



# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



## Organization of the American States

**Topic:** Addressing the amount of “femicidios” that happen throughout Latin American countries.

**Director:** Isabela Zazueta (HS)

**Moderator:** Sofia Rodriguez (HS)

### I. Committee Background

Founded on April 30th, 1948, the Organization of American States works to establish peace and justice in the nations of the Western Hemisphere; it also aims to promote solidarity and collaboration among members to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence, as stipulated in the first chapter of its Charter. The OAS grew out of an international organization previously established by the United States for the Western Hemisphere, the Pan-American Union. Starting in 1889, the Pan-American Union engaged in a series of meetings known as the Pan-American Conferences, which concluded with the foundation of the OAS and the signing of its Charter at the conclusion of the Ninth Conference, held in the city of Bogotá, Colombia. The new organization was originally meant to function as a forum for international cooperation and security among Latin American countries and the United States after the beginning of the Cold War. By the 1990s, the newly independent Caribbean nations and Canada became members, and the organization’s focus shifted towards the encouragement of democracy in member states.

Like the United Nations, the Organization of American States is administered by a General Secretariat, headed by a Secretary-General who is elected every five years. Its main policy-making body is the General Assembly, which hosts the foreign ministers and chiefs of state of each of the 35 independent nations of the Western Hemisphere on an annual basis. The General Assembly also controls the organization’s budget and oversees additional specialized organs. When the General Assembly is not convening, the regular work of the organization is carried out by the Permanent Council, which, as the name suggests, is composed of elected permanent representatives from each nation in the OAS. Even though the OAS is committed to fulfilling the United Nations’ regional goals from the 1940s, the organization’s resolutions are not subject to approval by the United Nations or any other international body. Any resolution that passes by a simple majority is considered to be final and non-binding.

### II. Introduction

#### Description and Definition of the Topic

The amount of women murders in Latin American countries has seen an increase over the past couple of years. The attention has drifted away from the victims and now focuses on the response of authorities and government officials towards these homicides, better known as femicides or femicides.

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immunus.org](http://www.immunus.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

The term femicide is defined as the “intentional murder of women because they are women” (World Health Organization, 2012). Commonly performed by men, femicides have been done by partners and ex-partners of women, who usually experience emotional, physical, and sexual violence within the relationship prior to being killed. Mexico, Brazil, and Honduras, are amongst the three countries where femicides occur at the highest rate.

According to the Center for Strategies and International Studies, the rate for femicides in Mexico has doubled in the past 5 years, with numbers increasing to 10 women killed daily (El Universal, 2020). This puts Mexico behind Brazil in the number of femicides that occur yearly. A total of 1,206 were reported in 2018, whereas Mexico reported a total of 1,006. Brazil’s rate increased by 4% (Think Brazil, 2019). In March of 2020, tens of thousands of women around the world gathered together on International Women’s Day, and protested nationwide violence. All over the world, women were calling for attention to victims, inequality, and violence that reign over their lives.

## The Problem

According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, an average of twelve women are murdered per day (Global Americans, 2020). Five out of the twelve countries with highest rates of femicide in the world are located in Latin America, and are a part of the OAS: El Salvador, Honduras, Bolivia, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic (Boira, Santiago; Nudelman, Anita). Since 2008, nine countries have created special legislations targeting femicides, however; there has been a lack of reinforcement towards such laws. In countries like Chile, Mexico, Colombia, and Costa Rica, femicide is codified as a crime, carrying with it varying prison sentences (Global Americans, 2020). Hate crimes against women have been present around the world, more specifically in Latin America, and because investigations and prosecutions do not follow a strict protocol, femicide rates keep increasing. Culture also takes a fundamental role in the increasing number of femicide rates as a whole. Countries with “machista” tendencies like El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico, fail to prosecute the murders of women contrary to any other murder (Global Americans, 2020).

The World Health Organization (WHO) released an article on femicides in Latin America. The article listed reasons that attempted to justify a murderer’s purpose when committing this crime. One of the main ones revolved around the idea that the homicide was done by an intimate partner or spouse. In fact, preliminary findings of an ongoing study by WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, show that more than 35% of all murders of women globally are reported to be committed by an intimate partner (WHO, 2012). On the other hand, there are many occasions where the femicide is committed by a non-intimate partner. Instead, it is usually committed after instances of sexual harassment. This is called a “sexual femicide.” A recent analysis claims that 65% of these women are aged around 15-34 years old. It is important to focus on how to reinforce and adapt their laws and legislations towards femicides.

