



WOMEN



AGENDA ITEM:

- Ethical and Cultural Conflicts in the issues of Pro-Abortions
- The Misuse and Exploitation of Sexism Against Freedom of Speech

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL:

İPEK BARDAN

ACADEMIC ASSISTANTS:

PINAR MERT
ÖYKÜ SÖĞÜT

Letter From the Secretary General

Most distinguished participants and dearest guests;

It gives me the utmost pleasure and honor to announce that I will be the 8th Kadir Has University Model United Nations Conference Secretary-General for the year 2022.

In this modernized and corrupted world, a safe place where you can be seen and understood is created and called home. Be the inspiration for enhancing this world and the forerunner in doing so. The HASTRAIN'22 Academic and Organization team has made incredible efforts to provide you, the participants, with one of the best Model UN Conferences for the promises given above.

#welcomehome

Kindest Regards,

Samet Aba

Secretary-General HASTRAIN'22

Letter From the Under Secretary General

Dear delegates of UNWOMEN,

I am Deniz İpek Bardan and I'm an undergraduate student at Boğaziçi University, Foreign Language Education Department. It's a pleasure for me to serve as the Under-Secretary-General of UNWOMEN in Kadir Has University Model United Nations conference, one of the prestigious and long-established conferences in Turkey.

In this guide, you will read about pro-abortion acts, ethical and cultural conflicts it raises; the intersections of freedom of speech and hate-speech, sexism; related agreements, organizations followed by the statistics. As you read please remember that the aim of the committee is to ensure and sustain equality. The delegates are highly recommended to search for culture war, and contrary acts/beliefs on Topic A, they are further recommended to search for the evolving means of freedom of speech linked with new media and united world for Topic B.

Before wrapping up, I would like to thank Pınar Mert, and Öykü Söğüt; my beloved hardworking academic assistants, along with our lovely secretariat Samet Aba and Efe Coştu. They were the reason why the preparatory part was nice and smooth as the conference will be.

If you would have any inquiries or questions, please feel free to contact me via deniz.bardan@boun.edu.tr

Best regards,

Deniz İpek Bardan

Under-Secretary-General of UNWOMEN

Introduction to the Committee

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN): UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. UN Women's main roles are to support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms, to help Member States implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society 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.¹

Related Agreements in Both Agendas:

UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security 1325 (2000):

The resolution on women, peace, and security has been adopted by the Security Council on October 31, 2000. This resolution stresses the importance of the role of women in avoiding and resolving the conflicts and conversions after the conflict, reaffirming the significance of their equal and full participation in all acts for the continuation of peace and security. It urges all signatory parties to support the involvement of women and absorb gender stance in all humanitarian efforts. Thus, in times of armed conflicts, it calls on all to take action to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, rape, and other sexual harassment kinds in particular. The resolution also lists several obligations, which will be implicated by the Member States and the institutions of the UN system. (OSAGI, n.d.)

Sustainable Development Goals- Goal 5: Gender Equality:

Ending all gender-based discrimination is not only a basic right but also a very critical issue for a sustainable future. Even the status of women has risen in the labor market, there is still a huge gap between genders in some regions. There are 8 sub-targets that Goal 5 wants to achieve. There are still standing barriers in front of women for a sense of sexual violence and exploitation, inequality in payment, and recruitment. It is crucial to give women equal opportunities in work, sexual and reproductive health, education, and all others. Until today, we have reached great achievement however, we still have a long way to take. (UNDP, n.d.)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: UDHR is related to rights of women in every aspect. In the preamble of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, states that “*Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world*” and “*Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom*”. To take a closer look at this Declaration and relate to the most relevant articles Article 2, Article 7, Article 16, and Article 25 are directly linked to women rights as well. In Article 2, it is stated that “*Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without*

¹ About UN Women. (n.d.). Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>

distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.” Article 7 is “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.”. Article 16 and Article 25 are mentioned below:

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR): ICCPR entered into force in 1976 and by 2021 April, has 71 signatories and 171 parties to the covenant. The most relevant articles of ICCPR are Article 2, 3, 10 and 12 which are listed below:

Article 2.2. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, color, sex, language, religion, politics or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 3 - The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant.

Article 10

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that:

1. The widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, particularly for its establishment and while it is responsible for the care and educate of dependent children. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses.

2. Special protection should be accorded to mothers during a reasonable period before and after childbirth. During such period working mothers should be accorded paid leave or leave with adequate social security benefits.

3. Special measures of protection and assistance should be taken on behalf of all children and young persons without any discrimination for reasons of parentage or other conditions. Children and young persons should be protected from economic and social exploitation. Their employment in work harmful to their morals or health or dangerous to life or likely to hamper their normal development should be punishable by law. States should also set age limits below which the paid employment of child labour should be prohibited and punishable by law.

Article 12

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

2. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for:

a) The provision for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child;

International Covenant on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): States under ICESCR, have the obligation to promote universal respect for and, and observance of human rights and freedoms under the UN Charter. ICESCR is a very related document for rights of women since women are facing obstacles in social, economic and cultural levels of life, which is also the main focus of the ICESCR. Some important highlights of the covenant are listed below:

Article 2

1. Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, politics or other opinion, national or social origin property, birth or other status.

