

**Cleveland Council on
WORLD AFFAIRS**



Cleveland-Autumn Conference 2019

Position Papers for:

The Commission on the Status of
Women



Delegation from: Canada
Represented by: Rocky River High School

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission on the Status of Women are: Women in Innovation and Worldwide Economic Improvement; and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. Canada is dedicated to protecting the rights of all people and is eager to continue working with other nations as well as private and public corporations to further these rights.

I. Women in Innovation and Worldwide Economic Improvement.

Since the beginning of time, women have not been equal to men politically, and therefore, have not been economically equal as well. As still seen in many nations today, women were often completely dependent on male relatives for their lifestyle and living. Only in the last few centuries have women truly begun to leap forward in the realm of economic equality. With true gender equality, women are empowered by being able to be involved in existing markets, have significant economic influences, and make essential decisions on the economic spectrum. Canada believes that paid maternity leave is one way to mitigate the economic inequality of women.

The equality of women per country was studied by a World Bank project, Women, Business, and the Law (WBL). Some themes studied by the WBL included: going places, starting a job, getting paid, getting married, having children, running a business, managing assets, and getting a pension. The lowest end of the spectrum included primarily countries in the Middle East and North Africa, while the upper end includes European countries such as France, Belgium, Latvia, Luxembourg, Sweden, and Denmark. The WBL index for Canada is 97.5, scoring a perfect score in all but one of the categories. While there is still room for improvement in Canada, it is time to help those less fortunate. Countries that are less developed often have lower WBL indexes, as they do not have the same resources and funding that more developed nations enjoy. In less developed countries, women are not able to have the same independence given to women elsewhere. For example, in some nations, there is very little paid maternity leave given to women, and there are few protections for pregnant females. As specified in the Canadian labor code, women are given up to 17 weeks of unpaid maternity leave after the date of the birth of their child and are guaranteed their jobs with the same pay and benefits upon their return. Through Canada's employment insurance plan, pregnant employees or new mothers can take up to 15 weeks of paid maternity leave as well. In addition, Part II of the Canada Labor Code protects pregnant or nursing employees against unsafe working conditions if they feel as though there is a risk to either their health or the health of their child. In less developed nations, women are not afforded the same benefits and are often left unemployed after leaving their job, even for a short period of time, to take care of a newborn. Moreover, without a guaranteed job, women are left economically disadvantaged and are unable to be independent.

In order to truly achieve economic equality, it is crucial to encourage an implementation of a system of paid maternity leave. By discriminating against pregnant women or new mothers, employers essentially are giving jobs to men, rather than providing the opportunity to level the playing field. It is important for developed nations to help guide less developed countries to realize a comprehensive plan, such as the one in place in Canada, to aid women. The international community must unite to help contribute not only funding but also ideas and methods to implement such a plan in regions that are normally inaccessible. Acknowledging the varying needs of each sovereign nation and the need for individual sovereignty, Canada calls upon every nation to apply their own form of a paid maternity leave plan that includes at least 14 weeks of paid maternity leave. Also, Canada would look favorably upon nations passing laws that would protect a new mother's job upon her return from maternity leave. With enough nations in favor of paid maternity leave, the CSW would be able to incentivize governments still hesitant to the idea of changing discriminatory policies with stronger allies and economic deals. Additionally, the CSW could invite activists from countries across the globe, both in favor of paid maternity leave and not, in order to have an organized debate on the issue and to present the best possible amendment. With paid maternity leave and protected jobs, women are less tentative to join the innovation industry because their jobs will be guaranteed after being able to take time off to be with their child in the case of a pregnancy.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation.

In modern society, women are not economically equal to men because they lack the political representation to create the changes they need. It was not until the nineteenth century, with the women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, that the wildfire of women's suffrage movements spread throughout the world, gaining them partial recognition in politics. Across the globe, there have been no countries that have accomplished complete gender equality in their federal governments. In recent years, it has been discovered that women only account for 24% of national legislative bodies worldwide, which means that women are under-represented in government.

Canada acknowledges the significant need for female involvement in politics. Ranked 50th in the world, 25% of the Canadian government consists of females. Some politicians believe that family responsibilities are keeping women out of politics. In one chamber, women are permitted to bring their children and babies into work. Such accommodations help to welcome more women into politics. In addition, government work hours have been changed in order to create a more family-friendly environment. This allows women to have political participation while also maintaining their family connections. International collaboration is needed in order to create change and increase the political participation of women. Canada has helped other countries with funding to promote the inclusion of women in politics. Such initiatives help empower women articulate their concerns, exercise political choice, and make informed decisions. Several studies have found that from an early age that both boys and girls have a bias against female leaders in a certain way, often in a negative manner, which can often be attributed to media coverage and usage. Due to the fact that males are more recognized in the realm of politics, they can utilize their power to endorse more women and promote their ideas. Elected males should consider endorsing more female candidates that are informed in other political areas because they are elected to prioritize the welfare of their constituents.

The involvement of women in politics must be increased globally; however, this issue requires significant aid from not only the U.N., but also from each individual nation. Women bring to the table a wide range of opinions and perspectives regarding certain issues that would have been otherwise pushed aside. When women are excluded from participating in politics, they are not only ignored, but they are continuously being oppressed. In order to fix the representation issue, Canada urges each individual nation to stress the importance of female involvement within their own governments and establish environments where women's voices will be heard and recognized. Canada proposes an international plan be set up with funding from the NGOs and more developed countries. Such a fund would allow underdeveloped countries to establish a more thorough education system for women studying politics. Educating women in these areas not only promotes their empowerment, but also helps boost a country's economic system because more citizens can become effectively involved. Canada has already taken a significant initiative on this issue through the Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, which will focus on giving young women more political knowledge by providing better education systems. Over the past three years, Canada has raised nearly three billion dollars in order to support worldwide girls' education. They have received donations from countries across the globe and have pledged three-hundred and five million dollars towards the fund themselves. By increasing the involvement of women in politics, many areas of government will be enhanced because new outlooks and opinions can be contributed.

Delegation of: China

Represented by: Chardon High School

Position Paper for Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission on the Status of Women are: Women in Innovation and WorldWide Economic Empowerment and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. The delegation of China is committed to debating and resolving these issues while preserving national sovereignty of all nations involved.

A. Women in Innovation and World Wide Economic Empowerment

The UN has in previous years strived for equality in the workforce and economic empowerment, reaching out to women most in need which often includes working with civil and grass-roots organizations. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China firmly believes that women make enormous contributions to economies whether it be in the workforce or at home care. In accordance with these beliefs, the Delegation of the People's Republic of China ardently supported resolution CSW64 which in 2020 will be further implemented in working towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China believes that workforce desrimination and participation is something of utmost concern as well as sexism and gender discrimination is a growing problem in Chinese society.

