

RichMUNd II

**United Nations  
Entity for Gender  
Equality and the  
Empowerment of  
Women**

**Emma Mayer**  
*Chair*

**Vaishnavi Karimpuzha**  
*Vice Chair*

Greetings delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women!

My name is Emma Mayer and I am currently a senior in the IB program at Henrico High School. I will be your chair and have been doing Model UN since 8<sup>th</sup> grade, have attended 11 conferences, and am the treasurer of the club at our school. Last year, I chaired the International Atomic Energy Agency at RichMUNd and had such a great time that I decided to return this year as well, although this committee is a drastic change of pace. In my very meager amount of free time, I love to ride horses, read lots and lots of books, and take down the patriarchy. Something I really enjoy is travelling, and I have been to many of the nations you all will be representing and have been able to learn truly invaluable information about them. I am very *very* passionate about the issues we have chosen for debate, as well as what this committee stands for, and I hope you are too at the end of our journey. I would really love to see delegates who understand these issues and have developed personal passion for them as well. In committee, I hope to see delegates fully supporting their countries' views without personal bias, respectful debate, and lots of great resolutions!

My name is Vaishnavi Karimpuzha, and I will be your vice-chair for United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNEGEEW). I am a sophomore this year and already looking forward to summer vacation. I ran the 1000 meter event for Indoor track at Henrico last year and hope to do so this year as well. I'm not a huge fan of track, but I really love running. I've ran the 10K every year since 3rd grade, and this year I'm preparing for a possible try at the Richmond Half Marathon. I've done MMA since I was very young so my karate friends are like a second family to me. I've also take Indian Classical Dance lessons since first grade, so I'm proud to support my culture. I'm not the sportiest person, but I love spending time outdoors rock climbing, biking, hiking, and swimming. My favorite place to go is the beach, I love the sun and the waves are so nice at Assateague in Maryland and Myrtle Beach. I was first introduced to MUN in 7th grade at Moody, and loved the debate and challenges it provided for us. I hope I'll be able to share that excitement and interest with each and every one of you. I hope you all enjoy the UNEGEEW committee as much as Emma and I do. Remember, although it's great to be professional and diplomatic, it's also absolutely necessary that you have fun!

For this committee, please write a two page single-spaced position paper discussing your country's history, past solutions, and future solutions all for both topics. Be sure to adhere to your

country's policy in debate. If you wish to have your position paper edited, we would love to provide some feedback for you, and you can email it to the address under the chair's name below. This will not be representative of whatever paper you turn into committee, so, in other words, it has no bearing on awards and is just a draft.

Although this is assumed, it is also important to note the magnitude and sensitivity of these topics. Please keep in mind that other delegates are representing the opinions of their countries, not their own, so none of the debate is meant to be offensive in any manner, nor does it represent the personal opinion of any of the delegates. It should go unsaid that it is incredibly important to be diplomatic and remain in decorum, and within the bounds of your country policy no matter how strongly you feel about what someone else has said or if you disagree with what your country stands for. It is vital to be mature with the vocabulary used in committee and your position paper, as well as respectful and decorous if another delegate utilizes this vocabulary. That being said, we have high hopes for what you all will do in committee, and are looking forward to it!

Best Wishes,

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## **Committee Overview**

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, or UN Women for short, was founded on July 2, 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly. This was in order to aid development of the UN's reform agenda in all of its member states. It serves as the combination of previous UN bodies of the Division for the Advancement of Women, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and the UN Development Fund for Women to achieve the common goal of gender equality and women's empowerment. The roles of UN Women are as follows: support for governmental bodies in forming legislature and global policies, aid for member states in meeting these standards with financial and technical support, and UN accountability for these policies. Currently, funding for UN Women comes from their budget as well as voluntary donations as approved by the committee. The current head of UN Women is former Deputy President of South Africa Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and the Goodwill Ambassador is actress Emma Watson, whose role is to spread awareness to the general populace.

Gender equality is incredibly important from a human rights standpoint. Women can have great contributions to economies, and empowering young women can reap especially great rewards for countries involved. The UN Women Entity serves to eliminate occupational segregation as well as salary inequality for women. They also aid in the acquisition of healthcare and education, but have a greater focus on ending violence and discrimination as well as achieving equal representation in government. UN Women aims to fix all of those specific issues, while also aiding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It will bring about the equality envisioned in the United Nations Charter.

