



# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

THE WORLD'S LARGEST UNIVERSITY-LEVEL SIMULATION • SINCE 1927  
13570 Grove Dr., Suite 294 • Maple Grove, MN 55311  
[www.nmun.org](http://www.nmun.org) • [info@nmun.org](mailto:info@nmun.org) • 612.353.5649

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce to you our committee, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Your committee's work is facilitated by volunteer staffers. This year's committee staff are: Director Maria Anne Ruedisueli and Assistant Director Meg Traska (Conference A), and Director Chizulu Uwolloh and Assistant Director Malana Marianne Homan-Hepner (Conference B). Maria received her B.A. from Alma College in political science and history. She currently works for a publishing company in marketing. Meg holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. She is currently working as a Talent Acquisition Coordinator for a global industrial technology company. 'Zulu Uwolloh is a Program Assistant at the Ford Foundation where she supports the programs team on the office's two programmatic areas, Gender, Racial and Ethnic Justice, and Natural Resources and Climate Change. She is a lawyer licensed to practice in Nigeria and earned her Bachelor's of Law, LLB, from the University of Lagos, and her BL from the Nigerian Law School. Malana Homan-Hepner is currently a quadruple major in Political Science, International Studies, History, and Economics at Rowan University. Malana works as an intern for the United States Senate, and she plans to pursue her masters in International Relations following graduation. The preparation of these materials was supported by Under-Secretaries-General Gamaliel Perez (Conference A) and Courtney Indart (Conference B) with contributions by Under-Secretaries-General for Conference Management Joshua Andersen (Conference A) and Kenny Nguyen (Conference B).

The topics on the agenda for this committee are:

1. Addressing the Burden of Unpaid Care and Domestic Work on Women and Girls
2. Protecting Women and Children in Armed Conflicts

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation should submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. ET on 1 March 2025 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the [NMUN•NY Position Papers website](#).

Two resources, available to download from the NMUN website, serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

- The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions.
- The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for this committee, please contact the Deputy Secretaries-General at [dsg.ny@nmun.org](mailto:dsg.ny@nmun.org).

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Maria Anne Ruedisueli, Director  
Meg Traska, Assistant Director  
Conference A

Chizulu Uwolloh, Director  
Malana Marianne Homan-Hepner, Assistant Director  
Conference B