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immuns.org](http://www.immuns.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



## III. History of the Topic

### Chronological History of the Topic

The term “femicide” was first coined in England in 1801 by John Corry to signify “the killing of a woman”; with its first documented use being in this same author’s book, *A Satirical View of London*. However, it was not re-introduced publicly again until the year 1976 by the self-proclaimed woman, feminist pioneer, expert, and activist, Diana Russell. She defined it as “the murder of women by men motivated by hatred, contempt, pleasure, or a sense of ownership of women’ and ‘the misogynistic killings of women by men” (Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability). In regions such as Latin America, the term *feminicidio* is also used to demonstrate the incompetence of governments who are mostly unresponsive to such killings. Since the re-introduction of the term, growing consciousness about it has caused at least two United Nations resolutions to be passed, seeking to prevent it. These include The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women; which was passed by the General Assembly in 1993, and before that, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women—which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1979— which defined gender-based violence “as a form of discrimination leading to inequality” (Wilson, 2014). After concern that certain governments would be unwilling to implement the proposed solutions, laws were created addressing the problem of domestic abuse in many countries; including multiple nations in Latin America. These include Chile and Argentina in 1994, Bolivia and Ecuador in 1995; Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico in 1996, and Peru in 1997 (Wilson, 2014).

However, after some of the most important “international conventions,” like *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the cases of femicides in Latin American countries didn’t decrease as expected. Afterwards, in the year 2000, Guatemala went through a civil war which sparked women violence resulting in the deaths of over 1,500 women in Guatemala City, Guatemala’s capital. (Snaidas). Later on, in 2003, Argentina faced an increase of cases of femicides and found that 72% of the juridical crimes occurring in the country were about women being abused or even killed (Snaidas). After these injustices and many more, the second “generation” of conventions led by the United Nations and meetings like the Beijing Plus Ten, started in 2005 to stop violence against women and make a change. Citizens were excited to finally have a decrease in cases, but the cases only decreased for a short period of time and then increased back again. Some years later, El Salvador took the place of the highest rates of femicides worldwide. In turn, this made Latin America responsible for 50% of women killings and abuse worldwide. In 2017 and 2018 astonishing rates marked 23 different countries with more than 3,000 femicides a year (ECLAC).

Nowadays, Latin America is still witnessing thousands of feminist protests against femicides. On February 9th of 2020 Ingrid Escamilla, a twenty five year old woman, was murdered in Mexico by her own parents. The news of her death, along with the grizzly images that surfaced the web, sparked outrage in the Mexican society. A few days later, Ingrid’s death

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immun.org](http://www.immun.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

was followed by seven-year-old Fátima Aldriguett Antón's, who was tortured and killed by her parents as well (El País, 2020). Feminist groups from all over the country immediately let themselves be heard by organizing protests against the government for the ignorance towards this topic. When confronted, Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador stated that “in no other [presidential] term, had women been protected as much as they are nowadays” (Atlantic Council, 2020). This prompted multiple feminist groups to promote the idea of *El Paro Nacional*, or “a day without women,” with the purpose of demanding the government to pass a bill to protect women's rights.

