



# CSW

## BACKGROUND GUIDE

*Addressing the effect of the SARS  
CoV-2 Pandemic on women's rights  
with special emphasis on their  
economic status, education, health,  
and violence against them*



Greetings delegates,

The SARS CoV-2 pandemic, an unwanted visitor that paid us a visit back in 2019, continues to plague nations world over in its original and mutant forms. It has been called unexpected, deathly, rampant, and life-altering - but I'd like us to, for a brief second, focus on its revelatory, eye-opening nature. And I don't mean the cultural revelations it has unpacked among people, promoting lifestyle shifts. Here, I'm referring strictly to what the pandemic has revealed to us about the environment, political systems, healthcare systems....but more specifically, about gender disparities.

When disaster strikes, it isn't just important for us to assess what, where, when, and how it has struck, but also to understand WHO it has affected most. And much like any disaster, COVID-19's direct and cascading effect was most prominently seen in marginalised communities. For the purpose of this committee, our prime focus in our discussions will be women and young girls. Over the three days of the conference, I urge you to ask some important and gruelling questions in your bid to unpack the full extent of the pandemic's impact on women and young girls across the globe - keeping in mind not only the impact on a wide range of rights and freedoms, their safety, and their well-being, but also discrepancies in the level of impact across nations, sectors, and communities. It is only when cause and effect are fully established upon scrutiny, is when we can come up with holistic short and long-term solutions that will mitigate the effects of the existing pandemic while preparing us for when disaster along similar lines strikes in the future.

I've found that given the abundance of bad news lately, a common coping mechanism adopted by most is to desensitise themselves in order to stay afloat. As delegates discussing an ongoing rampant problem - I urge you to keep the sensitive and serious nature of this issue in mind and act accordingly. The executive board will also smile more favourably upon consensus building and diplomacy, over confrontation and baseless rhetoric. Having said that, we look forward to hearing the varied perspectives you bring to the table, in what I'm sure will be 3 fruitful days of debating and discussion!

Regards,

Nidhi Belman  
Chairperson

Divyabharathi  
Vice Chairperson

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## **ABOUT THE COMMITTEE**

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The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the world's leading intergovernmental agency dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women. The functional committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was established in accordance with ECOSOC Resolution 11 (II) of June 21, 1946. CSW is the foundation for promoting women's rights, documenting the realities of women's lives around the world, and shaping global norms on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The Commission adopts multi-year programmes of work to appraise progress and make further recommendations that take the form of negotiated agreed conclusions on a priority theme, to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action. At each session, the commission:

- Reaffirms political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as their human rights.
- Strengthens plans to speed up the implementation and efforts to develop capacity that incorporates gender equality through laws and policies.
- Engages in general discussion on the status of gender equality, identifying goals attained, achievements made, and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges.
- Agrees on further actions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting agreed conclusions and resolutions.

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## HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR COMMITTEE

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Here's a list of questions you must know the answers to, for your committee:

### What does your specific body do?

Does it send troops? Disarm? Help children? World hunger? Alternative energy? It's important to know exactly what your committee does, and additionally, what it doesn't do. For instance, if you have been assigned UNICEF, you must read its mandate and functions to know where its work starts and stops. It wouldn't make sense to discuss

the rights of refugees or to dive deep into the political situation of a country in a UNICEF that specifically deals with the protection of child rights.

### **What is its history/major past actions it has done?**

Such contextual history and past action will help you frame your strategy for the committee. What should you do can be further filtered down by what has already been done, or at least tried, in that committee previously. It will also help you cite and critique the effectiveness of such action, along with helping you understand the actions of other countries on the matter at hand - what they have said in the past, and how they have voted on key topics. This gives you an edge in committee also because you will then have a frame of reference in reminding countries of their foreign policy, or in preparing for how countries might most likely respond to ideas and suggestions.

