



UNA - USA's  
**Global Classrooms:**  
**Seoul**  
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**General Assembly 2**  
**Research Guide**



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**Global Classrooms:**  
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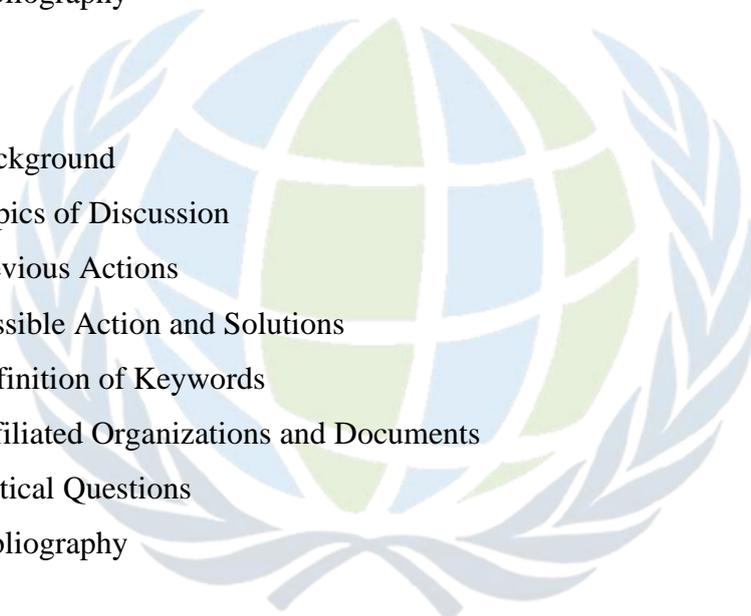
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## I. Committee Introduction

The General Assembly second committee, which is the Economic and Financial Committee, works towards the alleviation of issues in the field of finance and economics on an international level. Furthermore, it deals with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions, human settlements, poverty eradication, sustainable development, globalization and interdependence, and global partnerships between associated member states. The committee cooperates with certain relevant organizations: UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), the ILO (International Labor Organization), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), the WTO (World Trade Organization), and most importantly, the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund). Not limited to the narrow issue of the 'economic' field, this committee is recommending delegates to cover all of the topics and contents related with issues toward establishing well-oriented policies and solutions.



## Agenda 1: Promoting The Equal Rights of Women and The Elimination of All Forms of Social Discrimination Against Women

### II. Background

Women's rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls worldwide, and which formed the basis for the women's rights movement in the 19th century and feminist movement during the 20th century. Efforts to regain women's human rights continue today. Thanks to the efforts made today to foster women's human rights, gender equality is being achieved compared to the past, and women's social status is gradually rising. However, many countries around the world still have cases of women's rights being violated. As it is a problem that is emerging in various aspects not only of certain countries but across the world, all countries need to recognize the seriousness and strive for improvement.

Problems related to discrimination against women appear in a variety of ways, country by country. Among the cases of human rights violations by women especially in Middle Eastern countries "Honorary murder" and "Halle" are examples. Honor killings are the murder of women by male family members on the grounds that they have tainted the family's reputation. Halle means not allowing women to feel sexual pleasure by cutting off a woman's genitalia. In addition, in Sudan, women were sentenced to death just because they converted religion, and in India, women were brutally raped and killed. In these countries, and women are not allowed to dress or walk outside freely. These discriminations are all situations that women face in the workplace. However the treatment towards women in such nations are considered more severe than any other nations as women are treated like men's property. Such discriminations are thought to be solved in many developed nations. However, we can see various ways of unequal treatment towards women.

Women's discrimination is also appearing in a variety of different way in developed countries. Sexual violence and sexual harassment still occur frequently in many European countries. Also, the advancement of women into society of women are restricted in Eastern countries, including South Korea and Japan. High-ranking positions in the company are mostly male, and the political community can confirm that the proportion of males is much higher than females. Women's economic empowerment has gained increasing attention within the global development agenda in recent years, bolstered by the adoption of a range of relevant targets within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015



Feminism, meaning various social and political movements and theories that reveal that women are being suppressed by social systems and ideologies, is the basis for this change. Since men have historically led social activities and political participation, feminism aims to inform people about women's rights but ultimately toward gender equality. This requires vigorous social advancement and activities of women. We should listen to women's voices through changes in perception through education and reform of the system.

### III. Topics of Discussion

#### A. Unemployment of Women

Despite notable progress over the past 20 years, updated ILO figures show persistent inequalities between women and men on access to the labour market, unemployment and conditions at work. According to the World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends for Women 2018 – Global snapshot, the global women's labour force participation rate – at 48.5 per cent in 2018 – is still 26.5 percentage points below the rate of their male counterparts.

