BAALMUN'25

UN Women

Study Guide

Agenda Item: Combating Femicide with a Focus on Its Occurrence in Middle Eastern Regions.

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Letter from Under Secretary General

Hello, Distinguished Delegates of BAALMUN'25!

I am Haktan Efe Özgür, a sophomore student at Florya Tevfik Ercan Anatolian High School and I am pleased to serve as the Under Secretary General of the UN Women Committee,

Before we proceed, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to our esteemed Co-Secretary Generals, İlknur Tezel and Sadra Mokhtaridoust, for granting me the opportunity to serve as the Under Secretary General of this distinguished committee. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Head of Academy, Can Körpe for their dedication and hard work.

However, a special note of appreciation goes to my President Chair and Rapporteur; Ela Çakır, and Melike Atlı, whose support has been invaluable. They have been such close friends since the start of my MUN journey and I'm glad that we haven't grown apart ever since. They Slayed fr fr.

Many of you are attending this conference as your first MUN conference, so we have aimed to make this Study Guide as accessible as possible. I know being in an MUN conference can be very intimidating at first, but in actuality, it's not as intimidating as many make it out to be. This is your chance to expand your social circle and improve your communication skills. I believe that we will have three amazing days within our committee and in general.
Furthermore, I would like to remind you that there are still many other sources beyond this study guide, so I encourage you to research more about your character's and party's beliefs, visions, and stances. If you have any questions regarding the study guide or any questions in general, feel free to reach me at haktanefeozgur240@gmail.com.

Best Regards,

Haktan Efe Özgür, Under Secretary General of the UN Women Committee

Letter from Academic Assistant

Hello delegates!

I am Dora Kölemen, a freshman from Bahçelievler Anatolian High School. As my first experience as an academic assistant, I am very delighted to be with you at this outstanding MUN conference!

First of all I would like to thank the BALMUN Club for making me meet with the wonderful journey of MUN. Especially, I would like to thank my close friends Kerem Kılıç, Eda Sahra Yiğittop, Doğa Baş, Arda Özgür, Arda Nalbant, Emirhan Özkan, Ekin Şahin and Elif Ekinci for showing me support no matter what. I Love all of you so much. Also, I would like to show regards to my Under Secretary General Haktan Efe Özgür for this smooth study guide and everyone working on this committee. All of you are working really hard to make this committee work without any problem.

Even if this is your first MUN conference or not, you are lucky to be in our committee. Discussing about a problem which is occurring all over the world must be taken into account. I am sure that our wonderful delegates will find reasonable solutions upon this global crisis. During this conference, you will make unforgettable friendships, have unlimited fun and many worldwide information while practicing your language skills. Before you attend our committee, don't forget to read the study guide and search more about your character's beliefs and history. All you should do is to share your ideas without any intimidation and most importantly, have fun. I wish all of you a very special MUN conference where you can make great memories. If you have any questions, ask without any hesitation and reach me at dorakolemen@gmail.com.

Best Regards and Much Love,

Dora Kölemen, Academic Assistant of the UN WOMEN committe

Rules of Procedure

1. Roll Call

In the UN Women Committee, there are two ways for Representatives to express their presence; saying "Present" or "Present and Voting". The difference between the two is that Representatives who state they're "Present and Voting" cannot abstain during the voting procedure within that session.

1.1. Quorum

Each session starts with the Chairboard taking the roll call to see whether or not the Quorum has been met. The Quorum of the UN Women Committee simply dictates that ⅔ of the Committee is present to open debate. If the Quorum is met, the Chairboard will announce that the Committee can proceed with the debate.

2. Opening Speeches

In the first official session of the conference, all Representatives are called onto the floor alphabetically in order to give their opening speeches. The Representatives are expected to give short speeches on their party's views and past actions regarding the Agenda Item and briefly introduce their country to the other Committee members.

