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Model United Nations
Prague

STUDY GUIDE
UN WOMEN

It's time to be UNique!

Contents

Welcome Letter

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to the UN Women of Prague Model United Nations 2020. We are humbled to be on your Executive Board for this committee, and hope to provide a thought-provoking, substantively engaging, and immersive competitive experience for you all.

The guide you are about to read was written to provide you a primer on the agenda and serve as a credible source of information. Your real research lies in identifying key areas for addressing within said agendas, and using factual proficiency, policy and diplomacy to find answers to pressing problems. Further, preparation for the agendas not only needs extensive research but more importantly ability to analyse the overall viability and long-term sustainability of policy proposals. At the same time, political considerations due to the sensitivity of the topics cannot be neglected. This committee will be dealing with challenging and interesting topics.

The study guide merely provides an overview or an introduction to the agenda and therefore it is requested of you all to use the guide as one of the means to your research. It will be appreciated if you venture out to more sources while reading about the agenda. It is often observed that we prepare a lot about the agenda but completely lose focus on the council mandate and the working mechanism of the CSW Committee. Therefore, I suggest you all to start with the functioning of the CSW Committee with the implementation of various foreign policies in accordance with the council.

Finally, while foreign policy is an important aspect of the discussion, please keep in mind that it is highly dynamic and is influenced by the agenda being discussed in the committee.

We are most looking forward to seeing what you, the delegates, can bring to the table, both in terms of your ideas in committee and your creativity in crafting solutions. We fully expect impressive levels of effort, enthusiasm, and engagement from you all. We hope you are looking forward to this committee as much as your Chairpersons are, and that you will go back satisfied with the learning experience you pick up.

Kind regards,

Nuvreet Parmar and Farooq Awad

Chairpersons of the UN WOMEN

Introduction to the UN Women

For many years, the United Nations faced serious challenges in its efforts to promote gender equality globally, including inadequate funding and no single recognized driver to direct UN activities on gender equality issues. In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to address such challenges. In doing so, UN Member States took a historic step in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and empowerment of women. The creation of UN Women came about as part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact. It merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focused exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment:

- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)
- Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

The mandate and functions of the UN Women

In accordance with the provisions of resolution 64/289, UN Women will work within the framework of the UN Charter and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including its twelve critical areas of concern and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as other applicable UN instruments, standards and resolutions that address gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women.

UN Women's main thematic areas of work include:
- Leadership and political participation
- Economic empowerment
- Ending violence against women
- Humanitarian action
- Peace and security
- Governance and national planning
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- HIV and AIDS

Meeting the Needs of the World's Women

Over many decades, the UN has made significant progress in advancing gender equality, including through landmark agreements such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Gender equality is not only a basic human right, but its

achievement has enormous socio-economic ramifications. Empowering women fuels thriving economies, spurring productivity and growth. Yet, gender inequalities remain deeply entrenched in every society. Women lack access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. They are too often denied access to basic education and health care. Women in all parts of the world suffer violence and discrimination. They are under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes. For many years, the UN has faced serious challenges in its efforts to promote gender equality globally, including inadequate funding and no single recognized driver to direct UN activities on gender equality issues. UN Women was created to address such challenges. It will be a dynamic and strong champion for women and girls, providing them with a powerful voice at the global, regional and local levels. Grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the UN Charter, UN Women, among other issues, works for the:

- Elimination of discrimination against women and girls;
- Empowerment of women;
- Achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

Goals of the UN Women

- Support intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards, and norms.
- Help UN member states implement the above standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
- Enable member states to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

Topic A: Gender equality and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: delivering on the promise to "leave no one behind"

Introduction to the topic

While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Unfortunately, at the current time, 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15-49 have reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period and 49 countries currently have no laws protecting women from domestic violence. Progress is occurring regarding harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), which has declined by 30% in the past decade, but there is still much work to be done to completely eliminate such practices.

Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large. Implementing new legal frameworks regarding female equality in the workplace and the eradication of harmful practices targeted at women is crucial to ending the gender-based discrimination prevalent in many countries around the world.

