ROMUN

STUDY GUIDE
ROUNDTABLE 2

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN
Promoting and respecting human rights, lifelong education and gender targets

ROMUN 2015

Table of Contents

1. Welcome letter from the Secretary General

Distinguished participants to ROMUN2015,
Honourable delegates,

It is with pleasure and a great sense of responsibility that I welcome you to ROMUN2015! ROMUN2015, the most prestigious Model of the United Nations Organisation in Italy, is organised by the Italian Society for International Organisation/United Nations Association of Italy in partnership with the United States Diplomatic Missions in Italy, and will be held from 16 to 20 October in Rome, Italy. Its main theme is food security and sustainability. This is not a coincidence, as 2015 is an exceptional turning point for the international agenda on both issues.

Since the Millennium Declaration in 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the United Nations are specifically working to raise awareness on the paramount importance of developing a sustainable way of life at all levels and addressing those critical matters, old as humanity itself, which are connected with the idea of a fully sustainable planet: granting basic education, reliable health services, and access to nutritious food for all. The amazing technological shift, particularly in the field of communications, and the massive geopolitical changes of the past few years make it necessary to continue to work hard to overcome the challenge laid down 15 years ago with an effective and well-balanced agenda from today to 2030. In recent months, great efforts have been made to develop a responsible and effective Post-2015 Development Agenda and in one week's time, from 25 to 27 September, world leaders will meet in the international UN Headquarters in New York in order to finally adopt a resolution for a sustainable development agenda which encompasses the next 15 years, setting 17 goals and 169 targets.

Italy is currently at the frontline of this international debate and, thanks to the EXPO2015 in Milan, a world exhibit wholly focused on food and sustainability, it is currently one of the most inspiring places to be worldwide. Rome, which houses the Headquarters of International Organisations such as the FAO, the IFAD and the WFP, provides the best location for a youth conference on food security and sustainability.

From Tuesday 15 September, we will launch, in collaboration with MunPlanet, an innovative Internet-based platform for Delegates to start negotiation over one month before the actual conference. Each of you will receive a personal invitation by email. All you need to do is to click on the link, log in, and start negotiating with young people from all over the world, both in your assigned Roundtable and in the General Assembly. In your Roundtable you will be responsible for representing your interests and proposals related to a specific topic, while in the GA you will be called to give your contribution to the draft ROMUN2015 Youth Roadmap. This is a unique opportunity to multiply the results of your efforts and proactivity, virtually extending the length of the overall experience from less than one week to over one month. Chairs and Rapporteurs will direct and guide you along the track.

Delegates and participants to ROMUN2015, you have a real chance to participate in human enhancement through the only worthwhile way: dialogue and mutual understanding. Don't miss it, make it count! I am looking forward to meet you all on 16 October in Rome!

Edoardo Morgante
Secretary General of ROMUN2015

2. Welcome letter from the Chairs

To the delegates of Roundtable 2,

To begin with, we would like to welcome you to ROMUN. A fantastic conference hosted by SIOI, the United States Diplomatic Mission to the Italian Republic and the result of the joint effort of a vast number of people, from all over the world. We feel this year's Conference is particularly important given the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the work in place to launch the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This transition is crucial in shaping the next generation; whether we talk about food security, sustainability or equality for everyone.

Gender equality is a vital theme in the path to SDG full implementation: it is an essential human right, and as so, should apply to everyone. In truth, the topic's scope is immense: this is one of the reasons we have divided it in research sections. We should start by the definition of gender equality and what it encompasses: it is important to have in consideration societal and developmental differences in countries, as well as sociological implications, such as the development of the term across history (one example of this is the possibility of defining gender as non binary). Secondly, the discussion should move into the different areas to tackle, as well as possible solutions: a final resolution should be succinct, feasible, address the topic in its totality (or at least attempt to), as well as being a start to action. This is, in our view, what's most important: that people understand the problem to its root and that a solution (or a path to solution) is addressed. While the idea might be utopic, as a perfect world is, we must take action to get somewhere: gender equality worldwide starts in each and every one of us. We, as chairs, expect an intense debate. We can only make it as good as the effort we put into it, both us moderating and you debating: prepare yourselves and bring your A game; as always, we shall have MUN prizes at the end. We urge you to research thoroughly on this topic looking into all its areas and breaking it down into subtopics. Build your debate upon those fundamentals and showcase your best speeches and right to replies at conference.

The study guide exists merely to guide you through the course of debate and outline on what points you have to debate upon. However in order to be the lion out of the flock of sheep you have to research on other parts of the topic which have been hinted in this study guide and bring up content not found in it. The secret to this is research: look into UN publications, speeches and other resources, make use of the links provided for you at the end of this study guide. Position papers should be well written and should be precise as this is what will give the chair the first impression before conference, so make sure it stands well. MUN is not only about debating and winning awards; there is more to it. Learning new things, acquiring new soft skills, making new friends and most importantly having fun. So make sure you do all these while on your race to the Best Delegate award.

Finally, we would like to introduce ourselves: Ines and Marlish will be your chairs, and Shiv and Caterina will be your rapporteurs. Ines is Portuguese and studies at Exeter University in the UK, and this is her first conference outside the UK; Marlish is from Sri Lanka and is a high school MUN veteran. Shiv is from India, has done 13 MUN's until date and this is his 4th as a member of the executive council, and Caterina is your source all-things-Italy as she lives very close to Rome. This is her first time being a rapporteur, although she has attended a number of conferences both as delegate and a staff member.

We hope you have a fantastic time and look forward to seeing you in Rome.

Best,

Ines, Marlish, Shiv and Caterina

3. Term references, related organisations, related treaties, conventions and resolutions

Term references

- **Gender Equality:** *As per unesco.org:* Gender Equality means that women and men have equal conditions for realising their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development. Gender equality is therefore the equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play. It is based on women and men being full partners in their home, their community and their society.
- **Women's Empowerment:** *As per un.org:* Women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.
- **Gender Binary:** system that classifies all people into one of two genders. This model defines gender roles and identities, impacting all aspects of self-expression. While gender binary has been for long used in societies to divide and organize people, many studies have contested the existence of such division. Such definition, indeed, leaves out any option for people who act outside of their gender role, with emphasis on transgender individuals.

