



Committee: United Nations Women

State: Argentina

Agenda: Elimination of the Raising Domestic Violence During Covid-19 Pandemic

Institution: Ankara University, Faculty of Law

As COVID-19 spread over the world, various quarantine and lockdown protocols were implemented. While stay-at-home orders may be necessary to protect people from the virus, they may mistakenly expose others to other lethal hazards, such as the threat of domestic and gender-based violence. *“Violence is not confined to the battlefield. For many women and girls, the threat looms largest where they should be safest. In their own homes... We know lockdowns and quarantines are essential to suppressing COVID-19. But they can trap women with abusive partners.”* UN Secretary General António Guterres said in early April, after his request for a worldwide ceasefire to focus on solving the problems that are caused by Covid-19.

As Argentina, we are in the southern hemisphere of South America with a population of 45 million and the eighth largest country in the world. The people are well-educated, with a 97%

literacy rate. However, in Argentina, domestic violence was already widespread prior to the Covid-19. In the context of the pandemic, data from a variety of sources, such as but not limited to police records, hotlines, health clinics, and shelters shows that domestic violence has increased significantly. As a developing country, we are resisting this increment and working on the eradication of domestic violence. Our public and private institutions offer prevention programs and provide support and treatment for victims of gender based abuse.

In our opinion to address domestic violence, we should primarily raise awareness and educate children on this specific topic. Educating the younger generation is highly important to prevent children from growing into new victims and abusers. Our main aim must be to take precautions before domestic violence occurs. However, it is not always predictable and avoidable. Therefore, establishing a support mechanism for the victim at all times will play a significant role in the elimination of the rise of domestic violence. Hence, strengthening services such as but not limited to helplines as well as reporting mechanisms could be a possible solution in order to reduce the impacts of domestic violence.

Furthermore, in order to eliminate domestic violence, the governments shall take responsibility and improve their bodies. For instance, effective judicial services are a necessity and it must be accessible for each person to have a fair trial. Moreover, each state shall incorporate shelters for abused women which will function under the surveillance of the government.

While national reports examine domestic violence and abuse cases, the increased risk of committing suicide among the victims who have been exposed to intimate partner violence cannot be overlooked.¹ Researches have indicated that women and children who are exposed

¹ Cavanaugh, Courtenay E., et al. "Prevalence and correlates of suicidal behavior among adult female victims of intimate partner violence." *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* 41.4 (2011): 372-383.

to violence are more likely to engage in suicidal behaviour. Suicidal behavior encompasses any action that puts a person in danger of death, such as taking a lethal amount of drugs, starting a car accident, or shooting oneself. People who go through this rough patch will need psychosocial support afterwards. Therefore, it is vital to provide psychosocial support to abused people.

Last but not least, as Argentina, we firmly believe that cooperation of the house plays a crucial role in building a safer future and a more peaceful household. With the joint efforts of the esteemed representatives of the Member States, we can achieve the level of humanity and dignity every individual deserves.