For example, in a UNSC (UN Security Council) discussing the Nagorno Karabakh Conflict, it would help to know,

- Have any resolutions been raised? Which ones passed and failed and why?
- How did key powers and players vote on these resolutions?
- Has the UNSC passed resolutions that address key concepts that arise in this matter? (For example, right to self-determination might have been addressed in a resolution on another conflict or in general, as opposed to in a resolution on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict)

This is important because it sets precedents for what is allowed/encouraged. Is what you're offering new or an extension/improvement of what was? Food for thought.

## What is the committee currently working on?

Just as much as past action will help you see how the committee dealt with the subject matter in the past, it also helps to know what your committee's current area of focus is to not only utilise it in your speeches, but also in your overall approach and solutions. This includes updated data, current project, upcoming aspirations, etc.

For example, since the UN Development Programme's key focus currently is the Sustainable Development Goals and their fulfillment - you must incorporate those into the discussion, your approach, and the solutions you end up providing to the matter being discussed in your simulation of the UNDP.

## What are its limitations?

While the first question dealt with your committee's functions and area of expertise, at this point we are specifically concerned with your committee's limitations. For instance, in a UN Human Rights Council discussing "Women's rights in war torn regions", it is important to know,

- What action can you take? (Can you deploy peacekeeping forces, or fact-finding missions, or impose sanctions?)
- What resources can you give? (Can you provide funding? Or call upon other UN agencies to do so? Or perhaps can you provide aid, and if yes, what kind of aid?)

This will not only help you understand what your committee can do, keeping your solutions and speeches within mandate...but it will also help you understand whether your resolution should be suggestive in nature, or should call for affirmative action.

### **ADDITIONAL TIPS, take it or leave it:**

- **Read resolutions** on both the specific agenda at hand, and also ones that touch upon the sub-themes within your agenda. At this stage, consolidate quotes, facts, and solutions from these resolutions you come across while scouring the committee website. There is no better source than the committee website itself, and once you mine these resolutions for such information - it will not only make sure you have a chunk of relevant information with valid sources, it will also ensure you're well-versed in the perspective held by key countries involved. Including yours of course.
- A simple **purview of the website** will help you understand what the committee is currently focusing on. Keep your current news restricted to the 2 years since prior to your MUN, to avoid getting lost in a wormhole of information.
- Most committees have **fact-finding reports and statements from the Secretary General or head of the committee** on the matter at hand. Save sections of these too, as they serve as valid sources you can use to raise effective PoIs and speeches in committee.

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## ABOUT THE AGENDA

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Over the last year, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress towards gender equality has stalled. In its 2021 Global Gender Gap Report, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has concluded that the pandemic has had a reversal effect on crucial aspects of the fight for gender equality that has been positively progressing over the last few decades. This stems from the fact that the pandemic has had a more detrimental effect on women than on men. For example, thus far, 5% of all employed women have had their jobs terminated, compared to

3.9% of all employed men. Furthermore, fewer women are being hired for crucial leadership positions, which sets back recent progress by at least one or two years so far. Additionally, A United Nations 2020 study has found that as schools closed and jobs went online in March last year, women have been confronted with the extra burden of childcare and unpaid domestic work, while parents have been receiving more help from their daughters than sons around the house. This greatly worries UN Women, which has warned that there is ‘a real danger that the pandemic will erase the important but fragile progress that women have made over the past decades’.

This is why it’s no surprise that the world is now referring to the COVID-19 pandemic’s cascading effect on women as the “shadow pandemic”. While the world's attention is focused on controlling COVID-19, this other scourge is increasing...exacerbated by the very measures put in place to slow the virus' growth, such as lockdowns, social isolation, and other forms of movement limitations. While lockdowns and stay-at-home orders are important in limiting and preventing the spread of COVID-19, they also have a



devastating impact on women and girls who are at risk of gender-based violence (GBV), as many of the factors that trigger or perpetuate violence against women and girls are exacerbated by preventive confinement measures. Women who are older, disabled, LGBTQI and trans women, migrants, displaced and refugee women, victims of armed conflict, indigenous women and those living in informal settlements face greater vulnerability to multiple forms of discrimination and additional obstacles in accessing essential services.

