

OAKRIDGE MUN 2023



BACKGROUND GUIDE

Protection of Women Rights in Conflict Areas with emphasis on Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking; special emphasis on the situation in Balochistan.

Letter from EB:

Greetings Delegates, On behalf of the conference, we warmly welcome you to the Commission on the Status of Women.

We're absolutely elated to be serving on the Executive Board and look forward to having you be a part of the CSW as well, rendering these a magnificent three days.

We will always be there for you at every step, to encourage you, push your boundaries, and recentre focus when needed. We count on you, as much as you might count on us. We look forward to mutual growth, and learning, albeit within the frame of discipline and cooperation. Here are a few instructions we'd like to give with this study guide:

- This study guide is a mere framework for your deeper research. It consists of readings from various sources, and we have attempted to make it as comprehensive as possible, covering various angles and viewpoints so that you have a good idea about the concepts associated with the agenda. We cannot stress enough that you need to pursue your own sources, especially because the study guides will not cover your individual foreign policies and foreign policy compliance is very important to us. It is very likely that we, in our limited knowledge, have also omitted some crucial insights, perspectives or initiatives that are effective or could be implemented later on. This background guide cannot be used as a base of proof, as this guide is meant to be a reference only.
- We are following the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure (RoP) in the committee, which looks 1 for consensus-building rather than conflicting and adverse debate. Please base your research on this basis. Oftentimes, Delegates may simply pursue research whose approach is more aggressive and accusatory. We would discourage this greatly. Please concentrate on concerns where all states may find common ground. Those unaware of this set of RoP, please make sure to read through it comprehensively, before committee sessions begin.
- The sources used in this study guide is all open sources. The reason we chose not to write it ourselves was because we wanted to avoid a certain bias which may be too evident in the language that it is being written in. We have tried instead to bring a certain balance in the way we assign you readings, but then again, there may be a chance that it may be seen as favouring any one side. We would like to assure you that it is not done by intention, but merely the constraints of time and sources. Read widely and extensively. Be aware of your foreign and domestic policies. We wish you all the best and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have doubts or even if you just want to have a casual chat about the agenda.

Chairperson: Sharan Veluri
Vice Chairperson: Tia Sanker

INTRODUCTION

What is the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women?

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with a mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission holds an annual two-week session in March in New York, where representatives of Member States, UN entities, and civil society organizations gather to review progress on gender equality and to formulate policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Note that the CSW is primarily a recommendatory body to the ECOSOC. Its primary duty is to report their findings and give out apt recommendations to the ECOSOC and other stakeholders. Women's rights have been a grey area in the Human Rights spectrum for a long time, specifically due to the variance in their definitions. It'll be key for the committee to break the agenda down and look at it from the perspective of the various implications isolated to women. CSW strives to ensure the smooth deployment of international instruments without hampering women rights or deterring their integrity.

Introduction to the Agenda:

In conflict zones across the world, women and girls remain disproportionately vulnerable to multiple forms of violence, including sexual assault, human trafficking, forced prostitution, and slavery. Balochistan is a region in Pakistan where the issue is in a disproportionately dire situation. CSW is a strong believer in 'Achieving Gender Equality is Peacebuilding'. Balochistan is a grey area under the Pakistan dominion that has had a history of unlawful and violent practices. There are several organisations that currently are reporting on the area and the atrocities that come with but there is absolutely no girth to the affect these practices have on women and children. The subtext to a CSW that most conferences miss out is the role of other partnering organisations like that of the OHCHR and the HRC. A lot of the reports and findings of the special rapporteurs appointed by these organisations add on to the understanding of the CSW.

