

(Sample: Author: CC, Liberia, SOCHUM; Note: this paper may not be a perfect score)

Committee: SOCHUM

Country: Liberia

Topic 1: Gender Equality

I. Topic Background

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Other than being an important human right, gender equality is essential to accomplish a peaceful environment with sustainable development and society's contribution. The more educated women are, the more it benefits the economy. Although there has been progress over the last decade, obstacles still remain. Women across the world are not allowed to have an education, and if they break the laws for women, the punishment may be fatal. (United Nations, "Gender Equality") For instance, Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani woman, was shot because she stood up for the rights of women. In addition, very few women are represented at all levels of political leadership, whereas men are regularised as the people in power. (Malala, "Malala Fund") The consequences of coronavirus could slow down the advancement of gender equality and women's rights. The coronavirus outbreak has made it harder for women and girls to gain economic independence. (United Nations, "Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls") Honor Killings and sexual harassment is a huge part of gender equality and over 5,000 people are killed every year for them. Honour killings are to make sure that the family is not despised, they would kill their sister or daughter. This happens when a female family member is sexually harassed. They are either shot, knifed, strangled, stoned, burned, buried alive, or even smothered. This is seriously dangerous towards people around the world, and it is unfair for the female gender. This violence occurs because families want the family's reputation to be protected.

II. International Involvement

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. This was dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The main roles of UN Women are to assist the inter-governments. For example, women usually support the Commission on the Status of Women and many more. These programs discuss the issues that need to be solved, like, financial support and suitable technology for countries. (United Nations, “UN Women: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women”) UN secretary general António Guterres said that accomplishing gender equality and empowering women and girls is one of the biggest human rights challenges of all time. (United Nations, “Gender Equality”) For decades, the UN has faced harsh situations while trying to bring attention to gender equality. The UN created the UN Woman to address the problems of gender inequality. This is an opportunity to allow for girls and women to speak up in global and regional areas. (United Nations, “UN Women: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women”)

III. Country Position

The president of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirlea, was an inspiration for women across the country because she was the first female president in all of Africa. This gave everyone hope that women would receive the same amount of power as men. Since her inauguration in 2006, Liberia has been making progress towards a better life. (United Nations, “Even with peace, Liberia’s women struggle”) However, there was still a long way to go and people in Liberia still didn’t have the same rights as others in society. During the Liberia Civil War in 1989–2003, “women emerged as the flag bearers of peace” and created the ‘Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace’ initiative. By doing so, women ensured that the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which was essential to sustainable peace, was signed. The Liberian National Gender Policy in 2009 stated that females were behind in development, and that gender inequality was evident in daily life. The amount of sexual harassment in Liberia is very high, especially uncontrolled during the war. Even after 13 years, it still remains to be a huge issue. Since there were so many problems, the Liberian government developed a four-year National Action Plan in 2009. This plan was to look over the suggestions of the United Nations resolution 1325, which was for women's security and peace. Although this was a well thought out program, after 4 years very little has been implemented because the Gender Policy was "at odds with each other and has not been consistently integrated into the national legislature." (Institute for Security Sources, "Lost in transition: no change for women's rights in Liberia")

Although women account for 54% of the labour force, they are still treated poorly and lack sustainable development because they are underpaid and work with an economy that isn't taxed or monitored by any form of government. Women in Liberia have about a 60% illiteracy rate and a really high mortality rate.(Institute for Security Sources, "Lost in transition: no change for women's rights in Liberia")

IV. Proposed Solutions

Gender equality is not treated as a fundamental right but should be a more discussed topic because it pieces our society together. Our Liberia plan is as follows and includes multiple facets. Gender Equality is something that everyone talks about these days, protests happen for women rights everywhere. This doesn't mean that it should not be discussed as much, Gender Equality is a significant problem to solve to make sure that the community is sustainable. Some schools teach children about the story of Malala and how she stood up for women's writing, but that is only one person and a small portion of Gender Equality.