The Delegation of The People's Republic of China is extremely for a motion towards improving female position in innovation and providing economic empowerment to women. In China, legislation for women's rights continues to be passed. China made the commitment pledge of 10 million USD for 100 health projects for women and children with the goal to promote the development of women in developing nations. In the five years after this pledge, China sent teams of medical experts to provide services and implemented 100 happy campus projects that financed the schooling of poor girls and raise girls' school enrolment rates. China also hosted 30,000 women from developing countries to take part in training programs in China, and provided 100,000 skills training opportunities in local communities of other developing countries. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China firmly believes that the empowerment of women is the empowerment of all and is dedicated to being a firm supporter and working towards assisting developing nations with gender equality in the workforce as well as the eradication of sexism and gender descrimination, working as a common ally to not only eradicate these unfair practices outside Chinese borders but inside them as well. The Delegation of The People's Republic of China believes with the utmost zeal that as a country dealing with social gaps it would be best suited to speak on and resolve this great injustice to women.

The Delegation of the People's Republic of China proposes a multi-faceted plan that primarily involves further assisting developing nations with the gender inequality and social gaps, as most of them exist within the boundaries of poverty. The only way to escape poverty is opportunity and through providing a multitude of training programs and education on the prosperity of involving women in the workforce, the Delegation of The People's Republic of China firmly believes that more women will be empowered in the workforce, taking more leadership roles, and balancing out these social gaps, making every nation more prosperous in the end result. The Delegation of The People's Republic of China looks forward to debating

strategy and plans to end societal gaps and with all respect to national sovereignty, hopes to make the workplace more female friendly.

B. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

Women's representation in government has continually been a prominent issue in society. As of February 2019, only 24.3 percent of all national parliamentarians were women. This is an incredibly slow increase from 11.3 percent in 1995. The UN has continually tried to eradicate the evident sexism within the workplace and has encouraged women to reach for positions of power. However, society continues to be male dominant in many areas, including politics. An area in extreme need of fresh ideas and new perspectives practically refuses to let them in based off of their gender. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China believes that sexism within politics is a form of discrimination that must be discussed and resolved.

Looking back on Chinese history, the country as a whole has progressed extremely far in terms of women in politics. In 690 A.D., empress Wu Zhao became the first woman to take a true leadership position in Chinese government. From there, China has continually progressed their female representation. Since its formation in 1949, the National People's Congress of China has steadily increased its percentage of women delegates. However, that percentage eventually plateaued at 20 percent. China has taken great action throughout their history to increase this percentage. Within the National People's Congress of China, there are 2,280 delegates and less than a fourth of those are women. Included in its 1954 Constitution, China claims that men and women share equal rights in political, economic, cultural, social, and family dimensions. In addition, the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Woman outlines an official requirement of an appropriate number of women deputies. Created during the 23rd special session of the General Assembly in 2000, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action became the key global policy document on gender equality. Though there has been much action taken in China to increase the representation of women in government, they are never given truly large or significant roles if they are involved in politics. There has never been a female president, or a woman on the Standing Committee, since the National People's Congress of China formed. Another significant factor in the lack of female representation is blatant discrimination throughout the workplace. Even the retirement policy is discriminatory, requiring female workers to commence working 10 years earlier than males. This age-gap discourages some employers from hiring women as opposed to men. Setbacks like these are a major part of why women are not more prominent in Chinese government.

The Delegation of the People's Republic of China calls for action to be taken against obviously bias setbacks that women face in the workplace. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China would like to see an even ratio of male and female representation throughout all branches of politics and are willing to work with other countries to find both long and short term solutions to this issue.

Delegation from: the Republic of Germany
Represented by: Westlake High School

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission on the Status of Women are: Women in Innovation and Worldwide-Economic Empowerment; and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. The Republic of Germany has made active strides towards total gender equality, especially in the areas of economics and politics. The Republic looks forward to comprehensive and meaningful debate, and hopes the committee can agree upon a holistic and multilateral resolution. The Republic hopes the focus of debate will be social progress as well as economic and political development.

I. Women in Innovation and Worldwide-Economic Empowerment

The Republic of Germany recognizes that women in all countries deserve the same basic rights as men, as well as the right to be treated fairly by their own governments. The Republic hopes to facilitate more roles for women in positions of power. All women should be able to grow in an economic environment and succeed the same way men do. Women should be prominent in existing markets, have access to economic resources, and be able to influence decision making. Before this can happen, global efforts need to be made to increase the role of women in the household as well as the workplace.

The Republic of Germany has pledged to increase the role of women in economics by bolstering women's professional qualifications. The Republic has taken initiative by enhancing women's child care laws and passing legislature on leadership in the workplace. The Republic seeks to help expand professional opportunities for women and build upon the recent progress made by the Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations as a whole. In 1995, the Republic of Germany was one of 189 signatories of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a resolution that acts as a bill of rights for all women. This declaration acted as a major turning point in the fight for worldwide gender equality. However, this resolution is more than 20 years old, and needs to be supplemented with new legislature that reflects the more relevant problems facing women today. Subsequently, the Republic of Germany now requires all stock-listed and co-determined companies to reserve 30 percent of their leadership positions for women. This initiative will allow women to gain influence and positions of power in which they can advocate for other women and promote their voice. Once major companies everywhere have women in positions of leadership, there will be a significant increase in worldwide awareness and change in favor of women's equality and rights.

The Republic of Germany hopes to draft a resolution that will expand the role women play in economic innovation within each individual country as well as on a global scale. The committee

needs to implement federal regulations regarding issues from domestic violence to the gender gap. Facilitating the education of young women is another important factor to consider when trying to work towards economic innovation. After we achieve a universal standard of equality in each country, we can begin to implement long term plans to continue to empower women in the future.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

Similar to the issue of increasing involvement of women in economics, the problems with political participation lie in the lack of a modern federal standard for women's rights. Many past documents fail to address social issues that contribute to the lack of participation of women in leadership roles and political positions. A lack of universal safety and basic rights for women hinder economic and political development.

The Republic of Germany has implemented many laws that promote the involvement of women in major companies in the public and private sectors. These laws have resulted in the growth of confidence among women as well as respect throughout the country. Once all countries strive to close the wage gap and create room for women to grow in the workplace, there will be a noticeable change in political participation. Women need to feel that their voices are heard and important in order to participate. The Republic of Germany, through its membership in G7, has seen significant growth in the roles of women over the past decades. Women in Germany feel safe and are able to take part in politics and pursue high levels of work and education. Unfortunately, this is not the case in many countries.

