



Code: HRC/1/1

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: The 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Program on Women's Empowerment

The Human Rights Council,

Emphasizing the importance of the issue of gender inequality and the lack of universal women's rights in the international community,

Reaffirming the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW), advocating that all people have the right to freedom and the protection from all forms of oppression,

Guided by the celebration of the 25th anniversary of *The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*,

Alarmed by the lack of access to family planning programs and reproductive care world wide,

Applauds the accomplishment of the United Nations in adopting General Assembly resolution 70/1 that establishes the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically the targets and indicators of SDG 5,

Calling attention to the poor conditions and disparities of early education inequality and discrimination against women and girls,

Concerned that justifications based on tradition or cultural and religious tradition are used to keep women and girls from taking an equal place in society and education,

Taking into account the lower number of women that have access to education throughout the world and the damage this causes to education as a whole,

Deeply concerned about the exclusion of women in the educational system, resulting in a lack of job opportunities and career advancements,

Recalling SDG Action 10973, Financial Education for Girls, aiming to provide education opportunities for women equipping them with resources to make equal economic decisions alongside male representatives,

Keeping in mind General Assembly Resolution 70/219 which asserts the importance of female autonomy as an essential aspect of empowerment,

Cognizant of General Assembly Resolution 34/180 that stresses the importance of protecting women and girls from violence in all forms,

Supporting the Human Rights Council Resolution 23/2 which advocates for the freedom of expression in regards to women's empowerment,

Recognizing the importance of gender integration in policy-making, and that according to UN Women, less than 25% of national representatives worldwide are women,

Endorsing General Assembly resolution 66/130 which calls for the removal of all barriers of women's participation in government,

1. *Suggests* Member States implement gender sensitivity courses in elementary schools to educate youth and bolster gender equality in the future;
2. *Strongly Recommends* that member states work with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to create equal opportunities for boys and girls throughout the education system by encouraging increased measures, ensuring that every student has access to an education, and calling for higher GPI (Gender Parity Index) for women which measures how many girls go to school for every 100 boys;
3. *Calls Upon* Member States and the United Nations entities to follow the rights in the UDHR and promote security programs for women in schools to combat sexual abuse on school premises;
4. *Strongly Urges* Member States to work with education focused Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), such as Child Empowerment International, in order to develop a set of international education standards, which would include:
 - a. *Creating* a committee of experts that meets annually to implement and assess educational programs for young girls and boys in elementary/early education schools and programs;
 - b. *Aiming* for a 5% increase quinquennially in literacy rates among women in all Member States through further implementation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Capacity Development for Education literacy programs;
 - c. *Increasing* the number of women and girls of all ages accepted into schools;
 - d. *Encouraging* girls to continue school;
 - e. *Recommending* that Member States promote teaching programs that help educate instructors on women empowerment;
5. *Proclaims* that women deserve equal rights around the world and more recognition by encouraging Member States to enact national laws to criminalize violence against women and strengthen long term support for women and girls rights by:
 - a. *Reinforcing* the progressive international frameworks set by CEDAW in reinforcing policies that target illegal sex and child trafficking networks;
 - b. *Inviting* local level promotion of social change through the backing of womens' support groups and enforcement of security protocols to maintain the safety of their meetings;
6. *Emphasizes* the increasing rate of gender-based violence and hopes that Member States and their governments tackle this issue by:

- a. *Maintaining* the objectives set by the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign and working towards its goals;
 - b. *Implementing* legislation that penalizes all forms of violence against women and training members of law enforcement agencies on preventing gender-based violence and protecting victims from further harm;
 - c. *Raising awareness* by doing information and media campaigns at the local and national levels through pre-tertiary education and awareness-raising programs on television and other media and organizing awareness-raising initiatives on male violence against women, encouraging both boy and girls analyze mechanisms of violence;
7. *Directs attention* to the social and institutional barriers that women face within the judicial system by:
 - a. *The collaboration* of Member States with international NGOs that offer support to women who need legal assistance in expanding the joint project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for legal aid in West Africa;
 - i. *Prompting* Member States to provide equal access to public legal assistance;
 - ii. *By encouraging* women's participation in each Member States' justice systems in conjunction with promoting the entrance of more women in higher levels of education;
 - b. *Requesting* Member States to provide low-cost public legal assistance, putting into consideration the economic struggles women face;
 - c. *Encouraging* governments and private institutions to support the World Justice Project;
8. *Emphasizing* the need to create opportunities for women to participate in decision-making by increasing opportunities for employment, educational standards, and access to family planning programs and reproductive care;
9. *Encourages* the establishment of political electoral reforms on all levels of government suggesting, a minimum of 20-30% of legislative officials and businesses be women, and employ penalties against parties within their Member States not in compliance with the minimum percentage;
10. *Recommends* that Member States partner with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to facilitate a partnership between local schools and government officials in order to implement a voluntary Women in Office program, to be brought to local communities, which would allow girls who are still in school to participate in local government and encourage the development of jobs skills and familiarity with government operations, increase the role of women in the decision-making process, and give girls a pathway to possible careers in politics.



