



Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

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CSW is the United Nations organization dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. As a global advocate for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress towards improving the lives of women and to respond to the needs they face around the world.

What Is the Role of CSW?

The Commission on the Status of Women supports United Nations Member States in setting international standards to achieve gender equality and works with governments and civil society to create the laws, policies, programs and services needed to ensure that the standards are implemented. standards effectively and in the real benefit of women and girls around the world.

It works globally to make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls, and promotes women's equal participation in all areas of life. The Entity focuses on five priority areas:

- increasing the leadership and participation of women;
- end violence against women;
- involve women in all aspects of peace and security processes;
- improve the economic empowerment of women;
- and make gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting.

Likewise, CSW coordinates and promotes the work of the United Nations system in pursuit of gender equality and in all debates and agreements related to the 2030 Agenda. The Entity works to achieve a more inclusive world with gender equality as a fundamental element of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Topic A: Decriminalizing Sex Work and Prostitution

There are five major legal-political models that regulate sex work: full criminalization, partial criminalization, the Nordic alternative, legalization, and full decriminalization.

First of all, the sex market is profoundly sexist: there is a disparity in power between sex workers -mostly women-and clients -overwhelmingly men-, this does not imply, however, that sex work is, for definition, "rape" or "patriarchal exploitation", as suggested by much of the abolitionist and prison feminists. To paraphrase Martha Nussbaum (1998), under capitalism, all wage workers "sell" their body parts for money.

What differentiates sex work from other types of work is that - secondly - it is subject to stigmatization. The word "prostitute" comes from the Latin *putida*, which means putrefaction and bad smell. The sale of sexual services is assumed to be a moral perversion, because sex -and above all, the bodies that consume it- is too "special" to put a price on it. Hence the bodies of sex workers are symbolized through references to their 'overuse', venereal disease infestation and lack of a soul, or in modern parlance, lack of dignity.

What is surprisingly often ignored is that -thirdly- sex workers are in this market because they need money. Faced with the looming threat of poverty, the impasse of a precarious job, or simply as a means of staying afloat, sex work remains an available option at all times. The problem is that the sex worker's economic imperative is materially different from the client's interest in having sex. Hence, under the models that are not decriminalization, sex workers must take more risks in order to end the day with the money they need.

All this leads to the fourth assumption, which is that, *under the same legal guarantees*, sex work is not more patriarchal, nor more violent, nor more sexist than unpaid domestic work or any other paid work. Above all, sex workers do not have to prove to anyone that they like their work or that it helps them to fulfill themselves as people. In other words, no one should bear the burden of proving that their work is valuable in order to access employment rights.

Guide questions:

- *How can this organization contribute to the well-being of women who make a living from sex work?*
- *What is your country doing to solve this problem?*
- *What can your delegation contribute to improve their lifestyle?*
- *How to ensure the protection of human rights of women whose livelihood comes from prostitution?*

Topic B: Safeguarding women in Latin America from Femicide and Female Trafficking

The escalation of violent homicides of women committed by men in the last two decades in Latin America has forced many countries in the region to classify the crime of gender-based homicide as “feminicide” (or “femicide”). Its objective was to raise awareness and thus reduce the number of femicides committed each year; however, although the rate of femicide decreased in many countries, it increased again in the following years. In this study, a data set on the rate of femicide between 2000 and 2014 has been generated and an analysis of the influencing factors is offered. It is verified that the criminalization (or characterization) of femicide is not significant to predict the rate of femicide; instead, low levels of the rule of law and the lack of representation of women in decision-making bodies, such as national parliaments, appear as the most relevant factors to explain the variation in trends in femicides.

In 2018, almost 8 out of 10 detected victims of trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean were girls and women, while in South America, 7 out of 10 victims were women, according to data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Human trafficking, beyond the offense defined by each State, refers to a form of exploitation of persons, regardless of the exploitative purpose, be it sexual, labor, begging, organ removal, forced marriage, or surrogate motherhood, among others. This is a dramatic reality in our region that affects migrant women in particular.

When we talk about trafficking in women, it is important to understand that precarious relationships lead to contexts of vulnerability. The unequal relationships in which women live do not allow them to fully enjoy their rights, facilitate their treatment as objects, and place them in conditions of submission and oppression, as subjects without capabilities and knowledge.

Guide questions:

- *How can this organization contribute to the welfare of refugees in this conflict?*
- *What is your country doing to solve this problem?*
- *What measures does your country take against femicides?*
- *How are human trafficking cases handled in your country?*