

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND UNICEF

Handbook



TAEMUN

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Topic B: Strategies to prevent discrimination against girls and prevent such discrimination to become a threat to their life and well being.

There are many countries, cultures and religions that have a different conception about discrimination and violence against girls in our international community. This committee is looking for solutions to these differences in points of view, thoughts and conceptions about our world and our society.

Discrimination against girls has always been a problem throughout history. Though it has been more noticeable in some periods and stages of human kind past, there's still this male chauvinist attitude, because of which, women are degraded to an inhumane level even still in the XXI century. With the creation of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 1956, the protection of women and girls has been a main objective. Due to this interest, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has its place every year, trying to evaluate the progress in the struggle against discrimination in an international level and to value new proposes to solve this issue.

UNICEF focuses on children, the future of our society, and in this case on girls mainly. Girls are mostly discriminated in their communities because of tradition. Sadly, this discrimination doesn't end in their adulthood but this cultural issue usually enhances. It has been difficult to eliminate this kind of practices; however, the UN has elaborated programs to reduce abuses against women. One of these strategies is to accomplish comply with the third Millennium Development Goal *Gender equality*.

One of the strategies set in order to accomplish this goal is to eradicate gender inequality since primary and secondary education. This began in 2005 and it is expected to be implemented in all educational levels before 2015. It is a hard task because girls are isolated from all educational fields in order to be exploited sexually and work related. There are some cultures in which young girls are engaged and



married as well. Therefore, countries that support the Millennium Development Goals should raise international awareness of the situation these girls live in.

UNICEF started out its labor bringing food, clothes and health services to affected children because of World War II. After it became a permanent body of the UN, the UNICEF took part in relevant international issues, such as the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNICEF also considers children education regardless of their socioeconomic status or ethnic group as a main strategy for society.

UNICEF's midterm strategic plan applied from 2002 and 2005 has attempted to reinforce the commitments to support women's rights and mainly girls'. Therefore, their participation can be fully noticed at home and in their communities.

Gender equality is one of the most important UNICEF's tasks because this way boys and girls can have the same opportunities to develop their capacities in different aspects of life and above all, to prevent their rights from being violated.

The importance of gender equality will be reflected in other UNICEF's actions. For example, if it is wished to reduce the propagation of HIV/AIDS, it has to be clear that women, mainly girls, are in major risk than men and boys. Therefore, it is necessary to implement programs which qualify women in order to protect themselves.

This way, each and every one of UNICEF's programs should contemplate issues based on equality, this way to avoid discrimination against girls and women in order to reach gender equality. Some relevant points that would take care of girls' well being are:



1. Reduce inequality at home by giving girls access to a basic quality education, in order for them to have the same opportunities than boys.
2. Keep girls from being work exploited by their families, due to this reason, their opportunities to develop into a healthy environment and to study are taken away.
3. Make innovative programs to increase girls' and teenagers' capacity to avoid being infected with sexually transmitted diseases.
4. As there are lot of children who have suffered because of displacements caused by armed conflicts, it is important to generate humanitarian programs that reinforce the already existing ones to avoid these displacements because of military crisis.
5. Child marriage is another form of violence against girls. Therefore, an intervention is needed by numerous cultural, political and social organizations to avoid this practice to go any further.

The incorporation of a gender perspective would mean approaching a struggle to eliminate inequalities and women being abused. Battling this problem requires facing all forms of violence against women and girls; here the most important task is making the male population aware of the differences and inequalities in the treatment towards both gender groups. This is why girls and women need firm laws which are endorsed by the implementation of protective and preventive services.

The UN has worked with UNICEF and with the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This participation consists in the creation of recommendations in the actual CEDAW's resolution to eradicate the problem of discrimination which women have to go through throughout their life.

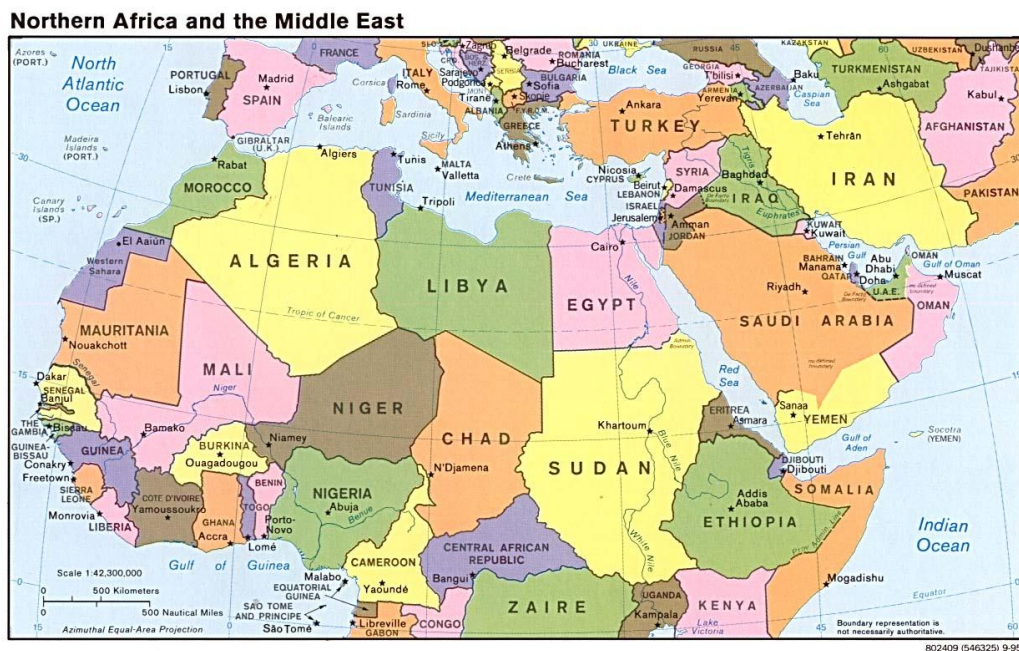
Approaching the topic from a religious point of view, it is worth mentioning that Islamic countries have a different conception about women than the rest of the world. This is why it is needed to find a midpoint, one that is just and humane so that we



can live in a peaceful environment inside our international community.

In these countries women are conceived as an object and they don’t get the rights they deserve according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This committee looks for the delegates’ support and disposition to be open for change, tolerance and respect.

Abuses and discrimination against girls can cause psychological and mental damage in their adult life because the fact that a woman is considered less than another person just for being the opposite gender is a great impact. We are dealing with a situation which has a long past: however, it still has place all over the world, having more presence in Middle East and in countries with low socioeconomic condition.



Besides discrimination, there is physical violence towards girls, which affects their mental and physical integrity. Once again, it is due to problems in the mentality of some of the members in our international community. This has to be eradicated so



we can give our girls a better future and a fulfilling, satisfactory, violence and discrimination free life. Both men and women, have the rights to be treated with respect and discrimination. Let's give that possibility to every single member of our international community.

"All men are created equal"

- Martin Luther King –



Guide Questions

1. What is the general situation of girls in your country related to discrimination?
2. What laws have been issued to defend girls' rights?
3. Did your country sign the Universal Declaration of Rights?
4. Based on the Universal Declaration of Rights, are the terms achieved for girls in your country?
5. What UNICEF resolutions have been applied in your country?
6. What result has been noticed referring to these resolutions?
7. What would be a viable solution for the discussed issue according to your delegation?

