ACADEMIC GUIDE

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Committee:

UN Women

UN Women

Junior

English

Topic A: Reintegration of ex-guerrilla women into society

Topic B: Cyberviolence against women

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Welcoming Letter

To our dear delegates,

MMUN has been a model that has brought members of this chair both happy and formative memories. Therefore, we extend to you a warm welcome to this committee, which we are proud to assist and cooperate with its content.

By being a junior committee, it is, but an introduction to the wonders contained in the United Nations models. For that reason, it will be our priority that when you come out of it, you fall as much in love with the conferences as we did in the first chapters of this story.

In this way, we expect you to make an effort and try to do your best. We also want you to keep in mind that this experience is not only about winning prizes, but also about meeting new people and becoming a better version of yourselves. To end with, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

On behalf of,

Sara Aguirre and Sara Barbosa

Introduction to the commission

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women was created in 2010 thanks to the General Assembly, which established it with the purpose of promoting female empowerment, as well as treating gender equality. That is why it is responsible for ensuring that facilities and requirements for improving the status of women are applied in

other United Nations organizations. In addition, it supervises programs such as the Commission on the Status of Women in the implementation of new standards and norm proposals (Sundholm, 2018).

Bearing in mind the progress it has made, it has been concluded that advancing gender equality will be beneficial regarding productivity and economic growth, however, women across the world are victims of discrimination and violence. UN WOMEN wants to raise women's voices and work hard by **interacting in political negotiations, designing original policies, and creating new programs** that help this issue find its solution (About UN Women, n.d.).

Topic Summary

Topic A:

The reintegration of ex-guerrilla women into society is quite a controversial topic, as they face many challenges: transitioning from a highly militarized environment to a civilian life may leave them struggling to adapt to new roles, expectations, and responsibilities: they face few economic opportunities, they may need vocational training or education, making it even harder to re-enter the workforce, the need for psychological treatment and lastly, community acceptance. After being involved in armed groups or any type of damaging or violent event they are considered untrustworthy, corrupt, and hateful which leads them to be reintegrated. The ideal reintegration of these women would promote peace-building and reconciliation, post-conflict reconstruction, and community development that can heal divisions, build trust, and hopefully promote gender empowerment.

Topic B:

Cyberbullying has been a global issue since the rise of social media. It consists of the different types of abuse among digital content or messages to hurt a specific subject. Bearing in mind what has been said, this type of humiliation has been used to harass women across the internet. Studies such as statistical research made by the Daily magazine have stated that 32% of young women are most likely to suffer from online abuse. This is because of the groups

of audience that seem to be connected online the most, which are teenagers and young adults (Government of Canada, Statistics Canada, 2023). This is an extremely significant issue, because of its widespread and lasting impact on individuals, especially when it comes to women.

Cyberbullying is a relevant and significant issue because it has widespread and lasting impacts on individuals, and when it comes to women, it often takes on specific forms that can exacerbate the negative consequences. Here are several reasons why cyberbullying is relevant and how it affects women in particular:
sexist remarks, objectification, and threats of violence. This can contribute to an environment that fosters discrimination and inequality.

3. **Impact on Mental Health**: The psychological impact of cyberbullying can be severe for women. Constant harassment and abuse online can lead to stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. This can affect not only the individual's well-being but also their ability to engage in online spaces freely.

4. **Online Violence and Threats**: Women may face not only verbal abuse but also online violence, including threats of physical harm or sexual violence. Such threats can be deeply traumatizing and create a real sense of fear and vulnerability.

5. **Reputation Damage and Professional Consequences**: Cyberbullying can extend beyond personal life and impact professional reputations. Women may face character assassination, false rumors, and damage to their careers. This can have long-term consequences on their livelihoods and opportunities.

6. **Normalization of Harmful Behavior**: The prevalence of cyberbullying contributes to the normalization of harmful behavior online. This can perpetuate a culture where abusive language and actions are tolerated, making it challenging to create a safe and inclusive digital environment.

7. **Barriers to Participation**: Women may be discouraged from participating in online spaces due to the fear of cyberbullying. This creates a gender-based digital divide and limits women's opportunities for socializing, networking, and accessing information online.

8. **Legal and Policy Gaps**: The legal framework and policies addressing cyberbullying and online harassment are often lagging. This can make it difficult for women to seek justice or protection from such abuse.