Challenging global context

Gender inequalities manifest themselves in every dimension of sustainable development. When households cannot access sufficient food, women are often the first to go hungry. While girls are increasingly doing better in school and university than boys, this has not translated into gender equality in the labour market. The gender pay gap stands at 23 per cent globally and, without decisive action, it will take another 68 years to achieve equal pay. While women have made important inroads into political office across the world, their representation in national parliaments at 23.7 per cent is still far from parity, and women politicians and voters face threats and attacks, persistent sexual harassment and online abuse. One in five women and girls 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. Despite their increasing presence in public life, women continue to do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do.

The universal nature of the 2030 Agenda responds to the common and interconnected challenges faced by all countries—developed and developing—while the commitment to leaving no one behind seeks to reach the most disadvantaged by building solidarity between them and those who are better. Improving the lives of those who are furthest behind is a matter of social justice, as well as being essential for creating inclusive societies and sustainable economies. Inequality hurts everyone: It is a threat to social and political stability, a drag on economic growth and a barrier to progress on poverty eradication and the realization of human rights more broadly.

Across countries, women and girls experience multiple inequalities and intersecting forms of discrimination, including based on their sex, age, class, ability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity and migration status. Their rights and needs must be addressed and their meaningful participation in implementation ensured. At the same time, strategies to 'leave no one behind' should create solidarity through risk sharing, redistribution and universal programmes6 and avoid contributing to social fragmentation and stigmatization. Narrowly targeted programmes can exacerbate tensions over resource allocation and contribute to the creation of harmful stereotypes and hierarchies of disadvantage and entitlement. Rather than substituting targeted programmes for universal ones, governments should ensure access for groups that have been historically excluded while building universal systems that are collectively financed and used by all social groups.

What does it mean to leave no one behind?

Leaving no one behind means that the goals and targets set out by the 2030 Agenda should be met for everyone, including those who are the poorest, most vulnerable, and furthest behind.

The 2030 Agenda's commitment to leave no one behind implies a new approach to how we understand and act to address poverty, inequalities, and exclusion. Firstly, it means that no single person should be left in poverty without income, food, water, shelter, and other basic goods and services. The challenge here is not merely about transferring the resources and providing services required to raise people above the poverty line. It is about (i) addressing the structural drivers that cause multiple deprivations, and (ii) ensuring that people remain out of poverty and development gains are not reversed, particularly in times of crises and shocks.

Secondly, leaving no one behind requires addressing inequality in its multiple forms, which goes beyond the unequal distribution of income and wealth between individuals and concerns inequality in accessing rights between groups characterised by gender, race, ethnicity, age, or other status. To achieve equal outcomes, it is also important to ensure that people are provided with equal opportunities.

Thirdly, the pledge to leave no one behind implies that no single person or community should be excluded from participating in economic, political, or other societal processes — based on the principle of equality of rights and opportunities.

Who are those who are "left behind" and why does it matter?

People who are left behind in development are often economically, socially, spatially and/or politically excluded – for example, due to ethnicity, race, gender, age, disability or a combination of these, leading to multiple discriminations. They are disconnected from societal institutions, lack information to access those institutions, networks, and economic and social support systems to improve their situation, and are not consulted by those in power. They are not counted in official data – they are invisible in the development of policies and programmes. They have no voice. People left behind are those most at risk of not enjoying their civil, cultural, economic, political or social rights.

Leaving no one behind matters on many fronts. At its most basic level, being left behind in poverty, and without access to education, water, shelter, social protection, security of tenure and basic services, is a violation of human rights. It matters socially and economically in wasted human and productive potential. For instance, economic growth is generally slower in countries with high or growing inequalities, with a growing number excluded from the labour market or trapped in low-paying and unstable jobs, with a large part of the population without social protection, and where economic gains going to the wealthy and politically powerful. Inequalities often express themselves in spatial ways, both within and between rural and urban areas and across countries and regions. These scenarios can furthermore generate increased social tensions, political discontent and instability.

Challenges

With the countdown to 2030 well underway, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is up against an unprecedented set of economic, environmental, social and political challenges. After a decade of crisis, recession and subsequent austerity measures that have wreaked havoc on people's livelihoods, the global economy remains volatile and its prospects for long-term recovery uncertain. The global unemployment rate—standing at almost 200 million people in 2016—is expected to remain elevated in the coming years and unlikely to fall below pre-crisis rates in the medium term as the global labour force continues to grow. Vulnerable forms of employment remain pervasive, particularly among women, undermining the ambition to create decent work and sustainable routes out of poverty.

