

Forum:3rd Committee of the General Assembly

Issue:Acting upon the elimination of the gender gap as well as the economic and social gap in education

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Description of the issue:

Gender equality is an issue with a long history, and continues to be a topic of debate today. It is the idea that people should be treated equally, or at least receive the same rights and opportunities, regardless of their gender. Typically, the debate surrounding gender equality pertains to women's rights, such as the right to vote or work, as men traditionally hold the role of breadwinner and women have control of the household. Due to this and the historically male domination of many political positions, the role of the woman was reduced from near equality during the hunter gatherer period to dependence upon a man and a second class role in most ancient civilizations.

Background information:

This was a trend fought against for a long time by many different people, but even though the long fought for voting rights for women were established in quite a few western countries after the First World War, only after the Second World War there was a general international movement towards gender equality accompanied by the rise of feminism. However, reaching true equality is an ongoing struggle in most parts of the world. Women are less likely to own property and money and more likely to be illiterate or be subject to domestic violence. In developed countries gender inequality often manifests itself in pay gaps and less work opportunities for women, even though legally all genders are considered equal. In developing countries women are often forced either into housework or less well payed jobs.

This has been justified with the view of complementarianism, which is the idea that men and women have different roles which complement each other. This is an idea which can, but is not necessarily, adverse to that of gender equality, as it can restrict different genders to certain jobs and can set one gender above the other. However, it is also seen as a compromise by some, who argue

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that for man and woman to be truly equal, one must first accept that they are biologically different and should receive different treatment based on those differences.

Millennium Development Goals:

Previously, promoting gender equality and empowering women has been the 3rd goal of the Millennium Development Goals. Its aim was to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. The target included raising the ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education, increasing the number of women employed in the non-agricultural sector and the proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

More recently, gender equality was also addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is a set of 17 "Global Goals" with 169 targets between them. Goal 5 states to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." The targets focus on ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere by means such as eliminating harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, or ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights .

CEDAW

Equality for all and between different genders was made a central part of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the issue of gender inequality has been addressed specifically not only in the Millennium Goals, but also in several conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Article 1 of the treaty that was adopted in the CEDAW defines discrimination against women as:

“Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.”

CEDAW shares the following agenda on women's human rights and gender equality:

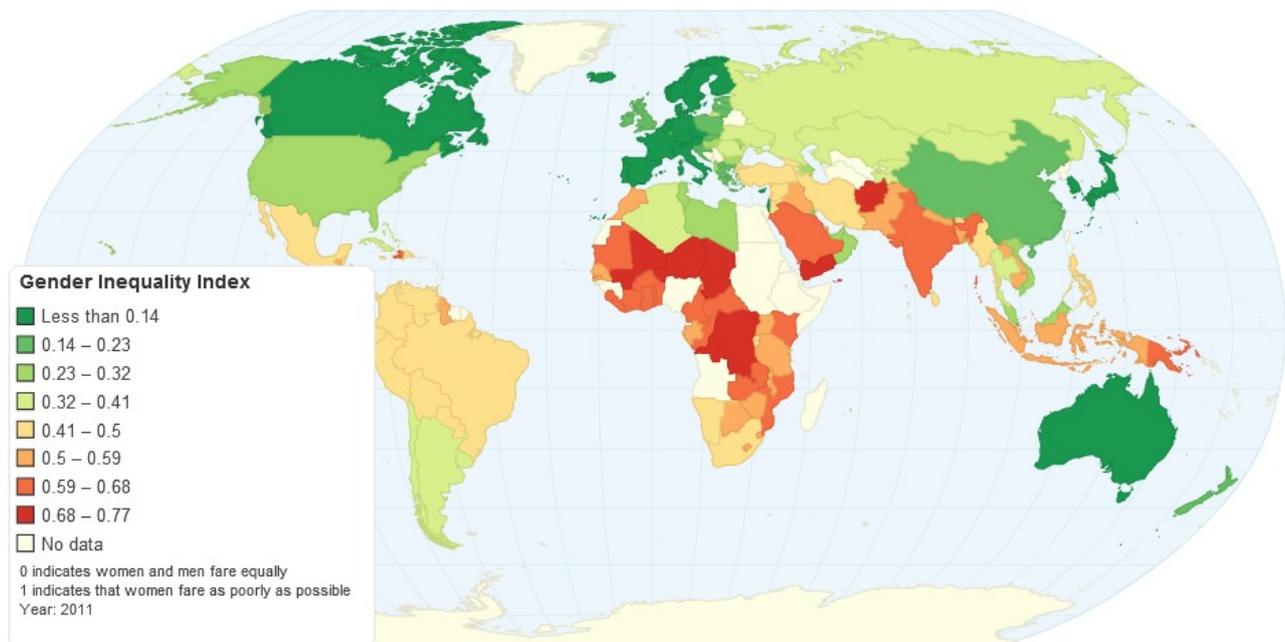
1. Demand women's participation in decision-making at all levels
2. Rejection of violence against women as it impedes the advancement of women and maintains their subordinate status
3. Equality of women and men under the law; protection of women and girls through the rule of law
4. Demand security forces and systems to protect women and girls from gender-based violence
5. Recognition of the fact that distinct experiences and burdens of women and girls come from systemic discrimination

