1. Define the challenge that your team is addressing.

Domestic violence has plagued women around the world for hundreds of years. Women of all religions, cultures and ages suffer from the effects of the physical, emotional, and sexual violence that comprise domestic abuse. According to UN Women, as many as 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner.¹

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this problem. In some regions of the world, since the onset of the pandemic, cases of domestic abuse have risen by as much as 50-60%.² This has come to be referred to as the shadow pandemic: a set of real-life repercussions of the Covid crisis that disproportionately affect women.

Though there are laws in place today that address gendered violence in the home, many women remain uninformed about what rights these policies grant them. In addition to this, many women are unaware of resources and aid that may be available to them. In the wake of the real-life Covid-19 pandemic and its ominous shadow, with no escape from their abusers and no knowledge of what can be done to help them, millions of women across the globe are left without hope.

2. Propose a specific human rights text or treaty or treaties that addresses the concern or challenge.

International texts and treaties aimed at guaranteeing women's rights are recent within the history of human rights. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a groundbreaking international convention, as it aims to combat the various types of violence against women in both the public and private spheres. However, it doesn't provide any definition or mechanisms to combat domestic violence, so other documents are needed to complement the CEDAW text in solving this issue.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAV), a turning point for women's rights around the world, in turn, defines our primary challenge. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 1993, DEVAV recognizes that domestic violence is not only restricted to the physical sphere but is also present in the psychological and economic spheres, as seen in its first articles. DEVAV not only provides a bill of rights specifically for women but also establishes an agenda for action (articles 4 and 5), contributing to a dialectic interaction between law and concrete actions.

3. Suggest a policy, programmatic, technical, or institutional way to implement your substantive proposal within the broader human rights framework.

The domestic violence (DV) reality needs to be changed. We all lose when violence occurs. Although the victim is never to blame for such violence, fear and shame prevent appropriate measures from being taken.

In this context, the **Soror App**, a global tool for victims of DV around the world, allows the victim to find a support network easily on her cell phone. Through interactive maps and emergency numbers, the app locates nearby police stations and hospitals, shelter centers such as NGOs and shelters, access to psychological assistance, and hotlines for immediate help. Thus, the victim will be able to find, easily and quickly, information that may assist in a moment of need.

At least 155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence, and 140 have laws on sexual harassment in the workplace. However, even when laws exist, this does not mean that women know that they have rights. **Soror App** also provides a section where it is possible to access international and national laws related to this matter with a clear and easy vocabulary.

One of the main functions of the app is the possibility to record the moment of abuse. We understand that searching for help immediately is often complicated, especially for women who are socially and economically vulnerable. Therefore, the app allows the user to record the moment of the aggression and save the video to take the appropriate measures at the best time. It will be possible to find a chat feature within the app that disappears and leaves no trace once the conversation is over. Through this function, the victim will be able to chat with other women and get assistance if needed. **Soror App** also provides information on what DV is, how to identify an abusive relationship, and eventually ask for help. In addition, a section will feature some stories about DV victims who have overcome and survived this type of abuse.

Our main concern during the development of the app was related to safety. That’s why we will allow accessing the app through facial recognition (for phones that have this option). Once the app is first opened, it will look as a period tracker app and a calendar will appear. To access the real app, one has to go into the settings and click on ‘get help’. After that, one will put in a password and then get relegated to the real app - **Soror**.

The idea of an app for women and girls experiencing DV has actualized in other countries, however, the **Soror App** encompasses all of the needs they address and more, on a larger scale -- even available in multiple languages. To ensure as many people have access to our resources as possible, our organization will go out into the community to provide those resources to the public. We understand that not everyone has access to the technology our project hinges on, but we feel that through community involvement, we will be able to impact as many people as possible.