Overview of the main organisations involved

- **UN WOMEN**: created by the UN in July 2010, the main roles of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women are to promote and support the formulation of policies and global standards, to help Member States to implements these standards and to lead and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.
- **CSW**: the Commission on the Status of Women is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Born as a commission of ECOSOC in 1946, its mandate was expanded in 1996, taking on a leading role in monitoring the progress and the problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- **UNESCO**: Gender Equality is one of UNESCO's two global priorities, with a commitment to promote equality between women and men across the Organization's mandate.
- **European Institute for Gender Equality**: a Vilnius-based agency of the European Union inaugurated in 2007, it supports the EU institutions and the Member States in promoting equality between women and men and combating sex discrimination.
- **The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)**: a non-profit organization founded in 1976 that works to promote gender equitable development within the field of international development.
- **Amnesty International**: founded in 1961, Amnesty International stands with women and girls and fights to end gender-based violence for good.

- **The Girl Effect**: created by the Nike Foundation in collaboration with the NoVo Foundation, United Nations Foundation and Coalition for Adolescent Girls in 2008, The Girl Effect is a global movement about the unique potential of adolescent girls to end poverty for themselves and the world.
- **Girls not Brides**: Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of more than 500 civil society organisations from over 70 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfill their potential.
- **Half the Sky Movement**: inspired by journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book of the same name; supporters of the movement have donated more than $5 million to organizations helping women and girls; more than 1.1 million people have played the Facebook game; and more than 1,500 campus and community ambassadors have hosted screenings, held panel discussions, and educated members of their communities.
- **Because I am a Girl**: founded by Plan International, one of the largest international charities in the world, if is a global initiative to end gender inequality, promote girls' rights and lift millions of girls – and everyone around them – out of poverty.

Related Treaties conventions and resolution

- UDHR: The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (**UDHR**) is a declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot, Paris. This document clearly states the human rights every human beings are entitled to.
- ICESCR: The **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (**ICESCR**) is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966, and in force from 3 January 1976.
- ICERD: convention specifically instructed to protect the rights of all minorities by eliminating all racial discriminations such as criminalizing hate speech and involvement in racist organisations.
- CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
- CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

The resolutions are mentioned within each subtopic in the study guide.

There are, however, many more organisations (both governmental and non governmental) doing fantastic work on the topic, and delegates are encouraged to include them in research. The main history of the topic is also not exhaustive. Delegates are also encouraged to look at personal efforts such as Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani education activist who recently won a Nobel peace prize.

4. History of the topic
Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
Gender inequality is deeply rooted in the history of mankind but at the same time "gender equality" is a relatively new phenomena: up until the end of the nineteenth century, women

have been treated as the inferior sex and excluded from taking part in public life. The steps taken towards gender equality can be schematized as it follows:

- **1800s**: women start the movement towards the abolition of restrictions in Europe, the Americas and Australia, with the first Women's Right Convention being held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York
- **1898**: New Zealand is the first country where women are granted the right to vote (within half a century, women's suffrage is a reality in a majority of countries across all continents: the US in 1919 and Britain in 1928)
- **1940s**: post World War II, the battle for gender equality takes a turn in a different dimension: it tackles discrimination in employment opportunities, wage, education, reproductive rights and the role of women in the household
- **1946**: The United Nations ECOSOC established the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW)
- **1975**: the first world conference on women is held in Mexico, followed by conferences in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995)
- **1976**: start of the UN Decade for Women
- **2000s**: there's another broadening of the movement for gender equality: above races, different backgrounds and social classes, with a new focus on the LGBT community.
- **2000**: 89 world leaders sign the UN Millennium declaration (MDG 3)
- **2010**: after a period of long negotiations between UN Member States, Women's Rights Groups and civil society, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopts resolution 64/289, creating UN Women.
- **2014**: the Member State-led Open Working Group of the United Nations General Assembly (OWG) presents their proposal of 17 (SDGs) with its SDG 5
- **2014**: launch of the UN Women solidarity campaign HeforShe.

Children's Rights

The history of children's rights begins as well in the 19th century. At the time, the idea that children were in need of special legislative attention started spreading in France, where in 1881 the laws included the right for the children to be educated.

- **1924**: a focused approach on child rights starts with the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child
- **1947**: the UN Fund for Urgency for the Children is created
- **1953**: the UN Fund for Urgency for the Children is changed into the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and granted the status of a permanent international organisation
- **1959**: adoption of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child
- **1979**: International Year of the Child
- **1990**: the Convention on the Rights of the Child enters in force.

Lately the focus on children is constantly growing, thanks to MDGs 2 and 3 and SDGs 1 to 4; and the requirement, for governments, to report every 5 years to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

5. Topic overview

"SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"

Gender equality can be understood as a means of equal standing, empowerment, treatment and participation of both genders regarding their public and private lives, and looks at the economic, educational, social (including health) and political appreciation of the complementarity of males and females along with their diverse roles in societal and personal spheres. However, it still remains just a Utopian ideology today: despite advances in the modern era, discrimination based on gender wields social strife in both developed and developing nations throughout the globe. Moreover, such inequality doesn't just extend to adults, but victimizes children as well.

However, with bodies such as United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), the UN Women, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), which have all adopted missions to eliminate gender disparity in various forms prevalent in environments affecting people of all ages and from every social strata, gender justice by way of ending discrimination and empowerment are very realistic goals.