3. General Speakers List

The Committee has to have an open General Speakers' List (GSL) on the Agenda Item at all times. The GSL is the default activity of the Committee, so if there aren't any motions on the floor, the debate automatically turns to the GSL. The General Speakers' List entertains speeches about anything as long as it relates to the Agenda Item at hand. Those wishing to be added to the GSL should either send the Chair Board a message paper stating their request or raise their placards when the Chair calls for members that wish to be added to the list. Representatives added to the GSL have a limited time to speak and are required to yield the floor if they have remaining time.

3.1. Yields

Representatives granted the right to speak on a substantive issue may conclude their speeches by yielding in one of three ways: to another Representative ("We yield the floor to the Representative of …"), to questions from the floor ("We invite the assembly to pose questions"), or to the Chair ("We yield the floor to the Chair").

4. Points

4.1. Point of Information

A Point of Information is a request made by a Representative to ask for clarification or additional information regarding a statement or a proposal presented within the committee.

4.2. Point of Personal Privilege

If something prevents a Representative from fully engaging in committee proceedings, they may request to give a Point of Personal Privilege. The chairboard will make an effort to resolve the cause of impairment successfully. A speaker may only be interrupted by this point.

4.3. Point of Order

A Representative may rise to a Point of Order if a rule of procedure is not properly observed by a Representative or by the Chairboard. The Chairboard will rule on the validity of the point. The Chairboard may rule out of order those points that are dilatory or improper. Such a decision cannot be appealed. A Point of Order may only interrupt a speaker when the speech itself is not following proper parliamentary procedure.

4.4. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

When the floor is open, a Representative may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to request an explanation of the Rules of Procedure from the Chairboard. This point may not interrupt a Speaker. Representatives with substantive questions should not rise to this Point but should rather approach the Committee staff at an appropriate time.

5. Motions

5.1. Moderated Caucus

A Moderated Caucus serves to promote focused debate during key points of discussion. A motion for a Moderated Caucus may be introduced whenever the floor is open, prior to the closure of debate. The Representative proposing the motion must briefly explain its purpose, specify a total duration not exceeding twenty minutes, and set a time limit for individual speeches. The motion will be voted on immediately, requiring a simple majority for approval.

If no Representative wishes to speak during the Moderated Caucus, it will conclude immediately. The caucus may be extended only once, and only after it has ended. However, the total duration of the caucus, including the extension, must not exceed twenty minutes. Representatives are not permitted to yield any remaining speaking time during a Moderated Caucus.

5.2. Semi-Moderated Caucus

At the Chair's discretion, Representatives may propose a motion for a Semi-Moderated Caucus, allowing for informal discussion within the committee room. During this period, Representatives not actively speaking are expected to remain seated and show respect to those addressing the committee.

5.3. Unmoderated Caucus

The purpose of Unmoderated Caucuses is to provide the Representatives with a chance to discuss freely, offering a suspension of rules. A Representative may raise a motion for an Unmoderated Caucus at any time when the floor is open, before closure of debate. The Representative making the motion must specify a time limit for the caucus, not to exceed twenty minutes. The motion will immediately be put to a vote and will pass given a simple majority. An Unmoderated Caucus may be extended only once, and the combined length of an Unmoderated Caucus and its extension may not exceed twenty minutes.

5.4. Extension Motion

An extension motion is employed when a Member of the European Parliament (Representative) requests a continuation of the previously approved motion. However, a motion may be extended only once and the extension must not surpass the original duration specified in the initial motion.

5.5. Termination Motion

A termination motion is introduced when the Chairboard opens the floor for motions after all designated speakers have concluded their statements on the current motion. It is proposed when the Members of the European Parliament (Representatives) collectively decide to conclude discussion on the motion.

5.6. Suspension or Adjournment of the Meeting

The suspension of the meeting means the postponement of all committee functions until the next meeting. The adjournment of the meeting means the postponement of all committee functions for the duration of the conference. Once the floor is open for points and motions, any Representative can move to suspend or adjourn the meeting and the Chairboard will decide whether it's in order according to the meeting schedule. When in order, such motions will not be debatable but will be immediately voted upon, barring any motions taking precedence, and will require a simple majority to pass.

