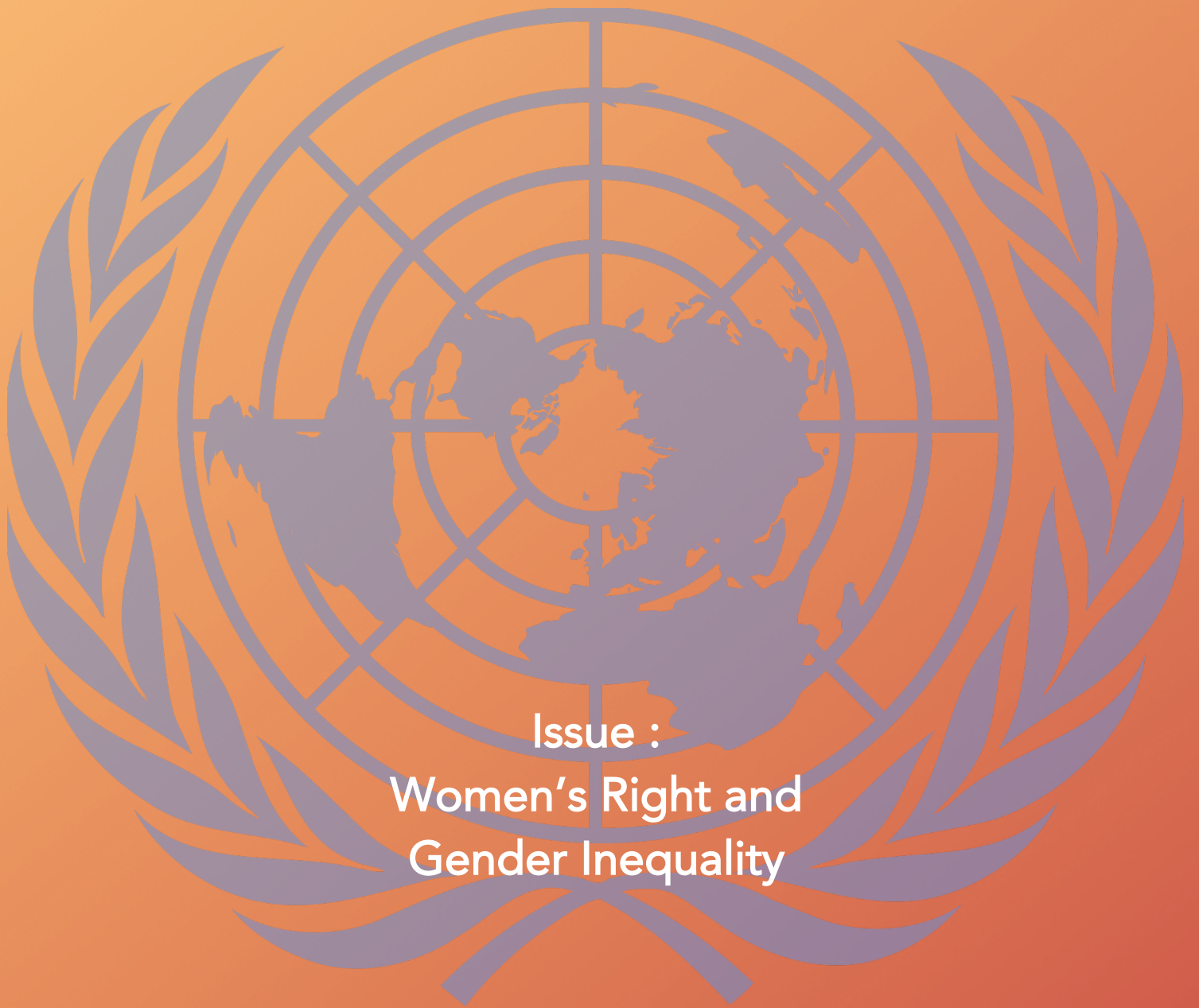


# OSJMMUN

## Human Rights Committee



Issue :

Women's Right and  
Gender Inequality

**Forum: Social and Humanitarian Committee**

**Topic: Women's Right and Gender Inequality**

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### **Introduction:**

SOCHUM investigates social, humanitarian and human rights issues around the world. Over the past few years, SOCHUM concerned about the issues that are being faced in the society such as gender inequality, racial discrimination and religious discrimination. Furthermore, the committee finds solutions for other social problems such as refugee rights, disabled people and justice.