Women who are already disadvantaged are often hit hardest. In the United Kingdom, the Women's Budget Group has repeatedly denounced the regressive

nature of fiscal consolidation, which is based on spending cuts rather than tax increases and quantified the toll that budget cuts take on the most disadvantaged women and girls in the country. In 2017, the organization warned that black and Asian single mothers stood to lose about 15 and 17 percent of their net income, respectively, as a result of planned freezes and cuts to in-work and out-of-work benefits.

Slow economic recovery, social hardship and rising inequalities provide the breeding ground for growing social discontent. The International Labour Organization (ILO) Social Unrest Index, which measures citizens' discontent with the socio-economic situation in their countries, indicates that on average global social unrest increased between 2015 and 2016, and 8 out of 11 regions experienced increases in the measure of social discontent. Manifestations of discontent vary but are apparent across countries and regions and have led to political instability, polarization and the resurgence of populist right-wing nationalisms of various stripes. In many cases, this has fuelled expressions of intolerance and sometimes violence, both of which tend to be directed at groups that already experience discrimination and marginalization, such as immigrants and ethnic or religious minorities.

Leaving no one behind: multiple and intersecting inequalities

The identities (perceived or inherent) of individuals and groups can increase their risks of discrimination and marginalization. Those left furthest behind in society are often women and girls who experience multiple forms of disadvantage based on gender and other inequalities. This can lead to clustered deprivations where women and girls may be simultaneously disadvantaged in their access to quality education, decent work, health and well-being. The notion that disadvantage is intensified for women and girls living at the intersection of inequalities and discrimination is not new to feminist scholars or human rights experts and advocates. The term 'intersectionality'— defined as "the interaction of multiple identities and experiences of exclusion and subordination"— was coined in the 1980s to capture the interaction of gender and race in shaping black women's experiences in the United States.

Implementation, monitoring, and accountability

Turning promises into progress for women and girls hinges on the implementation of gender-responsive policies and programmes, robust monitoring and the creation of effective accountability mechanisms. The emphasis on national ownership holds opportunities and challenges for gender responsive implementation and monitoring. The breadth of the 2030 Agenda is such that some degree of prioritization will be inevitable. How will this prioritization happen? What is needed to ensure that gender equality commitments remain front and centre at the national level? Moreover, how will decision-makers be held to account for their actions and omissions?

Accountability requires that those in a position of authority have clearly defined duties and performance standards (responsibility) and provide reasoned justifications for their actions and decisions (answerability). It also requires a mechanism to assess

compliance with defined duties and standards and enforce sanctions and remedies where required (enforceability).

Regional processes, facilitated by the UN Regional Commissions, provide another forum for peer learning through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussions on shared targets. Regional forums are usually held between March and May but do not follow a systematic approach. They tend to include regional intergovernmental forums focused on specific themes; agreement on regional specific priorities and indicators; and regional thematic and progress reports. Regional processes are also important for ensuring that global and regional agendas — such as the African Union's Agenda 2063 or the European Union's Consensus for Development — are aligned with the 2030 Agenda in order to avoid duplication or fragmentation in the pursuit of gender equality and sustainable development.

There is a risk that monitoring efforts will be exclusively focused on the 'ends', i.e., the outcomes as measured against the agreed indicator framework. While this is important, indicators by definition are only designed to indicate and can never give a full picture of progress. Looking at the 'means', including the processes and institutional arrangements as well as the policies and programmes that are put in place to advance gender equality under the 2030 Agenda, is therefore an equally important element of gender-responsive monitoring.

Three critical areas for gender responsive monitoring that can be used to strengthen accountability for gender equality commitments at the global, regional and national levels:

- Gender-responsive data, statistics and analysis
- Gender-responsive processes and institutions
- Gender-responsive financing, policy analysis and evaluation

A Gender perspective on the global indicator framework

The global indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda is a voluntary and country-led instrument. While minor refinements are still possible, this initial set of indicators is considered fixed until 2020, when a comprehensive review of the framework is planned. A second review will take place in 2025. Alongside country- and region-specific indicators, the framework will inevitably inform many of the information-gathering activities — including those related to the appraisal of progress, gaps and challenges — necessary to support ongoing programme and policy work and accelerate progress in achieving the SDGs. The monitoring of SDGs from a gender equality perspective is constrained by uneven indicator coverage, gender data gaps and poor data quality and comparability. Failure to address these challenges will mean key areas of the SDGs will not be monitored from a gender equality perspective.