6. Ensure that women's experiences, needs and perspectives are incorporated into the political, legal and social decisions that determine the achievement of just and lasting peace

UN Women, The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is a United Nations entity working for the empowerment of women.

Its main goals are:

1. To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.
2. To help Member States to implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
3. To hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including



regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

Gender Inequality Index

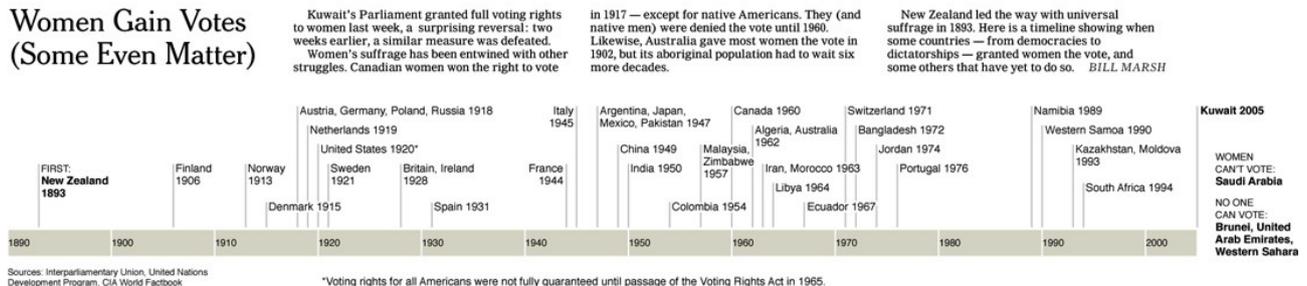
In 2010, the Human Development Report introduced the Gender Inequality Index, which is a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men. It measures:

1. Reproductive health, evaluated through the maternal mortality ratio and the adolescent fertility rate
2. Empowerment, indicated by the share of parliamentary seats held by each sex and the GII index of higher education, which evaluates women's attainment to secondary education and above
3. The labor market, which is measured by women's participation in the workforce.

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It varies between zero, indicating that women and men are equal and one, indicating that there is a large discrepancy between men and women in all three categories. The world average score on the Gender Inequality Index is 0.56.

Women Gain Votes (Some Even Matter)



Historical background:

Women's suffrage is an excellent example of the development of women's rights on an international scale. While in countries, such as New Zealand, women had the right to vote as early as the end of the 19th century, in most countries general suffrage was only granted in the last century. In 2015, women in Saudi Arabia cast their first votes in the country's history, in municipal elections.

In Western society, women's suffrage was largely influenced by the women's movement, also known as the "feminist movement". Activists wanted the same pay as men, equal rights in law, and the freedom to plan their families or not have children at all. Generally, reformers wanted to change the idea of women being the "inferior sex".

