

UNIVERSITE Joseph KI-ZERBO
Office du Baccalauréat

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Epreuve du 1^{er} tour
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Coefficient : 3

EPREUVE ECRITE D'ANGLAIS
Langue Vivante 1

Cette épreuve comporte deux (2) pages

COVID-19 and Women's Rights

We do not know yet the full extent of the impact of the crisis. Women's organisations in the region are warning of the risk of increased teenage pregnancies in the coming months and we are already seeing increase in the early marriages and other forms of violence in some countries in East Africa.

In any case and recognizing that no government was ready to deal with a pandemic of this magnitude, the crisis has emphasized the need to build resilience and improve protection of populations for future shocks. And at this level, the current crisis has revealed certain significant deficiencies and gaps in the social protection systems of our region. We need to work to expand social protection mechanisms to reach the most vulnerable, including workers in the informal sector, and to develop solutions adapted to the living conditions of the region. Unpaid assistance activities continue to be an obstacle to women's economic participation; a gap that has been further widened by the health crisis and the closure of schools.

The COVID-19 crisis has also accentuated the structural inequalities that exist in all areas: health, the economy, social protection, violence against women and girls. In times of crisis, when resources are scarce and institutional capacities are strained, the situations women and girls face have disproportionate impacts. The gains, wrested from a fierce struggle in terms of women's rights, are also threatened.

Today, the data collected from rapid assessments as well as from testimonies show that facilitating strategies such as confinement, restriction of movement have been aggravating factors of violence against women because they have led to domestic and intra-family violence as well as other types of violence against women around the world, including in the sub-region. The confinement has exacerbated the tension and stress created by security, health and economic constraints. In other words, measures to ensure the safety of populations often have the opposite effect for women and girls.

Even before the irruption of COVID-19, domestic violence was already one of the greatest human rights violations. In the previous 12 months, 243 million of women and girls across the world have been subjected to sexual or physical violence by an intimate partner. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the number is likely to grow with multiple impacts on women's wellbeing, their sexual and reproductive health, their mental health.

Despite the high visibility that has been given to the impact of COVID-19 on violence against women, the response capacity has been limited, due to insufficient funding.

Adapted from UNOWAS Magazine, n°12.

I. Comprehension Questions (10 points)

- 1) Find out in the text two (2) attitudes to face the COVID-19 pandemic? (2 points)
- 2) Basing on the text, give two (2) concerns of Eastern African women's organisations regarding their rights. (2 points)
- 3) Referring to the text, were the measures taken against COVID-19 successful? Justify your answer. (3 points)
- 4) What are the negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on women's rights? (3 points)

II. Essay Writing (6 points)

According to you, what could governments do to reduce the risk of women's rights violation in the COVID-19 context?
Give three (3) ideas and organise them coherently in paragraph(s) in about 150 words.

III. Translation (4 points)

Translate from "Even before the ..." down to "...their mental health."