Recently the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place in March 2021 where the commission adopted and agreed conclusions on women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Also, UN-Women has urged the international community, individual governments, the private sector, and civil society to prioritise prevention of gender based violence and increase efforts to raise awareness, promoting zero tolerance for violence against women and girls since the start of the pandemic.

### ECONOMIC SITUATION

- **Pay disparities between male and female healthcare workers** - Globally, 70 percent of health workers and first responders are women, and yet, they are not at par with their male counterparts. At 28 per cent, the gender pay gap in the health sector is higher than the overall gender pay gap (16 per cent).
- **Risk of poverty** - The recently released report, "[From Insights to Action](#)" shows that the pandemic will push 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021, 47 million of whom are women and girls. This will bring the total number of women

and girls living on USD 1.90 or less, to 435 million. The pandemic-induced poverty surge will also widen the gender poverty gap – meaning, more women will be pushed into extreme poverty than men. This is especially the case among those aged 25 to 34, at the height of their productive and family formation period. In 2021, it is expected there will be 118 women aged 25 to 34 in extreme poverty for every 100 men aged 25 to 34 in extreme poverty globally, and this ratio could rise to 121 poor women for every 100 poor men by 2030.

- **Risk to women-run businesses and paid women labourers** - Since the start of the pandemic, in Europe and Central Asia, 25 percent of self-employed women have lost their jobs, compared to 21 percent of men — a trend that is expected to continue as unemployment rises. Projections from the International Labour Organization suggest the equivalent of 140 million full-time jobs may be lost due to COVID-19; and women’s employment is 19 per cent more at risk than men.
- **Industries primarily employing women hit most** - Women are overrepresented in many of the industries hardest hit by COVID-19, such as food service, retail and entertainment. For example, 40 percent of all employed women – 510 million women globally – work in hard-hit sectors, compared to 36.6 percent of employed men. Within some of these sectors where informal employment is common, workers were already subject to low pay, poor working conditions and lacking social protection ( pension, healthcare, unemployment insurance) before the pandemic. Globally, 58 percent of employed women work in informal employment, and estimates suggest that during the first month of the

pandemic, informal workers globally lost an average of 60 percent of their income.

- **Loss of livelihood of domestic workers** - For domestic workers, 80 percent of whom are women, the situation has been dire: around the world, a staggering 72 percent of domestic workers have lost their jobs. Even before the pandemic, paid domestic work, like many other informal economy jobs, lacked basic worker protections like paid leave, notice period or severance pay. In the absence of help from employers, domestic workers in Latin America have been organizing their own networks of assistance. Workers associations and unions are playing a critical role.
- **Unpaid care and inequality at home** - As quarantine measures keep people at home, close schools and day-care facilities, the burden of unpaid care and domestic work has exploded. Both for women and men. But even before COVID-19, women spent an average of 4.1 hours per day performing unpaid work, while men spent 1.7 hours – that means women did three times more unpaid care work than men, worldwide. Both men and women report an increase in unpaid work since the start of the pandemic, but women are continuing to shoulder the bulk of that work. School and daycare closures, along with the reduced availability of outside help, have led to months of additional work for women. For working mothers, this has meant balancing full-time employment with childcare and schooling responsibilities. The responsibility of caring for sick and elderly family members often falls on women as well. Poverty and gaps in basic services and infrastructure add to women's unpaid workload. Globally, around 4 billion people lack access to safely managed sanitation facilities, and roughly 3 billion lack clean water and soap at home. In these situations, women

and girls are the ones tasked with water collection and other tasks necessary for day-to-day survival.

