

KFLMUN'26

*Organised by Kocaeli Science High
School*

UNWOMEN

Study Guide

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Letter from Secretary-General

Dear Participants, welcome to KFLMUN'26!

It is our pleasure to welcome you all to our conference. No matter your role in this conference, as the executive team, we wish you an amazing experience in our conference. As much as we hope to have a great time socializing, we also look forward to finding great solutions regarding the news that we all see everyday.

As we all know, the future does not look pleasant for our world. Even though we say the world wars are behind us, we still are struggling to find peace in the globe that we live in and it is sad to say that we are on the luckier side at the moment. That is why we want to raise awareness about these ongoing wars. We also hope to protect the people and also us, because who knows what's next?

In this conference, our goal is to turn our words and thoughts to actions for those who are less fortunate and for those that sacrifice their lives to help others. We will work as a team to support our friends, brothers and sisters who are in need of hope and help.

I think we know how important UNWOMEN is for women and children in need of shelter, food, hygiene products... As a woman myself, when i got suggested the idea of having UNWOMEN as a committee, I knew i needed to have it because speaking is the most powerful tool we have.

In the conference we will talk about women and children in need at the Gaza conflict which ,as we know, is still going on and many women are struggling to even meet basic hygiene, nutrition needs for themselves and their children. We will discuss how we can get them what they need, how to reach them and many more—which you can find further in the study guide.

We will also discuss gender equality, which will cover education, rights to choose and be elected in democratic elections and much more which you can also find further in the study guide.

We expect productive ideas from you, our fellow delegates, on both issues.

While we prepare for KFLMUN'26 as the executive team, your chairboard will give the information as the time ticks. And if you have any further questions, feel free to check our contact page or e-mail me through ecrenakbas@gmail.com . Feel free to ask anything that is on your mind, we are here for you!

Letter from the Chairboard

Dear Delegates,

First of all, I would like to welcome you all to this conference held at our school. I am Melike Malçık, an 11th-grade student at Kocaeli Science High School. I will also be with you at this conference as the chair of the UNWOMEN committee. Being with you at this conference as the chair of the UNWOMEN committee has excited me greatly, even while writing this working guide. Although the conference may seem to last only two and a half days from the outside, for me it was a process that began at the beginning of 9th grade and lasted two and a half years. Believing that every choice is a sacrifice, we dedicated ourselves to this work. You can be sure that being with you in the UNWOMEN committee will be an unforgettable memory for me.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the realization of this conference, from our Secretary General to our Director General and our Advisors. I offer my thanks to everyone who contributed to making this conference possible. However, I would especially like to express my sincere thanks to Zeynep Koçak, who supported me on this journey and served as my co-chair.

We are at KFLMUN'26!

There are two main topics we will be addressing at this conference. These two topics are:

- Meeting the Humanitarian Protection and Long-Term Recovery Needs of Women and Children in Gaza,
- Preventing and Eliminating Violence Against Women

You can find detailed information on the following pages of the study guide. In addition to outlining the topics, I would like to remind you of what is expected of the delegates attending this conference. We expect delegates to research general topics and agendas, focusing particularly on their own countries. You may be confused about where to look for information, you can consult the bibliography to find the websites we used while writing this guide. If you get stuck on a topic, we suggest you look at the "Questions to Consider" section to find some questions to help you prepare for the conference.

I hope you gain a lot of experience at this conference and, of course, have fun. I want to end this letter with a phrase my friends and I always use among ourselves: We are "independent, powerful, business women." Gentlemen, please don't misunderstand :) You will need to contact us before the conference, so here is our contact information:

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Key Terms

→ **Humanitarian Aid:** Humanitarian aid is material and logistic assistance, usually in the short-term, to people in need. Among the people in need are the homeless, refugees, and victims of natural disasters, wars, and famines. The primary objective of humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity.

→ **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** An internally displaced person (IDP) is someone who is forced to leave their home but who remains within their country's borders. They are often referred to as refugees, although they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee.

→ **Protection of Civilians :**The Protection of Civilians (POC) is a responsibility that includes all parts of a peacekeeping mission: civilian, police and military. In many cases, peacekeeping missions are authorized to use all necessary means, up to and including the use of deadly force, to prevent, deter or respond to threats of physical violence against civilians.

