COVER LETTER

NUSAB 2026
UN WOMEN
Lycée Claude-Louis Berthollet

Commission's presidents

BARANDA Aurore
GUILLARD Sibylle
GAUTIER-NENIN Mélissandre

- onufemmes.nusab2026@gmail.com

2026 SESSION : PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS

WHAT IS UN WOMEN ?

UN Women is the lead United Nations entity regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across the globe. Its goal is to ensure human rights for women. Its action is mostly spread amongst the domains of leadership, economical emancipation, the eradication of violence as well as the protection of peace and security for women. To accomplish its goals, the organisation secures partnerships with both governments and private feminist movements.

The United Nations defines violence against women 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, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"

PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS

Violence against girls is one of the most widespread forms of violence as it takes place everyday in every part of the world. It has a lot of consequences, preventing the full and equal participation of girls in society. Violence against girls can take many forms, whether they be physical or psychological. According to the UN Women global database, one in three women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their life.

SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE + VIOLENCE DURING WARS

Physical and sexual violence can occur under the aspect of genital mutilations. A genital mutilation is an intervention to modify women’s reproductive organs for non medical reasons. Those mutilations have firstly psychological impacts but also physical ones which could in the worst scenario lead to death. 200 millions women had to go through those mutilations and in most countries girls are operated on before the age of five. Apart from that, sexual violence can also take the form of harrasment or rape. Today at least 15 million teenage girls have already experienced forced sex at

some point in their lives. War periods have a tendency to exacerbate those sexual and physical violence such as rape, sexual slavery, prostitution. They often occur during those periods and the target is usually girls.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right protected by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
This right is not respected in every country, especially towards girls and women. Indeed, in several countries women's voices are often suppressed or restricted. Women are being oppressed by laws and restrictions in order to prevent them from speaking up their mind about the regime or current issues.

FEMICIDE

Femicide is intentionally killing a woman or a girl because she is a woman or a girl. Most femicides are done by family members or by an intimate partner. In the world, around 140 girls and women are killed everyday, which is an average of one every ten minutes.
Femicide is a universal problem as it occurs across the world. According to a report of the United Nations, in 2023, Africa recorded the largest number of femicides in the world. The Americas and Oceania also recorded high rates of femicides, while Europe and Asia had lower rates.

ONLINE VIOLENCE

Technology-facilitated violence against women is any harmful act that is committed, assisted, aggravated, or amplified by the use of digital tools or information communication technologies.
By 2017, the EU estimated that 1 in 10 women had already experienced a form of online violence from the age of 15 onwards. A fact that would only be exacerbated by the outbreak of COVID-19 a few years later.

Online violence can take a lot of different forms, such as cyberflashing, revenge porn, doxxing, and many more. Victims of this kind of abuse often struggle to prove these materials are fake, which only makes their suffering worse.

BODILY AUTONOMY + HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Child marriage is defined by the union between at least one person under eighteen years old. Girls are often more impacted by those marriages in which they are forced to marry men who are much older than them. Today, 650 million women are married before their eighteenth birthday; approximately one in five women in the world have to endure it. Child marriage often leads to a lack of autonomy due to the loss of education, it creates a dependence of the young girls on their husbands who become their only reference. Human trafficking is another concerning topic, indeed child trafficking is not a rare occurrence, and young girls are the most vulnerable as 72 % of human trafficking is concerning girls. Within those 72 % four girls ou of five are sexually exploited.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE ?

In order to protect women rights on a global scale, UN Women, a branch of the UN, has taken measures to fight against different issues. In 2012 UN Women alongside the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) created a gender equality and women's empowerment indicator, tracking implications and contribution of each country towards gender equality and their financing in the matter. The same year, COMMIT, an initiative launched by UN Women, prompted 60 countries to take a stand by making new and concrete national commitments to end violence against women and girls. By the end of 2013, 63 countries and the European Union had joined the initiative and announced specific measures to address and prevent those violences. Another initiative was taken by UNICEF and UN Women which signed a collaboration agreement in 2023 aimed at gender equality and supporting the national care system for women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Issues

- How can we transform social norms and practices that legitimate violence against girls?
- Which strategies allow preventing and protecting victims of violence in the long term?
- How can we reinforce international cooperation between developed countries and less developed countries?
- How can we assure juridical protection for young girls victims of all types of violence?
- How can we ensure the right to bodily autonomy for girls?
- What can we set in place to avoid forced child marriage?

Websites that could help you in your research:
https://data.unwomen.org/global-database-on-violence-against-women/data-form

unesco.org

unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women

unwomen.org/en/trust-funds/un-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women

who.int/news/item/16-05-2025-marking-30-years-of-progress---engaging-the-health-sector-to-tackle-violence-against-women-and-girls

rescue.org/uk/what-works-prevent-violence-against-women-and-girls

nsvrc.org/blogs/teen-dating-violence-prevention-resources-2025-update