

UNWOMEN





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Letter from the Secretary-General

Dearest Delegates, Faculty Advisors, and others,

It is my pleasure and honour to be able to welcome you all into the 21st edition of San Silvestre MUN. To think that after months of work, after observing other conferences over the better part of two years, I can finally say that our own is coming to fruition. For over seven months the Secretariat and I have poured our hearts and efforts into this conference, and hopefully, you may all enjoy the months of work we have put into the two days that are to come, and live SSMUN 2024 to its absolute fullest.

My own ‘first impression’ of MUN was, quite honestly, less than graceful to say the least. Having attended training sessions in 2022 (but having paid attention to nearly none of them), I haphazardly found myself attending SSMUN 2022, this very month two years ago. I did not speak more than once. I was terrified, watching those around me debate with a fervent skill unlike anything I had ever seen before. I had sat in the very back of the room during every session, terrified to raise my placard. After that conference, I honestly did not see the appeal of MUN. My fear of failure and embarrassment overruled my ability to try something new at that moment, and didn’t allow me to enjoy the activity that now, two years later, I have come to cherish so deeply.

Over the next year, I finally got it. I understood why people did MUN. The adrenaline, the energy, the shared passion over what would have elsewhere been a mundane topic. During that year, I found my two ‘specialisations’. Crisis taught me how to love MUN, how to put passion and energy into a speech, how to not fear speaking out. Press taught me what victory felt like, yet it also demonstrated to me firsthand how failure was simply a part of growth. In January HMUN taught me that an award is never the most rewarding part of a conference. I left Boston with a Best Delegate award, yet it was by far not the best part of the experience. The people of that moment are worth more than anything else I could possibly imagine; and the best victories in MUN are those you can cherish with friends, those which you can celebrate with all those who you were in committee with, those which are backed by hours of unforgettable memories and irreplaceable experiences.

For this conference, I hope each and every one of you may find those memories. SSMUN, in my mind, is about the people. It is about diplomacy, argumentation, negotiation and teamwork, yes, but through it all none of this would be able to be accomplished without the willpower and collaboration of people. So I hope you all put in your best effort, both into productive debate and into enjoying every moment you have.

I cannot wait to see you all in September! To get to see how every one of you develops as a delegate through every session, and see the passion and care we’ve placed into the conference pay off in the experience of all those who will get to see our work.

Take advantage of the moment, and most of all, have fun :)

Liyi Xu
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Letter from chair

Dear Delegates,

I hope you are all as delighted as I am as we approach this year's San Silvestre Model UN conference. It is with great enthusiasm and responsibility that I will be Chair of the UNWomen Committee for SSMUN24, and am thrilled to have the opportunity to guide and facilitate our discussions on women's rights and gender equality.

I have been actively involved in Model UN since 2021, not only participating in numerous conferences but also having the honour of being elected as Under-Secretary-General for the San Silvestre Secretariat of 2023. Through my experiences in different committees, I have witnessed the power of diplomatic dialogue and negotiation in addressing global challenges, even if it is on a smaller scale. This and my engagement in MUN have fostered my passion for women's rights and gender equality, which I believe are fundamental pillars for a just and equitable society.

This year, I have chosen a topic that aims to shed light on a less-regarded issue of gender inequality in Indigenous communities and the hardships women in these groups face against human and sexual trafficking chains. While progress has undoubtedly been made, various facets of women's rights still require urgent attention, one of which is the action and awareness of Indigenous women's rights. By focusing on the often overlooked safety of women in Indigenous communities, we can collectively work towards a comprehensive and effective approach to gender equality. I encourage every one of you to delve into the depths of this topic, explore its nuances, and propose innovative solutions that can truly make a difference as citizens of Peru, home to multiple indigenous cultures all over our territory.

I firmly believe that the success of our committee lies in the active participation and collaboration of each delegate, so I hope to see our diverse perspectives and experiences serving as valuable assets in our pursuit of gender equality. I encourage you to come prepared, conduct rigorous research, and develop thoughtful and constructive arguments. Let us foster an environment where every delegate feels heard, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique ideas. As we embark on this conference journey together, let us remember that the impact of our discussions and resolutions extends beyond the committee room. We have the opportunity to be advocates for change, not only within this conference but in our country, inspiring others to challenge social norms and promote gender equality and safety in all indigenous communities even if it seems like a distant theme.

