



AUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

MMXXIV



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (EN)

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (EN)

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (EN)

Table of Contents

Director's Welcome Letter	1
Chair's Welcome Letter	2
Meet the Chairs	3
About the Committee	4
Function of the Committee	6
Discourse on the Issue: Topic 1	
Discourse on the Issue: Topic 2	



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Director's Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

I am honored to welcome you to AUSMUN 2024, where you will play an essential role in shaping global discourse about world issues. This year's conference is set to be a platform for innovation, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue. Here we will explore global issues, analyze the complexities of the same, and propose solutions that satisfy the varying perspectives of countries in the international community.

It is important to remember that you think critically, engage in constructive debate, and seek to achieve common ground with your fellow delegates. At AUSMUN, we encourage you to approach this experience with an open mind and a commitment to finding a solution. This conference is not only a simulation but also an opportunity for you to develop skills that benefit your academic, professional, and personal lives. It is a chance to form connections with individuals who share a similar passion for global issues and diplomacy. I encourage you to make the most of this unique experience and to challenge your limits by thinking beyond the ordinary. Together, we will all contribute to the legacy of excellence that AUSMUN is known for.

I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the remarkable contributions each of you will make to our conference.

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024, and let us embark on this enriching journey together.

Warm regards,

Sarvagya Sharma

Director of Research AUSMUN 2024



Welcome Letter

Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great honor and eagerness that we welcome you to the American University of Sharjah's Model United Nations seventeenth annual conference in 2024. As chairs of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), we are tremendously enthusiastic to meet you all and see you debating and discussing the topics even more in-depth during the three days of the conference.

The UN CSW is a crucial international organization working to advance women's rights and gender equality around the globe. To guarantee that the committee runs as smoothly as possible, we hope that every delegate thoroughly researches and familiarizes themselves with incomparable and unparalleled knowledge of their country's position, as well as comprehending the parliamentary procedure alongside the key functions of the committee.

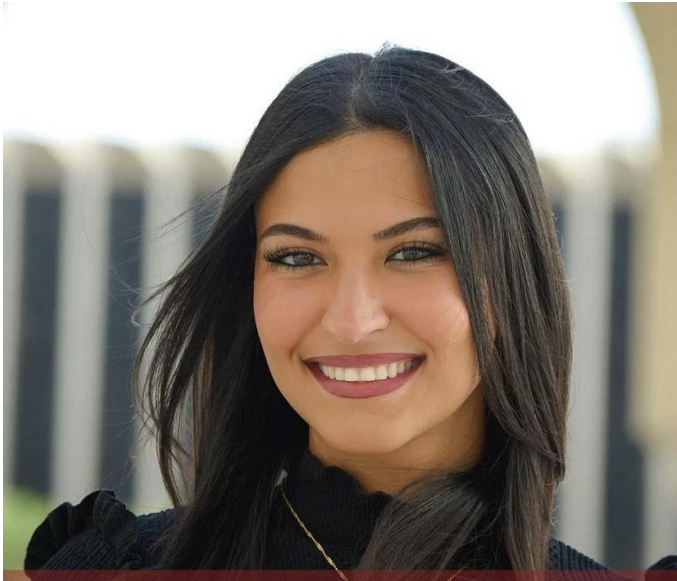
We are well aware of the frustrations and stress that come with being a delegate, but the experience and knowledge gained is one that will not be found elsewhere. A stimulating and inspiring future awaits you, so believe in yourself and put yourself out there. We hope that you will give this conference your all and that you enjoy it as well as grow and learn from it.

We look forward to seeing you all bring the committee to life with your knowledge and passion. If at any point you face any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at cswenausmun24@gmail.com !

Best Regards,

Zahraa and Jolie

CSW Chairs



Zahraa is currently a senior at the American University of Sharjah. Her MUN journey began back in her freshman year of high school. She believes that MUN truly brings out the best and strongest qualities in a person seeing as it requires research skills, debating, confidence, and persuasion. It is a life-changing experience that she is glad she was introduced to. She looks forward to meeting you all and hopes that this conference will be an unforgettable experience for all of you!



