**Committee Mission:**

 Throughout history, the status of women in society has been undermined; only in recent history, we have seen a change in the paradigm. But this change is only visible in certain countries. There are many nations that are still not acknowledging the importance of gender equality, and as a result, women are mistreated, violated, and even killed. This is the reason why The United Nations Women Committee upholds the mission to achieve gender equality by the empowerment of women.

Women and men shall be treated equally, given that every human being has the same rights and the same opportunities to develop in life without unfairness. With 20 delegates this year, we will cover the topics of **Protecting Women from Human Trafficking, Sexual Slavery, and Sexual Exploitation** and **Promoting and Protecting Women’s Reproductive Rights.** We have chosen to tackle these topics because they are both current and alarming world issues. Nowadays, a large amount of women are suffering from sexual slavery, human trafficking and sexual exploitation; many countries do not to respect women’s reproductive rights, nor do they often consider the need to stand for human rights.

**Topic A:** Protecting Women from Human Trafficking, Sexual Slavery, and Sexual Exploitation.

**Introduction:**

 Women in society have experienced stigma when it comes to sexual or physical abuse directed towards them. It is a preconceived notion that women who are raped or sexually assaulted must have done something wrong for this to happen to them. Historically, women have had to fight not only for their rights but also for the respect they deserve. Women have given up their lives in order to allow future generations to have justice, education, and equal opportunities; essential rights older generations did not have. Regardless of the fact that the situation for women in society has improved, there are many situations that have not progressed and on the contrary, have been progressively getting worse. The UN has been working on this topic for a long time now, due to the fact that they aim ¨to achieve international co-operation … in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.” (U.N. Charter, Art. 1).

**History of the Topic:**

Women trafficking is a very old issue that threatens human rights. For hundreds of years, women and girls have been separated from their places of origin and traded for labor, servitude and / or as sexual objects. Human trafficking as a social problem began to be recognized at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century as what was called “white slave trafficking”, a term that was used to refer to the mobility and commerce of white, European and American women in order to exploit them sexually.

The phenomenon of trafficking gained such importance that it led to the creation of various treaties on this issue within the United Nations; for example, the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of Prostitution (1949).

After World War II, and thanks to the increase in female migration, it became clear that the phenomenon of trafficking, far from having disappeared, has spread throughout the world and acquired various forms. Thus, the term "white slave trafficking" is in disuse because it no longer corresponds to the realities of displacement and trade of people, nor to the nature and dimensions of the abuses inherent in said phenomenon. It is important to highlight that trafficking not only refers to sexual exploitation but also refers to cases of labor exploitation or organ trafficking.

**Current Situation:**

White slave trafficking is one of the main sources of income for organized crime worldwide. According to estimates by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the illegal trafficking of human beings could have already surpassed that of arms, having reached in 2005 a turnover of more than 32,000 million dollars a year, a business in which 2.5 million people are exploited.

The majority of the victims are women and children who fall into the hands of unscrupulous criminals. They are sexually exploited and forced to work in conditions of slavery. It is estimated that more than half of the victims are under 18 and there is no country that is spared from this modern form of slavery.

**Points to consider:**

* How many women are sexually exploited each year in your country?
* How is your country protecting women from human trafficking?
* In what areas or under what circumstances are women picked up for serving as sex slaves?
* Investigate other countries’ proposals and if their strategies seem to be working.
* How is the UN involved in the topic?

**Country Box**

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| AlgeriaArgentinaBangladeshBrazilCanadaChinaCongoCubaEgyptEstoniaGermanyIndiaIraqKenyaMéxicoRussiaSaudi ArabiaSouth AfricaUnited KingdomUnited States of America |

**Useful Links:**

* <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>
* <https://www.osce.org/gsearch?qr=trafficking>
* <https://www.dw.com/en/women-girls-main-victims-of-sexual-exploitation-trafficking-un/a-46978357>
* <http://www.stopvaw.org/trafficking_in_women>
* [https://unu.edu/publications/articles/how-to-stop-sexual-slavery-in-conflict-zones.htm](https://unu.edu/publications/articles/how-to-stop-sexual-slavery-in-conflict-zones.html)

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* UN. (n.d.). About UN Women. Retrieved December 2, 2019, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>.
* Gender Equality. (n.d.). Retrieved December 2, 2019, from https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/gender-equality/.
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* OHCHR. (n.d.). Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons. Retrieved December 2, 2019, from https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/TrafficInPersons.aspx.
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**Topic B**: Promoting and Protecting Women’s Reproductive Rights

**Introduction**

Sexual reproductive rights have helped greatly a lot of people around the world since, now, men and women can control what happens to their bodies. These rig were also created with a strong emphasis on women so that they can have full ownership of their bodies and choose when, where and who to start a family with. Unfortunately, these sexual reproductive rights are not recognized in every country, as abortions and contraceptives are frowned upon on many different cultures.

**History of the topic**

Over the past few decades, many international forums have discussed the topic of women's reproductive rights. In the International Conference on Human Rights of Tehran (1968,) it was noted that the right to reproduction should in fact be considered as a human right. Later, at the Bucharest Population Conference (1974) it was specified that it was a right for both couples and individuals. Subsequently, in the World Conference on Women, held in Mexico (1975), the issue was addressed from the perspective of the right to bodily integrity and women's control over their reproductive capacity. The term reproductive rights was coined at the end of the seventies by the American feminist Marge Berer, but her social legitimacy and influence began in the mid-eighties. These many conferences marked the beginning of a massive worldwide debate.

It was not until 1994, with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), that the United Nations added reproductive rights to its Programme of Action. These rights address the basic notions of women and men to have control over their sexuality, to decide freely and responsibly without being subject to coercion, discrimination and violence; the right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and age difference of their children and to have information, education and means for this, as well as to reach the highest level of sexual and reproductive health.

**Current Situation**

Reproductive rights are the personal ability to decide whether and when to have children. These rights are important to women’s socioeconomic well-being and overall health. In recent years, policies affecting women’s reproductive rights worldwide have severely improved, as seen in the 2004 Status of Women in the States report, countries such as The United States of America have overall made significant progress in this matter.

**Points to consider**

* What are the reproductive rights of women?
* How is the UN involved in this Topic?
* Research the history of rights that have not been respected in your country. What is your country doing about this situation today?
* What is the current situation globally and in your country?

**Country Box**

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| AlgeriaArgentinaBangladeshBrazilCanadaChinaCongoCubaEgyptEstoniaGermanyIndiaIraqKenyaMexicoRussiaSaudi ArabiaSouth AfricaUnited KingdomUnited States of America |

**Useful Links**

* <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/39354/9241561661_eng.pdf>
* <https://www.globalfundforwomen.org/sexual-reproductive-health-rights/>
* <https://www.womenforwomen.org/blogs/four-human-rights-women-are-still-deprived-disproportionately>
* <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/maternal_perinatal/statement-childbirth-rights/en/>
* <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/slideshows/10-worst-countries-for-gender-equality-ranked-by-perception>

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