I am truly excited to meet all of you and experience this enriching conference as a team, working towards creating a more inclusive and equitable world. Should you have any questions or require any assistance leading up to the conference, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or the Secretariat.

Best regards,

Michella Chiarella
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Committee Background

As a vital body within the United Nations, The UN Women's Committee was created in July 2010 to focus on promoting gender equality and empowering women worldwide. This committee operates under the larger framework of UNWomen, the United Nations entity completely dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women works towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”

The committee’s directive encloses a wide range of issues related to women’s rights, including but not limited to access to education, economic empowerment, political participation, ending gender-based violence worldwide, and addressing discrimination and harmful practices. UNWomen serves as a platform for member states to discuss and develop strategies, policies, and initiatives to address these issues on a global scale with a balanced view of each topic built by the variety of perspectives provided.

This UNWomen Committee offers delegates the chance to mimic the operations of this important UN body at Model UN conferences like San Silvestre MUN. In order to create resolutions that provide progress regarding gender equality and female empowerment, delegates are entrusted with studying and creating solutions to the complex and urgent problems encountered by women and girls across the world. Delegates aim to obtain an agreement on steps that may be implemented at the international level to enhance gender equality through diplomatic discussions and teamwork.

Discussions and resolutions in the committee frequently centre on important issues like women's access to healthcare and education, economic and political empowerment, ending violence against women, encouraging women to participate in decision-making, and addressing gender stereotypes and discrimination. Delegates are urged to tackle these problems holistically, taking into consideration how gender, racism, class, and other identities overlap within these problems.

Delegates have a greater awareness of the difficulties and complexity of attaining gender equality as they participate in engaging discussions and negotiations, thus should apply their previous knowledge to find effective solutions to the difficulties posed. While improving their capacity to promote favourable change, delegates improve their research, public speaking, and diplomatic abilities. UNWomen gives participants a forum to discuss gender-related problems and add to the global conversation regarding women's rights.

Overall, the UNWomen Committee serves as a catalyst for progress towards gender equality, empowering delegates to become agents of change within their own societies through these enriching interactions and inspiring them to work towards a more inclusive and equitable world.



Introduction to the Topic

Combating human and sexual trafficking of Indigenous women and girls is a critical issue that demands immediate and concerted action. Human trafficking refers to the illegal trade of humans for the purposes of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation. It involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or coercion. Traffickers often exploit vulnerable individuals, including those living in poverty, facing discrimination, or lacking legal protections. Sexual trafficking, a subset of human trafficking, specifically involves the exploitation of individuals for the purpose of commercial sex. This includes prostitution, pornography, and other forms of sexual exploitation. Victims are often coerced into these situations through threats, manipulation, violence, or other forms of control. Sexual trafficking disproportionately affects women and girls, although men and boys can also be victims. Both forms of trafficking are global issues, affecting millions of people and requiring immediate efforts to combat. Trafficking victims often suffer severe psychological and physical trauma, and addressing these crimes involves not only law enforcement but also comprehensive support services for survivors.

Indigenous women and girls around the world face disproportionate rates of human trafficking, driven by a complex interplay of historical injustices, systemic inequalities, and contemporary challenges. They often experience marginalisation, poverty, and lack of access to essential services, which increase their vulnerability to exploitation. The impact of colonisation, systemic racism, and ongoing discrimination has exacerbated these vulnerabilities, making Indigenous women and girls prime targets for traffickers. Despite this issue being extremely common, many governments are still in denial of it. There is even neglect when it comes to either reporting on, or prosecuting cases of human trafficking.

Understanding the root causes and identifying effective strategies to address this issue are crucial steps towards protecting the rights and dignity of Indigenous women and girls and ensuring their safety and empowerment. Efforts must include community-based approaches, legal reforms, and international cooperation to create a comprehensive response that addresses prevention, protection, and support for survivors. This multifaceted approach is essential for breaking the cycle of exploitation and building a future where Indigenous women and girls can thrive free from the threat of trafficking.



