



Background Guide

WSO MUN

GEMS Wellington Academy Model United Nations

March 22nd - 24th

COMMITTEE: UNCSW

Lead The Change...

Welcome Letter from the Secretary General

Distinguished delegates of the UNCSW Committee,

It is my absolute honor to invite you to the second largest high school Model UN in the country; the first edition of the WSO Model United Nations conference held at the GEMS Wellington Academy - Dubai Silicon Oasis. I am beyond ecstatic and humbled to serve in the capacity of Secretary-General for this year's conference. In order to ensure that our conference's quality is of the highest caliber on an international scale, we have set up ideals and standards that orient us towards our goal while also providing us with the dedication necessary to make a difference. Our conference aims to engage and encourage the youth to participate and to share their ideas and beliefs about different and various global issues. The aim of our conference is to give students a unique experience where they are able to harbour their diplomatic skills and explore current affairs through a simulation of the United Nations. We strive to help students foster skills necessary for every day life, and provide education beyond the desk as practice is the best way to process theory.

Everything changes; but change itself is the only thing that doesn't. Remembering that nothing remains the same and even in the worst situation we face, we can and should rely on the fact that change is the constant. Throughout the conference, our aim is to develop solutions to issues which we currently face and widen our vision, while using the idea of change to our advantage. WSO Model united nations possesses an unique ability to bring forth students from diverse backgrounds to collectively work towards a cohesive and united goal. WSOMUN welcomes young leaders to portray onto a platform, values to be abided by, in order to create a change in the international community.

To this end, the members of the Secretariat have been working painstakingly, around the clock, to ensure that you enjoy every breath of this conference experience. I assure you that the final step of this journey will draw a higher academic and organizational line to satisfy all your expectations.

Looking forward to welcoming you this March!

With Best Regards,

Varsha Venkatraman

Secretary General

WSOMUN 2018

Welcome Letter from the Dias

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Wellington Silicon Oasis Model United Nations 2018! We are beyond excited to meet you in March, and are eager to welcome three days of productive and stimulating debating.

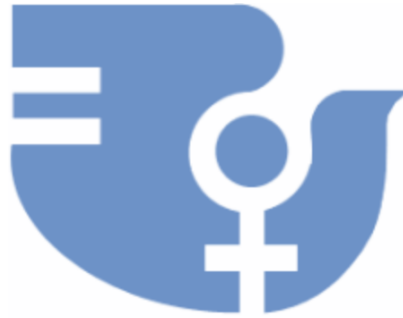
For us, Model United Nations has become integrated into our lifestyle; we view it as educational as much as it's empowering to have the ability to construct opinions on global issues through the eyes of several different countries. We hope that as soon as you walk into the committee session you learn something new and that hopefully by the end of the conference you have grown in one way or another; whether it's your ability to overcome your fear of public speaking or your ability to lead large groups of people. If this is your first Model United Nations Conference then don't worry too much and feel free to approach any of us at any point in the conference if you need any form of support. We all know how it feels like to walk into your first conference and feel a little lost in the process of it all!

The topics chosen for the UN Commission Status of Women explore a vast amount of political, social and economic issues. Therefore, it's only realistic to state that we haven't dissected every issue to its core, which is why it's important that your pursuit for knowledge on the matter isn't solely limited to this guide. As a Dias, we are eager to listen to independent case studies and new policies that provide a new dimension to solving the matter at hand and that's only possible if you study the subject matter with extreme depth.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us for any concerns you have. We cannot wait to meet all of you!