As a follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to foster social change for women in today's age. The Republic of Germany sees a few problems with this plan, and hopes to work out a solution that resolves all potential issues concerning this topic. For example, the CSW can suggest to increase accountability for all countries that are a part of this plan, as many have failed to see concrete results in the development of women's rights since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was drafted in 1995. The Republic believes that women need access to all levels of education, as well as an assurance of basic rights. This request may seem simple, yet it is hard to achieve in certain countries that don't have access to resources that foster progress. In debate, the Republic hopes to gain a sense of other countries' needs and looks forward to implementing a comprehensive solution. Once we can ensure that women are representing their countries, we can work towards sustaining this representation on a global scale and fostering worldwide change on issues relating to women.

Delegation from: Republic of Ghana
Represented by: Lakewood High School

I. Women in Innovation and World Wide Economic Empowerment

-Specific areas: the formal sector, which is really the public and the private sector, and the informal sector, which is this massive economy. It's dominated by women — 80 percent of women work in the informal sector. It is really an engine that drives our economy. These women work in retail — they're market traders, they are the reason millions of Ghanaians get to eat, put food on the table, take care of kids daily. This title, "the informal sector," is really an extension of how sexism functions in our economy because it's dominated by women. There are not the kinds of social protections that come with the formal sector. <https://www.pri.org/stories/2018-08-17/ghana-gender-equality-and-economics-clash>

Traditionally, education is considered secondary to women's roles as wives and mothers. In Ghana, 50% women are illiterate compared to 28% of men. And even when they are enrolled in school, young girls disproportionately take on domestic duties, which disrupts their education and takes time away from homework and study. <https://globalnews.ca/content/2018025/gender-equality-a-challenge-for-women-in-ghana/>

Adoption of the more ambitious "1 for 2" target marks a significant step towards enabling connectivity for more Ghanaians. Bringing the cost of a basic internet connection to this level will allow more Ghanaians, including some of the lowest income earners, to afford to connect, and will bring Ghana that much closer to realizing a vision of universal affordable internet access. We congratulate Ghana for taking this important step, and we at A4AI stand ready to help turn this vision of affordable internet for all into reality. <https://webfoundation.org/2017/03/ghana-endorses-a4ais-1-for-2-affordability-target/>

Ongoing programs:

- Support to the new Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (Review of the National Gender Policy, Promoting an Affirmative Action Bill, Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) and Institutional Restructuring)
- Training for the participation of West Africa Women's Organizations in the CSW
- Women's Property and Inheritance Rights under the context of HIV/AIDS
- Enhancing the leadership skills of adolescent girls and young women in Nkwanta North and South Districts
- Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment through work with women smallholder farmers to adopt Good Agricultural Practises (GAP) and reduce Post Harvest Losses
- Women and Governance <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/west-and-central-africa/ghana>

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

The Republic of Ghana has been assiduous in the involvement of women's political participation. Ghana has seen a steady increase in political participation by women throughout history, but this still does not represent the 49.1% of women making up the country's population. This can be said about all countries and the lack of representation of women in politics. Ghana's constitution gives women the same opportunities as men, but social output has labeled women as inferior and discourages women from political participation. Women do not have the same resources for political campaigns as men. Even

though in 2016, an African Human Development Report stated that women's voices in politics have been a key role in public sector effectiveness. Women's participation in politics are instrumental in a successful country.

<https://www.gh.undp.org/content/ghana/en/home/ourperspective/ourperspectivearticles/2017/01/23/women-s-political-participation-a-catalyst-for-gender-equality-and-women-empowerment-in-ghana.html>

Ghana has been involved in various attempts of implementing women in political participation in the past. Ghana is a signatory of the Maputo Protocol which would enact advancement of women's roles within the continent of Africa. The Maputo Protocol would do this through legislative measures guaranteeing political rights to women. Ghana also works with UN Women in various programs, including ones that enhance leadership skills of adolescent girls in the north and south districts. UN Women Ghana also work in the private sector working on gender equality. <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are/west-and-central-africa/ghana> https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/protocol_rights_women_africa_2003.pdf

The Republic of Ghana wishes to further activate women within political participation. Legislation must be a key factor in the achievement of gender equality. In 1998 Ghana had introduced the topic of Affirmative Action for women in the work field, but it was never debated. The Republic of Ghana would like to see this recommendation up for debate a critique. In 2006, it was estimated 86% of Ghanaian women were working in the private sector, but this option would increase awareness of women's rights and involvement in a political light. Ghana's parliament wants the government to be involved in these actions towards political inclusivity, because if women do not feel if their problems are being represented, then they will not be involved in politics.

<https://www.wikigender.org/wiki/africa-for-womens-rights-ghana/>

Delegation: Ireland

Represented by: Fairport Harding High School

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission on the Status of Women include: Women in Innovation and Worldwide Economic Empowerment and Increasing Involvement in Women in Political Participation. As representatives of Ireland, we want to work along with the UN to help the status of women throughout the world.

I. *Women in Innovation and Worldwide-Economic Empowerment*

With women not being very involved in other places with worldwide economic empowerment or in innovation. The female populace has rarely been touched in economics and other government projects. Ireland has been taking steps to put more and more women into politics. With certain political groups backing all of Ireland's progress that it's made that other places aren't doing. Many places don't even allow females in the political areas and refuse to change that fact.

The steps that have been taken to put more women into government and economic. Ireland has put over 46% of their official development to addressing gender in their country. In November 2015 Ireland signed the Council of Europe Convention to combat gender violence and gender inequality. Ireland also stated the second national strategy which is a plan to stop domestic-based violence that was published in January 2016.

As of now Ireland is part of the *HeForShe* and *Geneva Gender Champions* committees, this helps the Irish community move forward with their gender equality. With the second National Action on Women plan put into effect that includes peace and security and the estimated 2030 for gender violence to be abolished Ireland is making its way to a gender violence-free nation. Not only does the second National Action on Woman Plan cover female residents of Ireland it also covers the immigrant women that come into Ireland.

The second national strategy also works with action plans that have to do with domestic, sexual and gender based crimes and how they are further dealt with in a court of law. In order to fully provide services to those women in need of them Ireland, due to the trauma of sexual or domestic abuse, the second National Action on Women would need to add a few things such as the ability to enforce therapy for those who are victims of assault.

With women not having a lot to do with many nations some ways that people can improve the impact of their female populace. With laws that can ensure health and having more women work. With having more women work your economy grows and can improve relations with other nations and Ireland proposes that people can make certain acts that have to do with the well-being of women both residents and immigrants. With more women being involved in political affairs, the female populace has more representation to the rest of the world and Ireland itself.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

An issue for the nations right now is female representation in politics and what they are doing about it. With many places not having any women in their governments some places have been improving wildly. Inside the borders of Ireland, women's rights are still equal to the rights a male has. Ireland has been doing great with women being involved in governing politics, with political involvement of women on the rise since the 1900's. Ireland is doing much better than over half of other nations with women in politics and giving way more attention to the female population.

