

B A C K G R O U N D
G U I D E

UN WOMEN: DISCUSSING THE IMPACTS OF RAPE CULTURE IN THE EDUCATION OF
CHILDREN

U N W O M E N



A L E M U N 2 0 2 3

CHAIRS: Helena Radwanski and Maria Eduarda Savio

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**HELENA
RADWANSKI**

1. Greeting Word

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we, Helena Radwanski and Maria Eduarda Savio, from the classes 12 and 11, welcome you to the UN Women Council of AleMUN 2023. This will be the first time both of us participate as committee chairs in a Model United Nations and we are proud to say we are looking forward to meeting you and discussing the different perspectives you may have for solving a worldwide problem.

As our council, UN Women, is the only United Nations' entity that's entirely dedicated to gender equality and to female empowerment, we must say that one of the main concerns that women have nowadays is the impact of the rape culture in the education of children. Rape culture manifests itself in treating sexual violence as the norm and blaming victims for their own assaults. It's not necessarily about the sexual violence itself, but also about cultural norms and institutions that protect rapists and promote impunity, shaming the victim.

As it is the first time many of you participate in such an event, it is completely understandable that some of you may be anxious or nervous about it, but we would like to let you know that if there are any concerns or questions regarding the conference, we will be more than happy to help you. You can reach us through the contact provided below. We wish you all the best and good luck in your preparations and we look forward to an exciting debate!

Yours sincerely,

Chairs of the UN Women Council

Helena Radwanski and Maria Eduarda Savio



MARIA EDUARDA SAVIO

2. UN WOMEN

2.1 Introduction to the Committee

UN Women stands as a robust pillar of the UN, defending women's rights through programs, policies, and unwavering standards. At its core, the mission is singular and clear: to pave the way for every woman and girl to reach her full potential.

Around the world, women deal with disparities, from restricted access to quality jobs to imbalanced payments rooted deep in gender biases. It is of great concern how countless women and girls are continually denied crucial opportunities in education and healthcare. Their voices are little heard in the economic and political aspects, and the specters of violence and discrimination hang over them. However, in the midst of these challenges, UN Women emerges as a source of hope.

Born from a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010, UN Women has solidified its role as the UN's agency that champions the causes of gender equality and women's empowerment ever since.

In its pursuit, UN Women elaborates and enforces standards, envisioning a world where all women and girls can exercise their human rights. Serving as trusted partners for advocates and decision-makers of all kinds, UN Women finds itself leading the noble quest for gender equality.

2.2 Discussing the impacts of rape culture in the education of children

The UN Women aims to further the worldwide debate on the rape culture. A term that has been used since the 1970s, the time of the second wave of feminism, to point out subtle or explicit behaviors that silence or relativize sexual violence against women. Addressing this topic and how it affects the education of children is sensitive but crucial, as it impacts both the mental and emotional well-being of children, as well as their perspectives on relationships, consent and personal boundaries.

The harmful environment cultivated by rape culture affects children's educational journey and development. Rape culture obscures the concept of consent, leading many growing children to erroneously believe that it's permissible to overstep personal boundaries when a clear 'no' isn't presented. This culture not only distorts gender norms—resulting in boys being exposed to the extremes of toxic masculinity and advising girls to alter their appearance or behavior to avoid unsolicited attention—but also distorts a child's self-image. Whether directly victimized by sexual harassment or indirectly influenced by rape culture, many internalize the blame, spiraling into feelings of guilt and shame. According to the www.who.it website, 6% of women globally report being sexually assaulted by someone other than their husband or partner. Given the high levels of stigma and under-reporting of sexual abuse, the true figure is likely to be significantly higher, as due to the rape culture, many of the victims fear having their trauma neglected.

In addition, the trivialization of sexual violence prevents children from understanding the emotional depth and repercussions of such actions, potentially impairing their ability to foster and sustain healthy relationships in adulthood. Fear of reprisals or the potential rejection of their experiences can lead many to retreat into silence, even when confronted with personal cases of harassment or assault. This silencing has lasting psychological implications. The repeated and pervasive exposure to rape culture may desensitize children, making acts of sexual violence appear as common attitudes. Therefore, it is more than clear that it is about time we stop ignoring the impacts such culture has in the education of many children worldwide.

