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II. COUNTRY CONDITIONS REPORTS AND OTHER MATERIALS		
K	<p>United States Department of State, Honduras 2016 Human Rights Report, available at: https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/277585.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against women and impunity for perpetrators was a serious problem. • Rape was serious and pervasive, and 73% of rapists were family members or individuals the victims knew. • Victims were reluctant to press charges because of economic dependence, their role caring for children, and few domestic violence shelters. <p>The UN special rapporteur on violence against women raised concerns that women remain marginalized, discriminated against, and at high risk of human rights violations.</p>	35-76
L	<p>Expert Declaration of Claudia Hermannsdorfer, Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, September 23, 2016, (“Hermannsdorfer Decl.”) and certified English translation available at: http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/</p>	78-102

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Machismo teaches that women are property of their intimate partners or fathers, that women are second-class citizens, and that women are to be dealt with as seen fit by the masculine sectors of society.” • “According to Honduran cultural norms, when a woman moves in with a man, the man takes over ‘ownership’ of the woman from her father...Honduran men believe that they can abuse and rape their wives or partners with impunity because these women ‘belong’ to them and, like pieces of property, the men can do what they wish with a woman...Because neither the battered woman, nor her family, nor her neighbors, nor community members act to stop this violence—and because the authorities also fail to respond—women are not safe in Honduras. Far too often, the direct result of this societal acceptance of violence against women is murder.” • “Similarly, police believe that women are second-class citizens who must conform to their partners’ or parents’ commands. Women who seek help from the police are often told that the issue is a matter for her husband or partner to decide, and that she should go home, be intimate with him, and he will forgive her.” • “In poverty-stricken Honduras, family networks are extremely important for women; without these networks, it is very difficult for women to survive with adequate housing, food employment, child-care, and social connections, making relocation unfeasible.” • “Honduras is a very small country and usually the abuser knows the woman’s family or can easily find her through other means.” “[T]he laws and institutions that do exist are of little effect because of lack of funding, ignorance of statutory mandates, lack of sensitivity and training, and a generalized unwillingness to apply laws that protect women from violence.” 	
M	<p>United Nations Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Its Causes and Consequences, Addendum: Mission to Honduras (March 31, 2015), available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/5583f5fe4.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite legislative and institutional developments, violence against women is widespread and systematic. • 27% of women interviewed said they had been victims of domestic violence in their lifetime. <p>Femicides have increased at an alarming rate</p>	104-204
N	<p>UN High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”), <i>Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Honduras, March 15, 2016</i>, available at: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A_HRC_37_3_Add.2.pdf</p>	204-220

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against women and girls remained wide spread with at least 236 women killed in 2017, with a low level of understanding by authorities of femicide despite strengthening of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for femicide 	
O	<p>Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Situation of Human Rights in Honduras 2015, December 31, 2015, excerpted, available at: http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/Honduras-en-2015.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a 95% impunity rate for crimes against women. • Women had only one prosecutor in San Pedro Sula (with jurisdiction over Choloma) • “Civil society organizations complained that prosecutors assigned are not specialized or trained to investigate crimes with a gender perspective. ‘Women who go there leave worse than when they arrived, because they are told they are responsible for the attacks on them because of how they dress or because they don’t take proper care of their husbands or partners...’” • “[J]udicial ineffectiveness in cases involving violence against women creates a climate conducive to violence and discrimination against women ‘since society sees no evidence of willingness by the State, as the representative of the society, to take effective action to sanction such acts.’ The impunity of the crimes committed ‘sends the message that violence against women is tolerated; this leads to their perpetuation together with social acceptance of the phenomenon, the feeling women have that they are not safe, and their persistent mistrust in the system of administration of justice.’” 	222-237
P	<p>UN High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”), <i>UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Honduras</i>, July 27, 2016, (“UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines”), available at: http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=search&docid=579767434&skip=0&query=eligibility%20guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of the violence is reflected in the fact that Honduras has one of the highest rate of homicides in the world, with escalating gang violence. • Violence against women is prevalent, with Honduras accounting for the highest rate of femicides in Latin America. Large numbers of poor Honduran women are forced into prostitution or forcibly disappeared. • Children are heavily impacted by violence and domestic abuse of children is prevalent. • Impunity for violence against women remains a serious problem and discourages women from reporting domestic violence. • UNHCR considers women and girls from social milieus where sexual and gender-based violence against females is practiced may 	239-306

	need refugee protection on the basis of their membership in a particular social group.	
Q	<p>U.S. Dep’t of State, Honduras 2018 Crime & Safety Report, April 3, 2018 (“State Dep’t Crime Report”), available at: https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportDetails.aspx?cid=23798</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honduras has one of the highest murder rates in the world, and the U.S. Department of State has issued a Travel Advisory since 2012 • In a country of around 8 million people, there are estimated 7,000-10,000 street gang members. • The Honduran government lacks resources to respond, investigate, and prosecute cases. As a result, criminals operate with impunity. 	308-320
R	<p>U.S. Dep’t of State, Honduras Travel Advisory, Jan.10, 2018 (“State Dep’t Travel Warning”), available at: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/honduras-travel-advisory.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honduras – Level 3: Reconsider travel due to crime. 	322-323
S	<p>Honduras, CIA WORLD FACTBOOK, available at: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ho.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honduras is only 111,890 square kilometers, roughly the size of the state of Tennessee. 	325-333
T	<p>A Woman is Murdered Every 16 Hours in Honduras, Fox News Latino (November 17, 2015), available at: http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2015/11/17/woman-is-murdered-every-16-hours-in-honduras/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A woman is murdered in Honduras every 16 hours, and the majority of those murders were committed by husbands or romantic partners. • Women are victims of Honduras’ violent society and culture. 	335
U	<p>Juju Chang, et. al, “‘Men Can do Anything They Want to Women in Honduras’: Inside one of the most dangerous places on Earth to be a Woman, ABC News (May 3, 2017), available at: https://abcnews.go.com/International/men-women-honduras-inside-dangerous-places-earth-woman/story?id=47135328</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honduras is the most dangerous place on earth to be a woman due in large part to an epidemic of femicide, rape, assault, and domestic violence, happening with “near-total impunity.” 	337-343