Ireland as of now has a few improvements surrounding female views in political standpoints such as 30% of the representation on political boards being female now. Women in Ireland now can vote and throughout the years the pay gap has been decreasing, in 2014 it was down to 16.7%. Since Ireland joined the then called EEC (European Economic Community), the support from women has increased rapidly. Although during the economic crisis in 2012, the employment rate for women dropped from 60% down to 55.2% now it's around 55.9% struggling to get back to 60% like it was in 2007.

In 1979 Máire Geoghegan-Quinn became the first female in the Irish cabinet since 1921 and she as well was in Fianna Fail as a politician. Ireland has had four female Tanaistes, had its first woman cabinet member in 1979, and nineteen women have served as a cabinet minister. The 31st government of Ireland was founded in June 2017 and in October 2019 it includes four women as ministers of the cabinet. While the male population still holds and dominant hand in politics, that is slowly changing. With help groups being involved and making things go more smoothly males aren't very dominant anymore.

While helping themselves Ireland also wants to help the rest of the world improve their gender issues. This can be achieved by making laws that women have to at least make up a small percentage of the political parties. Even having a rule that could be put into place that men can't take up this percent of government such as they can't take up more than 70% of the government.

Delegation From: Israel

Represented by: St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are: Women in Innovation and Worldwide Economic Empowerment and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. The delegation of Israel is ready to represent its policy for the purpose of ensuring the upholding of the Israel culture and the welfare of its citizens.

I. Women in Innovation and Worldwide Economic Empowerment

Empowerment is a well-known term coined for uplifting a group, idea, belief, etc. There are five main types of empowerment: social, educational, economic, political, and psychological. Economic empowerment is defined as the capacity for a specific group to not only be active in but also benefit from growth processes within the community they reside in or desire to participate in. Economic empowerment of women is seen as one of the main fasciates of equality, that when strengthened can lead to total gender equality worldwide. Throughout time, women have had to fight for their independence from men, demanding rights, privileges, and anything that will bring them closer to an equal seat at the table. Encouraging economic empowerment of women will pull that seat right out for women. An example of encouraging economic empowerment that impacted women all over the globe was the creation of the Commission on the Status of Women under the Un in 1946. This gave any concern about economic empowerment the means and the platform to be discussed. Implementing and creating new ideas or systems this impactful will drive the economic empowerment of women.

In 1957, Israel took their first steps towards becoming champions of economic empowerment by founding Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also known as MASHAV which is responsible for the creation of the majority of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV's primary focus is human and institutional capacity building. The main method of this building is through the sharing of Israel's own development knowledge and experience, and exchanging its own adaptable innovative technologies and methodologies. Israel joined the international effort of social, economic, and environmental sustainable development by implementing the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is within this Agency that the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) was established in 1961. This center provides training of women engaged in community work in upcoming areas within Africa and Asia. Over time this program has grown with over 19,500 participants coming from all over the globe to attend more than 650 capacity building programs and 28 International Conference for Women Leaders, all conducted in Israel. Israel has also worked with UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Region, a subsection under UN Women, that has focused on empowering women and youth to become more involved in their economy.

The delegation of Israel recognizes the past actions taken by Israel and plans to implement them in this committee for the benefit of other countries. Israel would like to build a greater capacity for women to express their own economic roles. Along with amenable programs for each country, basic outreach to communities can be very beneficial to this topic. Encouraging positive views of women in the economy at the roots of societies will only work its way up to the top of societies. The delegation of Israel is eager to work alongside countries that share similar ideas and that are willing to compromise on a comprehensive paper to effectively empower all women.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

History has shown that in a majority of nations, women face discrimination or may not possess the same unwritten rights as men do. Some women have settled with their status and others refuse to be accepted as anything but equal to men in the country. Despite attempts, not much progress has been made and this problem remains evident. A common factor shared by all nations struggling with women's rights is that there is little to no female involvement in the country's government or politics. The government is where the entire power of a country lies and the people who participate in the government make decisions for the country affecting all citizens. Understanding that some countries have exclusive qualifications to join the government, politics is just as impactful. Voices of politicians are heard and able to be accessed all around the world. Therefore, the initiative to increase the status of women all begins with more women getting involved in politics.

Israel has always made sure to ensure equality among all citizens in the country, especially women. Shortly after declaring its Independence as a state, Israel created and passed the *Women's Equal Rights Law of Israel*. This ensured women's freedoms of work, education, health, social welfare, and practically any other right that men possessed. Some women in Israel have used their platform of equality to acquire impressive leadership or political roles in the country. The first of which to do so was Golda Meir after being elected prime minister in 1969. This made Israel the third country to democratically elect a woman for such a prestige position. She influenced and paved the way for countless Israeli women to become involved in Israeli politics or government. Also, the first Israeli political party dedicated to ultra-Orthodox women was unveiled. This party's purpose to make attempts in closing the gap in representation of issues relating to women in the Israeli community, while still maintaining an ultra-Orthodox, religious perspective.

It is the goal of the delegation of Israel to extend the practices of our country while also incorporating other nation's methods to create a solution on how to increase women involvement numbers. More outreach or endorsement to women, promoting the benefits of political involvement should be taken into consideration. Women all around the world have what it takes to participate in government and make decisions for their own country just as well as them. The initiative for making that happen begins in this committee.

School: Rocky River High School

Delegation: Japan

Position Paper for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women are Women in Innovation and World Wide Economic Empowerment and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation.

Women in Innovation and World Wide Economic Empowerment

The economic empowerment of women across the world is imperative. If the world does not empower women in the economy, they are losing a valuable asset to their economic system. The Delegation of Japan hopes to work with the other members of this commission to improve the economic opportunities and innovation of women.

Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, has passed many laws to make good on his promise to advance economic opportunities for women. Prime Minister Abe introduced Japan's plan to assist with the education of 50,000 female students and offer technical training for 5,000 women between 2016 and 2018. Japan has also enacted the Act on the Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace, which requires public entities and companies to create action plans with goals and to disclose relevant information. Female executives from Keidanren, a Japanese business federation, visited the United Nations Headquarters and joined UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri for a discussion on women and their economic empowerment.

Hoping to include their previous successful legislation into new bills, Japan wishes to include their comprehensive, multi-year plan into a resolution. This resolution could include more suggested percentage plans, providing achievable, quantitative goals for countries to accomplish. Japan wishes to reach a conclusion with the other delegations for the betterment of innovation and economic empowerment of women.

Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participaton

The involvement of women in politics is a vital issue for every delegation on the commission. Women are everywhere, and can be a valuable asset to the political atmosphere of every country. The Delegation of Japan hopes to work with the other honorable delegates of this commission to come to a sensible conclusion.

Japan has been making strides to improve its political progress. In 2015, Japan instituted a supra-partisan parliamentary group to promote participation and engagement in politics by women, particularly for elected officials. The committee originally discussed quotas for motivating women, but decided that differences in political party and other factors warranted further investigation. Ultimately, the Act on Promotion of Gender Equality in the Political Field passed in May 2018. This act attempts to make representative numbers as equal as possible in elections of members of the House of Representatives, House of Councilors, and in the assemblies of municipal governments. It encourages the state to take legislative, financial, and other actions when necessary for the advancement of women in politics.