## Historical Case Studies

### Marisela Escobedo Ortiz

Marisela Escobedo Ortiz's case remains one of the most infamous examples of femicide to this day. It is believed that that being a prominent activist for women's rights in Mexico led to her murder. In August 2008, at the age of 16, Escobedo Ortiz's daughter, Rubi Marisol Frayre Escobedo, was killed by a man who was later identified as Frayre Escobedo's partner, Sergio Rafael Barraza Bocanegra. Frustrated with how little the authorities were doing to help resolve her daughter's murder, Marisela Escobedo Ortiz took it upon herself to investigate on her own by pressuring the authorities into giving the case more importance. Almost a year later, in June 2009, her daughter's body was recovered “burned, dismembered and dumped at a pig ranch near the city of Ciudad Juárez” (Front Line Defenders). Barraza Bocanegra was then detained in Zacatecas, and tried for his role in the disappearance and murder of Rubi Marisol Frayre Escobedo, as a result of continued pressure from the part of Escobedo Ortiz to the authorities. However, Sergio Barraza Bocanegra was acquitted, absolved of his charges, and freed from prison in April 2010. Infuriated, Marisela Escobedo began a series of protests, in which she, along with other protesters, would walk for miles along the streets of Juárez, asking for Barraza to be tried and arrested once again. A court overturned the acquittal and decided to, once again, try Barraza for murder; however, Barraza remained a fugitive evading the law. After having protested to the governors José Reyes Baeza Terrazas and César Duarte to no avail, protests and vigils remained happening across the state. On the evening of December 16, 2010, outside of the Chihuahua's Government Palace on Plaza Hidalgo, Escobedo Ortiz was holding a peaceful vigil in honor of her daughter, and against Barraza's absolution, along with the families of other victims of femicide. Security footage shows a vehicle arriving at the scene carrying a number of masked men, with one of the men approaching Escobedo Ortiz and speaking to her. It can be seen that she then attempted to get away, but was followed by the man and shot in the head. The man fled the scene and Escobedo was taken to the hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced dead. While it is not known who murdered Ortiz, it is believed that these men were sent by Barraza Bocanegra himself. Two years later, in 2012, Barraza was killed in a face-off with the military.

### Abril Pérez Sagaón

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immuns.org](http://www.immuns.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

On January 4th of 2019, Abril Pérez Sagaón was physically assaulted by her husband, Juan Carlos García, Amazon Mexico's Ex-CEO. During her sleep, her husband hit her with a baseball bat and tried to strangle her to death. She suffered from a fractured skull and a week of hospitalization. Abril Pérez Sagaón "denounced the attempted murder and obtained a restraining order against him" (Galindo, Gaitan). García was detained but was shortly released by Judge Federico Mosco González, as he "reclassified" the case as domestic violence rather than attempted homicide. The basis for such a decision was the fact that a baseball bat was not considered a weapon by the judges. This also bought spectism from the public as a "deadly weapon" is defined as "any object that is used or intended to be used in such a way that it could cause death or serious injury to another human being" (Legal Match). On November 25 of that same year, after a custody hearing of her children and driving to the airport, Pérez Sagaón was shot to death. It is believed that García was involved in the crime, however, he has disappeared since his release. An investigation has been opened in order to monitor and revise the judges involved in the case's past actions. This case has motivated more activists and women in México to demand change and protection from the government. Abril's case has received international attention and has also sparked peaceful protests over the world.

## Arlet, Evelyn and Nancy

In the year 2018, three young aged women disappeared in Jardines de Morelos, a neighborhood in Ecatepec, México. The first one missing, Arlet Samantha Olguín Hernández—who was 23 years old—disappeared as she walked her son to school, when a man approached and abducted her. This incident occurred around April. Some months afterwards, in the same location, the case of the disappearance of another woman named Evelyn Rojas Matus, a 29 year old, occurred. This time, Evelyn had left her children to go and find clothes, and later on was reported missing. The last vanish was reported in September of the same year when 28-year-old Nancy Noemí Huitrón Solorio left for a meeting together with her 2 month old daughter, Valentina. They both were reported missing later that day. The mothers of the victims wanted rapid investigation of the suspect and declared for the authorities to continue searching until the man in charge of the disappearances was found. In October, the government confirmed that more than 10 missing bodies were found in a house near the beach, in the state of Ecatepec where the victims had gone missing. In the next couple of weeks, neighbors of the Jardines de Morelos colony marched the streets with purple signs that read "*Ni una menos.*" It wasn't until November when authorities found the suspects Juan Carlos and Patricia who were in charge of the killing of more than 10 women and girls who were found at a beach house some months before in the neighborhood.

## Marina Menegazzo and María José Coni

Marina and Maria travelled to Ecuador to backpack around the country during February 2016. During their expedition to "Montañita," they encountered Alberto Segundo M. and Aurelio Eduardo R. The two now imprisoned men approached the girls and tried to rape them. When

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immun.org](http://www.immun.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



they resisted, the aggressors had to resort to violence. Coni died of a blunt force trauma to the head, after experiencing lesions in her paragenital region and a broken femur from resisting sexual assault. On the other hand, Marina agonized after being stabbed several times in different parts of her body ranging from the neck to her cervical region. She passed away due to a spinal cord injury, which left her alive but paralyzed with just enough time to helplessly watch everything the attackers were doing to her friend. The incident immediately received loads of attention from the press, pressuring government officials to pursue and try the two perpetrators. Even though this incident did result in the killers getting caught, the Latin American community still remembers this crime as an accurate representation of the current femicides in the region, and the long journey to fight the pressing issue.