Article 3

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth in the present Covenant.

Article 14

1. All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law. The Press and the public may be excluded from all or part of a trial for reasons of morals, public order (ordre public) or national security in a democratic society, or when the interest of the private lives of the parties so requires, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice; but any judgement rendered in a criminal case or in a suit at law shall be made public except where the interest of juvenile persons otherwise requires or the proceedings concern matrimonial disputes or the guardianship of children.

Article 16

Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 18

- 1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion....*
- 2. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.*

Article 23

- 1. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.*
- 2. The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized.*
- 3. No marriage shall be entered into without the free and full consent of the intending spouses.*
- 4. States Parties to the present Covenant shall take appropriate steps to ensure equality of rights and responsibilities of spouses as to marriage during marriage and at its dissolution. In the case of dissolution, provision shall be made for the necessary protection of any children.*

Article 24

- 1. Every child shall have, without any discrimination as to race, color, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, the right to such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the State.*
- 2. Every child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have a name.*
- 3. Every child has the right to acquire nationality.*

Article 26

All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Agenda Item A: Ethical and Cultural Conflicts in the issues of Pro-Abortions

A. Topics to be discussed and general overview

Abortion is a medical procedure that terminates a pregnancy. Every year, an estimated 1 in 4 pregnancies worldwide result in abortions. While the demand for abortion is widespread, those who may want abortion services are far from guaranteed access to safe and legal abortion services.² Legalization on the matter varies; which leads to global debates on whether it should be legal or not. At first glance, there are two wide-spread beliefs which are pro-abortion, and anti-abortion, which will be discussed in detail in key-terms section. Keeping these in mind, our committee will be focusing primarily on Pro-Abortion acts, it's effects, conflicts, and promotion.

² Amnesty International. (2022). Key Facts on Abortion. Retrieved November 18, 2022 from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/sexual-and-reproductive-rights/abortion-facts/>

B. History of the topic

Abortion is defined as “exterminating the embryo and fetus inside the uterus or removing the fetus out of the uterus prematurely with the intent to terminate its presence”.³ There are two sides to abortion: pro-abortion and anti-abortion.

Proponents of abortion argue that abortion is a right for four main reasons: the right to be free from social pressure in personal matters such as reproduction, the freedom to listen to one's own conscience on morally controversial issues, the freedom not to be forced into non voluntary service, which includes the right to refuse to help others even in critical situations, freedom from bodily interference and harm.⁴

Anti-abortions believe that abortion is murder because life begins in the womb, that abortion creates a culture where life is disposable, and that increased access to birth control, health insurance, and sex education will make abortion unnecessary.

Until the early 1800s, abortion procedures and methods were legal and publicly advertised in the United States. However, abortion was irregular and often not only unsafe but also potentially fatal. In the early 1900s, most states had outlawed abortion. By 1965, all 50 states had outlawed abortion, with some exceptions that varied from state to state.

According to UN Abortion Policies Reproductive Health:

- Between 1996 and 2013, the percentage of governments allowing abortion increased gradually for all legal reasons. But despite the broadening of the legal base, policies remain restrictive in many countries.
- In 2013, abortion was allowed in approximately two-thirds of countries, when the physical or mental health of the mother was compromised, and in only half of those countries where the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest or a fetal disorder. Only a third of countries have allowed abortion for economic or social reasons or upon request.
- Legal grounds for abortion have expanded in an increasing number of countries in both developing and developed regions since 1996, but abortion policies remain much more restrictive in countries in developing regions.
- Governments in developing regions were more than four times more likely than governments in developed regions to have restrictive abortion policies. In 2013, 82 percent of Governments in developed regions allowed abortion for economic or social reasons, and 71 percent allowed abortion on demand. In contrast, only 20 percent of Governments in developing regions have allowed abortion for economic or social reasons, and only 16 percent have allowed abortions on demand.

³ Beyter, T. (2019). “Is Abortion Ethically Reasonable? What Are the Pro- and Anti-Abortion Arguments?” Evrim Ağacı. 20.11.2022 18.57. <https://evrimagaci.org/kurtaj-etik-olarak-makul-mudur-kurtaj-yanlisi-ve-karsiti-argumanlar-nelerdir-7996>

⁴ Shrage, L. (2003). “Abortion and Social Responsibility: Depolarizing the Debate.” Oxford University Press. Pp.41 https://books.google.ch/books?id=3MOqZsNBluIC&printsec=frontcover&hl=tr&source=gb_s_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

- In recent years, many Governments have implemented measures to improve access to safe abortion services within the scope of the law. In 2012, governments of 87 countries (60 percent) out of 145 countries with available data have implemented concrete measures to improve access to safe abortion services over the past five years.⁵

According to UNFPA, whether abortion is legal or not, it happens all too often. The data show that restricting access to abortion does not prevent people from resorting to abortion, but rather makes it more deadly.⁶ As the guardian of the Program of Action, UNFPA defends the right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the knowledge and tools to do so.