5.7. Testimony or Personal Account

In a crisis situation, a Representative may raise a motion for "Testimony or Personal Account". This motion allows a Representative to invite an individual who has had first hand witness to the crisis given. After the motion gets voted via Silent Voting a guest speaker from the choosing of the committee presents testimony or share a firsthand account relevant to the topic being discussed. Its primary purpose is to provide valuable insights or on-the-ground perspectives that can inform the debate and aid in drafting resolutions. Additionally, it serves to clarify complex issues through personal experiences or expert knowledge, enriching the committee's understanding of the matter at hand.

5.8. Formal Meeting with Expert or NGO Organisator

For this annual session of BAALMUN'25; in the UN Women Committee, a motion to hold a formal meeting with an expert or NGO representative allows the committee to engage directly with a knowledgeable individual whose expertise is relevant to the agenda. This motion aims to enhance the quality of debate and resolution drafting by incorporating expert advice or real-world perspectives from organizations actively addressing the issue. Such meetings provide delegates with valuable insights and opportunities to ask specific questions, helping them better understand complex topics. For instance, in a discussion on climate change, a delegate might propose this motion to consult an environmental NGO expert on renewable energy solutions. The motion is subject to the chair's approval and requires a vote from the committee.

5.9. Yields

Representatives granted the right to speak on a substantive issue may conclude their speeches by yielding in one of three ways: to another Representative ("We yield the floor to the Representative of …"), to questions from the floor ("We invite the assembly to pose questions"), or to the Chair ("We yield the floor to the Chair").

6. Right to reply

The Right to Reply may be invoked when the national integrity of a Member of the European Parliament (Representative) is infringed upon and must be submitted to the Chairboard via message paper. The Chairboard retains the discretion to overrule the invocation of the Right to Reply.

6.1. Motion to Follow Up

A motion to follow up is made when a representative requests the opportunity to provide a response to a Right to Reply.

7. Resolution Paper

A resolution paper is a formal written document presented during a debate or negotiation to push a specific agenda or position. It outlines a representative's proposed course of action, supported by evidence or rationale, with the aim of influencing the committee's direction or decision-making. The force paper is often used to clarify a representative's stance on an issue and advocate for particular outcomes in the deliberations.

8. Voting Procedures

8.1. Placard Voting

Placard Voting is commonly utilized for motions, with priority given to the motion that can accommodate the highest number of speakers, unless superseded by a motion for extension or termination. Placard Voting is initiated when both seconds and objections are present. If a motion receives only seconds, it is considered passed. However, if a motion receives only objections, it is considered failed.

8.2. Roll Call Voting

a representative has the right to request a roll call vote following the closure of debate on a force paper or for any other substantive vote. Roll call voting is permitted exclusively for substantive votes. A motion for a roll call vote may be proposed from the floor and will pass automatically if seconded by a Two-Thirds Majority.

During a roll call vote, the Chairboard will call upon parties in alphabetical order, beginning with a randomly selected member. In the first sequence of voting, Representatives may respond with: "Yes," "Yes with Rights," "No," "No with Rights," "Abstain," or "Pass." Representatives voting "Yes with Rights" or "No with Rights" reserve the right to explain their vote, but only if their vote contradicts the official policy of their country. Representatives who vote "Pass" in the first sequence are required to cast a definitive vote (and may neither abstain nor pass) during the second sequence.

8.3. Silent Voting

Silent Voting is a procedural voting method in which all Members of the European Parliament (Representatives) must remain completely silent for a minimum duration of one minute. Any audible disturbance during the silent voting period results in the automatic failure of the vote. Conversely, if complete silence is maintained throughout the designated time, the voting is considered passed.

9. Majority

Unless otherwise specified by these Rules of Procedure, no motions are debatable, and all require a simple majority vote to pass.

9.1. Simple Majority

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a simple majority to pass implies that fifty percent plus one member (50% + 1) of the Committee must vote in favor of the matter to pass. If the vote is a tie, the matter shall be considered to have failed.

9.2. Two-Thirds (2/3) Majority

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass implies that two-thirds (2/3) of the Committee must vote in favor of a matter to pass.

9.3. Consensus

A procedural or substantive matter requiring a consensus to pass implies that all members of the Committee must vote in favor of a matter to pass.