Millions of women worldwide are experiencing the injustice of Gender Inequality. A program can educate as many people as possible on this. The first way to get people to support the action against gender inequality is to spread word on the topic. With education promotion, more people would join and help out with Gender Equality action. One of the most important problems is, how will we prevent gender inequality from continuing? The first step of solving this issue is to create a program that would teach everyone.

Gender Equality is appropriate to all ages, and is also part of education because people are learning about society. The people in the program would go to school. Given Covid 19, they would go to these sessions online, and learn about the topic. Children should also be taught this at school, for they have malleable hearts and a curious mind. Most of them would think about it and even help spread the word of Gender Equality. In addition, the program could even make it interesting for the youth by making a short little play. Then, program courses will let students work together to make a project or a creation. This way, it can be more interactive for children, since they are easily distracted, but once they get into the mode of creativity, they would also be able to better listen and understand. Not only would children be learning about gender equality, but high school and college students could also learn about it. When they grow up, they are more exposed to these types of topics since they are on social media more. But, it is still essential to inform them about Gender Equality, since it is part of a fair and just economy.

If people don't go to school anymore, the best idea is to use social media. Social Media is a perfect way to report the ideas and topic of Gender Equality. It could spread the word in seconds and the social media apps have billions of people on it, so there is a chance that many people would come across it and understand. People who don't really go to school, especially in developing parts of the world, could still access social media and give Gender Equality a chance.

All of this has to have a purpose, which is to educate people on this topic, but it would help Gender Equality more if there were donations from the people that became educated on this situation. The donations would go to places that continue to need convincing to allow all genders to be equal. The next step to making sure that gender equality is able to work is to fund these solutions to fixing it. Without these funds, the solutions can not stretch enough to it's goal. For the schools, the people who will be educating them on it would tell them that if they want to donate they could go here. If they wanted to donate, they could either do it themselves or ask a parent. On social media, they could put a link down below on their post or bio and people could just click the link to donate. When more people see it, they would think about it and also donate. Encouraging people to donate is essential, so they could hit the goal they want. Teaching them about the topic already motivates them, but setting a goal will motivate them to donate.

To fund this solution, we could have corporate/private public partnerships which is where the government partners with a corporation to achieve a goal. To do so, the corporation would ask the government for permission to implement an education campaign and in return the corporation would provide essential media and promotion materials. The corporation would support spending while the government would carry out the implementation of the projects. They would build the structures that are needed and the attention that the program needs.

The program/project is the perfect way to meet the needs that Gender Equality needs. It's like an apocalypse, more people would make the group stronger. This program is one of the ways to implement gender equality and bring attention to it. Liberia is proud to present this program to the UN and hopes that it too agrees with us.

V. Questions to Consider

- A. Question 1: How do your solutions consider the rates of gender inequality in varying countries?

Liberia's solution considers the rates of gender inequality and adapts to different countries because it understands that education programs must be culturally contextualized within their appropriate settings. Varying rates of gender inequality also entails that certain settings will be more effective for forms of gender-equity related education than others. Cultural dialogue and promoting cultural competency to ground foundational teachings within the context of each country's setting will ensure that the teaching program element of our Liberia plan will be as far-reaching and as relevant within the communities we are trying to reach.

- B. Question 2: How can we involve men and boys, especially those in power, into conversations, legislation, and activism concerning solutions to gender inequality?

Involve men and boys, considering that the status quo is patriarchal and encourage buy-in or acceptance with empowerment movements by protesting and other peaceful methods of encouragement/convincing. For example, social media campaigns can be put up to encourage people through print media and having celebrities endorse gender equality programs which could also reach men and boys. Using local politicians and their power for encouraging government leaders to also take a stance so they could inform those in their community.

Works Cited

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Source 3: United Nations, “UN Women: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women,” United Nations, [https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2013/07/un-women-the-united-nations-entity-for-gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-women/#:~:text=Over%20many%20decades%2C%20the%20UN,Discrimination%20against%20Women%20\(CEDAW\)](https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2013/07/un-women-the-united-nations-entity-for-gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-women/#:~:text=Over%20many%20decades%2C%20the%20UN,Discrimination%20against%20Women%20(CEDAW),), 1, February 2021.

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(Repeat the above for topic 2)