Code: HRC/1/2

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: The 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Program on Women's Empowerment

The Human Rights Council,

Acknowledging that two-thirds of the women globally are illiterate according to UN Women,

Emphasizing the 12 strategic objectives outlined in the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, specifically those highlighting the importance of ending violence against women, the importance of women in decision making processes, and the need for institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women,

Realizing that women lack representation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) related fields,

Recognizing the findings of UN Women, that the global participation rate of women in national-level parliaments is less than 25%,

Expressing great concern for the 47 million women and girls going into extreme poverty due to the damages of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Confident that increasing the participation of women in roles of leadership following the ideals of the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), in both entrepreneurial and creative projects will increase women's empowerment across the globe,

Seeking to increase the participation of women in the United Nations,

Further considering that taking leadership on the government needs to implement the law of hiring women for higher positions for all companies,

Emphasizing the importance of providing access to jobs and education with developed programs which supports women's capacity and skills, including their entrepreneurial and creative skills,

Fully believing that by empowering women and integrating them into the labor force, we will boost our capacities, productivity, and opportunities,

Emphasizing the importance of educating young girls in financial literacy and giving them the tools to help other women gain the same skills,

Acknowledging the lack of credit and funds available to women in struggling financial situations,

Having considered the widespread disparity that is experienced by women in both the economic and civic sectors,

Alarmed by the facts of the estimated number of girls that have been forced into child marriages being 33,000, and the 200 million of world-wide victims surviving female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that violations of women's human rights are overwhelmingly committed or coerced by men, and preventative education targeted towards the historic upholders of gender barriers and initiating actors of gender violence is part of a well-rounded response,

1. *Emphasizes* the building of schools in developing countries to help women and girls get access to the education that they deserve which would:
 - a. *Request* funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in building schools for women and girls;
 - b. *Create* a campaign “Girls Back to School” which would initiate the push for women and girls to be educated, with the help of UN Women;
 - c. *Help* with the funding of school supplies through the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) by focusing on projects such as the Capacity Development for Education (CapED) to increase literacy rates of the youth in such developing nations;
 - d. *Request* funding from the Women’s Global Empowerment Fund which would provide different opportunities for sovereignty in nations that are currently developing in microfinancing for women and girls;
 - e. *Seek* assistance from Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) which have been accredited to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the funding of the education for women and girls, with a specific focus in developing countries & rural regions;
 - i. Advocates for the collaboration with the Orchid Project, an NGO that aims its efforts at eradicating the practice of female genital cutting (FGC) by partnering with grassroots organizations in areas including Keyna, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, India, in addition to many more;
2. *Approves* of a multi-tier approach to combat the issue of discrimination against women on an international, national, and local scale:
 - a. *Establish* stronger international precedent to combat child sex trafficking by working with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
 - i. Following the framework set by CEDAW as the basis for such reforms, especially in hostile areas of the world where the safety of women is at a constant risk;
 - ii. Being cognizant of the statistic released by UN Women, which states that 72% of human trafficking victims globally are accounted for by women and girls, with girls making up three-fourths of child trafficking victims;
 - b. *Place* increased importance on setting standards of national improvement on educational standards, job opportunities, wage increases, and reproductive care for women of all ages and backgrounds;
 - i. Following the guidelines set by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Center for Reproductive Rights to make sure that women maintain the right to privacy and sovereignty on their bodies;
 - ii. Working in compliance with the standards set by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by establishing more job opportunities for women and eradicating segregation in the workplace;
 - iii. Pushing for educational standards for women to better represent the precedent made by the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) to enhance global education for all women;

