

Agenda Item: Addressing Increasing Femicides

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Letters from the Secretary General & USG of UNWOMEN

2. Introduction to the Committee

- a) What is UNWOMEN?
- b) What Does UNWOMEN Do?

3. Introduction to the Agenda Item

- a) Understanding the Agenda: Key Terms and Definitions

4. Background of the Agenda Item

- a) Education
 - i) Providing training on gender equality
 - ii) Dissemination of nonviolent communication
- b) Protection
 - i) Shelters
 - ii) raising safety standards
- c) Economic empowerment
 - i) Economic independence
 - ii) Employment and entrepreneurship support
- d) Raise Awareness
 - i) Global and UN-based Campaigns and Initiatives
 - ii) National and Community-Level Awareness Strategies

5. The Role of the State in Femicide

- a. Deterrent Laws
- b. Transparency
- c. International Norms
- d. Civil Society Organizations

6. Questions a Resolution Should Address

7. Bibliography

1. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

It's an indescribable honour to welcome you to the AKA Model United Nations 2025. As the Secretary General of this conference, I am truly excited to witness your debates as you work to find meaningful solutions to global issues.

As you attend this conference, I strongly encourage you to open your mind to new ideas. This year, our academic team has worked diligently to provide you with guidelines that will support your MUN journey. We advise you to approach the agenda earnestly. Over many years, the world has changed in both bitter and hopeful ways, and through this conference, we aim to emphasize the importance of world peace more than ever.

AKA Model United Nations is a place where your voice can be heard. We believe that this conference is a great opportunity for you to express yourselves and discuss current topics. Our hope is that AKA Model United Nations will open new doors for you.

I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the remarkable debates ahead.

Warm regards,

Oğuz TEKİNSOY
Secretary-General
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Letter From The Under Secretary General of UN WOMEN

Esteemed Delegates,

As the Under Secretary General, it is my privilege to extend warm regards to the distinguished members of the UN Women's Committee.

I would like to express my gratitude for the progress made by the UN Women Committee in promoting gender equality, encouraging awareness, and preventing femicides.

Your dedication to addressing gender-based killings and to protecting and empowering women around the world plays a crucial role in creating a more equal and just world.

In light of the global challenges we face, we must continue to work collaboratively to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals related to gender inequality. The efforts of the UN Women Committee are vital to ensuring that no one is left behind and that women and girls are encouraged to succeed in all areas of life.

The United Nations remains committed to supporting your efforts and collaborating to achieve our shared objectives.

Thank you for your tireless commitment to combating femicides and advancing gender equality, and I look forward to witnessing the continued impact of the UN Women Committee.

Best Regards,

Defne Ece Karakaya

Under Secretary General of UN Women's Committee

2. Introduction to the Committee: United Nations WOMEN

a. *What is UN WOMEN?*

UN Women is the United Nations entity that develops programs, policies, and standards aimed at protecting women's human rights and ensuring that every woman and girl reaches her full potential. As a UN body dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, it was established to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women worldwide and supports social equality through its efforts in this direction.

b. *What Does UN WOMEN Do?*

The UN Women's leadership and participation programs are inspired by the history of international commitments to the representation of women. While the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women defends women's right to participate in public life, the Beijing Action Platform demands the removal of barriers to equal participation. The Millennium Development Goals measure progress towards gender equality in part by the proportion of women in parliamentary seats.

In line with these purposes, we provide trainings to female political candidates to develop their capacities, and we organize training and awareness campaigns for voters and citizens on gender equality. We support gender equality advocates to call on political parties, governments and others to do their part in empowering women. Our other initiatives encourage young men and women to advocate for putting gender equality measures at the center of public policies.

The UN Women's Unit advocates for legal and constitutional reforms to ensure women's fair access to the political sphere as voters, candidates, elected officials and public officials. We cooperate with UN country teams and work with civil society on programs that will ensure the protection of women's rights in elections, including the right to vote and campaign away from election violence.