However, the time has come to look past traditional views on gender roles and raise awareness of the fact that gender inequalities restrict the potential to reduce poverty and achieve high levels of well-being in societies around the world.

Glossary:

Gender equality: Equal treatment, or at least the ability to access the same to rights and opportunities without discrimination regardless of gender

Gender inequality: Different treatment of or discrimination against people based on their gender

Empowerment: Empowering someone, in this context, is defined by helping the person grow to his or her full potential

How to prepare as a delegate:

As the Rules of Procedures of MUNoH already state, you are going to write one/two position papers as well as one resolution about the topics of your committee/council/commission. Due to the fact that you are in the 3rd Committee you need to write two position papers and one resolution. In the event that you are representing one of the P5 nations, make sure that you show a clear view of the respective member state to this issue, especially if you are a first timer. If you are writing a position paper, you should discuss to what extent inequality broadens the gender gap and vice versa in your own words and in the way your nation would define it. In the second part of your position paper you should mention steps which have been taken by your country or steps which have been taken by the UN in order to solve the issue and what your country thinks about them. However, you should also mention resolutions and other official documents concerning the topic, organizations and people involved. Furthermore, it is useful to write down a statement by an important politician such as the UN Secretary General or the president of your country in your own words. For the last part of your position paper you need to start to think about new solutions concerning the topic. What can the world do in order to change the situation? What is your country willing to do and where would be your limits? How can all nations find a well-fitting definition together? You should establish a realistic plan which contains details about the steps you would like to take together with the other UN nations and do not just repeat what was mentioned in former resolutions. The better you write the last part the easier it will be for you to write a proper resolution. Please make sure that you hand in your work until 07.09.2020.

Questions to ask yourself:

Is gender inequality a large issue in your country?

Is there equal access to education and all areas of work for all genders in your country? Are women a present voice in your political system?

Are women repressed in your country for specific reasons?

Possible solutions:

Possible solutions should address four key areas:

- access for girls to education,

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- security and safety for girls,
- empowerment through employment opportunities,
- and eliminating societal forms of discrimination against girls.

Education is a key area of focus. Prioritizing girls' education provides perhaps the single highest return on investment in the developing world. An educated girl is more likely to postpone marriage, raise a smaller family, have healthier children, and send her own children to school. She has more opportunities to earn an income and to participate in political processes, and she is less likely to become infected with sexually transmitted diseases.

In terms of access to education, solutions need to address any laws or discrimination that prevent girls from attending schools and the financial costs of sending girls to schools, especially when a family has to choose between sending a boy or a girl.

In addition, it should address how early pregnancies and marriages affect girls' access to education. Retention efforts are also needed, especially in terms of security and safety of the schools. Schools need to have policies that create environments free from the threat of physical violence, harassment, sexual abuse and rape. Also, many schools in developing countries need proper sanitation facilities or products for teenage girls.

Women need to see role models, whether that means female teachers, women in the workplace, or women in other leadership positions. Girls also need to feel that they will find employment in the future and that education is the first step to moving out of poverty. Finally, the international community needs to address how to eliminate discrimination against women. This discrimination takes place not only at schools but also at work and in daily life.

How can we create an environment where women are truly viewed as equals in society?

Please add at least two resolutions that the UN passed/proposed on this issue.

Intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) regularly adopt resolutions dedicated to gender equality issues. These Include:

Resolution 2010/29:

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes
in the United Nations system

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2010/res%202010-29.pdf>

Resolution 40/9:

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical area of concern: poverty

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<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/agreedconclusions/Agreed%20conclusions%2040th%20session.pdf>

Useful links:

CEDAW: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

UN WOMEN: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5>

Sources:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/major-resolutions>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_women%27s_suffrage

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_Inequality_Index#Reproductive_health

<http://www.wikigender.org/wiki/gender-inequality-index/>

<http://mun.bestdelegate.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015->

[EmpowermentofWomenthroughEducation.pdf](#)

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/5_Why-it-

[Matters_GenderEquality_2p.pdf](#)