- c. *Focus* specialized efforts on a local scale in order to target cultural and religious differences that could hinder the opportunities in their lifestyles;
 - i. Emulating similar plans of actions taken by the Women's Global Empowerment Fund to help facilitate under-privileged women with their independence;
- 3. *Supports* the inclusion of Women's Social and Economic Development Program (WOSED) which works to fight the problem of poverty among women, this can be done by following the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 which focuses on quality education for children:
 - a. *With strong* collaboration with the organization Plan International, we can strive to empower young girls through the creation of platforms that will allow women to be introduced to STEM fields, specifically by;
 - i. Working alongside UNESCO to fund afterschool programs and extracurricular facilities across rural areas that would be inclusive to both boys and girls interested in STEM related activities;
 - ii. Funding may be requested within the purview of UN SDGs 4 and 5 from the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, among others;
 - b. *Introduce* formalized sex education programs in educational institutes for both boys and girls in cooperation with the Center for Reproductive Rights;
 - c. *Lower* institutional standards that block women from attending certain programs;
 - i. Remove barriers that allow only men to attend certain schools;
- 4. *Encourages* the restructuring of electoral systems to make them more accessible to women through collaborating with the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) *Women in Politics* project to work towards the following:
 - a. *Establishing* quota systems for gender participation in political parties;
 - b. *Creating* local initiatives and skill-building workshops focusing on increasing women's leadership capabilities and preparing women to obtain elected office;
 - c. *Building* international, national and local coalitions to survey women's participation in government and power in decision making at all levels;
 - d. *Compiling* local and national databases describing the political efficacy of women and the share of power they hold;
- 5. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), through the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide women with emphasis on rural regions, with free masks and possible financial assistance;
- 6. *Recommends* the creation of the Women Entrepreneurial and Creative Incentive (WECI), funded through UN Women, the Assisting Communities Together fund (ACT), and the United Nations Office for Project Services, to provide financial aid for women across the globe who are interested in creative and business initiatives;
- 7. *Suggests* the United Nations System Staff College to work alongside UNESCO and UN Women to host a forum for Women Development and participation alongside the United Nations, with the objective to encourage women participation and interest in public service;

8. *Recommends* legislation to bolster women's land ownership, employment, agricultural services, and the systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data to track;
9. Evaluate programs, such as The National Women's Service and Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and their impact on women's rights by working with low-income women to receive subsidized child care, promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and accelerating regional economic integration;
10. *Calls upon* governments, and corporations such as, IBM and Microsoft, to work together with other companies of higher positions, in sharing experiences and ideas on how to make change quickly and effectively;
11. *Suggests* the establishment of public-private partnerships (PPPs) and best-practice sharing from those partnerships among Member States, which would take the form of international conferences similar to UNESCO;
 - a. *Work* closely with domestic non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as The Population Council and Micro-Save and MicroSave Consulting Ltd. to adopt a program that aims to promote financial literacy in young women through weekly group meetings, financial education, and ensuring access to personal savings accounts at local banks;
 - b. *Give* girls and young women the tools to teach their mothers and other women what they have learned regarding financial literacy;
 - c. *Develop* a peer mentor program so that girls can have support from other girls who have been through the same training as them;
12. *Encourages* working with NGOs specializing in micro financing in order to:
 - a. *Partner* with these micro financing NGOs to create plans for micro loans for women in poverty situations;
 - b. *Establish* guidelines for microfinancing institutions lending to women in impoverished areas;
 - c. *Work* with these micro financing NGOs to increase loans for female entrepreneurs who are often unable to receive economic investment because of gender discrimination;
13. *Further resolves* that Member States should take explicit measures to ensure that the economic disparities experienced by women globally be countered with steadfast action, by engaging at a national level to include language in future action plans, similar to UNICEF's *Gender Action Plan*, which protects and supports the liberties of women in many sectors of society by:
 - a. *Noticing* the immense increase in gender disparity that has affected the progress in stabilizing the gender inequality gap brought on by this year's COVID-19 pandemic;
 - b. *Addressing* the fact that women are frequently under-represented in high ranking positions, while being over-represented in low-income jobs;
 - c. *Seeks* to increase the societal leverage that women hold in areas such as land ownership & governmental representation;