Introduction to the Committee

Founded in 2010, The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UN Women, is a United Nations organization dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women internationally. The Committee was a result of a merger of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and other entities and has been holding sessions since 2011. It was established to address gender inequalities, accelerate the realization of women's rights and ensure that the specific needs of women and girls are met.

UN Women supports UN Member States while they provide global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments to set laws, policies, and services. It plays a crucial role in providing women a life that is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UN Women focuses on four different strategic priorities:

- Women have the right to lead and participate in governance systems.
- Women have income security, work, and economic autonomy.
- All women and girls live in a world free from all forms of violence.
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from natural disaster and conflict prevention and humanitarian action.

UN Women is headed by an Executive Director and advised by an Executive Board representing different regions. It is a member of the UN Development Group.

Note: As shown in the rules of procedure, In this annual session of BAALMUN the UN Women Committee has a different procedure than a regular session of UN Women.

Agenda Item: Combating Femicide with a Focus on Its Occurrence in Middle Eastern Regions.

Introduction to Agenda Item

Femicide, especially taking place in the middle east is one of the hardest issues faced by global human rights today. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) explains that femicide means killing females due to their gender, which serves as an extreme form of violence against women and girls all over the world. This serious problem needs immediate international focus, especially when it comes to regions like Middle East where cultural, social, and political elements present special difficulties for confronting this violence. The Global Study on Homicide by the UNODC shows shocking numbers. In 2017 alone, around 50,000 women and girls were killed by their close partners or family members. This underlines the immediate need for a unified global response.

The Middle East situation reveals unique complexities in fighting against femicide, needing a subtle method that takes regional cultural dynamics as important and at the same time keeps consistent dedication to human rights principles. The area confronts specific issues relating to data gathering and reporting systems because numerous countries do not have systematic monitoring of violence based on gender. Additionally, traditional social structures and legal systems sometimes make it more risky for women by creating places where female-targeted violence is often not reported or heard about but also rarely punished. Regarding this worldwide problem, the UN Special Rapporteur focusing on Violence against Women has suggested to set up "femicide watches" around the globe. This stresses the requirement for regular checking and intervention systems. It is a key policy that helps in creating strategies specific to each region while keeping global standards of human rights safety intact.

While representatives are getting ready to talk about this agenda item, they should think about many aspects of policy development and its execution. Major areas include making the legal structures stronger, upgrading reporting methods, refining data gathering systems, and putting in place effective prevention strategies. Delegates need to be ready for discussing specific actions like setting up regional centers for monitoring femicide cases, creating awareness campaigns that respect cultural differences or establishing supporting networks for survivors as well as families influenced by gender-based violence. The achievement of this project will rely on discovering a harmony between honouring cultural differences and supporting universal human rights guidelines. It is important to ensure practical solutions that can truly lessen cases of femicide in the regions of Middle East. This point on our agenda gives representatives the chance to partake in purposeful conversation about green plans, all while recognising complicated interactions involving cultural settings, legal systems and successful application methods.

Key Terms and Definitions

- **Femicide**

  The intentional killing of women and girls solely because of their gender, often motivated by misogyny, discrimination, or societal norms that devalue female lives.

- **Gender-Based Violence**

  Gender-based violence refers to any type of harm that is perpetrated against a person or group of people because of their factual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity

- **Honor Killing**

  An honor killing, or shame killing is a traditional form of murder in which a person is killed by or at the behest of members of their family or their partner, due to culturally sanctioned beliefs that such homicides are necessary as retribution for the perceived dishonoring of the family by the victim.

- **Intimate Partner Femicide**

  Intimate partner violence (IPV) is domestic violence by a current or former spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner. IPV can take a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic and sexual abuse. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines IPV as "any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors.

- **Patriarchal Norms**

  Social structures and cultural beliefs that prioritize male authority and dominance, often leading to the oppression of women and contributing to femicide.

- **Misogyny**

  Misogyny is hatred of, contempt for, or prejudice against women or girls. It is a form of sexism that can keep women at a lower social status than men, thus maintaining the social roles of patriarchy.

