

# United Nations Women

## BACKGROUND GUIDE FOR DELEGATES

<b>Committee</b>	United Nations Women
<b>Agenda</b>	Combating Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) and Deepfake Harassment in Political Spheres
<b>Conference</b>	SCIMUN 2026 · The Eighth Edition
<b>Venue</b>	The Scindia School, Fort Gwalior
<b>Dates</b>	April 10–13, 2026
<b>Theme</b>	Pretia Imperii: The Cost of Power

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## C H A P T E R I

# Letter from the Executive Board

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Greetings delegates! I welcome all of you to the United Nations Women committee to be simulated at SCIMUN 2026.

As the Executive Board, we would like to ensure that this committee offers you all a value addition and great learning experience during the three days of the conference. Delegates are encouraged to research all aspects of the negotiations and deliberations related to the agenda. While the theme has been developed keeping in mind the scenario outlined herein, this document merely acts as a tool for substantive negotiations. Please keep in mind your national interests and your country's limitations during the entirety of the committee proceedings.

*This guide provides a framework for further research. The readings included come from a variety of sources. We cannot emphasise enough how crucial it is that you look up your own sources, particularly since we place a high value on foreign policy conformity. We are following a flexible procedure in the committee, which looks for consensus-building rather than conflicting and adverse debate. Delegates frequently just follow studies that take a more hostile and accusing stance — we would strongly advise against this. Focus on issues where there may be common ground across all states.*

*Mr. Manan Thakur, Chairperson · Mr. Shaurya Veer, Vice Chairperson*

## C H A P T E R I I

## UN Women

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UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. Gender equality is not only a basic human right, but its achievement has enormous socio-economic ramifications. Empowering women fuels thriving economies, spurring productivity and growth. Yet gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in every society.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes, and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience

UN Women was established in July 2010, merging and building on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system: the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Over many decades, the United Nations has made significant progress in advancing gender equality, including through landmark agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

## C H A P T E R   I I I

## Agenda: TFGBV and Deepfake Harassment

### | Scale and Impact: Micro, Meso, and Macro

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) operates across three interlocking levels of society:

#### Three Dimensions of TFGBV Impact

- **MICRO:** TFGBV negatively impacts how individual citizens participate in, utilise, and benefit from the internet. Women are 27 times more likely to face harassment online than men, and 92% of women report that online violence negatively influences their wellbeing.
- **MESO:** TFGBV negatively affects how women — especially young women — use digital spaces to raise awareness and advocate for issues important to them. 51% of young women hesitate to engage in online debates after witnessing online abuse, and 38% of women journalists reported making themselves less visible as a result.
- **MACRO:** TFGBV negatively influences democratic leadership. Women public figures are targeted to a much greater extent than their male counterparts, undermining how they are perceived by the public through reputational damage campaigns.

## C H A P T E R I V

## Human Rights Frameworks in Practice

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### | A. Women's Rights in Public and Political Life

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action deals extensively with the issue of women in power and decision-making. Through the Declaration, States are committed to taking concrete measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making, and to increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.

### | B. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Women's sexual and reproductive health is related to multiple human rights, including the right to life, the right to be free from torture, the right to health, the right to privacy, the right to education, and the prohibition of discrimination. Both the CESCR and CEDAW Committee have clearly indicated that women's right to health includes their sexual and reproductive health — meaning that States have obligations to respect, protect, and fulfil rights related to women's sexual and reproductive health.

### | C. Women's Right to an Adequate Standard of Living

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights mentions the right to adequate food, clothing, and housing, and the continuous improvement of living conditions. Women's rights to land, property, food, water and sanitation, as well as work and social security, are intrinsically linked to the right to attain an adequate standard of living. All these rights are guaranteed under international human rights law.

### | D. Violence against Women

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines 'violence against women' as 'any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.'

### | E. Impact of Migration and Displacement

Female migration has both positive and negative repercussions. It can advance gender equality by empowering migrant women, since many migrate independently and become the main breadwinners for their families. However, migration can also increase vulnerabilities and put migrant women at risk of discrimination and violence. Women migrants are often found in segregated and unregulated sectors of the economy, such as domestic work, typically unprotected by local labour laws.

## C H A P T E R V

## Social and Mental Health

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Social and mental health are deeply intertwined with the level of gender equity within any society. When individuals face unfair treatment or systemic barriers based on their gender — such as unequal pay, limited access to education, and diminished decision-making authority — they often experience heightened stress, anxiety, or depression. This strain can be amplified by cultural norms and legal frameworks that fail to recognise or adequately protect their rights. Over time, repeated experiences of discrimination can erode self-esteem, strain relationships, and negatively affect not only personal well-being but also community cohesion.

Conversely, ensuring legal equity in gender rights helps foster an environment where every individual can thrive. Equitable laws and policies create the groundwork for fair treatment, allowing people to pursue educational and professional opportunities without fear of bias. Strengthening legal protections and dismantling systemic barriers not only promotes a just society but also lays the foundation for improved mental health outcomes for everyone.