3. *Introduction to the Agenda Item*

a. *Understanding the Agenda: Key Terms and Definitions*

- Gender equality: a numerical concept that measures the relative equality of men and women, girls and boys in terms of numbers and ratios
- CEDAW: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), one of the nine core human rights treaties at the United Nations (UN) level, is the only treaty among these that specifically focuses on women's human rights and gender equality. Also recognized as international women's rights law, CEDAW is one of the most useful tools for ensuring and advancing women's rights in countries that are parties to the convention. It aims for true equality.
- Economic dependence :is a situation in which two or more parties (individuals, businesses, companies, countries, etc.) are dependent on each other for the exchange of goods and the fulfillment of their needs.
- Gender-based murder: refers to any act of violence directed at an individual because of their gender identity or perceived gender. It is a widespread and persistent problem that affects people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

4. *Background to the Agenda Item*

a. Education

i. Providing Training on gender equality

Training for gender equality and women's empowerment is an essential component for UN Women's commitment to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

Training for gender equality is a transformative process that aims to provide knowledge, techniques and tools to develop skills and changes in attitudes and behaviours. It is a continuous and long-term process that requires political will and commitment of all parties in order to create inclusive societies that recognize the need to promote gender equality.

Training is a tool, strategy, and means to effect individual and collective transformation towards gender equality by raising awareness and encouraging learning, knowledge-building and skills development. It helps women and men to understand the role gender plays and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for advancing gender equality in their daily lives and work. Training for gender equality is part and parcel of delivering our commitments to equal human rights for all.

“The UN Women Training Centre’s approach to training for gender equality is guided by key international normative instruments, particularly the following:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

ii. Dissemination Nonviolent communication

The Asia-Pacific region, like many parts of the world, grapples with hate speech against women, discrimination, social and religious pressures, gender-based violence, and femicides. Poverty, polarization, unequal power relations, and a culture of impunity fuel this violence. The COVID-19 pandemic and increasing socioeconomic vulnerability have further heightened the risk of violence against women.

Research shows that femicides are shaped not only by individual factors but also by social, cultural, and political dynamics. Economic exclusion, patriarchal norms, institutional shortcomings, and ineffective violence prevention policies threaten women's

fundamental right to life. Strengthening communication among communities, families, local authorities, and especially religious leaders can enable early identification of risks, prevent violence, and ensure that women's voices are heard.

Harmful gender stereotypes and misogynistic rhetoric are among the most significant factors that legitimize violence against women and femicide. Therefore, community resilience and policies to combat violence must adopt an approach centered not only on security, but also on social transformation.

Preventing femicides and violence is not limited to legal regulations; it also requires a transformation of social attitudes. For this reason, UNDP and UN Women have introduced the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) approach. The NVC method is a tool that promotes conflict resolution, empowerment, empathy-building, and nonviolent behavioral practices.

This approach:

- strengthens women's capacity to express their needs and claim their rights,
- creates awareness and responsibility among men and community leaders,
- enables communities to confront violence and develop collective solutions,
- transforms cultural norms that normalize violence.

In pilot programs conducted in Bangladesh, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka, participants developed shared awareness of the root causes of femicides, discussed gender inequality, and learned strategies for nonviolent solutions.

b. Protection

The United Nations Women's Unit (UN Women) treats the prevention of femicides not only as a security-based intervention area, but also as a holistic policy goal at the social, structural and institutional levels. The basic approach of the institution is based on the principle that femicides should be combated not only with criminal processes after emergence, but also with inequalities, risk factors and impunity culture that feed this form of violence.

In this context, UN Women's priority policy area is the primary prevention strategies for the prevention of femicides. Strengthening gender equality, implementing behavior transformation

programs for men and young people, supporting education and awareness campaigns, and promoting representation standards that do not justify violence in the media are key steps to prevent the emergence of deadly violence against women.

The second policy component of the institution is the early detection of risks to women's lives and the activation of effective protection mechanisms. In this direction, UN Women provides technical guidance to governments on strengthening asylum and secure housing services, implementing risk assessment and case management standards, ensuring accessible 24/7 support mechanisms, and improving confidentiality and security protocols. This approach has been transformed into international standards through the "Essential Services Package" and has been made a critical tool in preventing cases of violence that can result in death.

i. Shelters

Shelters are confidential facilities that provide temporary safe accommodation, protection, and access to support services for women subjected to violence and their accompanying children. The primary aim of these institutions is not only to offer housing, but also to eliminate imminent risk, empower the woman, and support her in rebuilding an independent life.