#### B. Pay gap between men and women

The uncontrolled gender pay gap, which takes the ratio of median earnings of all women to all men, decreased by \$0.05 since 2015. However, women still make only \$0.79 for every dollar men make in 2019. The gender pay gap is the gap between what men and women are paid. It refers to the median annual pay of all women who work full time and year-round, compared to the pay of a similar cohort of men. The gender pay gap is the result of many factors, including occupational segregation, bias against working mothers, and direct pay discrimination. Additionally, such things as racial bias, disability, access to education, and age come into play. Consequently, different groups of women experience very different gaps in pay.

#### C. Positive aspect of women's advancement in society and their economic equality

When more women work, economies grow. Women's economic empowerment boosts productivity, increases economic diversification and income equality in addition to other positive development outcomes. Women's economic equality is good for business. Companies greatly benefit from increasing employment and leadership opportunities for women, which is shown to increase organizational effectiveness and growth.



#### D. Supporting women's economic empowerment through education

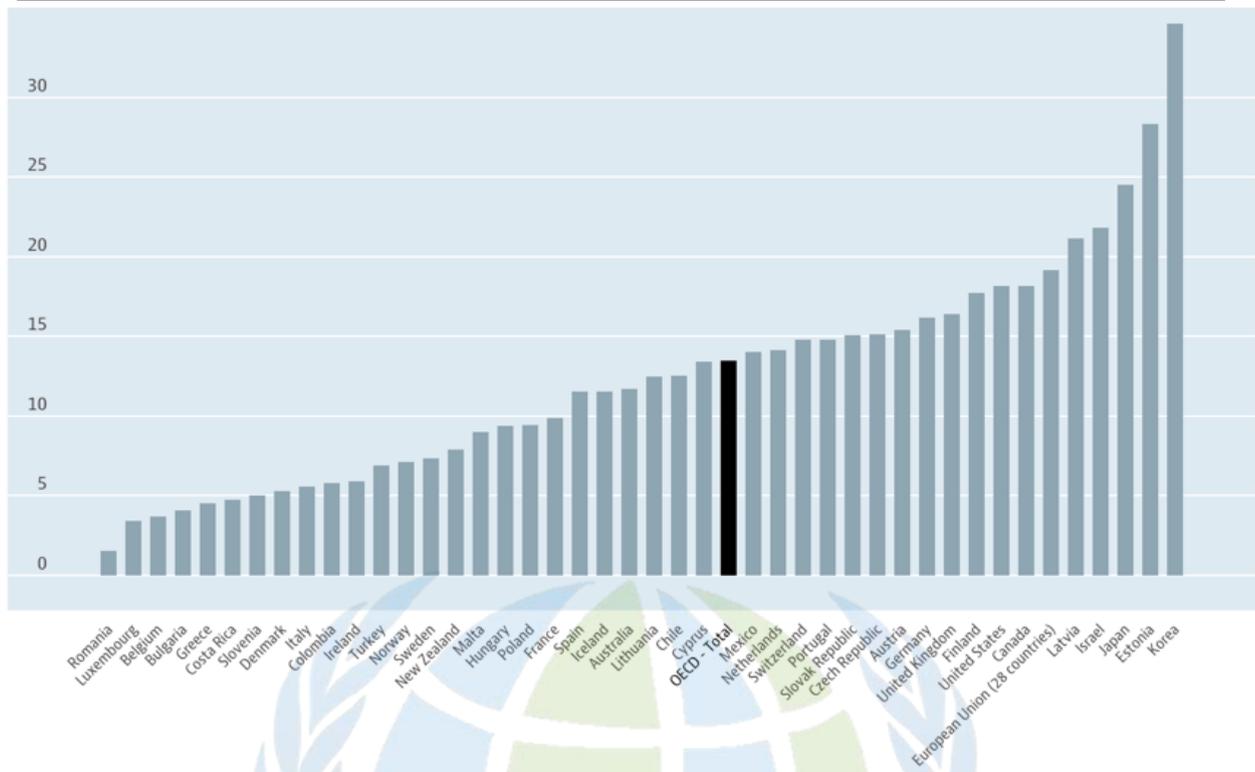
Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality. Increasing women's and girls' educational attainment contributes to women's economic empowerment and more inclusive economic growth. Education, upskilling and re-skilling over the life course – especially to keep pace with rapid technological and digital transformations affecting jobs—are critical for women's and girl's health and wellbeing, as well as their income-generation opportunities and participation in the formal labour market. Increased educational attainment accounts for about 50 per cent of the economic growth in OECD countries over the past 50 years.