### **Definition of Key Terms**

**Gender inequality** is encountered when women and men are not enjoying the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, especially in the field of economic participation.

**Gender systems** are based on two principles: the separation of genders and male superiority. The separation implies that men and women, masculine and feminine traits, are separated and viewed as opposite.

**Women's rights** are one of the most important human rights that were given to women a few decades ago. These rights include the rights to be independent, fights over slavery and violence and give the right to vote and stand for election.

**Patriarchy** is the dominance of men over women. All known societies are patriarchal, even though there are variations in the degree and nature of the power men exercise.

# **Violation of Human Rights**

## **1. Restricted Freedoms Around the World**

For undeveloped countries, it is obvious that humans still face restricted freedoms in plenty of fields. These restrictions are commonly about the right of living, working fields and political situations such as elections. Despite of the fact that we are in the 21st century, these issues are still being faced among the human race.

## **2. Unevenly Distributed Rights based on Genders**

In some countries, where laws are not developed enough, this issue is a major problem. This issue includes the inequality in front of the judge, in working fields and social services.

## **3. Violence against Women**

Violence against women – particularly intimate partner violence – is a major public health problem and a violation of women's human rights. Global estimates published by WHO indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical or psychological violence in their lifetime.

## **4. Education**

Educational inequality is the unequal distribution of academic resources, including but not limited to; school funding, qualified and experienced teachers and books. While numerous studies have been proven to show that educating women is key to eliminate poverty and aid development, the gender gap in education in many of these developing countries continues to increase.

## **Countries' Current States**

**France:** Compared to the other countries, France is one of the countries that has difficulties in adopting gender equality as a goal and designing policies to achieve it. France gave right to vote to women on 4 October 1944. In May 2012, a Ministry for Women's Rights was created in France. On 23 July 2014, France adopted the first law that addresses gender equality in the workplace, tackling stereotypes in the media.

**Sweden:** The Swedish Government's gender equality policy has two aims: to fight and transform systems that preserve the gender-based discrimination of power and resources in society, and to ensure that women and men enjoy the same power and opportunities to shape their own lives.

**Yemen:** Yemen has no female members of parliament, and only one in ten ministerial positions are held by women, while the gap between the literacy rate and enrollment in education of girls compared to boys is among the widest in the world.

**Germany:** Compared to other EU member States, Germany's performance in achieving gender equality is mediocre. The European Gender Equality Index ranks Germany lower than the EU average. Only in the areas of work, money and time, has Germany achieved better results than the EU average. In recent years, the federal government has focused on family policies and little efforts have been made in promoting equality policies.

**UK:** Legislation in force in the UK with regard to gender equality issues is well-established and is principally concerned with how men and women are paid, their employment as well as the provision of goods and services. The key legislation force is the Equal Pay Act (1970) and the Discrimination Act (1975). These Acts of Parliament have been more recently supplemented by the following further legislation: Part-Time-Workers Regulations (2000); Maternity Leave and Pay Regulations (1975); Paternity Leave and Pay Regulations (2003) and the Flexible Working Regulations (2003).

**Syria:** The on-going hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic have had a severe impact on its civilian population, particularly women, who faced increased levels of carnal violence and discrimination. Syrian women also face strong pressure to conform prevailing social norms regarding acceptable female behaviour, in order to ensure that the family's 'honor' is upheld. Syrian women have seen their economic opportunities improve in recent years, with greater numbers of women entering the workforce.