In some instances, indicators are gender-related, meaning they monitor areas that indirectly affect women and girls but do not easily lend themselves to a gender analysis of impact. For example, SDG indicator 6.1.1 (proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services), monitors change in access to an improved water source located on premises (within the dwelling, yard or plot). As women and girls are responsible for water collection in 8 out of 10 households with water off-premises, the indicator is gender-related.

Six of the 17 SDGs lack gender-specific indicators altogether. This is the case for the goals on water and sanitation, industry and innovation, sustainable consumption, energy and the environment (oceans and terrestrial ecosystems). Target 6.2 on access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, for example, calls for "special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations", but the indicator to monitor this target (proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services) does not explicitly monitor the specific needs of women and girls. This contrasts with SDG 4 on access to quality education and lifelong learning, for example, which tracks gender equality in 8 out of 11 indicators. Overall, the framework is gender-sensitive in six dimensions of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 16), gender-sparse in other critical areas (SDGs 2, 10, 11, 13 and 17) and gender-blind in the rest (SDGs 6, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 15).

Gender statistics and gender-specific indicators in the SDGs

Gender statistics are those that "adequately reflect differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in all areas of life" — differences that often arise from the gender biases embedded in society. They capture the diverse characteristics of women and men, inequalities between them and the specificities of different groups of women and girls, and they are essential for SDG monitoring and accountability. Gender statistics include data collected, analysed and presented by sex and other characteristics as well as data that are not disaggregated by sex but reflect the specific needs, opportunities and contributions made by women and girls in society.

Data on violence against women or on assistance of skilled birth attendant at delivery are examples of the latter. They require data collection methods that avoid gender biases and stereotypes that would inevitably distort the reality of the situation on the ground.

For example, SDG indicator 5.c.1 captures the percentage of countries with systems to track public allocations that are directed towards policies and programmes that promote gender equality — the underlying objective is the promotion of gender equality. The term is also used for indicators where women and girls are specified within the indicator as the targeted population. The term 'gender data' has been embraced by gender statistics advocates as a more accessible designation than the term 'gender statistics'. While there is a clear distinction between 'data' and 'statistics', data being the information from which statistics are created, the term 'gender data' is increasingly accepted as a legitimate alternative.

Conclusion

The 2030 Agenda calls for the universal achievement of the SDGs whereby the well-being of everyone in society is assured, most especially that of the furthest behind. From a monitoring perspective, this means accounting for the progress of everyone without exception. Doing so will require going beyond national averages to assess the outcomes of different groups of women and girls who, because of entrenched forms of discrimination, are often the most disadvantaged in society.

Intersecting inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, geography and wealth result in a form of disadvantage that is acute and uniquely felt by women who stand at these intersections. The experience of these women will be different from that of other women and different from men who face similar group-based discrimination but not gender-based discrimination. Multi-level disaggregation of data brings out these inequalities and is hence critical for identifying the furthest behind.

At the same time, it is vital that strategies to 'leave no one behind', including those related to measurement, do not contribute to further social fragmentation, stigmatization and/or other forms of harm or abuse of vulnerable groups. From a statistical perspective, this means data are collected and used ethically, in accordance with international statistical and human rights standards related to voluntary participation and self-identification, as well as protection of privacy, accountability and adherence to the principle of 'do no harm'.

Recommendations

1. Place gender equality at the centre of implementation.
2. Define clear responsibilities for gender-responsive implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
3. Design effective strategies for reaching the women and girls who are furthest behind.
4. Strengthen the High-level Political Forum as a platform for peer review and meaningful dialogue.
5. Establish safeguards that ensure the confidentiality, quality and integrity of data.
6. Establish safeguards that ensure the confidentiality, quality and integrity of data.
7. Invest in national statistical capacity.
8. Invest in and support the technical capacity of national statistical systems.
9. Identify data gaps, recognize data limitations and seize the opportunities that strengthened collaboration can bring.

