

Forum: GA
Issue: global gender equality
Student Officer: Martijn Muntenaar
Position: Head Chair

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 global goals that serve as the blueprint for the purpose and objectives of sustainable development. With multifaceted aspects, the SDGs not only seeks to promote “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs,” but also transparent discussions of such issues and empowerment of minorities. Thus, gender equality is integral to the achievement of sustainability in the future. As the United Nations (UN) explains, “Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.”

There are three main issues of gender equality: embedded cultural and religious values, unequal access to opportunities, and sexual abuse and trafficking. Despite centuries of efforts by governments and organizations alike, the issues of the gender gap and under-representation in the workforce and government are still especially prevalent in developing countries. For example, in areas of sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia, women still face significant barriers to the access of education and are major victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Despite the consensus that gender inequality is an issue, such practices are often still woven in legal and social norms.

The empowerment of women must start at its basic: providing education to women, especially in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). With education, women would be able to have access to more equal job opportunities and representation in government institutions and the decision-making process. With women in government, more light and attention would be shed on women’s issues and rights that may have been ignored or regarded as insignificant in the past, contributing to a positive cycle of improvement in the sphere of women’s rights and sustainable development.

Definition of Key Terms

Affirmative action [1]

Affirmative action is the controversial “policy of favoring members of a disadvantaged group who suffer or have suffered from discrimination within a culture.” The goal of such action is to “achieve goals such as bridging inequalities in employment and pay, increasing access to education, promoting diversity, and redressing apparent past wrongs, harms, or hindrances.” Affirmative action comes in two forms: quota and preference or special consideration in selection processes.

Feminism

Feminism is a “range of political movements, ideologies, and social movements that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve political, economic, personal, and social equality of sexes.” Its movement comes in three waves in history and has achieved numerous milestones in the fight for gender equality.

Gender

The definition of gender has been disputed and changed over time. Originally synonymous with sex, it has evolved to be “range of characteristics pertaining to, and differentiating between, masculinity and femininity.” These characteristics include biological sex (sex assigned at birth), sex-based social structures (ex: gender roles), or gender identity (how one identifies oneself).

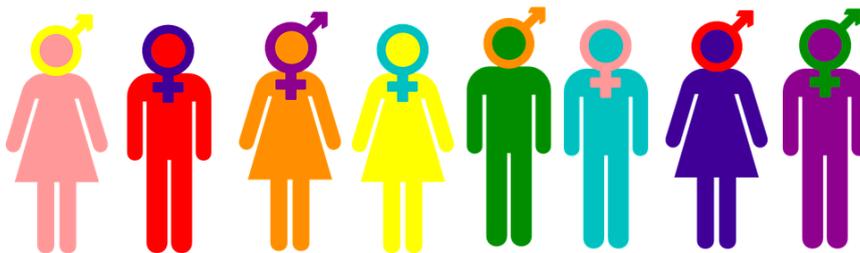


Figure 1: The definition of gender now incorporates gender roles and identities

Gender Equality [2]

Gender equality refers to the “equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys.” However, it does not mean that women would be equal to men, but that their “rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.” Equality is both a human rights and a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable development.

Sexism [3]

Sexism is the entrenched “prejudice or discrimination based on sex or gender, especially against women and girls.” Sexism is founded on the belief of the superiority of one sex to another and imposes gender roles based on stereotypes, thus justifying the oppression of the other sex.

Modeled after the term racism, the term sexism was originally coined by Pauline M. Leet on November 18th, 1965. Since then, second-wave feminism has used the term as a means of raising awareness about the oppression of women; however, in the 21st century, the term was expanded to encompass the oppression of any gender.

Misogyny is the most extreme form of sexism—hatred against girls and women.

History

First-wave feminism [4] [5]

The first-wave (1830s-early 1900s) is characterized by an increasing focus on legal issues, especially the right of women suffrage. The main purpose of the movement is to gain political power and representation to raise awareness and bring about change.