## Past UN Actions

The United Nations recognizes that femicides are different from homicides “in their causes and consequences, and are often under-reported or neglected by law enforcement” (Puri). On March 15 of 2013, the Commission on the Status of Women agreed on giving the issue top priority. It encouraged governments to implement stricter law protection towards the safety of women and girls. They made an emphasis on creating legislations in order to penalize violence against women and therefore, decrease femicide rates. In order to address such problems, the UN has created different protocols and resolutions, some of which include: The Latin America Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women, The UN Women Model Protocol (used to assist justice departments when investigating femicides), and the “Taking action against gender related killing of women and girls” (Puri).

The United Nations addressed the existence of violence against women, because of this both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly established the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW). Developed in 1993, DEVAW allowed for the institution of standards for the international protection of women, regarding the sexual and gender based violence they face. It states that “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 private life” (UNHCHR, Art. 1). It encourages member states to take the necessary measures to prevent and punish those responsible for hurting a woman. Finally, DEVAW also recognizes the necessity for support networks that help protect victims of gender violence.

Years after, in 2004, the United Nations passed a resolution titled the “Elimination of domestic violence against women”. The resolution, which was established in the General Assembly, recognized that all around the world thousands of women are victims of domestic violence and decided to call for “an elimination of violence in the family.” The resolution included key points regarding domestic violence such as it being the most common but the least noticeable type of violence against women, since it normally happens between people that are “related through blood or intimacy” (Stopvaw). Currently, because of COVID-19, people have to stay at home, which intensifies the amount of domestic violence towards women in their

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immuns.org](http://www.immuns.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

households. In fact, 243 million women and girls have gone through abuse from their family members in the last 12 months. (Department of Global Communications) For this reason, the UN decided to work with “vital programmes” addressing women domestic violence around the world.

In 2008, UNICEF began researching how to stop genital mutilation of women. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is where a procedure “is performed on a woman or girl to alter or injure her genitalia for non-medical reasons” (UNICEF 2019). UNICEF has developed legislations and has been visiting different communities in order to end women’s genital mutilation. As a result, 13 countries have passed the national legislation banning FGM. In 2018, 7 million people around the world were part of the education process in order to eliminate the current issue.

The United Nations has also taken steps to ensure security towards women in general, not just protection from femicides. For example, the creation of the branch “UN Women” was established in July 2010. This is meant to be a campaign for equal rights and women empowerment. The organization remains present to this day and is actively working with a variety of governments around the world to implement laws, policies, and programs with the ultimate purpose of empowering women and ending sexist violence. The non-profit branch of the United Nations has exposed sexism in modern societies by creating a database that is able to map what countries protect women in their constitution effectively, and which still have some way to go.

It is also worth going into detail about the March 15th, 2013 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). In this meeting, “Member States successfully adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme of eliminating and preventing violence against women and girls” (UN Women calls for urgent and effective action against femicide). The outcome of the agreed-upon document urges governments to implement new and strengthen their pre-existing laws regarding femicides. The document also calls for the implementation of specific processes and legislations in order to “prevent, investigate, and eradicate femicide” (UN Women calls for urgent and effective action against femicide), as well as terminate the exception of punishment via the assurance of accountability for the perpetrators of such crimes.

## IV. Key Players and Points of View

### Mexico

In 2012, Mexico began keeping record of femicide data. This started due to international attention towards the thousands of women missing in Ciudad Juarez between the 1990’s and the 2000’s. (Ulloa). In Mexico, 10 women are killed everyday. In 2018, they were the second country with the most femicides in Latin America, behind Brazil. More than 40% of women who were killed knew their aggressor. Due to this, more than 75% of the women across the country state that they don’t feel safe (Sandin). In 2019, almost 3,080 women were murdered in Mexico, being the highest statistic ever recorded in the country (Ulloa). On account of all of the killings and violence towards women in the past years, protests and movements have been made across

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immuns.org](http://www.immuns.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

the country. For instance, in March of this year, women all across the country were on strike protesting silently against women violence and sexist behavior. The strike called for the absence of women for an entire day with the purpose of helping people gain consciousness on the importance of their role in society. Women didn't attend work, nor bought anything at stores and stayed in their houses as a form of protest for the government to take action. On this day, the Mexican economy faced the potential of decreasing by more than 25 million pesos (Garcia). Overall, Mexico is one of the countries with most violence towards women, but the government is not doing anything about it.

