



**Mission Viejo High School MUN**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
*Vox Populi*



**UN Women: Violence Against Women**

Hello, delegates! I am Ruslana Yurtyan, and I will be your head chair for our MVHS MUN 2017 conference. I am a sophomore, and this is my second year of MUN. Apart from MUN, I am involved in The Key Club. Outside of school, I dance and have been doing so for the past 13 years, and have participated in 11 years of Nutcracker Ballet Performances. I am so excited to have the exciting opportunity to chair the Novice UN Women committee and look forward to enjoying an amazing committee session with you. If you have any questions, please email me at [noviceunwomen@gmail.com](mailto:noviceunwomen@gmail.com).

**I. Background**

Violence against women and girls is a prominent issue throughout the world that can have lasting effects on someone physically, psychologically, and emotionally. Violence refers not only to physical abuse, but also to sexual, verbal and emotional harassment. Women and young girls can be attacked by anyone. It could be a complete stranger, or it could be a long time partner. In most cases of emotional abuse, the victim may not even recognize what is going on, due to the lack of physical evidence and the absence of violence within the relationship, but despite that, it can still be categorized as abuse due to the fact that it can leave behind psychological trauma. Most cases are often unreported because women can become too terrified, traumatized, or embarrassed to seek help. The psychological effect of abuse is a serious issue and effects can include insomnia, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, problem drinking, drug misuse, post-traumatic stress, and suicide attempts. Young girls who experience abuse in their childhood can have a higher chance of suffering from these effects when they grow older. Victims can also suffer socially and economically, such as the inability to keep a stable job, the development of social isolation, and failure to take care of oneself.

**II. United Nations Involvement**

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, (CEDAW), recognized violence against women as a discriminatory act in 1979. The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights also recognized violence against women as a human rights violation. The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women explicitly addressed the specific guidelines and definitions of violence. In 1999, the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women named the 25th of November as the International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women. In 2004, the World Health Organization published a "Multi-country study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women", which studied 10 countries and analyzed the extent of violence against women across the world. Then in 2013, The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women decided on an agreed set of resolutions to aid in the prevention and elimination of violence against women and young girls. Over the years, the United Nations has taken many initiatives to help develop solutions regarding to this issue.



### **III. Possible Solutions**

One possible solution to this problem would be school based programs to warn against gender based violence. These programs can give women the ability to recognize violence, and the best ways to get rid of the violence. This has only been tested in high income countries, where it was quite effective, but it may not be as effective in developing countries. Communication within relationships should be promoted, as well as the possible reduction of access to alcohol considering women subject to violence can develop drinking and substance abuse issues. WHO describes one possible solution as, “Undertaking interventions research to test and identify effective health sector interventions to address violence against women”, as health effects can be another issue that stems from violent relationships and continued abuse. (<http://www.who.int/>) International cooperation with countries and organizations that promote healthy relationships and safety of women and young girls could also help solve this issue.

### **IV. Bloc Positions**

Western: There is a steady decrease of violence against women. The main objective would be to maintain this trend.

African: Although there is some growth in the improvement of this issue, many regions in Africa have cultural restrictions in regards to women’s rights.

Asian: Women are often subjected to gender based violence. They should be encouraged to speak their voice.

Middle Eastern: Women can be marginalized in middle eastern societies. Generally, the social norms of these societies can prevent development in this topic.

Latin: There are efforts to lessen discrimination against women, but violence can often occur because of discrimination in the work force.

### **V. Questions to Consider:**

How does violence against women affect your country’s society?

What can be done to aid women in being able reintegrate back into society after going through a violent experience?

What can be done to prevent the initial act of violence?

What past actions has your country already taken to help solve the issue?

What areas in your country is the violence concentrated in and why are those areas affected more?

What is the average age range of affected women and why is that group being affected most?

Who is typically the abuser and what can be done to prevent any future violence?



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**VI. Works Cited**

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