Japan hopes to include these suggestions into a resolution. The hope would be to encourage the countries of this commission to create policy to advance women in politics. The delegations could also

include suggested legislation for these areas of improvement in a resolution with other countries. Japan looks forward to reaching a logical solution to gender inequality in politics.

Delegation From: Peru

Represented By: Lakewood High School

Position Paper for The Commission on the Status of Women

The issues presented to The Commission on the Status of Women include Women in Innovation and World Wide Economic Empowerment and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. Peru recognizes the historically patriarchal system, and acknowledges the ongoing issues surrounding women's rights. However, the Peruvian government is interested in overcoming these issues and is willing to work to find solutions.

I. Women in Innovation and World Wide Economic Empowerment

The UN Women's Rights Council's entire purpose is the progression of women, and their rights and equality. Peru fully stands behind these notions, including the goals this council sets. Peru is an example of economic growth due to women's involvement in work, and empowering women to innovate and work is a goal of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the Women's Council, and the nation of Peru.

The nation of Peru fully understands and emphasizes the importance and benefit of increasing women's involvement in the national and global economy. Peru has first-hand experienced a large economic growth due to government reforms allowing women to contribute more to the economy. Throughout the 1990s, Peru made many legislative changes in customary laws that were restrictive to women-impeding work, inheritance, and banking/finance for women. In the decades following, Peru saw increased female participation in the labor force and economy by magnitudes of up to 15%. In 2014, Peruvian women's labor force participation reached 68%: a model statistic for most Latin American countries, and a 10% improvement from 2010. With a growing GDP of over 200 billion USD per year, Peruvian women's contributions to the production of goods and services has allowed Peru to become a very quickly rowing South American country.

Although large gender gaps remain in distanced, rural communities, the nation of Peru is always aiming to create a better and equal environment for women. Peru is aware of current problems- women are still commonly working informal and lower paying jobs and are not always covered with proper health care. But Peru is proud to state that, of Peru's plethora of micro-businesses, 40% are operated by women. In addition to this, there are several organizations encouraged by the government of Peru that provide women with entrepreneurship training and better opportunities for business. Conclusively, Peru encourages the opening of opportunities for women to proliferate economic success and growth.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

Peru acknowledges that the involvement of women in politics is essential and beneficial. Women's ability to be involved in politics has consistently been strained, and Peruvian women in particular have historically struggled to achieve equality with men. This is partially a result of the way that men are educated on respect for women. According to the World Health Organization in a report from 2005, 55% of Peruvian women have experienced domestic violence in their lives, and for every three illiterate woman there is one illiterate man. In addition, the 2017 world report conducted by the Human Rights

Watch states that between 2009 and 2015, more than 700 women were killed due to femicides. In order to understand this, one must consider Peru's status as a developing country. Statistics from the most recent census carried out in 2017 by Peru's National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, 21.7% of the population lives in poverty. Although these are not excuses for the inequality between women and men, they could be leading factors.

Nevertheless, progress has been made. It has been a continuous fight for more access to involvement in politics for women. In 1955, the government of Peru granted women the right to vote, which was the result of a long struggle. In the election of 1956, women represented 34% of the vote. As a result of this, nine women were elected to parliament in the 1956 election. In 2002, Silvia Loli Espinoza, Advisor on Gender Issues and Human Rights in Peru's Ministry of Women and Social Development informed the UN that the people of Peru are "committed to giving effective priority to the promotion of equal opportunities", and "vowed to fight against all forms of discrimination and would strengthen the participation of women as social and political beings who could participate in the negotiation of policies affecting them and society".

The nation and people of Peru fully support the attempt to obtain gender equality, and to overcome the struggles that cause this to be seemingly irrational. Set in motion by the approval of the gender quota for electoral processes in 1997, the number of women in parliament has greatly increased. As reported by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in 2017, since this was approved the number had increased by 16%. This quota states that there must be a minimum of 30% women running for parliament. Although this appears to be greatly beneficial, besides the 16% increase, it has not exceedingly improved matters. Therefore, Peru highly endorses the movement to increase participation of women in politics.

Delegation from: The State of Qatar
Represented by: Mayfield High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women

The issues in need of addressing before the Committee on the Status of Women are: Women in Innovation and WorldWide Economic Empowerment; and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. The state of Qatar acknowledges that Women are an integral part in a country's economic and political efficiency and looks forward to cooperating with other member states in order to reach a consensus on the topics being discussed.

I. Women in Innovation and WorldWide Economic Empowerment

The State of Qatar is proud to state that it is a regional leader and example for women's rights and empowerment; however, the State of Qatar recognizes that it, and other states, still has room for improvement. When given the opportunities to have control in economic decision making, a country can promote productivity and economic diversification. For instance, the State of Qatar's economic success is reflected by its 35.1% female workforce, the largest of any other Middle Eastern nation. The State of Qatar has taken multiple measures to increase its female workforce, including projects to help women start their own businesses by helping market their products.

Through the process of approaching gender equality, the State of Qatar would also like to stress the importance of upholding the family structure. The State of Qatar is a leader in this area as Qatari women are given flexible work hours, the option to work from home and maternity leave. All of these benefits not only help Qatari women but help to maintain healthy family structures too. Given that, the State of Qatar urges the commission to take actions like these into consideration. Additionally, under the Labor Code, women make the same as men for equal work; however, the Qatari National Committee for Human Rights realizes the law's limitations and the State of Qatar is open to ideas that address this, so long as they are compliant with Islamic law. In the constitution, gender-based discrimination is outlawed, including in the workplace. This creates a comfortable environment for women to innovate and empower themselves and the global economy. The State of Qatar calls on all nations to follow with similar legislation as it is the first step to economic gender equality. These points are proven by the abundance of Qatari female millionaires. Finally, the State of Qatar would like to stress the importance that all legislation and resolutions addressing women's rights should all be compliant with Sharia Law in order to have the State of Qatar's support.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

Currently, there is no country in the world that has achieved gender equality in their national legislature. While unfortunate, the State of Qatar expresses its sentiments towards this issue and recognizes that women, as stated in the revolutionary National Vision 2030, play a "vital role in conflict prevention and resolution and peace-building." While women's involvement is increasing, much of today's discrimination towards women in this profession stems from societal bias that discourages women from

politics. Even so, Qatar fully supports providing women with leadership opportunities to lead and enter the political field, but reinforcing the idea that women are given these opportunities to uphold their family's well-being. Therefore, the state of Qatar would like to emphasize that in order for itself, along with other member states, to increase the number of women in political leadership roles, action must be taken to minimize discrimination and bias for women.