→ **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Gender-related violence or gender-based violence (GBV) refers to any kind of violence directed against people due to their gender or gender identification, culture may have a role to play, being lower in egalitarianism societies and higher, sexist (misogynistic and misandrist) societies.

→ **Child Protection:** Child protection (also called child welfare) is the safeguarding of children from violence, exploitation, abuse, abandonment, and neglect. It involves identifying signs of potential harm. This includes responding to allegations or suspicions of abuse, providing support and services to protect children, and holding those who have harmed them accountable.

→ **Humanitarian Corridors:** A humanitarian corridor is a type of temporary demilitarized zone intended to allow the safe transit of humanitarian aid in, and/or refugees out of a crisis region. Such a corridor can also be associated with a no-fly zone or no-drive zone.

→ **Reconstruction:**The medium- and long-term rebuilding and sustainable restoration of resilient critical infrastructures, services, housing, facilities and livelihoods required for the full functioning of a community or a society affected by a disaster, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and “build back better”, to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

→ **Recovery:**The restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and “build back better”, to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

→ **Post-Conflict Rehabilitation:** The task of rebuilding the nation and reconstructing social and physical infrastructure is critical for post-conflict re-construction and rehabilitation. The post-conflict period requires major health sector reforms and investments in education, investment with smooth flow of funds reaching to the grass root level.

→ **Violence Against Women (VAW) :**Violence against women (VAW) is any gender-based act of violence that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, or that affects their reproduction, whether in public or private life, including threats, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. This is a violation of human rights based on unequal power balances and gender inequality.

→ **Domestic Violence:** This type of violence can take many forms, including emotional, sexual and physical abuse, stalking, and threats of abuse. Domestic violence can happen to anyone. But it's most often directed toward women.

→ **Femicide:** Femicide or feminicide is the intentional murder that exclusively targets women or girls because of their gender or murder that disproportionately targets women or girls. It is often done as a method to control.

→ **Gender Equality:** Gender equality, also known as sexual equality, gender egalitarianism, or equality of the sexes, is the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making, and the state of valuing different behaviors, aspirations, and needs equally, also regardless of gender.

→ **Legal Protection Frameworks:** Legal protection frameworks are structured systems of laws, regulations, and treaties—spanning international, regional, and national levels—designed to uphold human rights, ensure security, and provide legal remedies. Key areas include human rights law, refugee law, and data protection, enforced through courts, international bodies, and specific legal instruments.

→ **Women's Empowerment:** Women's empowerment (or female empowerment) may be defined in several ways, including accepting women's viewpoints, making an effort to seek them and raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, equal status in society, better livelihood and training.

→ **Prevention Strategies:** Prevention strategies are proactive measures designed to reduce risks, prevent diseases, and promote health across populations. These strategies are categorized into primordial (preventing risk factors), primary (preventing disease onset), secondary (early detection), and tertiary (managing established conditions) levels.

What is UN Women?

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

As previously announced, we will be in with the UN Women committee at this conference. So here is UN Women and what we aim for in this committee.

UN Women is an intergovernmental organization which works on promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights all around the world. It plays an important role in supporting countries to eliminate discrimination and prevent violence against women while also ensuring equal opportunities in education, work, and also in leadership. The programmes of UN Women help governments create policies that empower women, provide support for victims of gender-based violence, and promote women's participation in peacebuilding and decision-making.

In conclusion, UN Women works to ensure that women and girls everywhere can live safely, equally, and with full opportunities in society.

→ TOPIC A: Addressing the Humanitarian Protection and Long-Term Recovery Needs of Women and Children in Gaza in the Context of Ongoing Conflict



The escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas has led to a humanitarian emergency in Gaza, where women and children are facing some of the harshest consequences. Their safety, dignity, and overall well-being are under constant threat, going far beyond the immediate dangers of violence.

Women and children are disproportionately affected in such conditions. Many women and children have been forced to flee their homes and were forced to live in overcrowded shelters where basic security is mostly and unfortunately uncertain. In these kinds of environments, the risk of gender-based violence, harassment, and exploitation increases significantly. Women are left completely and utterly alone to navigate throughout these dangers while also trying to protect their children without any reliable support of their own.

