane islamics or "muslim criminals". To conclude, the practice of female genital mutilation has been producing problems within the contries that practice it and the other nations of the world, due to the dislike it produce against islamic or muslim communities and the contries that are mostly integrated by this community.



Geographic distribution of female genital mutilation, retrieved from: <https://med.virginia.edu/family-medicine/wp-content/uploads/sites/285/2017/01/Llamas-Paper.pdf>

### International Actors

Actions taken by the United Nations : In 1979 The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the first convention against women discrimination runed by Un Women) describe Female Genital Mutilation as a descrimination against womens. Meaning that its practice will be consider as a transgression of Article 2 of the Declaration of Human Rights; "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex". This lead to the international court of justice to declare Female Genital Mutilation as a crime against humanity with more than 14 years by implementing laws such as the ones of section 1, 2, and 3 of the 2003 international Act, that sanctions criminals who commit (fgm) by imposing them more than 14 years of prison. Since then the United Nations has constantly intervned and carried out supervisions to the involved countries so that by 2030, it will no longer be an issue. Nevertheless , all the efforts to end Femail Genital Mutilation had not been affective, due ti three orimary reasons. In the firs instance, the cultures of the countries affected, the internal laws of some countries or governments regarding Female Genital Mutilation, and the limitations of the UN to do something due to its jurisdiction. This happens because most of

the nations that have problems with female genital mutilation haven't taken serious legal actions, plans, or laws against this unhuman practice. This leads to people that practice this to continue with their crimes of (fgm) without any hesitation or fear to the legislation. And finally, the fact that the Chapter 1 Article 2(7) of the UN Charter (*Non-intervention in domestic affairs by the United Nations*) prohibits the interventions with internal laws or governments of states, produces a lack of control/help by the United Nations to avoid the atrocities of Female Genital Mutilations to happen, despite the international campaigns and willing of countries to solve the issue.

### **Mainly where?**

The two countries of middle east in which Female Genital Mutilation happens the most, are nations such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia, however there is a big difference in the way these governments handle the problem. In the first scenario there is Saudi Arabia, these countries have been practicing female genital mutilation during thousands of years, and even though the government is against it, there is not a textual law that claims the practice of (fgm) as illegal. This has led to multiple agrations against women by practicing (fgm) in a massive way, that even though is "socially unacceptable" it's totally legal, and therefore not only letting

but also protecting the people that does this crime against humanity. Ending like that in an uncontrolled amount of (fgm), and therefore all the social, political, and economical impacts that were previously mentioned in "Repercussions". The other scenario is Iraq, and his campaign against Female Genital Mutilation since 2010. In this year the government of Iraq along with WADI Garmyan investigated the rate of female genital mutilation on northern Iraq, in order to conclude that 72 % of women and girls were still suffering (fgm). But after 2 years (ends of 2012) it was discovered that the implementations of international laws such as "section 1, 2, and 3 of the 2003 international Act" to the internal constitution of the country, along with the collaboration of multiple organisations against female genital mutilation, decreased the percentage of (fgm) from 72 % to 38%. Demonstrating like that a total interest by the nation to solve the crime of female genital mutilation in its territory, by implementing international and national helping channels/laws/fundations for eradicating the practice of (fgm).

### **ORIENTATION QUESTIONS**

How does on the delegation's international relationships, along with diplomatic bonds are perpetrated due to Female Genital Mutilation?



Which repercussions does Female Genital Mutilation have on the delegation's social, and political aspects?

Which are the necessary measures that the delegate plans to carry out, with the purpose of deterring Female Genital Mutilation and actions that the delegation is doing or willing to do, in order to stop Female Genital Mutilation?

How will the delegation benefit from solving Female Genital Mutilation in social, political, and international aspects?

### **ORIENTATION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The orientation for the committee will be to establish the socio-political and socio-economical impact on an international level. This means that the delegations will need to search the main responsible and affected of the problem, in order to construct and collaborate in order to seek for a viable solution. Meaning that the possible solutions, consequences and action plans will need to be debated in order to solve the problem while maintaining the private interests of each delegation. For this solution the delegations will need to redact a work paper in which



specifications such as what, when, and how the solution is going to take place.

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