9. **Impact on Relationships**: Cyberbullying can strain personal relationships, as individuals may become targets or bystanders. Women may face challenges in maintaining healthy relationships when subjected to online abuse.

10. **Intersectionality**: Women from marginalized groups may experience cyberbullying intersected with other forms of discrimination, such as racism, homophobia, or transphobia, leading to compounded negative effects.

Addressing cyberbullying against women requires a multifaceted approach, including legal measures, education, online community moderation, and a cultural shift towards promoting respectful and inclusive online spaces.

TOPIC A:

Introduction to the topic:

In countries like Colombia, there are armed groups called guerrillas that seek to replace institutions violently. Women have also been linked to these groups (approximately 25%), who change their usual way of life due to very difficult and hostile conditions. For example, they live in camps, cook on wood stoves, wear military uniforms, learn to use weapons at a very early age, do not have stable partners, etc.

Former guerrillas face unique and varied challenges during their reintegration into society. Their past involvement in armed conflict, often due to coercion or limited options, leaves them with deep emotional scars and subjects them to social stigmatization and discrimination.

These women face social, economic, and psychological obstacles as they have not received education or professional training, which makes them economically vulnerable. Additionally, the absence of accessible healthcare further complicates their path to recovery and well-being.

This issue has international relevance, as it intersects with human rights and gender equality concerns. The successful reintegration of former guerrillas is essential for post-conflict reconciliation and peace building. By providing education, vocational training, and healthcare, we not only support these women in rebuilding their lives, but we also contribute to a more inclusive, equal, and peaceful global reality.

Key Concepts:

Gender equality: the state in which access to rights or opportunities is unaffected by gender (United Way of the National Capital Area, 2023).

Rehabilitation: the action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness. (_Rehabilitation Definition - Google Search_, s. f.)

Resilience: the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness (_Resilience - Google Search_, s. f.)

Resentment: bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly (_Resentment - Google Search_, s. f.).

Armed conflict: when there is fighting between states or when there is prolonged armed violence between government authorities and organized armed groups (_Armed Conflict Definition - Google Search_, s. f.)

Historical Context

Since the 1960s, an armed conflict has existed in Colombia that has pitted the state armed forces against illegal armed groups called guerrillas. The most important have been the FARC, ELN, EPL and M-19 guerrillas. Since the 1970s, efforts have been made to overcome the armed conflict through peace agreements.

To sign peace with a guerrilla group, the state must guarantee their reintegration into society under reasonable conditions. Several peace agreements have existed since the 1980s, such as the one signed with the M-19 which led to the change of the political constitution in 1991. In 2016, another important peace agreement was signed with the FARC, and currently Negotiations are underway with other armed groups in search of another peace agreement.

Current Situation:

The current situation of reintegration of former guerrilla women into society is a complex and continuous process. While progress has been made, challenges still exist. Efforts are underway to provide comprehensive support, including access to education, vocational training, and economic opportunities.

Programs also address the unique needs of these women, such as trauma healing and psychosocial support. However, social stigma and discrimination can affect their successful reintegration. It is crucial to campaign for gender equality and the empowerment of these women. By addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting inclusion, we can create a more conducive environment for their reintegration, peace, and social cohesion.

Currently, there are cases of former guerrilla women who have completed professional studies, have reached high positions in both private companies and the public sector, or have chosen to defend their ideas in active politics but without the use of weapons. However, the majority face great difficulties in reestablishing their family nucleus, joining the world of work, and avoiding the segregation that their past generates for them. Finally, the slow processes of implementation of the agreements or their obstruction by some sectors of society

or by the state itself have prevented the strategies from becoming effective and in many cases have led to the reincorporation of many women into the guerrilla ranks.

Relevant approaches: The United Nations (UN), its Security Council, and all international human rights organizations are committed to promoting the peaceful resolution of conflicts and finding effective formulas for reconciliation. One of the most delicate aspects in this sense has to do with the reincorporation of former guerrillas, especially women. The specific circumstances faced by these women and the strategies to achieve successful reintegration should be the subject of the delegations' discussions and approaches. It will be important to know documented cases, life stories, and statistics that allow identifying the achievements and failures of the implemented strategies. It will also be important to know the arguments of the delegations that oppose reintegration or the strategies implemented.

Block Positions: Taking into consideration the different history and experiences of each delegation's assigned posture, their approaches must be relevant while still achieving progress.