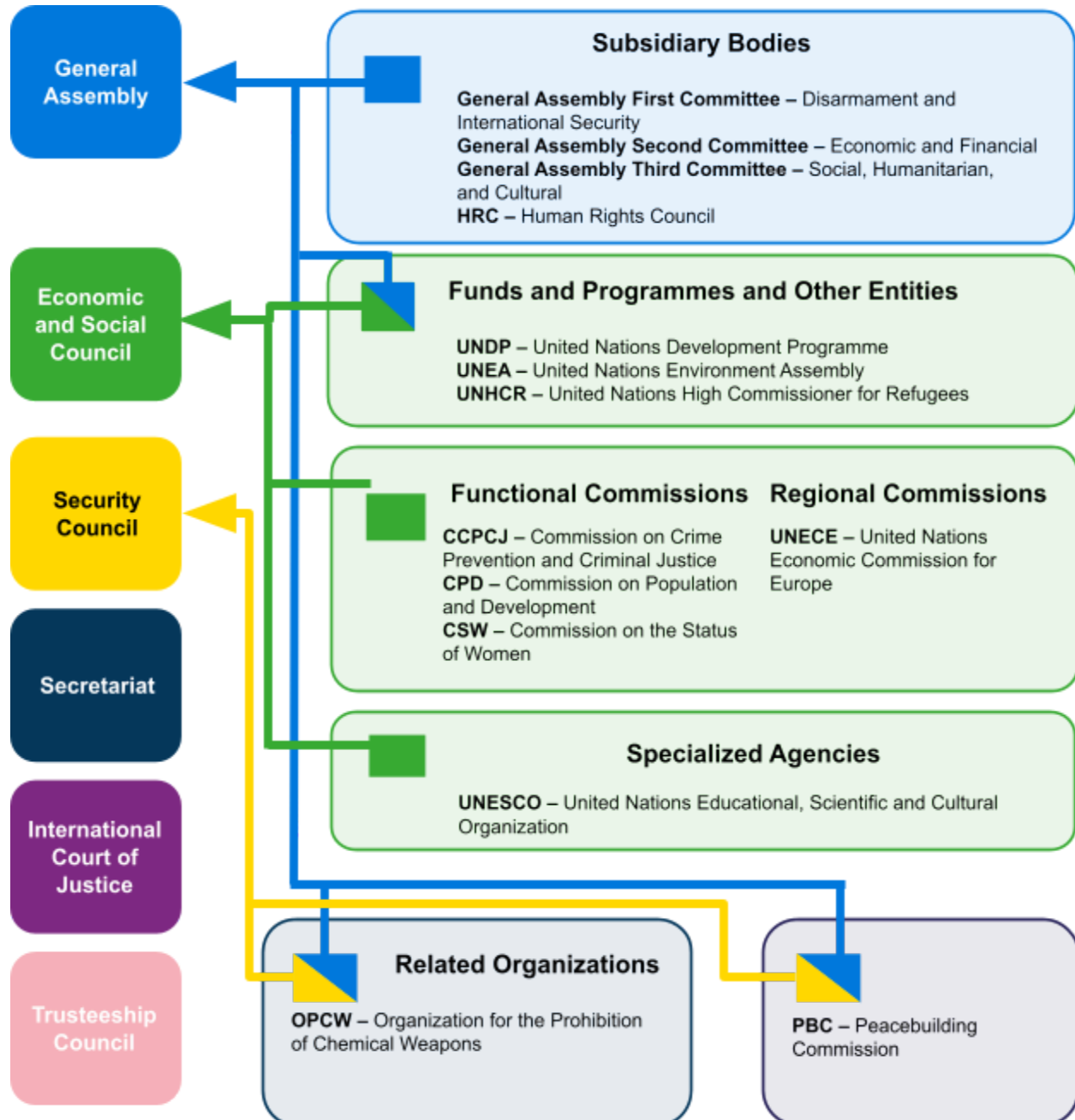
## Table of Contents

<b>United Nations System at NMUN-NY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Committee Overview.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Introduction.....	2
Mandate, Function, and Powers.....	2
Governance, Funding, and Structure.....	3
Bibliography.....	5
<b>1. Addressing the Burden of Unpaid Care and Domestic Work on Women and Girls.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Introduction.....	7
International and Regional Framework.....	8
Role of the International System.....	10
Climate Change and the Increase in Unpaid Care and Domestic Work of Women and Girls.....	11
Cost of Care on Employment and Education.....	13
Conclusion.....	15
Further Research.....	16
Bibliography.....	17
<b>2. Protecting Women and Children in Armed Conflicts.....</b>	<b>23</b>
Introduction.....	23
International and Regional Framework.....	24
Role of the International System.....	27
Wash and Relief Services for Hygiene and Health in Conflict-Affected Regions.....	29
Protection of Women and Girls against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.....	31
Conclusion.....	32
Further Research.....	33
Bibliography.....	34



## United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the United Nations system simulated at NMUN•NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system to demonstrate the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee’s position, purpose, and powers within the United Nations system.





## Committee Overview

### Introduction

Established in 1946, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the principal international body of the United Nations discussing women's empowerment and gender equality.<sup>1</sup> As such, CSW is the main forum to debate and review the ongoing progress of the creation and implementation of international norms and standards related to the advancement of women.<sup>2</sup> CSW's work is guided by the 1979 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the 1993 *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, the 1995 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BPfA), and the outcome documents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the United Nations General Assembly, a follow-up to the BPfA titled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century."<sup>3</sup>

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integral to CSW's work on gender equality and women and girls' empowerment.<sup>4</sup> While the overall work of CSW is closely aligned with SDG 5 (gender equality), women and girls' empowerment and gender equality are mainstreamed across several SDGs.<sup>5</sup>

### Mandate, Function, and Powers

CSW provides policy guidance on gender equality and links women and girls' empowerment to sustainable development.<sup>6</sup> The original mandate of CSW, adopted in 1946, was to provide "recommendations and reports to ECOSOC on promoting women's rights in political, economic, social, and educational fields... [and] urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights."<sup>7</sup> This mandate was substantially expanded as a follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Women from 1975 to 1985, the BPfA in 1995, and the outcome documents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly.<sup>8</sup>

While the following list is not exhaustive, CSW's mandate can be summarized as:

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Brief History of the Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.* pp. 9-15; United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1)*. 1995.; United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/RES/55/71)*. 2000.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/2022/4)*. 2022. p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.* p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2023-24*. 2023. pp. 158-159.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Commission on the Status of Women (Res. 11(II))*. 1946. p. 525.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*. 2019. pp. 9-15; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/2022/4)*. 2022. p. 2.



- CSW **will generally**: outline international norms and standards and issue policy recommendations for gender equality; adopt agreed conclusions, declarations, and resolutions on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; advise intergovernmental bodies and Member States on gender mainstreaming; hold discussions on and track the progress on implementation of the BPfA.<sup>9</sup>
- CSW **will not generally**: implement or manage programs and projects on gender equality and women and girls' empowerment; support Member States, governments, and civil society in implementing programs and projects on gender equality.<sup>10</sup>

### **Governance, Funding, and Structure**

CSW consists of 45 Member States elected for four-year terms based on equitable geographical distribution.<sup>11</sup> CSW is led by a Bureau, which facilitates the preparation of the annual session and ensures the successful conclusion of each session.<sup>12</sup> The Bureau of CSW consists of a Chair and the four Vice-Chairs who are elected for two-year terms immediately after the end of the previous session.<sup>13</sup>

Each year in March, CSW holds its annual sessions to review progress on, identify challenges to, and make policies on gender equality and women and girls' empowerment.<sup>14</sup> For each annual session, CSW selects a priority theme related to its work, which is decided on in advance through its multi-year program of work.<sup>15</sup> As the largest gathering on gender equality and women and girls' empowerment, CSW's annual session brings together governments, civil society, and other relevant actors to achieve gender equality.<sup>16</sup> The outcome documents of CSW's annual sessions are referred to as agreed conclusions.<sup>17</sup> Part of the funding for CSW's annual sessions is provided by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) through the United Nations regular budget.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Report on the sixty-sixth session (26 March 2021 and 14–25 March 2022) (E/CN.6/2022/16)*. 2022; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. N.d.; New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2024-25*. 2025. pp. 156-160.

<sup>10</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2024-25*. 2024. pp. 156-160; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Programme Implementation*. N.d.; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *About UN Women*. N.d.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Member States*. N.d.

<sup>13</sup> New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2024-25*. 2024. pp. 157.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Snapshot: What is CSW?* N.d.

<sup>15</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 Sect. 17)*. 2024.



UN Women hosts the Secretariat of CSW and provides guidance on operational activities aimed at the advancement of women.<sup>19</sup> CSW and UN Women work closely together: CSW serves as the policy-making body, UN Women as the programmatic and implementation body.<sup>20</sup> UN Women supports the work of CSW substantively by providing annual documentation on critical areas of concern regarding gender equality and facilitates interaction between the commission and civil society organizations at its annual sessions.<sup>21</sup> Each year, CSW reports to ECOSOC during the ECOSOC Management Session.<sup>22</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women*. 2019. pp. 8-10.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, *Programme implementation*. N.d.; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Outcomes*. N.d.

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Short History on the Commission on the Status of Women*. 2019. p. 9.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council. ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies. N.d.