- **Domestic Violence**

  Violence or abuse occurring within the home or family, frequently involving spouses or partners, which can escalate to femicide.

- **Cultural Relativism**

  The idea that cultural norms and values must be understood within their context, which can sometimes be used as a justification for harmful practices like femicide.

- **Legal Impunity**

  The failure to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes, often due to weak legal systems, societal acceptance, or lack of enforcement of laws against gender-based violence.

- **Gender Inequality**

  The unequal treatment or perception of individuals based on their gender, contributing to a societal environment where femicide can occur.

- **Sexual Violence**

  Any sexual act performed against someone without their consent, which can escalate to femicide in severe cases.

- **Survivor Advocacy**

  Efforts by individuals or organizations to support survivors of gender-based violence and advocate for legal and societal changes to prevent femicide.

- **Toxic Masculinity**

  Cultural norms that promote aggressive and oppressive male behavior, contributing to violence against women, including femicide.

Root Causes and Contributing Factors

Femicide's main reasons in the Middle East are closely linked to ingrained gender inequality and social traditions. At its center, the key cause is ongoing neglect of women's worth and independence, appearing in many connected forms. Experts state that this imbalance between genders is a critical hidden reason, carried on by strict societal as well as cultural customs that greatly restrict women's power over their own decisions. This is particularly clear in situations where women suffer fatal outcomes for doing simple things like saying no to marriage proposals - as shown in the unfortunate case of 21-year-old Naira A, who was viciously murdered in Egypt in the conclusion of her turning down a wedding proposal. These events show how society's systems actively weaken women's power to choose important things about their lives without being scared of violent revenge.

The economy's state and institutions' failure greatly amplifies these gender-related risks. The existence of poverty and lowering economic standards form places where violence can easily flourish, while insufficient reactions from law enforcement allow offenders to behave with almost no consequences. Particularly severe is the condition in some communities, where half of Arab women and children live under poor conditions. Furthermore, the absence of robust intervention is sharply highlighted by data showing that over 60% of women who eventually lost their lives had earlier informed authorities about threats but got unsatisfactory responses. This recurring systemic breakdown becomes more complex with the spread of weapons, especially in places like Arab Israeli areas where 77% of arms come from military origins, forming a scenario where deadly violence finds easier accessibility and acceptability.

Educational restrictions and social isolation play an important role in continuing these violent patterns. Low education prevents women from accessing information, resources, and support groups. Some cultural traditions such as having multiple wives make the situation worse for all women, especially those who are not first wives; they become more susceptible to harm. These elements show their effect through increasing numbers across areas - Egypt saw a rise in violent acts against females from 415 incidents in 2020 to 813 incidents by 2021, whilst Jordan experienced an extreme jump of 94% in violence towards women during the year 2022. These unsettling patterns emphasize that the mix of confined learning possibilities, narrow financial opportunities, and insufficient safeguarding systems makes a perfect tempest that continually threatens women's lives. This issue is worsened by greater regional issues such as safety, health, and economic emergencies.

The Impacts of Femicide

Femicide's impacts vary from psychological to physical. It affects the quality, safeness and the main needs to keep a female person alive. Femicides that happened and are happening currently in the Middle East is influenced by a combination of cultural, religious, political, and economic factors. While the issue is a global problem, the regional conflicts and social structures simply worsen the problem. In MENA, over 40% of women have reported experiencing physical or sexual violence in their lifetime

In the Middle East, most and actually all of the regions Middle East is ruled by men. This situation makes the women feel and seen as a less valuable creature, maybe an object by some. An increasing male-dominance makes harder for women to seek help and stand up for themselves. Only 1 in 4 men in the Middle East believe in gender equality and up to %90 of men choose how their wives and daughters live, lacking of freedom. For example how they dress, when they go out or what they do in a day. In some parts of the Middle East, honor based violence (HBV) is being made because of cultural beliefs, family based reputation and to fit in their country's society based norms. These killings vary from getting pregnant or giving birth outside the range of marriage, being a victim of rape or sexual assault, or refusing an arranged marriage. Even when a woman wishes to divorce, men in their family may assault them to keep the marriage straight. In Israel, one of the latest victims was a 19-year-old who was shot last month due to her dreams of being an architect. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2012, it was estimated that around 5000 murders occur each year worldwide in the name of honor.