## **Topic #1: Legalization of Abortion**

### **Introduction:**

There is ample debate over the moral and legal implications of abortion, and although many countries practice it in some form, there is still controversy on the global and national levels. Whether a country has their own policy that they feel is best, or if a country has internal controversies over abortion, setting global policy will be of great global contention. The United Nations does not have a set definition of abortion, as there are various forms that may or may not be safe for the recipient. However, for the purposes of this committee it can be defined as removing a fetus from a pregnant woman. This sounds like a simple definition, and it is; however, there are many different caveats in terms of how an abortion should be carried out and if it should even be carried out in the first place. Along with UN Women, the World Health Organization serves to address reproductive rights on a global level, ensuring that if abortion is legalized in any country that it is being done safely for both the woman and fetus involved.

A study from the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy of New York has examined policy in 191 countries and basically mapped their policy on abortion out on a spectrum, ranging from only if it saves

the life of the woman involved, to no questions asked, if the woman wants it, she gets it. These statistics should give an idea of the range of reasons for abortion laws, as well as how these reasons are distributed throughout different nations' laws. 124 of the countries (66% of the world population) go somewhere in the middle of this spectrum, with typically very unclear laws that are sometimes disingenuous of what is actually practiced in the country. 67 of these countries (34% of the population), have incredibly small ranges of reasons for an abortion; however, it is legal. 74 countries have very pro-life laws, meaning that it is incredibly difficult to get an abortion and it can only be done if the woman's life depends on it. These nations are usually developing nations of Latin America and Africa; however, Ireland, Andorra, and Malta are all European (EU) bloc members who have very conservative abortion laws. 33 nations classify only physical health reasons as "saving the woman's life," however 20 of them include mental health reasons as well. 14 member states expand reasons for an abortion to socioeconomic reasons (and health reasons). Basically, if the woman cannot afford to have a child, then it is an acceptable solution. These tend to be from the EU bloc and result from other countries

pressuring for on-demand abortion. Lastly, 50 nations (40.8% of the world's populations) allow on-demand abortion, no restrictions upon reason.

### **Defining the Issue and International**

#### **Actions:**

The abortion debate is not simple by any means, nor does it warrant a clear solution that would please all member states. There are many reasons as to why abortion should or should not be legalized including but not limited to: rights of an unborn fetus, ability of women to control their own bodies, individual vs. society, religious viewpoints, and sexuality. Those who argue for the rights of an unborn fetus (pro-life, meaning they believe that no fetus should be aborted) typically feel as though the fetus is a human from the moment it is conceived, pro-choice advocates (meaning they would prefer the women to have the right to decide for an abortion or not) instead say that a fetus is nothing but unborn cells until a certain point in the trimesters. On the other hand, the rights of the pregnant woman must be considered as well. Even the most conservative countries generally allow abortion if the woman's life depends on it (or in cases of rape or incest), however it is important to consider her mental health, socioeconomic capabilities, and desire to be

a mother. This also comes down to a human rights argument; whether or not the woman should have control over whether something a part of her body should remain or not.

The individual vs. society also becomes an issue; whether or not abortion is legal, citizens in some countries do not support abortion even though their law does, and boycott, ostracize, and generally make life incredibly difficult for women who do go through with an abortion. This can also become a human rights issue, as it can cause beatings, rapes, and other drastic behavior towards women. Religious viewpoints are also a main reason pro-life advocates cite as being against abortion, saying it was God's will that the woman be impregnated and so the fetus should not be aborted. Or, they believe abortion to be murder, especially if they believe life starts from conception, which is generally against religious views. Lastly, sexuality is a huge argument for people against abortion. Many argue that if the pregnancy came from the woman's choice to engage in sexual intercourse, that it is her responsibility to take care of it. They also argue that she did not use contraception in any of its forms, and therefore should be held responsible for her mistakes. Pro-choice advocates argue against this by stating a woman should not be held responsible for



one mistake for the 18 years the child will be under her watch. They also take into account the possibility of contraceptive failure. This also becomes a religious issue, as contraceptives are against some religions as well.