Yet, despite various efforts globally, no country has fully attained gender equality. While the MDGs have created a little momentum that has allowed a certain degree of focus on sensible issues, it is often remarked that the lack of an efficient measurement and monitoring system has made them inefficient, or at least not perfectly adherent to the reality. Moreover, the MDGs failed to address the gender divide, leaving out nearly all the issue that needed attention to achieve gender equality. A step forward was made in the Rio+20 conference in 2012 through the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs). The evolution presented by the SDGs is clear when it comes to the topic we're addressing: a major number of goals and targets have been created, with less generic and more measurable goals. While the main focus is on SDG 5, every SDG involves a comprehensive plan to uplift women, eliminate gender discrimination and address the disparity between genders. They also look to solve issues regarding child gender conformity and children's rights in a gender mainstreamed environment.

It is important to address the scope of the issue of gender equality: while it is more visible in more areas than others, it is a global as well as a specific issue, as well as a human rights issue. Relating to this, we can take reference from the UNDR, such as article 1, 7 and 17, as examples, as most can be discussed. Gender inequality is a reality throughout the world; women are often not equals with men in the eyes of the law (art.7), they do not have the right to own property by themselves (art.17) or they are just not born with the same rights (art.1) because they are female. The discussion is focused by many on the actual roots of gender equality disparity and mostly comes down to human rights violations.

The concept of universal human rights is truly an evolutionary step forward in humankind. It creates a sense of equality within the population that is unprecedented from the slavery, serfdom, class and caste domination of the past. However, its emancipatory capacity has come into question in recent decades even when it has been clearly laid down in the International Bill of Rights. The reason has been the use of human rights by International Organizations and Western countries to intervene in the affairs of developing countries, even in Russia and China. The UNHRC forms the backbone of the current human rights regime and it

has been blamed for looking only into some human rights abuses, while ignoring others. This is true when it comes to gender equality issues, as well as more media prominent subjects, such as the Israeli bombing of Gaza or its actions against Palestinians (while looking annually at the Sri Lankan civil war).

It is currently believed by certain countries that the norms of human rights adopted by the UNHRC are western and the suitability of these rights in non-western cultures is been questioned. Even though many Muslim countries are signatories to international human rights conventions (which means they formally recognize international human rights standards), other Muslim countries reject them on religious grounds. For example, gender equality is largely ignored by Islamic countries. In Indonesia, female applicants to the army must undergo virginity tests to get the job. The issue of the Muslim female garments has been a huge issue after France banned it in public citing it's a human rights abuse. However, while in French society freedom of expression is paramount and entails freedom to wear what one desires, it is not so in Muslim society. Muslim women are brought up to believe that the niqab or burqa is essential to their dignity and individuality. Not being able to wear it can put in question these essential aspects of one's rights.

The problem is how different societies perceive the problem differently; many authors portray their perception of Human Rights and believe that a contextual cultural approach is the appropriate means by which to promote universal recognition of the concept of Human Rights. However, many believe that this brings down international standards of Human Rights because there is a level of ambiguity, whether this approach is a sincere commitment to local cultures or just means for countries to violate the current context of Human Rights by their practices.

6. Aspects of Gender Equality and Empowerment

"Gender equality and empowerment" are terms that open up to a vast area of studies that can be divided in four areas of concern: Economy, Society, Education, Health and Law & Policies. Furthermore empowerment of children will be discussed as the end of each section.

a. Economy

Women, employment and the economy

"There are considerable differences in women's and men's access to and opportunities to exert power over economic structures in their societies. In most parts of the world, women are virtually absent from or are poorly represented in economic decision-making, including the formulation of financial, monetary, commercial and other economic policies, as well as tax systems and rules governing pay." (from the Directory of Un Resources on Gender and Women's Issues)

Strategic objectives F.1 and F.2 of the "Action for Equality, Development and Peace" platform originated from The UN 4th World Conference on Women, held in 1995 in Beijing are: *Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources* and *Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade.* Following the same path SDG5 "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" includes *"5.a undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance*

with national laws". Nevertheless data shows that there still are consistent disparities between men and women when it comes to paid work, unpaid care and domestic work and access to resources.

Even though women make up 40% of the world's workforce and investing in them would lead to increases in the development of economies and more equitable societies, the participation rate in labour markets is unequal: in 2013, the male employment-to-population ratio stood at 72.2 per cent, while the ratio for females was 47.1 per cent. Studies show that if female employment rates were to match male rates, overall GDP would grow in the US by 5%, in Japan by 9% and in developing countries like Egypt by 34%. Moreover a transition to full gender equality in labour market would lead to a theoretical gain of 6800 € per capita for the EU as a whole. Ultimately, the Global Gender Gap report, published by the World Economic Forum, suggests a strong correlation between countries with higher levels of gender equality and those who are the most economically competitive.

Women's impact is particularly strong on agriculture. In the world at least 1.6 billion women - more than a quarter of the total world population produces more than half of all the food that is grown in the world, up to 80 percent in Africa and 60 percent in Asia. Nevertheless for women, it is often particularly difficult to own or control land due to legal or cultural restrictions. A clear example is Uganda: women scarcely own any land at all, yet make up almost 75 percent of the agricultural labour force.

Economic opportunities are linked to access to credit; however, women entrepreneurs and employers face greater challenges than men in gaining access to financial services. In developing economies women are 20 percent less likely than men to have an account at a formal financial institution and 17 percent less likely to have borrowed formally in the past year. Even if the access is in theory existent, there are multiple obstacles: women may gain access to a loan, but not to other financial services, there may be strict requirements such as a male family member's permission and a diffused lack of financial education is permanently at the basis of the gender economic inequality.

Women and Poverty

"More than 1 billion in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones. Poverty is a complex, multidimensional problem, with origins in both the national and international domains." (from the Directory of Un Resources on Gender and Women's Issues)

Women in poverty face extreme difficulties: more than 1.3 billion women don't have any financial involvement in institutions. This includes banks, cooperatives, credit unions, post offices, and micro finance institutions. Women in poverty are unable to pay for their education resulting in their children being forced into poverty when they grow up. Furthermore the issues builds up on the fact that children from poverty stricken couples end up earlier in sweatshops and heavy labour jobs at an early age thus depriving them of the fundamental education received by children from financially stable couples.