## Bibliography

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *United Nations Handbook 2024-25*. 2025. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from:

<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Peace-Rights-and-Security/Our-work-with-the-UN/UN-Handbook-2024-25.pdf>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Report on the sixty-sixth session (26 March 2021 and 14–25 March 2022) (E/2022/27-E/CN.6/2022/16)*. 2022. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from:

<https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2022/16>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/about-us/ecosoc-subsiary-bodies>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Commission on the Status of Women (Res. 11(II))*. 1946. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: [https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/11\(II\)](https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/11(II))

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/RES/2022/4)*. 2022. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2022/4>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Brief History of the Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/brief-history>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *About UN Women*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/hlpf-on-sustainable-development>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Member States*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/member-states>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Outcomes*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Programme implementation*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/programme-implementation>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Snapshot: What is CSW?* N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw-snapshot>





United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women*. 2019. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2019/A-short-history-of-the-CSW-en.pdf>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1)*. 1995. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/RES/55/71)*. 2000. Retrieved 20 October 2023 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/55/71>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Proposed programme budget for 2025 (A/79/6 Sect. 17)*. 2024. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: [https://undocs.org/en/A/79/6%20\(Sect.%2017\)](https://undocs.org/en/A/79/6%20(Sect.%2017))





## 1. Addressing the Burden of Unpaid Care and Domestic Work on Women and Girls

### Introduction

According to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), women disproportionately shoulder the burden of unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>23</sup> This disparity will persist, with women expected to dedicate 9.5% more time, or approximately 2.4 additional hours a day, to unpaid care work than men by 2050.<sup>24</sup> UN Women defines unpaid care work as unpaid services provided by an individual in a community or household for the benefit of others.<sup>25</sup> This can include cooking, gathering water, cleaning, caring for children and the elderly, and shopping.<sup>26</sup> Domestic work is defined by the International Labor Organization (ILO) as any work done in or around the home or household.<sup>27</sup> Currently, women and girls carry out more than two and a half times unpaid care and domestic work than men.<sup>28</sup> The disproportion of care work is exemplified in developing countries, where women and girls spend, on average, 41 more minutes on unpaid care work compared to women in developed countries.<sup>29</sup>

Beyond being responsible for two and a half times more unpaid care and domestic work than men, women can be expected to forgo their work in the formal sector to care for those in their family, and girls are forced to give up their education, limiting their future employment opportunities.<sup>30</sup> The motherhood employment penalty describes the burden of unpaid childcare work, which can hinder a woman's employment opportunities.<sup>31</sup> Women with young children have the highest unemployment rate according to the ILO due to the amount of unpaid care work required to care for children, which decreases the hours available for work outside the home.<sup>32</sup> In addition to health and time commitments, women who do not participate in the formal employment sector lead to losses of over \$28 trillion for overall GDP.<sup>33</sup>

Climate change disproportionately burdens women and girls by increasing their unpaid care work, exacerbating existing gender inequalities.<sup>34</sup> On average, women put in an extra hour a day for environmental care, which includes activities outside of the home such as farming crops and caring for

---

<sup>23</sup> Hanna et al. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Forecasting Time Spent in Unpaid Work and Domestic Care*. 2023.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A toolkit on paid and unpaid care work: from 3Rs to 5Rs*. 2022. p. 5.

<sup>26</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Unpaid Care Work – A Gateway for Gender Equality*. 2020.

<sup>27</sup> International Labor Organization. *Convention 189 - Domestic Workers Convention*. 2011.

<sup>28</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Redistribute Unpaid Work*. N.d.

<sup>29</sup> International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.p. 143.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.; International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016. p.19.

<sup>33</sup> International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018. p. 143.

<sup>34</sup> United Nations, World Health Organization. *Climate change*. 2023; International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.



livestock, to adapt to harsher climates.<sup>35</sup> With extreme weather occurring more often due to climate change, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations found that women are more likely to increase their workload due to the extra responsibilities that arise from caring for their household farm due to damage caused by tumultuous weather such as flooding or droughts.<sup>36</sup> Responsibilities such as collecting natural resources for food, water, and fuel sources become more time intensive, hindering the time women and girls have to participate in government efforts, the formal sector, and their education.<sup>37</sup>

### *International and Regional Framework*

Various international instruments establish and advance human rights, yet their implementation has not yet eradicated gender inequality globally.<sup>38</sup> In 1948, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) was adopted, setting the universal precedent of protecting fundamental human rights, including the equal rights of men and women.<sup>39</sup> Article 25(2) of the UDHR establishes the right to adequate living standards, ensuring health and well-being, with particular attention to giving exceptional care and assistance to mothers and children.<sup>40</sup> The *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) furthers equal rights through Articles 6 and 7, which establishes the right to work and equal pay and emphasizes the freedom to choose work.<sup>41</sup> The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) (CEDAW) is one of the most foundational human rights documents for women's rights with Article 16 acknowledging the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work women do by affirming the right that both parents have the same responsibilities toward their children.<sup>42</sup> Further protections outlined in Article 11 of CEDAW provide paid maternity leave, protections during pregnancy, and social services that provide support for mothers as they balance family obligations and work responsibilities.<sup>43</sup> Furthermore, under Article 28 and Article 32 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989) (CRC) children have the right to an education and to be protected from any work that will interfere with their ability to obtain education or harm their health and well-being.<sup>44</sup>

Promoting gender equality is essential for reducing the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work carried by women and girls.<sup>45</sup> The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) (2030 Agenda) established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which SDG 5 focuses on gender equality and SDG target 5.4 focuses on reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic

---

<sup>35</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The Climate Crisis is Unjust for Rural Women: FAO Gender Expert*. 2024.

<sup>36</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The Unjust Climate: Measuring the Impacts of Climate Change on Rural Poor, Women and Youth*. 2023. pp. 29-30.

<sup>37</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Why Women are Key to Climate Action*. N.d.

<sup>38</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Women's Rights are Human Rights*. 2014.