Within shelters, secure accommodation services include protected spaces based on confidentiality, the presence of staff and security personnel around the clock, and rapid admission in emergency situations. Under psychosocial support services, women are offered individual counselling, post-trauma support, and group sessions, while coordination is ensured to provide psychological assistance to children and maintain continuity in their education. In accordance with Law No. 6284, legal support includes guidance on protection measures, restraining orders, temporary alimony, and processes such as identity or address changes. Additionally, socio-economic support is provided through access to healthcare services, social assistance, vocational counselling, and referrals to employment and educational opportunities.

Within the scope of the Essential Services Package, UN Women has provided technical guidance to governments on the implementation of key minimum standards for services offered to women survivors of violence, including safe accommodation, risk assessment, confidentiality principles, and 24/7 accessibility.

ii.Raising Safety Standards

The United Nations Women's Unit (UN Women) has identified the strengthening of security standards as a basic policy area in order to prevent femicides and ensure the safety of women who are victims of violence. The institution emphasizes that all interventions for the protection of women should not be limited to immediate security

measures, but also implement a holistic approach that includes risk analysis, case management and institutional capacity.

Within the framework of this policy, UN Women considers the development of asylum and secure housing services as a priority goal. Secret and protected areas are provided for women and their children who are victims of violence, security and personnel are kept 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and rapid acceptance mechanisms are applied in case of emergency. Risks are minimized with physical security measures, monitoring and alarm systems.

Individual risk assessment is made according to the type and level of violence women are exposed to; police, social services and health institutions work in coordination with electronic monitoring, suspension decisions and multi-sector case management practices. In addition, privacy and information security measures such as the protection of women's address and personal information are applied meticulously.

UN Women also prevents increasing the capacity of all personnel involved for the effectiveness of safety standards. Trauma-oriented approach and risk management training are given to police, health and social service workers; shelter personnel are equipped to work in accordance with emergency response and security protocols.

In addition to these, the implementation of international security and service standards such as the Essential Services Package determined by the institution is encouraged; technical consultancy is provided to harmonize the security protocols of the countries with these standards. This holistic approach not only ensures the instant protection of victims in the prevention of femicides, but also supports the breaking of the cycle of violence and the establishment of a safe life for women.

c. Economic Empowerment

Empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. Women make enormous contributions to economies, whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home.

But they also remain disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation. Gender discrimination means women often end up in insecure, low-wage jobs, and constitute a small minority of those in senior positions. It curtails access to

economic assets such as land and loans. It limits participation in shaping economic and social policies. And, because women perform the bulk of household work, they often have little time left to pursue economic opportunities.

Many international commitments support women's economic empowerment, including the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and a series of International Labour Organization conventions on gender equality. UN Women supports women's economic empowerment in line with these, and with the growing body of evidence that shows that gender equality significantly contributes to advancing economies and sustainable development.

Working with a variety of partners, our programmes promote women's ability to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies determining growth and development. One critical area of focus involves advocacy to measure women's unpaid care work, and to take actions so women and men can more readily combine it with paid employment.

In all our economic empowerment programmes, UN Women reaches out to women most in need, often by engaging with grass-roots and civil society organizations. Particularly marginalized groups include rural women, domestic workers, some migrants and low-skilled women. Our aims are higher incomes, better access to and control over resources, and greater security, including protection from violence.

Women who do not have economic independence often cannot leave violent relationships and find it difficult to access secure housing and legal support processes. Women's income, participation in employment and control over their own lives make it possible to get out of the cycle of violence, reducing the risks resulting in death. UN Women emphasizes that poverty, precarious and low-paying jobs and lack of access to social protection make women more vulnerable to exploitation and partner violence. Therefore, economic empowerment is not only an increase in income, but also a structural transformation that strengthens women's participation in domestic decision-making processes, social and political visibility, and access to anti-violence mechanisms. Women without economic security are less likely to survive after violence and build an independent life, and often have to return to violence. In this context, UN Women sees economic empowerment as a basic strategy in the prevention of femicides; It defines women's access to resources, social protection, secure employment and strengthening of corporate support networks as life-saving interventions.

