

Committee Guide

UN Women 2024

Envision • Engage • Empower

2024

Navigating a New Age

***Preventing and
Responding to
Gender-Based
Violence and
Femicide***



Contents

1. Personal Introduction	3
1.1. Cecile Clemes	3
1.2. Salih-Eren Bayraktar	3
2. UN Women	4
3. What is Gender-Based Violence?	5
4. What is a Femicide?	6
5. How to tackle the Problem?	7
6. Tips for Research	8
7. Preparations and Deadlines	9
8. Last Words	10

1. Personal Introduction

1.1. Cecile Clemes

Dear Delegates of this year's UN Women committee,

I am Cecile Clemens and I am very happy to be one of the chairs of this committee. I am 19 years old and in my free time I like to meet up with friends and listen to new music.

Currently, I am doing a voluntary year at a school and hopefully I will be studying at the end of 2024. Last year I gained wonderful experiences by participating in OLMUN 2023 as a delegate in the Security Council and I am looking forward to chair you in this year's conference. Nevertheless, I have been doing MUN as a hobby for about 2 years. This year will be the first time chairing a committee for me, so please be nice about potential mistakes.

I believe OLMUN is not only a place for fruitful debates and discussions, but also for friendships, meeting new people, and challenging yourself to try new things. I hope you will have an awesome time!

I really look forward to meeting you all and to have a great OLMUN! :)

Yours,

Cecile Clemens

1.2. Salih-Eren Bayraktar

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

I am Salih-Eren Bayraktar, and it is an honor to serve as one of the Chairs of this year's UN Women conference. I am 16 years old and was born and raised in Germany, though I do have a strong Turkish ancestral background. I like to spend my free time either reading something or hanging out with friends. With prior delegate experience, being the previous two OLMUN conferences (2022 & 2023), as well as newfound chairing experience during this year's MUNelly conference back in Westphalia, I am eager to meet and collaborate with each of you to foster productive discussions and drive our committee toward its goal.

I look forward to working closely with all of you. Please feel free to reach out to me directly or over Cecile's and my shared committee e-mail with any questions or suggestions you may have as we prepare for this year's debate together. :)

Warm regards,

Salih-Eren Bayraktar

2. UN Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UN Women, was established on July 2, 2010 as a result of the merger of four previous UN agencies and offices that focused on women's issues.

This committee is crucial for women because it is dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is essential in promoting women's rights and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The protection of women's rights is essential to achieve the agreements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, therefore all agreements are working towards those goals.

UN Women has 3 main roles:

- Supporting inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.
- Helping Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
- Holding the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress¹

UN Women focuses on key areas that are essential to achieving women's equality and can stimulate comprehensive progress. These include:

Women's leadership and political participation, economic empowerment, ending violence against women, peace and security, humanitarian action, governance, and national planning, as well as youth and gender equality²

UN Women's vision is a world where women and girls enjoy equal rights and opportunities, and can live free from discrimination, violence, and poverty. It is their mission to lead and coordinate the UN system's efforts to achieve this vision, and to support the global movement for gender equality and women's empowerment.

This year's topic at OLMUN is **“Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.”**

¹ <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2013/07/un-women-the-united-nations-entity-for-gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-women/>

² <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do>

3 What is Gender-Based Violence?

3. What is Gender-Based Violence?

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a grave violation of human rights and remains one of the most widespread and pervasive human rights violations in the world. The United Nations defines GBV as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, and the intentional deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private”.³

One in three women worldwide experiences physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. The immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls worldwide can be devastating, including death.

Violence negatively affects women’s general well-being and prevents them from fully participating in society. It impacts their families, their community, and the country at large. It has tremendous costs, from greater strains on health care to legal expenses and losses in productivity.

Even though at least 155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 140 have legislation on sexual harassment in the workplace, challenges remain in enforcing these laws, limiting women’s access to safety and justice. Not enough is done to prevent violence, and when it does occur, it often goes unpunished.

UN Women advocates for and supports, women and girls’ access to quality, multi-sectoral services essential for their safety, protection and recovery, especially for those who already suffer multiple forms of discrimination.

They partner with governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations and other institutions to find ways to prevent violence against women, focusing on early education, respectful relationships, and working with activists, who fight against the unjust treatment of women. Prevention is still the most cost-effective, long-term way to stop violence.