It is important to the State of Qatar that legislations be created that fosters further involvement of women in political affairs, Since 1999, Qatari women have had the right to run for political office and since then, Qatar has adopted countless approaches for further political empowerment in women. In reference to a report on Qatar by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Qatar has achieved developments that promote women's leadership roles and their participation on an equal basis. The State of Qatar aims to create a supportive environment for women to grow in politics in order to create a better government that can better help Qatari families grow. While still an ongoing process, Qatar hopes to continue improving upon the integration of women into the political leadership roles with the help of member states within the committee.

The State of Qatar emphasizes again the importance that societal bias has on women's political involvement. Therefore, much of what Qatar and member states must do to combat this topic is by addressing and hopefully limiting this bias on women. In order to do so, Qatar believes in the idea of statistically recording the benefits women can have in the proper functioning of politics and promoting this to the public and other countries. By doing so, Qatar hopes women will be recognized for their abilities, allowing for greater numbers of women to participate in politics without the constant backlash. Furthermore, women are often uneducated and are therefore unwilling to enter into political affairs. As a solution, Qatar proposes cooperation with member states in order to create programs that will provide women with proper education in their fields of interest in hopes of raising women involvement in politics

Delegation from: Russian Federation
Represented by: Beachwood High School
Committee: Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Position Paper For Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are: Women in Innovation and Worldwide-Economic Empowerment; and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. The Russian Federation looks forward to working with the other delegations of the United Nations to find solutions that will make significant strides in gender equality and stand the test of time.

I. Women in Innovation and Worldwide-Economic Empowerment

In the area of promoting gender equality and women's rights, economic empowerment is of paramount importance. Economic empowerment, according to the Commission on the Status of Women, is a concept derived from the overshadowing ideas that women should have an equal amount of authority across the economic spectrum, a say in control of productive resources, and more equal involvement in existing markets. An increase in the economic empowerment of women in the present day economy would have nothing but a positive impact in terms of closing the gender gap and increasing productivity. It can be assessed how much different countries restrict women in the areas of marriage, having children, asset management, mobility, career, and receiving a pension, through that specific country's legal policies. This is referred to as the country's WBL index score (standing for Women, Business, and the Law, under a 2018 World Bank Group project). Very countries around the world have a score of 100 on this scale, meaning that the number of countries depriving women of equal rights of men in WBL categories under their laws. A pivotal area in which women fall far behind men due to lack of economic empowerment is entrepreneurship. Young girls are not given the same motivation and education as their male counterparts in order to become equal and empowered members of the world economy. In order to reach a place of gender equality and bolstered women's rights, this, among other things, must change.

It is the belief of the Russian Federation that every country should strive to work towards a perfect score on the Women, Business, and the Law index. The Russian Federation currently scores high on this index with perfect scores in both the sections on the legal limitations for women in terms of travel, and in that of management of assets. Under the management of assets category, in accordance to the Family Code No. 223-FZ articles 33,34,35,36, and 39, the Constitution of the Russian Federation, and the Civil Code articles 1141(2) and 1142, women in Russia are completely equal to men in terms of ownership rights to immovable property, inheritance rights to both sons and daughters, and legally granted oversight of administrative authority. Young girls also have an early introduction to STEM classes in the Russian education system, and in fact, more women than men in Russia hold higher education degrees. The delegation from the Russian Federation acknowledges that further improvement in women's education is always both possible, and very important.

In beginning to not only address but also solve the issue of the lack of economic empowerment worldwide for women, change must start in education. Young girls who are exposed to STEM classes, are encouraged to take risks in establishing their creative ideas in school, and are raised with the knowledge that they are equal to men will grow up to be the brightest entrepreneurs on the world stage. Developed countries who have a high score on the WBL index must take it upon

themselves to encourage and aid developing countries with low scores on the WBL in making this positive change. It is presently estimated that worldwide, gender gaps cause an average income loss of 15% in the OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development), and by looking to the root of women's economic empowerment (her education), this deficit will surely fade. This delegation looks forward to diligent work with other members of the CSW committee to help build a solution to the problem at hand.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

Governments that wish to truly be democracies of the people must not only acknowledge that all are created equal and deserve equal rights, but that doing so is a key part of having a successful and thriving nation. Unfortunately, these values are far easier to be preached than practiced. Many nations have not moved to include women in various political processes, and some have only done so relatively recently. There is no genuine reason for this other than inherent biases exhibited in various different societies and cultures about women. Women are frequently seen as weak, overly emotional, and less intelligent in comparison to males in the same position. Because of these biases, the right to vote was not opened to women in most countries until the late 19th and early 20th century. Not only has it been historically difficult to participate in the voting process, it has also never been easy for a woman to become an elected official. Nations may have laws against women even entering races, or primarily male constituents in a population of voters may make it nearly impossible for a woman to even have a slim chance at being elected. Women worldwide must be empowered to participate in their countries' political systems, and ensuring their right to vote is a gateway to further prosperity and self sustainability.

The Russian Federation has been and always will be a champion of democracy and voters rights. Russian women were originally given the right to vote all the way back in 1917 by the provisional government in power at the time. Russian women were always seen as equals to men and thrived accordingly throughout the duration of the 20th century. The Russian Federation firmly believes in the rights of all its citizens to have a say in its future, and women are no exception. No religion has a say in the government, enforcing any type of sexist discrimination against the rights of our women. Not only do our women have the right to vote, but several have been elected to lead themselves. 71 women serve in the Russian Duma, and 31 serve in the lower Council of the Federation. The Russian Federation firmly believes in the right women have to participate in politics.

Women all around the world deserve an equal chance to prosper in society and guaranteeing said right is key to the further advancement of our world as a whole. Sadly, not all nations are champions of voting rights for all like the Russian Federation. The delegation proposes a solution that includes public service announcements and education to further involve women in the process, develop a finite definition of the harassment of female officials, as well as solutions to strengthen participation for both genders while keeping sovereignty in account. The Russian Federation looks forward to working alongside the international community to complete multifaceted resolutions to bring this pro

***Delegation From: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Represented by: Mentor High School***

Position Paper of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

The topics being addressed by the UNCSW are: Women in Innovation and WorldWide Economic Empowerment and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is looking to work with its allies and any willing delegation to find solutions to the issues that the committee is facing.