1. Understanding the Global Context

- **Sexual Violence in Conflict:** Armed conflicts often lead to a collapse in legal systems, creating an environment where sexual violence proliferates. Rape is often weaponized to dehumanise the opposing party, to displace communities, or change the demographic composition of an area.
- **Human Trafficking:** Conflict zones see a spike in human trafficking, especially amongst women, due to displacement, lack of governance, and the desperation of affected populations

2. The Situation in Balochistan

- **Background:** Balochistan, located in Pakistan, is its largest province by area. It has faced an insurgency against the Pakistani state by separatist groups, resulting in human rights abuses.
- **Sexual Violence:** Reports suggest that state and non-state actors have used sexual violence as a tactic of war in Balochistan.
- Rape and sexual assault against women often go unreported in this region due to the stigma associated with such crimes, and the authority of the perpetrators.
- **Human Trafficking:** Balochistan's porous (easy to cross) borders, particularly with Iran and Afghanistan, make it a conduit for human trafficking. Women and children are often the most vulnerable, facing forced marriages, sexual exploitation, or labour trafficking

3. International Responses and Interventions

- **UN Involvement:** The UN has recognized the urgency of addressing sexual violence and human trafficking in conflict areas. Resolutions like 1820 and 1888 by the Security Council specifically tackle sexual violence in armed conflict.
- **NGOs and Civil Society:** Organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International frequently report on and advocate against human rights abuses in Balochistan

4. Challenges to Addressing the Issue

- **Lack of Data:** The remote nature of Balochistan and suppression of media make it hard to get reliable data on the extent of the problem.
- **Cultural and Social Stigma:** Many survivors of sexual violence do not come forward due to societal shaming. They are often blamed for their own rape and harmed further if they come out against an abuser.
- **Geopolitical Complications:** Balochistan's strategic significance, particularly with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, makes international intervention sensitive.

5. Recommendations for CSW Committee Action

The CSW's work in the region is quintessential in helping the women and girl children of Balochistan. The CSW has been constantly advocating towards their rights and education. The CSW has also on numerous situations pushed the Pakistani government into implementing specific laws and practices that will benefit the situation. Apart from the technical assistance, the CSW has also partnered with the local civil society organisations.

- **Awareness and Advocacy:** International awareness campaigns to spotlight the situation in Balochistan
- **Supporting Local NGOs:** Providing resources and protection to NGOs working in Balochistan on women's rights
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Workshops and training sessions for local communities, law enforcement, and judiciary to handle cases of sexual violence and human trafficking
- **Legal Mechanisms:** Advocacy for national and international legal mechanisms to prosecute perpetrators
- **Holistic Support for Survivors:** Establishing support systems like counselling, healthcare, and economic opportunities for survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking

6. Finances

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is funded by the United Nations regular budget and voluntary contributions from Member States, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. The regular budget provides for the core costs of the CSW, such as the salaries of staff and the rent of office space. Voluntary contributions are used to fund specific initiatives and activities, such as the CSW's annual meeting and its work on gender mainstreaming. In 2022, the CSW's regular budget was approximately \$10 million. The United States is the largest contributor to the CSW's regular budget, providing about \$2.5 million. Other major contributors include Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

The CSW also receives voluntary contributions from a variety of sources. In 2022, the total amount of voluntary contributions received by the CSW was approximately \$12 million. The largest voluntary contributors to the CSW are the United States, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Canada

The CSW uses its funding to support a variety of activities, including:

- I.** Organizing its annual meeting
 - II.** Conducting research on gender equality and women's empowerment
 - III.** Developing and promoting standards and guidelines on gender equality
 - IV.** Supporting the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
 - V.** Providing technical assistance to Member States
 - VI.** Working with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders
- The CSW's funding is essential to its work to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. The regular budget provides the core resources that the CSW needs to operate, while the voluntary contributions allow the CSW to undertake specific initiatives and activities that would not be possible with the regular budget alone.