History of Topic

Barriers to Human Rights: The Erosion of Indigenous Women's Roles and Rights:

Indigenous women encounter numerous obstacles to fully enjoying their human rights. They often face various forms of discrimination, have limited access to education, healthcare, and ancestral lands, and experience disproportionately high rates of poverty. Additionally, they are subjected to violence, including domestic violence and sexual abuse, often in the contexts of trafficking and armed conflict. According to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), globalisation has introduced further challenges in many regions. The roles of Indigenous women have diminished due to the combined effects of natural resource loss, ecosystem depletion, transition to cash economies, changes in local social and decision-making structures, and their lack of political status within States. Traditionally, Indigenous men valued Indigenous women and gave them equal access to and authority over community land and natural resources. However, as collective ownership of land and resources eroded and institutions of private property were introduced by outsiders, Indigenous women gradually lost their traditional rights. A common pattern in many Indigenous communities has emerged: as the Indigenous economy, guided by values of reciprocity, complementarity, and customary laws promoting gender equity, weakened, men in some communities became the sole inheritors of land and property. Consequently, women have been deprived of their traditional rights to land and resources.

Colonisation:

The roots of trafficking can be traced back to the era of colonialism. Christopher Columbus and his men subjected the Taino people to rape, enslavement, mutilation, and murder upon arriving on their shores. This included trafficking Taino women and girls for sexual exploitation. These abuses spread as Spanish and other European countries colonised the continent, making sex trafficking a central component of the colonisation of Indigenous people in Central and North America. During the American Revolution, George Washington's troops "put to death all the women and children, excepting some of the young women, whom they carried away for the use of their soldiers and were afterwards put to death in a more shameful manner". As European countries colonised the continent, Indigenous women and children were purchased and sold for sex and labour trafficking, including in government and Christian boarding schools. From the start, Europeans scapegoated Indigenous people, casting Indigenous women as whores to be sexually abused.

Systemic Inequalities:

Human trafficking is a significant criminal justice issue in the United States. Although much focus is on international trafficking, domestic sex trafficking is also widespread. Systematic inequality and a lack of resources create physical and psychological vulnerabilities. Indigenous communities, in particular, face high rates of substance abuse, domestic violence, and foster care involvement, which increase their risk of falling victim to traffickers. Policymakers often overlook how these vulnerabilities, combined with race and other factors, push minority and low-income people into the commercial sex trade. Oppression in America includes ongoing policies in a supposedly "post-racial" society. Anti-trafficking movements have historically failed to protect people of colour by creating laws that disproportionately target racial minorities. The historical sexual exploitation of Indigenous, Asian, and Latino people helped form an underclass forced into prostitution. Native people, in particular, suffered systemic sexual exploitation by American soldiers. To assimilate tribes, the U.S.



government allowed such abuses, including forced prostitution. Native children were removed from their families and placed in boarding schools designed to erase their cultural identity, where they often faced sexual abuse. During the assimilation era (1940s-1970s), regulations normalized sexual assault of Native women and girls, subjecting those who refused to rape as well as physical and verbal violence. These policies upended Native family and community systems, triggering a cycle of trauma that still affects Native communities today.



Current situation

Human trafficking, particularly sexual trafficking, disproportionately affects women and girls worldwide. Recent estimates indicate that women and girls constitute approximately 70% of all victims of modern slavery and sexual trafficking, with some figures suggesting that this percentage may be as high as 97% to 99%. This striking disparity arises from a complex interplay of factors including entrenched gender inequality, pervasive economic hardship, restrictive cultural norms, and insufficient legal protections. Women and girls frequently face severe economic vulnerabilities, including widespread poverty, limited access to education, and constrained employment opportunities, which make them particularly susceptible to trafficking. For instance, women represent about two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults, underscoring their limited access to educational resources. In 2022, an estimated 388 million women were living in poverty compared to 372 million men and boys. In many developing regions, approximately three-quarters of women are employed in the informal economy, which is often characterised by job insecurity, poor working conditions, and minimal legal safeguards. This economic vulnerability is further compounded by high rates of violence; the World Health Organization estimates that one in three women globally will experience either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence during their lifetime. This staggering statistic highlights the widespread nature of gender-based violence, which not only jeopardises women's safety and well-being but also severely limits their economic opportunities and social mobility. The intersection of economic instability and violence against women underscores the urgent need for comprehensive policies and support systems that address both economic and safety challenges faced by women around the world.