Also at the same time and place, the children are growing up surrounded by fear and instability along with inevitable loss of their loved ones. They also face the disruption of daily life and exposure to traumatic events that can have lasting psychological impacts and ruin their future

lives such as anxiety, severe depression, and emotional distress. They also have limited access to education and safe spaces because of the ongoing wars, and are more likely to be neglected or face exploitation. The emotional burden is heavy for everyone in Gaza. Women frequently carry the responsibility of maintaining some sense of stability within their families despite experiencing trauma themselves. Also the weakened protective systems means that many instances of abuse and violence might unfortunately go unreported or unresolved. Support networks and even basic safe services being unavailable is what leaving the most vulnerable without protection is. The situation in Gaza shows us the absolute urgent need to prioritize not only survival but also the safety, long-term recovery and protection of dignity for both women and children.

The women and children in Gaza are under constant threat of facing death and violence as their survival gets more and more uncertain day by day. We will dive deeper in this topics starting from:

a. Hunger:

Hunger was and still remains as one of the most urgent and devastating challenges facing women and children in Gaza. Many people are pushed into extreme levels of physical exhaustion and weakness due to severe lack of food and vitamins the human body needs to work as it should. The children are not able to grow properly without proper food they need. Also, for pregnant and breastfeeding women, hunger creates even greater risks than known, as much as it affects their strength and their health, it also affects their ability to provide nourishment for their children. And knowing this can lead to stunted growth and lasting developmental harm, it places a heavy emotional burden on mothers who may feel like they are not enough for their children. Hunger is a gateway to even greater humanitarian harm. It leaves women and children more vulnerable to illness and weakness.



b. Psychological Trauma and Mental Health:

The ongoing war in Gaza upsettingly has taken a heavy psychological toll on both women and children. Having to live under the constant bombardment and losing family members one by one unfortunately has left many struggling with severe depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. Also, in Gaza, the access to mental health care is extremely limited. There aren't enough trained professionals left and it is lamentable that awareness about mental health is indeed very low, and restrictions on humanitarian aid caused by the war make it even harder for people who are desperate to get help to get help. As a result, many children and women go without the support they need and have to live without getting the support they need which affects their life from within its roots. This psychological suffering people go through might also create long-term social problems, as children and young people who feel hopeless for their future are more vulnerable to exploitation by some groups.

Mental health support and professional care is critical for humanity in general. Helping women and children in Gaza heal emotionally is not just a matter of protection but it's also a vital step toward long-term recovery and hope for the future of Gaza.



TOPIC B: *Preventing and Eliminating Violence Against Women*

a. Root Causes:

As we all know, the roots of violence against women are rooted so deep within our society such as in gender inequality, power imbalances, and harmful social norms that harm both genders. Patriarchal attitudes that view women as inferior or as property must be addressed. Prevention requires transforming these