<sup>39</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*. 1979.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*. 1989.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016 Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*. 2015.



work.<sup>46</sup> Additional frameworks include the *Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention*, 1981 (No. 156), which outlined the importance of recognizing the burden family responsibilities have on entering and staying in the workforce and that men and women have the right to work and balance family responsibilities.<sup>47</sup> The *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (1995) (Beijing Declaration), adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, laid out a policy framework and blueprint addressing 12 key issues for action on gender equality.<sup>48</sup> One area of focus is women and the economy, in particular, addressing the lack of employment opportunities, reductions in public services, and child labor that places more burden on women and girls completing unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>49</sup> Although progress has been made since the Beijing Declaration, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) reviewed this topic in 2015 and produced the *Political Declaration on the Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women* (Political Declaration).<sup>50</sup> The Political Declaration acknowledged that while progress has been made toward achieving equality and empowerment for women and girls, it has been uneven and no Member State has reached these goals.<sup>51</sup>

Regional efforts have been made to address the disproportionate amounts of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by women and girls.<sup>52</sup> The *Highlights and Recommendations for Practitioners: Asia-Pacific Care Economy Forum* (2023) emphasizes that public recognition, policymaking, and investment in the care work sector can help reduce the wage gap, improve working conditions, and lessen the burden of unpaid work on women.<sup>53</sup> To advance gender equality in the workforce, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union issued the *Work-Life Balance Directive* (2019), which allows parents to request flexible work arrangements and paid parental leave to balance the burden of caring responsibilities and work among mothers.<sup>54</sup> Furthermore, the *European Social Charter (Revised)* (1996) addresses children's rights in the workforce and access to education.<sup>55</sup> Article 7 outlines that children still in school should not be employed in a manner that would deprive them of the full benefit of their education.<sup>56</sup> Similarly, Article 32 in the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (2000) states that the minimum working age for children should not be lower than the compulsory school-leaving age, and if children do work, it must not interfere with their education.<sup>57</sup> The African Union has also made strides in protecting women and girls through their adoption of the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* (2003) which reaffirms and

---

<sup>46</sup> International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018. p. 26.

<sup>47</sup> International Labour Organization. *Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention*, 1981 (No. 156). 1981.

<sup>48</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1)*. 1995.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Political Declaration on the Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*. 2020.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Highlights and Recommendations for Practitioners: Asia-Pacific Care Economy Forum*. 2023.

<sup>54</sup> European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. *Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on Work-Life Balance for Parents and Carers and Repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU*. 2019.

<sup>55</sup> The Council of Europe. *European Social Charter (Revised)*. 1996.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> The European Union. *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*. 2000.



expands the rights of women and girls to career opportunities and education to close the inequality gap between men and women.<sup>58</sup>

### *Role of the International System*

CSW is the largest discussion forum on gender equality with a key focus on addressing the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work placed on women and girls, to achieve a more equitable distribution of care responsibilities.<sup>59</sup> The 69th session of CSW is actively engaged in reviewing and appraising the Beijing Declaration, demonstrating the ongoing commitment to gender equality and the need for regular progress assessments.<sup>60</sup> At the 68th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68), it was acknowledged that the disproportionate sharing of unpaid care responsibilities directly relates to women experiencing higher amounts of poverty, often referred to as the feminization of poverty.<sup>61</sup> They also discussed how the unequal distribution of care work severely limits many aspects of a woman's life, such as their ability to participate in the labor market and to access leadership roles in the community, often imposing significant restraints on their education.<sup>62</sup> CSW68 emphasized the need to recognize and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work by fostering an equitable division of responsibilities between all members of the household.<sup>63</sup> Strengthening social protection systems and increasing access to social services such as caregiving, childcare, and paid parental leave will aid in addressing and alleviating the undue burden placed on women.<sup>64</sup>

UN Women acts as the Secretariat for CSW and they work collaboratively to set global standards for women rights and for the implementation of policies and norms.<sup>65</sup> UN Women is guided by their Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the SDGs.<sup>66</sup> The main impact areas for UN Women for 2022-2025 are ending violence against women, governance and participation in public life, and women's economic empowerment.<sup>67</sup> One example of their efforts to decrease the disproportionate amount of care work for women and empower them economically is UN Women's partnership with Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC).<sup>68</sup> In Rwanda, these ECDCs provide women with a safe space to send their children so they are able to pursue employment in the formal sector.<sup>69</sup> New initiatives from UN Women include supporting women in green sector employment.<sup>70</sup> The Government of Australia is working with the women

---

<sup>58</sup> African Union. *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*. 2003.

<sup>59</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.

<sup>60</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *CSW69 / Beijing+30 (2025)*. N.d.

<sup>61</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective (E/CN.6/2024/L.3)*. 2024. p. 7.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.p. 9.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid. p. 4.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.p. 6.

<sup>65</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *About UN Women*. N.d.

<sup>66</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *UN Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025*. 2021.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Investing in Women's Safety and Economic Empowerment in Rwanda*. 2024.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Turning Waste into Wealth - the Biomass Briquette Revolution*. 2024.



of Malawi and UN Women to create a sustainable form of fuel to replace traditional firewood which decreases the time spent domestic work necessary to prepare meals.<sup>71</sup>

ILO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and CSW collaborate to promote gender equality by advocating for policy changes in labor and education.<sup>72</sup> ILO and CSW have the common goal of promoting decent work for women, reducing the gender pay gap, and reducing unpaid care work undertaken by women.<sup>73</sup> They work to achieve this by investing in the care economy and enhancing access to social protection for women.<sup>74</sup> ILO is working to create awareness of the importance and necessity of the unpaid work women do in order to strengthen protections and increase benefits for the labor that is being performed.<sup>75</sup> Partnering with Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine, ILO and UN Women implemented the JP Work4Women joint program which aligned national policies with international standards and promoted lasting employment for women, and is working to challenge long-standing gender stereotypes focused on unpaid care work.<sup>76</sup> UNICEF is working to improve children's education and development, which has been shown globally to reduce child labor and unpaid care work.<sup>77</sup> Under UNICEF Adolescent Girls Strategy, which is founded upon normative policies and guided by the SDGs, nearly 50 Member States have taken aggressive steps to implement programming focused on providing girls with education, financial independence, and protection.<sup>78</sup>

