

The Question of Achieving Gender Equality
and Empowering All Women and Girls
(Goal 5)

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Background

Gender equality is known by most NGOs and western governments, as a basic human right as well as a common shared value and a necessary condition for the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals (Goal 5).

Gender inequality is a situation that occurs when women and men are not equal, it refers to unequal treatment and approaches of individuals in arrears to their gender. Nowadays, in such an advanced and modern world, it is worth keeping in mind that gender inequality is still very much present. It is noteworthy to mention that the magnitude of gender gaps in countries around the world is the combined product of numerous socio-economic, policy and cultural variables.

The future looks uncertain. There is no doubt it is a sensitive subject to all nations present, whether it is due to religious, cultural or socio-economic restrictions.

Depending on the location of each woman the problem must be tackled in a specific and organized manner. These problems range from women receiving different wages for the same job, up to women who are totally dependent on their father and then on their husband.

Gender equality refers to equal rights between women and men, equal responsibilities amongst girls and boys and women and men. Needs and interests of both women and men are taken into consideration. Gender equality is a human rights principle. For too many years, women have suffered discrimination all around the world, simply due to gender.

As the “United Nations” special committee, it is your job as a delegate to come up with resolutions that will approach the matter at hand in a different way regarding achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and hopefully resolve the issue.

Key Terms

Gender Equality

The state in which access to rights or opportunities is unaffected by gender.

NGO

Non-Governmental Organisation: A Non-Profit Organization that operates independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social or political issue.

Discrimination

The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.

WEF

The World Economic Forum; an organization that aims to foster public-private partnerships across the globe with the aim of improving global economic situations and achieving relative economic stability.

Organisations and International legislation

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO's medium-term strategy from 2008-2013 (37/4) allocates gender equality as one of its two top global priorities.

UN Women

The United Nations entity for gender equality and empowering all women, it works in conjunction with UNESCO and has a presence in the UN General Assembly as an observer in order to maintain momentum in the fight for gender equality.

InterAction

An NGO founded in 1992 through its commission on the advancement of women that has worked to advance female empowerment and gender equality in the policy and practice.

Equality Now

An NGO whose main attempt is “to achieve legal and systemic change that addresses violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world.”

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

This treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. As it lay the foundation for further treaties; It is also known as the International Bill of Rights for women. Still, seven countries have not ratified this treaty, along with the Pacific island nations of Tonga and Palua; Iran, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Adopted by the General Assembly when resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 was passed, this is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, was adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25. It entered into force on 25 December 2003. It is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons.

Nations Involved

Yemen

According to the World Economic Forum, which as part of its annual Global Gender Gap Report, determined that Yemen was the country with most gender gap in the world. 0.0 being the lowest score and 1.0 being the highest, Yemen scored 0.484.

Pakistan

According to the WEF, Pakistan is the second lowest ranked in the world. Pakistan scored 0,559. 0.0 being the lowest score and 1.0 being the highest.

Syria

In accordance to data presented by the WEF Global Gender Gap Report, Syria is the third lowest ranked country scoring only 0.568. 0.0 being the lowest score and 1.0 being the highest.

Iceland

However, Iceland presents the best scores regarding gender equality. Ranked by the WEF in 0.881. 0.0 being the lowest score and 1.0 being the highest.

Norway

Ranked second in the Global Gender Gap Report by the WEF, Norway stands with 0.850.0 being the lowest score and 1.0 being the highest.

Finland

Neighboring country with Norway, obtained third position in relation to data presented by the WEF. Finland scored 0.85, 0.0 being the lowest score and 1.0 being the highest.

The 10 best countries for gender equality

- 1 Iceland
- 2 Norway
- 3 Finland
- 4 Sweden
- 5 Ireland
- 6 Rwanda
- 7 Philippines
- 8 Switzerland
- 9 Slovenia
- 10 New Zealand

The 10 worst countries for gender equality

- 1 Yemen
- 2 Pakistan
- 3 Syria
- 4 Chad
- 5 Iran
- 6 Jordan
- 7 Morocco
- 8 Lebanon
- 9 Mali
- 10 Egypt

Possible Solutions

Eradicate all forms of violence against all women and girl in private and public spheres, including trafficking and sexual and any and all types of exploitation through education in areas where violence towards women is normalised.

Ensure universal access to reproductive health services as was agreed upon the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population.

Ensure that technology is used to fight gender inequality, by the means of communication; given that many women have not had access to any kind of information regarding their rights, at all. Since technology of communication is so prevalent in the modern age even in very underdeveloped nations, this could be a useful method for communicating the UN's message.

Strengthen policies and enforce legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of all girls and women at all stages, and consider establishing a body to look into the issue of gender inequality at a national level, but be careful when considering this as it may be taken as an invasion of a nations sovereignty.

Fund educational campaigns to promote girl's education throughout the world, as one of the main problems regarding gender equality is that women and girls don't have the right to access the same level of education as men. Keep in mind that the safety of these girls is of the utmost importance and that some cultures will refuse these issues, perhaps violently.

Consider taking steps towards international action against countries that continue to perpetrate gender inequality at a legal level, but recognize that it is not the UN's prerogative to bring about change in countries that do not want to change, as the UN is more of an advisory body than a governing force.