Jolie, a senior at the American University of Sharjah, started her Model United Nations journey in high school. She values MUN for its ability to showcase a person's research skills, debating prowess, confidence, and persuasion abilities, considering it a transformative experience she's grateful for. She eagerly anticipates meeting everyone and wishes for an unforgettable conference experience for all participants.

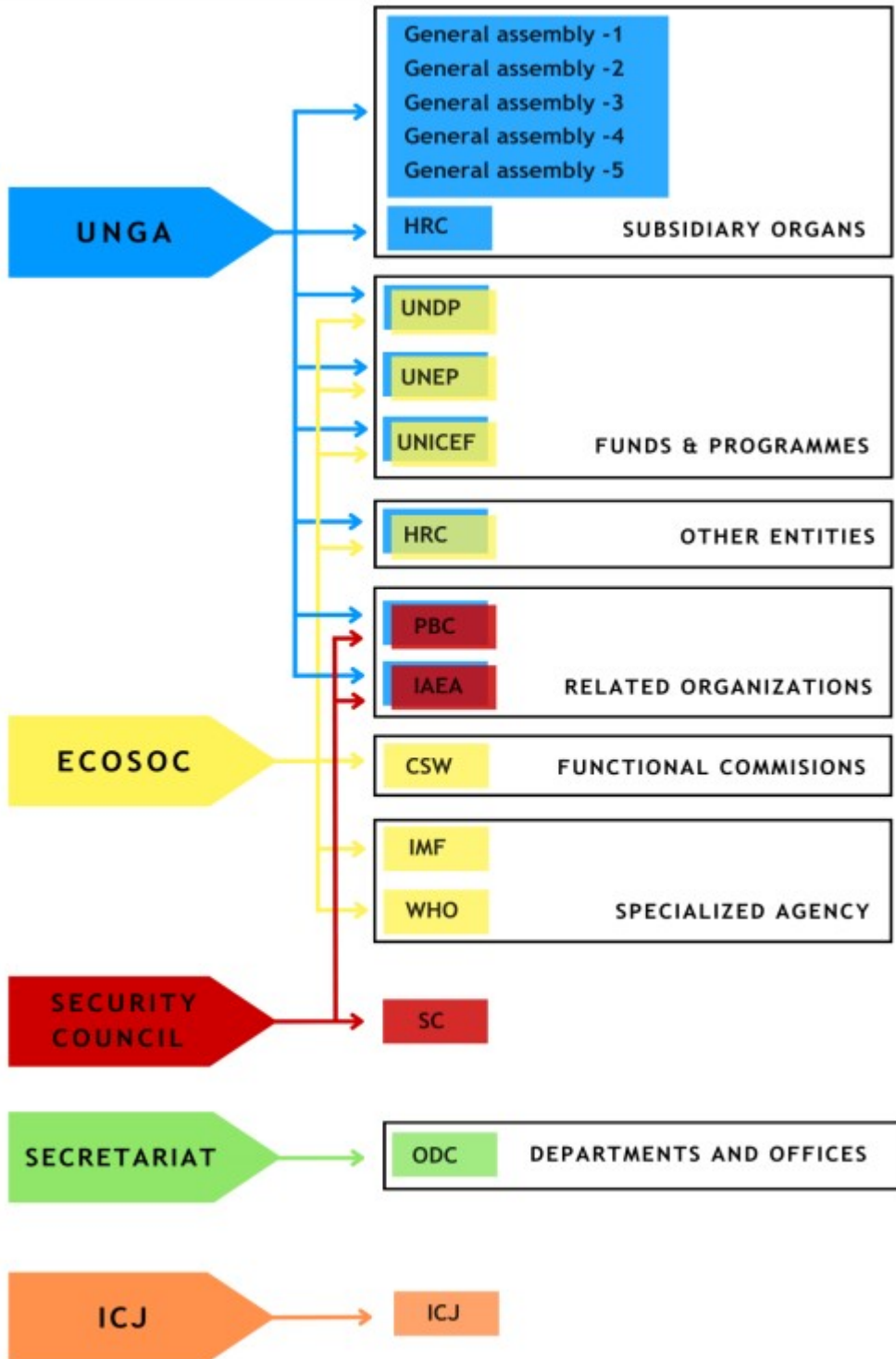


AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Brief About the Committee

Within the framework of the UN, the CSW is a specialized body with the goal of increasing women's empowerment and gender equality. The CSW, which was founded in 1946 by a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, is crucial in influencing activities and legislation aimed at raising the status of women globally. The committee's key responsibilities include convening yearly meetings, carrying out research, and fostering discussions and agreements to advance gender equality on a worldwide scale. The CSW receives support from UN member states in the form of monetary donations, in-kind contributions, knowledge, data, research assistance, and diplomatic endeavors. These contributions make it possible for the CSW to address important women's concerns and advance gender equity.

This diagram visually represents the UN system and corresponds to AUSMUN. It reflects the relationships between committees and clearly demonstrates the committee's position, significance, and powers as defined under the UN charter.



Function of the Committee

In the international campaign to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, the CSW plays a crucial role. Its main duties include promoting advocacy, monitoring progress, and developing policies. The CSW offers member nations a forum for discussion and the development of programs and policies targeted at strengthening women's rights and gender equity. Additionally, it keeps a careful eye on the degree to which member nations are accomplishing gender equality and putting international commitments, like the Beijing Declaration or Platform for Action into practice. Additionally, the CSW provides an essential forum for conversation and lobbying between civil society groups and supporters of women's rights and member nations. The committee's work is essential to advancing the cause and guaranteeing the full and equal involvement of women and girls in all aspects of life.