### ***Climate Change and the Increase in Unpaid Care and Domestic Work of Women and Girls***

Climate crises affect all people but can extrapolate issues for the most vulnerable populations, especially women, children and the elderly.<sup>79</sup> According to UN Women, women and girls have historically been responsible for the vast majority of unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>80</sup> As climate change intensifies, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in their Sixth Assessment Report (2021), women and girls are shouldering new responsibilities to mitigate the effects of the warming planet, such as waste management, replanting forests, and restoring degraded land.<sup>81</sup> These additional tasks can add one to four hours of work to women and girls a day, leaving them exhausted and more susceptible to illness.<sup>82</sup> Due to their increased workloads, women and girls are excluded from crucial decision-making spaces and negotiations on climate change.<sup>83</sup> UN Women notes that 67% of decision-making roles surrounding climate change are held by men, even though women and girls have been leading the

---

<sup>71</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Turning Waste into Wealth - the Biomass Briquette Revolution*. 2024.

<sup>72</sup> International Labor Organization. *ILO at the 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 11-22 March 2024*. 2024.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> International Labour Organization. *Mainstreaming Care Work to Combat the Effects of Climate Change*. 2023. p. 4.

<sup>76</sup> International Labour Organization. *Promoting Productive Employment and Decent Work for Women in Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine\_Funds from Sweden*. 2023.

<sup>77</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *What Works to Eliminate Child Labour?*. N.d.

<sup>78</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *Global Annual Results Report: Gender Equality*. 2023. p. 4.

<sup>79</sup> United Nations, World Health Organization. *Climate Change*. 2023.

<sup>80</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Unpacking the care society: Caring for people and the planet*. 2024.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024*. 2024.





movements surrounding climate change.<sup>84</sup> To combat women's disproportionate participation due to the amount of unpaid care work performed, the World Bank has supported initiatives to include the voices of women, including Indigenous populations, in their community leadership through the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM).<sup>85</sup> In Burkina Faso, DGM funding has allowed for the protection of forests surrounding their tribes, and the women have even been able to increase their income in the formal sector by focusing on the non-timber aspect of the forests.<sup>86</sup>

Climate change increases unpaid healthcare work for women and girls.<sup>87</sup> Climate crises like natural disasters, droughts, and heat waves often cause major disruptions to healthcare services, as well as causing two to four billion dollars in health-related damages by 2030.<sup>88</sup> With the decrease in health services and the increase of health-related complications such as waterborne illnesses due to increased rainfall, the burden of combating these increasing issues often falls on women and girls, decreasing their time for education or participation in the formal sector due to an additional hour of care work a day.<sup>89</sup> Even with the increase in other responsibilities, in over 70% of households, women and girls are responsible for finding and gathering water when they do not have water on the premises.<sup>90</sup> Girls are twice as likely to fetch water for their household compared to boys, decreasing the amount of time they have for education.<sup>91</sup> The ILO has developed a five-step system, '5R,' to help Member States enact climate and gender-sensitive policies by Recognizing, Reducing, and Redistributing unpaid care work while Rewarding and Representing paid care work.<sup>92</sup> One of the main goals is to transition women from unpaid care work to paid care work while protecting girls' education and their right not to work.<sup>93</sup> The 5Rs takes a human rights approach and urges for the implementation of standardized certifications for care work, decreasing the barrier for women to joining the formal sector in care jobs.<sup>94</sup>

Many United Nations and Regional Bodies are working to mainstream care work to combat the additional burdens brought on by climate change through policy changes.<sup>95</sup> Codifying gender-responsive policies, which are policies that address the needs of all people regardless of gender, helps protect women, as they are more vulnerable to being burdened with extra tasks and being left out of the decision-making process.<sup>96</sup> The European Commission has implemented the ILO's '5R' Framework for Decent Care Work,

---

<sup>84</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Claiming Women's Space in Leadership*. 2021.

<sup>85</sup> Climate Investment Funds. *Dedicated Grant Mechanism*. N.d.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

<sup>87</sup> International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016.

<sup>88</sup> Altman. United Nations Foundation. *How Biodiversity Loss Harms Human Health*. 2023.

<sup>89</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Unpacking the care society: Caring for people and the planet*. 2024; United Nations. United Nations, World Health Organization. *Climate Change*. 2023.

<sup>90</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *Women and Girls Bear Brunt of Water and Sanitation Crisis – New UNICEF-WHO Report*. 2023.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> International Labour Organization. *Mainstreaming Care Work to Combat the Effects of Climate Change*. 2023. p. 4.

<sup>93</sup> United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Transforming Care Systems in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals and Our Common Agenda*. 2024. p. 14.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid. p. 18.

<sup>95</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *Women and Girls Bear Brunt of Water and Sanitation Crisis – New UNICEF-WHO Report*. 2023.