Chair: Zaina Awan
Co - Chair: Aliza Kidwai
Co - Chair: Arundhati Surendran

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women



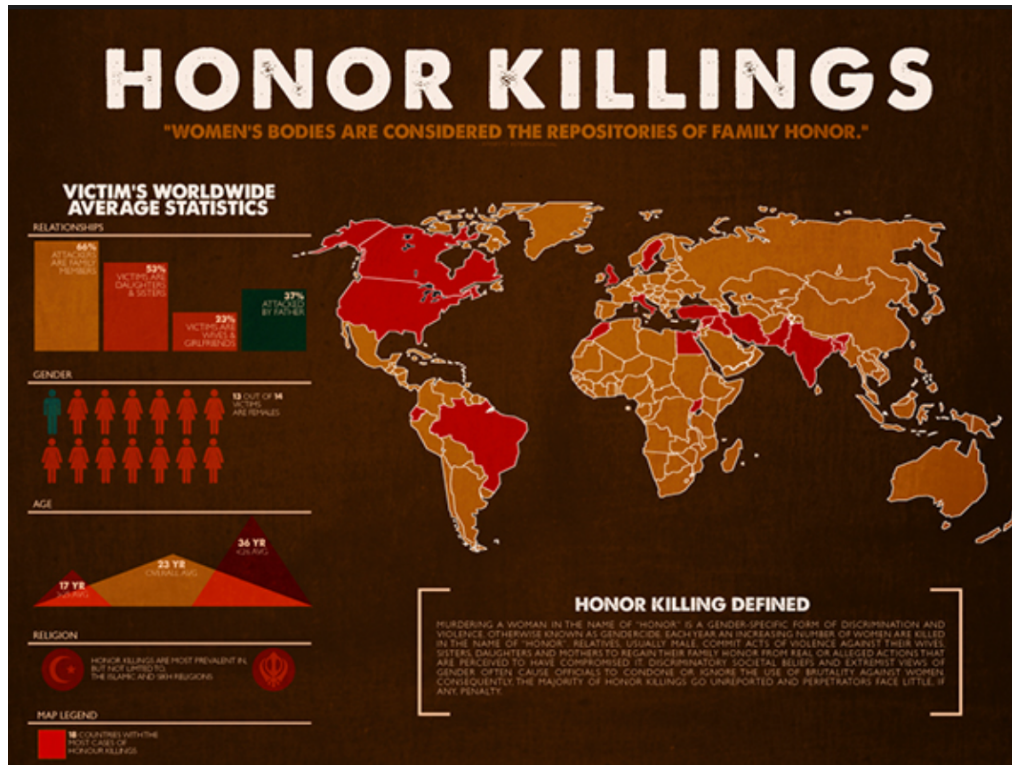
The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it was established by [Council resolution 11\(II\) of 21 June 1946](#).

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

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

AGENDA 1

Addressing the Impact of Female Genital Mutilation and Honor Killings



Introduction to the topic

Female Genital Mutilation is a harmful and destructive tradition that has no known origin. The customary practice has been labeled as a violation of the rights of women and children, including their rights to health, to be free from violence, to life and physical integrity, to non-discrimination, and to be free from cruel treatment. According to WHO statistics, more than 200 million girls and women alive today have gone through FGM, usually at the age “between infancy and 15 years”. The procedure provides no health benefits to the victim, and can cause a multitude of issues including infections and cysts later on.

FGM is carried out for many reasons, with beliefs that it deters women from engaging in ‘illicit’ sexual activities, with others believing that female genitalia is impure, or unfeminine. It is seen that many cultures view it as a form of initiation or the entrance into womanhood, such as in the Masai.

The prevalence of this is decreasing, but the percentage of women who have gone through this continues to be worryingly high in many nations, with eight nations having the rates above 80%. There are variations within nations, but the trends seen in the data lead to the belief that ethnicity is the main contributing factor to the difference in the type of FGM that is carried out.

There are 4 main types which are defined as;

- **Type 1:** Often referred to as **clitoridectomy**, this is the partial or total removal of the clitoris (a small, sensitive and erectile part of the female genitals), and in very rare cases, only the prepuce (the fold of skin surrounding the clitoris).
- **Type 2:** Often referred to as **excision**, this is the partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora (the inner folds of the vulva), with or without excision of the labia majora (the outer folds of skin of the vulva).
- **Type 3:** Often referred to as **infibulation**, this is the narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal. The seal is formed by cutting and repositioning the labia minora, or labia majora, sometimes through stitching, with or without removal of the clitoris (clitoridectomy).
- **Type 4:** This includes all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, e.g. pricking, piercing, incising, scraping and cauterizing the genital area.

History of the topic

It is believed to have begun as a distinguisher of class in ancient Egypt, but there is not much more information than that on where, or when, it came to be. It has been documented in around 30 countries, and is mainly prevalent in African and Middle-Eastern nations. The issue has received many responses from the international community, with international organizations, nations and states working from legal frameworks to research to grass-root level programs to eliminate FGM.

While it is true that the highest concentration of FGM is in African nations, it is not to be forgotten that there are many incidences of FGM in Asia, Middle East and there have been cases in other continents, such as in Europe and North America, thus pervading as a global and not regional issue.