The movement for women's suffrage in the United States (US) remains one of the classic examples of first-wave feminism: The beginning of this movement is considered to be Seneca Falls Convention in July 1848, where prominent women and organizations, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucy Stone led organized action to advocate for the right. Despite their efforts, only several individual state legislations were changed, with the national right to suffrage being granted later in the 19th Amendment in 1920, which states: The right of citizens to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

However, such movements have limitations, with married women and “white, middle- and upper-class women with leisure time and some education” gaining more rights.



Figure 2: The Seneca Falls Convention

Second-wave feminism [6]

During World War II (WWII), thousands of women entered the workplace to take over jobs previously occupied by men, who were now relocated to war efforts. Although these women were actively recruited by the government at that time, such policy was seen as a “temporary and necessary” solution in the face of war rather than one made with the interest of gender equality in mind. Despite being forced out of these jobs immediately after the war, such an experience has elevated the desires for women to achieve more equality not only in the workplace, but also elsewhere.

Emerging in the US and spreading to the rest of the world in the early 1960s and lasting until the late 1980s, this movement is characterized by a broadening of the range of issues debated, including “sexuality, family, the workplace, reproductive rights, de facto inequalities, and official legal inequalities” in addition to domestic violence, rape, and “custody and divorce” law.

Second-wave feminism is further differentiated from the first-wave since it:

- (1) questioned the very structures of institutional power, which systematically “perpetuate[s] legal and social inequalities for both “women and people of color”
- (2) involved more women of lower classes or color
- (3) believed that although sex is biological, gender is a “social construct”

With their efforts, there were many improvements to the status quo:

- (1) Several local and state governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), for example, The National Organization for Women (NOW), alike intensified their advocating for women’s and racial rights, suggesting that gender and racial “social and civil equality” has been incorporated into political agendas and public discourse.

- (2) Multiple laws were passed in favor of the movement, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which states: "It shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer [...] to discriminate against any individual [...] because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin [...]"
- (3) Abortion was legalized in *Roe v. Wade*, and control pills were developed.

However, this movement was also characterized by several failures and problems:

- (1) The legalization of abortion caused significant backlash.
- (2) The movement led to the rise of radical feminism (New Left) that utilized zap actions—dramatic public demonstrations that attracted media attention—and negatively influenced public perception of all feminist movements to be "bra-burning, anti-man, politics-of-orgasm."



Figure 3: Second-wave feminism

Third-wave feminism [7]

Made possible by the rights obtained in the second-wave, the third wave (early 1990s-now) is considered to be the most controversial continuation of the series of feminism waves due to its backlashing and contradictory beliefs to the second wave and its characteristics.

- (1) Realized that women are of "many colors, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, and cultural backgrounds."
- (2) Introduced the idea no single characteristic or political agenda defines feminism.
- (3) Embraced diversity, individuality, identity, and self-empowerment.
- (4) Introduced the idea of the gender continuum and spectrum and the ability to identify one's own gender expression regardless of social pressure and stigmatization.
- (5) Believed that changing systematic social norms through abolishing gender roles and stereotypes is the most effective solution to gender inequality.



Figure 4: Third-wave feminism protest

Key Issues

Embedded cultural and religious values

The idea of women's inferiority and gender roles have long been embedded in cultural and religious values in many societies globally as a result of a precedent of systemic prejudice against women in the past. Such prejudice comes in two main forms:

- (1) In the start of organized religions. A prominent example is Christianity's view that sinful Woman, i.e., Eve, was the one who condemned humanity by corruption the innocent man—Adam.
- (2) Transition from a comparatively egalitarian farming-based economic society to industrialization. The replacement of the farming economy by the market economy led to higher labor force participation, in which men were seen as more capable of.

These values are often reflected in both legislation and people's everyday interactions. If not counteracted, it creates an echo chamber and disrupts discourse, making these values the norm and thus are continuously perpetuated and passed down to future generations.

Unequal access to opportunities [8]

As of result of embedded cultural and religious values, women systemically lack access to opportunities in many fields, such as but not limited to education, employment, and representation. Globally, several statistics suggest an urgent need of improvement in these areas.

