



**Dear Delegates,**

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 University of Central Punjab MUN.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that will be debated at UCPMUN 2018 in committee sessions. Please note this guide only provides the basis for your investigation. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent. Such information should help you write your Position Paper, where you need to cite the references in the text and finally list all references in the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

The more information and understanding you acquire on the two topics, the more you will be able to influence the resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses], and the UCPMUN'18 experience as a whole. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research or while formatting your Position Papers.

We encourage you to learn all you can about your topics first and then study your country with regard to the two selected topics. Please remember that both committee members need to be well versed and ready to debate both topics.

Enjoy researching and writing your Position Papers.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

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## **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.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programs and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action

UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality, and in all deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda. The entity works to position gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, and a more inclusive world.

**Source:** <http://www.unwomen.org/en>

# **AGENDA ONE**

## **Violence Against Women**

### **Topic Introduction:**

Violence is defined within the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence against women and girls is widespread. Over 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced sexual or physical that much of this abuse takes place in the home and within family structures makes it difficult for legal systems to protect the victims. Less than 40% of victims are willing to ask for help, most will only ask for help from family or friends, only 10% go to the police.

Sexual and physical violence have devastating impacts upon the victim’s mental and physical wellbeing, particularly if the victim is still a child. Furthermore, violence represents a grave violation of their human rights, particularly the right to liberty and security of person, and the right not to be subject to torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Preventing violence against women and girls will not only safeguard the rights and health of women, but also allow them to fully participate in society, free from the threat of sexual or physical violence.

### **Topic Background**

Prior to the 20th century, violence within the home was generally ignored or seen as something not requiring outside intervention. Even where laws against domestic violence and marital rape existed, they were often not acted upon. This was due in part to the belief that women were property, firstly to their fathers, and then to their husbands.

Attitudes towards women began to change during the 20th century; women’s rights movements emerged around the world to call for equal rights and protections before the law against discrimination and violence.

Through campaigning and collective action were used to achieve many rights for women, including the right to vote, and to have the same economic opportunities as men. These rights

were set out by the UN in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, passed by the General Assembly in 1979. Although, progress has been made as at least 119 UN Member States have laws against domestic violence, and at least 52 have laws against marital rape, there is clearly still a very long way to go. Protecting the rights of women has been an objective of the United Nations (UN) since its founding in 1945. The preamble to the UN charter reading “We the peoples of the United Nations determined...to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women. This commitment to equality was expanded upon in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948 at the session of the General Assembly. Articles 3 and 5 explicitly outline that all human beings, including women and girls, have the right to security of person, and to not be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The United Nations has made its commitment to ending violence against women and girls as stated in its Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

This was adopted by the General Assembly without a vote on the 20th of December 1993. It expressly states that violence against women is a hindrance to declaration also established the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which takes place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November every year. This day is designed to raise awareness of the issues facing many women around the world.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda contains 17 goals, which the international community hopes to achieve by the year 2030. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 is to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. ‘The second target contained within this goal is to “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

UN Women acknowledges that each of the 17 SDGs has a significant impact upon women. Furthermore a failure to empower women and girl and to improve their outcomes will make fulfillment of the 2030 sustainable development agenda impossible.

## **Discussion on the Topic**

Preventing violence against women and girls requires a commitment to addressing its causes. Violence against women and girls is closely interlinked with attitudes towards their gender, and is one of the methods that women have been placed in a subordinate position to men. Women and girls who face violence are nearly twice as likely to experience depression,

Younger victims attain lower grades in school, and are likely to have financial difficulties later in life.<sup>18</sup> Violence does not just harm mental and physical health; it also prevents its victims from participating fully in society. According to a UN study in Vietnam, domestic violence cost 3% of GDP, and victims earned on average a third less than those who did not face abuse.

Stopping these forms of violence is essential for fulfillment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, especially to achieve the overall aim of ensuring that no one is left behind. Member States will need to take steps to prevent violence by tackling gender discrimination, cultural and social norms, which allow violence to occur.

UN Women has sought to address this issue by working closely with young girls and boys. Working with the next generation is particularly important to UN Women as these formative years are when we are most receptive to ideas on how to practice respectful relationships and being aware of the importance of gender equality. The UN Women has established the "Voices against Violence" initiative, which is an educational curriculum developed in cooperation with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It is a resource which educators can use to teach children to challenge gender stereotypes and to teach them not to see violence as acceptable.

UN Women also works regionally in Asia and the Pacific through the partners for prevention initiative. This region was chosen because it has among the highest levels of violence against women and girls. This initiative commissioned a study titled "Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific." This study looked at attitudes towards violence and attempted to gain insight into the scale that it was happening by interviewing 10,000 men in 6 countries in this region. Worryingly this study reported that over half of men had carried out violence against their intimate partner, while almost a quarter had perpetrated rape against a woman or girl.