#### IV. Previous Actions

##### A. Gender Wage (Pay) Gap

Although not equal, opportunities for women to be employed have increased. However despite these changes and despite the advances in women's educational achievements, a significant wage gap between men and women exists. Women having to work through all their family duties with paid job without affecting their chances of promotion or skill enhancement can be seen as almost impossible. Even if they manage to overcome these obstacles, they cannot still earn as much as men. (International Labour Office (2007), Equality at Work: Tackling the challenges, pp xi –xii ) In 2017, the global average annual earnings for women were \$12,000, compared to men's earnings of \$21,000. The chart below portrays the gender pay gap of OECD countries.

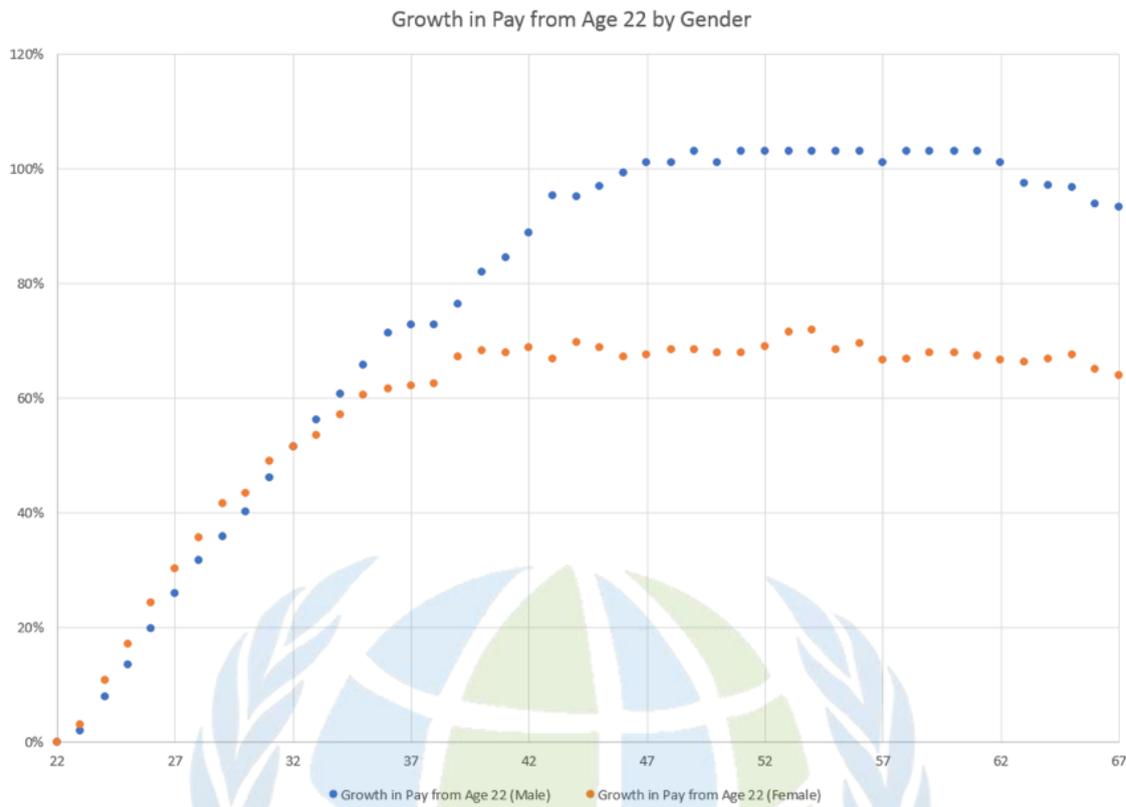




The chart above is the gender wage gap which is defined as the difference between median earnings of men and women relative to median earnings of men. It is shown to be most pronounced in South Korea, which has a 37% difference in wages between men and women followed by Estonia, Japan, Israel and the 28 countries of the European Union having around 15-20% difference. The inequality of income can weaken the sustainability of growth in a country. These wage gap contributes to income inequality which can weaken the sustainability of growth in a country and higher gaps in labour force participation rates which result in inequality of earnings, unequal pensions and savings.

Below is the chart for growth in pay from age 22 by gender. This conveys how it is not only the initial pay discrimination, but it continues for the rest of their career life. Besides, it indicates how as more time passes, relatively there is less growth in pay of women than men. This refers to the concept of the “glass ceiling”. This is the exact case where there is an invisible barrier that keeps women from rising beyond the men as they can never get through the barriers. The differences of wages would also be massive when they add up for decades which again leads to the negative cycle of suffering from discrimination.