10. Provide coordinated services for women and girls who experience violence, especially the most marginalized.

11. Adopt and implement comprehensive legislation to eliminate violence against women and girls (VAWG).
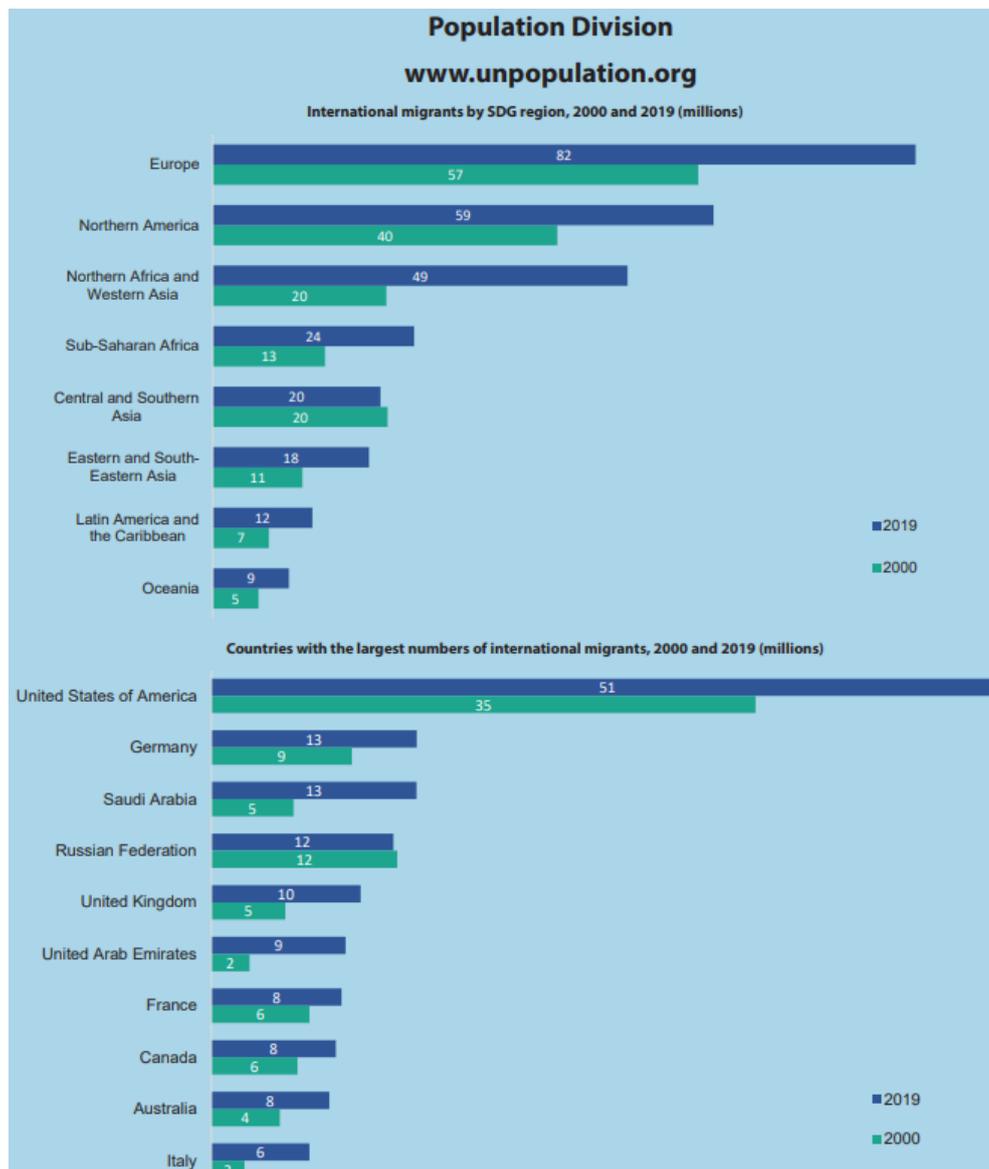
Questions to be addressed by the committee

1. Why gender equality matters across the SDGs?
2. How can resources for gender equality be mobilized?
3. What are the ways to strengthen accountability when it comes to gender equality?
4. How can resources be steered towards achieving gender equality goals?
5. Which are the countries that are furthest behind in achieving gender equality?
6. What are the Possibilities and potential pitfalls of non-conventional data sources?
7. What gender-specific indicators are available and regularly produced in your country?
8. How your countries (different organisations as well) can help close gender data gaps?
9. Whether your national statistical system has adequate financial and human resources to produce gender statistics to monitor the SDGs?
10. Whether laws are in place and implemented in your country that name violence against women as a specific crime, define it as discrimination and are explicit that it has no defence in tradition, custom or religion?
11. If your country has developed a strategy for providing coordinated services that keep women safe, empower them to leave abusive relationships and help them recover from violence?
12. If your country has a strategy in place to prevent violence before it occurs?