The voting procedure that the CSW depends upon is consensus-based. This indicates that it seeks to reach agreements among all member states in order to reach conclusions and pass resolutions. If a consensus cannot be reached, a vote may be taken. Each member state normally has one vote in this situation, and a simple majority is used to decide. This guarantees that the measures put forth will receive a sizable amount of support, indicating a broad international consensus on issues pertaining to women's rights and gender equality. The CSW operates without the power of veto, allowing for collective decision-making on matters related to women's rights and gender equality.

Topic 1: Enhancing Women's Political Participation and Leadership in Developing Countries

Summary and History

Although it is a global issue, women's underrepresentation in political and leadership positions is more pronounced in developing nations. This problem relates to women's restricted access to and participation in politics, governance, and other leadership roles. This has resulted in a power imbalance that not only maintains gender inequality but also impairs these countries' overall socioeconomic development and governance.

This issue has deep historical origins spanning centuries. Societies all around the world have historically been characterized by patriarchal institutions, where men predominated in positions of authority but women's participation in politics and their rights were constrained. Even though there has been substantial advancement in many areas of the world, historical gender prejudices, either due to culture or religion, persist in a variety of ways, particularly in poorer nations where deeply ingrained cultural and societal conventions frequently impede women's political success.

The genesis and continuation of the problem have been influenced by a number of variables. These include gender-based violence (GBV), discriminatory legal systems, and cultural norms that prevent women from participating fully in politics. Women's political participation is further hampered by economic inequality and restricted access to education. The persistent issues of economic inequality and restricted educational opportunities present additional barriers for women's political participation. Women frequently experience unequal chances as a result of economic inequities, which makes it more difficult for them to actively participate in political processes. This problem is made worse by women's limited access to education, which limits their ability to gain the information, confidence, and skills needed to participate fully in political life. Women's full and equitable participation in political activities and decision-making processes is hampered by the tremendous barrier created by the junction of economic inequalities and educational hurdles. It is imperative to address these systemic issues in order to promote a political environment that is more representative and inclusive. Women are systemically sidelined as a result of these factors, which makes it difficult for them to enter the political and leadership ranks.

