



LUSAKA OAKTREE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
LOTSMUN 2026

Architects of Accountability • Redefining Power, Peace and Progress

STUDY GUIDE

UN Women | Lower Secondary

**Topic: Countering Gender-Based Atrocities in Armed Conflicts
and Digital Harassment Networks**



Message from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to LOTSMUN 2026.

This year, under the theme “Architects of Accountability: Redefining Power, Peace and Progress,” we invite you to consider not only how decisions are made but who is responsible for them, who is affected by them and how meaningful change can be achieved.

Model United Nations is more than an exercise in public speaking. It is an opportunity to understand complex international problems, challenge assumptions, negotiate with people who may disagree with you and transform competing ideas into meaningful solutions.

As you prepare for this committee, I encourage you to look beyond the information presented in this study guide. The purpose of this document is not to provide you with every answer, but to provide you with the foundation from which your own research, perspectives, and ideas can develop.

Come prepared to question, collaborate, negotiate and most importantly, represent your country's position with accuracy and diplomacy. Remember that accountability is not simply about holding power responsible; it is about understanding how power can be used to build peace, drive progress, and create meaningful change.

I look forward to seeing the ideas, debates, and solutions you bring into committee.

Malenji Arthur Jonah

Secretary General, LOTSMUN 2026



1. UN Women

1.1 What is UN Women?

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It was established in 2010 and works globally to support Member States, strengthen international norms and standards, coordinate United Nations system-wide action on gender equality, and support implementation at country level. [1]

For this MUN committee, delegates should think of UN Women as a policy, coordination and gender-equality institution. The committee's work should focus on practical recommendations, international cooperation, prevention, protection, survivor support, participation, evidence and implementation.

1.2 What can the Committee do?

A UN Women committee can develop recommendations for Member States and partners, encourage stronger laws and policies, support international standards, promote data collection and research, strengthen services for survivors, encourage funding and capacity-building, and promote women's participation and leadership. It should not draft measures that depend on powers the committee does not possess.

1.3 What should a delegate understand about UN Women?

UN Women works with governments, civil society, women's rights organizations, UN entities, regional organizations and other partners. Its work on ending violence against women and girls includes prevention, access to justice, services, data, laws and policy, and advocacy. Its current strategy also treats technology-facilitated violence as a core gender-equality concern.

What this means for you

When you write a clause, ask: Who can actually carry this out? What support is needed? How will it be funded? How will progress be measured? How will women and girls be protected and meaningfully involved?

2. Introduction to the Topic

Gender-based atrocities in armed conflicts and digital harassment networks are serious threats to the safety, rights and participation of women and girls. Conflict can increase exposure to sexual violence, forced marriage, trafficking, exploitation and other forms of gender-based violence. At the same time, digital spaces can be used for coordinated harassment, threats, doxing, gendered disinformation, image-based abuse and AI-generated sexualised content. UN Women treats technology-facilitated violence as part of the wider continuum of violence against women and girls.

2.1 Understanding the issue

The problem has several connected dimensions: prevention of violence; protection of people at risk; access to health, psychosocial and legal services; accountability for perpetrators; safe reporting; digital safety; and women's meaningful participation in public, political and peacebuilding life.

2.2 The scale of the problem

UN Women reports that violence against women and girls remains widespread globally, while digital forms of abuse are expanding through new technologies and coordinated online behaviour. In 2025, UN Women highlighted online harassment, image-based abuse, gendered disinformation and AI-generated deepfakes as forms of technology-facilitated violence. It also noted major gaps in legal protection and accountability.

2.3 Why is this a UN Women issue?

The topic directly concerns gender equality, women's rights, violence against women and girls, access to justice, participation and empowerment. UN Women's current technology-facilitated violence strategy organizes action around five pathways: stronger norms and standards; better data and evidence; transformation of social norms and digital ecosystems; survivor-centred and justice-focused responses; and women's voice, agency, digital resilience and leadership.

Theme link: Architects of Accountability

Accountability in this committee means building systems in which laws are implemented, survivors can access support, evidence is handled responsibly, perpetrators can be investigated, digital platforms respond to abuse, and women can participate safely in public and peacebuilding life.

3. Key Definitions

These definitions are simplified for Lower Secondary delegates and should be checked against the official sources listed in the bibliography.

Term	Meaning
Gender-based violence (GBV)	Violence directed against a person because of gender, or violence that disproportionately affects people because of gender.
Gender-based atrocity	A grave form of gender-based violence or abuse occurring in a context of serious insecurity, conflict or systematic persecution.
Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)	Sexual violence linked to an armed conflict or its consequences, including violence used to intimidate, punish, control or terrorize.
Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TF VAWG)	Violence against women and girls that is committed, assisted, aggravated or amplified through digital technologies.
Digital harassment	Unwanted online behaviour such as repeated abuse, threats, intimidation or humiliation that targets a person or group.
Coordinated harassment network	A group of accounts or individuals that work together to amplify harassment, threats or harmful content against a target.
Doxing	Publishing or spreading private or identifying information about a person without their consent, potentially exposing them to further harm.
Gendered disinformation	False or misleading information that uses gender stereotypes or sexualised attacks to discredit, intimidate or silence women.
Image-based abuse	Sharing or threatening to share intimate or sexualised images without a person's consent.
Deepfake	Digitally generated or altered media designed to make a person appear to say or do something they did not.
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Technology-facilitated violence against women and girls (TF VAWG)	Violence against women and girls that is committed, assisted, aggravated or amplified through digital technologies.
Survivor-centred approach	A response that prioritises a survivor's safety, dignity, privacy, choices and access to appropriate services.