Women and girls, particularly those from Indigenous communities, are often trafficked for various forms of exploitation. These forms include sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, and pornography, as well as labour in sectors such as commercial agriculture and domestic work. Additionally, Indigenous women and girls may be trafficked for arranged marriages, sold as brides, recruited for armed conflicts, or coerced into roles such as sexual services and portage during conflicts. The demand for sexual exploitation continues to drive this vulnerability, and displaced women and girls, such as refugees or those affected by natural disasters, are particularly at risk. Despite significant international efforts to combat human trafficking, the situation remains dire, underscoring the need for stronger legal frameworks, enhanced support systems for survivors, and comprehensive strategies to address the root causes of trafficking.

Countries experiencing severe trafficking of Indigenous women and girls include Canada, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. In Canada, systemic inequalities and high rates of violence contribute to elevated trafficking rates among Indigenous women. Australia faces significant trafficking issues within Indigenous communities, often linked to socio-economic disadvantages and historical injustices. In Brazil, poverty, displacement, and inadequate protective measures exacerbate the vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls. Mexico also sees high trafficking rates involving Indigenous women, driven by economic hardship and limited legal protections. The United States, with its large Indigenous population, struggles with trafficking issues that disproportionately affect Indigenous women and girls, reflecting broader systemic problems. In Peru, the situation is particularly severe in the Madre de Dios region, known for illegal gold mining operations. The hazardous conditions and exploitative practices in this area create a hotspot for trafficking, with economic desperation and weak law enforcement contributing to high trafficking rates. The isolation



and pervasiveness of the illegal mining industry further exacerbate the problem, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions to address these critical issues.

Governments around the world have varied in their responses to trafficking. In India, anti-trafficking measures are managed primarily by state and union territory governments, with policy oversight from the central government. Despite efforts to increase prosecutions and convictions for trafficking and bonded labour cases, significant challenges remain. Many states fail to report or address bonded labour cases adequately, and conviction rates for trafficking crimes are persistently low. Protection efforts for victims are inconsistent, with varying levels of assistance and quality of care across states. Additionally, efforts to audit shelters and provide restitution are insufficient, and the inter-ministerial committee for anti-trafficking coordination has been discontinued.

In contrast, the United States has implemented comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which provides crucial protections for victims, legal remedies, and strict penalties for traffickers. The TVPA emphasises a victim-centred approach, including access to support services and restitution. The U.S. government conducts regular assessments and has established task forces, such as the Federal Human Trafficking Task Force, to enhance victim identification and support. Despite these efforts, Indigenous women and girls in the U.S. remain highly vulnerable to trafficking due to systemic inequalities and high rates of violence.

Canada has targeted the trafficking of Indigenous women and girls through several initiatives. The National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking includes measures tailored to Indigenous communities, focusing on prevention, protection, and prosecution. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has highlighted the issue and made recommendations for improved support and targeted anti-trafficking efforts. Additionally, Canada collaborates with Indigenous organisations to develop culturally sensitive strategies and provides funding for Indigenous-led support services. Despite these efforts, significant challenges persist, underscoring the need for continued focus and improvement to address the unique vulnerabilities faced by Indigenous women and girls.



Past International Actions

UNWOMEN, along with committees like UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), AND UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) have long focused on bettering conditions for women in high risk areas where trafficking is being dealt with, either by participating in worldwide initiatives, their own projects and/or with NGOs.