These key terms are essential to comprehending attempts to increase women's political leadership and involvement in developing nations, providing clarity on the pressing problems.

Political Leadership and Involvement: Moreover, citizens who are politically active take part in a nation's political processes, such as voting, running for office, and political advocacy.

Leadership Jobs: Positions of authority and decision-making in the public and private sectors, as well as in elected posts, are considered leadership jobs. Unfair treatment and unequal opportunities are examples of gender discrimination, which primarily affects women.

Gender Discrimination: Unfair treatment and unequal opportunities are examples of gender discrimination, which primarily affects women. These key terms are crucial in understanding the challenges women face in accessing leadership roles and participating in political processes. Moreover, citizens who are politically active take part in a nation's political processes, such as voting, running for office, and political advocacy.

The global implications of women's underrepresentation in politics and leadership positions are extensive. It hampers the creation of inclusive and varied governing institutions. Which, in turn, results in a lack of consideration for problems that affect women disproportionately, like gender-based violence and reproductive rights. Additionally, it maintains social injustice and gender inequality, which makes it more difficult to accomplish universal objectives like the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which addresses gender equality. It is crucial to address this issue if developing nations—and, by extension, the entire world—are to experience sustainable and equitable development. Not only that, but it is also a matter of justice and human rights. By expanding women's political engagement and leadership, nations can gain from a wider diversity of ideas and talents, resulting in more effective, inclusive, and representative governance, by expanding women's political engagement and leadership.

Discourse on the Issue

The topic of increasing women's political leadership and involvement in emerging nations is very important on a worldwide scale (UN Charter, Preamble). In addition to being in violation of core UN Charter principles like equality, non-discrimination, and human rights (UN Charter, Article 1), women's underrepresentation in political spheres also hinders social, economic, and political advancement. This violation of the UN Charter is made evident by the preamble, which emphasizes the value of the equal rights and self-determination of all peoples, as well as other sections pertaining to gender equality (UN Charter, Preamble; Article 1).

This problem has numerous positive and negative implications. More women participating in politics may result in inclusive and varied decision-making processes that better serve the needs of society as a whole. It can encourage women to take up leadership roles and become role models for future generations. Nonetheless, there are downsides to this

issue, including resistance from traditional authorities, societal norms, and prejudiced actions that hinder progress.

The increased political participation of women is extremely important to stakeholders since it directly affects their rights and prospects. A larger pool of talent for governance will be advantageous for developing nations and better socioeconomic results. Those benefiting from the status quo and traditional power structures may resist change and be less supportive of this development. In conclusion, increasing women's political participation in emerging nations is a global necessity with significant social, economic, and political ramifications that affect people's lives on a personal, local, and international level.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments

Enhancing women's political involvement and leadership in developing nations is a topic that several IOs are actively tackling. This topic has already been addressed by the UN in a number of resolutions. Resolutions such as the 1325 (UNW, 2004) supported women's active engagement and leadership positions in governmental and non-governmental organizations in an effort to increase their participation in political processes. Across various nations and areas, the 1325 resolution has had varying degrees of success. While they have helped to spread awareness and advocate for women's rights, their effectiveness largely rests on each member state's commitment to putting them into practice. The primary limitation is the lack of enforcement and obligatory measures, resulting in unequal progress among countries. Additionally, the effective implementation of these agreements has been severely hampered by cultural and social barriers in many developing nations.

The UN is still working to improve women's political leadership and participation in developing nations. The most recent developments include continuous conversations, initiatives to improve capacity, awareness campaigns, and the tracking of national and regional progress. However, challenges persist, and further efforts are required to overcome institutional, legal, and cultural barriers.