Women play an important role in a poverty stricken family. Since the family cannot afford certain services such as laundry or household help, it's the women that have to cope with up

all the chores. Furthermore the women have to financially support their families as well and in certain cases employ into illegal or socially unacceptable jobs such as being self employed for local drug dealers or end up as a sex worker.

More than men it's the women that pay a heavier casualty when placed in poverty and are much more difficult to escape the cycle.

In addition to these issues women who don't have a proper education end up in a lower pay than men, which again contributes to the factor of poverty. Women from minority groups face additional difficulties because they are looked down on due to their racial profile.

Wage gap

In most countries women earn 60 to 75 % of men's wages, but an increase in the share of the household controlled by women would lead to changes in the spending of it in ways that benefit the children. Women could increase their income globally by up to 76 per cent if the employment participation gap and the wage gap between women and men were closed. One influential factor is unpaid care work: women devote 1 to 3 hours more a day to housework than men; 2 to 10 times the amount of time a day to care (for children, elderly, and the sick), and 1 to 4 hours less a day to market activities.

Moreover, women are more likely to work in informal employment: in South Asia over 80 per cent of women in non-agricultural jobs are in informal employment, in sub-Saharan Africa, 74 per cent, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, 54 per cent.

Children and the workforce

Child labour is "work that children should not be doing because they are too young to work, or – if they are old enough to work – because it is dangerous or otherwise unsuitable for them". Nevertheless, as of today, over 100 million children work in different sectors: some are engaged in agricultural labor, mining, manufacturing, domestic labor, while others are trapped in forms of slavery in armed conflicts, forced labour and debt bondage (to pay off debts incurred by parents and grandparents) as well as in commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities. It is a violation of fundamental human rights, since it jeopardizes children's development, with potential lifelong damage.

Of an estimated 215 child laborers around the globe: approximately 114 million (53%) are in Asia and the Pacific; 14 million (7%) live in Latin America; and 65 million (30%) live in sub-Saharan Africa. Child labour is found in nearly every industry including the sex industry. Underdeveloped nations have exploited their children in order to rise out of poverty and have a better economical situation than before.

Reducing, or even eliminating, child labour would lead to better lives for the children, but also to an overall economical gain: an ILO study shows that eliminating child labour could generate economic benefits nearly seven times greater than the costs, mostly associated with investment in better schooling and social services.

b. Society

Women in Power and Decision Making

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his/her country. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of both transparent and accountable government and administration and sustainable development in all areas of life." (from the Directory of UN Resources on Gender and Women's Issues)

According to the Women's Empowerment Principles (UN Women), 'Empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors is essential to build stronger economies, achieve internationally agreed goals for development and sustainability, and improve the quality of life for women, men, families and communities.' To achieve this goal, it is important societies understand the role that women undertake in power and decision-making, which is arguably not the case. While it is a widespread issue everywhere, it is a larger topic in developed societies, mainly because underdeveloped places still live under a patriarchal school of thought. Data showed in a study published in 2012 by the European Commission in 2012 shows the discrepancy in numbers when it comes to public opinion regarding the topic: 76% of Europeans agree that the business industry is dominated by men, who do not have sufficient confidence in women, but while many agree that the reason why women are underrepresented relates with not having enough time and taking care of their families (68%), they do not think women have less ability to do so than men (only 21% seem to agree with this).

It is evident how society has changed when it comes to women in power: while past numbers gave more importance to lack of ability than anything else (perhaps with the exception of traditional thinking regarding women's role in the home, and not working outside), today the problem resides in lack of regulation when it comes to hiring women, and opportunities in career advancement. It is currently argued if, and in that case how, a system can be put in place such that the two genders are treated fairly; while some defend a quota system others argue its lack of efficiency (and question if someone shouldn't be hired should the quota be already filled, discriminating by gender and reversing the process to unfairness, which is what it aimed to overtake in the first place). However, and while methodology is argued over, the remark that measures should be put in place to reverse the situation and ensure women are represented fairly, both by governments and the private sector, sustains itself more than ever.

It is worth mentioning that it is not only in the numbers that the problem resides: roots of societal thinking come into place when discussing the topic. While in Europe basic tasks such as driving a car can be performed by both women and men, in countries such as Saudi Arabia (maybe the most illustrative example) these are forbidden; activities such as going to the doctor by themselves are frowned upon; and the list keeps going. It's important to relate these issues to rights and women's empowerment, because the role they play in society, the controls exerted upon their personal freedom, do not allow equality in the full meaning of the word. In 2015, women registered to vote for the first time, and this represented a huge step forward in Saudi women's movement towards gender equality in the country while, at the same time, 'it is not enough to secure women's full integration into Saudi public life' (Human Rights Watch).

It is therefore vital to undertake work at a grassroots level, understanding the issues from the beginning and what is behind them; it is useful to find solutions towards the problem but also

geared towards the premises, or arguments had as absolute truths, that lead to these problems.

Women and the Media

"*During the past decade, advances in information technology have facilitated a global communications network that transcends national boundaries and has an impact on public policy, private attitudes and behaviour, especially of children and young adults. Everywhere the potential exists for the media to make a far greater contribution to the advancement of women.*" *(from the Directory of Un Resources on Gender and Women's Issues)*

When referring to women and the media one has to go back to the roots of 'traditional' feminism, which first became a topic during the French and American Revolutions in the 18th Century. However, it didn't become a global issue until the British suffragette movement in the late 19th Century. Since then, however, and with a second wave in the 60s, the definition evolved. This is also what is happening nowadays and it is important to distinguish between feminism in its root sense and the interpretations that different people and societies make of the word.

Feminism is, according to the Oxford AL Dictionary, 'the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes'. The misinterpretation of the term is the cause of many anti-feminism movements, and these are highlighted all over social media, with comments referring to sexism and bias against men. It is, therefore, key to understand sources when we refer to feminists and feminism movements and what they are all about, being for women's rights but more importantly for equality when it comes to gender issues.