- Firstly, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** better known like the SDGs includes Goal #5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
 - For this crucial goal, UNWomen played a primary role in promoting these targets and ensured that it was prioritised into the integration of international policies. Even though this goes doesn't necessarily directly address the goal of combating sexual and human trafficking for indigenous women and girls it does open the floor for the discussion of such topics and allows for a direct focus on gender equality in all of its forms.
- **UN Women's Global Programme on Gender-Based Violence:**
 - initiated in 2012, is designed to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking. The program helps countries develop national action plans and legal frameworks, and enhances survivor support through services like healthcare and legal aid. It also emphasises data collection and research, contributing to the creation of robust policies and targeted interventions. With over 60 countries involved, the program has facilitated the development of comprehensive GBV strategies and supported over 300,000 survivors globally. By fostering partnerships with governments, civil society, and UN agencies, it aims to prevent violence, improve response systems, and increase awareness and advocacy efforts.
- **UNODC and UN Women Partnership:** The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women collaborate on various projects to combat human trafficking.
 - For example, their joint efforts have supported the **Joint Global Programme on Trafficking in Persons**. This initiative, launched by UNODC and UN Women, focuses on improving the global response to trafficking by developing tools and guidelines, capacity building and promoting strong policy frameworks. Moreover the regional incentives and projects between the UNODC and UN Women tailored to specific areas affected by trafficking. These include regional workshops and conferences as well as targeted support for areas such as Southeast Asia, and Latin America where gender based violence and trafficking for indigenous women is most seen.
- **Capacity-Building Initiatives:** UN Women, in collaboration with other UN bodies, has worked on capacity-building initiatives for governments and civil society organisations to enhance their ability to address trafficking, including the development of national action plans and training programs.
- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):** Adopted in 2007, this declaration emphasises the protection of indigenous peoples' rights, including their



protection from trafficking and exploitation. It sets standards for safeguarding indigenous communities from human rights abuses, including trafficking.

- **UN Women's Focus on Indigenous Women:** UN Women has implemented initiatives to address violence against indigenous women, including trafficking. For instance, they support projects that empower indigenous women and provide training to improve awareness and responses to trafficking within indigenous communities.

Case Study 1 : Trafficking of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Women in Australia and Oceania

The trafficking and exploitation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are deeply rooted in the historical context of colonisation, systemic discrimination, and ongoing socioeconomic challenges. Due to historical and systemic disadvantages, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women face increased vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. Poverty, marginalisation, and limited access to services make them more susceptible to being targeted by traffickers. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that includes legal reform, culturally appropriate support services, and active engagement with indigenous communities to effectively combat exploitation and protect vulnerable individuals.

Current Situation

Sexual Exploitation: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are at risk of being coerced into prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation. Exploitation often occurs in contexts where these women are isolated or lack support.

Labour Exploitation: Traffickers may exploit indigenous women in low-wage or hazardous labour conditions. The isolation of remote communities can be a factor in this type of exploitation.

Specific Focus on the Sydney CBD Brothels

In the Sydney CBD brothels case, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women were deceived by traffickers who promised them legitimate employment opportunities. Instead, they were forced into sex work under harsh conditions in illegal brothels. This exploitation was exacerbated by their isolation from their communities, lack of awareness about their rights, and systemic barriers such as racial discrimination. Research indicates that Aboriginal women are disproportionately affected by trafficking, making up about 18% of trafficking victims despite constituting only 3% of the Australian population.

The challenges faced by these women include severe isolation from their support networks and difficulties in accessing culturally appropriate services. Many victims struggled with inadequate legal protections and faced obstacles in seeking help due to systemic racism. Investigations by Australian Federal Police (AFP) and state agencies have uncovered these trafficking operations, yet enforcement of laws like the Criminal Code Amendment (Trafficking in Persons) Act remains inconsistent. The illegal brothels' covert nature complicates efforts to protect these women and address their exploitation effectively.



Advocacy groups and support organisations have highlighted the need for better regulation of the sex industry and more tailored support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. These efforts aim to address the specific vulnerabilities and systemic issues that contribute to their exploitation. Improved outreach and culturally competent resources are crucial for providing assistance and preventing trafficking in these communities.

Overall, the Sydney CBD brothels case underscores the critical importance of addressing the trafficking of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. It highlights the broader systemic challenges and the need for comprehensive reforms to protect Indigenous women and effectively combat trafficking not only in Oceania but also setting an example for the entire world.