Where violence has already occurred, assistance must be given so as to help the victim to recover, and to minimize the lasting effects, such help includes access to medical assistance, psychological help, and protection from further abuse. UN Women works with legislators through the virtual knowledge center to end violence against women and girls. An online resource in English, French and Spanish that allows policymakers access to information to assist them in formulating policies, practices, and action plans to tackle violence in their countries.

## **Further Research**

### ***Guiding Questions***

Today the fight to prevent violence and to help its victims goes on. It is an issue which affects each and every nation. Delegates are encouraged to think about the following topics when they prepare for the conference:

1. How to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, particularly in more isolated regions of the world?
2. How can we increase effectiveness of existing laws, making it possible for a greater number of victims to get help?
3. How to encourage states to adopt and implement laws against domestic abuse, including marital rape?

### ***Relevant Documents***

Charter of the United Nations (1945): Foundational document of the UN, defining its responsibilities and structure.

Universal Declaration of human rights (1948) - Outlines the rights to which all human beings are entitled, including the right to equality for men and women.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) — Details how states should work to ensure that the rights of women are upheld across society.

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) — specifically seeks to change the perception that domestic violence is a private matter rather than a crime requiring outside intervention.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) - Outcome document for the fourth World Conference on women, elaborates upon the general principle of equality of men and women.

Agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2013). Contains the conclusions of a meeting by the CSW to discuss how to eliminate violence against women and girls, is a good starting point for delegates looking for ideas and examples.

## **AGENDA NUMBER TWO**

### **The Link between Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development**

#### **Introduction:**

In June 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20, attended by 192 UN member states, welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Major calls were made for the strengthening of national, regional and international policies and priorities, with multilateral regional and international organizations contributing more towards sustainable development (reducing poverty while preserving the environment). Women's empowerment and participation in its implementation is necessary, as recognized by the UN Member States. To understand the foundation of Agenda 2030, we must first look at the definitions of *sustainable development* and *women's empowerment*, and realize their critical link by analyzing how women are adversely affected by the unsustainable practices in our world in the economic, societal and environmental spheres of their lives. The World Commission on Environment and Development published a report in 1987 that defines the concept for the approach to sustainable development as that "which meets the needs of generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept promotes strong economic and social development, particularly for people living in poverty, who are the most affected by environmental degradation and a lack of access to natural resources.

The empowerment of women is defined as "the process by which women take control and ownership of their lives through expansion of their choices". Women support the family through wage labour, preserve traditional knowledge, maintain environmental biodiversity and ensure household food security and nutrition. Despite these critical roles, women and young girls continue to suffer the effects of poor healthcare, education, and discriminatory policies, this being the result of women enduring the burden of unpaid work and a lack of legal protections. The undervaluation of women is widespread across economic, social, political and environmental spheres of life. Higher levels of education and economic sustainability of women has the greatest potential to reduce poverty while striving for a sustainable future. Research has demonstrated that women's participation in the labor force helps the economy grow significantly; if the wage gender gap was to be eliminated, the US's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would be approximately 9% higher, Europe's GDP would be 13% higher, and in 15 major developing countries, their economies would boost citizens' per capita income by 14%-20%. As the world population reaches 7 billion people, women can no longer be dependent on their own fathers to live an independent life and raise their families, while contributing to a sustainable world for future generations to come; outlining the importance attached for women to gain access to universal reproductive health in order to reduce maternal mortality. Women's

empowerment to be socially and economically independent is crucial for the sustainability of the environment; according to research by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, women produce 50% of agricultural output in Asia, and represent nearly 80% of the agricultural labor force in Africa. If women were granted the same level of access to agricultural resources as men, “production would increase by 20-30%, and has the potential to reduce the number of the under-fed population in the world by 12-17%. If international community were to meet women’s needs to “plan the number and spacing of their pregnancies, population growth would slow and global carbon emission would decrease by 8-15 percent — the equivalent of stopping all current deforestation””. Moreover, the impact of climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affects women and girls through fluctuating commodity prices and natural disasters, including draught and famine. The link between women’s empowerment and sustainable development is a complex and multi-faceted issue that must be reformed in all spheres of a woman’s life: the economic, social and environmental. It is thus essential to encourage women’s participation in decision-making at a national, regional and international level in order to enhance the basis for rapid progress, including stronger laws, policies and institutions, better data and scaled-up financing. The following sections will outline the major international documents that lay the foundation for action on sustainable development, as well as the role of the international system in ensuring the gender-equal implementation of the SDG’s.

## **International Framework**

Assuring women’s rights through legal frameworks is his first step in guaranteeing the eradication of gender-based discrimination. According to a Report of *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals* produced by the United Nations Secretary General, as of 2014, 143 countries recognized the right of equality between men and women in their constitutions through the equal recognition of men and women, prohibition of discrimination against sex, and many more. The international community made a great stride in the protection of women against discrimination through Article 7 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948). However, the UDHR lacks enforcement mechanisms to ensure its compliance, requiring more substantive protection for women. A legal instrument of extreme importance to women’s equal rights is the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) (1979). The Convention is often described as an “international bill of rights for women” and is the most comprehensive treaty on the rights of women."