- (1) Women's average earnings are almost half those of men, with average global earned income for women was estimated to be \$10,778 in contrast to \$19,873 of men.
- (2) 36% of countries regulate women's access to financial services.
- (3) Women take on more unpaid, domestic work. On the global average, men only do 34% of the unpaid work that women do, with girls spending 30% more of their time on such work.
- (4) For the last 50 years, women only have 23% of the political power that men have worldwide.
- (5) 30% of all male students had degrees in STEM subjects, as opposed to only 16% of women.
- (6) Women are more likely to be denied education, with two-thirds (510 million) of the illiterate people (775 million) in the world being female.
- (7) Women make up 75% of the 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty.
- (8) Women participation in labor markets was 47.1% compared to 72.2% for men.
- (9) 90% of economies studied have legal frameworks restricting women's economic opportunities.

In addition to the immediate short-term effects, there are also long-term global implications:

- (1) A global value of \$17 trillion is lost. Calculations suggest that women could increase global income by 76% if the employment participation and wage gap were eliminated.
- (2) A lack of women in political positions adds to people's conformational bias that women are incapable. In addition, there is less awareness of women's issues.
- (3) Women of LEDCs and lower racial classes are disproportional affected.

Sexual abuse and trafficking [9]

Despite domestic and international laws criminalizing trafficking, trafficking women for sexual exploitation remains one of the fastest growing global criminal enterprise in the world. It has evolved to become an increasingly lucrative industry, with perpetrators earning approximately \$99 billion per year. Of the 24.9 million victims, 4.8 million (19%) people are trapped in forced sexual exploitation annually. Sexual exploitation affects poor women disproportionately, with 71% of victims around the world being women and young girls. This problem is only exacerbated in countries where trafficking of women, in particular, is the norm and legal in the form of commercial sex, prostitution, and sex tourism.

"Survivors of sex trafficking tell stories of daily degradation of mind and body," suffering from isolation, physical and threat, severe emotional trauma, and sexually transmitted disease (STDs). Many become pregnant and are forced to undergo unsafe abortions."

In addition to the systemic sexual abuse of women, women also face violence in the forms of femicide, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and rape. Such violence can lead to long-term physical, mental and emotional health problems, such as “isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation and limited ability to care for themselves and their children.”

- (1) 120 million (35%) of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once at one point in their lives, with the first sexual contact of 30% to be forced.
- (2) “Women who have been physically or sexually abused are more than twice as likely to have an abortion, almost twice as likely to experience depression, and in some regions, 1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV, as compared to women who have not experienced partner violence.”
- (3) There is a 20-83% sexual harassment rate in school and workplace across the world.
- (4) Worldwide, there are 750 million child marriages.
- (5) More than 125 million girls and women alive today have been subjected to female genital mutilation across countries in Africa and the Middle East with prevalence rates of over 80%. Each year, 3 million more girls are at risk in Africa.
- (6) Non-heterosexual women are disproportionately affected, with 23% of them having experienced physical and/or sexual violence, compared with 5% of heterosexual women.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States of America (USA) [10] [11]

USA has been the leader of gender equality and the origin of the waves of feminism starting in the 1900s, with gender inequality having diminished throughout its history.

However, despite such progress, gender inequality in the United States persists in many forms, including the “disparity in women's political representation and participation, occupational segregation, the gender pay gap, and the unequal distribution of household labor.”

In 2017, the World Economic Forum ranks the United States 49th best in terms of gender equality out of 144, suggesting a need for improvement.

In addition to the inequality faced by cisgender women, “inequality, prejudice, and violence against transgender men and women, as well as gender nonconforming individuals and individuals who identify with genders outside the gender binary, are also prevalent in the United States.”

One possible reason for the persistence of the issue is political divide. A new Pew Research Center survey finds that Democrats are largely dissatisfied with the nation’s progress on this issue, with

69% saying the country hasn't done enough. However, among Republicans, 54% believe that the situation is fine as it is, while only 26% say the country has room for improvement.

Yemen [12]

"Yemen has ranked last in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report (145 out of 145 countries)" ever since 2006 and is regarded as the worst performer in gender equality.

Despite years of efforts to improve the rights of women in Yemen, cultural and religious (sharia) traditional norms, statutory laws and legal provisions that discriminate against women, a lack of enforcement, a lack of women participation, illiteracy, and overall poverty level in this highly patriarchal society still prevented Yemeni women from enjoying equal rights as men and rightful citizens.

