

Study Guide

Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee

Intimate Partner Violence

SOCHUM

Arianna Zuñiga



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Welcoming delegates to the 5th edition of CarMUN, I'm very proud to be part of this incredible team that makes possible such a great conference. My name is Arianna Zúñiga, I graduated 2 years ago from Carmelitas and I'm currently studying Industrial Engineering at "Universidad de Lima".

Throughout high school I was very keen on numbers, but I could not let go of the passion that public speaking gave to me. The opportunity that the Model UN gives, is unique, starting from the fact that you can actually have a voice and encourage other people to make a change, until making friendships that last for a lifetime.

I debated my last two years of high school, most of the time I participated on committees that discussed the participation of women in society. It is one of the topics that I'm most passionate about.

This time I will be watching you in a dynamic committee as it is in couples, remember that you are a team, and, in that way, you will give support to each other. I would love to see the equal distribution of duties that are so important in order to make an impression to your fellows. I will be accompanied by Fabrizio Solari, Hugo Blanco and Diego Cáceres as Co-Chairs.

Remember that the most important thing during these days of debate is to have fun! Enjoy what you are doing, and I promise it will be an amazing experience.

Hope to see you soon,

Arianna Zúñiga
ariannazuniga09@gmail.com

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the 5th edition of CarMUN2019!

My name is Fabrizzio Solari, Under-Secretary General of this edition for CarMUN, and it's a pleasure for me to co-direct this amazing committee with Arianna, Diego and Hugo. I am currently 16 years old and I am in my last high school year here in Carmelitas. I've been doing Model United Nations since I was 13 years old, back in 2016, which I consider one of my best decisions I have ever taken.

MUN is an activity that has helped me develop fundamental skills such as public speaking, negotiation and drafting, which improves my self-confidence. Model UN gave me the opportunity to travel to wonderful conference such as HMUN and ILMUNC where with hard work I get an honorable mention. Also, throughout my MUN career I have met incredible people that are nowadays are still my friends.

I consider that although debating involves research and hard work, it is also important that you have fun and meet new people. For this reason, I will do everything in my power to make this experience unforgettable and that we make SOCHUM the best committee of CarMUN2019. I hope to see that you have content in your speeches and that you realize a diplomatic debate and negotiations, in order to have the best solutions to solve this important issue. If you have any doubt about the conference or the committee, do not hesitate to write an email to Arianna or me, we will be pleased to clarify your doubts.

Hope to see you soon!

Fabrizzio Solari
fabrizziosolari@gmail.com

SOCIAL CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE (SOCHUM)

Intimate Partner Violence

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) deals with specific human rights issues, including women's rights and advancement of women, rights of refugees, protection of children's rights, among others. In this session of CarMUN, we will deal with Intimate Partner Violence.

The World Health Organization currently states that intimate partner is one of the most common forms of violence against women and includes “*physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and controlling behaviors*” by an intimate partner (1). Although this form of violence attacks men and women, it is this last group that is disproportionately affected. The statistics presented in current reports from the United Nations are just an estimated of known cases as most victims prefer to remain silent.



Figure 1: Facts and Figures presented by the United Nation in 2012

I. HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee also known as the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly was established in 1947 and it involves all 193 Member States.

The General Assembly allocates to the Third Committee, agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world that includes: Considering and making recommendations on cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security; discussing any questions relating to international peace and security and Initiating studies and commissions to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and international collaboration in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields.

The Committee also discusses questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racial discrimination and the right to self-determination. The Committee also

addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, ageing, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.(2)

II. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC:

Intimate partner violence (IPV), describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. It refers to behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviors (3). The parties affected are not just between partners at home, but their children. Most of the time, cases of IPV are not reported because of fear or threats. As stated before, the damage that it can cause goes beyond physical injuries, it could also affect mentally. Over 43 million women and 38 million men experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetime. By using a public health approach that addresses risk and protective factors for multiple types of violence, IPV can be prevented.

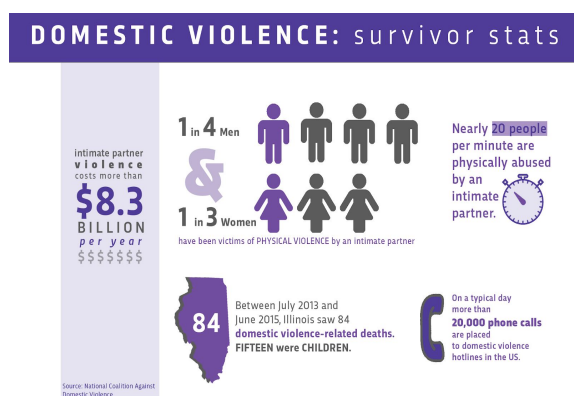


Figure 2: Statistics by The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

A. Forms of violence presented:

1. Domestic gun violence:

A submission, presented by the International Human Rights Clinic of Duke University, to U.N. Human Rights Committee in relation to the Human Rights situation of USA, highlighted domestic gun violence as a major issue relating to IPV. To support this idea, the submission presented the following statistics:

- Guns are the most frequently used weapon in instances of fatal intimate partner violence against women in the United States, it is estimated that 50 American women are shot to death by intimate partners, and many more are injured. Out of all these cases, 55 percent were killed with guns, 62 percent were murdered by male intimates. The number of females shot and killed by their husband or intimate acquaintance was nearly five times higher than the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined.
- The use of guns in intimate partner violence disproportionately affects women:

Between 2006 and 2014, an average of 760 Americans were killed with guns annually by their spouses, ex-spouses or dating partners, of which current wives and girlfriends comprised nearly 75 percent of all victims in fatal domestic shootings. Overall, women were the victims in

more than four out of every five of these types of incidents. (4)

2. Stalking:

Stalking is a pattern of harassing or threatening behaviors, it is considered as violence as it could cause a person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others or suffer substantial emotional distress. These are some examples of stalking behavior (5):

- Making unwanted phone calls.
- Sending unsolicited or unwanted letters or e-mails.
- Following or spying on the victim.
- Showing up at places without a legitimate reason.
- Waiting at places for the victim.
- Leaving unwanted items, presents, or flowers.
- Posting information or spreading rumors about the victim on the internet, in a public place, or by word of mouth

3. Physical and Sexual:

It is estimated that 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner (not including sexual harassment) at some point in their lives. However, some national studies show that up to 70 per cent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. Evidence shows that women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence report higher

rates of depression, having an abortion and acquiring HIV, compared to women who have not.

This lead to unintended pregnancies, induced abortions, gynecological problems, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The 2013 analysis found that women who had been physically or sexually abused were 1.5 times more likely to have a sexually transmitted infection and, in some regions, HIV, compared to women who had not experienced partner violence. They are also twice as likely to have an abortion.(6) These numbers are just an estimated of known cases, as most times women prefer to remain silent.



Figure 3: "Orange Day". A day to take action to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls.

B. Causes:

Relationships full of conflict, and especially those in which conflicts occur about finances, jealousy, and women's gender role transgressions are more violent than peaceful relationships. Heavy alcohol consumption also increases the risk of violence. Women who are more empowered educationally, economically, and socially are most protected, but below this high level the relation between

empowerment and risk of violence is non-linear. Violence is frequently used to resolve a crisis of male identity, at times caused by poverty or an inability to control women. Risk of violence is greatest in societies where the use of violence in many situations is a socially-accepted norm. Primary preventive interventions should focus on improving the status of women and reducing norms of violence, poverty, and alcohol consumption.

C. Consequences:

1. Injury and health:

The physical damage resulting from IPV can include: bruises and welts; lacerations and abrasions; abdominal or thoracic injuries; fractures and broken bones or teeth; sight and hearing damage; head injury; attempted strangulation; and back and neck injury. However, in addition to injury, and possibly far more common, are ailments that often have no identifiable medical cause, or are difficult to diagnose. These are sometimes referred to as ‘functional disorders’ or ‘stress-related conditions’, and include irritable bowel syndrome/ gastrointestinal symptoms, fibromyalgia, various chronic pain syndromes and exacerbation of asthma.

2. Mental health:

Women who are abused by their partners suffer more depression, anxiety and phobias than non-abused women, according to studies in Australia, Nicaragua, Pakistan and the United States. Research similarly suggests that women

abused by their partners are at heightened risk for suicide and suicide attempts.

3. Suicide:

The 2011 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that over 10 million women and men in the United States experience physical abuse by a current or former intimate partner each year. Although women comprise most victims, children, men, or elders also may become targets. Female victims with a chronic illness or disability who experience intimate partner violence have an increased risk of threatening or attempting suicide. Women who undergo such abuse—particularly sexual—may exhibit suicidal ideation.

4. Violence during pregnancy:

Women and girls exposed to violence experience sexual and reproductive health problems, including unwanted pregnancies, adverse maternal and newborn health outcomes, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV infection, and gynecological problems. Intimate partner violence against women often persists or starts during pregnancy, leading to miscarriage, stillbirths, premature birth and low birth-weight babies

5. Effects on children:

Children exposed to Intimate Partner Violence are also at increased risk for physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect. In extreme cases, children face acute harm and even death, with up to

20% of filicide (especially paternal) cases involving a history of domestic violence; children experience significant loss and harm in the context of interparental domestic homicide.

