



Topic Synopsis
ECOSOC, Gender Equality

I. Background of Topic

Gender equality is a natural human right that should be respected by all members of the international community. A lack of gender equality is something that has been affecting people around the world for millennia. While women generally receive the brunt of the discrimination, men are not outside of its grasp. Providing gender equality would not only be a useful tool in promoting development within countries, but would also be extremely beneficial in reducing poverty, especially in 3rd world countries. Women who received more equal pay in the work place, and equal opportunity in general would be better able to contribute to providing for their families and communities. With more income for impoverished families, the prospects for the next generation would be brighter. A general lack of total gender equality, even in industrial countries such as the United States, are causing more women to be out of work and is contributing to poverty on a global scale.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations has taken an active role in countering gender inequality and its harsh effects. For instance, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to create a single UN body called the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on July 2, 2010. This new committee was created through the fusion of four separate world UN agencies. The United Nations has not only been involved in gender equality more recently, but also in the past. For instance, in 1975 the United Nations



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hosted the International World Conference on Women in Mexico City which led to the declaration of the years 1976-1985 as the UN Decade for Women. In 1979, the UNGA adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which is more commonly referred to as the International Bill of Rights for Women. In 2000, the Security council unanimously voted in Resolution 1325 which promoted all member states to increase representation for women. Clearly, throughout the past and more recently the United Nations has been very involved in trying to provide as much equality as possible for all genders. The addition of this issue to their millennia goals further proves their motivation to provide rights and equality to all.

III. Possible Solutions

The most feasible solution to this problem would be for member countries to support and promote the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, support of Goal #3 would be best, because this one specifically supports the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. It focuses on eliminating gender disparity in schools no later than 2015. It calls for a close ratio of boys in girls at all levels of the education process, along with equal employment wages for men and women in the nonagricultural sector. Lastly, it holds one viable indicator as being a proportional number of men and women holding seats in the national parliament. Were all these goals to be reached, all indicators would point towards success in reaching a higher level of gender equality.

IV. Bloc Positions



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Latin American/Asian Blocs:

Gender equality has shown improvement in the Latin American and Asian regions. These countries are looking to improve the role of women in government, both locally and nationally. They also wish to create more opportunities for them as small business leaders, since small business thrives in many of these countries.

African/Middle Eastern Blocs:

Countries in these regions tend to have the strongest religious or cultural beliefs that could provide much opposition to the advancement of women. They feel resolutions must remain consistent with the cultural country policies. They provide some of the most oppressive discriminatory conditions for women due to their strong beliefs about women's roles in society.

European Bloc:

These nations are at the forefront of advancing women's rights. They've consistently taken the first steps in promoting gender equality and generally have far fewer ethnic or cultural ties against total gender equality. They've seen many successes with having gender equality.

Guiding Questions

1. Who is most affected by gender inequality?
2. What countries are supporting or rejecting gender discrimination?
3. How do cultural influences within your country affect gender roles and equality?
4. Is your country in support of the millennium goals stance on gender equality?
5. How specifically will a greater level of gender equality help or hinder the global community?

<http://www.unfpa.org/gender/>

<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/women/>



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