## C H A P T E R V I

## Case Studies

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### | 1. The Garden of Hope Foundation – Taiwan

The Garden of Hope Foundation focuses on preventing GBV and offering shelter services in Taiwan. Its primary clients include survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, GBV, and LGBTQ+ individuals facing multiple forms of discrimination. It emphasises a holistic approach to survivor support, accommodating various needs such as sheltering, employment assistance, legal aid and trauma recovery, and offers direct assistance to survivors, including help with removing images from online platforms.

### | 2. TFGBV and Safety by Design – Australia

In September 2024, Australia's online safety regulator, the eSafety Commissioner, released the 'Technology, Gendered Violence and Safety by Design' resource. This guide is a blueprint for technology companies to better understand and address TFGBV. It outlines how Safety by Design can help companies anticipate, detect, and eliminate TFGBV before it happens, drawing on the eSafety Commissioner's Safety by Design initiative, released in 2018.

### | 3. World Wide Web Foundation Tech Policy Design Lab (2021)

The World Wide Web Foundation hosted the Tech Policy Design Lab, bringing together global civil society stakeholders, researchers, and government representatives with major tech giants including Facebook (now Meta), Google, TikTok, and Twitter (now X), all of which made commitments to address online gender-based violence. The key focus was to establish a global accountability mechanism and emphasised the importance of centring the voices of marginalised communities who are disproportionately affected.

### | 4. Equality Now

Equality Now works globally to achieve legal equality and end sexual exploitation, sexual violence, and harmful practices. It has made substantial contributions to law and policy reform by making expert submissions to the United Nations and regional bodies, working in partnership across many countries — with a significant percentage of the discriminatory laws it has targeted since 1999 having been reformed.

### | 5. Researcher Access to Data – EU-US Workshops (2024)

In April 2024, the European Commission and the United States Government convened workshops with leading experts to discuss access to public online platform data and how to use data to better understand GBV online. The Commission and the White House published a summary report raising key goals and

discussing barriers and possible actions to expand access to public online platform data to understand TFGV while ensuring compliance with data collection, use, and storage standards.

## CHAPTER VII

## Prevention and Mitigation

The prevention and mitigation segment of the TFGBV Framework focuses on proactive measures to mitigate and prevent TFGBV. This involves designing safer technology and enhancing digital literacy to create a safer online environment for all users, closing the gender digital divide, and addressing harmful social and gender norms.

These programming examples do not replace existing GBV prevention programming, including those programmes which seek to transform harmful gender and social norms and those which engage men specifically. Prevention programming must remain coordinated across physical and online spaces and adhere to well-established guidance and principles, including accountability to women's rights organisations and movements.

### Practitioner Recommendations

- **ADAPTIVE INTERVENTIONS:** Adapt TFGBV interventions to local contexts by engaging community elders, local NGOs, and youth leaders throughout the programming lifecycle; use participatory methods to gather input on cultural nuances and develop training materials in local languages
- **EVALUATION METHODS:** Develop adaptive evaluation frameworks capturing both quantitative and qualitative impacts, using mixed methods with household surveys, in-depth interviews, and innovative data collection tools such as digital diaries
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION:** Facilitate collaborations bringing together experts from tech, academia, social work, and law enforcement to develop integrated strategies combining technological innovation with psychosocial support and legal remedies
- **LEGAL ADVOCACY:** Conduct comprehensive reviews of existing legal frameworks to identify gaps; organise advocacy campaigns involving legal experts, survivors, and civil society; support establishment of specialised legal aid units for TFGBV victims

## C H A P T E R V I I I

## Points to Remember

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- How to Prevent Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence
- How can 'Safety by Design' be enforced on global tech platforms?
- How does intersectional discrimination amplify the impact of TFGBV?
- Can we develop a 'proactive' rather than 'reactive' approach to deepfakes?

Delegates should also consider the following implementation principles:

- Ensure women, girls, and LGBTQI+ members are included throughout product development, deployment, and maintenance processes, with particular attention to funding, ideation, and design stages
- Ensure that data privacy and security begins from the perspective of TFGBV survivors, achieved through robust end-user controls, safety-by-design, and corporate and government encryption of data in transit and at rest
- Ensure legal frameworks for accountability are constructed and implemented to hold companies and offenders of TFGBV accountable for the experiences of women, girls, and the LGBTQI+ community

## CHAPTER IX

# The Executive Board

## CHAIRPERSON

**Mr. Manan Thakur**

BSc Economics at Symbiosis Pune. One of the youngest research analysts associated with UNITAR. Has contributed to initiatives associated with UNODC. Five years of MUN experience combined with work on financial literacy and NGO-based youth empowerment.

## VICE CHAIRPERSON

**Mr. Shaurya Veer**

Student at The Scindia School. Secretary of the Ecology Club and Student Editor at Tech Vault AI Magazine. Deep interest in global governance, law, and social impact. Brings clarity, structure, and intellectual depth to the dais.

## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This Background Guide is a starting point for research — not an exhaustive account, and not a document that may be cited or used as evidence in committee. Delegates are expected to undertake independent research, verify facts through primary sources, and develop well-researched national positions. The quality of preparation will directly shape the depth and direction of debate.

The United Nations Women at SCIMUN 2026 is designed not merely to test knowledge of the agenda but to develop the capacity for reasoned argument, diplomatic sensitivity, and genuine engagement with the issues at hand. Arrive prepared. Argue with precision. Negotiate with principle.

*The Executive Board*

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