Forum:	**Commission on the Status of Women**
Question of:	**Ensuring a future where feminism does not diminish**
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I. Description of the Issue

Despite decades of progress towards gender equality, recent years have seen growing concerns over a global backlash against feminism and women's rights. Feminism, in the context of the United Nations, refers to the continued effort to achieve equal rights, opportunities, safety and representation for women and girls in all areas of life. The question of how feminism can continue to progress if women's experiences are not documented, their contributions remain invisible and existing inequalities cannot be measured, is essential. In an increasingly interconnected world, significant progress has been made through international agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and Sustainable Development Goal 5, which have established gender equality as a fundamental goal. Nevertheless, women and girls continue to face discrimination, violence, unequal opportunities, and increasing political, social, cultural and digital opposition in many parts of the world.

Today, the challenge is not only to advance women's rights but to prevent existing achievements from being reversed or diminished. Across different regions, anti-gender movements, online misogyny, restrictions on civil society, misinformation and declining political support have contributed to concerns that feminism is losing public and political momentum and is being misunderstood by many. Therefore, one must safeguard feminism to foster equality, inclusion and the momentum of women and girls worldwide. Delegates should give particular attention to the role of education, documentation of women's experiences and achievements, the collection of reliable gender data and the fair representation of women and feminist movements in traditional and digital media, as these are essential for preserving public awareness, informing policymaking and ensuring that feminism continues to progress.

II. Definition of Key Terms

Feminism: Feminism is the social, political, and human rights movement that advocates for equal rights, opportunities, and treatment for men and women. Within the United Nations, feminism is closely linked to the promotion of gender equality, women's empowerment and the elimination of discrimination in all aspects of society.

Gender Equality: Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of women, men, girls, and boys. It is also the central objective of Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Women's Empowerment: Women's empowerment is the process through which women gain equal access to education, employment, political participation, healthcare and decision-making. Within the UN framework, empowering women is considered essential for achieving sustainable development, reducing poverty, and strengthening democratic societies.

Gender Mainstreaming: Gender mainstreaming is a strategy adopted by the United Nations that requires governments and international organizations to consider the different impacts of every policy, program or law on women and men. Instead of treating gender equality as a separate issue, it should be integrated int all policy areas, including health, climate action, security and economic development. This concept became internationally recognized through the Beijing Platform for Action (1995).

Intersectionality: Intersectionality describes the understanding that women experience discrimination differently depending on factors such as race, ethnicity, disability, age, religion, migration status, socioeconomic background or sexual orientation. An intersectional approach allows governments to develop policies that address multiple forms of discrimination simultaneously and ensure an inclusive approach.

Women's Human Rights Defenders: Women's Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) are individuals or organisations that work to promote and protect women's rights and gender

equality. They often face gender-specific threats such as harassment, violence, online abuse and restrictions on civic participation because of their work.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995: Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, it remains the most comprehensive international framework for achieving gender equality. It identifies 12 Critical Areas of Concern, including education, health, violence against women, political participation, the economy and media.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 2015: SDG 5 aims to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." It includes targets on ending discrimination, eliminating violence, recognising unpaid care work, ensuring women's participation in leadership and guaranteeing equal access to reproductive health.

Generation Equality Forum 2021: Convened by UN Women together with the Governments of Mexico and France, the Generation Equality Forum mobilised governments, civil society and the private sector to make concrete commitments towards gender equality through six Action Coalitions.

Women's unpaid care work: Women's unpaid care work refers to domestic and caregiving activities such as childcare, eldercare, cooking, cleaning and household management that are performed without financial compensation. According to the United Nations, women undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work worldwide, limiting their education opportunities, paid employment and political participation.

III. Background Information

Feminism remains important because gender inequality is not only a legal issue, but also a social, political and economic one. Patriarchal structures can limit women's access to education, employment, leadership, healthcare, safety and public representation. Economically, this is especially relevant because women are still more affected by unpaid care work, unequal access to property and mostly disregarded in the planning of infrastructure. At the same time, social attitudes, stereotypes and media representation influence whether feminism is as necessary and legitimate. Women's experiences are underrepresented in

research, medical studies, economic statistics and historical documentation. This has contributed to the so-called gender data gap, where insufficient sex-disaggregated data makes it more difficult for governments to identify inequalities and design effective policies. Therefore, the question for the committee is how Member States can reverse and change rigid patriarchal structures to strengthen women's participation in research, politics, education, media and communication, while ensuring that feminist progress is documented and not forgotten.

Historical Background

The United Nations has addressed women's rights since its foundation. The UN Charter already refers to equal rights of men and women, and the Commission on the Status of Women was established in 1946 to promote and monitor women's political, economic, civil, social and educational rights. Later milestones, especially CEDAW in 1979, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, and SDG 5 in 2015, turned gender equality into a long-term international commitment. However, current progress remains too slow: the UN states that no SDG 5 indicator has fully reached its target level, women remain underrepresented in political and economic leadership, and unpaid care work continues to limit women's opportunities. This is why the issue requires urgent debate now: feminism must not only be defended as a past achievement, but actively renewed through economic equality, social change, accurate documentation and stronger representation of women in public communication.