## B. Education

From an early age, girls face discrimination and inequality that impacts their ability to succeed and enjoy autonomy later in life. A girl's inability to access quality education is a prime example of how discrimination and inequality can take root. UNESCO has stated that "Gender-based discrimination in education is both a cause and a consequence of deep-rooted disparities in society." The OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) similarly shows that "[w]omen's low status in the family is linked to reduced educational attainment and economic outcomes for women and girls."

Girls also may experience pressure for early marriage, as well as sexual harassment and violence in and out of educational settings, which may force them to drop out of school. Early marriage of course also sets girls up for early pregnancy, a significant contributor to maternal mortality, particularly in developing countries. Even in situations of early pregnancy, however, the CEDAW Committee has been very clear that girls are entitled to continue with their schooling.



### C. Violence against women

It has been found out that one in five women and girls, including 19 percent of women and girls aged 15 to 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months. Yet, 49 countries have no laws that specifically protect women from such violence. Moreover, in 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working; in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights; and 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.

## IV -1. Major previous actions of promoting the equal rights of women

### A. Re-employment of Unemployed women

In Brazil, Chile, Singapore and Korea, Governments have invested in re-skilling, training and unemployment protection, unemployment benefits and measures for women workers. (ILO Bureau for Gender Equality, 'Making the crisis recovery work for women!,' International Labour Office, International Women's Day (8 March), 2011.) In Brazil, the National Technical Education and Employment Program (PRONATAC) is a national program for capacitation and professionalization which covers 66 per cent of women. (OHCHR, 'Preliminary Assessment of Responses Received from the Economic and Social Life (ESL) Questionnaire,' 21 June 2013 ) In the Republic of Korea, the Initiative for Women's Reemployment seeks to resolve the problem of women's career interruption due to childbirth and childcare, and supports women's re-employment. The Women's Re-employment Support Center is an institution supporting employment, where various services such as internship opportunities, job training and career management are provided for women who interrupted their careers due to childbirth and child rearing. As of 2012, the Government reports that there are 100 Centers in operation throughout the country.

In Malta and Portugal, States have similarly invested in re-training of unemployed persons to new jobs which break gender stereotypes, especially for those with family responsibilities. (ILO Bureau for Gender Equality, 'Making the crisis recovery work for women!,' International Labour Office, International Women's Day (8 March), 2011.) In India, quotas for women in employment guarantee programs targeted at the poorest households. In the Czech Republic, the Government instituted in 2012 'Priorities and Procedures in Promoting Equal Opportunities for Men and Women,' which aimed at redressing discrimination in employment and guaranteeing equal participation of women and men in the labor market. (OHCHR, 'Preliminary Assessment of Responses Received from the Economic and Social Life (ESL) Questionnaire,' 21 June 2013



(on file with author). See also: Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Czech Republic, UN Doc. CEDAW/C/CZE/CO/5, 22 October 2010.)

#### **B. Legislative framework to reduce gender pay gap**

In 1960, equal pay legislation eliminated different pay rates for men and women doing the same job in the public service. The Equal Pay Act 1972 extended the right of women to equal pay for equal work into the private sector. When the act was passed, the award system was in place, meaning that many wage rates were negotiated for various occupations and applied across the labour market. The effectiveness of the equal pay legislation has been limited in recent decades, partly due to the abolition of the award system. The Employment Equity Act, providing for equal pay for work of equal value, was passed in 1990 but repealed six months later. “Currently the remedy for employment discrimination (including pay) under the Equal Pay Act, the Employment Relations Act and the Human Rights Act is for the individual affected to lodge a complaint. Under all three acts the onus is on the employee to identify the problem and instigate the complaint. It is against the law for employers to discriminate, but there is no requirement for employers to ensure or demonstrate that pay systems are equitable.”

### **V. Possible Actions and Solutions**

Gender is defined by FAO as ‘the relations between men and women, both perceptual and material. Gender is not determined biologically, as a result of sexual characteristics of either women or men, but is constructed socially. It is a central organizing principle of societies, and often governs the processes of production and reproduction, consumption and distribution’ (FAO, 1997). However, despite this definition, gender is often misunderstood as being the promotion of women only. However, as we see from the FAO definition, gender issues focus on women and on the relationship between men and women, their roles, access to and control over resources, division of labour, interests and needs. Therefore, the solution to discrimination of women should not result in an inverse discrimination but they should be acts to achieve the pure purpose of promoting the women’s rights.