I. Women in Innovation and WorldWide Economic Empowerment

Women have historically been a minority in the workplace. Until the late 1800s, women were not permitted to go to school, own their own property, or have their own jobs. In the late 1800s, women started to hold conventions and create organizations to jump-start the evolution of women's involvement in the world. Starting in the early 1900s, more progressive countries started to grant their women more rights, including the right to vote, the right to go to school, the right to own property, and the right to hold their own job. While this was a giant leap in the rights of women, most countries did not give their women these rights, and there was still a lot of work to do in the countries that did. In more recent years, the gender pay gap is starting to shrink in the more developed countries and women are permitted, and encouraged, to work in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were not so fortunate to be part of one of the few countries that gave their women rights early on at the start of the worldwide women's rights movement. Traditionally, their role has been to get married early, bear children, and care for the children. As an Islamic kingdom, men and women must have separate rights according to Islamic law. Although women have been encouraged to stay uneducated and stay in the home, women have been allowed to attend university since the 1970s. In recent years, women have been making strides to match the productivity of men in the workplace. While men still dominate the workplace, women are now allowed in any field as long as it is not "dangerous". One field that women are taking over is teaching. The majority of the teachers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are women. While this is a traditionally female-dominated field in other countries, it is the start of women becoming as important as men in the workplace. Although the women of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have been working diligently to make their way into the workforce, there is substantial evidence that the productivity and skill of the men in the workforce are much higher than that of women. This is simply because men have had more time in the workplace than women, and have been much more respected by employers. While the modern world is much different than the world that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded in, there are still many similarities, and thus women do not have as much of a place in the workplace as men.

In the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women committee, the delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that this committee will focus on the involvement of women in innovation and worldwide economic empowerment. With the increasingly progressive viewpoint of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in mind, the delegation believes that they, with the collaboration of other delegations, can find effective solutions to the issues at hand. The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that other delegation will listen to the sentiments of the delegation and will collaborate to create resolutions. The delegation representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks forward to having productive conversations with its allies, as well as other countries, in order to find optimal solutions to the issues that the committee is facing.

II. Women in Political Participation

Women have not always held political rights in our world, as it was believed that they were incapable of such a critical responsibility. There have been many milestones reached regarding women's right to political participation. Women are generally underrepresented in political environments. Furthermore, it is evident that women face more barriers than men in the political environment, therefore reducing their participation. The historical tendency of a lack of women political figures and influence continues; however, in modern society, women have gained increasing political influence and have begun to hold more government offices and positions. The idea of women in political participation has not been a global trend, however, as many countries stand in resistance against women having the right to participate in politics.

Modernization of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made great progress in recent years. One of these recent developments has been giving women the right to political participation. The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia feels as though women having a limited, yet growing role in politics. The elation of the women of Saudi Arabia in regard to finally gaining the right to participate in politics is indescribable, as the Saudi King Abdullah giving women the right to vote and become Shoura Council members is something that many women believed that they would never see. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, women have had the right to vote and run in municipal elections for less than five years. However, the delegation has had a female holding the deputy education minister position since 2009, advisors to the King since 2010, and this year a woman was chosen as an ambassador to the United States. This was a huge step for Saudi Arabia, as those residing in the Kingdom have been well-known for the oppression of women. Women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia generally face many obstacles in politics due to the fact that their involvement in politics is limited to municipal council members and similar low-grade political positions. However, the delegation representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that women have been making immense progress, from holding office to gaining the right to vote, despite the obstacles that have been serving as a blockade to their participation in the past. The women of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have made great strides to increase their political involvement and have done whatever it takes in order to obtain this right. However, the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes that women should hold limited political power due to the fact that men have simply held this great responsibility for such a long duration within the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women committee, the delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that the committee will address the topic effectively and listen to the sentiments held by the Saudi Arabian delegation in order to work to solve the issue of women in political participation. The delegation of Saudi Arabia has worked diligently to discover ways to solve this issue of women's political participation and look forward to conversing with the other Commissions on the Status of Women delegations in order to combine ideas to design an effective resolution to the issues at hand. Through participation in this committee, the delegation of Saudi Arabia hopes to find innovative ways to go about solving the issues associated with political participation. Not only this, but the delegation representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has optimistic views regarding sharing their ever-evolving views of the modernization of women's rights, as it has gained momentum as a movement within the Kingdom. The delegation representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia looks forward to working with their fellow delegations within the committee to work to resolve the issue that the committee faces.

Delegation from: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Represented by: Mayfield High School

Position Paper for the Commission of the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission of the Status of Women are: Women in Innovation and Worldwide Economic Empowerment; and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is very committed to making women's rights a main point of focus in running the nation.

I. Women in Innovation and WorldWide Economic Empowerment

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) encourages women's participation in the workforce and other primarily male fields. The United Kingdom funds the UN Women organization, and in 2018 the United Kingdom gave 148.4 million United States dollars to show their support for the cause. The United Kingdom supports ideas of creating legal protection for pregnant women in the workforce since many females lose their jobs or get reduced hours after having a child. By examining the issue of pay, the United Kingdom does not believe in compensating men greater than women for their work but instead, equal pay for men and women in the same role and experience level.

In prior years, the United Kingdom has taken lengthy measures to end current gender-based workforce discriminatory actions. For instance, the United Kingdom passed the Equal Pay Act of 1970, which in turn, prohibits discrimination in employment between men and women. This law was based upon a similar one passed by the United States of America in 1963 named the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The United Kingdom has since regarded this issue as a very important topic within their government and, since then, there has been lowered levels of discrimination in the workplace between the two sexes. The Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 was passed soon after which ensured there to be no discrimination anywhere between men and women. As a result of passing this act, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) was created. The EOC is an organization that works to prevent gender-based discrimination in the workplace. The United Kingdom also encourages women in innovation. Innovate UK is a government organization that helps innovation progress in general, but also empowers women to become entrepreneurs. They found that by having more women in entrepreneurship, the country would generate approximately 180 billion additional Euros. There has been a seventy percent increase in women enrolling in Innovate UK over the past few years which will soon translate to greater profit and female entrepreneurs. The United Kingdom believes if more organizations such as the EOC and Innovate UK are created, female involvement in economics and entrepreneurship will increase.

The United Kingdom demands for action to be taken to increase women's participation in the workforce and innovation. By siding with countries such as the United States of America, the United Kingdom would be able to help create a better world for female economic involvement and female business owners. The United Kingdom believes in empowering women at a young age, such as creating science, engineering, technology, math and medicine (STEMM) programs for school age girls. By doing so, the United Kingdom would be preparing girls for success later in life. The United Kingdom also believes in creating worldwide organizations, such as Innovate UK, to give women around the world an equal chance

as their male counterparts in the workforce. The United Kingdom will side with countries willing to help make post-secondary education less discriminatory such that men and women will receive the same quality education. If more organizations similar to the EOC are created, the United Kingdom would be a more gender inclusive country so that women and men would have equal opportunities in the workforce.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) supports increasing the involvement of women in political participation. In recent years, the United Kingdom has seen a significant increase in the amount of politically involved women. However, the United Kingdom recognizes the persisting imbalance between women and men in politics, both in the United Kingdom and around the world, and still supports working further to have more women participate in politics.