Other IOs, such as the Organization of American States and the African Union have taken action by establishing special associations to encourage women's political involvement, developing regional action plans, and encouraging the sharing of best practices among member nations. A wide variety of countries, including major players, are supporting or participating in the UN's efforts to address this issue. Important contributors include Sweden, Canada, and Norway, which have backed numerous projects to increase women's political participation globally and have been ardent supporters of gender equality. One example of a project aimed at increasing women's political participation is the "Election Access and Political Empowerment for Women" project, supported by Canada. This initiative focuses on

enhancing women's access to political processes, supporting their candidacy, and promoting their active involvement in elections. The project includes training programs, mentorship opportunities, and awareness campaigns to address barriers that hinder women's participation in political leadership roles. Canada's support for such projects aligns with its commitment to advancing gender equality and promoting women's empowerment on a global scale.

The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is authorized by the CSW mandate. The CSW has the authority to propose recommendations and resolutions on a variety of problems affecting women, including those pertaining to political leadership and participation. To advance the cause of gender equality and women's rights, it may take a variety of initiatives, including campaigning for legislative amendments, conducting research and analysis, and fostering worldwide discussion. Recent developments in this context involve ongoing efforts to promote women's participation in political leadership positions and to monitor and tackle the challenges they face, particularly in developing countries.

Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address

1. What measures can be implemented to solve issues such as socioeconomic and cultural conventions that prevent women from participating in politics in developing nations?
2. What steps may be taken to increase the number of women in leadership roles and decision-making bodies, and how can quotas or affirmative action rules be effectively implemented?
3. How can we make sure that women are knowledgeable about their rights and opportunities in the political sphere, and what role can education and awareness initiatives play in encouraging women to participate in politics?
4. How can we foster a political climate that values diversity and inclusivity, promotes women's participation, and addresses concerns like harassment and discrimination in political institutions?
5. How can the CSW work with other UN bodies and organizations to magnify these efforts? What can be done to strengthen international collaboration and support for women's political engagement in developing countries?

Suggestions for Further Research

- Examine the merits and drawbacks of quotas and affirmative action regulations for boosting the presence of women in political leadership positions in underdeveloped nations.
- Examine the numerous social, cultural, and economic obstacles that prevent women from participating in politics in developing countries.

- Education and Awareness: Research how education and awareness efforts might encourage women to participate in politics and hold leadership positions, particularly in areas with low female literacy rates.
- Research the activities and programs, such as mentorship opportunities and leadership development courses, that are designed to increase the capacity of women to participate in politics.
- Examine how gender intersects with other variables including race, religion, and socioeconomic status, and how this affects women's political engagement in a variety of cultural situations.
- Examine Gaps in Data and Research: Identify areas where there is a dearth of information about women's political engagement in developing nations, and suggest solutions to close these knowledge gaps.
- Investigate the role that civil society groups and women's movements have had in supporting and advancing women's leadership and political engagement.
- Examine how women are represented in the media and how it affects their chances and political aspirations in underdeveloped nations.

Resources

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>

<https://youtu.be/F6S5T87dXhY?si=tn0TLB4qYlZMd6fu>

<https://www.undp.org/ukraine/projects/enhancing-womens-political-participation-subnational-level>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/08/womens-political-participation-peaceful-world/>

Timeline of the Major Events

1946: The CSW's establishment heralds the start of global efforts to enhance women's rights and gender equality.

1979: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted. This international agreement lays the groundwork for advancing women's political leadership and involvement in emerging nations.

1995: The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was approved at the Fourth World Conference on Women, highlighting the significance of women's political leadership and involvement, particularly in developing countries.

2000: Millennium Development Goals were developed, where one of the main development objectives for developing countries is to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment, which includes political engagement.

2015: SDGs were adopted and Goal 5 of the SDGs aspires to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls with a focus on political leadership and participation.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2020: During the 64th CSW Session, the main topic was the evaluation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action's implementation, with a special focus on increasing women's political engagement in developing nations.