In Canada, the entire ban on abortion was deemed unconstitutional as it violated the integrity and safety of the woman. Cyprus, Italy and Taiwan provide an indicator for abortion for the welfare of the woman's family, while France and the Netherlands acknowledge women's abortion right. The heaviest regulation of abortion in Europe belongs to Poland. In Poland, a complete ban on abortion came to the fore in 2016, the bill caused widespread protests and women went on strike in response. However in 2020, the Polish Constitutional Court ruled that abortions performed in cases where the fetus is defective are also unconstitutional. Thus, the right to abortion was completely abolished, except in cases of rape and incest.⁷

America is still the most controversial country regarding abortion due to its surplus of states. [**Roe v. Wade** is the name of the case that led to the landmark 1973 US Supreme Court decision establishing abortion as a constitutional right in the United States. The US Supreme Court's 7-2 decision established rules based on a pregnancy trimester framework, banning legislative interference in the first trimester of pregnancy (0-12 weeks), allowing states to regulate abortion during the second trimester (weeks 13-28) "in ways that are reasonably related to maternal health," and allowing a state to "regulate, and even proscribe" abortion during the third trimester (weeks 29-40) "in promoting its interest in the potentiality of human life," unless an abortion is required to preserve the life or health of the mother. In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in **Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey** (5-4) upheld the constitutional right to have an abortion, and *Roe v. Wade*. He also extended the 3-month limit in the decision of the *Wade* case. The decision allowed states to impose waiting periods before an abortion could be performed. On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* case in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case 6-3, eliminating the federal constitutional right to abortion. Thus, it paved the way for the formation of restrictive policies on abortion.]⁸ Most Americans support the right to abortion and oppose the overturning of the 1973 Supreme

⁵ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. (2014). "Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World."

<https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/AbortionPoliciesReproductiveHealth.pdf>

⁶ UN News. (2022). "Overturning of *Roe v. Wade* abortion law a 'huge blow to women's human rights' warns Bachelet". 22.11.2022 16.47 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1121312>

⁷ BBC. 2021. "Poland enforces controversial near-total abortion ban". <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55838210>

⁸ Britannica ProCon.org. (2022). "History of Abortion". 22.11.2022 23.10. <https://abortion.procon.org/history-of-abortion/>

C. Stance of the key terms

1. Abortion

It's the termination of the pregnancy. It may occur naturally, which is referred to as miscarriage, or intentionally, which is frequently referred to as induced abortion.

Both of them may occur because of several reasons, including genetic abnormality, illnesses, trauma, or genetic defect. In some cases fetus dies in the mothers uterus, however it can not be discharged, which is called a missed abortion.⁹

2. Pro-abortion

Being in favor of the belief that the right to decide whether someone should get an abortion or not should be the women's right.¹⁰

3. Anti-abortion

Being in favor of the belief that abortion is morally unacceptable.¹¹

4. Biopolitics

A political area which studies sociopolitical effects of biotechnology.¹²

5. Pro-life

Being opposed to the belief that women should have the right to choose abortion.¹³

6. Pro-choice

Pro-choice has a very similar definition with pro-abortion. However this term covers a broader line. Even it is usually associated only with abortion, it also covers women's right to have safe sex, right to access to child-care, and further topics that cover women's sexual life and health.

7. Personhood

Personhood is a widely discussed term in biomedical ethics, especially for topics such as abortion and euthanasia. Thus, these discussions lead to different legalizations in different countries. We may divide the term into four sub-parts in order to recognize which one the policies refer to. These will be referred as; moral personhood, physical personhood, legal personhood, and metaphysical personhood.¹⁴

⁹ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia (2022, November 1). abortion. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved November 20, 2022 from <https://www.britannica.com/science/abortion-pregnancy>

¹⁰ Cambridge University Press. (2022). Meaning of pro-abortion in English. Retrieved from, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/pro-abortion>

¹¹ Cambridge University Press. (2022). Meaning of anti-abortion in English. Retrieved from, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/anti-abortion>

¹² Rifkin, J. (January 31, 2002). Fusion Biopolitics. The Nation. Retrieved from, <https://www.thenation.com/doc/20020218/rifkin>

¹³ Cambridge University Press. (2022). Meaning of pro-life in English. Retrieved from, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/pro-life>

¹⁴ University of Missouri (2022). Concept of Personhood. Retrieved from, <https://medicine.missouri.edu/centers-institutes-labs/health-ethics/faq/personhood>

D. Related organizations

1. Center for Reproductive Rights

The organization aims to enhance reproductive rights around the world with the power of law. The Center has played a significant role in obtaining judicial victories and pushing legislation and policies that enhance women's reproductive rights and access to maternal health, safe abortion services, and life-saving obstetric care around the globe.

We increase the impact of our work while ensuring that our initiatives are considerate of the distinct cultural, economic, and political environments of each nation by collaborating with regional groups, lawyers, and advocates.

More than 60 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the United States, have strengthened their reproductive health laws and policies as a result of the Center's legal victories before national courts, United Nations Committees, and regional human rights bodies.¹⁵

2. All* Above All

It's a coalition of 150 partner organizations that pursue their work in topic of abortion. It's aim is to create an environment where abortion is reachable, safe and available.¹⁶

3. World Health Organization

It's the United Nations agency which aims to link countries, organizations, and people to ensure everyone has access to highest level of health services.

4. National Right to Life Committee

It's an anti-abortion organization found in the U.S. which works to protect the right to live for everyone. It aims to minimize acts such as abortion, suicide, euthanasia.