<sup>96</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Gender-Responsive Policies and Institutions*. N.d.



which has raised the standards, availability, and affordability of care including childhood education and elder care which are both issues exacerbated by climate change.<sup>97</sup> The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is working to decrease the amount of unpaid care work women take on which perpetuates gender bias.<sup>98</sup> APEC has developed a *Toolkit to Address the Unpaid Care Gap* to strengthen the social protections and infrastructures surrounding women through policy recommendations and data collection and monitoring as well as encouraging the private sector to implement policies, such as parental leave, to support working mothers.<sup>99</sup>

### **Cost of Care on Employment and Education**

The burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women and girls limits their ability to attain paid work and participate in education.<sup>100</sup> Globally, women perform nearly two and a half times more unpaid care and domestic work than men.<sup>101</sup> This burden profoundly impacts two key areas, mothers' employment opportunities and girls' access to education.<sup>102</sup> The motherhood employment penalty negatively impacts career opportunities, widens the gender pay gap, decreases working hours, and increases time spent on unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>103</sup> On average, women complete about 42.3 hours of paid work per week.<sup>104</sup> However, mothers with at least one child tend to lose around one hour of paid work per week, which increases proportionally with the number of children she has.<sup>105</sup> About 62% of women with care responsibilities work in the informal employment sector, compared to 56.8% with no care responsibilities.<sup>106</sup> The ILO defines the informal employment sector as all paid work, including self-employment and unpaid work in income-generating businesses, that lacks registration, regulation, and legal protection.<sup>107</sup> In contrast, the formal employment sector includes all paid work that is registered, regulated and legally protected.<sup>108</sup> The time girls devote to household chores takes time away from their education.<sup>109</sup> The impact of excessive unpaid care work on girls increases the likelihood of them missing school, with 19.6% of girls who spend at least 14 hours on household chores missing school compared to

---

<sup>97</sup> International Labour Organization. *The ILO Welcomes EU Care Strategy in the European Parliament and calls for Recognition and Better Rewarding of Care Workers*. 2022; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Toolkit on Paid and Unpaid Care Work: From 3Rs to 5Rs*. 2022.

<sup>98</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Human Resources Development Working Group. *APEC Introduces Policy Toolkit to Address Unpaid Care Gap*. 2024.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.

<sup>101</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016 Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*. 2015. p. 84.

<sup>102</sup> International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.

<sup>103</sup> International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016; International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016 Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*. 2015.

<sup>104</sup> International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> International Labour Organization. *Distinguishing the Concepts: The Informal Sector, Informal Employment and the Informal Economy*. 2015; International Labour Organization. *Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204)*. 2015.

<sup>108</sup> International Labour Organization. *Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204)*. 2015.

<sup>109</sup> United Nations Children's Fund et al. *A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress*. 2020.





12.9% of boys.<sup>110</sup> The unequal burden of unpaid care and domestic work leaves a lasting impact on girls' educational attainment, which, in turn, affects their future employment opportunities, as each year a girl stays in school, her earnings as an adult can increase by up to 20%.<sup>111</sup>

The uneven distribution of unpaid care and domestic work hinders mothers from fully participating in the workforce and earning equal income, but policy change offers a path toward change.<sup>112</sup> Despite progress, more than one-third of Member States lack legal safeguards essential for women's full participation in the workforce, especially in the informal sector, including maternity leave, access to child care, and equal pay in the workplace.<sup>113</sup> Globally, nearly 60% of women workers do not have access to maternity leave.<sup>114</sup> Without employment protections, mothers spend more time on unpaid care and domestic work and earn less.<sup>115</sup> According to the World Bank report *Women, Business, and the Law 2024* (2024) policy changes, such as paid maternity leave, job protection, and equal pay allow women to enter and stay in the workforce during and after pregnancy, driving a positive trend towards equality.<sup>116</sup> In Rwanda, policy changes to paid maternity leave increased from 12 weeks to 14 weeks and prohibited the dismissal of pregnant workers.<sup>117</sup> This change allowed 89% of women and girls to return to work in the same or a similar job.<sup>118</sup> In addition, ILO report *Women at Work: Trends 2016* (2016) explains that implementing flexible working arrangements allows employees to change their usual working hours, schedules, and locations which increases women's participation in the workforce by 30%, thus decreasing the gender wage gap.<sup>119</sup> Recognizing the importance of promoting gender equality, CSW68 affirmed the protection and promotion of equal pay for women by addressing discriminatory policies, particularly those that impact women during pregnancy and maternity and affect work-life balance.<sup>120</sup>

The amount of time girls spend on unpaid care and domestic work influences girls' access to education and their education level.<sup>121</sup> Although progress has been made towards SDG 4 (quality education), 15 million girls will never enter primary school compared to 10 million boys.<sup>122</sup> With the completion of higher levels of education, women and girls' time spent on unpaid care and domestic work decreases.<sup>123</sup>

---

<sup>110</sup> Dayioğlu. United Nations Children's Fund. *Impact of Unpaid Household Services on the Measurement of Child Labour*. 2013. p. 43.

<sup>111</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women et al. *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals the Gender Snapshot 2022*. 2022; United Nations Children's Fund et al. *A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress*. 2020.

<sup>112</sup> International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016 Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*. 2015.

<sup>113</sup> The World Bank. *Women, Business, and the Law 2024*. 2024.

<sup>114</sup> International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> The World Bank. *Women, Business, and the Law 2024*. 2024.

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Pro-Femmes et al. *Women and Decent Work in Rwanda A Critical Analysis of the Participation of Women in Paid Labour Market Activity*. 2022.

<sup>119</sup> International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016.

<sup>120</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective (E/CN.6/2024/L.3)*. 2024.

<sup>121</sup> United Nations Children's Fund et al. *A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress*. 2020; International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016.

<sup>122</sup> United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *Educate to Empower: UNGEI Annual Review 2018*. 2018; United Nations Children's Fund et al. *A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress*. 2020.

<sup>123</sup> International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.