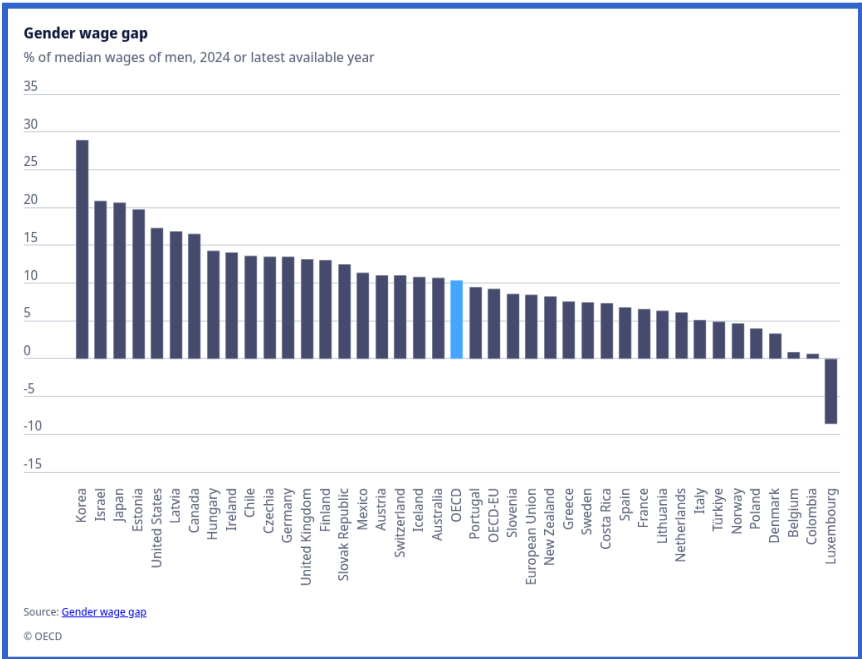


norms through education and awareness campaigns. Programs that engage men and boys as allies that teach respectful behavior and non-violent conflict resolution towards the opposite gender have been effective in some communities. UN Women emphasizes that prevention “requires political commitment, implementing laws that promote gender equality, investing in women’s organizations, and addressing the multiple drivers of violence”.



b. Economic Empowerment and Financial Dependency:

As we all know, the persistence of violence against women is also deeply connected to economic inequality and financial dependency, which often tend to trap women in abusive environments and relationships.

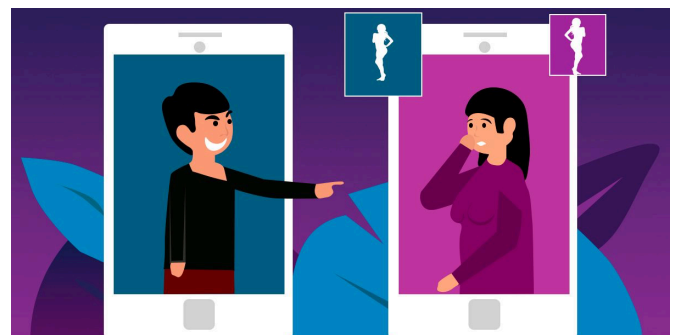


Women who lack stable income or control over any possible financial resources may sadly feel compelled to remain in violent relationships due to fear of poverty or social exclusion. These challenges are further intensified by discriminatory labor markets, and unequal pay. Therefore, prevention must also focus on strengthening women’s

authorities while also reaching to young people is crucially important in transforming deeply entrenched norms. Ultimately, eliminating such practices requires both structural change and sustained grassroots engagement.

d. Technology-Facilitated Violence and Online Safety:

In the contemporary digital landscape, violence against women has migrated from physical domains to online spaces as expected, thereby generating novel and intricate manifestations of abuse. Technology mediated violence includes cyber harassment, hate speech, online stalking, the non-consensual dissemination of images and AI generated deepfakes targeting women. These forms of violence are especially troubling due to their propensity to extend beyond the digital realm, resulting in tangible real-world repercussions, such as psychological distress, social isolation, and even physical violence. The United Nations has stated that “what happens online does not stay online with numerous instances escalating into offline abuse and threats. Combating digital violence necessitates a collaborative strategy, engaging governmental bodies, technology firms, and civil society organizations. Essential actions encompass fortifying cyber legislation, improving reporting and moderation mechanisms on social media platforms, fostering digital literacy initiatives, and establishing accountability for those who perpetrate such violence. In the absence of unified efforts digital violence poses a great threat to women thereby exacerbating pre-existing gender disparities in both virtual and physical environments.



Questions to be Addressed:

1. In what ways can societies transform harmful cultural practices such as child marriage and femicide while respecting cultural diversity?
2. How can governments reduce women's financial dependency on their partners and their vulnerability to domestic violence within their relationships?
3. How can governments address the root causes of violence against women such as gender inequality and harmful social norms?
4. How can legal frameworks be improved to ensure protection for victims, specifically in countries where these mechanisms fail to do so?
5. How can governments ensure women and children's safety within war zones?
6. How should international organizations such as UN Women should cooperate with countries to stop violence against women and children alike?
7. How can governments ensure women and children's safety within war zones?
8. What measures can be taken to combat technology-facilitated violence, including online harassment, cyberstalking, and non-consensual sharing of content?

UN WOMEN'S 2024 REGIONAL REACH

Powering change for all women and girls

AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

In 2024, UN Women powered progress towards gender equality for all women and girls in line with its Strategic Plan 2022–2025. Through deep collaboration with governments, civil society, the private sector and the UN system, UN Women delivered transformative results across the plan's seven outcomes and four impact areas. The latter comprise governance and participation in public life, women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, and women, peace and security, humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction. Read on to explore UN Women's reach in the Americas and the Caribbean region.



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