There has been no relation found between religion and the practice, though some falsely believe that it is tied with religions such as Islam or Christianity. Its origin predates the formation of both these religions, and there have been no mention of the procedure in either the Quran or the Sunnah.

Socio-cultural reasons are the ones cited the most as causation for the procedure to take place, such as belief's that FGM increases the woman's desirability, or it being a necessary requirement for marriage. And with high importance being focused on marriage for the economic upholding of a woman in society, the custom carries on.

Discussion of the topic

The Issue requires a wider range and approach in order to deal with all the aspects it presents. One such aspect is the education of citizens living in isolated or tribal communities where FGM is more likely to be practiced, as well as general education on the issue as a whole. Making sure that the cultural heritage of the communities targeted is also an important facet of the issue, as well as the socio-economic effect of all the decisions taken for this issue. Consider the causes of mentioned previously, and the factors weighing in for the issue.

UN Statistics have claimed the reduction of FGM practices in countries where surveys have been had repeatedly, therefore leading the international community to believe in success of certain measures. Establishing a legal framework would allow both the spending of government resources on the reduction and elimination of this practice by deterring individuals in healthcare facilities or traditional circumcisers to carry on with the procedure any longer. However there is also the concern that this measure is not working, such as in a few countries where more than 80% of the female population has gone through FGM even though it is illegal to do so. Therefore the establishment of best practices and the like would bring nations closer to success in this regard.

The healthcare of current victims is a crucial point to be discussed, with effects ranging in the long term in both physical and psychological aspects. The provision and overseeing of these healthcare facilities, as well as maintaining its quality is an important factor to think about.

Bloc Positions

Considering that all countries within the UN had unanimously voted for the sustainable development goals which took its stance against FGM, all countries will be focused on its elimination as a whole. There could be possible disagreement on priority of eradication vs. treatment of victims, as well as the protection of culture within communities that practice FGM as a cultural custom. However, it is important to note that no nation can support FGM as a cultural practice, but should find methods in order to preserve its traditions while eliminating the existence of the norm itself.

Questions to consider

1. Has your country criminalised FGM?
2. What has it done for the protection of the rights of women and children in this regard?
3. Are there healthcare centres focused the treatment of women and children dealing with the long term effects of FGM/FGC?
4. How effective are these healthcare centres?
5. Is the nation working (with any international organization/NGO/national group or independently) to educate rural areas of this issue?
6. How does the nation feel like dealing with the issue in regards to its priority?
7. How does your country plan on dealing with the possible backlash from traditional communities?

Further Research

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AGENDA 2

Promoting the involvement of women in the Government and its economic development



Introduction to the topic

“You can’t dream to be what you can’t see”

It’s a cliché to start off with an “inspirational” quote, however, this one has stuck by me even years after I first stumbled upon it. The quote is in reference to the treacherous cycle where the lack of representation of women in the political and public sphere convinces the following generation that women will never have a place in that sphere. It would be naive to say there hasn’t been any progress in the last 100 years, but the reality is that the global progress we have made has been incredibly slow. At the pace we’re currently going we’re expected to achieve gender equality by 2188.

The social, political and economic solutions are fairly simple: treat women and men equally in all sectors. Although, when you translate that simple sentence into reality it molds into books theorizing the role of women in these sectors and new policy’s that suggest the rejection of age-old guidelines on how society should function. It is the very rejection of these age-old guidelines that divides society into two factions: one side accepts the active role of women in government and economic advancement while the other side strongly opposes it because of ideological beliefs. Due to morality being a blurred concept even in such instances, we slow the timeline for gender equality even further. As a result, it’s the duty of this committee to come up with resolutions that provide an opportunity for faster and more concrete solutions.

History of the topic

The late 19th century marked the beginning of the women suffrage movement. Its success granted women in Iceland, Sweden, Austria, Finland, and the Western US states the right to vote. This was a huge step in history as it validated women's voices in political conversations and paved a path for female representation in parliament. More than a hundred years since the suffrage movement began, it remains to have an influence on the global community; for instance, in 2015 Saudi Arabia was the last country to grant men and women the same voting rights.

Despite the momentous amount of progress, it's important to understand that just because the law explicates something it doesn't necessarily mean it's always being followed; because there's something more powerful than the law and that's the roots of cultural traditions. In several developing nations around the world, women are bounded to their home as a result of them being expected to only take care of their family and never enter the workforce. This has several implications, such as women being prevented to vote, having no say in their countries policies and being more vulnerable/susceptible to domestic violence.

