



Pat-MedMUNC III ECOSOC

Gender Equality

The ongoing struggle for gender equality is a global issue which has affected nearly half of the world's population. Throughout history, women have endured subordinate conditions when compared to men. From the past to the present, there has been a general rise in the status of women, especially in developing countries. However, in all four corners of the world, women still experience relative inequality in political, economic, and social terms.

In some countries, women are considered lesser than men and don't have the right to vote or any political power. However, strides have been made, with more and more countries allowing women to vote. Some countries have a dress code and women who do not follow it or behave in a way that is deemed appropriate are punished. In Pakistan, "Honor Killings" can occur for even the slightest of reasons. Some countries, such as Somalia, engage in the mutilation of female genitalia.

Gender Inequality and the goal towards the full empowerment of women encompasses many areas. UNICEF, in its 2007 report, stated that women are usually disadvantaged in terms of education. In some countries, women's illiteracy rates are nearly doubled that of men's illiteracy rates. In many countries, there is a larger percentage of males who receive a higher education than women. The United Nations Environment Program, a specialized agency that works well with ECOSOC, stresses the importance of women and their relation to sustainable development; they also note that many natural disasters have heavily burdened disproportionately more women than men.

The empowerment of women is a goal that is highly sought after by many nations, organizations, and individuals. The fact that gender equality is a Millennium Development Goal is an indicator that the UN has worked and devoted much attention towards the realization of such a goal.

Points to Consider

- Has your nation taken an active roll in gender equality?
- If not, what are some ways in which your nation is struggling with gender equality
- What steps can be taken to improve upon the Millennium Development Goal that pertains to gender equality?