**Pakistan:** There have been important advances in gender equality in Pakistan in recent years. Pakistani women today are more likely to participate in the labor force and decision-making, and access health and education services, than their mothers and grandmothers with about a fifth of parliamentary seats held by women.

### **Important Bodies Involved**

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):** UNICEF was established on 11 December 1946 by the United Nations to meet the emergency needs of children in post-war Europe and China. Its full name was the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. In 1950, its mandate was broadened to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries everywhere. UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations system in 1953, when its name was shortened to the United Nations Children's Fund. However, UNICEF retained its original acronym.

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):** The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and entered into force on September 2, 1981. CEDAW has often been described as an 'international bill of rights' for women.

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women):** UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

### **Timeline of Policy Commitments and International Agreements on Human Rights**

March 19, 1911

#### **First celebration of International Women's Day**

After the attendees of a 1910 meeting in Copenhagen proposed that one day each year be set aside to honor the women's rights movement and build support for universal suffrage, International Women's Day was marked for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland in March of 1911. More than one million women and men attended rallies in support of women's right to vote, hold public office, access vocational training, and enter the labor force and participate without discrimination.

June 26, 1945

#### **Gender equality enshrined in the United Nations Charter**

Established to promote international co-operation following the devastation of World War II, the United Nations (UN) became the first international body to assert the principle of equality between women and men in its founding document. Article 1 of the UN

Charter affirms the body's aim of "promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion." In 1946, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women was formed to promote the global advancement of women, focusing initially on basic human rights and later emphasizing the need for the broader social and economic inclusion of women. Among its accomplishments was ensuring the inclusion of language about gender equality in what would become a cornerstone of modern human rights: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948. The declaration proclaimed "faith [...] in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women."

June 19-July 2, 1975

### **UN First World Conference on Women in Mexico City**

Coinciding with International Women's Year, the UN General Assembly and Commission on the Status of Women called on representatives from 133 member states to gather in Mexico City for the First World Conference on Women. The conference resulted in a forward-looking World Plan of Action to achieve the objectives for the advancement of women over the next decade, and the UN General Assembly proclaimed 1976-1985 the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace.

December 18, 1979

### **CEDAW: An "International bill of rights for women"**

Adopted by the UN General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is often described as an international bill of rights for women: it explicitly defines discrimination against women,

establishes legal obligations for countries that are parties to it to end discrimination in the public and private spheres, and aims to achieve substantive equality between women and men. As of 2015, it is the second most ratified UN human rights treaty, with 189 states party to it.

September 5-13, 1994

### **International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo**

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt marked the first time that reproductive health was included in an international policy document. The conference addressed the connection between strengthened reproductive health rights for women and broader development goals worldwide, and its resulting Programme of Action laid out over 200 recommendations related to family planning, safe pregnancy and delivery, the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, and the elimination of harmful practices against women.

September 4-15, 1995

### **UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing**

The landmark UN Fourth World Conference on Women brought an unprecedented 17,000 official participants and 30,000 activists to Beijing, China, and galvanized progress for the advancement of women worldwide. The conference addressed issues of human rights, poverty, economic inclusion, and gender-based violence, with one of the most notable moments coming as then-U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton famously proclaimed that “women’s rights are human rights.” The conference resulted in the unanimous adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by 189 countries.



Global reviews every five years since the declaration's passage have evaluated progress toward the achievement of the objectives outlined by the document's twelve focus areas, including violence against women, women's health, and women in armed conflict.

September 2000

### **Adoption of the Millennium Development Goals**

Following the Millennium Summit of the UN and the adoption of the UN Millennium Declaration, a set of eight time-bound goals (the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs) laid out targets to reduce extreme poverty around the world by 2015. While each goal—including those related to education, food security, and the environment—is linked to the status of women and girls, Goal 3 and Goal 5 specifically call for gender equality and improved maternal health. The MDGs accelerated international collaboration and focused, measurable action in the fight against global poverty.