Other than the many reasons that abortion should or should not be legal, there are other considerations to make. One is that sometimes unsafe abortions are practiced, something that has become an item of agenda for the World Health Organization in recent years. Many studies find that outlawing abortion does not stop it from happening, rather it contributes to more unsafe abortions that put the pregnant woman in extreme danger. Out of 50 million worldwide abortions each year, roughly 40% are illegal, and typically none are persecuted. In essence, nearly half of the abortions performed in the world are done in a questionable manner, which is a huge issue on a woman's rights level. Another problem plaguing the abortion debate is that many countries put laws into place on abortion, but do not follow through with them. Even if an abortion is legal, the government sometimes has not set health standards on it, so the legal abortion can be as dangerous as the illegal one without proper guidelines. Along with vague health guidelines, many countries do

not set standards for reasons to have an abortion, or set vague reasons. They also do not create an entity to review those reasons, and as a result, although abortion is legal, very few views are granted.

Setting an international law for abortion will be a difficult feat due to all of the issues outlined in previous paragraphs. Whether it is legalized or not, it will be important to address the caveats of each situation such as: persecution and punishment for illegal behavior, how it will affect women's rights, and generally what public opinion will be on any resolutions.

#### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What are viable reasons, if any are needed, for a woman to have an abortion?
2. Is abortion a matter of a right of a woman to her own body, or to save the life of an unborn fetus?
3. When is a fetus considered a human being? Should there be a set definition or does it depend upon the woman getting an abortion?
4. How will your resolution treat religious issues in abortion? How will you deal with societal ostracizing from those who do not support it?
5. What are viable punishments for illegal abortions? Under what circumstances are abortions considered illegal?

6. How can sex education help decrease the number of abortions needed per year? Is this a viable option for your country's moral and religious beliefs? If so, where should it be implemented?

7. In what way can governmental abortion laws be fixed? Is this the responsibility of the government itself or a certain facet of the United Nations?

8. Should abortion even be included in global legislature, or is it up to the country to decide?

**Further Reading/Possible Resources:**

1. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. "World Abortion Policies." March 1, 2013. Accessed September 8, 2014. [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/WorldAbortionPolicies2013/WorldAbortionPolicies2013\\_WallChart.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/WorldAbortionPolicies2013/WorldAbortionPolicies2013_WallChart.pdf).

2. Derr, Mary Krane "When Does the Fetus Become a Baby?" Livestrong. October 24, 2013. Accessed September 8, 2014. <http://www.livestrong.com/article/256004-when-does-the-fetus-become-a-baby/>.

3. United Nations Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs. "Abortion Policies: A Global Review." August 2, 2001. Accessed September 8, 2014. <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/abortion/>.

4. Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute. "Dangerous Mischief at the United Nations: Abortion as the Law of the World." Accessed September 8, 2014. <http://c-fam.org/en/86-research/iorg/specialreports/688-dangerous-mischief-at-the-united-nations-abortion-as-the-law-of-the-world>.

5. Crane, Barbara, and Charlotte Smith. "Access to Safe Abortion." UN Millennium Project. February 1, 2006. Accessed September 8, 2014. [http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Crane\\_and\\_Hord-Smith-final.pdf](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Crane_and_Hord-Smith-final.pdf).



## **Topic #2 – Human Trafficking In Perspective to Women and Girls**

### **Introduction**

Although considered by many to be an issue of the past, slavery has still been a continual issue plaguing the world till this day in the form of human trafficking. It has been known to exist from even small communities in the U.S. to rural areas of Nepal, and even the crowded streets of Paris and Dubai. Thus, it is relevant to most countries worldwide as they are either places of origin, transit-hubs, or destinations for victims of human trafficking. As defined by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, Human trafficking is the “acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. (UNODC, 2008, p. 1) ” It has rapidly grown to become the second largest criminal industry in the world with an estimated 27 million victims with only 40 thousand actually identified as victims (Wade, 2014, p.16). This crime can be classified as two basic categories; sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Sex trafficking makes up seventy-nine percent of all forms of human trafficking, with its main victims being women and girls. It includes any and all forms of prostitution, stripping, pornography,

mail-order spouses, live sex shows, and sex tourism (in either private or commercial methods). Female victims have come from a wide range of backgrounds and can be exploited even in public places such as street corners as well as brothels, clubs and private residences. Many are coerced into sex trafficking by a promise of good jobs in a foreign nation, false marriage proposals, and kidnappings (UNODC, 2008, p. 32). According to the UN Women report for human trafficking, many rescued females claimed to be sold into sex trafficking by their own family members.. The Advocates for Human Rights have claimed that traffickers primarily target women because they are disproportionately affected by poverty and discrimination which limit their access to employment and educational opportunities (Phillips, 2007, p. 9) . However, the various techniques used by human traffickers are used on victims of all ages.