Case Study 2 : Trafficking of Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada

Canada is home to a significant Indigenous population, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities. Despite ongoing efforts to address various social issues, Indigenous women and girls face disproportionately high rates of trafficking. This problem is deeply rooted in historical and systemic inequalities that continue to impact these communities today.

Indigenous women and girls in Canada are often trafficked for purposes such as sexual exploitation, forced labour, and domestic servitude. They are particularly vulnerable due to factors including socio-economic disadvantages, high rates of violence, and systemic discrimination. Indigenous women represent a significant proportion of trafficking victims relative to their population size.

Historical Context:

The trafficking of Indigenous women and girls is not a new issue; it is a continuation of long-standing exploitation rooted in colonial histories. Historical policies, such as the Indian Act and the residential school system, created systemic inequalities and disrupted Indigenous communities. The legacy of these policies contributes to the ongoing marginalisation of Indigenous women and girls, making them more susceptible to trafficking.

Current Situation:

Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately represented in trafficking statistics. They are often targeted for sexual exploitation and forced into sex work or pornography. According to various reports and studies, Indigenous women make up a significant percentage of trafficking victims in Canada, though exact figures can be challenging to determine due to underreporting and data collection issues. High rates of poverty, unemployment, and inadequate access to education and healthcare among Indigenous communities contribute to their vulnerability. These socio-economic challenges make Indigenous women and girls more likely to fall prey to traffickers who exploit their desperate circumstances. Indigenous women and girls face high rates of violence, including domestic violence and sexual abuse, which further exacerbates their vulnerability. Systemic discrimination and racism also contribute to their marginalisation, making it difficult for them to access support and protection services.

Government and NGO Efforts:

The Canadian government has acknowledged the issue and implemented various initiatives to address it. The National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking includes measures aimed at improving



support for Indigenous victims. The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has brought attention to the issue and made recommendations for better protection and support. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a crucial role in addressing the trafficking of Indigenous women and girls. Organisations such as the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and the Canadian Women's Foundation work to provide support, raise awareness, and advocate for policy changes. These organisations often collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop culturally sensitive solutions and ensure that interventions are effective and respectful of Indigenous traditions and values.

Despite these efforts, there are many challenges that exacerbate this issue even more. For instance, accurate data on trafficking involving Indigenous women and girls is scarce, complicating efforts to fully understand and address the problem. The lack of comprehensive data hinders the development of effective policies and interventions. Also, many Indigenous communities lack adequate resources and support services to effectively combat trafficking. This includes limited access to safe housing, counselling, and legal assistance for victims. Moreover, addressing trafficking in Indigenous communities requires culturally sensitive approaches that respect Indigenous traditions and practices. Ensuring that interventions are appropriate and effective requires meaningful engagement with Indigenous leaders and communities. The failure to engage meaningfully with Indigenous leaders and communities not only undermines the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts but also perpetuates systemic issues and contributes to the ongoing vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls.

Case Study 3 : Trafficking in the Amazon jungle

Peru:

When Peru's military launched a major crackdown on illegal gold mining, authorities rescued dozens of women and girls, many of whom were underage, raising hopes that the number of victims would decrease. However, it has not turned out that way. A year later, locals say the crackdown has simply pushed the illegal mines deeper into the jungle. The Madre de Dios gold rush devastated large swathes of forest in one of Peru's most biodiverse regions, leaving behind a desert-like landscape filled with lifeless craters and rivers contaminated with mercury. Regional governor Luis Hidalgo stated that about 30,000 miners lost their jobs due to the closure of the wildcat mines, but he acknowledged that these operations have since reemerged elsewhere in the tropical wilderness. During the raids, authorities found 69 women and 51 girls working in bars and brothels in the region, according to the women's ministry. They discovered tiny, bare rooms at the back of bars, separated by plastic sheeting, each with a mattress on the floor that customers use for 10 minutes at a time. Campaigners say that young girls are particularly sought after by the miners, who believe that having sex with a virgin brings good fortune. Many victims of sex trafficking originate from indigenous farming communities situated hundreds of miles away in the Andean highlands. Often impoverished and with limited education, they fall easy prey to traffickers who entice them with false promises of well-paying jobs as cleaners and cooks in restaurants and bars. Sex is openly available in some bars, highlighting the challenge prosecutors face in trying to combat the trade.