In addition, the humanitarian crisis plaguing Yemen has worsened the situation, with women having been left vulnerable to "violence, physical and psychological abuse and exploitation." The crisis has also shifted the attention away from the issue of gender inequality.

As such, women in Yemen suffer from limited access to health care, economic opportunities (25% of all employed), and education (31%) in addition to sexual abuse and no political representation.

Despite the current challenges, the Yemeni government has attempted to resolve the issue by ratifying CEDAW and establishing a National Strategy for Women's Development (2006-2015).

China [13]

Before the Chinese economic reform by Deng Xiaoping of the Communist Party of China in 1978, the country was a socialist planned economy that promoted gender equality as "one of the key principles of societal organization." After embarking on economic reforms in the 1990s and early 2000s, gender inequality in labor markets and other fields increased dramatically.

In international terms, according to World Economic Forum, China now ranks 100th out of 144 countries for gender parity, falling for nine consecutive years since 2008.

Despite "holding up half the sky," women are discouraged by Traditional Confucian social values to participate in politics and these ideas are still embedded in the social values of people. Surveys have shown that many believe women to be "less intellectually capable than men or that woman's place" is in the home" and therefore causes discrimination in school admission quotas and processes (59%) and job opportunities (87%). In addition, sexual and family abuse are also prevalent.

Despite being constitutional illegal to discriminate based on gender, gender discrimination, these laws (ex: Law and Protection of Rights and Interests of Women) are relatively less enforced. Its one-child policy and its amended form have received a lot of criticism for they suggest the subjection of the body of

women to the government. However, the government is determined to improve its situation and become a world leader in this field, introducing social reforms and donating money to UN Women.

Iceland

“Equal rights are human rights. We need to make sure that men and women enjoy equal opportunity in the workplace. It is our responsibility to take every measure to achieve that.”— Social Affairs and Equality Minister Thorsteinn Viglundsson.

Iceland has ranked first on the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report consecutive with good reason, as it has eliminated 87% of the gender gap already. Iceland is credited with being the first country in the world to “legalize abortion and the first to elect a woman as head of state in a national election.” Its parliament is made of 48% women. In addition, pledging to eradicate the gender pay gap by 2022, Iceland has passed a legislative law that required at least 40% of women representation in business and “on boards and in senior management in public corporations.”

Part of the reason for its success is cultural. As its ministry officials explain, women make “invisible realities of women visible” by calling attention to issues through protests in strikes, which has led to milestones in law changes, another reason for the country’s success.

Nicaragua [14]

“The world’s unlikely champion of gender equality,” Nicaragua, despite being one of the world’s poorest countries, is considered to be the most improved and progressive in narrowing its gender gap. According to the GGGR, Nicaragua ranks the 10th (score of 78) in global gender equality. It “remains the best performer in the Latin America and the Caribbean region for the fifth year running.”

This improvement is largely attributed to the efforts of Sandinista Daniel Ortega, who was elected into presidency in 2006 when the country was in 65th place. Ever since his election, his social reforms were significantly improving Nicaragua's gender equality, with the bill passed in Nov. 2012 being a classic example. This bill resulted in a significant improvement in the political aspect, with women taking up more than 40% of all political position.

However, Nicaragua still suffers from some problems. For example, for every 100,000, there are 150 maternal mortalities. In addition, as the index “measures women’s position compared to men in their country,” some argue that the results are not reflective of gender equalities as different countries have different standards of well-being. In addition, abortion is still not legalized in Nicaragua.

UN Women [15]

UN Women is the UN entity working for the empowerment of women. Its purpose and issues that it addresses include the following:

- (1) support of inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards, and norms
- (2) assistance to Member States to 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
- (3) accountability for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

It achieve its goals through supporting “international political negotiations to formulate globally agreed standards for gender equality” and helping “UN Member States to implement those standards by providing expertise and financial support.”

NOW [16]

NOW was “established by a group of feminists who were dedicated to actively challenging sex discrimination in society” and grew in magnitude to become the largest left-leaning feminist organization in the US. It’s mission statement read: “The purpose of NOW is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men...” Closely associated and almost synonymous with second-wave feminism, it has achieved various milestones in gender equality.