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing the murder of Miss Honduras, the young woman’s mother blamed her violent death on machismo. • Honduras Center for Women’s Rights analyst Neesa Medina says “we are living an untold war.” • Medina refers to Honduras as a culture where women are disposable saying, “Men can do anything they want to women in Honduras. Because we think that it’s common and it’s something that you can be expected of, living here.” 	
V	<p>Femicides in Honduras Reach Epidemic Levels, Telesur English (June 25, 2015), available at: http://www.telesurty.net/english/news/Femicide-in-Honduras-Reach-Epidemic-Levels-20150625-0040.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Femicides in Honduras have far surpassed epidemic levels, with 12 of every 100,000 residents dying from gender-based violence” • According to the World Health Organization, 8.8 deaths per 100,000 residents is enough to be categorized as an epidemic. • Lawyers believe that impunity affects 80% of all cases of violence against women. 	345-346
W	<p>Annie Kelly, Honduran Police Turn a Blind Eye to Soaring Number of ‘Femicides’, The Guardian, May 28, 2011, available at: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/may/29/honduras-blind-eye-femicides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Now this man knows I went to the police so he will come back and kill me too. There is nobody who will stop him. Women die here all the time and nobody does anything” (quoting the daughter of a Honduran victim of femicide.) • “Gender-based violence is now the second highest cause of death for women of reproductive age in this tiny Central American country.” • “A report launched by Oxfam Honduras and a Honduran NGO, the Tribunal of Women Against Femicide, says that women are dying because of a deadly mixture of gun crime, political instability and the ‘systematic indifference’ of the police.” “Since the coup in July 2009, we’ve seen a sharp rise in gender-based killings, with many of these crimes simply going unreported,’ says Martiza Gallardo of Oxfam Honduras. ‘We don’t even really know just how many women are being killed because families of victims are afraid to report violence and murders because they realise the legal system gives impunity to those responsible for the killings.’” 	348-350
X	<p>Latin America Working Group Education Fund: No Rights, No Dignity: Risks Facing Deported Migrants in Honduras and El Salvador, January 11, 2018, available at: http://www.lawg.org/storage/documents/Between_Dangers_Part_6.pdf</p>	352-358

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deported migrants return to uncertainty and fear due to lack of programming and job opportunities combined with insecurity, corruption, and impunity. • Deported women have a heightened risk and may be targeted by gangs because of the perception deportees return with money. • Honduran law established to coordinate government response and resources for deportees lacks sufficient funding, is ineffective, and is not comprehensive. 	
Y	<p>Sarah Stillman, When Deportation is a Death Sentence, The New Yorker, Jan. 15, 2018, available at: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/01/15/when-deportation-is-a-death-sentence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stillman, the director of the Global Migration Project, documented more than 60 cases of immigrants that had been kidnapped, extorted, and sexually assaulted after being deported. • Elena, a young mother deported to Honduras by an immigration judge, was assaulted at gunpoint, tortured, and her 13-year-old’s son’s skull was cracked open. • Yadira, a domestic violence victim, was deported to Honduras and her youngest daughter found her body a few days later, “riddled with bullets.” 	360-385
Z	<p>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ Workbook on Asylum: Female Asylum Applicants and Gender-Related Claims, available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/3f559fd14.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noting that expression of political opinion can take the form of “refusal to comply with traditional expectations of behavior associated with gender (such as dress codes and the role of women in the family and society).” 	404-443
AA	<p>Considerations for Asylum Officers Adjudicating Asylum Claims from Women, Memorandum to All INS Officers/HQASM Coordinators from Phyllis Coven, Department of Justice Office of International Affairs, May 26, 1996, available at: http://www.state.gov/s/l/65633.htm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [R]ape...sexual abuse and domestic violence...are forms of mistreatment directed at girls and women and they may serve as evidence of past persecution on account of one or more of the five grounds. • Severe sexual abuse does not differ analytically from beatings, torture, or other forms of physical violence that are commonly held to amount to persecution. 	445-457
BB	<p>Matter of L-R-, Department of Homeland Security Supplemental Brief, (“DHS Supp. Br.”), April 13, 2009, available at:</p>	459-489

http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/sites/default/files/Matter_of_LR_DHS_Brief_4_13_2009.pdf

- DHS "accepts that in some cases a victim of domestic violence may be a member of a cognizable particular social group and may be able to show that her abuse was or would be persecution on account of such membership."
- An intimate relationship may also be considered immutable where "economic, social, physical or other constraints made it impossible for the applicant to leave the relationship during the period when the persecution was inflicted" or "if the abuser would not recognize a divorce or separation as ending the abuser's right to abuse the victim."
- DHS suggests two social groups: (1) "Mexican women in a domestic relationship who are unable to leave;" and (2) "Mexican women who are viewed as property by virtue of their position within a domestic relationship."