



Committee: UN Women

Topic: Femicides in Latin America

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Background

Throughout history, gender inequality has been a fact that affects women. Statistics prove that one out of three women has been a victim of discrimination, injustices or violence. Women harassment happens for different reasons which can be personal or impersonal. This can be caused for pleasure, hate or the feeling of being superior to woman, which is very common in Latin American countries. The principal culprits aren't only family members, they are also work bosses or companions, angry ex-partners, people who are part of slave trafficking, and even strangers who attack women for the simple fact of been women. Beside homicide, also negligence, sexual, psychological and physical abuses are violent types of discrimination which form patterns that commonly lead to tragedy.

Femicides clearly affect a country development, social security and health, and violate human rights. After several women manifestations, this worrying topic has been addressed by governments since the 1990's, when the first Latin American countries agreed to protect women's rights by implementing laws which judged femicides separated from regular homicides. Therefore, women manifestations decreased for believing the actions taken would solve the problem. Now a days, most of Latin American countries have laws that penalize violent acts against women with sentences ranging from ten years in prison to life sentences. However, imposing

sanctions doesn't prevent feminicides from happening. As a result, in the continuous search for gender equality and evaluating aggressive conducts as a result of a social system in which men's power is always over women, feminists rise focusing on approaching culture and politics because it's evident that is urgent to take severe and effective measures to stop this kind of abuse against women.

Brazil, Mexico and Argentina occupy the first three positions of the Latin American countries with more femicides. According to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, around 3,000 women are victims of femicide each year, and unfortunately, this number increases every year. As the United Nations fully supports gender equality and defends women, it has established the Spotlight initiative with the European Union in 2017 which forms part of the 2030 agenda. Thanks to this initiative, concrete actions are carried out at federal, state and municipal levels to empower women and countries as Mexico are been help by United Nations' agencies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to eradicate feminicides. However, is necessary to take this issue seriously and to keep looking for solutions that ensure the well-being of women.

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