Recently in the United Kingdom, there has been a significant increase in the number of women in political offices. For example, after the General Election of 2015, there were 191 Members of Parliament in the House of Commons, a historically high number. This increase is likely a result of the various actions taken by the United Kingdom to get more women involved in politics. For instance, the United Kingdom has supported United Nations (UN) resolutions that aid in this issue. For example, the United Kingdom was part of the 2011 UN General Assembly that adopted A/RES/66/130. This resolution was about women and political participation and it included ideas about eliminating discrimination, recognizing the value of women's political participation, and promoting education. Additionally, the United Kingdom has outlawed discrimination based on sex through the Equality Act of 2010. Through this act, actions such as sexual harassment, were made illegal which helped prevent women from leaving politics due to being discriminated against. Furthermore, political parties in the United Kingdom, such as the Labour Party, have used voluntary gender quotas to increase the amount of women involved in politics. Gender quotas are a type of affirmative action that sets a minimum requirement for the number of female candidates. One example of these gender quotas are all-women shortlists, in which parties permit only female candidates to run for certain positions. Additionally, some United Kingdom politicians, like Nicola Sturgeon, have gotten more women involved in politics by appointing an equal number of men and women to their cabinets.

While the United Kingdom has, in many ways, already taken action to increase the involvement of women in political participation, the United Kingdom still supports further efforts for even more participation. To accomplish this, it is believed by the United Kingdom that it is necessary to increase the amount of women who *want* to be involved in politics. The United Kingdom suggests that this be done by providing women with the training and finances needed for them to consider politics as a possible career option. Additionally, the United Kingdom suggests the implementation of legal gender quotas. As of now, gender quotas are utilised by some political parties in the United Kingdom on a voluntary basis. When used, they are seen to significantly increase the number of winning female candidates. For example, when used by the Scottish National Party in the 2015 election, 20 of 21 female candidates were elected as Members of Parliament. Therefore, the United Kingdom believes that increasing the use of gender quotas,

and even making them legally required, would increase women's political participation even more. However, the United Kingdom also feels strongly about the importance of the opinions of its citizens, which have been mostly negative toward the implementation of these legally mandated gender quotas. As a result, the United Kingdom believes it is necessary to only implement these quotas if more citizens begin to support it. Overall, through the continuation of various methods of increasing the involvement of women in political participation which are already in place, and through the addition of new methods to address the issue, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland hopes to continue to improve upon the representation of women's ideas throughout the government and improve the quality of life in general for its citizens, as well as other people around the world.

Delegation from: United States
Represented by: Beachwood High School
Committee: United Nations Council on the Status of Women

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The issues brought before the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is as follows: Women in Innovation and Worldwide-Economic Empowerment and Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation. With an increasing global wave of feminism, it is important to address the apparatus inequalities of our global society in order to advance further into the future.

I. Women in Innovation and Worldwide-Economic Empowerment

As the feminism movement progresses, more women are taking an active role in the economy- but not enough. It is necessary for women to participate and feel motivated to do so because women play an integral role in the global society and economy. 2.7 billion women around the world are prohibited from jobs on the basis of their gender. The unemployment rate for women around the world is 6.2 percent while it is 5.5 percent for men. Studies have shown that increasing women's equality can add \$12 trillion dollars to global growth. It is evident that the participation of women in the global economy is necessary for growth.

The United States is ashamed of the lack of advancement in women's rights, including the policies passed within its borders. The United States recognizes the significance of women participating in the workforce and thus emphasizes the need for equal protection. The United States Department of States has published a strategy in hopes of promoting women in the economy. The Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative highlights the goals of the United States in order to support women owned businesses and the employment of women in the workforce. Additionally, the US Department of State Strategy for Women's Economic Empowerment has laid out policies and described new legislations that are sought to be followed by the United States and other nations. The aforementioned goals of the Department of state layout policies in order to enforce the participation of women, ranging from addressing legal barriers that prevent women from fully participating and potential benefits of having women participating.

The delegation from the United States of America firmly believes in a multifaceted solution which includes setting the foundation (1), the proper implementation (2), and the commitment of equal protection (3). First, proper education is necessary to set the foundation for women to work in the advancing economy. Many regions of the United States alone face poverty in which children are placed at a disadvantage because of their circumstances. The distribution of resources will fall into the hands of those that will benefit the most from them. States with low poverty rates and lower standardized test scores will be immediately assisted in this conflict. Additionally, it is necessary to support women owned businesses in order to help our global society flourish. As well as aiding businesses that employ at least 30% women in order to incentivize participation. Secondly, the United States proposes the creation of a joint UN committee with representatives from all countries- developed and developing- and from the United Nation Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) to implement such activities. In addition to this, they will become a counseling and offer training programs for women in regards to career counseling, workplace skills development, and scholarships for women. Additionally, it is impossible to discuss women in the economy without bringing up maternity leave. We propose a plan that allows women to work from home and have paid maternity leave with 60% of the regular salary. This paid maternity leave will be enacted for 60 weeks, a reasonable time for new mothers to return to their jobs.

II. Increasing Involvement of Women in Political Participation

In a changing and developing world, there is a growing push for gender equality between men and women. A place in which many countries seem to struggle reach equal participation in is the involvement of the political sphere. Currently only nineteen of the two hundred forty one countries and territories in the world have a woman in the head position of their government (ei. President and Prime Minister). In a world with almost 4 billion women, it is vital to encourage women to take on more positions of power, making the voices of half of the population, which in modern history has been suppressed, heard.

The Delegation from The United States of America is proud of its current strides in increasing the involvement of women in politics. More and more women in the United States are running for and gaining seats in the Senate and the House of Representatives, as displayed by the so called “New Congress”. Though strides are being made, the United States sees its shortcomings, ranking 75th in the world in women’s representation in national legislatures and parliaments. The United States recognizes that there must be more effort put in in order to allow for an encouragement of more women in roles of political power. In the United States, there are no laws restricting the participation of women in politics, but unfortunately there seems to be a lack of women running for such positions. The United States sees it necessary to influence the participation of women in politics.

In order to achieve the necessary amount of involvement of women in political participation, The United States of America supports a multifaceted plan. In the United States, women tend to win elections at a similar rate to men, but the issue lies in the fact that they are less likely to run in the first place. For this reason, the first step of the proposed plan must involve the promotion of political action towards women around the world. With this in place, there is a further chance for women around the world to express their views, and be side by side with male politicians. With the involvement of women in the political atmosphere, there comes further development and discussion regarding important topics otherwise not discussed. After these steps, it is important to acknowledge that there must be laws in place to protect and allow the women in political positions just as there are for men. The delegation of the United States of America understands that without the implementation of such steps, women may never see equity in the political sphere as deserved. In short the multifaceted plan consists of (1) the building of enthusiasm for women participation in politics, and (2) developing ways to make running for political positions by women accessible. With this in place, there can be a push for equal participation by women in political involvement.