## EDUCATION SITUATION

Economic insecurity is not just jobs, and income loss today. It has a snowball effect on the lives of women and girls for years to come. Impacts on education and employment have long lasting consequences that, if unaddressed, will reverse hard-won gains in gender equality. Estimates show that an additional 11 million girls may leave school by the end of the COVID crisis; evidence from previous crises suggests that many will not return.

A widening education gender gap has serious implications for women, including a significant reduction in what they earn and how, and an increase in teen pregnancy and child marriage. Lack of education and economic insecurity also increase the risk of gender-based violence. Without sufficient economic resources, women are unable to escape abusive partners and face a greater threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

These consequences won't disappear when the pandemic subsides: women are likely to experience long-term setbacks in work force participation and income. Impacts on pensions and savings will have implications for women's economic security far down the road. The fallout will be most severe for the most vulnerable women among us, those who are rarely in the headlines: migrant workers, refugees, marginalized racial and ethnic groups, single-parent households, youth and the world's poorest. Those who have recently escaped extreme poverty will likely fall back into it.

## AVAILABILITY OF ACCURATE AND INCLUSIVE DATA

As the COVID-19 pandemic lays bare gender and other enduring fault lines of inequality, the limited availability of data is leaving many questions unanswered. The disaggregation of data on cases, fatalities and economic and social impact by sex, age and other key characteristics – such as ethnicity and race, migratory status, disability and wealth – is vital to understanding the pandemic’s differential impacts. Most countries, however, are not regularly releasing data disaggregated by multiple dimensions, or on the differential effects of ongoing responses. It is critical that governments start collecting and promoting open access to timely and quality disaggregated data.

In low- and lower-middle-income countries, 9 out of 10 statistics offices report reduced ability to meet international reporting requirements. The crisis is also exacerbating knowledge and data gaps, as statistics agencies in countries with few resources are facing great challenges in coping with their standard workload, let alone adapting data collection operations to this new reality. More than half of national statistics offices in low- and lower-middle-income countries have experienced budget cuts, making it difficult to operate effectively. This may push gender data even lower down the list of priorities. Gender statistics have long suffered from chronic underfunding. Although investments in gender statistics have increased slightly in recent years, they have stayed largely flat over the past decade, as a small percentage of official development assistance for statistics. Increased investments are needed to ensure that national statistical systems have the resources necessary to address the challenges that they face.

## HEALTHCARE SITUATION

- **Certain communities disproportionately affected** – Emerging evidence reveals that poor and marginalized communities are more vulnerable to COVID-19. In the United States, data from New York City show significantly higher COVID-19 death rates among Black and Latinx people compared to white and Asian people. In the United Kingdom, data from England and Wales show similar disparities by sex, race and ethnicity. These differences in risks of infection and death reflect pre-pandemic economic and social disparities, including inequalities in living conditions, such as poor quality and overcrowded housing, as well as greater likelihood of being employed in insecure and low-paid jobs. Inequalities in access to health care and greater propensity for underlying health conditions further compound these disadvantages.
- **Access to reproductive & sexual healthcare services** – The surge in COVID-19 cases is straining even the most advanced and best-resourced health systems. At the top of the resource spectrum, Europe and North America averages five hospital beds per 1,000 people, while at the bottom, sub-Saharan Africa has on average just 0.8 hospital beds per 1,000 people. With resources diverted to fighting the pandemic, and people fearful of seeking routine medical care and worrying about financial pressures, many are neglecting other health-related concerns. UN Women's rapid gender assessment surveys show that in 4 out of 10 countries in Europe and Central Asia, at least half of women in need of family planning services have experienced major difficulty accessing them since the pandemic began. In Asia and the Pacific, 60 percent of women report facing more barriers to seeing a doctor as a result of the pandemic. Although data and studies are still limited, early evidence indicates that COVID-19 has both direct

and indirect effects on maternal mortality, with some estimates as high as 56,700 additional maternal deaths.

Despite the pandemic's strain on health systems, governments must ensure that health services continue to operate safely and that policies are in place to protect the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls, and their newborns. Including women's perspectives and leadership in decision-making about global health and emergency response are also paramount to bringing these issues to the fore.