The co-occurrence of exposure to IPV and other types of child maltreatment is high: 60% to 75% of families with abused women have children who are also abused. These children are more likely to have subsequent problems parenting and to mistreat their own children.

These negative effects may continue into adulthood and become part of an intergenerational cycle of violence. In addition, children exposed to IPV are more likely to experience violent dating and intimate relationships as adults (either as victims or perpetrators).

III. CURRENT SITUATION

Gun violence is constantly presented as the main cause of intimate partner violence. Cases and statistics emerge each year due to the lack of security and regulations needed to provide safety that is not guaranteed to have even at home.

In the United States, gun violence is a human rights crisis as the government is currently failing to adequately regulate the purchase, possession and use of firearms by private actors. Amnesty International developed a clear set of criteria for assessing whether or not states have met their obligations to protect human rights as it affects not only physically but also causing traumatic

feelings to the parties involved, including the rights to life and security of person, in the context of gun violence by private individuals in non-conflict settings. It is of importance to highlight the fact that The United States has not ratified any treaties that specifically address domestic violence or violence against women, although it is a party to the ICCPR, which guarantees the rights to life and security of the person. (7)

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some 116,000 people were shot and injured by firearms in 2016. This means that around 300 people were shot every day and survived at least long enough to get to the hospital. For many gunshot survivors, the mental, physical, emotional, familial, and financial consequences of their injuries shape their lives, irrevocably. (8)

IV. PAST INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS:

A. Human Rights obligations related to Intimate Partner Violence:

As it is repeatedly said during this century, “Women’s and girls’ rights are human rights.” The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states the right to live free from violence, slavery, and discrimination; to be educated; to own property; to vote; and to earn a fair and equal wage. These rights apply to both genders, without any difference. In that way, protecting women’s and girls’ rights must be embedded in national law and policy firmly anchored in international human rights standards.

B. Treaties related to Intimate Partner Violence:

1. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women:

In 1963, efforts to consolidate standards on women's rights led the UN General Assembly to request the Commission to draft a Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which the Assembly ultimately adopted in 1967. In consequence, women would be legally supported, as the main objective was to prevent and eradicate discrimination despite gender. (11)

2. Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Pará):

Adopted in 1994, defines violence against women, establishes that women have the right to live a life free of violence and that violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

3. Istanbul Convention:

The Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on 7 April 2011. It was opened for signature on 11 May 2011 on the occasion of the 121st Session of the Committee of Ministers in Istanbul. The main objective is to involve all member states to address

the issue regarding violence against women, in all of its forms. If violence is committed, the state must take responsibility to take action against the aggressor. (10)

C. Actions taken by the United Nations and other international organisms:

1. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women:

Proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, this treaty helps in a totally effective way towards women who can or have been violated, physically, sexually and psychologically, in the world.

Article 2 affirms: *"Violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following: (a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation."* (9)

2. The Spotlight Initiative:

Also, the most recent campaign launched by the United Nations is The Spotlight Initiative that responds to all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human

beings and sexual and economic (labor) exploitation. (12)

3. The World Health Organization's Resolution of the Sixty-Ninth World Health Assembly:

The World Health Organization's Resolution of the Sixty-Ninth World Health Assembly (May 2016) is a global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system within a national multi sectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children.

V. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

A. In the workplace:

Leverage the workplace as an engine of positive social change. The workplace can be a powerful space to shape attitudes and behaviors, as well as to create positive role models. Workers – men and women – will be less willing to accept violence at home and in their communities if they work in a respectful environment. (13)

B. Media Campaigns to spread awareness:

Critics suggest that print and broadcast media often fail to challenge, and even perpetuate, the inequities and patterns of human interaction that contribute to domestic violence. The print and broadcast reach a wide audience and are popular. They can promote public dialogue and can serve as a catalyst for

change if their messages combat negative images and promote constructive alternatives. Also, companies can promote positive concepts of masculinity through campaigns or design products to provide direct support to women who seek help.

C. Education:

As researchers explore the multi-faceted causes of intimate partner violence, more information is becoming available to guide efforts to prevent violence. Many experts see education as the key preventive tool. Education can expose the direct and underlying causes which contribute to IPV. This can help build an understanding of the impact and consequences of violence and promote non-violent alternatives and lifestyles.

VI. BLOCK POSITIONS:

A. Middle East and North Africa:

Men who witnessed their fathers using violence against their mothers, and men who have experienced some form of violence at home as children, were significantly more likely to report perpetrating intimate partner violence in their adult relationships (14).