In addition, NOW strives to (for all identified genders, including the LGBTs):

- (1) eradicate racism, sexism, and homophobia
- (2) appeal the 2006 Supreme Court’s decision to removed the *NOW v. Scheidler*, which originally enforced protection of aborter,
- (3) pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

NOW achieves its goals through “direct mass actions, intensive lobbying, grassroots political organizing and litigation.” Its Global Feminism activities submits Shadow Reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), while its Voter Mobilization program seeks to educate voters. In addition, NOW's Political Action Committee (PAC) endorsed candidates or presidents.

World Health Organization (WHO) [17]

As the premier organization in world public health, WHO is mostly concerned with the health aspect concerned with gender inequality. In essence, the WHO seeks to address:

- (1) sexual abuse and trafficking
- (2) inequitable distribution of health resources to women
- (3) women's physical and mental health's and their performance in the workplace.

CARE [18]

CARE is a major advocate and actor in women empowerment and Gender Equality and Women's Voice (GEWV). It believes that the best solution to achieve GEWV is through women's empowerment and men's involvement, which together, it believes, would change societal values.

As such, it is involved in various programs, include its frameworks. For example, its SII identified 23 key dimensions of social change that is widely referenced. Its Governance Programming Framework (GPF) assesses the improvement of GEWV in accordance to the contexts in each country. In addition, CARE is also focused on stopping violence against women and child marriage.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events [19]

Date	Description of Events
July 19–20, 1848	The Seneca Falls Convention, the first woman's rights convention "to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of woman," is held in Seneca Falls, New York. This convention marked the first organized effort by women to promote their agenda of gender equality.
September 1, 1939- September 2, 1945	A global war, WWII is one of the most major wars in history, altering the power play as well as starting a new chapter in the history of feminism. With thousands of women actively recruited to entered the workplace to take over jobs previously occupied by men, who were now relocated to war efforts, the war incentivized women to further their efforts.
March 19, 1911	After a 1910 meeting in Copenhagen regarding gender equality, International Women's Day is honored for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. More than a million attended rallies.
October 24, 1945	In the aftermath of WWII, the UN is established to promote international cooperation. Ever since its foundation, gender equality has been enshrined as one of its main objectives. For example, Article 1 of the UN Charter outlines that among its purpose is to promote and encourage "fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

December 10, 1948	Adopted by the General Assembly (GA), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is the first global recognition and declaration that there are “basic inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms that apply to every human being.” In it, it expresses “faith [...] in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women.”
June 19-July 2, 2017	With the participation of 133 member states, The First World Conference on Women is held in Mexico City. It results in a World Plan of Action to achieve the objectives for gender equality over the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985).
December 20, 1993	The GA adopts the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the first of its kind to recognize, address, and establish a global action framework to combat violence against women.
September 4-15, 1995	With 17,000 official participants and 30,000, The UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, achieved another milestone of progress for the advancement of women and their rights worldwide. Resulting in the unanimous adoption (189 countries) of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it not only defined objectives and actions in 12 key areas of women’s rights, but also set global evaluation every five years.
July 17, 1998	120 member states vote in favor of the Rome Statute, which establishes the International Criminal Court (ICC)’s role in the persecution of gender-based violence and persecution as well as its “strong emphasis on gender balance” showcases a global recognition of the need to improve the equality faced by women in due process of trial in any court.
September 6-8, 2000	At the Millennium Summit, 189 countries adopt the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are the “blueprint of universal development goals” for the 21st century to be achieved by 2015. Goal 3 and 5 specifically calls for the promotion of gender equality and improving maternal health, respectively, catalyzing international efforts.
October 31, 2000	The UN Security Council (UNSC) formally “acknowledge[s] women as integral actors in international peace and security processes through the passage of UNSCR 1325, which addresses the unique effects of conflict on women as well as the critical role that women can play in conflict management, conflict resolution, and sustainable peacebuilding.” Subsequently, UNSCR 1820, resolutions 1888, 1889, and 1960 are passed.
July 2, 2010	The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is created by the GA.
June 17, 2011	Alarmed by the abuse of the human rights of the LGBT community—“social exclusion, violence, “corrective rape,” assaults, and denial of basic services”—Human Rights Council (HRC) adopts the first UN resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity (17/19).
September 2015	A replacement of the MDGs, the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is adopted under 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Building upon the MDGs, it identifies other key areas of sustainable development while still including the issue of gender inequality, showing promise in further actions and reaffirming the significance of the issue.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue [20]