E. Demographics and statistics

A. Unintended Pregnancies and Abortion

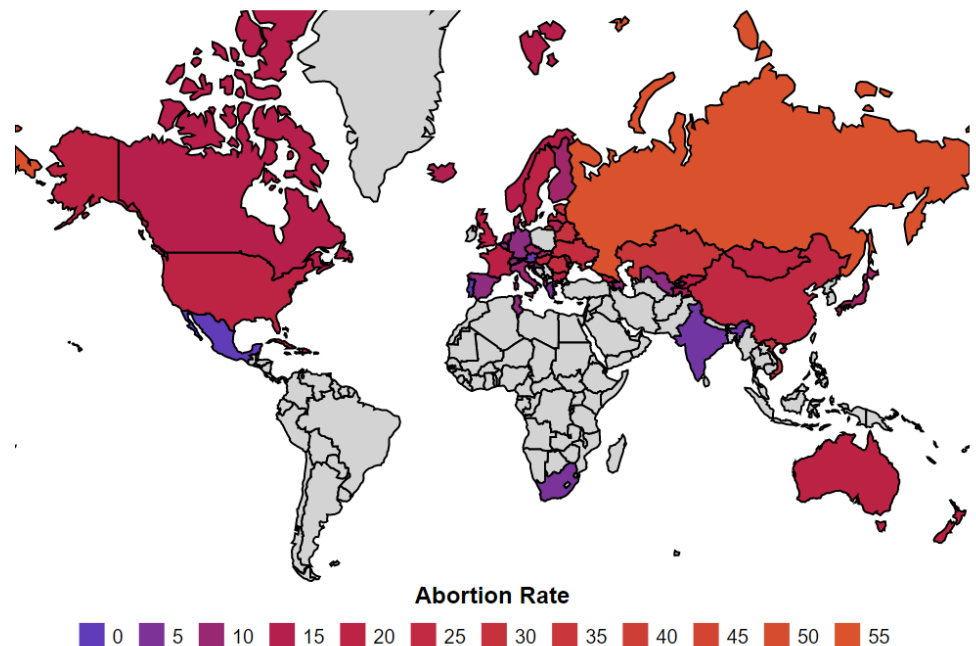
- i. According to the World Health Organization, roughly 73 million induced abortions occur worldwide each year, with 61% of all unintended pregnancies and 29% of all pregnancies in general ending with an abortion. (WHO, 2021)
- ii. Roughly 121 million unintended pregnancies occurred each year between 2015 and 2019. (UNFPA, 2022)

¹⁵ Center for Reproductive Rights. (n.d.) Our Regions. Retrieved November 18, 2022 from <https://reproductiverights.org/our-regions/>

¹⁶All* Above All. (2022). Vision. Retrieved November 22, 2022 from, <https://allaboveall.org/about/>

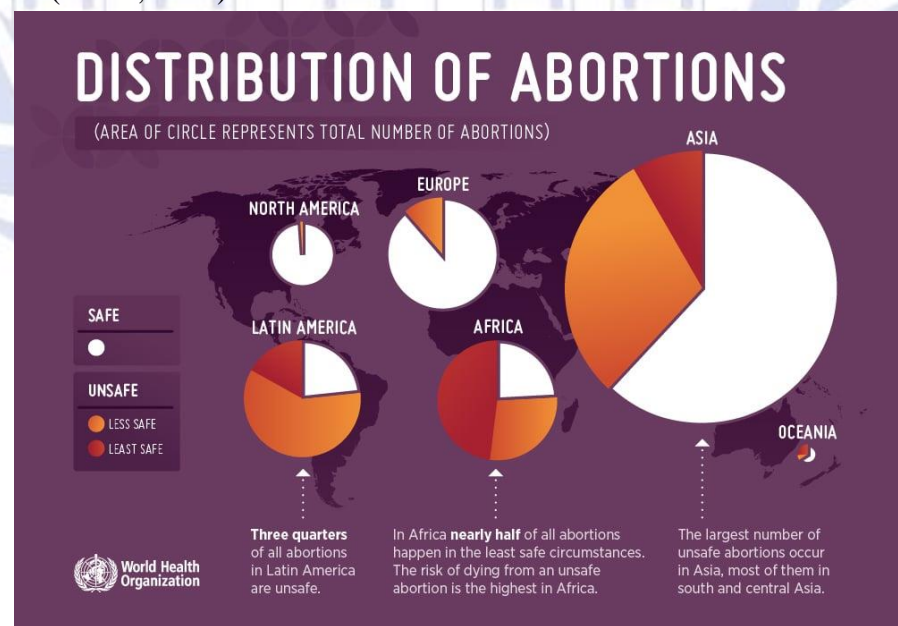
iii. (Guttmacher, 2022)

Abortion Rates by Country 2022



2. Unsafe Abortions

- i. 25.1 million Unsafe abortions are performed each year worldwide. (Center for Reproductive Rights, 2022)
- ii. Over 60 per cent of unintended pregnancies end in abortion and an estimated 45 per cent of all abortions are unsafe, accounting for five to 13 per cent of all maternal deaths recorded, according to the UNFPA's flagship State of World Population 2022 report. (UNFPA, 2022)
- iii. (WHO, 2017)