B. East Asia and Pacific:

For most girls in the Asia-Pacific, gender inequality starts early in life, with limited access to education in many countries, and socio-cultural norms that underpin son preference, child marriage, and various forms of gender-based violence. A ground-breaking study on

men's use of violence in the Asia-Pacific, led by the UN joint programme, Partners for Prevention (P4P), found that overall nearly one in two men reported using physical or sexual violence against a female partner, ranging from 26% to 80% across sites. The key recommendations of the Study included the need to change social norms related to the acceptability of violence and the subordination of women; promotion of non-violent masculinities; increased efforts to work with young boys to address early age sexual violence perpetration; and promotion of healthy sexuality for men to address male sexual entitlement, among others. (15)

C. Europe:

One in 10 women in the European Union report having experienced cyber-harassment since the age of 15 (including having received unwanted, offensive sexually explicit emails or SMS messages, or offensive, inappropriate advances on social networking sites). The risk is highest among young women between 18 and 29 years of age. (16)

D. Latin America and Caribbean:

The process for making domestic violence a relevant policy public issue in the Latin America Region has been strongly influenced by the activism of feminist and human rights organizations arguing that violence against women is not a private and domestic issue but a political, social and human rights problem. Domestic violence in the region is closely connected to the issue of poverty and a

lack of full 'citizenship' for women, notably indigenous women. (17)

E. North America:

On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States (18). The cost of intimate partner violence in the US alone exceeds \$5.8 billion per year: \$4.1 billion is for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion.

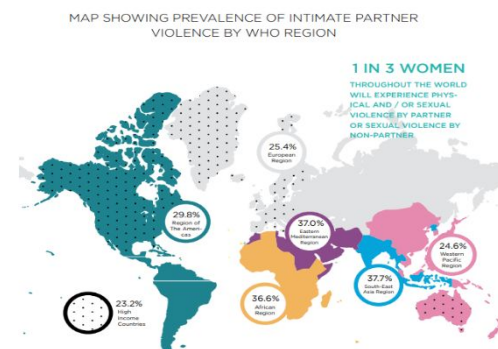


Figure 4: Facts and Figures presented by WHO Regional

VII. QARMAS:

For a Resolution to be accepted, it has, at its minimum, to deal with the following issues:

1. In what ways would it be most effective to spread awareness, recognizing that the internet is not within everyone's reach?

2. Would education be one of the keys to stop partner violence? If so, what measures should be taken?
3. In what ways can NGOs be helpful to tackle this issue? Would it be a long or short-term solution?
4. What measures would be taken when children are part of the affected parties?
5. Would it be necessary to have a call line center for emergency cases? What measures could improve the efficiency of it?

VIII. CONFERENCE PREPARATION:

A. Suggestions for further research:

Remember to look for statistics and facts to support each solution, in order to get that information, visit UN websites that will provide PDF's with each country's position regarding this topic.

B. Committee expectations:

The committee should be very dynamic as it is a topic that englobes many aspects, taking that into account, try not to be repetitive with your ideas and go beyond solutions that are commonly expected. Working as a team will bring better outcomes. Do not hesitate to raise up your placard, it is your time to shine!

C. Position Paper:

Each delegation must turn in a position paper before the start of the conference to ariannazuniga09@gmail.com. The purpose of a position paper is to give each delegation the chance to summarize its

understanding of the issue at hand, to delineate a nation's stance on the issue, and to propose possible solutions that could be debated in committee. When writing your position papers, there is a simple format that you should stick to; it will make it easier for you to write and for us to read:

Header: This section should outline the delegates or delegates' committee, topic, country, name and school.

First paragraph: Discussion of the problem at hand and of national policies towards the issue. Delegates should include a substantial amount of information and analysis on the problem at hand, its causes, implications and consequences at the global and, more importantly, the national level. This section should answer questions like what has your country done towards this issue? Have they implemented any laws, national initiatives, measures? Where they effective? How? It is important to show statistics because they show the reality of your country.

Second paragraph: Discussion of international past actions. This section should include the most relevant past actions taken by the UN, international organizations or other countries regarding the issue and whether their nation has supported them. Delegates should also analyze their successes and shortcomings. This section should answer questions like which resolutions have my country supported? How have they been crucial in the matter to be discussed?

Third paragraph: Discussion of solutions. This is the most critical part of the position paper and should be the lengthiest and most detailed. Delegates should focus on the most impactful solutions they will propose in committee and detail how they will be implemented and funded. Delegates could also suggest how they would plan to build support for their solutions in committee. In this part, questions to be answered could be what should we propose? When and where? How is it going to work? Who will oversee the results?

When writing, make sure to use the third person if representing a nation, and aim to search for substantial amount of new information instead of repeating what is outlined in the background guide. Please note that delegates should reference all sources used in their position papers and that plagiarism will not be tolerated. All position papers should be written in Times New Roman 11-point font, single-spaced, and no more than one page in length.

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