Many Middle Eastern countries lack of laws to protect women from violence. Laws which are current that seem like protecting women are often poorly enforced. Killings which are made under honor are usually not punished, so this make most of the murderers stay free in their country and continue harming. Likewise, Article 409 of the Penal Code stipulates that the punishment for a man who kills or beats his wife, female relative or her partner, to death or causes them permanent disabilites, is up to three years in prison. The judge also has the option to decrease this punishment for six months, so in most cases murderers either don't take any punishment or just spent time in prison for six months without execution. Activism among females in the Middle East has increased since the last ten years. Women, who wants to live their life without being under someones control started to make movements to educate their country's people. But these movements resulted in some deaths of activists as such as Heba Suhaib Haj Arif from Syria and Mahsa Amini from Iran. In the countries of Lebanon and Iran The #MeToo movement and other global feminist movements have provided platforms for Middle Eastern women to connect, raise awareness, and make a call for justice.

Child marriage is a common phenomenon especially in Iraq and the Middle East. UNICEF estimates that about a quarter of girls marry before the age of 18 (including 5 percent married by the age of fifteen). In court cases, it depends on the judges view about this situation like the other cases. Young men, teenagers and children also think of this as a normal situation since education in the Middle East do not teach about these toppics. Also, human trafficking objectifies women as they are being sold to strangers for intentions such as earning money, improving economics, raping, being a slave or killing. In Iraq especially after 2014, this violence spread with the help of social media.

Women usually suffer from psychological disorder due to femicides. Being affected themselves or from the news they have heard, women are forced to live with disorders like depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), domestic and sexual violence, torture, and somatization, as well as other aspects of mental health. And not only mental health, physical diseases like cancer, hearth disorders and many more occur due to being mentally or physically ill. The lack of healthcare in the Middle East has decreased due to growth but before the 2000s, no treatments were shown againts people, especially women. When they did, it lacked of health appliances. Still to this day, healthcare in the Middle East is not seen as important due to economics and traditions.

Historical Background

Early Origins and First Documentation

The word femicide comes from the Latin terms 'femina' meaning woman and 'caedere' which means to kill. Even though, awareness about violence that is specifically aimed at women has been known for a very extended period of time. The olden historical documents do not directly name the killing of females as femicide but occurrences like witch persecutions in Europe during medieval periods, murders related to honor, and dowry issues in different societies are full examples of sex-based killings. In the 16th and 17th centuries, many thousands of women were systematically killed in Europe and North America. They were accused of practicing witchcraft. Many times these acts of killing were justified using religious perspectives and patriarchal beliefs.

Modern Conceptualization

Femicide is a word made well-known in feminist discussions towards the end of the 20th century. Diana E. H. Russell, who studies feminism, officially brought this term up in 1976 at an international meeting about crimes against women held in Brussels. She explained its meaning as killing females by males for the reason they are solely females. This was a change from perceiving such killings as separate instances of violence to acknowledging them as a form of systematic gender-based harm inherent in male-dominant systems. The phrase has been used

thereafter not only for addressing single acts of aggression but also for state-backed or community-approved executions of women.

Historical Manifestations

- **Witch Hunts (15th-17th centuries)**: Women accused of witchcraft were burned, hanged, or drowned in large numbers.
- **Honor Killings**: In patriarchal societies, women who were perceived to have dishonored their families were often killed by male relatives.
- **Dowry Deaths (South Asia)**: The practice of dowry has led to the killing of women by their husbands or in-laws when dowry demands were not met.
- **Serial Killings (20th Century)**: Notorious serial killers like Jack the Ripper in Victorian England specifically targeted women, reflecting societal vulnerabilities faced by women.
- **Ciudad Juárez Femicide Crisis (1990s-Present)**: Hundreds of women were murdered in the Mexican city of Ciudad Juárez, bringing international attention to the issue of fe**Evolution of Understanding**micide.