Figure1: SDG5 Snapshot 2025 overview

This infographic from the 2025 Gender Snapshot highlights both the progress and the persistent challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality. While notable advances have been made through legal reforms and increased women's representation, the data demonstrate that gender inequality remains widespread, particularly in areas such as political leadership, unpaid care work, violence against women, reproductive autonomy and economic participation

IV. Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Afghanistan: Afghanistan represents one of the most significant examples of the regression of women's rights. Since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, women and girls have faced severe restrictions on education, employment, political participation and freedom of movement.

Sweden: Sweden has long been recognised as a global advocate for gender equality and was the first country to officially adopt a Feminist Foreign Policy in 2014. Although the policy was discontinued in 2022, Sweden continues to promote women's rights through international development.

Canada: Canada has consistently supported gender equality through its Feminist International Assistance Policy and remains an active supporter of UN women, the Generation Equality Forum and international initiatives promoting women's political and economic empowerment.

Mexico: Mexico co-hosted the Generation Equality Forum together with France in 2021 and has become an important advocate for strengthening international commitments to women's rights and feminist leadership within the United Nations. Even though Mexico still faces several gender equality hardships, it has a promising future under a female president.

France: France has been a leading supporter of international gender equality initiatives and co-hosted the Generation Equality Forum. It continues to advocate for stronger international cooperation on women's political participation, education and economic empowerment.

Iceland: Iceland consistently ranks among the highest countries in the Global Gender Gap Report because it has introduced equal pay certification, extensive parental leave policies and high female political participation, very much supported by its female prime minister. Additionally, the country encourages balanced media representation and has introduced measures to reduce discrimination and stereotypes within public broadcasting, thus representing one of the most committed countries.

Iran: Iran remains a key country in discussions on women's rights because of restrictions on dress codes, freedom of expression and civil society. Following the "Women, Life, Freedom" protests beginning in 2022, many women activists and journalist arrests and legal consequences.

Russia: Russia has introduced legislation that has significantly limited the activities of independent civil society organisations and media outlets, thus affecting many NGOs, including organisations working on women's rights and gender equality. Also, Russia has made it mandatory for women who do not want children to see a psychologist.

Commission on the Status of Women: UN body focused on gender equality and women's rights by influencing international human rights law, promoting global policy standard through agreed conclusions, establishing gender equality as a core priority across the UN.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): The OHCHR is responsible for promoting and protecting all internationally recognized human rights. It monitors discrimination against women, supports the implementation of human rights treaties such as CEDAW, and investigates violations of women's rights worldwide.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFP): The UNFPA works to ensure access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, eliminate gender-based violence and support women's bodily autonomy.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee): The CEDAW Committee is the independent body of experts responsible for monitoring the

implementation of the Convention on the elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). States that have ratified the Convention regularly report the Committee on their progress.

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD): The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) develops international statistical standards and coordinates the collection and analysis of gender-related data in cooperation with national governments. Together with the UN Women it created the Minimum Set off Gender Indicators, helping countries collect comparable data on education, employment, political participation, violence and health.

V. Timeline of Events

1945: The Charter of the United Nations is signed, becoming the first international treaty to affirm the qual rights of women and men. It established gender equality as a fundamental principle of the United Nations.

1946: The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to document the status of women worldwide, monitor discrimination and recommend policies promoting women's political, economic, social and educational rights.

1975: The First World conference on Women is held in Mexico City, marking the ginning of the United Nations Decade for women (1976-1985). Governments begin systematically documenting inequalities affecting women and placing them on the international agenda.

1979: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is adopted, requiring States Parties to regularly report on their progress in eliminating discrimination against women.

1995: The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action identifies Women and the Media as one of its twelve Critical Areas of Concern. It calls for increasing women's participation in decision-making within the media and promoting balanced, non-stereotypical portrayals of women in communication and journalism.

2010: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is established to coordinate the UN's work on gender equality. It significantly expands global research, documentation and reporting on women's rights and publishes annual reports on progress toward gender equality.

2014: UNESCO launches the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG), bringing together governments, media organizations and civil society to improve women's representation in media, strengthen gender-sensitive journalism and reduce harmful stereotypes.

2015: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is adopted. Sustainable Development Goal 5 commits all Member States to achieving gender equality, while the agenda emphasizes the importance of reliable, gender-disaggregated data for measuring progress across all Sustainable Development Goals.

2016: UN Women launches the Women Count Programme; a global initiative aimed at closing the gender data gap by improving the collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data to support evidence-based policymaking.

2020: The Generation Equality Forum begins mobilizing governments, civil society and the private sector to accelerate gender equality. One of its priorities is increasing women's representation in leadership, technology, digital spaces and media while combating online gender-based violence.

2021: The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan demonstrates how quickly women's visibility, education, employment and participation in public life can be reversed, highlighting the importance of documenting women's rights and protecting existing achievements.

2022- Present: The United Nations, UNESCO and UN Women report increasing concerns regarding online misogyny, gender-based disinformation, shrinking civic space and the underrepresentation of women in media, science and decision-making. At the same time, the UN continues to advocate for improved gender statistics, inclusive research and more balanced media representation to prevent setbacks in gender equality.