- d. *Emphasizing* SDGs 4, 5, and 10 in the search to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the empowerment of women in the economy, and the conclusion of gender gap disparity;
14. *Calls Upon* the proposal of the Gender Action plan which demonstrates a concern of children and women being forced and abused by such actions and pursues into putting an end to all means of child marriage, forms of gender based violence, and advocates equality for females:
- a. *Recommends* organizing awareness-raising campaigns on male violence towards women, stressing that men should be responsible for their acts and encouraging them to analyze and dismantle mechanisms of violence and to adopt different behavior;
 - b. *Also urges* a financial and social investment on an international basis to address the mental health of women who have been affected by violence, through cooperation with the Network of Women with Disabilities to extend the scope of existing mental healthcare to survivors of sexual and gendered violence as mentioned in General Assembly resolution 76/146 (2012);
 - c. *Requesting* the Oak Foundation to provide the funding support to seek a more civil society centered approach in generating progress in gender equality;
15. *Further invites* a localised approach to update male-oriented workplaces and education spaces to help combat the structural sexism that holds back even the most well-trained, well-educated women by:
- a. *Stressing* that both boys and girls receive a basic education that avoids social and cultural patterns, prejudices and stereotyped roles for the sexes and includes training in assertiveness skills;
 - b. *Exploring* training for all members of the teaching profession to integrate the concept of gender equality in their teaching;
 - c. *Encouraging* the global language acquisition of topics relating to women's empowerment, while also considering the dialect variations of such languages, meaning that women's autonomy be expressed in all languages in order that women all around the world have the opportunity to entertain and participate in these conversations.



Code: HRC/1/3

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: The 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: Program on Women's Empowerment

The Human Rights Council,

Reminding all Member States on this 25th anniversary of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* of the progress made towards women's empowerment globally, whilst aware of the work still to be done in accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women,

Reaffirming Member States' commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically in regards to SDG 5, in which the goals towards gender equality are laid out,

Aware of all the work and improvement needed to be done to achieve the goal of gender equality and that substantive change cannot be made otherwise,

Alarmed by the research analyses published by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) which illustrate the lack of reliable information surrounding the manner in which the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected women,

Approving of the progressive frameworks set forth by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with the intent to maintain and increase their efforts towards examining situation on human rights,

Fully aware of the importance of ensuring that all women maintain the right to return to school after any form of gender-based violence,

Deeply Appreciative of the work done by the International Association for Counseling (IAC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in providing psychological therapy for those women affected by gender based violence,

Reaffirming the importance of internet access as a means of connecting women in developing and low-income communities to employment and education opportunities,

Emphasizing the importance of recognizing the histories and traditions of respective Member States as well as ways to empower women that fit within Member States' specific cultural norms,

Aware of the ways in which patriarchal cultural norms can worsen gender parity,

Recognizing that due to lack of equal access to menstrual hygiene products, 1 in 10 girls miss school due to the lack of menstrual hygiene items each year, according to the Puberty Education and Menstrual Hygiene Management report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

Acknowledging the work done by UN Women in their efforts to work with civil society and Member States to expand upon women's suffrage, including the safety from violence, of women who vote and their efforts in educating women leaders,

Applauding the strong and comprehensive plan towards women's empowerment through the implementation of gender-mainstreaming through the UN System-Wide Action Plan set aside in General Assembly resolution 74/243,

Appreciating the important work that civil society plays in the financing and formulation of National Action Plans towards women's empowerment, as set aside in Security Council resolution 1325,

Recognizing the detrimental impact female genital mutilation has had on the dignity and health of women and girls throughout Member States,

Encouraged by Member States setting standards for education of women through national legislation implemented nationwide throughout Member States of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC),

Firmly convinced that reforms in global education would facilitate the development of gender equality and that further cooperation between Member States will lead to faster developments in women's empowerment and gender equality,

1. *Encourages* all relevant UN agencies to cooperate closely with the Member States of the UNHRC;
2. *Recommends* the cooperation of Member States with existing international organizations such as UN Women to build upon and strengthen the existing domestic programmes for the independence of young girls to help them facilitate a stronger future;
3. *Petitions* Member States to adhere to existing systems that monitor areas of concern and assure that initiatives are being carried out faithfully, ensuring proper progress is being made in the elimination of gender discrimination in the workplace, and that women are given a sufficient voice in decision making;
4. *Emphasizes* the importance of a gendered approach to research surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the necessity of research on the impacts of the pandemic on girls and women, specifically regarding the pandemic's effects on the areas of:
 - a. *The ability* of girls and women to access education, including the impacts of both the pandemic and distance learning programs;
 - b. *Women's* economic inclusion and financial empowerment, including women's access to the workforce;
 - c. *Women and girl's* heightened risk of gender based violence, including intimate partner violence, during the pandemic;
 - d. *The shifting* dynamic surrounding the balance of work, the home, and family and the impact that it has had on women during the pandemic;
5. *Expresses its* hope that willing Member States will work with the IAC and UNICEF to ensure that those women who have been unfortunately excluded from continuing their education due to gender based violence are able to return to their education and to actively participate in sustainable development by:
 - a. *Facilitating* the necessary psychological and physical rehabilitation needed to be able to successfully continue their education;