- **Gender-based violence, both domestic & otherwise** – Globally, an estimated 243 million women and girls aged 15 to 49 have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the last year. Emerging data show that violence against women and girls has intensified since the outbreak of COVID-19. Violent partners may use confinement to further exercise power and control. At the same time, women have less income, fewer opportunities for social contact, and limited access to services and community support, all of which give them fewer exit options.

In countries such as Argentina, Cyprus, France and Singapore, reports of domestic violence and calls to abuse hotlines increased during the first weeks of the lockdown when physical distancing measures were put in place. In the United Kingdom, 16 women died at the hands of domestic abusers between 23 March and 12 April – nearly three times more than during the same period over the previous decade. In other countries, abuse reports and calls to hotlines are decreasing as women are unable to leave home or access help online or via telephone. Prior to the pandemic, less than 40 percent of survivors of these crimes sought help of any sort and fewer than 10 percent of them reported these

crimes to police. With lockdowns shuttering or reducing services for survivors in some countries, reporting is expected to drop further.

Evidence across countries shows that women with disabilities are two times more likely to experience violence from partners and family members than women without disabilities and up to 10 times more likely to suffer from sexual violence. In the context of lockdowns, institutionalized women with disabilities may also be at further risk of violence when visitors and monitors are not allowed. Evidence from previous pandemics reveals increased violence against female health workers, online violence, femicide, harmful practices, and racial and ethnic discrimination and violence. In China, Italy, Singapore and countless other countries, there have been reports of both physical and verbal attacks on health care workers linked to COVID-19. Similarly, people of Asian descent have been the target of verbal abuse, harassment and violence in public spaces across the globe.

- **Mental health** – A lack of adequate domestic and emotional support can have consequences on women's mental health. The risk of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is also much higher in women. For example, among pregnant women, COVID-19 was associated with a high rate of miscarriage, preterm birth, pre-eclampsia, cesarean (for unknown reasons), and perinatal death. Most of these studies were case reports or observational studies which may have contributed to these discrepancies. All these uncertainties are likely to increase the level of psychological stress and may contribute to an increased risk of pregnancy terminations. Studies found a prevalence of post-traumatic stress symptoms of 7% in Wuhan (China) 1 month after the COVID-19 outbreak (in 285 residents). In sub-symptom analysis of PCL-5 (PTSD Checklist for DSM-5), women suffer more re-experiencing, negative alterations



in cognition or mood as compared to men. Studies also found that 29.2% of the 15,530 respondents in the UK scored 4 or more on general psychiatric disorders measured by the 12-item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) and 35.86% of the respondents sometimes or often feel lonely. Women and young people had higher risks of psychiatric disorders and loneliness. Being employed and living with a partner were protective factors.

A high prevalence of mental health symptoms were also noted in female frontline workers. In total, 50.4, 44.6, 34.0, and 71.5% of participants reported symptoms of depression, anxiety, insomnia, and more than 70% reported psychological distress, respectively. Female gender and having an intermediate occupation were associated with experiencing more severe depression, anxiety, and distress. Working as a frontline health worker (41.5% of the participants) and in Wuhan (the epicenter of the crisis) were also risk factors for worse mental health outcomes.

**PERSPECTIVES TO BE CONSIDERED (besides what is already mentioned above):**

- International legislation, agreements, conventions and treaties that protect women's rights and how. For example, CEDAW, UDHR, ICCPR, ICECR, UN Charter, etc.
- Exacerbation of women's issues in contexts of fragility, conflict, and emergencies where social cohesion is already undermined and institutional capacity and services are limited. For example, in Afghanistan, Venezuela,

African nations, etc.

- Political representation of women in STEM fields, politics, and journalistic reporting in light of the pandemic.
- Exacerbation of issues within further marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities, women of colour, LGBTQIA women, and older women.
- Discrepancies in previous pandemics/epidemics/emergencies and how they were addressed.
- Actions taken by nations, organisations, and the UN thus far.