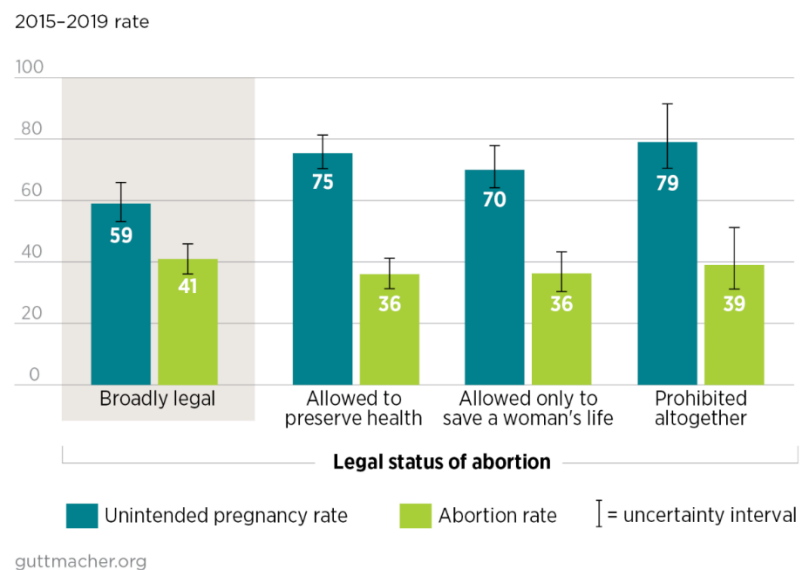


- iv. Each year, 4.7–13.2% of maternal deaths can be attributed to unsafe abortion (1). In developed regions, it is estimated that 30 women die for every 100 000 unsafe abortions. In developing regions, that number rises to 220 deaths per 100 000 unsafe abortions (2). (WHO, 2021)

3. Countries with Restricted Laws

- i. 41% Of women of reproductive age still live in countries with restrictive abortion laws. (WHO, 2021)
- ii. Research shows that countries where abortion is illegal often have higher abortion rates than those where abortion is legal. (Kremin, 2017) This is because abortion tends to be more readily available in wealthier and more developed countries, where women are less likely to experience unplanned pregnancies. The main reason is that contraception and adequate sex education are also widely available and sexual crimes less common.
- iii. (WHO, 2017)

Unintended pregnancy and abortion occur worldwide, both where abortion is broadly legal and where it is restricted



F. Questions to be answered

1. How can we minimize the negative affects of the arisen conflicts in the issue of Pro-abortion?
2. In what ways can the statistics of death and diseases in relation to access or no access to abortion may be declined?
3. What are the ways to inform society about the general topic of abortion?
4. How can national authorities be more effective in social awareness?
5. How can national authorities be more effective in protecting women from unsafe and/or unwanted applications of abortion?
6. Should international authorities be more included on the matter?
7. How can international organizations address the conflicts?

G. Further reading and helpful websites

1. Global Abortion Policies Database. World Health Organization. <https://abortion-policies.srhr.org>
2. Osborne, D. (2022). "Abortion Attitudes: An Overview of Demographic and Ideological Differences." *Political Psychology*. Vol. 43 No. Suppl. 1, 2022. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/pops.12803>
3. Dillon M. (1996). Cultural Differences in the Abortion Discourse of the Catholic Church: Evidence from Four Countries. *Sociology of Religion*. Vol. 57, Issue 1. <https://academic.oup.com/socrel/article/57/1/25/1609787>
4. Brownstein R. (2021) A Culture War with Real Consequences is Coming. CNN Politics. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/25/politics/abortion-mississippi-supreme-court-culture-war/index.html>
5. Maier E. (2017) Hidden Meanings of the Culture War over Abortion in the United States. *Frontera Norte* Vol. 30, No. 59. <https://www.scielo.org.mx/pdf/fn/v30n59/0187-7372-fn-30-59-00057.pdf>
6. Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia (2022, November 1). abortion. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/science/abortion-pregnancy>
7. ProCon.org (2022, June 24) Should Abortion Be Legal? <https://abortion.procon.org>
8. Beyter, T. (2019). "Is Abortion Ethically Reasonable? What Are the Pro- and Anti-Abortion Arguments?" *Evrin Ağacı*. 20.11.2022 18.57. <https://evrimagaci.org/kurtaj-etik-olarak-makul-mudur-kurtaj-yanlisi-ve-karsiti-argumanlar-nelerdir-7996>
9. Shrage, L. (2003). "Abortion and Social Responsibility: Depolarizing the Debate." Oxford University Press. Pp.41 https://books.google.ch/books?id=3MOqZsNBluIC&printsec=frontcover&hl=tr&source=gbg_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false
10. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division. (2014). "Abortion Policies and Reproductive Health around the World." <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/AbortionPoliciesReproductiveHealth.pdf>
11. UN News. (2022). "Overturning of Roe v Wade abortion law a 'huge blow to women's human rights' warns Bachelet". 22.11.2022 16.47 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1121312>
12. BBC. 2021. "Poland enforces controversial near-total abortion ban". <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55838210>
13. ESCR Committee, General Comment No.22 (2016) on the right to sexual and reproductive health (article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights), para. 18, U.N. Doc. Retrieved November 22, from, <http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=4slQ6QSmlBEDzFEovLCuW1a0Szab0oXTdImnsJZZVQfQejF41Tob4CvIjeTiAP6sGFQktiae1vlbbOAekmaOwDOWsUe7N8TlM%2BP3HJPzxjHySkUoHMAvD%2Fpyfcp3YlZg>