As time passes, the comprehension of femicide has developed from solitary criminal deeds to a wider acknowledgment of systemic violence shaped by cultural, economic, and social elements. The feminist movement had an important part in emphasizing that these crimes are gender-specific. Progressions in law came thereafter; for instance, countries like Mexico, Argentina and Spain brought about specific laws against femicide. Global bodies such as the United Nations, have acknowledged femicide is a worldwide issue of human rights. They are asking for improved data compilation, legal structures and methods to stop it.

Current Situation and Regional Analysis

Global Overview

The global scenario of femicide shows a complicated and multi-layered view of continuing violence against women, with men staying as the major offenders. Especially in cases that involve present or past partners and family members. Though there is better awareness now and efforts to document these incidents have improved, much continues to go unreported because many wrongdoers remain unidentified, plus recording systems are still not up to scratch. Factors that are systemic persist in being very important, with patriarchal systems and not enough legal responses keeping their hold across areas. These structures show profound social problems that go beyond country lines. It emphasizes the need for broad international collaboration to handle this worldwide crisis. The lasting presence of these elements despite increasing recognition underlines how complex it is to fight femicide effectively on both local and global scales.

Regional Analysis

In Latin America, it stands out that the term "feminicidio" is used to underline the participation of the state in violence toward women. This region has documented the highest rates globally. Economic disparity, political unrest, and gender inequality bring about especially perilous situations for women folk with Indigenous females facing more vulnerability. Turning our focus towards North America, we see a similar situation where Canada's Indigenous women are at greater risk because of continuous systemic lapses by police services as shown in a recent MMIWG research report. In the United States, they struggle with different state reactions to domestic violence. It impacts minority communities more and continues discussions about gun control laws related to intimate partner violence. These differences in regions underline that solutions should be relevant to specific contexts but also emphasize global collaboration and shared learning chances.

European Context

European nations show varied behaviors in handling femicide, spanning from complete prevention initiatives to insufficient laws. Usual difficulties involve misleading media depictions of violence towards women, biases within the judicial system, and constant blaming of victims' narratives. The distinct methods throughout this area illustrate different degrees of dedication towards stopping gender-based violence - some countries are ahead with creative solutions while other ones have a hard time even carrying out their current systems properly. This varied scenario underlines the continuous requirement for the sharing of knowledge within regions and the adoption of top practices.

Asia-Pacific Region

The place called Asia-Pacific has different problems happening there, like killing baby girls in some parts and "honor killings" in other parts. Now, they also have new worries about violence that uses technology to take advantage of victims. Africa and the Middle East hold difficult issues because their laws are different, there are areas with war or conflict situations, and people have old ways that keep changing; all these influence the safety of women. These places show how things related to culture faith/religion, and social life come together with big system problems creating unique types of violence against females that need proper solutions that understand local background but still not forget international standards set on human rights topic. The seriousness of these situations emphasizes the need for approaches to prevention and intervention that are sensitive to cultural nuances.

Global Patterns and Implications

Uniform trends are surfacing across different areas, underlining both mutual issues and possibilities for cooperative education. The evolving nature of technology is continuously influencing violence against women, introducing new types of abuse, and questioning the adequacy of current documentation along with prevention measures. Acknowledgement of intersecting aspects is on the rise, resulting in better comprehension regarding systemic weak points leading to focused strategies for preventing such instances. International collaboration is now more vital, with the sharing of information across borders and common best practices becoming key instruments in dealing with this worldwide problem. These advancements indicate that although regional situations differ greatly, there are shared factors in effective reactions that can be adjusted and applied through diverse cultural and legal structures.

Case Studies

The "Semih Çelik" Case

In October 2024, Türkiye was deeply shaken by the brutal murders of two 19-year-old women, Ayşenur Halil and İkbal Uzuner, committed by their peer, Semih Çelik, in Istanbul. Çelik, who had a history of psychiatric issues and prior hospitalizations, first killed Ayşenur in his home and then decapitated İkbal near the historic city walls in Edirnekapı. Following these heinous acts, he took his own life by jumping from the city walls.

