

Honorable chairs and fellow delegates,

As Egypt I want to start with the importance of violence against women and its effects through the country. Egyptian women were crucial to the movement that overthrew Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the 2011 revolution. However, both in the revolutionary and post-revolutionary period women have also become targets of sexual violence, including by the state. Within in the first weeks and months of the mass political gatherings in urban areas such as Tahrir Square, reports began to emerge of sexual assaults and sexual harassments of women. In Egypt nearly 500 women were sexually assaulted by mobs between the years 2011 and 2014. Women's rights activists have been working on the issue to clarify that the "pre-revolutionary" period also had a societal-level problem with sexual harassment and sexual violence towards women as well as related gender inequalities in both the public and private spheres.

Egypt doesn't have a regular or significant intake of refugee workers who are contracted to perform the domestic chores of Egyptian households. As we know that Egypt is one of the countries which takes refugees mostly every year. The region has become a home to millions of refugees. For this reason those people have started to work in different parts of the country, most of the women have had to work helping household chores. Besides being paid less they are also facing violence including racial and sexual abuse. Sexual violence against women played a significant role in both interviews and was often the basis for questions asked during refugee status determination with UNHCR. Due to the taboo of discussing rape and the extreme power differentials of sexual violence against refugees, we know about far less in comparison to those actually committed.

Now more than ever women feel the pressure in Egypt, however, weak connections to their birth state due to their reasons for fleeing, reliance upon UNHCR as a surrogate state, and

lack of a collective identity to unite women and provide them with a sense of agency may mean that single female refugees will not choose repatriation.