Social media nowadays plays a huge role when it comes to gender equality: movements are better known across the world and initiatives gain momentum faster now more than ever; these platforms are used by women activists to debate the topic and reach new audiences. Feminism is now an issue everywhere, with Universities across the role taking a special part in educating new generations about gender equality, women's empowerment and what governments do about it. In recent years, examples such as the rising popularity of television shows depicting strong female lead roles have boosted even more talk about such themes on social media: the numbers are clear when it comes to usage of these kinds of mediums, with women being both more present and more active online.

One of the most prominent campaigns, in the last year, was Emma Watson's 'HeForShe' movement. This one is particularly important because it brought, not for the first time but with a lot more power behind it, the message that gender equality is not a women's issue, it is everyone's problem. The thought behind is of extreme value, as solving a problem with half of the population behind it can't be compared to the efforts of everyone; and society still hasn't taken the necessary steps towards achieving this goal. It is also important not to underestimate how these movements can make a real difference in the world: when it comes to being backed by distinguished societal leaders, people are pushed to act and participate in an effective way. Media has also taken an important role regarding the definition of gender itself; as well as the rights that are associated with it. More and more, there are movements contradicting the traditional gender binary system, which classifies humans as either male or female. An example of this is celebrities assuming gender fluidity, with which people can associate; neither male

nor female. While the discussion is still taboo in many parts of the word, in westernised countries the phenomena has been gaining momentum, and it will only continue to grow.

Women and armed conflict

"An environment that maintains world peace and promotes and protects human rights, democracy and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the principles of non-threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence and of respect for sovereignty as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, is an important factor for the advancement of women." (from the Directory of Un Resources on Gender and Women's Issues)

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
• All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

'It is estimated that close to 90 per cent of current war casualties are civilians, the majority of whom are women and children, compared to a century ago when 90 per cent of those who lost their lives were military personnel.' (UN)

While history is clear when it comes to women in armed conflict, the numbers say something different. In a traditional patriarchic society, men are the ones who in times of war, fight for their country and community. This continues to be true in many countries, although women have gained the right, in most, to be part of the military, first being offered auxiliary roles and then put in combat (in the US women fought during the Civil, Revolutionary and Mexican Wars). However, access has been denied to specific parts when it comes to women, mainly because of traditional views and women considered to be the 'weaker sex', and this is changing at a faster pace than ever. Women make up 15% of the US military and traditional men branches, such as the Rangers, have seen their first two women graduating recently, making headlines across the world.

Untraditional women fighting forces are making the headlines in the past few years. An example of this is the Kurdish women's militia fighting ISIS (IS/Daesh) west of the Syrian border. ISIS has made headlines for a while, and more recently because of their policy of rape and enslaving women, selling them in markets and trading them. These issues have sparked worldwide outrage and many Western countries are moving against IS in the region. Women fighters have taken upon themselves to defend their honor and as such participate actively in fighting ISIS.

While more women enlist in the military across the world, they are also the ones who suffer the most during armed conflict. Various methods are employed such as murder, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and forced sterilization, with the most prominent being rape, as discussed above. It is however important to state that while the issue is being publicized more than never, it is not new: in every war women and children are the ones who take the biggest toll.

Children in modern society

One today's most discussed topic is human trafficking, with a particular focus on child trafficking. This horrific industry generates approximately up to $10 billion per year. While it's hard to have exact numbers since child trafficking is mostly hidden, and victims often fearful of

coming forward, one estimate is that 50 percent of trafficking victims are children. Children from poor households or with minimal or no education are the ones most at risk: they are lured by the promise of better prospective for the future. Children are smuggled across international borders or trafficked within their home countries, usually from rural to urban areas, forced to work in hazardous conditions, sold into domestic labour, marriage or prostitution, recruited as child soldiers, and offered up for illegal adoptions.

The issue is even more alarming for girls: girls as young as 13, mainly from Asia and Eastern Europe, are trafficked as "mail-order brides", and commonly forced into prostitution or involved in pornography, while in West and Central Africa, large numbers of children, especially girls, are trafficked for domestic work. Human trafficking, and especially child trafficking, violates all human rights, with a particular focus on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

c. Education

 "Education is human right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace. Non-discriminatory education benefits both girls and boys and thus ultimately contributes to more equal relationships between women and men." (from the Directory of Un Resources on Gender and Women's Issues)

At the end of the 2013 school year, 124 million children and young adolescents, roughly between the ages of 6 and 15 years, had either never started school or had dropped out, compared to 122 million in 2011. The data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) show that the global number of children and young adolescents not enrolled in school is rising at the same time that the international community is setting a new sustainable development goal that includes universal secondary education.
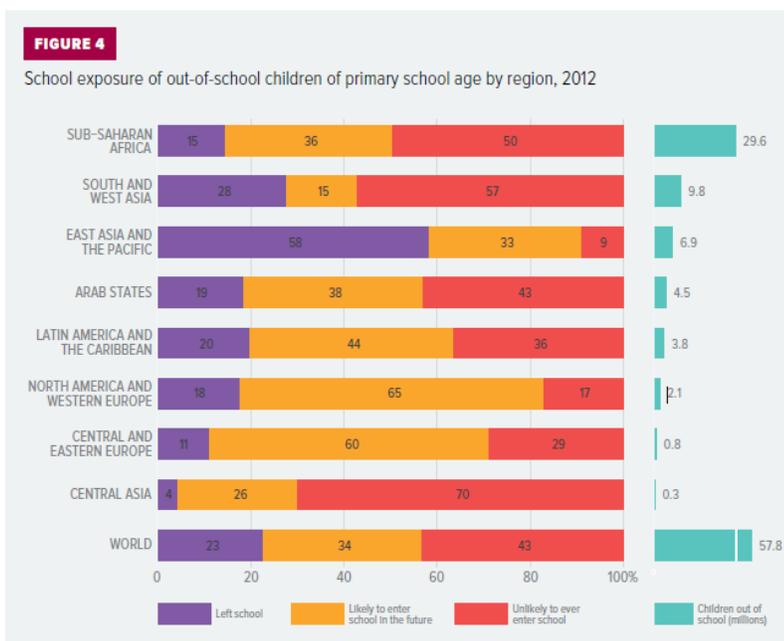
Moreover, poverty is a key factor: while a lack of education leads to smaller incomes, data shows that poor young men and women complete fewer years of education than their better-off peers, a disparity that becomes even bigger when we include the number of people who never went to school, mostly children from the poorest households.