Agenda Item B: The Misuse and Exploitation of Freedom of Speech with a Special Focus on Sexism

A. Topics to be discussed and general overview

Women and girls experience many types of discriminations that prevent them from fully exercising their fundamental human rights. Freedom of expression and information are thought to be two of the fundamentals that will end the gender-based discriminations and inequalities. The expansion of the internet has opened up new avenues for practicing one's freedom of expression. However, it also opened up new channels for the continuation of harassment, abuse, and discrimination. Keeping these in mind, our committee will focus on fully protecting the rights of every party; minimizing the exploitation of them, and ending sexist speech in every way possible.

B. History of the topic

Freedom of expression is a right granted to individuals by law. Everyone should be able to express their own thoughts and values without being influenced by the opinion, belief or ideology of others. However, there are some controversial issues in freedom of expression. For example, it is argued that hate speech and many discriminatory/exclusive/condescending discourses are not included in the freedom of expression, just like racist discourses. Sexist discourses also fall into this form of expression. Gender-based violence, hate speech and disinformation are widely used online and offline to alienate or kill women's expression, according to Special Rapporteur on promoting and protecting freedom of thought and expression, Irene Khan. Freedom of expression does not fall within the scope of freedom if it is used to intimidate, humiliate, silence, and expose women to hate speech.¹⁷

Some feminists have criticized the system and stated that women live in a system established by men, and therefore women are necessarily subordinated to the class of men.¹⁸ They argued that this situation restricts women's freedom of expression and that men can also use sexist discourse as a freedom of expression.

The UN will develop a global strategy for the elimination of hate speech:

1. [The strategy and its implementation to be in line with the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The UN supports more speech, not less, as the key means to address hate speech.
2. Tackling speech is the responsibility of all – speeches, societies, the private sector, starting with individual women and men. All are responsible, all must act;
3. In the digital age, the UN should support a new generation of digital citizens, empowered to recognize, reject and stand up to hate speech.

¹⁷ OHCHR, 2021. “Gender equality in freedom of expression remains a distant goal -UN expert”.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/10/gender-equality-freedom-expression-remains-distant-goal-un-expert>

¹⁸ Margarita Salas. (2013). The False Paradox: Freedom of Expression and Sexist Hate Speech.

<https://www.genderit.org/es/node/3820>

4. We need to know more to act effectively – these calls for coordinated data collection and research, including on the root causes, drivers, and conditions conducive to hate speech.]¹⁹

Today, successful works have been carried out within the scope of sexist hate speech and efforts have been made to protect women's freedom of expression, especially in social media. For instance, a complaint button has been introduced in channels such as YouTube and Instagram, and moderators have to examine the reported content and report it to the police if necessary. However, these will not be enough. Much more support is needed to prevent women from being exposed to hate speech and to protect their freedom of expression.

C. Stance of the key terms

1. Sexism

Prejudice/discrimination formed on one's gender. This type of attitude arise from stereotypes of gender roles.²⁰

2. Hate speech

*"all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti- Semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including: intolerance expressed by aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, discrimination and hostility against minorities, migrants and people of immigrant origin."*²¹

3. Freedom of speech

Focuses on every individuals right to express their opinion,, information, and ideas by any means, along with the right to disagree and question.

4. Freedom to know

Focuses on every individuals right to request and receive information by any means, for sustainable development, transparency, and ideal governance.

D. Related organizations

1. The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID):

"The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) is a global, feminist, membership, movement-support organization." AWID uses tactics such as influencing, advocacy and campaigning; convening and connecting; solidarity and bridge-building; arts and creative expression.²²

2. Womankind Worldwide: Womankind Worldwide works in the base of collectivity via partnerships and works to campaign for changes to laws that discriminate against women and girls, create

¹⁹ UN Organization. (2019). "UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY AND PLAN OF ACTION ON HATE SPEECH."

<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/UN%20Strategy%20and%20Plan%20of%20Action%20on%20Hate%20Speech%2018%20June%20SYNOPSIS.pdf>

²⁰ Vivienna Parry, UNICEF Ireland. (2014) Gender & Sexism. Retrieved November 22, 2022 from <https://www.unicef.ie/itsaboutus/cards/unicef-itsaboutus-gender-sexism.pdf>

²¹ Gavan Titley, British Institute of Human Rights, László Földi (2012). Starting Points for Combating Hate Speech Online. Three studies about online hate speech and ways to address it. Council of Europe.