Brazil:

The Amazon region of Brazil has the highest rate of women trafficked for sexual exploitation in the country. Forced labour and sexual exploitation are the most common forms of trafficking in Brazil. In urban areas, trafficking mainly involves the sex trade and textile production. Child sexual exploitation is also a significant problem, particularly in northeastern resorts, coastal regions, and tourist areas. Brazil's socio-economic landscape plays a significant role in the trafficking epidemic. Economic disparity is prevalent in the Amazon and northeastern regions, where poverty drives many residents to seek better opportunities elsewhere. Additionally, the lack of access to quality education and healthcare tends to keep these regions in cycles of dependency, wherein traffickers can easily infiltrate and exploit individuals and families that are unaware of available protections and resources.

High poverty levels within Indigenous groups amplify their susceptibility to trafficking. Many traffickers target these communities, exploiting the limited economic opportunities available and offering false promises of employment and a better future. The religion, acute economic deprivation, and cultural dislocation make them particularly vulnerable. Traffickers often prey on people who are desperate for work or a better life, luring them with false promises of employment, education, or a brighter future. These individuals, often with limited access to resources and support networks, are then coerced, manipulated, or forced into exploitative situations, such as forced labour or sexual exploitation. Many Indigenous communities live in remote areas, making it difficult for them to access education, healthcare, and other essential services. This isolation makes them more vulnerable to exploitation. The lack of awareness and legal protection in these communities further exacerbates their vulnerability, making it easier for traffickers to operate and evade detection. During Carnival in 2016, there were 77,290 reported cases of child sexual exploitation. According to the United Nations, young Brazilian women are the majority of international human trafficking victims. Traffickers often move forced labourers from poorer northeastern rural states to wealthier metropolitan areas. The states most affected by human trafficking — Goiás, Minas Gerais, and Pernambuco — are known for their economic disparity and high levels of violence. Metropolitan areas like Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo receive a significant influx of trafficking victims from these states, predominantly women and children, who are moved to satisfy the demand for sexual services or cheap labour.

Colombia:

In Colombia, sex trafficking happens both in-person in places like brothels, hotels, and private homes, and online. Sex trafficking in Colombia is complex and multi-faceted. Organised crime networks often facilitate the movement of victims, targeting impoverished communities with false promises of employment or better living conditions. The National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences reports a rise in cases where women are coerced into prostitution through manipulation, debt bondage, and physical violence. Hidden in the shadows of urban life, victims are often forced to service clients in clandestine establishments or are sold to larger trafficking syndicates. Online trafficking has gained prominence due to the accessibility of the internet and social media platforms. Traffickers utilise technology to lure victims, advertising fictitious job opportunities or romantic relationships that lead to exploitation. Forced labour is also a major issue, affecting the industries. Beyond sexual exploitation, forced labour is endemic in various sectors such as agriculture and mining. In agriculture, commodities like coffee and palm oil are often produced under conditions of forced labour, where workers, including women, face exploitation through minimal wages and inhumane working conditions. The mining sector is equally troubling; organised crime groups leverage forced labour in coal and emerald extraction, indifferent to the human cost of their profits. Organised crime often uses forced labour in coal, alluvial gold, and emerald mining. In agriculture, forced labour is found in coffee harvesting and palm production. Additionally, forced



labour includes begging in urban areas, street vending, and domestic service. A significant concern is the recruitment of children by illegal armed groups. The U.S. Department of State's 2020 report underscored that these groups actively seek to recruit minors, either for combat roles or as trafficking victims. The psychological manipulation of children, combined with socio-economic vulnerabilities, makes this demographic particularly susceptible to exploitation. The tourism sector amplifies these risks, as children are often lured into sex trafficking under false pretences promising security, education, or work.

Both sex trafficking and forced labour thrive in regions with limited law enforcement and high levels of poverty, making it difficult to combat these crimes effectively. The government and international organisations continue to work on improving protections and support for victims while targeting the root causes of these exploitative practices.