#### **A. Informing women about their legal rights**

The lack of legal knowledge among many women, especially in developing countries, is a major obstacle in the improvement of women's situation. International bodies, such as the United Nations, have stated that the obligation of states does not only consist in passing relevant laws but also in informing women about the existence of such laws, in order to enable them to seek justice and



realize in practice their rights. Therefore, states must popularize the laws, and explain them clearly to the public, in order to prevent ignorance or misconceptions about the laws. Moreover, it is essential to guarantee the right to access information to women. To become a practical solution and to be translated into the reality, indicators and monitoring that take into account the specific needs and challenges of women seeking to access information will be needed. National governments need to work together with GA2 to build the issue into their national SDG implementation and any relevant legislation. Through education from young age, women should be informed about their legal rights as well. Without binding powers, the UN can still recommend and encourage certain content of legal rights to be taught at a certain age. The United Nations Development Programme states that, in order to advance gender justice, "Women must know their rights and be able to access legal systems", and the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women states at Art. 4 (d) "States should also inform women of their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms"

#### B. Education

To allow women should be educated about legal rights from a young age, the removal of gender stereotypes from teaching materials and the inclusion of women's human rights in standard school curriculums and the diversification of girls' education into math, science, and technology is needed. Stereotypical images and stories are most likely to subconsciously allow children to grow up with stereotypical thoughts against gender. This would lead to further gender discrimination as a result coming from deep down the subconsciousness of gender difference. Moreover, it is also good practice to ensure that school career guidance counseling encourages girls to choose studies that will improve their earning capacity and career development. The CEDAW Committee has also recommended to States parties that they ensure that technical and vocational training enables girls to acquire income-generating skills by also orienting them towards traditionally male-dominated careers. (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 'Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Indonesia,' adopted by the Committee at its fifty-second session (9-27 July 2012), UN Doc. CEDAW/C/IDN/CO/6-7, 27 July 2012.) Through structural education women should always be provided the chance to develop their skills in any existing areas of careers. Schools should help women to be able to have sufficient skills to get a job and utilize their skills in order to survive the competition with men. While providing a certain quota of women to be hired can resolve a short term gender discrimination, it might result in problems such as gender discrimination. However, if women could compete and get hired themselves, it would solve the radical problem. Therefore, education is essential to resolve this. Other examples of systemic measures to promote girls' education include providing female teachers (Bangladesh) and encouraging teachers to engage with



communities to overcome inhibitions about girls' schooling (Kenya, Uganda). (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), "Scaling up good practices in girls' education," 2005.) These can be used as models for other countries could follow.

### C. Wage Gap

Possible solutions to reduce wage gaps may be offering publicly financed parental leave schemes. Long absences from the workforce to take care of children could lead to lower earnings upon return to work, as well as a reduced skill set. Removing the tax burden for secondary earners (mostly female). Replace family taxation with individual taxation. Use tax credits or benefits for low wage earners. These tax credits would reduce the net tax liability and increase the net income gain from accepting a job.

Maternity protections include paid maternity leave or comparable social benefits "without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances". State parties are also required to encourage the provision of the necessary social services to enable parents to meet family obligations, as well as work responsibilities and participation in public life. In particular, this includes the establishment and development of a network of childcare facilities.

Gender is defined by FAO as 'the relations between men and women, both perceptual and material. Gender is not determined biologically, as a result of sexual characteristics of either women or men, but is constructed socially. It is a central organizing principle of societies, and often governs the processes of production and reproduction, consumption and distribution' (FAO, 1997). However, despite this definition, gender is often misunderstood as being the promotion of women only. However, as we see from the FAO definition, gender issues focus on women and on the relationship between men and women, their roles, access to and control over resources, division of labour, interests and needs. Therefore, the solution to discrimination of women should not result in an inverse discrimination but they should be acts to achieve the pure purpose of promoting the women's rights.

## VI. Definition of Keywords

### Equal rights of women

Equal rights of women refers to men and women having equal power and equal opportunities for financial independence, education, and personal development. Women's rights commonly include the right to bodily integrity and autonomy; to be free from sexual violence; to vote; to have equal rights in law; to receive equal pay; to own property; to be educated; to have the right to health; to have the freedom of movement.



**Bodily Integrity (Bodily autonomy)**

Bodily integrity is the inviolability of the physical body and emphasizes the importance of personal autonomy and the self-determination of human beings over their own bodies. (Civil Liberties and Human Rights Helen Fenwick, Kevin Kerrigan – 2011) It is the right to self-governance over one's own body without external influence or coercion. It is generally considered to be a fundamental human right.

**Discrimination against women**

Discrimination against women refers to the deterrence of the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of equality between men and women in political, economic, social, cultural, civil or other spheres, whether married or not. This means there will be any distinction, exclusion, or limitation based on sex.

**Women's empowerment**

Women's empowerment is a critical aspect of achieving gender equality. It includes increasing a woman's sense of self-worth, her decision-making power, her access to opportunities and resources, her power and control over her own life inside and outside the home, and her ability to effect change.

**VII. Affiliated Organizations, and Documents**

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women was adopted as the implementation framework for CEDAW. The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women ( UN Women. (2019).