²² AWID. (n.d.). About us. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.awid.org/about-us>

universal access to services that protect and restore women's rights, and support women to understand and assert their rights.²³

3. **European Institute for Gender Equality:** EIGE collects, analyses, processes and disseminates data and information on gender equality issues, whilst at the same time making them comparable, reliable and relevant for the users. As an autonomous body, EIGE operates within the framework of European Union policies and initiatives. The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union defined the grounds for the Institute's objectives and tasks in its Founding Regulation and assigned it the central role of addressing the challenges of and promoting equality between women and men across the European Union. To support better-informed policy-making EIGE contributes to the promotion of gender equality in Europe through delivering high-level expertise to the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States and Enlargement countries.²⁴
4. **International Center for Research on Women:** The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is a global research institute with offices located in Washington, D.C.; New Delhi, India; Nairobi, Kenya; and Kampala, Uganda. ICRW comprises social scientists, economists, public health specialists and demographers, all of whom are experts in gender.²⁵

E. Related Agreements

1. **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 1979:** The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international legal instrument that requires countries to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in all areas and promotes women's and girls' equal rights.

CEDAW is often described as the international bill of rights for women, and is one of the key international agreements that guides the work of UN Women in achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. CEDAW for Youth is a youth-friendly version of CEDAW, that was authored by a young woman and young man.

This resource explains why CEDAW is important to youth, describes CEDAW's impact in advancing gender equality and human rights for women and girls around the world, and summarizes the articles of CEDAW, including the specific forms of discrimination that must be ended and how CEDAW is implemented and monitored.²⁶

²³ WomanKind UK. How We Work. Retrieved November 18, 2022 from <https://www.womankind.org.uk/how-we-work/>

²⁴ Our Work. (n.d.) Retrieved November 18, 2022 from <https://eige.europa.eu/about/our-work>

²⁵ Mission. (n.d.) Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.icrw.org/about/>

²⁶ Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for youth. (n.d.). Retrieved November 18, 2022, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/12/cedaw-for-youth>

2. Freedom of expression and women's equality: Ensuring comprehensive rights protection, 2020:

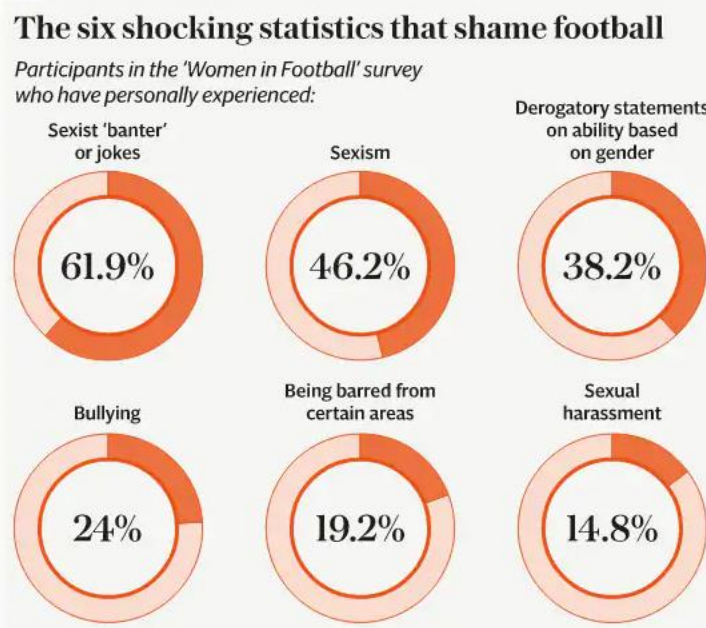
ARTICLE 19 strives for a society in which everyone has the freedom to express themselves and participate fully in public life without fear of prejudice. Freedom of speech and freedom to know are the two cornerstones of the entire work.²⁷

3. Council of Europe Submission to the Report on Gender Justice and Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Council of Europe takes Article 10 and 14 of the Europe Convention of Human Rights as a basis for addressing the issue and develop directly intervening instruments. The report investigates some critical points such as, "how to better counter online to better counter online harassment?", "Internet governance and human rights", and "Media education in the new media environment.". (p.1)²⁸

F. Demographics and statistics

i. Sexist Speech in Sports (Rumsby, 2016)