Keeping all of the above in mind, a systemic long and short-term approach towards solutions must be taken, covering prevention, protection, and response by governments; international, regional and national organisations; individuals; and the UN.

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## HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR AGENDA

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### WHAT is the core idea or right the problem infringes?

Usually the agenda involves "safeguarding" or "protecting" or "restoring" rights, or involves dealing with a crisis where certain rights were violated. If not rights, it will still be anchored in a core idea involving some or all categories of people and/or nations. Identify what the anchor in your agenda is and read up on it.

What UN document or principle is it enshrined in? (Examples of such documents include the UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Covenant on Civil & Political Rights, etc)

Does it involve a certain category of marginalised people, or to all people and nations? (For example, the right to equality, an adequate standard of life, self-determination, and non-refoulement that protects refugees - or the principle of sovereignty that protects the internal matters of nations)

### **HOW was this core idea or right infringed?**

What were the key players and key background events that led to such a core idea or rights infringement? For example, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela was triggered by their economy's overdependence on oil, political authoritarianism by two consecutive ruling governments, and a global recession coupled with a drop in oil prices and demand. Similarly, identify the same for your agenda. What and who triggered the problem and how!

### **WHY was it infringed?**

To be able to come up with innovative solutions to complex problems, it is important to get inside the mind of these key players and identify what their motive was behind such actions, as well as to identify why global or regional or even national events might have caused such a problem to arise. For example, Venezuela's crisis stems from President Chavez's increased focus on oil to enrich the government's coffers, as well as President Maduro's unwillingness to relinquish authority to continue benefiting from it. It was also further exacerbated by Maduro's unwillingness to seek help along with

sanctions imposed by the US due to illegal drug trafficking and undemocratic practices by Maduro's government.

### What was the impact of such infringement?

Identify the most remote to the most proximate consequences that have stemmed from such infringement and make note of them. This will help ensure you've covered ground properly, and you can then frame targeted solutions for each of these. For example, the Venezuelan economic and political crisis led to a healthcare crisis, a humanitarian one, a sanctions regime, a refugee crisis, protests and violence, and more.

### What was the reaction to it all?

This includes,

- National reaction(s) - How the country (or countries) reacted to the cause and effect within their territory
- Regional reaction(s) - How neighbouring nations and regional organisations reacted to the cause and effect
- International reaction(s) - How the international community and international organisations reacted to the cause and effect

Identifying this will help you then see what worked and what didn't work, and formulate your solutions and approach accordingly.

## What is expected if no one intervenes?

This question is often ignored by many, but is crucial towards understanding what aspects of the agenda take precedence and how they must be dealt with. It will help you in crafting your strategy - i.e. charting up long and short term solutions that deal with both cause and effect. For example, if the Venezuelan humanitarian crisis were ignored, it would lead to a worsening of the refugee crisis placing pressure on neighbouring countries, as well as an increase in political rifts, instability, protests, death, worsening of the healthcare system, etc. So identify what would happen if no one intervenes in the agenda you have been assigned with. Think of worst case scenarios, and best case scenarios. It will help you frame your speeches and arguments better and also chart a plan for the course that committee should take.

### **ADDITIONAL TIPS, take it or leave it:**

- **Set yourself a freeze date and work backwards or forwards accordingly -**

It is easy to get lost in a wormhole of information on the agenda that dates back to more than 50 years ago...but such information isn't necessarily relevant to you. So depending on the agenda at hand, set yourself a cap of 5-10 years and work backwards. You could start with the most recent events and information to ensure your content stays relevant (many delegates start with the past but end up missing out on recent updates and therefore give outdated solutions and information), and move backwards to explore the past within the window of time you set to understand cause and effect, what worked and didn't, and more. Or you can move from past to present, depending on the agenda. For instance, in a discussion on a particular country's crisis, it would

help to know the political and economic actions of the past 2 leaders but nothing beyond that as it will border on irrelevant.