## **Honduras**

Honduras has the second highest femicide rate in Latin America (just after Ecuador) with 6.2 femicides for every 100,000 women a year. (ELAC, 2018) Taking this into consideration, it is important to note that in the year 2013, only 15 cases in the country were criminalized and investigated properly. Women have frequently denounced in the public press that they have to report the same domestic abuse incident multiple times in order to get it investigated, and most of the time, that does not even end up happening. Between 2014 and 2019, only 23 cases of femicides in Honduras have been adjudicated (Contra-corriente). Women are getting more and more alarmed each year as more and more cases are ignored by the respective law enforcement in charge. Organizations across the country that focus on women's rights have conducted several investigations and agree upon the conclusion that about 90% of all domestic abuse cases against women go unpunished. This could mainly be because of their weak laws against the issue. The only significant law for the protection of women is the "Law Against Domestic Violence," passed in October 1997. Many complain that this law contains many loopholes and is not very effective. Many hondurian citizens are demanding more protection for women, seeing as this country is one of the only six in Latin America to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

## **El Salvador**

It was not until 2011 that the Salvadoran law defined femicide as "the murder of a woman where the motives [of her murder] are hatred or contempt for her status as a woman" (Huttner, 2020). Over the years, femicides and violence against women have drastically increased and the lack of legal action is an important variable that influences such outcome. It is estimated that every 24 hours a woman is murdered and that around 67.4% of women in El Salvador experience gender-based violence at least once in their lifetime (Huttner, 2020). El Salvador's femicide rates stand out when placed on a world wide spectrum, as they rank amongst the top with 13.49 deaths per one hundred thousand women (Huttner, 2020). It is also important to take into account that these statistics lack to display the unreported crimes against women and girls, including forced disappearances and assaults. Only 5% of femicide cases go to court and end with a sentence, and only 3% of them are given a guilty verdict. The lack of legislative protection and persecution towards femicides makes this crisis really challenging to

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immun.org](http://www.immun.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

target. Femicides in El Salvador, like in the majority of Latin American countries, are fueled by machismo culture, gang-narco violence and corrupt/unaccountable police forces. Machismo is not only noticeable in gang culture but is deeply present in the justice system (judges, police forces). In 2017 a group of specialized courts were assigned to deal with femicide and violence against women, however, these have not proven to work effectively.

## Argentina

In the first two months of 2019, the *Buenos Aires Times* reported that there was one femicide in Argentina every 23 hours. Just within January and February, over 63 femicides occurred in the country. According to data provided by Raquel Vivanco from the *Observatorio Ahora que sí nos ven*, "in 66% of cases, women were victims of those who said they loved them" and "in 49% of [femicides], the aggressor was in a relationship with the victim" ("Femicide in Argentina every 23 hours in first two months of 2019", 2020). Recently, the femicide of 14-year-old Chiara Páez also sparked outrage all throughout Argentina. In 2015, after learning that she was pregnant, Páez was killed by her boyfriend in the town of Rufino, about 250 miles north of Buenos Aires. The schoolgirl's body was found buried in the yard of her boyfriend's home, who then confessed and pleaded guilty to charges of aggravated murder, femicide, and forced abortion (traces of abortion-inducing drugs were found in her bloodstream during her post-mortem). The boy's parents have also been charged as accessories to murder. A vigil of around 7,000 was held in that same town, with citizens saying that they were "in mourning" (Moloney, 2015). Thousands then gathered outside the Argentinian congress in Buenos Aires on June 3, 2015, protesting against femicides in the country and "to demand the implementation of the law of integral protection against violence of gender" ("Thousands cry 'Not one less' in massive anti-femicide protest in Argentina", 2015). Despite laws regarding femicide having been approved five years prior, many Argentine citizens were furious that the laws were not being implemented and enforced to their fullest extent. Protesters then attempted to mobilize other protesting units nationwide, in order to make their voices heard. People were actually so moved by the young girl's killing, that protests "[were] repeated in 80 other Argentine cities along with Uruguay, Chile and Miami, in the USA" ("Thousands cry 'Not one less' in massive anti-femicide protest in Argentina", 2015). Important politicians such as President Cristina Fernandez, as well as Buenos Aires mayor and future presidential candidate, Mauricio Macri, showed their support via social media.