2025: During the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) and the Beijing+30 Review**,** Member States assess thirty years of progress since the Beijing Declaration. Particular attention is given to closing persistent gender data gaps, strengthening women's participation in media and communication, and ensuring that the achievements of feminist movements continue to be documented and reflected in future policymaking.

VI. Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Over the past decades, the United Nations has adopted several frameworks and global initiatives to address the issue at hand, which also encompasses the CEDAW that established a legally binding framework requiring States Parties to eliminate discrimination and regularly report on their progress. To improve evidence-based policymaking, UN Women launched the Women Count Programme in 2016 support government in collecting sex-disaggregated data and addressing the global gender data gap. Furthermore, UNESCO has promoted initiatives such as the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) to encourage fair representation of women in journalism, communication and digital media.

Although these initiatives have significantly improved international cooperation and awareness, highly considerable challenges remain. Many countries continue to lack reliable gender-disaggregated data, women remain underrepresented in leadership positions within the media and research sectors and persistent stereotypes, online misogyny and shrinking civic space continues to undermine progress. Consequently, further international cooperation is required to ensure that women's experiences are accurately documented, their contributions are made visible and future policies are based on comprehensive and inclusive data.

VII. Possible Solutions

Strengthening Gender Data Collection and Research

Member States could improve the collection of sex-disaggregated data by cooperating with UN Women and the UNSD. Reliable data would help governments identify inequalities, evaluate existing polices and develop evidence-based strategies to promote gender equality.

Improving Women's Representation in Media and Communication

Governments may encourage equal representation of women in journalism, public broadcasting and digital media while promoting gender-sensitive reporting and combating harmful stereotypes. Supporting women journalists and media professionals can help ensure that women perspectives remain visible in public discourse.

Supporting Women's Participation in decision making

Member States could strengthen women's participation in political institutions, research, academia and leadership positions through mentorship programmes, equal opportunity policies and capacity-building initiatives. Greater representation allows women's experiences and perspectives to be reflected in policymaking.

Expanding International Cooperation on Gender Equality

Countries should continue implementing international frameworks such as CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and SDG 5, while increasing cooperation with organizations such as UN Women, UNESCO, and civil society organizations to exchange best practices and monitor progress towards gender equality.

VIII. How to Prepare as a Delegate

This topic is primarily policy-oriented and requires delegates to develop a balanced understanding of the social, political and economic aspects of gender equality, especially because it is a sensitive and emotionally difficult topic. To represent your assigned Member State effectively, research your country's position on women's rights, media representation, gender data collection and civil society, and consider whether it actively supports international cooperation or follows a more restrictive approach. Delegates are also encouraged to examine their country's voting record on relevant UN resolutions and identify countries with similar positions to build potential alliances during debate and research how their country collects gender-disaggregated data. Attention should be given to the role of documentation, closing gender data gaps and improving the representation of women in research, media and communication. All delegates are required to submit at least one draft resolution and a minimum of two, preferably three, position papers covering the committee's topics by August 27th.

IX. UN Resolutions

A/RES/76/142 (2021): https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/76/142
Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

A/RES/78/216 (2023): https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/78/216
Women in development, to promote women's equal participation in economic development to encourage gender-responsive economic policies.

S/RES/1820 (2008): https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/1820(2008)
Recognizes sexual violence as a tactic of war and demand stronger protection for women and girls in armed conflict while reinforcing women's rights within peace and security process.

A/RES/31/136 (1976):
https://documents.un.org/doc/resolution/gen/nr0/302/48/pdf/nr030248.pdf
Established the United nations Decade for Women (1976-1985), encouraging Member States to advance women's participation in political, economic and social life.

X. Useful Links & Sources

Recommended Videos:
Un Women - Why Gender Equality Matters:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdb9qS30KkI

Gender Equality in the Data & Information Age:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekW2U4JoN84
Caroline Criado Perez: Inside the data gender gap:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqr2bKqguYQ
The importance of active feminism:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vke1Yxp8lOc

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW):
https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women

UN Women - United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:
https://www.unwomen.org/en

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):
https://www.ohchr.org/en/ohchr_homepage

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):
https://www.unesco.org/en

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

https://www.unfpa.org

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD):
https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):
https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995):
https://archive.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/u1281/bdpfa_e.pdf

Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Gender Equality:
https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5

Generation Equality Forum:
https://forum.generationequality.org/

UN Women – Women Count Programme:
https://data.unwomen.org

United Nations Statistics Division – Gender Statistics:
https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/gender/index.cshtml

UNESCO – Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG):
https://gamag.net

UNESCO – Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM):
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000217831/PDF/217831eng.pdf.multi

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):
https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf

CSW Agreed Conclusions (Annual):
https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.6/2026/L.2

Equality Now:
https://equalitynow.org/

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF):
https://www.wilpf.org

Plan International:
https://plan-international.org

Amnesty International:
https://www.amnesty.org/en/

Center for Reproductive Rights:
https://reproductiverights.org

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2024:
https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2024

Figure1: SDG5 Snapshot 2025 overview:

https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2025-en.pdf