**A. Affiliated Documents****Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights articulates fundamental rights and freedoms for all. It recognizes that “the inherent dignity of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world’. It declares that human rights are universal and that they should be enjoyed by all people no matter who they are or where they live or what they do or their genders. It includes rights such as civil and political rights, like the right to life, liberty, free speech and privacy. It also includes economic, social and cultural rights, like the right to social security, health and education.



### **SDG Sustainable Development Goals (specifically the 5<sup>th</sup> goal : Equal rights)**

SDG Sustainable Development Goal of equal rights states that it envisages “a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination” between and within countries, including gender equality, by reaffirming the responsibilities of all States to “respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national and social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.”

### **Six International Labor Organizations:**

1. C111 Discrimination (Employment and occupation)
2. C100 Equal Remuneration
3. C156 Workers with Family Responsibilities
4. C183 Maternity Protection
5. C175 Part-time Work
6. C168 Employment Promotion and Protection Against Unemployment

### **B. Affiliated Organizations**

#### **The Association for Women’s Rights in Development**

The Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) is an international organization working to achieve gender equality and women’s human rights across the world. The vision of AWID is “a world where feminist realities flourish, where resources and power are shared in ways that enable everyone, and future generations, to thrive and realize their full potential with dignity, love and respect, and where Earth nurtures life in all its diversity”. The organization supports the gender justice movements to become driving forces in oppression.

#### **Equality Now**

Equality Now is an international organization founded with the mission of using legal advocacy to protect and promote the human rights of women and girls. It uses law to create equal and just world for women and girls. It attracts global attention to media on individual cases of abuse and uses international human rights law to advocate with policymakers and puts pressure on national governments to adopt and enforce good laws. Equality now partners up with other organizations to ensure that individual cases are visible on the global agenda.



## VIII. Critical Questions

- A. What are the radical and fundamental reasons of gender discrimination?
- B. How would inverse-discrimination be prevented?
- C. Through what methods can women develop competence for themselves in society?

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## Agenda 2: Safeguarding the Health of Refugee Children and Youth

### II. Background

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political opinion. Today, refugees by civil wars and who cannot return home are living in many countries, but many are moving to Europe.

The starting point of the massive refugee outbreak to Europe is the so-called "Arab Spring" revolution in Tunisia, North Africa, in December 2010. The citizens' clamor to overthrow the dictatorship reached Syria and Yemen in the Middle East via the North African countries, Libya and Egypt. But the democracy protests that engulfed Syria in March 2011 were thwarted by the hard-line crackdown of Bashar al-Assad regime with tanks in place. Since then, anti-government forces have been turned into armed rebels and Syria has entered a civil war. Taking advantage of the situation, the Islamic State, a Sunni Muslim militant group, occupied northeastern Syria. Assad's regime massacred as many as 280,000 civilians and millions of refugees occurred during the civil war. In Syria, various organizations, including Hezbollah and the Islamic Front, Kurdish People's Guard, Syrian government forces and Syrian opposition forces, have begun to compete. Islamic State IS has begun to act on this as a golden opportunity to establish a nation. IS has become the world's most successful gang of violence and repeated war crimes, including the use of chemical weapons as well as massacres and torture. The Syrian people were cornered by these various organizational conflicts, and one-third of the Syrian people were exiled by the state. In the end, as many as 4 million refugees have been displaced. Syrian refugees account for 95 percent of refugee camps in Syria's neighboring countries.

As of 2018, the number of refugees surpassed 70 million. About 50 million children around the world, including refugee children, have lost their homes. One of 200 children worldwide are refugees and the number of refugee children has doubled in 2015 compared to 2005. Children who have trauma because of conflict and violence leave home to avoid it, but are still at risk of drowning across the sea and are exposed to the risk of malnutrition and dehydration, human trafficking, kidnapping, rape and even murder. Children also suffer xenophobia and discrimination in transit countries and final destinations. Children are also more likely to be infected or infected because of low immune systems. Mental and physical diseases caused by crimes such as abuse, sex crimes and human trafficking are also more frequent in vulnerable children.



A report, 'Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children' released by UNICEF reveals the status of millions of children and families who choose to leave at risk rather than remain at home because of disputes and crises. UNICEF President Anthony Lake said: "We must not forget that Ailan Kurdi and Omran Darkness each represent millions of children in similar situations. Just as we felt the same desire to help Ailan Kurdi and Omran Darkness, we should be able to feel the same way about every child suffering." The refugee issue cannot be fully resolved until the fundamental cause of the war and civil war is over. However, for their basic rights and security, international organizations and all countries, led by the United Nations, need to work to resolve the issue with a sense of responsibility. Efforts should be made to ensure basic rights and protect the health, especially considering the vulnerability of refugee children.