As human beings, it is heart-wrenching to hear about the violence that women in conflict areas such as Balochistan have to endure. They face physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, which violates their fundamental rights and leaves them traumatized and vulnerable. It's incumbent upon us to take action and advocate for these women. The CSW Committee must raise awareness about this issue, lobby for policy changes, and work with local organizations and communities. By doing so, we can address the root causes of violence against women in conflict areas and ensure that their voices are heard. It's also crucial that we provide long-term solutions such as promoting education and economic empowerment for women in these regions. This way, they can become more self-sufficient and less vulnerable to violence and abuse. We must involve men and boys in these efforts as well, as they too have a crucial role to play in ending violence against women. In summary, we must all work together to advocate for the rights of women in conflict areas such as Balochistan and provide long-term solutions to this pressing issue. This requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including the international community, local organizations, governments, and communities.

.Documentation :

1. Draft Resolutions:

- Working papers, like draft resolutions, require sponsors and signatories
- Sponsors must submit working papers to the Dias for feedback
- Committee discusses working papers and subsequently moves to creating draft resolutions
- Draft resolutions should be improved and edited versions of working papers
- Like working papers, they will be assigned numbers based on the order in which they were received by the Dias
- When a working paper is ready to be introduced as a draft resolution, one of its sponsors may move to introduce a new draft resolution
- This motion is not voted on, but instead is at the discretion of the Dais
- At that point, the committee will be given time to read the resolutions
- Then the sponsors will explain it and answer questions in a Q&A session
- The Dias chooses the allotted time for each activity
- If delegates wish to improve a draft resolution, they may pass an amendment
- Amendments must first be written down with a sponsor and signatories
- If all sponsors of the draft resolution agree that the amendment should be added, it is considered a “friendly amendment,” meaning it can be added without debate
- If at least one sponsor does not agree with the amendment, it is considered an “unfriendly amendment” and needs support from a majority of the committee
- After debate, delegates may move to enter voting procedure ○ When entering voting procedure, four delegates can speak, two in favor and two against
- If the motion passes, doors are closed and no delegates may enter or exit the room until all voting has been completed
- Amendments are voted on first
- Each amendment is read, with one or two speakers for and against, and then voted upon
- During voting procedure, delegates may move to ask for each country’s vote individually (“roll-call vote”) or to vote on different parts or clauses of the resolution instead of all at once by dividing the question
- Delegates may not pass two draft resolutions that have conflicting clauses
- Once a draft resolution passes, it becomes a Resolution

Sample Resolution:

Committee: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Agenda: Emergency Preparedness

Sponsors: Angola, Malaysia Signatories: France, Myanmar, Mongolia, Japan, Russia, Qatar, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Malawi, Canada, Ukraine, Argentina, Uganda, Brazil, Turkmenistan, Peru, Burundi

Noting that national food stockpiles are at their lowest levels since 2042,

Deeply saddened by the recent famine in Germany that claimed thousands of lives,

Reaffirming our international commitment to food security,

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. Recommends that all member states stockpile sufficient food to last for one year in the event of a catastrophic crop failure,

a. Emphasizing foodstuffs that do not spoil easily, such as:

i. Grains

ii. Canned foods, and

iii. Other dried foods, and

b. Storing these foodstuffs in a physically secure location to reduce the risk of destruction as a result of a natural disaster or an act of war;

2. Encourages the establishment of international emergency food transport routes that can be mobilized to carry food across borders within 48 hours;

3. Proclaims June 14th to be International Food Security Awareness day.

2. Press Release

A press release is an official statement delivered to members of the news media for the purpose of providing information, creating an official statement, or making an announcement directed for public release. Press releases are also considered a primary source, meaning they are original informants for information.

- Format - Press releases aren't typically written in a specific format however it includes a headline and subheadline, introduction, body text, boilerplate details, and contact information for the organization or individual issuing the release.

3. Report

UN bodies publish flagship reports to share information about the work of the organization with the public. These reports usually come out annually to report global or regional statistics on a certain topic. In general, UN bodies report to their parent organ, here the CSW will be reporting to the Economic and Social Council, on the work of a session or year and include:

- Dates of sessions and meetings
- Membership during the sessions covered
- Summaries of discussions held
- Full text of resolutions or decisions adopted by the body
- Recommended actions to be taken by parent organ, including draft resolutions for consideration by parent organ