Topic B: Protecting women in migration

Introduction to the topic

In 2019, the number of international migrants worldwide was nearly 272 million, up from 221 million in 2010 & 174 million in 2000, totalling nearly 3.5% of the world's population currently live outside their country of origin, many of whose migration is characterised by varying degrees of compulsion. Notwithstanding that many migrants choose to leave their countries of origin each year, an increasing number of migrants are forced to leave their homes for a complex combination of reasons, including poverty, lack of access to healthcare, education, water, food, housing, and the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change, as well as the more 'traditional' drivers of forced displacement such as persecution and conflict (UN DESA, 2019).

Population Division

www.unpopulation.org

International migrants by SDG region, 2000 and 2019 (millions)

Region	2019	2000
Europe	82	57
Northern America	59	40
Northern Africa and Western Asia	49	20
Sub-Saharan Africa	24	13
Central and Southern Asia	20	20
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	18	11
Latin America and the Caribbean	12	7
Oceania	9	5

Countries with the largest numbers of international migrants, 2000 and 2019 (millions)

Country	2019	2000
United States of America	51	35
Germany	13	9
Saudi Arabia	13	5
Russian Federation	12	12
United Kingdom	10	5
United Arab Emirates	9	2
France	8	6
Canada	8	6
Australia	8	4
Italy	6	2

47.9% of international migrants were women. Female migrants outnumber males in all regions except Africa and Asia. Increasingly, migrating autonomously particularly for the purposes of work, women migrant workers face different needs and realities throughout the migration cycle, including the manner of their recruitment, the feminized sectors in which they tend to work, and the way that their remittances are sent and spent. Consequently, it is necessary that the laws that govern migration respond to the distinct needs and priorities of women and girls (UN Population Division, 2019).

Current issues

While migration is a positive and empowering experience for many, it is increasingly clear that a lack of human rights-based migration governance at the global, regional and national levels is leading to the routine violation of migrants' rights in transit, at international borders, and in the countries they migrate to. Even though migrants are not inherently vulnerable, they can be vulnerable to human rights violations. Migrants, and especially women, in an irregular situation tend to be disproportionately vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation, physical and sexual harassment, marginalization, often living and working in the shadows, afraid to complain, and denied their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Domestic work in private homes has been recognized for over three centuries as creating potentially exploitative work environments for disadvantaged women, and potentially even kidnapping and trafficking. Up to 2 million women and children are trafficked internationally every year, and women and girls constitute 98 percent of all sexually exploited victims of trafficking. Sex is used as a bargaining chip in exchange for passage, when money is not available. This type of blackmail can also be used by male staff in transit camps, in exchange for food or documents. (UN Women, 2018)

Rape has become a regular part of forced migration. The predominance of rape is so severe that women are often given contraceptives at the start of their journeys. The use of contraceptives is often a condition for smugglers, before they agree to transport women, because rape systematically occurs and is normalised throughout the journey. The risk of sexually transmitted diseases increases drastically with forced sexual intercourse. For instance, for women from sub-Saharan Africa, this risk quadruples during the migration journey.

Past action (by the UN)

International migration is a critical concern for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, in which UN Member States agreed to implement well-managed migration policies. They also committed to sharing more equitably the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, protecting the human rights of all migrants, and countering

xenophobia and intolerance directed towards migrants. An international conference on migration was convened in late 2018 for adopting a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Almost every sixth domestic worker in the world is an international migrant, and women make up 73.4 percent of international migrant domestic workers, yet only 26 countries have ratified the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (No. 189), which is imperative in promoting the rights and dignity of domestic workers, while recognizing the specific forms of violations and discrimination and abuse faced by women (UN OCHA, 2018).