For more than 10 years, UN Women’s global initiative, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, has worked to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women and girls in public spaces. They have also been a key member of the EUR 500 million Spotlight Initiative that deploys targeted, large-scale investments in ending violence in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific⁴

3 <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

4 <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

4. What is a Femicide?

Femicide, also known as feminicide, is the most brutal and extreme manifestation of violence against women and girls. It is defined as an intentional killing with a gender-related motivation.

Here are some key facts about femicide:

a) Intentional Murder:

Femicide is generally understood to involve the intentional murder of women because they are women⁵. It may be driven by stereotypical gender roles, discrimination towards women and girls, unequal power relations between women and men, or harmful social norms.

b) Different Forms:

The Killing of women and girls can be attributed by different forms, examples are torture and misogynistic slaying of women, killing of women and girls in the name of “honor”, the killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender, female infanticide, and gender-based sex selection foeticide, genital mutilation related deaths as well as human trafficking⁶.

c) Prevalence:

In 2022, around 48,800 women and girls worldwide were killed by their intimate partners or other family members. This means that, on average, more than 133 women or girls are killed every day. Current and former intimate partners are by far the most likely perpetrators of femicide, accounting for an average of 55 percent of all intimate partner and family related murders.

d) Global Problem and Estimates:

Femicides are a universal problem that affects every country and territory across the globe. In 2022, Africa recorded the largest absolute number of female intimate partner and family related killings with an estimate of 20,000 victims; followed by 18,400 in Asia; 7,900 in the Americas; 2,300 in Europe; and 200 in Oceania⁷.

Nearly 89,000 women and girls were intentionally killed in total, marking the highest yearly number recorded in the past 20 years. While overall homicide numbers globally have started to fall after a peak in 2021, the number of female homicides is not decreasing⁸.

The true scale of femicide is likely much higher. Too many victims of femicide still go un-

5 <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/WHO-RHR-12.38>

6 https://eige.europa.eu/publications-resources/thesaurus/terms/1192?language_content_entity=en

7 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2022/11/five-essential-facts-to-know-about-femicide>

8 https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/briefs/Femicide_brief

5 How to tackle the Problem

counted: for roughly four in ten intentional murders of women and girls, there is not enough information to identify them as gender-related killings.

e) Prevention and Response:

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women are working to galvanise global action against this pervasive crime. They advocate for early intervention, gender-responsive policing and justice, and access to survivor-centered support and protection.

Despite the alarming numbers, progress in stopping such violence has been deeply inadequate. The UN Women and other organizations are working tirelessly to galvanize global action against this pervasive crime. They advocate for early intervention, gender-responsive policing and justice, and access to survivor-centered support and protection.

5. How to tackle the Problem?

Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Femicide requires a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach. Here are some strategies, as suggested by UN Women:

a) Listen to and Believe Survivors:

When a woman shares her story of violence, it is crucial to provide a safe space for her to speak up and be heard. Victim-blaming should be called out.

b) Educate the Next Generation:

It is recommended to start conversations about gender roles early on, challenge traditional gender stereotypes, and talk about consent, bodily autonomy, and accountability in an age-appropriate way.

c) Ensure Access to Services:

Services for survivors, such as shelters, helplines, counseling, and support need to be available for those in need⁹.

d) Consider Women's Diverse Realities:

Adopting an intersectional perspective when addressing GBV is essential. Understanding how different women's realities overlap and influence their experiences of violence allows for more effective strategies.¹⁰

⁹ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/11/compilation-take-action-to-help-end-violence-against-women>

¹⁰ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2023/11/ten-ways-to-prevent-violence-against-women-and-girls>

6 Tips for Research

e) Proactive and Innovative Solutions:

Addressing and eradicating GBV and femicide requires more than just reacting to violence when it happens; it mandates proactive and innovative solutions.

f) Political Commitment; Empowering Women's Rights Organizations:

Women's Rights Organizations possess the knowledge, tools, and determination to reshape societies to be safer and more inclusive.¹¹ Governmental bodies should listen to and invest¹² in those to try to work together to achieve the best outcome.