## Brazil

On October 1st of 2019, Brazil saw an all time high in femicide cases. Although overall murder and violent deaths fell down 10.8% nationwide in 2018 (The Brazilian Report, 2019), femicide rates still increased by 4% in this period. As of 2015, the Brazilian Penal Code classified femicide as a sub-category of murder, referring to it as "[the] murder of a women as a consequence of her gender, wheter due to discrimination or contempt, or in cases of domestic violence (The Brazilian Report)". Any person responsible for a femicide faces the conviction of

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immuns.org](http://www.immuns.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



up to 30 years as jail sentence (*Brazil: four women killed every day in 2019, human rights body says, 2019*). Brazilian law establishes domestic violence to be a “legal notice for femicide” (The Brazilian Report). This is due to the number of unreported cases of violent deaths that go around, with only 4% of victims coming out and reporting their killers, domestic violence is usually not seen being persecuted by the law. The concept of femicide is still relatively new because of this. It is a popular opinion that the number of cases have increased because of a change in police methodology, this means that murders that previously would’ve been classified as murders or homicides, are now being registered as femicides. Brazil’s next step is to strengthen the prevention and protection measures towards victims of domestic violence, this is mostly because four women are killed everyday. To do so, Brazil plans on opening more shelters for victims of domestic violence, as they only have 74 shelters available to their population of 200 million. Doing so could lower the rate of femicides and create a more protecting community.

## V. Possible Solutions

Solving the issue of violent crimes against women is far from easy, but in order to begin tackling this problem it is important to begin looking at the root causes of femicide. This includes both personal and societal factors where one can see women are being mistreated and endangered. In both of these levels, it is important to notice how an individual behaves in an interpersonal relationship. Impulsivity, substance abuse, and exposure to prior violence are characteristics that can increase the probability of someone becoming a victim of violence. In regards to women who are involved in situations like these where domestic violence is present and their safety is endangered, it is important to institute prevention programs to increase education that will make people aware of when to intervene. Informing and making women aware of the indications of toxic relationships and even toxic environments will allow them to be more careful and be better protected. The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) has already launched a “online module on femicide prevention and police action” (*UNODC launches online module on femicide prevention and police action, 2020*). This module focuses on improving security of vulnerable groups: its main learning objective is to help identifying the tools and duties security institution have available when preventing violence against women, mostly focused on femicide. Unfortunately, this program has not been made aware in many nations, promoting this module and educating people about them is the first step to address this issue.

Men are paid more than women for the same job, which makes them feel more powerful and classifies women as inferior. When looking at working rates, we can see that 47% of the working class of Latin America are women. Likewise, in colleges we see that more than 60% of the graduates are women, and yet women are paid an average of 17% less than men (UN News). The difference in salaries of men and women with the same hours worked reveals that society needs a change. Changing the rates of pay and reinforcing equality towards women and men would result in the same opportunities and the same rights for both genders. In the present day,

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immun.org](http://www.immun.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

gender norms are used to justify the unfair treatment towards women, but giving them the same rights in society can help abolish those norms. Apart from treating men and women as equal, education is crucial to help decrease the rates of women violence (Gerdeman). Not only educating women about their rights, like stated above, but also educating men on what types of behavior are simply unacceptable.

This issue should also be addressed through a legislative lens. It's crucial to create and reinforce already established laws that protect women from discrimination, sexual abuse, violence, rape, and mutilation. Even though countries have begun to produce said regulations, these efforts are not enough seeing as they are not being reinforced by authorities. A proper bill to tackle femicides should be very specific on the penalties to be served and on the investigation process of the case. Seeing as femicide is often mischaracterized as homicide and domestic violence, there should be a lot of clarity on the differences between these cases when creating such laws. Some ways in which nations can ensure that these legislations are being properly imposed include: communicating to national police forces and justice systems the purposes of these laws and how they are to be carried out and developing “model protocols”—such as the one created by UN Women that investigate the transparency and usefulness of the laws being generated (Evans). There should be a lot of emphasis on the fact, that in order for these solutions to prosper, women need to be fully aware and understand their rights under the law. From this, women and girls will be motivated to seek justice for the crimes committed against them.