i. Economic Independence

UN Women carries out multifaceted studies on a global scale to strengthen women's economic independence. In this context, the organization cooperates with governments and institutions to increase women's access to decent and secure jobs, supports vocational training programs and focuses on empowering women working in low-paying, informal and insecure jobs. Supporting women's entrepreneurship is also one of the priority areas; in this direction, studies are being carried out to expand access to financing, to spread micro credit and grant programs, and to develop mentoring and market connections. UN Women also advocates for the visibility and measurement of women's unpaid care and domestic labor, aiming to ease this burden with public policies, promoting the strengthening of nursery services, social support mechanisms and leave policies. The organization works closely with governments to improve gender-sensitive budgeting, equal pay and anti-discrimination regulations, and supports the implementation of international norms such as CEDAW and the Beijing Platform. Reaching marginalized groups such as rural women, migrants, domestic workers and low-skilled women through special programs, UN Women also associates economic empowerment with violence protection mechanisms; it supports practices such as providing income and employment support to women staying in shelters, access to social protection programs and emergency cash assistance. Within the framework of this holistic approach, UN Women treats economic independence as an essential area of transformation in terms of women not only earning income, but also gaining access to resources, security, equality and the capacity to have a say in their lives.

According to UN Women, economic independence is a decisive factor in the prevention of femicides because it directly affects the capacity of women to emerge from the cycle of violence. Women who are economically dependent on their partner often cannot leave the violent relationship, do not have access to housing and legal support options, and do not have the financial means to maintain security mechanisms. This condition is defined as a structural barrier that increases the risk of violence resulting in death. UN Women emphasizes that economic empowerment not only means increasing income, but also increasing women's right to decision-making, gaining access to resources, inclusion in social protection networks and gaining control over their own lives. This empowerment allows women to get away from violence, build a safe life and reduce the possibility of returning to violence again. For this reason, UN Women treats economic independence as a life-saving strategy that interferes with the root causes of femicide.

ii. Employment and Entrepreneurship Support

Women-owned businesses secure a mere 1 per cent of procurement government contracts, suggesting systemic gender disparities within procurement systems. Women entrepreneurs have been largely unable to capitalize on government spending and international sourcing because they face a number of structural disadvantages. At the same time, procuring entities, corporations and investors lack the information necessary to analyze the gender impact of their decisions and identify female suppliers. Our Flagship Programme responds to the gap in women's access to procurement markets, and will address both demand-side (buyers) and supply-side (entrepreneurs) constraints.

1. Gender-Responsive Public Procurement. Governments at all levels can stimulate demand for goods and services produced by women-owned businesses. Examples of gender-responsive procurement policies include setting targets and preferential schemes, such as in Kenya, where 30% of procurement goes to businesses owned by women, youth and persons with disabilities.
2. Gender-Responsive Corporate Procurement. Corporate procurement offices manage an average of 64% of a company's total enterprise spend (SAP Ariba, 2016). The value of these contracts adds up to billions of dollars of market opportunities in each country, and trillions of dollars world-wide.
3. Access to Finance. If women entrepreneurs are enabled access finance to start and grow their business in higher value-added sectors in which they are underrepresented, and secure financing to scale production once they receive purchase orders, then they will be able to realize their potential in procurement markets.
4. Skills Development. To complement the above three interventions, women entrepreneurs must be enabled to develop focused skills to benefit from procurement market opportunities and grow their businesses.

At the country level, UN Women will deliver projects that combine technical assistance for procuring entities to mainstream gender into their procurement process, with capacity development for suppliers. UN Women will identify high-impact projects, especially in areas where women are underrepresented, such as ICT, infrastructure, and energy. UN Women will support partners to leverage various policy mechanisms to create new opportunities for women-owned business. UN Women will also deliver capacity development for women's associations and women entrepreneurs so that they can navigate complex systems and respond to procurement opportunities.

d. Raise Awareness

UN Women recognises that the prevention of femicide is a complex and multifaceted issue that cannot be addressed solely through legal reforms. In this context, the organisation respectfully suggests that achieving complete elimination of violence may require a systematic and sustainable approach to raising awareness across all segments of society.