Present & Ongoing: The CSW continues to hold annual sessions and regional initiatives to address the particular difficulties and chances for advancing women's political involvement and leadership in developing nations.

Topic 2: Empowerment of Women in Conflict-Ridden Areas

Summary and History

Living in conflict-ridden places presents particular difficulties that perpetuate gender inequality for women and girls. Conflict circumstances, such as armed conflicts, political unrest, or other forms of social upheaval, frequently result in social structure disruption, displacement, and an increased risk of gender-based violence. These difficulties are exacerbated by limited access to economic, educational, and healthcare resources, which further limits women's empowerment and participation in decision-making.

History reflects that women are disproportionately impacted by conflict, frequently stigmatized, and excluded from post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding initiatives. This is seen post-WWII, as gendered effects of the conflict started to acquire international acknowledgment.

The manifestation of this issue has been intricately woven by a multitude of contributing factors. First and foremost, there is a continual need to address the difficulties experienced by women in such environments due to the persistence of violent conflicts in diverse countries. Additionally, **globalization** and the modern world's enhanced connection have brought these concerns to light and made it easier for countries to work together to address them.

Well-known groups actively address the difficulties faced by women in conflict areas, including Women for Women International, the Nobel Women's Initiative, UN Women, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Global Fund for Women. These organizations not only spread awareness but also offer helpful assistance in the form of programs for economic empowerment, rights education, and job skills training. In conflict-affected areas, they support disarmament, policy modifications, and structural enhancements to address problems, including gender-based discrimination and sexual assault. These groups make a major contribution to women's empowerment and positive transformation in conflict-ridden areas through their diverse approaches. These are important key terms.

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to violence that is done to someone physically, sexually, or psychologically based on their gender, and it regrettably frequently occurs in conflict areas. "Empowerment" plays a key role in this discourse, referring to the process of giving women in war zones the ability to exercise control over their lives, make educated decisions, and actively participate in decision-making processes. These are important key terms.

The global implications of women's empowerment in countries rife with conflict are significant. Beyond its inherent value, gender equality helps create civilizations that are more stable and peaceful. There is a greater chance of lasting and inclusive peace when women actively participate in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction (OECD, 2017).

Discourse on the Issue

In the context of world affairs, the problem of women's empowerment in conflict-affected areas is of utmost importance. It not only respects the values outlined in the UN Charter, but it also poses a serious threat to global peace and security. This issue undermines key ideals like human rights, gender equality, and conflict resolution, violating the core provisions of the UN Charter, particularly Articles 1 and 2. It particularly neglects the rights and dignity of women in conflict areas, conflicting with the UN's foundational values (UN Charter, Articles 1 and 2).

Positively, greater stability and long-lasting peace are likely to result from the empowerment of women in these communities. Strong, independent women frequently have a significant impact on the reconstruction and healing processes, which helps to foster social cohesion (OECD, 2017). Negatively speaking, it might lead to the continuation of GBV, the undermining of women's rights, and the continuation of conflict as a result of women's exclusion from peace processes. On the other hand, positive effects include more equitable resource allocation and economic growth.

However, because it calls into question the efficiency of conflict resolution procedures, the problem has a significant impact on global peace and security. Women's advancement in these fields is crucial for the rights and well-being of people immediately impacted, as well as for global social, economic, and political stability. Therefore, dealing with this problem is a shared obligation and a crucial part of the UN's duty to uphold global peace and security.

Stakeholders in addressing this issue encompass a broad spectrum of entities. At the international level, member states of the United Nations, regional organizations, and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play pivotal roles. Within conflict zones, local communities, women's advocacy groups, and grassroots organizations are essential stakeholders. Additionally, the private sector, academia, and the media contribute to shaping public opinion and influencing policies. Collaboration among these diverse stakeholders is imperative for comprehensive and effective strategies to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the exclusion of women from conflict resolution processes.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments

The adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2000 marked a pivotal moment recognizing the vital role of women in conflict areas. Subsequent resolutions, such as UNSCR 1820, 1888, and 1889, expanded on these ideas, addressing issues like sexual assault prevention and emphasizing women's participation in peace talks. These resolutions collectively formed a framework for enhancing gender equality in unsafe regions (UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889).