Ever since 19th century, efforts, i.e., the waves of feminism, domestic national laws, and UN action, to resolve the issue have dramatically increased, resulting in many strides of improvement. According to "No Ceilings: The Full Participation Report", the following improvements have been made all within 20 years of efforts, showcasing the effectiveness of focused, international efforts:

- (1) Maternal death has been decreased by approximately 40%.
- (2) The rate at which girls enroll in primary school is almost equivalent to that of boys, with parity still not existing in only 17 countries.
- (3) Approximately 80% of all constitutions have some mechanism to guarantee gender equality.
- (4) Twice the number of women now hold political office positions.
- (5) The average gender wage gap narrowed from 28% to 20%.

However, as evident from the status quo, many of such problems have yet to be resolved due to slow, and sometimes backward, results. "With regard to money earning, the gender gap has only narrowed 2% in the last ten years, and has recently been headed in the wrong direction."

The three waves of feminism has undoubtedly achieved remarkable milestones in the fight for gender equality.

However, the waves of feminism does present one flaws: The increasingly complex definition of feminism and gender greatly expands the objectives feminism hopes to achieve to a larger-scale, increasing the difficulty of such efforts. In addition, such social reformations, for example, the universal implementation of gender-neutral bathrooms, comes with a great opportunity cost and crowds out resources to spend on other agendas, further increasing disapproval, controversy, and backlash.

Perhaps the most important actor in the discussion of resolving gender equality, efforts by the UN and its various internal organs is the most effective solution under the status quo, including the ability to serve as a nonpartisan platform for communication, pass relevant resolutions, as well as empowering women ambassadors and speakers. However, the UN also has areas of needed improvements:

- (1) The UN's ability to interfere is greatly limited as it has to respect sovereignty, i.e., the right to self-determine, without external interference, aspects of their domestic jurisdiction," under Chapter 1 Article 2 of the UN Charter. In addition, whether to implement actions plan proposed by the UN is completely within the jurisdictions of the member states.

- (2) The UN is plagued with troubles of its own: Recently, the UN has been shrouded in controversy regarding the legitimacy of its “gender statistics,” with many statistics having been debunked numerous times, for example, the “77 cents on the dollar” gender wage gap statistics. With this controversy, the legitimacy of UN action is questioned.
- (3) There has been a lack of gender equality action attended to individual member states’ situations. Since the situation in each member states varies dramatically, one comprehensive action plan is unlikely to be able to address the needs and values of all member states.

Possible Solutions

1. Increase in domestic government action.
 - **Pros:** With legislative change, imminent problems such as sexual abuse and trafficking could be alleviated. The provision of humanitarian aid would significantly aid in women’s health. If the government chooses to employ affirmative action and ensure women’s representation in the workforce and government, women would become more empowered to advocate for further action. In addition, systematic change in the legislative encourages change in societal values and perception in the long-run.
 - **Cons:** Such change could not be enforced and is completely up to the domestic jurisdiction of the respective governments, as the UN needs to respect the sovereignty of such member states. In addition, there could be backlash from the citizens.
2. Increase education and raising awareness.
 - **Pros:** With greater education and more awareness regarding the issue, there could be, at the very least, more discourse. With better knowledge of safe sex, sexual abuses could be prevented. Under the best case scenarios, societal values and perception could change in the long-run with better citizen understanding of the issue.
 - **Cons:** Education is hard to be equally distributed or integrated into national curriculums. In addition, it increases more short-term backlash and controversy.
3. A transparent platform for data, communication, and negotiations under the UN.
 - **Pros:** Not only can this platform increase education, raise awareness, and promote public discourse, it lessens the probability of biased or partisan data as the data provided could be fact-checked. In addition, individual action plans could be negotiated.
 - **Cons:** Member states might reject the transparency or fact-checks.