Lastly, taking into account that the figure for the amount of femicides is rapidly growing in most Latin American countries, it could also be highly beneficial to impulse the creation of an international task force dedicated to investigating major hate crimes committed against women. According to activist Natalia Reyes, only 8% of all femicides in Mexico are punished, implying that 92% of all perpetrators are left impune. The proposed task force could operate through a decentralized intelligence database, and create detailed reports for the OAS, which could then impose consequences for nations who still refuse to investigate the situation in their country. This is done with the overall purpose of establishing tools and incentives to further facilitate members of the OAS to investigate and punish all reported cases of femicides, ultimately restoring peace in the hearts of all women.

## VI. Current Status

Ever since the outrageous rise of femicide cases, the UN Women and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights launched the Latin American Model Protocol to set up the search for reasoning behind gender-related killings of women in 2014 (Global Americans, 2020). Between 2012 and 2015, it was reported that in Mexico 2,318 women have been murdered according to the National Citizen Femicide Observatory (OCNF). By 2008, nine countries in the Latin American region had already set up special legislation based on the issue and by 2015, sixteen had managed their laws in order to manage the specific types of crimes that involve gender-related killings. It is in the hands of Latin America to resolve this issue.

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immuns.org](http://www.immuns.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

Among the 25 countries with the highest femicide rates in the world, “14 are from Latin America and the Caribbean” (“Femicide and International Women’s Rights”). While all Latin American countries have signed and ratified international accords such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, it is still an extremely prevalent issue in all Latin American countries, especially those such as El Salvador and Honduras, which both have a rate “of more than 10 female homicides per 100,000 women” (“Femicide and International Women’s Rights”). According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, an average of 12 women are murdered per day in the entire region, excluding Brazil (which happens to have one of the worst femicide rates on Earth). While supposed measures have been taken in order to prevent the killing of women in Latin American countries, not enough is being done to enforce these measures and to punish perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.

## VII. Bibliography

- A. (2018). UN Resolutions on Violence Against Women. Retrieved from [https://www.stopvaw.org/un\\_resolutions\\_on\\_violence\\_against\\_women](https://www.stopvaw.org/un_resolutions_on_violence_against_women)
- Boira, S., & Nudelman, A. (n.d.). Professionals' support role for survivors of femicide and relatives of victims:. Retrieved from <https://journals.uis.no/index.php/JCSW/article/view/160>
- Brazil: four women killed every day in 2019, human rights body says.* (2019, February 4). The Guardian. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/04/brazil-women-killed-2019-rate-alar-ming-iachr>
- C. (2019, November 14). Femicide or feminicide. Retrieved from <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/femicide-or-feminicide>
- Case History: Marisela Escobedo Ortiz.* (2016, February 24). Front Line Defenders. Retrieved from <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/case-history-marisela-escobedo-ortiz>
- El Universal (2020) The atrocious femice of Ingrid Escamilla sparks outrage in Mexico. <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/english/atrocious-femicide-ingrid-escamilla-sparks-outrage-mexico>
- Evans P. Dabney. The Conversation (November 2015). Why do women need special laws to protect them from violence? Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/why-do-women-need-special-laws-to-protect-them-from-violence-50944>.

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immun.org](http://www.immun.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation



American School Foundation of Monterrey

- García, A. (2020, February 21). ¿Cuánto costará a la economía que las mujeres hagan paro nacional el 9 de marzo? Retrieved from <https://www.economista.com.mx/politica/Cuanto-costara-a-la-economia-que-las-mujeres-hagan-paro-nacional-el-9-de-marzo-20200220-0069.html>
- Garcias-Moreno, C. [Claudia]. Guedes, A. [Alessandra]. Knerr, W. [Wendy]. (2012). Understanding and addressing violence against women. Retrieved from [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77421/WHO\\_RHR\\_12.38\\_eng.pdf;jsessionid=6121A876A3F6241076EF7124BD442EF9?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77421/WHO_RHR_12.38_eng.pdf;jsessionid=6121A876A3F6241076EF7124BD442EF9?sequence=1)
- Gerdeman, D. (2019, February 25). How Gender Stereotypes Kill a Woman's Self-Confidence. Retrieved from <https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/how-gender-stereotypes-less-than-br-greater-than-kill-a-woman-s-less-than-br-greater-than-self-confidence>
- Global Americans (2020) Femicide and International Women's Rights. Retrieved from <https://theglobalamericans.org/reports/femicide-international-womens-rights/>
- Herrera, V. (2020, November 11). Femicide in Honduras: Women dismissed by their own government. Retrieved from <https://contracorriente.red/en/2020/08/08/femicide-in-honduras-women-dismissed-by-their-own-government/?lang=en>
- Huttner, Sophie. (March 2020). El Salvador 's Femicide Crisis. Retrieved from <http://yris.yira.org/essays/3794>.
- Kennon, I. and Valdevitt, G., 2020. Women Protest For Their Lives: Fighting Femicide In Latin America. Atlantic Council. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/women-protest-for-their-lives-fighting-femicide-in-latin-america/>.
- (May 2013). UN Resolutions on Violence Against Women. Retrieved from [https://www.stopvaw.org/un\\_resolutions\\_on\\_violence\\_against\\_women](https://www.stopvaw.org/un_resolutions_on_violence_against_women).
- McDonald, B. (March 9, 2020). *New York Times*. In Mexico, Women Go on Strike Nationwide to Protest Violence. Mexico. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/09/world/americas/mexico-women-strike-protest.html>
- Molina, P. (2018) Domestic Violence in Chile: Calling Out Femicide. Retrieved from <https://niemanreports.org/articles/chile-femicide-is-not-a-crime-melodrama/>

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immun.org](http://www.immun.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



- Puri, L. (2013, May 15). UN Women calls for urgent and effective action against femicide. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/5/un-women-calls-for-urgent-and-effective-action-against-femicide>
- Reina, E., 2020. La Tortura Y Asesinato De Una Niña De Siete Años Disparan La Ira En México Por La Violencia De Género. El País. [https://elpais.com/sociedad/2020/02/17/actualidad/1581961625\\_590259.html](https://elpais.com/sociedad/2020/02/17/actualidad/1581961625_590259.html).
- Saccomano, C. (2014) The causes of femicide in Latin America. [https://www.ibei.org/ibei\\_studentpaper24\\_71980.pdf](https://www.ibei.org/ibei_studentpaper24_71980.pdf).
- Sandin, L. (March 19, 2020). Femicides in Mexico: Impunity and protests. Retrieved from <https://www.csis.org/analysis/femicides-mexico-impunity-and-protests>
- The Brazilian Report. (2019, October 1). *Femicide Hits All-Time High in Brazil*. Wilson Center. Retrieved from <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/femicide-hits-all-time-high-brazil>
- The history of the term 'femicide'. Retrieved from <https://www.femicideinCanada.ca/about/history>
- The Shadow Pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>
- Ulloa, T. (2020, March 10). México: Paro nacional de mujeres 2020. Retrieved from <https://tribunafeminista.elplural.com/2020/03/paro-nacional-de-mujeres-2020/>
- UNODC launches online module on femicide prevention and police action. (2020, September 11). United Nations. Retrieved from <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2020/September/unodc-launches-an-online-module-on-femicide-prevention-and-police-action.html>
- Van der Spek, B. (2020, March, 8) Femicide in Chile: These ten women were killed in 2019. Retrieved from <https://chiletoday.cl/femicide-in-chile-these-ten-women-were-killed-in-2019/>
- Wilson, T. D. (2014, January). Introduction: Violence against Women in Latin America. Retrieved October 23, 2020, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24573973?seq=1>

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immuns.org](http://www.immuns.org)





# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



WHO (2012) Understanding and Addressing Violence Against Women. Retrieved from <https://apps.who.int>

Women. (2019, October 28). More women in Latin America are working, but gender gap persists, new UN figures show | | UN News. Retrieved from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/10/1050121>

AVE. MORONES PRIETO 1500 • SANTA CATARINA, N.L. MÉXICO 66190  
TELEPHONE: (81) 8288-4400 • FAX: (81) 8288-4455

[www.immun.org](http://www.immun.org)