### III. Topics of Discussion

#### A. War and civil war in middle east countries

Ideally, the only way to completely end the refugee problem is to end the war. The policy of accepting refugees is only a short-term solution, but it requires an end to the war and harmony of the Middle Eastern nation when it sees the refugee issue from a long-term perspective.

#### B. Natural rights of the children

Refugee children are not even guaranteed the basic rights set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The right to survival, the right to protection, the right to education, and the right to participate are the rights that they should be respected, and in the course of the evacuation, they are threatened to survive and are not properly protected even if they have settled.

#### C. Health of Refugee Children and Youth

Medical care for chronic disorders and rehabilitation for disabilities are often the most pressing needs of migrant children. To address mental health needs, a holistic and family-oriented public health strategy for promoting mental health and psychological well-being is needed. In addition, migrant children from low- and middle-income countries have a higher burden of chronic infectious disorders compared with those from high-income countries, and these disorders need to be identified and treated. It should allow screening for potentially communicable disorders and updating of vaccinations.



#### D. Settlement and management of the refugee children and youth

Even if refugee children have succeeded in moving, their subsequent lives are unstable and dangerous. For this, international organizations should take the center stage and work on their welfare and settlement. It's the way to create a settlement, support education, and proceed with mental treatment. For example, how to help UNHCR's approach to protection and care is three pronged: direct services to the child; helping the child through services to the family; and assisting the child and the family through services to the community.

#### E. Accommodation of refugees in developed countries

Some say that refugee acceptance should be mandatory in the same way as the EU's quota system for refugees, while others emphasize autonomy. The lack of interest and responsibility in refugee issues in advanced countries is a problem. In addition, measures against the public's disgust and insecurity in developed countries are also a stumbling block to refugee acceptance.

### IV. Previous Actions

< Case Study on the Agenda >

For the previous actions section, there are three different countries that are very important to this issue. Currently, the United Kingdom and the United States are a major host countries for refugee. Syria is a country experiencing war, and has an immense amount of refugees leaving the country. iPeople from these three countries have been or are experiencing problems with adequate health.

#### A. United Kingdom

Refugees living in the United Kingdom are often from countries that have poor healthcare. According to the British Medical Association, some examples are “untreated communicable diseases, poorly controlled chronic conditions, maternity care, and mental health needs.” In the UK, people who cross borders are able to work after they receive their recognition as a refugee. This can solve problems regarding mental health as lack of a job can leave the refugees to feel unrested. However, refugees often face a particularly difficult period immediately after their applications are approved. This is due to the fact that they are no longer able to be supported by the Home Office and are independent.



In terms of health, refugees receive free National Health Service (NHS) care. However, these refugees often show distrust towards doctors. That is why doctors focus on being compassionate and sensitive while taking care of such individuals. Also, the UK also provides special support for those who experience violence and trauma.

### B. United States

The United States has been one of the popularized host countries for refugees, accepting over three million refugees in the past 30 years. However, refugees who have maneuvered themselves to the US suffer from chronic and mental health problems for the fact that refugees are exposed to care that is limited. In addition, refugee children from either from Iraq, Somalia, or Burma arrive in the United States with one form of malnutrition.

Part of the problem that lingers proper health systems for refugees, especially children, is the lack of communication. Public agencies are held accountable for finding and funding interpretation services. However, locating certified doctors that are able to speak certain languages is not easy nor affordable. Also, doctors should be able to appreciate the nuances of culture and ethnicity because there is a difference in beliefs with refugees regarding health, mental health, or even gender roles between providers and refugee patients.

### C. Syria

Over 6 million people, among 25 million refugees, are from Syria. These refugees are subjected to displacements and they lack proper health facilities from their home country that the Syrian government neglects to provide to them.

Syrian refugees are even more vulnerable to physical injuries, and psychological trauma. Even though these refugees leave their home countries, their host countries provide poor housing and sanitation, not enough nutrition, and medical care that is very hard to use. According to the report, 'A Comparative Study of Syrian Refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan: Healthcare Access and Delivery,' "the most prevalent ailments are skin, digestive system, and respiratory diseases as well as trauma-related mental and psychiatric disorders." Also according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), many Syrians have chronic health conditions including hypertension, diabetes, and cancer.



## V. Possible Action and Solutions

One thing to keep in mind for when discussing the potential solutions is that although the United Nations is an international organization consisting of many different member nations, it cannot overrule national sovereignty. Furthermore, although the solutions presented below are all practical, delegates should include the different circumstances that could occur when the resolution is in place.