The efforts to reduce the gender gap have also faltered in recent years: while the gap is smaller than in the early 2000s, data shows little improvement in recent years, despite the many campaigns and initiatives designed to break the barriers that keep girls out of school. Sub-Saharan African regions account for more than one-half of all out-of-school children worldwide, 55 per cent is composed by girls.

Education is considered the primary mode of empowerment

Rome Model United Nations 2015

FIGURE 4

School exposure of out-of-school children of primary school age by region, 2012

Region	Left school	Likely to enter school in the future	Unlikely to ever enter school	Children out of school (millions)
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	15	36	50	29.6
SOUTH AND WEST ASIA	28	15	57	9.8
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	58	33	9	6.9
ARAB STATES	19	38	43	4.5
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	20	44	36	3.8
NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE	18	65	17	2.1
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE	11	60	29	0.8
CENTRAL ASIA	4	26	70	0.3
WORLD	23	34	43	57.8

and a means to achieve gender parity. On such premises, the UN launched its goal: to eliminate the gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015, measuring the progress through statistics such as the ratio of girls to boys in all levels of education, literacy in women as compared to men, women working outside the agricultural sector, and female governmental leaders worldwide.
The global literacy rate for all males is 88.6% and the rate for all females is 79.7%.

The main problem lies in the African regions; specific countries being South Sudan which have a low literacy rate and a high percentage of the population leaving school early.

Among youths, 126 million were illiterate, of which 77 million were female. Even though the global illiterate population is shrinking, the female proportion has remained virtually steady at 63% to 64%.

Among the causes of the gender gap in education are the lack of sanitation facilities, sexual violence and forced child marriages, negative classroom environments where girls may face exploitation or corporal punishment and a lack of female teachers. Recent estimates show that one-third of girls in the developing world are married before age 18, and one-third of women in the developing world give birth before age 20. If all girls had secondary education in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia, child marriage would fall by 64 per cent, from almost 2.9 million to just over 1 million.

Significant change in the numbers when it comes to education can be achieved through cultural changes, better infrastructures and an infinity of other means. One of those is compulsory education, a period of education imposed by law. While some kind of schooling is mandatory to all people in most countries, the requirements vary from country to country. Most countries have their school leaving age set at the same of the minimum full-employment age while others have several years between those two, running the risk of giving children the possibility of leaving school too early to acquire a sufficient amount of general knowledge.

d. Health

Women's health in relation to social and cultural rights

"Women have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The enjoyment of this right is vital to their life and well-being their ability to participate in all areas of public and private life." *(from the Directory of Un Resources on Gender and Women's Issues).*

The primacy of a woman's biological and reproductive role is a product of societal and cultural norms world over. Because women are still defined as instruments in terms of child bearing and familial responsibilities, it limits and causes a huge setback in according a sense of equal treatment between genders. If social rights are defined as those basic fundamentals that allow a sense of full participation in the life of a society, women are severely lacking in this right.

But one must understand that women and men are both subject to gender discrimination in respective regions, being either patriarchal or matriarchal, with their respective social conformities and cultural practices. Women empowerment is not a matter of feminism, but a

movement to encourage the thought that women should be equally treated, and subject to the exact same conditions as that of men, without allowing any room for bias and prejudice. It is here that 'gender equality' has a greater role to play with respect to both genders and members of the LGBT affiliation.

When spoken of, social justice and gender equality; refer to justice in terms of distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges within a society on equal par. From a lack of access to health and safety facilities, poor and inequitable distribution of opportunities to financial aid, education and employment to unavailability of the most basic amenities necessary for survival with dignity, women world over are subject to discriminatory practices and treatment because of traditional and cultural norms and identification of roles in personal and social spheres.

As per UNstats (un.org): "Poor infrastructure and housing conditions as well as natural hazards disproportionately affect women from the less developed regions in terms of unpaid work, health and survival. More than half of rural households and about a quarter of urban households in sub-Saharan Africa lack easy access to drinking water. In most of those households, the burden of water collection rests on women, thereby reducing the amount of time they can spend on other activities. Lack of access to clean energy fuels and improved stoves in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Southern and South-Eastern Asia continue to have a major impact on health. Women are more exposed than men to smoke from burning solid fuels because they spend more time near a fire while cooking and more time indoors taking care of children and household chores, thus increasing their likelihood to develop respiratory infections, pulmonary disease and lung cancer."

Reproductive rights
According to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), "reproductive health" is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of reproductive disease or infirmity.

Without reproductive freedom, women's rights to legal equality and social equity cannot be guaranteed. The right of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is an inherent human right as recognized in major human rights instruments; including the UDHR, ICESCR, CRC, CEDAW, and the ICERD.

Women should be granted the right to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility and the right of access to appropriate health care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant.

Every ninety seconds, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth. Most of these deaths are preventable, but due to gender-based discrimination many women are not given the proper education or care they need.

One influential factor, affecting reproductive freedom is access to maternal leave and prenatal and postnatal care leave, an issue common to both developed and developing countries, despite the right to assistance of motherhood being part of Article 25 of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights. The USA, no. 1 in the top 100 GDPs by nation, is the only developed country not to mandate paid maternity leave for mothers. The only other countries with that distinction are Papua New Guinea, Swaziland, Liberia, and Lesotho, none of which come within touching distance of the top 100 GDPs by nation.