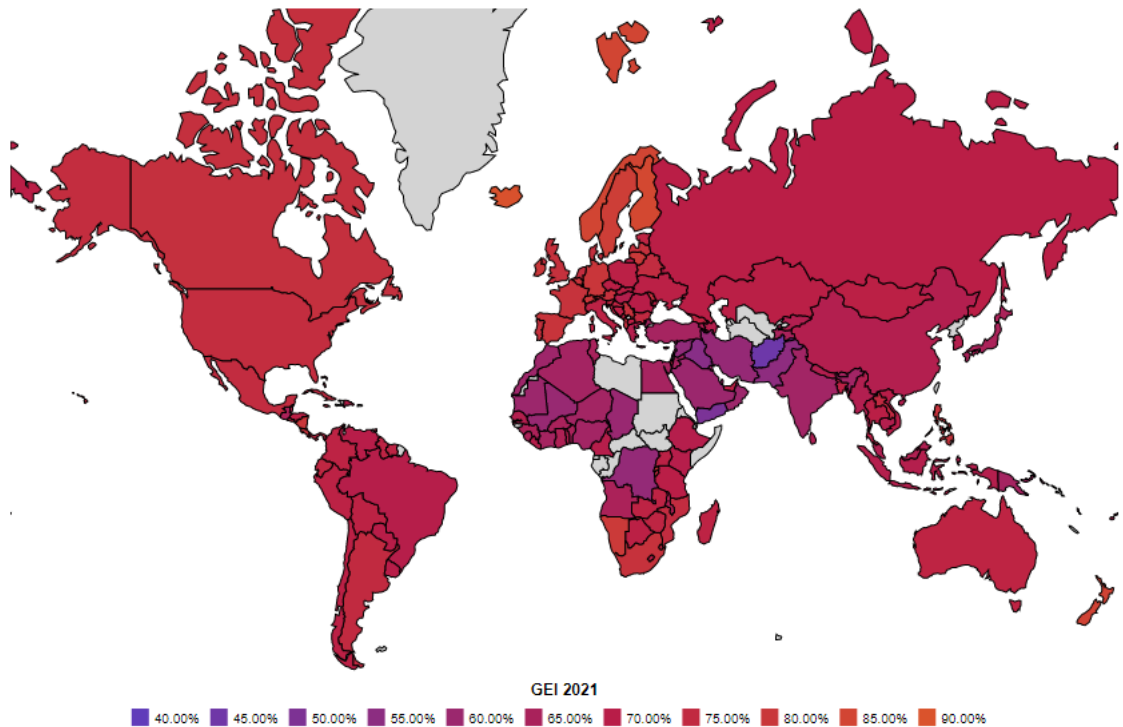


²⁷ Article 19 Free Word Center. (2020). Freedom of expression and women's equality: Ensuring comprehensive rights protection. Retrieved November 22, 2022 from <https://www.article19.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Gender-Paper-Brief-1.pdf>

²⁸ Council of Europe. (2022) Council of Europe Submission to the Report on Gender Justice and Freedom of Opinion and Expression. Retrieved November 22, 2022 from <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/Council-of-Europe.docx>

ii. Gender Inequality (World Population Review, 2022)

Gender Equality by Country 2022

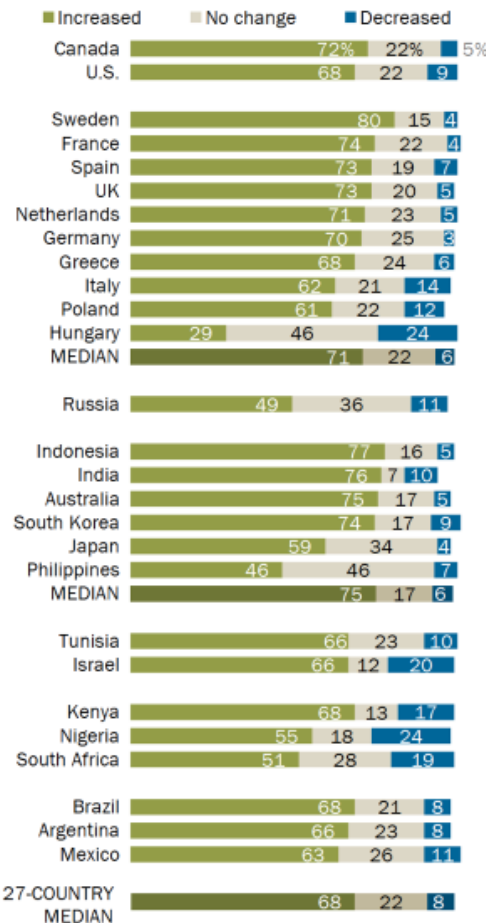


- iii. The 2021 report found that global gender parity decreased from 68.6% in 2019 to 68.0% in 2020, due in large part to the global ripple effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. (WEF, 2021)(Poushter, Fetterolf. 2019)
- iv. the swear words that most offend women are those that imply that the woman is promiscuous or sexually dissolute. This paradox highlights the fact that women are "judged by they cater to the needs and desires of straight men" (Kremin, 2017)
- v. Men are most offended when they are the receiver of a swear word, implying that they are homosexual. Because homosexual males blur the lines between masculinity and femininity, slurs in this category are used as a policing agent against behavior that is determined to be too feminine (Kremin, 2017)

vi. (Poushter, Fetterolf. 2019)

Most believe gender equality has increased in their country

% who say over the past 20 years, equality between men and women in our country has ...



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey, Q9.

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vii. A majority of 23 of the 27 countries surveyed believe that gender equality has increased in their country over the past two decades. (Pouster, Fetterolf, 2019)

G. Questions to be answered

1. How could the exploitations be detected and minimized?
2. In what ways can sexist speech be minimized on the international level?
3. What are the ways to inform society about what freedom of speech, and hate speech means?
4. Can international authorities be more effective in social awareness?
5. How can national authorities be more effective in social awareness?
6. How can the impact of international agreements be enhanced?
7. How can international organizations address the situation?

H. Further reading and helpful websites

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2. United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. (2022). Human Rights Council Holds Annual Discussion on the Integration of the Gender Perspective, Focusing on Overcoming Gender-Based Barriers to Freedom of Opinion and Expression. Press Release. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/human-rights-council-holds-annual-discussion-integration-gender-perspective>
3. United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. (May 2019) <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/UN%20Strategy%20and%20Plan%20of%20Action%20on%20Hate%20Speech%2018%20June%20SYNOPSIS.pdf>
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