The first and foremost factor that should be considered in all solutions, is ensuring attention from all sectors of the international community. To fight such a crisis, the international community should focus its attention on two different aspects. First of which is the empowerment and motivating various organizations to rightly intervene in the reception of refugee children. Currently, refugee children are not cared for with the full potential of its refugee-holding country. This lack of attention results in poor quality houses, sanitation, and food. The international community has long suggested a change in such systems. However, the progress towards better facilitation for refugees has lingered among all countries. This agenda has its main focus on child refugees, who are seen as minorities. Children are incapable of living on their own and therefore needs help from an external source. If host countries are not fulfilling the job of supporting refugees, the international community should shift its focus to organizations that are willing to spend support for such child refugees. This solution is feasible in solving such a problem. However, delegates should not easily connect all clauses to organizations, that in real life are either impractical or too costly.

A second solution for this problem is negotiating agreements based on the international and universal treaties regarding the wellbeing of refugee children. Even though countries were proven to be incapable of providing refugees the basic necessities and ensure a safe life, those problems could change with proper guidance from the international community. In the status quo, there are various treaties that are in place that deals with the life of refugees. For example, the Refugee Convention signed in 1951. Part of the problem countries does not act as proper host countries is partly because of their ignorance towards these conventions. If there are negotiations for countries to make sure they follow such conventions and treaties, the life of refugees will differ greatly.

## VI. Definition of Keywords

### Refugee

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), refugees are defined as one “who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence.” In addition to such reasons for migration, certain refugees flee their home countries



because of a lack of adequate food and proper sanitation. These people are ones who “cannot return home or are afraid to do so.”

### **Asylum**

The UNHCR states that asylum as a right that refugees should obtain and “receive legal protection and material assistance.” The US Citizenship and Immigration Service states that “an asylum status is a form of protection available to people who: meet the definition of a refugee, are already in the United States, and are seeking admission at a port of entry.” In many host countries of refugees, there are various issues regarding the health of refugee children. Adequate health systems are not properly prepared for refugees in such locations.

### **Malnutrition**

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes four different types of malnutrition: wasting, stunting, underweight, and deficiencies in vitamins and minerals. All of the four types of malnutrition have children more selective towards diseases and even death.

Poverty often contributes to malnutrition of children. The WHO believes that people who are identified as poor are also likely to be affected by various forms of malnutrition. This is because poor individuals are not able to afford proper health care. Especially in refugee asylums, proper health care services are not in place. Also, refugees do not have enough money to move to a place with proper health care services.

### **Youth**

As this agenda includes the term children and youth, delegates should be aware of what age group is youth identified as. This is due to the fact that there are various interpretations of the term ‘youth’. Therefore delegates should understand the term ‘youth’ as “those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by the Member States.” This is according to the United Nations resolution A/36/215.

## **VII. Affiliated Organizations and Documents**

### **1951 Refugee Convention**

In a UN conference on July 28th, 1951, the Convention on the Status of Refugees or the Refugee Convention was approved. This convention defines the term refugee and examines the rights that are granted to these individuals. A major part of this convention is the legal obligation the host countries should follow for the protection of such individuals.



### **1990 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted in 1990 specifically targets the specific needs of children. This convention has its most crucial principle in article 3. It avowed the fact that the host parties of children, either the country or organization, should have its primary attention towards the child and their health: “In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration”.

### **September 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**

On September 19, 2016, the UN General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. The Declaration focuses on the importance of Member states to increase their attention and commitment towards the protection of refugees. This declaration is a pathway towards the ultimate goal of 2018: “a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.”

### **United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR)**

After WWII, the UNHCR was created in 1950 for the purpose of helping Europeans that had fled their home country. The UNHCR is a program that has been affiliated with the UN GA and UN ECOSOC, and also with the help of various organizations under the UN, it works its utmost to protect refugees. The UNHCR also provides refugees with basic needs such as food, water, and shelter. In addition, the UNHCR Policy on Refugee Children was established in 1993 and covered topics such as healthcare, nutrition, and education. Donations and suggestions from the United Nations and third party organizations fund resettlement and reintegration programs. Volunteer programs and organizations are extremely helpful for children, who are uneducated and vulnerable to dangerous conditions.

### **United Nation Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**

UNICEF is a UN program designated to provide humanitarian and developmental aid to children and mothers. Even though the program does not specify its purpose towards a certain group of children, as refugee children are vulnerable in very case the UNICEF provides assistance.



### VIII. Critical Questions

- A. What rights should these children have regarding their health?
- B. To what extent do member states have the obligation to fulfill their responsibility in ensuring refugee rights?
- C. How should the rights of refugee children relate to the state's ability and their own national situation?
- D. What role should NGOs play in safeguarding the rights of refugee children?

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