Labor trafficking pertains to victims being forced to work against their own will under harsh threats of violence or detrimental actions against them and/or their loved ones. Women are usually tricked into these situations due to the need of providing for themselves and their family. However, they do have a possibility of leaving their labor servitude after a certain amount of years has

been completed. Girls on the other hand are not given the option to leave and usually fall victim to physical, mental, emotional, or sexual abuse. Both female groups are subject to physical abuse such as: whippings, sexual abuse classified as rape, gang rape, and even forced breeding. Often, even after being rescued out of their labor servitude, these victims have a hard time being comfortable in their own skin and integrating back into society.

### **Defining the Issue and International Actions:**

Narrowing the root cause of human trafficking is a tricky feat to accomplish as there are a plethora of causes as to why it has become the fastest growing profitable industry. There is such a large demand for trafficking regardless of what social class or region in the world. Another factor is the problem of economic instability amongst families who may either willingly or unwillingly put their own members in trafficking situations due to their low incomes. On another note, instability in a government that cannot take care of its own people can also help fuel trafficking as victims at the greatest risk are runaways, refugees, and displaced people.

The United Nations has been consistently working against the human

trafficking industry. In 1948, the UN Declaration Human Rights added the statement in which “no one shall be held in slavery or servitude, and shall be prohibited in all forms. (UN Draft Committee, 1948, article 4) ” One year later, at the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, human trafficking was finally directly addressed. In particular it brought attention to women in the commercial sex industry which remained true until recent years. In 1999, forced labor was identified (particular to involving girls) by the International Labour Organization Convention.

In the recent decade, the United Nations created a Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Child. Adopted by the General Assembly Resolution on November 15, 2000 and put in action on December 2003, it became the first legal document which contained an official definition of human trafficking. The importance of this document cannot be underestimated as the defining of human trafficking intends to provide consistency around the world on the cracking down of human traffickers. The protocol also touched on methods to protect and assist women and

girls by means of providing housing, education, and the aide of reintegration into society. The United Nations has also covered the issues concerning border patrol and smuggling of human trafficking victims on most international borders. The Protocol Against Trafficking in Persons was also created to establish better prevention, detection, and punishment mechanisms.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. How does your country provide aid to the victims of human trafficking?
2. What are your country's prosecution methods for human trafficking offenders and victims?
3. Should the international community look after victims after their liberation? Whose responsibility is it and what methods should be used?
4. Should the international community enforce and push countries to fight human trafficking domestically or should it be treated on a global scale?
5. Does your country feel that governmental intervention is necessary to combat human trafficking?
6. What is your country's viewpoint on human trafficking and what position does it hold in the industry?

**Further Reading/Possible Resources:**

1. Stop Violence Against Women. "What Is Trafficking in Women." September 1, 2005. Accessed September 7, 2014.  
[http://www.stopvaw.org/Finding\\_a\\_Common\\_Definition\\_for\\_Trafficking.html](http://www.stopvaw.org/Finding_a_Common_Definition_for_Trafficking.html).
2. Sacco, Gabe. "Special Session Crisis Committee: Human Trafficking in the Balkans." Model UN, Fairfield, VA, 2012. Accessed September 7, 2014.  
<https://kzygmont.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/trafficking-in-the-balkans-background-guide.pdf>.
3. Harrop, Katelyn. "SOCHUM." Hofstra Model UN, Hempstead, NY, Accessed September 7, 2014.  
[http://www.hofstra.edu/pdf/home/news/ur/modelun/modelun\\_bg\\_sochum.pdf](http://www.hofstra.edu/pdf/home/news/ur/modelun/modelun_bg_sochum.pdf).
4. Ki-Moon, Ban. "Trafficking in Women and Girls." United Nations General Assembly. June 23, 2012. Accessed September 7, 2014.  
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/170](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/170).

5. Kishor, Sunita, Lisa Arensen, and Sarasu Thomas. "Baseline Study of Un Women's Anti-Human Trafficking Programme." United Nations Women Committee, NYC, NY, February 2013. Accessed September 7, 2014. <http://www.unwomensouthasia.org/assets/AHT-Final-Report-FINAL-May-20131.pdf>.