October 31, 2000

### **Passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325)**

The UN Security Council (UNSC) formally acknowledged women as integral actors in international peace and security processes through the passage of UNSCR 1325, which addresses the unique effects of conflict on women as well as the critical role that women can play in conflict management, conflict resolution, and sustainable peace building. In June 2008, the UNSC further advanced the women, peace, and security agenda with the passage of UNSCR 1820, which recognizes sexual violence as a potential war tactic, crime against humanity, and act of genocide, and demanded improved protection and prevention measures. Over the next several years, resolutions 1888, 1889, and 1960 would also pass, mandating: better

protection of women and girls by peacekeeping missions, improved tracking and implementation of policies that address the needs of women in conflict settings, and prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence in armed conflicts.

July 2, 2010

### **Creation of UN Women**

The UN General Assembly reassembled and merged previously distinct parts of the UN system to form UN Women, an entity dedicated to achieving global gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The creation of UN Women addressed some of the challenges that had long plagued action on the women's rights agenda, including limited funding and the lack of a central driving force. Today, UN Women, headed by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, directs UN activities related to advancing the rights of women and girls globally.

September 2015

### **Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Seventeen distinct Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) resulted from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at a historic summit in New York City. The SDGs build upon the successes of their predecessor development framework, the Millennium Development Goals, and propose actionable steps to accelerate progress in the areas that have seen the least improvement, with an unprecedented goal of eliminating global poverty by 2030. The SDGs set concrete targets to end violence against women; improve women's health; promote women's participation in

leadership and decision-making positions; and advance women's inclusion in the world's economies, calling for equality in property ownership, inheritance, financial services, and access to natural resources. The landmark new framework makes it clear that addressing gender inequality is critical to global progress.

## **General Overview**

The inequalities in gender are commonly faced in 2000's. We can easily see that in some communities the hierarchial system is still in use especially among the genders. The role of informing people by seminars can be an efficient solution for this enormous problem.

Gender inequality is a result of ignorance and lack of education. Thus, if you go back in this report, you can easily explore that we pointed out the importance of education in society while solving the problems connected to inequality.

In countries like Arabic Countries and India, the government is not paying any attention to equality and women's right. Even in some developed countries such as USA, citizens are not treated equally.

According to UN, gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development. Girls and women have made major strides since 1990, but they have not yet gained gender equality. The disadvantages facing women and girls are a major source of inequality. All too often, women and girls are discriminated against in health, education, political representation, labour market, etc. with negative consequences for development of their capabilities and their freedom of choice.

The GII (Global Innovation Index) is an inequality index. It measures gender inequalities in three important aspects of human development—reproductive health, measured by maternal mortality

ratio and adolescent birth rates; empowerment, measured by proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and proportion of adult females and males aged 25 years and older with at least some secondary education; economic status, expressed as labour market participation and measured by labour force participation rate of female and male populations aged 15 years and older. The GII is built on the same framework as the IHDI to expose differences in the distribution of achievements between women and men. It measures the effect of human development on gender inequality.

The GII sheds new light on the position of women in 160 countries; it yields insights in gender gaps in major areas of human development. The component indicators highlight areas in need of critical policy intervention and it stimulates proactive thinking and public policy to overcome systematic disadvantages of women.

## **Chair's Notes**

### Issues to Consider

- Gender Equality in Working Fields, Political Issues and Social Fields

Gender equality in working areas, political issues and social fields are not distributed evenly around the world. Some countries are paying attention while some others are not. For example, we can easily see that European and Western countries are applying the term 'equality' in every area of their lives while some of the regions such as Arabic regions are not.

- Spreading Freedom around the World

Even if we are in the 21st century, freedom is one of the most commonly faced issues of this decade. Tens and thousands of

World citizens are facing restrictions in their daily lives. One of the examples that can be given is 'Sharing their own thoughts'.

-Education

The right of a proper education should be provided by the nations to their youngsters. Nations should keep 'The role of Youngsters in our future' in their minds. A good future cannot be achieved by lack of education.

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