Sustainable Development Goals			Target relevant to women migrant care workers
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.8	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
5 GENDER EQUALITY	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all	8.5	Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
		8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.3	Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
		10.4	Adopt fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.
		10.7	Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Lack of safety en route

After fleeing the world's most dangerous places, discrimination and war zones, women and girls who make the journey towards and across the other side of the world should be entitled to safe and humane conditions once they reach their destinations. However, transit camps and accommodation centres fail to offer women and girls sufficient and appropriate basic services or protection from exploitation and gender-based violence. The risks are present at every stage of the journey, even after arrival the situation remains dangerous for migrant women. Absence of female interpreters and translators to help traumatised women to express and advocate for themselves, as well as a lack of accessible and adequate information about their rights are important obstacles to basic services, justice, and health centres. (Council of Europe, 2019)

Gender-sensitive reception policies should strive to fix the following common issues:

- Inexperienced personnel
- Problems in transit sites and in accommodation centres
- No sex segregated facilities
- No female specific shelters
- Limited access to special women's hygiene products
- No sexual and reproductive health care
- No gender-sensitive access to information
- Lack of gender perspectives in accommodation centres
- Long procedures and problems in accommodation centres

Recommendations specific to transit centers:

- Reception centres need to develop tailor-made services for women and girls.

- Ensure that gender-based violence-specific services and sex-segregated shelters are safe and available on all transit sites and in all accommodation centres, including health services available 24 hours per day.

- Ensure sufficient access to medical and psychological help in order to improve the recovery from traumatic experiences.

- Ensure women's access to information on their rights and available services through the deployment of trained (women) interpreters and interviewers in order to establish safe places.

- To reinforce measures to prevent sexual and gender-based violence.

- To reinforce a network of local associations aimed aid coordinating on-going actions and conducted advocacy in order to promote human rights of women and girls.

Conclusion / Summary

The silenced voices of women gender-based violence is a risk for all women but it is exacerbated for single women and unaccompanied girls. To avoid the dangers of the road, single women sometimes choose to join groups of migrants, or to find a man with whom to travel. In support facilities, placed along migration routes, these groups are often considered as "families". Power relationships, inequalities or violence within groups are not taken into account by the respective facilities. The spokespersons of groups are most often men, perceived as group leaders. In cases of violence, such power relations prevent women from reporting abuse and violence. The same problem arises in cases in which families migrate together.

Disappearance of women and girls on the migration journey has been largely ignored, according to the European Network of Migrant Women. This problem must be taken into account and solved. Indeed, while data are scarce, existing figures show a great disparity between the number of girls in transit countries and those in countries of arrival. Relevant state agencies and associations which receive unaccompanied minors claim that most of the demands are submitted by boys rather than girls.

This issue needs to be researched and addressed. As women account for 49% of victims of human trafficking and girls 23%, it is possible to establish a causal link between their disappearance and exploitation by human trafficking networks. Sexual trafficking continues to be the most common form of trafficking and predominantly targets women if they are unprotected, either throughout their harsh journey, or at their destination (UNODC, 2018).

General recommendations and ideas to be explored

● Ensure that women also form part of the staff of social workers and interpreters, as applicable, in accommodation, reception and detention facilities.

● Create "firewalls" between the legal status of undocumented women and their rights to access to justice, protection, health and education

● Ensure that local and regional integration programmes are gender-sensitive

● Provide language courses to women as soon as possible after their arrival in the host country.

● Support and closely cooperate with civil society stakeholders who are working to defend and empower migrant and refugee women and girls.

● Diplomas and skills must be recognised through bilateral agreements

● Another area where policy action needed is reunification of families separated by migration.

Questions to be addressed by the committee

1. Should efforts focus more on protecting women throughout the migration process, or on empowering them once they have reached their destination?

2. Is the impact of hosting migrant women worth spending taxpayer money on, rather than using it on a country's own citizens and infrastructure?

3. Who can be held accountable for crimes committed against women in migration: the country that directly or indirectly forced them to flee, or the harsh environment and factors of the journey?

4. Is implementing local policies and regulations enough? Or should there be an international task force dedicated just for ensuring migrant women's safety?

5. Why should heavier focus be placed on protecting migrant women specifically in all respective countries?

Further readings

Topic A

1.https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Interim-Draft-Operational-Guide-on-LNOB-for-UNCTs.pdf

2.https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/dam/rbec/docs/LeavingNoOneBehindinthe2030Agenda_Roma%20inclusion%20in%20Europe.pdf

3.https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Sustainable%20Development/2030%20Agenda/Discussion_Paper_LNOB_EN_lres.pdf

4.http://www.onumulheres.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/SDG-report-Gender-equality-in-the-2030-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development-2018-en.pdf

Topic B

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