There are many issues affecting reproductive freedom in various parts of the world: forced-childbirth (eg: Romania), forced-abortion (eg: China), poor access to affordable birth control, poor access to a healthy diet sufficient to safely undergo childbirth, unnecessary caesareans, female genital mutilation (FGM) to stimulate fertility, inequitable access to healthcare for women, and many more in both developed and developing nations of the world.

A reported 289,00 women were victims to maternal mortality during 2013,12% of the women aged between 15-45 do not have access to contraceptives to avoid unwanted and forced pregnancy.

Violence against Women

"Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms." (from the Directory of Un Resources on Gender and Women's Issues)

The issue of violence against women lies in the stereotypical portrayal of women as the weaker ones. Generally speaking, but with emphasis in Eastern and Middle Eastern cultures, the idea of "woman" is associated with the need of a man to go through life.

Violence against women by way of rapes (including marital rape), incest and forced intercourse, sexual battery, female genital mutilation and child abuse, trafficking and forced prostitution are factors which contribute to an inability to uphold women's sexual and reproductive rights.

As many as one in four women experience physical or sexual violence during pregnancy. Violence during this period could cause serious injury to the mother as well as the baby. In some extreme cases miscarriage and death has been induced due to violence.

An estimated 603 million women are exposed to domestic violence in countries where it isn't considered a crime. The UN Department on Social Affair says: "While rates of women exposed to violence vary from one region to the other, statistics indicate that violence against women is a universal phenomenon and women are subjected to different forms of violence – physical, sexual, psychological and economic – both within and outside their homes."

Children and health

Children are those who are more affected by poverty and lack of infrastructure as it is reflected by the statistics on malnutrition, infant mortality and many more.

Around 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life: 3·1 million child deaths annually or 45% of all child deaths in 2011 are caused by undernutrition. Undernutrition magnifies the effect of every disease, including measles and malaria, at an early age it leads to reduced physical and mental development. One out of six children -- roughly 100 million -- in developing countries is underweight and it also affects

school performance: 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

As for the infant mortality rates: 6.3 million children under the age of five died in 2013, half of them for reasons that could be prevented or treated with access to simple, affordable interventions. MDG 4 has caused some progress: since 1990 the under-five mortality rate has dropped from 90 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 46 in 2013, but it's still insufficient to reach the MDG target of a two-thirds reduction of 1990 mortality levels by the year 2015.

Moreover, given that 44% of all child deaths occur within the first month of life, providing skilled care to mothers during pregnancy, as well as during and after birth, would highly contribute to child survival.

e. Law & Policies

Law and Policies are fundamental tools in the path to a complete achievement of gender equality. Nevertheless, passing the necessary laws is not enough: implementation is key when it comes to making the theoretical laws a reality. As per UN Women (http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/passing-strong-laws-and-policies): "Measures to strengthen effective implementation should include training of officials who handle cases of violence against women, the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and impact evaluation as well as accountability and better coordination. Committing adequate human and financial resources is also essential."

As the Un Women underlines, these instruments lead to a concrete change in attitudes and behaviors in the long term, conveying a powerful message when accompanied by awareness-raising strategies.

Sharia law

The Islamic legal system, which governs people and prosecutes them based on its codes. Sharia law is pictured in the western world as to stone adulterers, whipping thieves, condoning pedophiles and most importantly oppressing women. In some countries Sharia law applies in full; meaning it covers criminal issues as well as personal status issues, whereas in some countries it covers only personal status issues.

The problem arises when women are not given the rights they deserve. For example the nation of Saudi Arabia does not allow women to drive vehicles. This is gender discrimination and therefore would pose a question in the western world as to whether women in these regions are having their rights violated.

In rape cases, the victim, the woman, is usually accused of adultery regardless of the fact that it was a rape: the victim becomes the offender. Such trials have raised questions as many women have been put to death, as they have been found guilty for adultery when in fact they were raped. Even if the woman was to be proven innocent, three male persons are needed to give a testimony as a witness that the woman in fact did not carry out the crime of adultery.

Local judiciary bodies

Of particular interest is the case of local judiciary bodies. It presents multiple aspects of great interest that reflect the controversial nature of these bodies. Delegates aiming to know more about the topic can refer to the following link: http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/khap-panchayat-signs-of-desperation/article424506.ece

7. Points to consider / Areas to address

The Executive Committee recommends that delegates address three specific questions, applying them in generality to the topic in question.

i.   What has been done so far and why hasn't it been enough? The second part of this question is particularly important, given the efforts clearly haven't sufficed in any aspect of this theme. It is also important to regard all aspects of the matter, such as societal mindset, values, history and others.

ii. What can be done (in solution form) in the future? This regards special consideration of economic and political background, as well as cultural and societal issues as per discussed earlier in the document, and should turn out to be the basis of a resolution.

iii. How do countries, governments and organizations ensure this solution to be both viable and sustainable? Delegates should take special regard with areas torn by war, serious human rights violations, corruption and others.

8. References and further research

Women, employment and the economy

- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_the_economy_3006.htm
- https://books.google.lk/books?isbn=1848442939
- ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=3988&langId=en
- www.refworld.org/pdfid/46cadad40.pdf

Women and Poverty

- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_poverty_3001.htm
- http://www.theprisma.co.uk/2012/07/15/prostitution-in-the-uk-part-1-poverty-the-driving-force/
- http://www.globalcitizen.org/Content/Content.aspx?id=058f8fee-01f4-4508-a54d-464ff22a4716

Wage gap

- http://www.wageproject.org/files/why.php
- https://web.stanford.edu/group/scspi/_media/pdf/key_issues/gender_research.pdf
- http://fortune.com/2015/04/14/5-things-wage-gap/

Children and the workforce

- http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---webdev/documents/publication/wcms_071311.pdf
- http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/childlabour/
- https://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/about/what_is_child_labor.html
- http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_child_labour.html
- http://www.theguardian.com/law/child-labour