QARMAS:

- How do vocational training and educational opportunities affect ex-guerrilla women and what is its effect in society itself?
- How would it be possible to confront the post-reintegration discrimination of ex-guerrillera women?
- What strategies could be adopted to invite employers to help these women re-enter the workforce more easily?
- How could the government provide successful healthcare (including mental health) programs and campaigns for them?
- ¿Has the difficulty of rebuilding the family nucleus for former guerrillas been taken into account?

Useful links:

UN Women – Headquarters. (2022c, October 21). The reintegration of former guerrilla female

fighters, a key piece in the implementation of the Peace Agreement in

Colombiahttps://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/video/2022/10/the-reintegration-of-

former-guerrilla-female-fighters-a-key-piece-in-the-implementation-of-the-peace-

agreement-in-colombia[19.10.23]

La desmovilización de las mujeres excombatientes en Colombia. (n.d.-b). *RMF*.

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library/publications/2010/1/getting-it-right-doing-it-right-gender-and-disarmament-

demobilization-and-reintegration[19.10.23]

Naciones Unidas Mantenimiento De La Paz. (n.d.).*Desarme, desmovilización y*

reintegración.Paz.https://peacekeeping.un.org/es/disarmament-demobilization-and-

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2023, from https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/video/2022/10/the-reintegration-of-
former-guerrilla-female-fighters-a-key-piece-in-the-implementation-of-the-peace-
agreement-in-colombia

La desmovilización de las mujeres excombatientes en Colombia. Rua.Ua.Es. Retrieved August 14, 2023, from https://rua.ua.es/dspace/bitstream/10045/3082/1/58-59.pdf

Gender and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. UN Women – Headquarters. Retrieved August 14, 2023, from https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2010/1/getting-it-right-doing-it-right-gender-and-disarmament-demobilization-and-reintegration

Desarme, desmovilización y reintegración. Naciones Unidas Mantenimiento de la paz. Retrieved August 14, 2023, from https://peacekeeping.un.org/es/disarmament-demobilization-

TOPIC B: Cyber Violence against women

Introduction to the topic

Before understanding the topic itself, it is pivotal to emphasize the different types of harassment women go through day by day. It can be divided into two categories, sexual abuse and gender-based abuse. Speaking of gender-based abuse, they are usually treated with threats and attacks based on stereotypes.
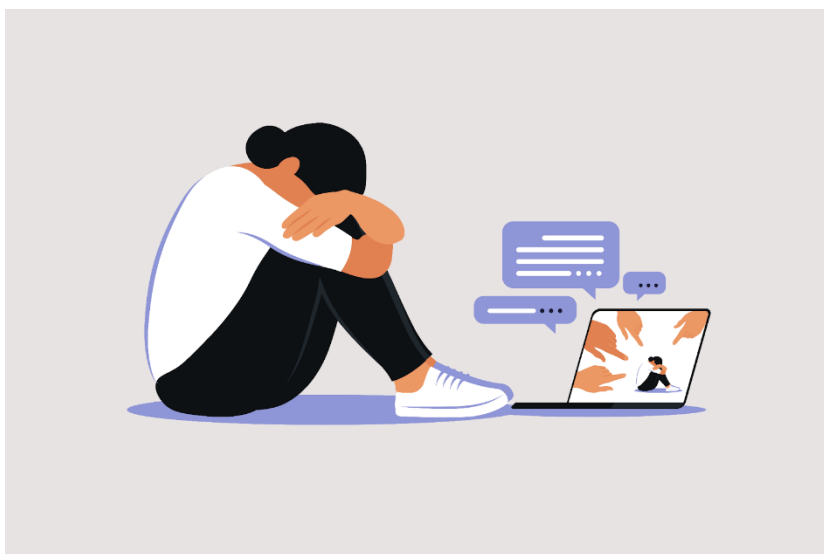
Image 1. Online Female Harassment

As technology has become more popular, new types of harassment have been implemented by these means for the last 10 years. Cases of online harassment are common because the harasser often has an anonymous identity, taking advantage of the victim, who is often the one who has less power. This causes psychological consequences for the victim, who tends to suffer from depression, anxiety, and stress (Herry & Mulvey, 2022).

Of this, there are quite a few types of cyberbullying, of which quite a few have to do with sexual revenge. Among these are the leaking of videos for erotic purposes, threats of rape, or even murder. All this causes fear through a small device that fits in the pocket of an ordinary citizen (Cyberviolence Against Women - Cyberviolence - www.coe.int, n.d.).