Bloc Positions

Western Bloc (which includes North America and Europe)

Position: These nations frequently prioritise robust legal frameworks, international collaboration, and victim assistance programs. They may advocate for more financing for anti-trafficking initiatives, improved data collecting, and partnership with Indigenous communities.

Key points:

1. Strengthening international legal frameworks and enforcement.
2. Supporting non-governmental organisations and indigenous organisations working to stop human trafficking.
3. To lessen vulnerability, Indigenous women and girls should be encouraged to pursue education and economic possibilities.

Latin American Bloc

Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Colombia

Position: Latin American countries may prioritise regional cooperation and addressing root causes such as poverty, a lack of education, and inadequate law enforcement. They may advocate for culturally sensitive practices and more support for Indigenous communities.

Key points:

1. Enhancing regional collaboration through institutions such as the OAS and MERCOSUR.
2. Strengthening national legislation and enforcement systems.
3. Investing in community-based preventative and support initiatives.



QARMA's

QARMA's: Questions A Resolution Must Answer

1. What specific measures can be implemented to enhance the identification and protection of Indigenous women and girls who are victims or at risk of trafficking?
2. What are the key challenges faced by countries with high rates of Indigenous trafficking, and how can these challenges be overcome through international cooperation and support?
3. What are the most effective strategies for raising awareness about the trafficking of Indigenous women and girls both within and outside Indigenous communities?
4. How can existing anti-trafficking laws and policies be adapted or strengthened to address the systemic issues that disproportionately affect Indigenous women and girls?
5. What are the barriers to accessing support services for Indigenous trafficking survivors, and how can these barriers be overcome?
6. What mechanisms can be established to ensure meaningful and ongoing consultation with Indigenous communities in the development and implementation of anti-trafficking strategies?
7. How do resource extraction industries, such as mining and logging, contribute to the trafficking of Indigenous women and girls in the regions where these activities take place, and what strategies can be implemented to prevent this issue without compromising the sustainable use of these resources?



Position Papers Guidelines

A position paper is a one-page document that will need to be presented before the conference, the requirements of it are as follows.

Font: Times New Romans (size 11)

Margins (centimetres): 2.54 from all sides

Line Spacing: 1.15

Heading: Committee's name, topic, delegate's name, delegation, and allocation.

First paragraph: Introduction to your nation's perspective on the topic and should not be confused with an introduction to the topic. How does your nation see the issue discussed at hand?

Second paragraph: Past actions which relate to the topic and have been taken either by your country nationally, or with the UN. What effects did these have on the conflict in general?

Third paragraph: Solutions to the problem, more than one of these are encouraged to fully encompass the issue presented. Remember to remain within policy and within the scope of what your country can do.

Bibliography: The sources used to produce this position paper should be presented in MLA9 citation format. If a delegate fails to present sources for their position paper, it will be assumed to be plagiarised work and they will become ineligible for awards.

Deadline: All position papers must be sent in pdf form to unwomen@sansilvestre.edu.pe before 11:59 pm the 30th of August, 2024.

Eligibility for awards: Position papers will be used as a way for the chair to ensure your participation previous to the conference. For such, position papers must be submitted before the deadline for the delegate to be eligible for an award. However, they will not be a factor which contributes when choosing awards for your participation during the conference.

A note on artificial intelligence usage: We know in recent times many tools have been devised to automate tasks such as the development of literary texts. It would be ignorant to completely prohibit the use of such devices as they are tools created for the enhancement of human intelligence. For such, we believe that many times these devices can be used to improve your work, and we encourage the **healthy, moderated, and smart** usage of these aids. Let it be known, that although AI can be of big help for redaction purposes, **it should not be the sole source of your research** due to the obvious constraints that it possesses, which included but are not limited to; bias, lack of data from recent years, and false information. Furthermore, it is important to note that we **completely prohibit** the use of, for example, Chat GPT **during the conference** to create speeches at real-time speed. Our chairs will make sure to value your improvisation and public speaking skills over a perfectly redacted speech made by an AI tool. With this in mind, make sure to research thoroughly, find different perspectives and sources to devise a proper position paper.

If you have any doubts about the policies in more detail please email your chair or the Secretary-General lxu86@sansilvestre.edu.pe



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