



ECOSOC: Gender Equality

I. Background of Topic

The struggle for equality between men and women has for long been a worldwide issue. Through out history, women around the world have been denied basic rights including the ability to work, vote, own property, and choice in marriage. This lack of equality has lead to the oppression of many women. Issues regarding gender equality can be found in numerous forms which many have attempted to solve. Efforts to stride for greater equality between the sexes stems from the belief in an injustice among men and women. Over the years many steps have been taken in order to create a more equal playing field. Women in particular have fought for equal pay at jobs where they were paid less to do the same work as men. In some cases men and women have decided to slowly distance themselves from the traditional cultural idea of the roles each sex should play. Furthermore, this has allowed men and women to move into a state of role reversal. Along side role reversal, some efforts to change society's mentality in regards to the way society views classic gender rules. However, a lack of women in parliamentary systems is evident. Even though the number of women involved in national parliaments steadily increases, no nation has reached true gender parity. In fact, women on hold about 16% of all parliamentary seats in the world today. Gender inequality not only affects adults but children as well. This is evident when dissecting global education. In many nations young girls take a back seat when it comes to education and boys are pushed to excel. Although in some nations the boy girl gap is minuscule, other nations struggle to keep the education system equal.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations continues its evolvement in critical issuers such as gender equality. Committees have long sough vast amounts of women to be involved in the United Nations. The UN Women Fund has been a staple in gender equality and the empowerment of women. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women Fund) was created in order to consolidate the work of four different sectors of the UN: UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI), and the Division of the Advancement of Women (DAW) in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Also, the United Nations has made its entities responsible for integrating gender equality into their activities. On a more recent note, the UN Security Council members have encouraged a greater percentage of participation of women in peace keeping ventures. Also, the Security Council has focused on women's participation in conflict mediation and prevention throughout the UN. Many strides have been taken in order to have the sexes equally involved in all sectors of the United Nations.



III. Possible Solutions

Possible solutions should include ideas which involve job equality, education equality, and social and economic equality. Also how to prevent bias against the sexes and equal right for both genders.

IV. Bloc Positions

Separate regions of the world view gender equality differently. In the Middle Eastern region society believes women are to keep to traditional roles at home. This includes staying at home with the children doing house hold work. Where as men are made out to become the income source for the family with greater jobs and education. This in contrast to a more western view of women. In liberated nations, women are seen as equal. They are given to a greater extent the ability to work outside of the home and provide for their families. Women have the freedom to become what they chose versus being confined to more traditional social norms.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How does gender equality affect today's society?
2. How has the issue of gender equality affected the economy?
3. What affect has gender equality had on the sexes?
4. What factor does culture play in terms of gender equality?
5. What steps can be taken in order to create greater equality?
6. How can education among the sexes be equalized?