Key Concepts

Cyberbullying/noun: "Sending, publishing, or disseminating malicious, defamatory, or mean content about another person (Stop bullying, n.d)."

Gender-based violence/noun: "Violence against a person because of that person's gender is referred to as gender-based violence, as is violence that disproportionately affects people of a particular gender" (What Is Gender-based Violence?, n.d.).

Sextortion/verb: "The threat of sending explicit images without consent" (Sextortion: It's More Common Than You Think, n.d.).

Historical Context

Cyberbullying became a problem in the 1990s because of the purchase and access to computers. This type of harassment usually began in schools, where teenagers and children became the main target, with classmates or even strangers as the abusers; but it should also be emphasized that anyone can be a victim of this heinous action. As mentioned before, people are harassed online by using the internet as a way of humiliation and a form of spreading rumors that can be seen by an insane amount of viewers.

Speaking of the victims' reactions to not only this but other types of bullying, a very famous example is the atrocious Columbine school shooting, with its authors, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, who are responsible for the deaths of 12 students. Witnesses say that these two were targeted and being picked on, daily. Since this time, laws have been designed to prioritize the psychological treatment for bullying victims (*CyberBullying Facts and Tips | Parent Resource*, 2022). Taking into account the information described above, the table suggests the following question: How do the different types of cyber or school bullying affect the psycho-active state of those affected?

To introduce the cyber harassment that women suffer, it should be clear that in the past, the internet was considered under the "male domain" since men were the ones who had more access to computers. Therefore, that's why there were not so many victims of this online abuse who were women. As the years went by, women were abused in a new way that can be referred to as sextortion, which is related to threats involving explicit images and their respective leakage to an audience familiar to the victim (Agadzhanova, 2022).

This is why these women come out with psychological problems, including mental health illnesses that put their emotional stability at risk. Therefore, it is a serious crime, which to put it concretely, can completely impact the life of a person regardless of their economic status, culture, and other characteristics (*What Is Sextortion?*, 2021).

Current Situation

Unlike in the past, nowadays, a woman is more likely to be assaulted with online abuse. Even though digital platforms can be interpreted as a way of free expression, it still has its bad side. Cyberviolence, in the majority of its cases, has the abusers with anonymous identities, which guarantees they have more power than the victim in the situation.

Bearing in mind sextortion cases, it has been the biggest cybernetic abuse concern, and the most dangerous one, since it is formed by blackmailing and coercion to involve the victim with sexual activity. Most of its cases were during the pandemic. Most affected got involved

in this situation because hackers gained access to their webcams, and threatened to upload unwanted pictures to pornography sites. Among women, teenagers and young adults are more likely to suffer from this threat than other age groups. Down below, it can be seen the most common apps where women are abused online.
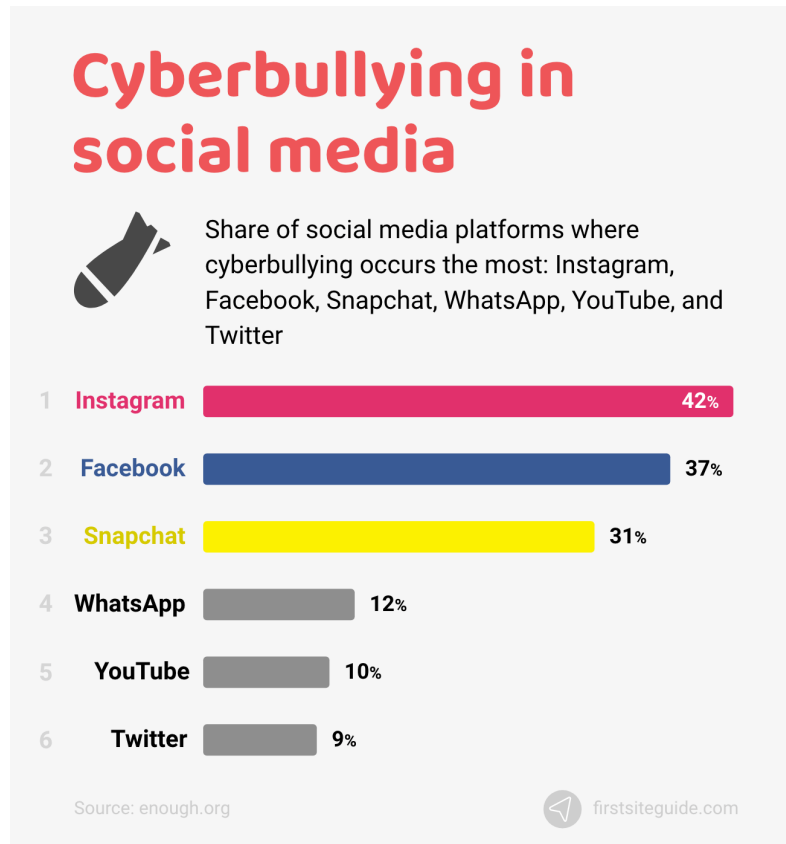