UN Women's strategy is centred on a commitment to enhance social awareness, with a view to making violence against women visible, addressing the structural and cultural root causes of violence, and aiming for long-term social transformation. This approach is intended to raise individual awareness and to contribute to a fundamental change in attitudes and behaviours that normalise violence by transforming social norms.

In this regard, UN Women considers it necessary to work in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, from educational institutions to the media sector, and from local governments to civil society organisations. The key elements of this approach could be said to include promoting a culture of zero tolerance towards violence, actively involving men and boys in the process, encouraging responsible and human rights-focused representation of violence in the media, and strengthening campaigns that will lead to behavioural change in the public sphere.

In collaboration with national governments and other United Nations mechanisms, UN Women recognises the importance of raising awareness as a strategic catalyst for safeguarding women's right to life, strengthening equality, and enabling lasting social change.

i. Global and UN-based Campaigns and Initiatives

In 2024, it is estimated that approximately 50,000 women and girls were killed by their partners or family members, accounting for approximately 60% of all intentional female deaths. This equates to approximately 137 deaths per day, or one death every 10 minutes. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) 2023 brief on femicide, in conjunction with statements issued by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), underscores the prevalence of annual femicide statistics and underscores the potential for incomplete or underreported official figures in numerous countries.

Spotlight Initiative: The programme, which has been operated as a joint initiative between the European Union and the United Nations since 2017, is reported to have

assisted in protecting an estimated 21 million women and girls from experiencing gender-based violence (GBV) by the year 2025. Furthermore, the programme is said to have facilitated the enrolment of approximately 1 million girls in educational institutions. Furthermore, Spotlight evaluations report on the impact of programme resources (USD ~350M+) and comprehensive support mechanisms (legal reform, service networks, data systems).

HeForShe: The organisation will report measurable change through corporate and university commitments. Examples of such commitments include reported progress in recruitment and leadership representation among IMPACT/Alliance members. Such commitments serve as exemplary models for corporate practices that can trigger norm change.

16 Days of Activism – Campaign Against Violence Against Women: The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is one of the most comprehensive awareness initiatives worldwide aimed at ending violence against women. First launched in 1991, the campaign takes place annually between 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and 10 December (Human Rights Day), thereby emphasising that violence is also a human rights violation.

Since 2008, the campaign has been strengthened on a global scale under the UNiTE initiative, which is led by UN Women. Each year, governments, UN agencies, civil society organisations and local communities organise joint events around a common theme. In recent years, there has been an encouraging focus on themes such as making femicide visible, strengthening prevention mechanisms and combating online violence.

Today, 16 Days of Activism has grown to become one of the largest international campaigns, operating in over 170 countries. It is estimated that the illumination of public buildings in orange, educational programmes, media campaigns, and social media calls reach millions. In 2023, it was reported that digital content related to the campaign received over 120 million interactions.

During the course of the campaign, UN Women and partner organisations will endeavour to encourage policymakers to act by sharing compelling data. For instance, data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) indicates that in 2022, more than 47,000 women and girls were killed by their closest relatives. This finding underscores the notion that femicide predominantly occurs 'within the home'. The visibility efforts undertaken during the 16 Days resulted in an increase in calls to helplines in numerous countries and raised awareness in society.

ii. National and Community-Level Awareness Strategies

As UN Women, we see the many problems countries have when they try to tell people about their plans. In many societies, the fact that femicides are still seen as part of the 'private sphere' (the personal lives of individuals) reinforces a culture of silence that has persisted for years and reduces communities' willingness to report cases of violence. Here, we can see how traditional ideas about men and women's roles are very strong. This means that women are seen as less important than men, and that men can be violent towards women without being punished. This makes it hard for us to educate people about this problem. UN Women has introduced educational programmes, media guidance initiatives and collaborations with local leaders in many countries to change these patterns. However, the current situation clearly shows that effective change requires long-term and continuous intervention.

Also, many people in communities do not know about the idea of 'femicide'. The public doesn't have enough information about the warning signs of violence, legal options and support services. This makes it hard for women in danger to get the help they need. For this reason, UN Women has organised door-to-door awareness campaigns in some areas, launched workshops for young people and worked closely with local women's organisations. But most national campaigns don't last because they don't have enough money to keep going. This stops people from changing their behaviour in the long term.