Investigations revealed disturbing evidence in Semih Çelik's residence, including sketches depicting dismembered bodies and a video where he had previously threatened one of the victims. These murders ignited widespread protests across Türkiye, with activists condemning the government's inadequate efforts to combat violence against women and demanding stricter enforcement of protective laws.

The "Giulia Cecchettin" Case

In November 2023, 22-year-old university student Giulia Cecchettin was found murdered near a lake with multiple stab wounds, a week after she went missing. Her ex-boyfriend, Filippo Turetta, confessed to the killing and was sentenced to life in prison by a court in Venice in December 2024. This case shocked Italy and spurred a national conversation on violence against women. In 2024, 101 women in Italy were murdered, with more than half killed by a current or former partner.

The "María Belén Bernal" Case

In September 2022, lawyer María Belén Bernal disappeared after visiting her husband at the Gral. Alberto Enríquez Gallo Police Academy in Quito. Her body was found ten days later buried nearby. Her husband, a police officer, fled but was later apprehended and, in May 2023, sentenced to over 34 years in prison for femicide. This case sparked national outrage and debates in Ecuador's National Assembly, leading to the dismissal of several officials and calls for comprehensive reforms to address gender-based violence.

Important Note

While these cases represent some documented instances of femicide, many more go unreported or misclassified due to inadequate data collection systems. The United Nations reports that approximately 40% of female homicides lack sufficient contextual information to classify them properly as femicides. This highlights the critical need for improved documentation and reporting mechanisms globally.

Existing International Legal Frameworks and Policies

United Nations Frameworks

The United Nations (UN) is very important in forming global legal reactions to femicide. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which was accepted in 1979, makes it necessary for countries to stop discrimination and violence against women. Although not directly pointing out femicide, General Recommendation No. 35 (2017) emphasizes state obligations to prevent gender-based killings of women. The 1993 Declaration on the Eradication of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) also presents a foundation for legal action. It requests member countries to bring in laws that stop violence against women, like femicide.

Inter-American Human Rights System

(1994) The Convention of Belém do Pará, also known as the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, is a groundbreaking regional tool for tackling violence against women in Latin America. Many Latin American countries have adopted this framework in their internal laws, which has resulted in femicide-exclusive lawmaking in nations such as Mexico, Argentina, and Peru. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) has been very important for judging cases of femicide. It makes states responsible if they do not look properly or stop these crimes.

European Legal Frameworks

The Istanbul Convention (2011), belonging to the Council of Europe, is a complete legal document that deals with violence against women. This includes killing females based on gender. It makes it compulsory for countries that sign this convention to make gender-based violence an offense in law and guarantee the investigation and prosecution of those who commit such acts. However, this convention is no longer active. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has similarly judged cases where there were failures to safeguard women from violence. This has established key legal examples.

African and Asian Frameworks

In Africa, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) (2003) recognizes the right of women to be free from violence and calls on states to enact measures to eliminate such violence.
While Asia lacks a comprehensive regional treaty on violence against women, the work of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and national legal reforms increasingly address violence, though femicide-specific laws are still limited.

Questions to be Answered

- What are the primary causes and contributing factors of femicide in the Middle Eastern regions?
- How does the cultural, religious, and societal framework influence the perception and occurrence of femicide?
- How does femicide differ from other forms of gender-based violence, and why is it important to address it specifically?
- What legal measures currently exist in Middle Eastern countries to criminalize and prevent femicide?
- How can these legal systems be improved to provide better protection for women?
- What role does law enforcement play in the investigation and prosecution of femicide cases?
- What is there to gather from other regions that have successfully addressed femicide?
- How can international organizations and NGOs collaborate with Middle Eastern governments to combat femicide?
- How can educational initiatives help prevent femicide by challenging harmful gender stereotypes?
- What role do schools and educational campaigns play in addressing the root causes of gender-based violence?
- What support systems are in place for the families and survivors of femicide attempts?
- How can these support systems be improved to aid the rehabilitation and protection of affected women?
- How does combating femicide align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on gender equality?
- What long-term strategies can ensure that progress in combating femicide is sustainable?

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