6. Tips for Research

In order to have a fruitful debate, everyone needs to research this topic and the position of their assigned country. During your research, you will not always find simple answers to your questions. In such situations, it becomes valuable to analyze the available facts and sources and to ask yourself what your country may do and what is in line with their position.

It is important to remind yourself that during OLMUN you are a delegate of your assigned delegation.

You do not have to act completely within your country's position since it is sometimes possible to recognize that diplomatic compromises are possible with other countries. Be aware of the boundaries you can push and those that remain non-negotiable for you.

When you are researching, think of it like putting together a puzzle. Every information you gain is a new piece and all the pieces combine to a greater picture. The trick is to keep an open mind and use different sources in your work. By doing this, you gain more insight in this topic and your country's position.

To help you with your research we wrote this committee guide to familiarize you with this topic. Please do not use this committee guide as your only resource. Feel free to do your own research or use the links that you can find in the committee guide. We recommend to everyone to begin their research ahead of time since that way you can ensure that you can do it stress free and thoroughly.

To help you even more, we have a couple questions prepared for you:

1. What is **Gender-Based Violence**? How is **Femicide** defined? How do these issues relate to human rights?

¹¹ eg. 10
¹²

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/prevention>

7 Preparations and Deadlines

2. What are the current global and national **statistics** on GBV and Femicide? How have these numbers changed over time?
3. What are the **root causes** of GBV and Femicide? Are there special causes in your country?
4. What national and international **laws and conventions** address GBV and Femicide? How are these laws enforced?
5. What **services** are available for survivors of GBV and Femicide in your country? How accessible are these services?
6. How does UN Women / your country collaborate with other organizations, governments, and communities to combat GBV and Femicide?
7. What are UN Women's / your country's plans for addressing GBV and Femicide? How can individuals and communities contribute to these efforts?

7. Preparations and Deadlines

The research is very significant for your preparation. While doing your research you should prepare a draft resolution as well as a policy paper.

A **policy paper** is a document which presents your country's stance on our topic. There are three important parts to a good policy paper:

- a. short explanation of the topic,
- b. position of your country and how it is related,
- c. policies and ideas that your country would like to see in the resolution.¹³

Deadlines:

Policy Paper & Draft Resolutions are due **24.05.2024!**

Please send them to **unwomen@olmun.org**

We might ask you to read out your document, so please prepare an accurate and meaningful policy paper. It is the first expression of your ideas in the committee and offers the chance to gain allies during lobbying. Since policy papers should be kept short, this document should

¹³ <https://www.wisemee.com/how-to-write-a-mun-position-paper/>



8 Last Words

be no longer than a page but also not shorter than half a page.

The draft resolution is a document that outlines the problems of the topic and suggests solutions. They are the foundations of our debate. Therefore, it is of importance that you prepare a constructive resolution. A resolution has different parts to it, but the most important ones are the preambulatory and operative clauses. Your resolution should consist of a minimum of 4 preambulatory clauses and 6 operative clauses.

For an explanation on how to write these documents please look at the OLMUN Handbook, which you can find on the official OLMUN website. You can also look at the resolution of last year's OLMUN conference¹⁴ or look at the resolutions from UN Women.

During the debate you will need to abide by the Rules of Procedure¹⁵. To be prepared we recommend looking at those to ensure a smooth debate.

We would also like to remind everyone that OLMUN has a certain dress code. Male participants must wear a suit & tie and female participants are allowed to wear blouses, skirts, suits, and more. If you are not dressed correctly, there will be punishments during our debate.¹⁶

8. Last Words

We are very excited to meet you all! We really hope that we will have a great OLMUN with lots of fruitful debates and great evening activities.

Please respect the deadlines and prepare yourself properly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us under unwomen@olmun.org or our personal mail addresses: cecile.clemens@olmun.org or salih-eren.bayraktar@olmun.org.

See you all in Oldenburg :)

Yours,

Cecile Clemens and Salih-Eren Bayraktar

¹⁴ OLMUN passed resolution UN Women Gambia; OLMUN passed resolution UN Women India

¹⁵ <https://www.olmun.org/uploads/2024/Downloads/RulesOfProcedure2024.pdf>

¹⁶ OLMUN Youtube Dresscode





OLMUN 2024

**23rd International
Session**