

Forum: UN Women

Question: How to prevent violence against girls?

Submitted by: The Republic of Peru

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), in particular Articles 1, 3 and 19, which affirm equality, the right to security and freedom of expression,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1979) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), both ratified by the Republic of Peru,

Reaffirming the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Aware that, according to UN Women data, one in three women worldwide has experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once in her lifetime,

Alarmed by the persistence of femicides in Latin America, a region which records some of the highest rates globally,

Acknowledging that girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual, domestic and online violence, as well as forced marriages and human trafficking,

Emphasizing that violence against girls constitutes a major obstacle to their access to education, health care, political participation and economic development,

Taking note with appreciation of the efforts undertaken by the Republic of Peru through public policies such as the National Plan against Gender-Based Violence and the establishment of Emergency Centers for Women and Girls who are victims of violence,

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean in effectively combating gender-based violence,

Convinced that long-term prevention requires the transformation of social norms, comprehensive education, and the strengthening of judicial systems,

1. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen their national legal frameworks in order to criminalize all forms of violence against girls, including domestic, sexual and online violence, as well as femicide;
2. *Calls upon* governments to guarantee effective access to justice for girls who are

victims of violence, in particular through:

- a) specialized training for law enforcement officers and judicial personnel on gender issues and child protection;
- b) the implementation of child-sensitive judicial procedures in order to prevent any form of re-victimization;

3. *Supports* the development and adequate funding of protection services, including free psychological, medical, legal and social assistance for girls who are victims of violence;

4. *Strongly recommends* the integration of comprehensive education on gender equality, human rights and respect for bodily integrity into school curricula from an early age;

5. *Further encourages* States to combat child and forced marriages by:

- a) establishing and strictly enforcing the minimum legal age of marriage at eighteen years old;
- b) conducting awareness-raising campaigns, particularly within local and rural communities;

6. *Calls for* the strengthening of prevention and response mechanisms against online violence targeting girls through:

- a) enhanced cooperation with digital platforms to ensure the rapid reporting and removal of abusive content;
- b) the adoption of specific legislation against cyberbullying and digital exploitation;

7. *Invites* developed States and international organizations to increase their financial and technical support to developing countries, particularly in Latin America, for the implementation of violence prevention policies;

8. *Encourages* the strengthening of partnerships between UN Women, national governments, civil society and local feminist organizations in order to ensure responses adapted to cultural and social realities;

9. *Decides* to promote the exchange of effective regional practices, particularly within Latin America and the Caribbean, to combat violence perpetrated against girls.