- **Begin listing down sub-topics and sub-themes you come across** - These will help you chart a course for committee, and as a result, an effective list of moderated caucus topics in line with such a course. Remember, the moderated caucus topics you propose must be attuned to the stage committee is in, and must have a flow to them! Just as an essay has an introduction, body, and a conclusion - so should a committee and what's discussed within it!
- **Start documenting solutions from the get go itself** - As and when you go through research resources, you will come across solutions scattered across these sources. Keep documenting these in one document for you to later format and paraphrase into a concise yet thorough list of solutions. You can also document solutions you come up with along the way!

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## **SPEECH MAKING 101**

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After researching thoroughly and familiarising yourself with the Rules of Procedure, it's now time for you to begin thinking about the kind of speeches you want to deliver in committee. So let's dive in! But before we do, a few things to remember,

Don't deprive your speech of personality, use humor and emotion when needed.

Let your speech reflect your strategy and approach and overall course of action for the committee.

Don't rely on rhetoric and theatrics. Mix it up with relevant and unique content and a clear call to action.

### Method 1: Hook | Point | Call to Action (HPC)

**Hook** - Use the hook to grab your audience's attention, especially in a large committee, or a committee where delegates and the EB are distracted and disinterested. You could use a question, statistic, quote, or story for this purpose. Keep it short and while delivering it, deliver it with a firm, and if necessary, loud voice.

Example, in a committee discussing a moderated caucus on "xenophobia in receiving nations" can begin with,

**A question** - "Delegates, isn't it ironic that xenophobia still exists in a global world where a bulk of the population aren't native to the place they live in?"

A quote - "I'd like to begin with a quote from the honorable Secretary General, "the pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering""

A statistic - "20% of Asians, 45% of Latin Americans, and 30% of Africans and Middle Easterns face xenophobia in countries they migrate to. Delegates, these are horrifying statistics."

A story - "On 21st January 2021, 4 international students in Kansas City, USA, were subjected to brutal assault and racist slurs...."

**Point** - Now that you've quite literally got everyone hooked, move to the purpose of your speech. The purpose will shift depending on what's being discussed or what stage of committee you're in.



For example, going with the previous example, you would continue with "As a result of such rampant xenophobic sentiments, migrants and refugees are not only suffering with social stigma and stereotypes, these also take the shape of long and short term consequences! In the short run, it might pose a threat to their health and safety, and make it challenging for them to find employment, buy land and commodities....while in the long run, such hate manifests itself in the laws of the land making it challenging for them to get official status, and subjecting them to the threat of refoulement".

**Call to action** - With this you tell your audience what can be done. This is where you share solutions.

For example, again, going with the previous example, you can state that "Quick and sustainable solutions are the need of the hour. The delegate proposes setting up of....introduction of more stringent laws on.....and the launch of sensitization campaigns...."

## **Method 2: Clash | Information | Action (CIA, developed by a MUN-er named Daniel Gindis)**

**Clash** - A confrontation of ideas, specifically an important two-sided issue within the topic that you want the committee to discuss. For something to be a clash, delegates from your committee need to be on either side of it. If there are no two sides it is not something the committee will debate and will either unanimously go straight to the unimportant clause section of the resolution or fall entirely out of discussion. Either way, it will not be central to the debate on the floor.

**Information** - Relevant facts, ideally numbers, that support other parts of your speech. Information can also be facts about your country that justifies your position. Your information should,

- Supports why your Clash is the most relevant
- Shows why your Call to Action is the most important
- Shows why your country has the position it does
- Disproves information brought by another delegate

Information in follow up speeches usually moves between these four. In earlier speeches the “I” focuses more on your own world building and less on countering other countries. However, MUN simulations have a lot going on and the Information should be used and modified on a case by case basis.

**Call to Action** - The practical policy you offer to solve the issue you set up in your clash.