Women in Power and Decision Making

- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_in_power_and_decision_making_3007.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_376_en.pdf
- http://www.unwomen.org/en/partnerships/businesses-and-foundations/womens-empowerment-principles#sthash.5Bm1PEQE.dpuf
- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/saudi-arabia-womens-rights/
- https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/08/20/dispatches-saudi-women-registering-vote-start
- http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2012/03/revenga.htm - Article on 'Smart Economics' and Women (IMF)
- http://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/womeninstemagaptoinnovation8311.pdf - Women in STEM, USA
- http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/syl-saller/women-role-models_b_7799572.html - Opinion article on the importance of role models role models, gender equality and empowerment of women

Women and the Media

- http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/231970
- http://www.heforshe.org
- https://www.genderspectrum.org/quick-links/understanding-gender/
- http://fortune.com/2015/06/29/gender-fluid-binary-companies/
- http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/feminism
- http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/08/04/woman-2
- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_media_10123.htm

Women and Environment

- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_environment_3011.htm

Women and Armed Conflict
- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_armed_conflict_3005.htm
- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/session/presskit/fs5.htm
- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_armed_conflict_3005.htm
- http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/14/world/middleeast/isis-enshrines-a-theology-of-rape.html?_r=0
- http://www.infoplease.com/us/military/women-history.html
- http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/11808831/Americas-first-two-female-Rangers-complete-their-training.html

- http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/war-with-isis-meet-the-kurdish-womens-militia-fighting-for-their-families-west-of-the-syrian-town-of-ras-alayn-10274956.html

Children in modern society
- http://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58005.html
- http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_14616/lang--en/index.htm
- http://endviolence.un.org/situation.shtml

Education and Training of Women

- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/education_and_training_of_women_3002.htm
- http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Pages/literacy-data-release-2014.aspxhttp://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Pages/literacy-data-release-2014.aspx
- http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Pages/literacy-data-release-2014.aspx
- http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Pages/literacy-data-release-2014.aspxhttp://www.unicef.org/education/bege_70640.htmlhttp://www.unicef.org/education/bege_70640.html

Women and Health

- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_health_3003.htm
- http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/campaigns/demand-dignity/maternal-health-is-a-human-right
- http://gamapserver.who.int/gho/interactive_charts/mdg5_mm/atlas.html
- http://gamapserver.who.int/gho/interactive_charts/mdg5/atlas.html?indicator=i4

Reproductive rights

- https://www.amnesty.org/en/search/?issue=1630
- https://books.google.lk/books?isbn=1135926018
- http://www.reproductiverights.org/press-room/huffington-post-fight-womens-reproductive-rights-winning-losing-abortion-war-Roe

Violence against Women

- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/violence_against_women_3004.htm
- http://endviolence.un.org/situation.shtml
- http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/

Children and health

- https://www.wfp.org/hunger/malnutrition
- http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/
- http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs178/en/

Sharia law
- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-david-liepert/al-sharia-whats-wrong-with-sharia-law_b_1390132.html
- http://www.smh.com.au/world/acehs-sharia-law-raped-and-beaten-then-formally-whipped-20150109-12kucb.html

International Instruments and Treaty Bodies

"Information on legal instruments and other relevant international standards of particular importance to women's human rights and gender equality, including CEDAW and other treaty bodies." (from the Directory of Un Resources on Gender and Women's Issues)

- http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/instruments_treaties_1003.htm
- http://az804972.vo.msecnd.net/~/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2012/12/unw_legislation-handbook%20pdf.pdf?v=1&d=20141013T121502
- http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/gender-equality/resources/conventions-and-declarations/

9. Position Paper Guidelines

A Position Paper is a document divided into 3 parts (A, B, and C) in which you should present an elaboration of the topic of your Roundtable, a general stance of your assigned Country, International Organization, or NGO, and proposals for solution.

STRUCTURE

A. An overall analysis and elaboration of the topic itself. More like a breakdown. Students should go beyond the Study Guides. **Do not repeat what the study guide says, but tie the points together**.

B. The general stance of your country on the topic; mention any **treaties, agreements and policies** that your country follows with regard to the topic.

C. This part should mainly focus on the solutions that could be brought out to the committee. These proposals **do not** need to be explicitly followed by your country or mentioned in any particular source on the Internet. These can be your own ideas. Ideas you believe that you can present, representing your assigned Country, International Organization, or NGO. Delegates are **allowed to tweak** their foreign policy to come to a consensus, **however do keep in mind that foreign policy should not be consistently misrepresented.**

FORMATTING

The main text of the position paper (parts A, B and C) must stick to the following format:

1) Use font '**Times New Roman**' and size **12**

2) Keep the margins to **1.5 cm** on **all sides**

3) Line spacing should be **1.5**

4) Character spacing should be **normal**

5) The body of the text should be **justified**

The <u>citations</u> must follow the following format:

1) Use font '**Times New Roman**' and size **9**

2) Line spacing should **be single**

3) Character spacing should be **normal**

4) Body of text should be **left aligned**

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1) Word limit should be strictly followed (**1000 words including citations**)

2) Please cite sources you have used. **References should be included as footnotes**.

3) The country's watermark can be used if the delegate wishes however this should not reduce the readability of the document.

4) Footer should have your **name on the right** and your **respective Roundtable on the left**

5) Save the document as a **pdf** with a name in the format: "**<Country/IO/NGO>_<Name>.pdf** "

The latest date for the submission of the Position Paper is <u>30TH SEPTEMBER MIDNIGHT CEST</u>. Delegates who submit their position papers after this deadline will <u>not </u>be eligible for awards.

All delegates should send their position papers to the following e-mail address of Roundtable 2: **<Respective e-mail address>**

Please find below a Position Paper template for you to use.

POSITION PAPER

Name: ………………………………………………………………………….

Country: ………………………………………………………………………

School: ………………………………………………………………………

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