Bibliography

1. Hultin, Brenda Bautsch Suzanne. "AFFIRMATIVE ACTION | OVERVIEW." NCSL, NCSL, 7 Feb. 2014, www.ncsl.org/research/education/affirmative-action-overview.aspx.
2. "OSAGI Gender Mainstreaming - Concepts and Definitions." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm.
3. Masequesmay, Gina. "Sexism." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 10 Apr. 2016, www.britannica.com/topic/sexism.
4. "History of the Movement for Gender Equality." *Wikigender*, www.wikigender.org/wiki/history-of-the-movement-for-gender-equality/.
5. "History of Feminism in the U.S.: The First Wave." The Gender Press, 23 Jan. 2015, genderpressing.wordpress.com/2015/01/23/feminism-the-first-wave-2/.
6. "Feminism's Second Wave." The Gender Press, 28 Jan. 2015, genderpressing.wordpress.com/2015/01/27/feminisms-second-wave-2/.
7. Burkett, Elinor, and Laura Brunell. "The Third Wave of Feminism." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 14 July 2016, www.britannica.com/topic/feminism/The-third-wave-of-feminism.
8. Elsesser, Kim. "7 Important Facts About The Global Gender Gap." Forbes, Forbes Magazine, 27 Oct. 2016, www.forbes.com/sites/kimelsesser/2016/10/27/7-important-facts-about-the-global-gender-gap/#3a5482044c22.
9. "Facts and Figures: Ending Violence against Women." UN Women, UN, www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures.
10. "The United States of America." Wikigender, www.wikigender.org/countries/north-america/gender-equality-in-the-united-states-of-america/.
11. Horowitz, Juliana Menasce, et al. "Wide Partisan Gaps in U.S. Over How Far the Country Has Come on Gender Equality." Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project, 18 Oct. 2017, www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/10/18/wide-partisan-gaps-in-u-s-over-how-far-the-country-has-come-on-gender-equality/.
12. "No Future for Yemen Without Women and Girls - Policy Brief: October 2016." ReliefWeb, reliefweb.int/report/yemen/no-future-yemen-without-women-and-girls-policy-brief-october-2016.
13. "China Needs to Stop the Growing Gender Gap." Human Rights Watch, 6 Nov. 2017, www.hrw.org/news/2017/11/05/china-needs-stop-growing-gender-gap.
14. Campoy, Ana. "Nicaragua, the World's Unlikely Champion of Gender Equality." Quartz, Quartz, 23 Nov. 2015, qz.com/556722/nicaragua-the-worlds-unlikely-champion-of-gender-equality/.
15. "About Us." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/daw/index.html.

16. "National Organization for Women |." National Organization for Women, now.org/.
17. "Women and Gender Equity." World Health Organization, World Health Organization, www.who.int/social_determinants/themes/womenandgender/en/.
18. Ejanoch. "Women's Empowerment Framework." CARE, 19 Aug. 2014, www.care.org/our-work/womens-empowerment/gender-integration/womens-empowerment-framework.
19. "Timeline: The UN at 70 – Gender Equality Milestones & Memorable Moments." UN Women, UN, www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2015/9/timeline-un-at-70-gender-equality.
20. Ruiz, Rebecca. "This Is What 20 Years of Gender Equality Progress Looks Like." Mashable, Mashable, 9 Mar. 2015, mashable.com/2015/03/09/gender-equality-study/#AWNShaM Wqqd.
21. <https://www.susans.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Faces-Of-Gender.png>
22. <http://fineartamerica.com/images-medium/seneca-falls-meeting-1848-granger.jpg>
23. <https://cdn.thinglink.me/api/image/7ohP4FeQn68Ht5nyNoEjy79s5s7VBbx9VxtNX6HHzaxdBPeac5m3sfvppTr7PjG5QyP2fvNyX694oxtzwtFPqnUHLVhVPneLBY/320/320/scaledown>
24. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lseviewofbooks/files/2015/06/Third-Wave-Feminism.jpg>
25. <http://un.dk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/UN-Women-logo-2-300x139.png>
26. Taiwan MUN 2018