- b. *Offering* survivors the ability to relocate to another area to avoid discrimination, stigmatization, or retaliation due to their unfortunate circumstances;
 - c. *Working* with the UNFPA to offer those survivors the ability to return to their education without being burdened by financial responsibility;
 - d. *Granting* gender-based violence survivors a leave of absence, to return with no penalization or need to repeat class work;
6. *Recommends* working with UN Women and the Women, Gender and Development Directorate to help give women greater internet accessibility to employment, education, and skill sharing through increased internet access and awareness by:
 - a. *Providing* low-income and developing regions with multiple networking centers in which they can have internet access;
 - b. *Establishing* databases updated frequently with a variety of local employment, skill sharing, and education opportunities;
 - c. *Equipping* these databases and sites to also include informational pages on important topics such as marriage, sex education, reproductive rights, and female genital mutilation;
7. *Encourages* Member States to adopt regional and nation-specific National Action Plans within respective Member States in order to address the particular issues and challenges of those Member States by:
 - a. *Recommending* that National Actions Plans provide a framework that supports financial literacy and education standards;
 - b. *Emphasizing* women's presence in multiple aspects of society such as in literature, arts, diplomacy, and the sciences;
 - c. *Supporting* the need for education on sexual and reproductive health in efforts to reduce sex violence;
8. *Draws attention to* the need to move towards the eradication of harmful gender norms ensuring that:
 - a. *Children* should be equally encouraged to obtain a higher education in any desirable field, regardless of gender;
 - b. *Women* are encouraged to be financially independent and to seek the same positions as men;
 - c. *Parents* are educated in gender equality to raise children, regardless of genders, equally;
 - d. *The burden* of reproductive protection of women is removed, and instead, make it a gender-neutral issue;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for menstrual equity and education by acknowledging:
 - a. *Women* of all ages should have access to menstrual hygiene products:
 - i. In many countries, the cost of menstrual hygiene products is equivalent to a day's income;
 - ii. Recognizing that many countries make it more difficult to afford menstrual hygiene products, through taxation referred to as the "pink tax" and/or "tampon tax";
 - b. *Education* of both, boys and girls, is necessary to end the negative stigma of menstruation that often leads to many girls dropping out of school, thus contributing to girl's lack of education;
10. *Suggests* Member States work with UN Women in order to:
 - a. *Establish* national guidelines protecting women's right to participate in free and fair elections without the fear of violence;
 - b. *Educate* young women looking to run for leadership positions in order to prepare them for leadership and hone their political acumen;
 - c. *Ensure* that women have a place within the decision-making process aimed towards the expansion of women's empowerment;
11. *Encourages* Member States to work with UN organizations, such as UN Women and UNICEF, to utilize the existing System-Wide Action Plan to implement national legislature and the expansion of educational opportunities focusing on gender equity;
12. *Suggests* that Member States looking for additional funding work with civil society organizations in order to provide needed financing and support for the implementation of any programmes working towards women's empowerment;
13. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt formal legislation banning the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and sexual violence by ratifying provisions within international frameworks such as the UDHR and encouraging a change of social norms promoting the eradication of practices such as FGM and sexual violence against women and girls;
14. *Recommends* Member States implement a plan for Early Combat of Discrimination (ECD) concerning children and raise awareness for the forms of discrimination against women through:
 - a. *Advising* Member States to continue developing standards for youth of all gender awareness programs as part of a larger initiative seeking to combat discrimination through public understanding on gender discrimination and empathy with the victims of such discrimination;
 - b. *Encouraging* Member States to establish regulation at the national level which would require academic institutions to assess progress towards gender equality on an annual basis;

- c. *Urging* Member States to host annual gender equity forums to allow more women's voices to be heard regarding initiatives fostering women's empowerment;
- 15. *Requests* the UNICEF to provide developmental and economic assistance to developing Member States undergoing educational reforms targeting the equal representation of women politically;
- 16. *Encourages* Member States to create intergovernmental gender equality strategies to encourage cooperation amongst Member States, with the objective of promoting faster developments in women's empowerment and inclusion across the globe.