





## COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the UN General Assembly established UN Women, and that act was made for the good of mankind. This organization aims to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. The creation of UN-Women enabled the combination of the resources and mandates of four agencies, all of which tackled gender-related issues and women empowerment:

- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)
- Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)

Being such an important organ having many functions, its most important ones are:

- Providing support for inter-governmental organs, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in setting innovative global policies and standards.
- Assisting Member States implement these standards, through providing the needed technical and financial support to the countries in need.
- Leading the United Nation's work on women empowerment and gender equality on an international, regional and national level, as well as supporting accountability and constant monitoring of advancements.

UNWOMEN doesn't only work by itself; nonetheless, it works in collaboration with other UN bodies, organizations and Member States in order to design new policies, laws, and programs that promote gender equality in different sectors. Its goal is to influence nations and urge them to pool resources and take action, but its resolutions account for preserving national sovereignty.



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

In this conference, you delegates will be representing the UNWOMEN council in order to find a way to solve and discuss two major topics society is facing nowadays, which this committee is always investigating: *the empowering of women in leadership and political participation* and *the dealing with battered women*.

### Female political empowerment

Firstly, let us deal with *female political empowerment*. “Only 22 per cent of all national parliamentarians were female as of August 2015, a slow increase from 11.3 per cent in 1995.” This number must increase! Women can prove to be extremely effective in the political field as they allow laws to be less biased towards men. Women in power have been present since the early 50s; Sukhbaataryn Yanjmaa from Mongolia was the world’s first female acting president. From that time, more and more females were introduced to the political field, such as Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, who is still active till today. Nonetheless, many programs have been established to support the participation of women in peace processes, political transitions, donor conferences, and other decision-making processes such as the Global Women’s Leadership Program (GWLP). With female political leaders active, female citizens engage more in civic discussion, women are more likely to report crimes committed against them, and adolescent girls’ career aspirations and educational attainment increase while their time spent on household chores decreases. “Countries with increased women’s participation and leadership in civil society and political parties tend to be more inclusive, responsive, egalitarian, and democratic. When society perceives female politicians as power-seeking beings, voters react negatively with feelings of moral outrage. Undoubtedly, women’s leadership is imperative for their communities; however, some standards and stereotypes inhibit



women's political participation. If women have proved to be essential in many fields, more than ever in the First World War, why cannot they be more indulged in the political field?

## The dealing with battered women

On the other hand, we have the *dealing with battered women*. Around the world, at least one woman in every three has been beaten, forced into sex, or otherwise battered in her lifetime. Annually, violence in the family and the community devastates the lives of millions of women. Violence against women is entrenched in a universal culture of discrimination which denies women equal rights with men and which legitimizes the appropriation of women's bodies for individual gratification or political ends. Many attempts have been made to aid women's cause, such as *The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women* which, in short, bids to punish any acts of violence against women. Moreover, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly aiming to monitor the situation of women and to promote women's rights. Taken from any point of view, whether it is social or religious, the battering of women is unethical and scrupulous. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in its 2<sup>nd</sup> article, "everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion [...]" Obviously, violence against women feeds off discrimination and sexism; as men deem themselves superior to women; the moment the former's will is opposed by the latter's, violence is imminent. But if women should be treated as equals to men, and if women are destined to be liberated, then why is violence so rampaging in our society? Who is there to help the poor women prosecuted daily? As Emma Watson, the UNWOMEN Goodwill Ambassador, said once: "If not ME, who? If not NOW, when?"



Esteemed delegates, you are required to find solutions for these problems the world greatly faces. Even though it is impossible to fully include women in the political field or to eradicate all forms of female abuse, you are able to make a change; a long-lasting and drastic one. The changing of some laws will surely aid in making women feel included in the political sector such as implementing the quota system; moreover, women should be taught and empowered to be able to resist against their aggressors. The fate of women's liberation is in your hands...

## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

- What is your country's position on both of these topics?
- How has your country contributed in solving these problems?
- What were some of your country's national and international actions?
- How can your country effectively help in solving both topics?
- Would financial support help in diminishing these problems?
- How should countries implement the laws required to alleviate these problems?
- Would educational support help in reducing instances of sexism?
- What is the role of women's movements and NGOs in improving the financial approaches adopted for gender equality?
- How can the adoption of the GWLP help support women's participation in politics?
- Will ratifying the CEDAW treaty allow member states to "eradicate" violence against women?



## **REFERENCES**

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women>

<http://wapp.hks.harvard.edu/politics>

<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment/addressing-gender-programming/strengthening-womens>

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/violence-against-women/violence-against-women-information>

## **FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/9/emma-watson-gender-equality-is-your-issue-too>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation>

[http://www.feminist.com/resources/ourbodies/viol\\_intro.html](http://www.feminist.com/resources/ourbodies/viol_intro.html)