Complementing these Security Council resolutions, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has been instrumental in promoting women's rights in crisis zones. CEDAW guides the international community in addressing challenges women face during and after armed conflicts, mandating states to eradicate gender-based discrimination and uphold women's rights (CEDAW). UN Women plays a crucial role in advancing women's empowerment and gender equality in conflict zones, focusing on post-conflict reconstruction, peace processes, and economic empowerment. Local efforts by organizations like Women for Women International, the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom contribute significantly at the grassroots level, amplifying the voices of women in conflict-affected areas.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, gender inequality in conflict-affected regions has intensified. Efforts are ongoing to ensure equitable vaccine distribution and implement gender-responsive pandemic response plans, addressing the specific needs of women and girls. The adoption of Security Council Resolution 2467 in 2019 is a recent development, emphasizing the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and focusing on preventing and responding to sexual assault in conflict. It recognizes survivors' special requirements and underscores the vital role of women in leading efforts to end and recover from conflicts (UNSCR 2467). National Action Plans (NAPs) play a critical role in empowering women in conflict zones by outlining commitments to implement UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions. NAPs serve as the foundation for national policies, promoting gender-based violence prevention, and women's involvement in decision-making, and economic development.

In summary, ongoing efforts to empower women in conflict-ridden regions draw from past international organizational actions and recent developments, highlighting the critical role of women in promoting peace and asserting their rights during and after conflicts. Discussions within the CSW Committee at the Model UN conference are informed by these significant acts and events.

Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address

1. How can the security and safety of women in areas of violence be improved?
2. What steps may be implemented to encourage women's involvement in peacemaking?
3. How can access to healthcare and education for women in conflict-affected communities be improved?
4. What employment possibilities are there for women in conflict areas?
5. How can the empowerment of women in conflict-ridden places be measured and tracked?

Suggestions for Further Research

- Inspect the frequency and types of gender-based violence that women encounter in places where there are conflicts.
- Examine the effects of forced marriage, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- Evaluate projects and programs that attempt to economically empower women in areas afflicted by armed violence. Analyze the impact of entrepreneurship, vocational training, and microfinance on women's economic independence.
- Review the situation of healthcare services, such as maternal health and reproductive rights, in places affected by conflict. Examine the effects of family planning access on women's health, the difficulties that women and girls in conflict zones have in getting access to education, the effects of school interruptions and the chances for skill development.
- Research the experiences of women who have been forced to flee their homes.
- Assess the particular difficulties people encounter, such as getting access to housing, food, and medical treatment.
- Examine the role played by women in promoting peace and resolving disputes.
- Consider how United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 affects the involvement of women in efforts to avoid and resolve conflicts.
- Investigate the legal frameworks and international human rights treaties that are pertinent to the defense of women's rights in conflict zones. Consider the difficulties in putting these rights into effect and enforcing them.

Resources

https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/docs/Gender_equality_in_fragile_situations_2017.pdf

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>

Timeline of the Major Events

1995: The Beijing Conference set the stage for addressing women's rights, including those in conflict zones.



2000: United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted, emphasizing the role of women in peace-building and conflict resolution.

2010: Establishment of UN Women: The United Nations entity, UN Women, was created to focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women, including those in conflict-affected areas.

2019: The UNSCR 2467 resolution reinforced the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, focusing on the prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict and the involvement of women in peace processes.

2023: Many countries have developed their National Action Plans in recent years to implement UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions at the national level.



AUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

MMXXIV
MMXXIV
MMXXIV

