

UN Women

TOPIC B:

**Forced Hysterectomies on Migrants
at the US Border.**

*Undersecretary:
María José Muro Jiménez*

Introduction:

A hysterectomy is a surgical procedure to remove the uterus. After it, the patient can no longer get pregnant. During 2019, multiple women who were detained in immigration centers in the United States reported receiving said procedures without their consent. This is a clear violation of their human rights and the law. Many of these women have reported that they were taken to surgery without an explanation as to why; both the detention center and ICE have disputed these claims.

Background Research:

U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the private Irwin County Detention Centre in Georgia have been accused of performing illegal hysterectomies on immigrant women. In 2019 a nurse from the center reported an alarming amount of sterilizing surgeries being performed on Spanish-speaking women. Since then, many human rights groups, as well as congress members, have requested a full investigation regarding those allegations. "Firsthand accounts are now emerging from detainees,[...], who underwent other invasive gynecological procedures that they did not fully understand and, in some cases, may not have been medically necessary" (Dickerson, Wessler, Jordan, 2020).

These complaints have created a discussion regarding immigrant's human rights and human decency. Nonetheless, both Irwin County Detention Centre and ICE have denied these claims. "According to their data, only two women at the center had been referred for hysterectomies since 2018" (BBC News, 2020). Hysterectomies are normally performed to treat health problems such as fibroids in the womb, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, and many other medical conditions. The doctor who performed these procedures has submitted the medical records and many experts agree that the surgeries were unnecessary since far less invasive procedures were an option.

Because of these scandals, ICE has gotten a lot of attention and many other violations of human rights have been reported. Medical neglect and over saturation of the facilities are just some of the many accusations that these centers are facing. Groups like Project South, the Georgia Detention Watch, the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, and the South Georgia Immigrant Support Network have filed complaints to the watchdog that oversees the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which is responsible for ICE. (BBC News, 2020).

United Nations Intervention:

As of today, the United Nations has done nothing in regards to this issue. On the other hand, many governments in Latin America and Europe have expressed their concerns.

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Points To Consider:

- ICE is still withholding much of the information regarding these patients.
- These surgeries are a violation of the detainee's human rights, as well as the law.
- The United States is a world power and opening an investigation against its government could bring serious consequences.

Questionnaire:

- A. What is my country's position?
- B. What are my country's policies?
- C. What can my country do to solve this issue?
- D. Which countries can my delegation work with?
- E. What are three possible solutions?

Useful Links:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hysterectomy/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/29/us/ice-hysterectomies-surgeries-georgia.html>

Bibliography:

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