Term	Meaning
Digital resilience	The ability to use digital technology safely, recognise risks, protect information and recover from online harm.
Impunity	A situation in which people responsible for serious violations are not effectively held accountable.
Accountability	Processes that establish responsibility for violations and provide investigation, justice, remedy or other appropriate consequences.



4. International Frameworks and Context

4.1 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW is the major international treaty focused on eliminating discrimination against women. It provides a foundation for examining how national laws, institutions and policies should address discrimination and protect women's rights. Delegates should research whether their assigned country is a party to CEDAW and what national measures it has adopted.

4.2 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Adopted in 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remains a central global framework for gender equality. It addresses areas including violence against women, women in power and decision-making, and women's human rights. It is useful for delegates because it links legal reform, social change and participation.

4.3 Women, Peace and Security

The Women, Peace and Security agenda places women's participation and protection at the centre of international peace and security policy. UN Women describes four connected pillars: prevention, protection, participation, and relief and recovery. Delegates should examine how women's participation in peace processes and community decision-making can be protected and strengthened. [5]

4.4 Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls. Its agreed conclusions provide an important source for understanding international policy priorities. [6]

4.5 Current UN Women work on digital violence

UN Women's 2025 strategy on technology-facilitated violence calls for stronger norms and standards, better data, safer digital ecosystems, survivor-centred and justice-focused responses, and greater digital resilience and leadership for women and girls. [2]

5. Case Studies

These cases are included to help delegates understand how gender-based violence, accountability, services and participation appear in real situations. Where facts or responsibility are disputed, use the wording and findings of reliable UN or other authoritative sources.

5.1 Sudan: conflict-related sexual violence and displacement

The conflict in Sudan has produced severe humanitarian needs and heightened risks for women and girls. UN reporting has documented conflict-related sexual violence and the disruption of essential services. The situation illustrates the importance of survivor-centred services, safe reporting, documentation, humanitarian access and support for women-led organisations. [7]

Think like a delegate

How can services reach survivors when health systems and local institutions are disrupted? How can evidence be documented without exposing survivors to further danger? What role can women-led organisations play?

5.2 Democratic Republic of the Congo: violence and survivor support

Eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have experienced prolonged insecurity and repeated reporting of sexual and gender-based violence. The case highlights the need to combine prevention and accountability with health, psychosocial, legal and economic support for survivors and communities.

5.3 Ukraine: women, conflict and participation

UN reporting on Ukraine includes documentation of conflict-related sexual violence and broader effects of war on women. It also emphasizes the importance of women's participation in public and political life. This provides a useful case for examining how protection and participation can be pursued together. [8]

5.4 Digital harassment networks

UN Women identifies technology-facilitated violence as including online harassment, threats, cyberstalking, doxing, image-based abuse, gendered disinformation and AI-generated abuse. Coordinated attacks can target women journalists, activists, political actors and human-rights defenders, restricting their participation in public life. [2,3,4]

5.5 Why networked harassment matters

A single harmful post can be amplified by many accounts, making abuse more visible and harder to escape. Research gaps remain around the scale of networked attacks, perpetrators, effective deterrence, legislation and platform responsibility. [3]

5.6 AI-generated abuse and deepfakes

Generative AI can make manipulated images, audio and video easier to produce and distribute. UN Women has identified deepfakes and other AI-enabled abuse as part of the changing digital environment. Responses need to consider platform design, reporting systems, legal remedies, public awareness and the rights of women and girls. [2,4]

6. Preparing for Committee

7.1 Questions a strong resolution answers

1. What specific problem does it address? Conflict-related gender-based violence, survivor services, accountability, digital harassment, onlinethreats, or several connected areas?
2. Who has to act? Identify Member States, UN Women, civil society, technology companies, justice institutions, health providers or other relevant actors.
3. What exactly should they do? Avoid vague language such as “take appropriate action” without an implementation step.
4. How will it be funded? Consider national budgets, international assistance, partnerships and flexible support for local organisations.
5. How will it be checked? Add indicators, reporting, evaluation or review dates.
6. How will survivors be protected? Consider confidentiality, informed consent, safety and access to services.
7. How will women's participation be strengthened? Include women and girls as decision-makers, not only as beneficiaries.
8. Does the proposal respect human rights? Consider privacy, equality, due process, freedom of expression and access to information.

7.2 Guiding questions for your country research

1. Is your country a party to CEDAW? What laws or policies implement its commitments?
2. What is your country's position on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls?
3. Does your country have a Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan or equivalent policy?
4. What laws address online harassment, cyberstalking, non-consensual image sharing, threats or disinformation?
5. What has your government said about AI, digital safety and platform responsibility?
6. Does your country fund survivor services or women-led organisations?
7. What can your country realistically offer: funding, technical expertise, training, research, diplomacy or regional cooperation?

Which countries are likely to share your priorities, and where might compromise be necessary?

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- [12] UN Women. Online safety 101: What every woman and girl should know. 18 November 2025.

Selected official sources

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UN Women Digital Library — <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library>

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