In January 2016, the Global Goals of Agenda 2030 for Development, replaced the *Millennium MDGs* as the new universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 Targets seeks to build on what was unaccomplished by the Millennium Development Goals, a source of guidance and a framework for future development for all UN Member States. When the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 70/1, women’s inclusion in its implementation was necessary. These issues are seen as “integrated and indivisible and balance



the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental<sup>7</sup> for men and women. The SDGs are attempting to change the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by addressing key challenges relating to poverty, inequality, and violence against women. Women's empowerment to influence the implementation of the 17 SDGs is a pre-condition for this to be realized.

The source of guidance for UN Member States on action for women's empowerment stems from The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995), which launched the concept of gender mainstreaming and flagged 12 areas where urgent action is needed to ensure gender equality and equal opportunities for men and women. It strives for the effective implementation of a global policy framework and blueprint for action for the advancement of women as well as removing all obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share of economic, social, cultural, and political decision-making. The current framework for the achievement of women's empowerment is Sustainable Development Goals 5 (SDGs), which is aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls across the globe. SDG5 is the ultimate goal is ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. It focuses on the elimination of all forms of violence and harmful practices against women and child in the public and private spheres. Providing women and girls with equal access to education; universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; recognizing the value of unpaid care and domestic work; as well as representation in political and economic decision-making<sup>4</sup>. Women and girls must be ensured a platform to voice their grievances and concerns to enable their independence, which is central to attaining a sustainable economy, society and environment for future generation.

As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all UN Member States of the UN General Assembly have committed themselves to the Agenda. Member States have agreed to conduct country-led and country-driven reviews of progress made at the national and sub-national level, which must take into account the contributions from "indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities"<sup>42</sup> At the global level, the Economic and Social Council will carry out regular reviews of the agenda in an attempt to provide a platform for partnerships through major groups of civil society and other stakeholders. Other major UN organs work towards the gender-equal implementation of the SDGs.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) was established in 2010 by the UN General Assembly, in which it is focused exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women works to support inter-governmental bodies, such as the CSW, in the development of policies and standards; help member states to implement these standards and provide technical and financial support in order to forge effective partnerships with civil society, and take a leading role to coordinate the UN's activities to achieve gender equality, as well as promote accountability through regular monitoring. 4' UN

Women, very importantly, manages the *hand for tender Equali*), a global giant-system that provides technical and financial support to high-impact, innovative initiatives from women-led civil society organization that demonstrate effective results in aiding women and marginalized groups. The fund has delivered grants of USD \$64 million to 120 grantee programs in 80 countries, impacting the lives of more than 10 million direct beneficiaries. “

## **Gender Mainstreaming**

Much has been achieved since the implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Agenda 2030*, but progress has been slow and uneven, particularly for the most marginalized women and girls who experience various complex and intersecting forms of discrimination, which can be based on ethnicity, race, religion, and sexual orientation amongst other things. An ongoing initiative of the United Nations as a method of achieving universal gender equality is through the strategy of gender mainstreaming.

“The process of assessing the implication for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. Various strategies have been employed to incorporate gender perspectives into national policies such as gender-based analysis during the design of policies; policy evaluation to assess if it has promoted gender equality; gendered-data collection to assess the impacts of policies on women and men; a gendered-budget where the government’s equality commitment translates into budgetary commitments.

Analyzing the obstacles faced by gender mainstreaming by UN Member States is best demonstrated when it was first launched in 1996 in order to promote gender equality for policies of the European Union. ‘The concept of gender mainstreaming was initially fully endorsed by policy-makers, but its implementation was manipulated so that it served to counteract an increasing demand for positive action measures in various institutions responsible for their realization. Traditional gender systems and social roles of women are established in different socio-cultural contexts, which determine what is expected, allowed and valued. The phenomenon of prejudicial female stereotyping is a multi-faceted issue that has the potential to be translated through various means: language and vocabulary, laws and practices, societal attitudes, justice systems, media and education, various institutions and public authorities, enterprises and in the individual. Empowering women through egalitarian legislation may have similar effects to political empowerment, allowing women to be more adequately represented on the decision-making spheres of national institutions and organizations and being about legislative change that both women *and* men want. By prioritizing women and children during emergencies, humanitarian responses would take increased measures to address sexual and gender-based

violence, such as the increased casualization of female workers and feminization of poverty, trafficking, and violence against women in the domestic sphere and work place.

## **Conclusion**

Coordinated support amongst UN member states is imperative to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; this will require mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda at the national and local level and integrating it into all plans for sustainable development, and subsequently into budget allocations. The acceleration of national and international resources to priority areas of focus in the mainstreaming process, paying special attention to their commitment and accountability.

Lastly, policy support by various UN agencies to ensure they are implemented efficiently and in a timely manner.

### ***Guiding Questions***

- a. Have international bodies and local governments been effective in implementing gender-equal policies into their national mandates?
- b. How can the CSW ensure that appropriate enforcement of the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals and SDG5?
- c. What role do women play in their economic, social and environmental empowerment? How can it be improved?