This isn't applicable to all developing nations, for precedent the case study of Rwanda (a developing country that is ranked number one globally for gender equality within the government) ^[3] demonstrates how women just need access to such sectors in order to successfully run them. The Rwanda genocide resulted in a majority of the male population departing for battle, due to a lack of male authority women were alone and in control of the country. After a 2003 Security Council decision, the Rwanda government was forced to allow women into to the public sector in order to ensure the stable management of the country. Today, the country's parliament is equally represented which enables the country to discuss issues that both men and women are victimized to.

Case studies like Rwanda showcase to the global community that progressive action is a plausible notion, however, women lack access to opportunities in the political and public sector. So what has been done to combat such an issue? On March 14th, 2017, member states from all over the world gathered to analyze how women could gain complete and equal participation in the economy. The problems reinstated among the group was that in the current economic climate their women were attached to household work, there is unequal working condition, women dominate the informal economy and gender stereotype that force women to work in certain sectors over the other.

Since then there have been several frameworks established by UN associated organizations such as the international labor organization and the international organization of migration to work on women's economic development.

Discussion of the topic

Every single country has a unique case on how to promote the involvement of women in the government and its economic development; policies that function well in Azerbaijan may not be applicable in Japan. Despite this, there are a few problems that are universally identified such as a lack of visibility of women in such sectors, uneven work-life balance and a lack of political encouragement. There are also visible solutions to such problems such as the promotion of education, political representation, and dismantling of ideological beliefs. However, as mentioned before, in developing nations ideological beliefs manage to overpower all opportunities for progress; this is evident through cases such as the Chibok girls kidnapped in Nigeria by Boko Haram ^[4] and the silencing of young girls in rural Pakistan by the Taliban.

In developed and developing nations even when women acquire a role in the political sector, they're suppressed to "soft industries" such as education, health, and welfare. This intertwines with the notion that women are incapable of being responsible for anything else. Beyond this, it's crucial to analyze the division among women within a society; women that are promoted to higher-end positions usually have kinship ties or have a wealthy family background. The acknowledgment of classism insists that despite women holding a proportion of the parliament, it may still lack representation as women from the upper class may not be familiar with the struggles of lower and middle-class women. Moreover, these women are barely ever acknowledged for their policies and are more likely to be questioned about what they're wearing or more uncomfortable questions that intervene with their personal lives.

On the other side of the coin, women from the lower/middle class are victimized to the feminization of poverty.^[1] This is a "change in poverty levels that is biased against women or female-headed households." Furthermore, this problem results in high levels of female migrations which comes with problems of its own. In such circumstances, women face "dual vulnerability" for being a migrant and also for being a woman.^[6] This is due to their integration in gender-segregated occupations that are largely informal and unregulated; as a result, they're victimized to intimidations, threats or harassments as well as economic and sexual exploitation that could result in trafficking alongside racial discrimination. The International organization of migration has implemented their "gender mainstreaming policy that vocalizes the legal and secure migration for women migrant workers and enforces the implementation of policies that monitor the recruitment/deployment of female workers to protect women against the threats imposed upon them.

To ensure that the committee resolves the issue at hand it's critical to analyze and evaluate how to create equal working conditions and reduce the over-representation of women in the informal economy.

Bloc Positions

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Member states from developing nations are more likely to share similar means to achieve the involvement of women in the government and its economic development. In such instances, priorities at the primary level may include awareness campaigns that deviate away from societal norms for women in order to ensure the integration of women in the workforce as well as access to gender-sensitive financial service and business development services.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

On the other hand, members of the developed nations will more likely focus on policies that allow women to advance within the workforce and not succumb to the glass ceiling which was initially imposed upon them. Affirmative action policies, as well as improvement in health and safety guidelines, can result in the overall improvement of female working conditions.

Questions to consider

1. How can women break away from social circumstances that prevent them from working?
2. How can women and men both participate in political decision making?
3. To what extent could affirmative action policies be beneficial?
4. How can governments be better supported to provide substantial security, agricultural, infrastructure etc. policies for men and women?
5. Is there any scope for inter-alliance treaties to eliminate the threat of trafficking?
6. To what extent can the global community work on improving the working condition of women?
7. How can migrant women be protected and provided the ability to play a role in the economy?
8. Is there any possible threat of social disruption that should be evaluated beforehand? How can this be avoided?

Further Research

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