Image 2: Cyberbullying in social media

Djuraskovic, O. (2023). Cyberbullying Statistics, Facts, and Trends (2023) with Charts. FirstSiteGuide. https://firstsiteguide.com/cyberbullying-stats/

Countries such as the United States have created laws against this type of online behavior, for example, section 203 of the Communication Decency Act, which states the following: "no provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider"(*What You Should Know About Section 230, the Rule That Shaped Today's Internet*, 2023); however, these are not that effective because of the psychological effect victims tend to go through. Emotional damage can cause the same harm as physical. Therefore, victims tend to suffer from depression or anxiety, which may end in self-harm.

A study made by JMIR publications concluded in 2018 with the following statement: "To a lesser extent, perpetrators of cyberbullying are at risk of suicidal behaviors and suicidal ideation when compared with non-perpetrators. Policymakers and schools should prioritize the inclusion of cyberbullying involvement in programs to prevent traditional bullying" (John et al., 2018).

Those policies created by governments are not effective for the safety of not only women but also people across the world. Firstly because of the lack of understanding of gender dynamics cyberbullying against women begins with misogynistic content. Second is the lack of actions regarding anonymity on accounts. Last is the lack of resources or help for women to speak about their experiences.
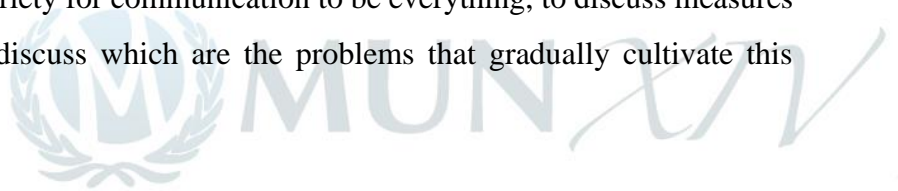
Relevant approaches:

Because UN WOMEN's main priority is to promote female empowerment, solutions must be made to ensure female well-being. That's why, the committee, is expected to discuss the understanding of governments within the situation, as well as analyze the different legal frameworks. In addition, looking for solutions associated with mental health. Making women feel that they have support is very important, that's why new resources are expected about sextortion or other cases of assault, which should promote education for other audiences.

If the delegation seems to be against this, it should provide enough arguments to convince the other delegations to not seek solutions because all points of view should be seen during the conference.

Block Positions:

It is a fact that all delegations participating in this decision will want to design solutions to reduce the number of cases of cyber violence against women. However, delegates will find countries whose streak of such cases has been almost nil, just as you will find countries with worrying statistics. A great variety for communication to be everything, to discuss measures to avoid these facts, and to discuss which are the problems that gradually cultivate this problem.

The following page will be used so that delegates can view a statistical summary of this issue and generate ideas for their research on their performance on the committee.

[Cyberbullying Statistics, Facts, and Trends (2023) with Charts](#)

QARMAS

- What are the typical types of online harassment that women encounter, and how does gender-specific cyberbullying manifest?
- What consequences does cyberbullying have on women psychologically and emotionally, and how do these effects fluctuate depending on the age group and cultural background?
- Which gaps or constraints exist in the effectiveness of the government policies and legislative frameworks currently in place to address cyberbullying directed at women?
- How can social media platforms and online communities be effectively utilized for prevention and support?
- What part do these platforms play in sustaining or reducing cyberbullying against women?
- What factors affect the efficacy of these interventions, as well as their potential to reduce cyberbullying against women? How do educational programs, awareness campaigns, and community-led initiatives help this effort?

Useful links:

Panlogic. (n.d.). *Kidnap and extortion*. National Crime Agency.

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https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-

rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/what-gender-based-violence_en