COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

ECOSOC

Issue description:

Violence against women and children could include sexual and physical violence but also abuse, exploitations and other forms of violence. It can occur everywhere. The problems remain gigantic. The WHO latest estimates indicate that 1-3 women and children have experienced violence. UNICEF estimates hat 370 million girls have experienced sexual assault before the age of 18.

Why has the issue not been resolved:

This issue is difficult to eliminate since it is connected to a lot of things. These include:

- Law: women underreport, thinking they won't be believed or experience backlash, or weak legal systems
- Social norms: Gender inequality and acceptance of this can make prevention more difficult
- Economic dependence: may depend on their assaulters. (wife, husband for example)
- Some countries do not offer any support such as shelter, healthcare and phycological support.
- Conflict: wars or other conflicts may increase vulnerability to this
- Digital violence: technology has created a new branch of violence

Important stances on the issues:

Un women/human rights organisations: urge for gender equality and comprehensive legislation

Countries affected by violence: may want international assistance

Countries with different legal, religious systems: may cause disagreements if the rules implied goes against their norms.

What organisation are involved and what has been achieved:

Un women: works on survivor services, legislation and prevention plans. Supports many countries

WHO: collects data and support healthcare systems in treating victims

UNICEF: particularity focusses on child protection and support for children abused

UNFPA: works on gender-based violence