The media also sometimes makes femicides seem more romantic or less serious, using words like 'crime of passion'. This makes people less aware of the issue. For this reason, training has been provided to teach media professionals how to report on ethics in some countries, but bad language is still used a lot. It is hard for campaigns to reach the grassroots because community and opinion leaders are not involved enough in the process. Economic inequalities, language barriers and the fear of being stigmatised if they speak out also make it difficult to raise awareness.

UN Women says that awareness strategies need to be more than just sharing information. They need to change social rules, help women get access to support and make sure communities get involved.

5. The Role of the States in Femicide

a. Deterrent Laws

One of the main responsibilities of states in preventing femicide is to create effective and deterrent laws. In this context, it is of great importance to clearly define violence against women and femicides in legal regulations. Comprehensive laws that punish the perpetrator, protect the victim and include all forms of violence should be prepared. In addition, the culture of impunity must be resolutely combated. Strictly overseeing practices such as good condition reduction, suspensions or investigation negligence is vital for ensuring justice and creating a deterrent effect on potential perpetrators. Such strong legal frameworks form the mainstay of protecting women's safety and preventing violence.

- Clearly identify femicides and violence
- Facing the perpetrator with deterrent punishment
- Protecting the victim in terms of security, shelter and support
- Limiting impunity practices

b. Transparency

One of the most critical responsibilities undertaken by states in preventing femicide is to effectively apply the principle of record keeping, data analysis and transparency. Regular monitoring of the causes of femicides, who are the perpetrators, under what social and economic conditions the events take place is the basic condition for understanding the structural dimensions of the problem. The systematic collection of these data and the sharing with the public in the form of transparent reports both increases social awareness and strengthens accountability. In addition, the preparation of policies and strategies related to femicides in the light of these scientific data ensures that prevention studies are more targeted, effective and sustainable. For this reason, transparent data management is an indispensable mechanism in reducing femicides.

c. International Norms

One of the important responsibilities of states in preventing femicide is to comply with international norms. International frameworks such as UN Women standards, CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention provide comprehensive roadmaps for preventing violence, protecting victims and strengthening gender equality. The full integration of these norms into national policies and legislative processes allows countries to act in harmony with globally adopted standards. However, strengthening audit mechanisms; increases the applicability of policies, supports accountability in the fight against violence and contributes to the effective fulfillment of the state's obligations. Therefore, compliance with international norms provides a strong and sustainable basis for preventing femicides.

d. Civil Society Organizations

Another basic responsibility that states should assume in preventing femicides is to establish strong and sustainable cooperation with civil society. Working together with women's organizations and human rights organizations ensures that the experience and needs in the field are correctly reflected in the policy processes. These organizations both provide direct support to women at risk and closely monitor the dynamics of violence; therefore, benefiting from their knowledge and experience is vital for developing effective solutions. Incorporating the voice of civil society into decision-making mechanisms makes it possible for policies to be more inclusive, transparent and in line with the real needs of society. Such a cooperation paves the way for a multi-actor, participatory and strong approach in the fight against femicides.

6. Questions a Resolution Should Address

- 1.**How do you evaluate the relationship between gender inequality and femicides?
- 2.**How does the way the media present femicides affect the behavior of society?
- 3.**How effective is the fact that women have economic independence in society in reducing femicides?
- 4.**How do you ensure that femicide data is collected in a coordinated and error-free manner between institutions?
- 5.**Which institutions should governments implement mandatory trainings in to promote the widespread adoption of the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) method?
- 6.**What data management systems should governments develop to collect femicide data in a transparent, consistent, and interoperable manner across institutions?
- 7.**How can the number, quality, and accessibility of women's shelters be increased?
- 8.**Can quota mechanisms for women entrepreneurs in public procurement be expanded across countries? What are the potential barriers?
- 9.**How can the local-level impact of global initiatives such as the 16 Days of Activism Campaign be enhanced?
- 10.**What types of legal mechanisms should be established to prevent practices such as 'good conduct sentence reductions' and the broader 'culture of impunity'?

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