3. Important Information sources about the Countries

3.1 United States

- [Preserving Abstinence and Preventing Rape: How Sex Education Textbooks Contribute to Rape Culture | SpringerLink](#)
- [Disrupting Rape Culture Through Education | Learning for Justice](#)
- [Rape Culture in America - Focus for Health](#)
- [Rape culture is as American as apple pie | Arwa Mahdawi | The Guardian](#)

3.2 Republic of South Africa

- [Rape culture in South African schools: where it comes from and how to change it \(theconversation.com\)](#)
- [South African women are taking a stand against rape culture | Women's Rights | Al Jazeera](#)
- [Rape culture in South African schools: where it comes from and how to change it \(ewn.co.za\)](#)
- [South Africa Has a Rape Culture Problem - Urban Woman Magazine](#)

3.3 Kingdom of Thailand

- [When education supports rape culture \(bangkokpost.com\)](http://bangkokpost.com).
- [Why is "Rape Culture" normalised in Thai society | This is Thailand | Thaiger \(thethaiger.com\)](http://thethaiger.com).
- [Despite Harsher Punishments Thailand Struggles With Rape Culture \(chiangraitimes.com\)](http://chiangraitimes.com).
- [A Closer Look at Rape Culture in Thailand - Christine Bedenis](#)

3.4 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- [The reckoning: rape culture and the crisis in British schools - New Statesman](#)
- [Rape culture in UK schools: how to unravel a system of long ingrained beliefs - The Boar](#)
- [What is rape culture? | Rape Crisis England & Wales](#)
- [Women Are Calling Out 'Rape Culture' in U.K. Schools - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](http://nytimes.com)
- [School rape culture: 'Her death could have been prevented' - BBC Three](#)

3.5 Republic of the Philippines

- [Sexual abuse in Philippine schools: The silent scream of students - Asia News NetworkAsia News Network](#)
- [#HijaAko: A call to end rape culture in the Philippines \(thebenildean.org\)](http://thebenildean.org)
- [Rape Culture in the Philippines | PhilippineOne](#)
- [Investigating Rape Culture in the Philippines through #HijaAko: Towards A Multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis \(researchgate.net\)](http://researchgate.net)

3.6 United Arab Emirates

- [How the UAE Condones Sexual Violence | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#)
- [Rape Laws in The United Arab Emirates - Lexology](#)
- [Dubai's shameful record on rape | Nadya Khalife | The Guardian](#)
- [UK charity warns tourists in Dubai not to report rape after woman who was 'gang raped' arrested | The Independent | The Independent](#)

3.7 Federative Republic of Brazil

- [Rape culture: A socio-historical, legal and human analysis](#)
- [From shame to visibility: hashtag feminism and sexual violence in Brazil](#)
- [The rape in the periphery in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: students' social representations and teachers' praxis](#)
- [Victims Reveal Culture of Rape and Silence at Brazil's Top ...Global Voices](#)

3.8 Republik Indonesia

- [... Gender Dalam Budaya Pemerkosaan Sebagai Rekomendasi Kebijakan Pemerintah: Analysis Of Gender Stereotypes In The Rape Culture As Recommendations For ...](#)
- [Rape of 'pesantren' students triggers national soul-searching/The Jakarta Post](#)
[Epidemic of Sexual Harassment on Indonesian Campuses .../Human Rights Watch](#)
- [The Grim Realities of Sexual Assault on College .../Vice](#)

3.9 Republic of Sudan

- [Journeying Through Islam, Society & Culture: Understanding Divergent Interpretations of Marital Rape Within the Sudanese Patriarchy](#)
- [Sudan: Children as young as 12 raped and assaulted .../Save the Children](#)
- [South Sudan: 'hellish existence' for women and girls, new UN .../United Nations](#)
- [School girl gang-raped in South Darfur - Dabanga Radio TV .../dabangasudan.org](#)

3.10 Republic of India

- [The Worrying Growth Culture of Rape in India](#)
- [Adolescent sex education in India: Current perspectives](#)
- [India's rape culture: Can education stop sexual violence?/strive2thrive.earth India -Role of Schools in perpetuating Rape Culture/Kractivism](#)

3.11 French Republic

- [Lost in Translation: Rape Culture at College in France/Frenchly](#)
- [The French state in the face of sexual and gender-based .../Grow Think Tank France's top political science schools 'failed to tackle .../The Telegraph](#)
- [How the United States, United Kingdom, and France Handle .../Emory University](#)

3.12 Russian Federation

- [Measuring attitudes towards rape in Russia: translation and validation of the illinois rape myths acceptance scale](#)
- [Russian Sexual Violence Awareness Week: Russia is failing to meet international standards on combatting sexual violence - Equality Now](#)
- [Violence against Women in Russia/World Organisation Against Torture](#)

3.13 People's Republic of China

- [Blame of rape victims and perpetrators in China: the role of gender, rape myth acceptance, and situational factors](#)
- [What You Wear and What You Do: Rape Culture in China/Harvard Political Review](#)
- [Death penalty for teacher in China who raped multiple .../South China Morning Post](#)
- [Accounts detail 'horrific' rape culture inside China camps/Yahoo](#)

14- Kingdom of Spain

- [Breaking the Silence at Spanish Universities - PMC/National Institutes of Health \(.gov\)](#)
- [Spain passes toughened 'Only yes means yes' rape law/Le Monde.fr](#)
- [# NolsNo. Shaping public debate on rape culture and sexual assault in Spain through social media](#)
- [Rapes reported in Spain increased dramatically/InSpain.news](#)

**Good luck,
delegates!**

