

# Houston Area Model United Nations Standard Committee

## CSW



Co-Chairs | Rida Qazi & Isabella Gabriliska  
Topic A: The Call to action for the decline,  
ultimately the end, of honor killings in conservative  
based countries

Houston Area Model United Nations 50  
February 6 & 7, 2025

# Chair Letter

## Delegates,

In 1947, soon after the founding of the United Nations, did The Commission on the Status of Women meet. In its early days, CSW was responsible for holding international conventions that challenged an era of discriminatory legislation and gave limelight to women's global issues. In today's world, the organization faces an ever-increasing demand for its services due to ongoing and escalating conflicts in various regions. CSW is a platform that strives to promote women's rights, document women's lives, and shape global standards, and this Background Guide has been forged for your assistance in researching the critical work of this organ.

The point of using a Background Guide is to use well-established facts and content in order to form a concrete case. Instead of using non-credible sources, this Background Guides aids in the composition of feasible resolutions that have the ability to create change in the lives of women across the globe. We hope this will set you on the journey of finding your own unique, position-conforming solutions, and we look forward to hearing the ideas you present at the conference in February! Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Best wishes,

**Rida Qazi**

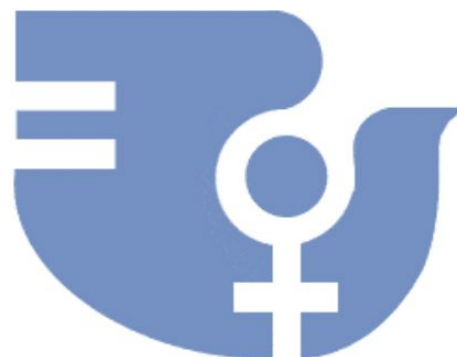
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**UN** Commission on the  
Status of Women



CSW

Chair | Rida Qazi

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# Background Information

## TOPIC A EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN estimates about 5,000 women and girls are killed on the basis of honour killings each year all across the globe. Many organizations argue that this number is much underestimated, putting the number to four times higher. Honour based killings are a form of Gender-Based Violence as they most often than not target a specific gender. Victims are often murdered in the name of “honour” as they have done something to this honour of their family in a societal setting. Contrary to popular belief honour killings happen all around the world, not just in conservative countries. Many progressive countries have documented honour killing cases that have brought to light the ongoing controversy.

## TOPIC A CONCEPTUALIZATION

Since the beginning of time women and girls have often been the victims of honour killings but the certain stipulation on what “honour” was tarnished has varied from country to country and from century to century. In previous years the UN has adopted many resolutions to minimize the number of killings done in the name of honour. Resolutions 55/66, 57/179, and 59/165 all work towards the elimination of crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour. In these resolutions the UN urge nations to do the following, implement necessary obligations under human rights law, implement programs that sought the education of the consequences of honour killings, alter national laws regarding honor-based crimes, and facilitate institutions where victims can report such crimes in a safe environment.



## TOPIC A HISTORY

Honor killings have existed since ancient Roman times. Though not subjected to today's human rights laws. Honor Killings are deemed as the act of a household male reserving the right to murder what he deems as a dishonorable female within the family. The notion of using honor and dignity to legitimize the act of murder or violence is not unique to one particular culture or region. A timeline of history can show us how violence inflicted in the name of honor has been a repetitive cycle. Though most of the world has progressed forward and modernized in their way of thinking, many people in the world still believe in their right to murder for the sake of their honor. Many of people come from patriarchal cultures that are still rooted in their historical roots. Not only are these people culturally approved in their actions, but legally as well. Many of these countries with high rates of honor killings have little to no legal ramifications. This leads to higher rates of violence as it gives the grounds for any violence committed to protect one's "honor".

## TOPIC A CASE EXAMPLES

Here a few international legislations that exempt suspects from the crimes committed to their victims.

The Napoleonic Code:

[https://www.napoleon-series.org/research/society/c\\_women.html](https://www.napoleon-series.org/research/society/c_women.html)

- Many of these international rulings have been influenced by this code, as it gives males ultimate power over the females of the household.

Jordan's Article 340:

[https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zs\\_kgke326/files/migration/arabstates/Jordan.Summary.19.Eng.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zs_kgke326/files/migration/arabstates/Jordan.Summary.19.Eng.pdf)

Iraq's Article 409:

[https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/iraq\\_country\\_summary\\_-\\_english.pdf](https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/iraq_country_summary_-_english.pdf)



### TOPIC A: QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How do we make members of a conservative community educated in these matters and respect cultural boundaries at the same time
- How do you change mentality that is deep-rooted in cultural and societal norms
- Who should be allowed to mediate negotiations for between CSW and countries in question
- What legal ramifications should be introduced in order for honour killing suspects to face proper punishment

### UN PAST ACTIONS

- **A/RES/57/179:** Calls upon States to fulfil their obligations under the relevant international human rights, intensify efforts to raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, and establish, strengthen or facilitate, where possible, support services to respond to the needs of actual and potential victims.
- **A/RES/59/165:** Calls upon States to gather and disseminate statistical information on the occurrence of such crimes, including information disaggregated by sex and age, and to make any such information available to the Secretariat. To intensify efforts to raise awareness about the responsibility of men to promote gender equality and bring about change in attitudes to eliminate gender stereotypes. Finally, have legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women and girls committed in the name of honour.



## TOPIC A APPENDIX &amp; SOURCES

Government of Canada, D. of J. (2021, December 8). *Preliminary examination of so-called “honour killings” in Canada. Historical Context - Origins of Honour Killing - Preliminary Examination of so-called Honour Killings in Canada.* <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/hk-ch/p3.html#:~:text=4.,daughter%20or%20an%20adulterous%20wife>

Husseini, R. (2021, August 3). *Murdered women: A history of “honour” crimes.* Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2021/8/1/murdered-women-a-history-of-honour-crimes>



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