Addressing barriers such as societal norms, school-related gender-based violence, poverty, long distances to school, quality of education, and lack of water and sanitation facilities will help improve girls enrollment in school, decrease the time spent completing unpaid care and domestic work, and improve employment opportunities after school.<sup>124</sup> The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) works to identify and break down barriers to education through research, publications, global summits, regional workshops, and digital platforms.<sup>125</sup> In 2018, UNGEI partnered with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Education International to host a panel at the sixty-second gathering of the CSW entitled Agenda 2030 for All: Gender, Learning and Teaching in Rural Contexts.<sup>126</sup> The panel examined and discussed approaches to reducing girls' barriers to accessing and obtaining quality education in rural areas through the implementation of policies that ensure schools and teachers have enough resources to provide quality education to girls.<sup>127</sup>

## Conclusion

Women and girls bear the burden of unpaid care and domestic work and this significantly impacts their well-being, ability to participate in employment, and education.<sup>128</sup> By building on the frameworks of the SDGs, the Beijing Declaration, and CEDAW, CSW can continue to improve recommendations to Member States to achieve gender equality to lessen the burden of unpaid care and domestic work.<sup>129</sup> UN Women, ILO and UNICEF have implemented programs to address the burdens that unpaid care and domestic work places on women and girls such as a hindrance to their education, inability to participate in the formal sector, and their lack of leadership roles within their communities.<sup>130</sup> Furthermore, climate crises have had a negative impact on this burden due to the added responsibilities like waste management, reforestation, and land restoration increasing women's and girls' workloads.<sup>131</sup> The increased responsibilities take time away from paid work and girls' education.<sup>132</sup> Addressing the barriers to education is crucial for increasing educational attainment and future employment opportunities.<sup>133</sup> Member States have the opportunity to strengthen protections for women and girls through

---

<sup>124</sup> United Nations Children's Fund et al. *A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress*. 2020; United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *Educate to Empower: UNGEI Annual Review 2018*. 2018; International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.

<sup>125</sup> United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *What We Do / Overview*. 2024.

<sup>126</sup> United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *Educate to Empower: UNGEI Annual Review 2018*. 2018. p. 23.

<sup>127</sup> United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *Gender, Learning and Teaching in Rural Contexts*. 2018.

<sup>128</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Redistribute Unpaid Work*. N.d; International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.

<sup>129</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *CSW69 / Beijing+30 (2025)*. N.d.

<sup>130</sup> International Labor Organization. *ILO at the 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 11-22 March 2024*. 2024; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.

<sup>131</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Unpacking the care society: Caring for people and the planet*. 2024.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective (E/CN.6/2024/L.3)*. 2024.

<sup>133</sup> United Nations Children's Fund et al. *A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress*. 2020; United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *Educate to Empower: UNGEI Annual Review 2018*. 2018; International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018.



gender-sensitive policy changes focused on climate change, gender sensitivity, paid maternity leave, equal pay, and access to quality education.<sup>134</sup>

### **Further Research**

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address this topic, they should consider: How can the United Nations, NGOs, and Member States collaborate to address unpaid care and domestic work that largely falls on women and girls? What actions can CSW take to further promote the recognition of unpaid care and domestic work? What recommendations can CSW make to address the growing burden of unpaid care work resulting from climate-related challenges? What policy changes can Member States implement to protect and support women and girls in participating in the workforce and education?

---

<sup>134</sup> International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016 Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*. 2015.



## Bibliography

African Union. *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*. 2003. Retrieved 23 July 2024 from:

[https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37077-treaty-charter\\_on\\_rights\\_of\\_women\\_in\\_africa.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37077-treaty-charter_on_rights_of_women_in_africa.pdf)

Altman. United Nations Foundation. *How Biodiversity Loss Harms Human Health*. 2023. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from:

[https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/how-biodiversity-loss-harms-human-health/?gad\\_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwh7K1BhCZARIsAKOrVqHkiMgG0\\_u\\_jmza2dpEiFyacEK6-mQ7DY0Vn05AbyWm5Yb8Yur2IUlaAmlwEALw\\_wcB](https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/how-biodiversity-loss-harms-human-health/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwh7K1BhCZARIsAKOrVqHkiMgG0_u_jmza2dpEiFyacEK6-mQ7DY0Vn05AbyWm5Yb8Yur2IUlaAmlwEALw_wcB)

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Human Resources Development Working Group. *APEC Introduces Policy Toolkit to Address Unpaid Care Gap*. 2024. Retrieved 30 September 2024 from:

<https://www.apec.org/press/news-releases/2024/apec-introduces-policy-toolkit-to-address-unpaid-care-gap>

Climate Investment Funds. *Dedicated Grant Mechanism*. N.d. Retrieved 7 September 2024 from:

[https://www.cif.org/dedicated-grant-mechanism#:~:text=The%20Dedicated%20Grant%20Mechanism%20\(DGM\)%20is%20a,manner%20is%20key%20to%20delivering%20climate%20action](https://www.cif.org/dedicated-grant-mechanism#:~:text=The%20Dedicated%20Grant%20Mechanism%20(DGM)%20is%20a,manner%20is%20key%20to%20delivering%20climate%20action)

Dayioğlu. United Nations Children's Fund. *Impact of Unpaid Household Services on the Measurement of Child Labour*. 2013. Retrieved 30 September from:

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/impact-unpaid-household-services-measurement-child-labour/>

European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. *Directive (EU) 2019/1158 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on work-life balance for parents and carers and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU*. 2019. Retrieved 24 July 2024 from:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019L1158>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The unjust climate: measuring the impacts of climate change on rural poor, women and youth*. 2023. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from:

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/bitstreams/b23f83ae-1ea5-4d74-b4d7-de7d58775607/download>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *The climate crisis is unjust for rural women: FAO gender expert*. 2024. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from:

<https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/the-climate-crisis-is-unjust-for-rural-women--fao-gender-expert>

Hanna et al. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Forecasting Time Spent in Unpaid Work and Domestic Care*. 2023. Retrieved 30 September 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/technical-brief-forecasting-time-spent-in-unpaid-care-and-domestic-work-en.pdf>

International Labour Organization. *Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156)*. 1981. Retrieved 1 September 2024 from:

[https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C156](https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C156)



International Labour Organization. *Convention 189 - Domestic Workers Convention*. 2011. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from:

[https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C189](https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C189)

International Labour Organization. *Distinguishing the Concepts: The Informal Sector, Informal Employment and the Informal Economy*. 2015. Retrieved 1 October 2024 from:

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/45-informal-economy-workers>

International Labour Organization. *Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204)*. 2015. Retrieved 1 October 2024 from:

[https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:R204](https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:R204)

International Labour Organization. *Women at Work: Trends 2016*. 2016. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from:

[https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_457317.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/@publ/documents/publication/wcms_457317.pdf)

International Labour Organization. *Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work*. 2018. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from:

[https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40dgreports/%40dcomm/%40publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_633135.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40dgreports/%40dcomm/%40publ/documents/publication/wcms_633135.pdf)

International Labour Organization. *The ILO Welcomes EU Care Strategy in the European Parliament and calls for Recognition and Better Rewarding of Care Workers*. 2022. Retrieved 27 August 2024 from:

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/ilo-welcomes-eu-care-strategy-european-parliament-and-calls-recognition-and>

International Labour Organization. *Mainstreaming Care Work to Combat the Effects of Climate Change*. 2023. Retrieved 16 October 2024 from:

[https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40americas/%40ro-lima/documents/publication/wcms\\_888607.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40americas/%40ro-lima/documents/publication/wcms_888607.pdf)

International Labour Organization. *Promoting Productive Employment and Decent Work for Women in Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine\_Funds from Sweden*. 2023. Retrieved 7 September 2024 from:

<https://webapps.ilo.org/DevelopmentCooperationDashboard/#btj1t8g>

International Labor Organization. *ILO at the 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 11-22 March 2024*. 2024. Retrieved 16 October 2024 from:

<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/ilo-68th-commission-status-women-csw-11-22-march-2024>

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Women's Rights are Human Rights*. 2014. Retrieved 19 October 2024 from:

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Events/WHRD/WomenRightsAreHR.pdf>

Pro-Femmes et al. *Women and Decent Work in Rwanda A Critical Analysis of the Participation of Women in Paid Labour Market Activity*. 2022. Retrieved 3 September 2024 from:



[https://www.profemmes.org/IMG/pdf/critical\\_analysis\\_on\\_the\\_participation\\_of\\_women\\_in\\_paid\\_labor\\_market\\_activity\\_pro-femmes.pdf](https://www.profemmes.org/IMG/pdf/critical_analysis_on_the_participation_of_women_in_paid_labor_market_activity_pro-femmes.pdf)

The Council of Europe. *European Social Charter (Revised)*. 1996. Retrieved 30 September 2024 from: <https://rm.coe.int/168007cf93>

The European Union. *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*. 2000. Retrieved 30 September 2024 from: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>

The World Bank. *Women, Business, and the Law 2024*. 2024. Retrieved 24 July 2024 from: <https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/wbl>

United Nations Children's Fund. *What Works to Eliminate Child Labour?*. N.d. Retrieved 5 September 2024 from: <https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/stories/what-works-eliminate-child-labour>

United Nations Children's Fund et al. *A New Era for Girls: Taking Stock of 25 Years of Progress*. 2020. Retrieved 5 September 2024 from: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/a-new-era-for-girls-taking-stock-of-25-years-of-progress/>

United Nations Children's Fund. *Global Annual Results Report: Gender Equality*. 2023. Retrieved 6 September 2024 from: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/global-annual-results-report-2023>

United Nations Children's Fund. *Women and Girls Bear Brunt of Water and Sanitation Crisis – New UNICEF-WHO Report*. 2023. Retrieved 2 September 2024 from: <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/women-and-girls-bear-brunt-water-and-sanitation-crisis-new-unicef-who-report>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *CSW69 / Beijing+30 (2025)*. N.d. Retrieved 28 August 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-womenc/csw69-2025>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Political Declaration on the Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women*. 2020. Retrieved 29 August 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/59/Declaration-EN.pdf>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Why women are key to climate action*. N.d. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/women>

United Nations Development Programme. *Unpaid Care Work – A Gateway for Gender Equality*. 2020. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/papp/blog/unpaid-care-work-gateway-gender-equality>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective (E/CN.6/2024/L.3)*. 2024. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2024/3>





United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *About UN Women*. N.d. Retrieved 27 July 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d. Retrieved 10 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Gender-Responsive Policies and Institutions*. N.d. Retrieved 6 September 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/un-women-strategic-plan-2022-2025/policies-and-institutions>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Redistribute Unpaid Work*. N.d. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/csw61/redistribute-unpaid-work>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016 Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*. 2015. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2015/POWW-2015-2016-en.pdf>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Claiming Women's Space in Leadership*. 2021. Retrieved 27 September 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2021/3/compilation-claiming-womens-space-in-leadership>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *UN Women Strategic Plan 2022-2025*. 2021. Retrieved 27 July 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/UN-Women-Strategic-Plan-2022-2025-brochure-en.pdf>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *A Toolkit on Paid and Unpaid Care Work: From 3Rs to 5Rs*. 2022. Retrieved 30 August 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/A-toolkit-on-paid-and-unpaid-care-work-en.pdf>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women et al. *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals the Gender Snapshot 2022*. 2022. Retrieved 3 September 2024 from: [https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/GenderSnapshot\\_2022.pdf](https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/GenderSnapshot_2022.pdf)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Highlights and recommendations for practitioners: Asia-Pacific Care Economy Forum*. 2023. Retrieved 27 July 2024 from: <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/highlights-and-recommendations-for-practitioners-asia-pacific-care-economy-forum-en.pdf>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Investing in Women's Safety and Economic Empowerment in Rwanda*. 2024. Retrieved 6 September 2024 from:





<https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2024/03/investing-in-womens-safety-and-economic-empowerment-in-rwanda>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024*. 2024. Retrieved 30 September 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2024-en.pdf>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Turning Waste into Wealth - the Biomass Briquette Revolution*. 2024. Retrieved 3 September 2024 from: <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2024/08/turning-waste-into-wealth-the-biomass-briquette-revolution>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Unpacking the care society: Caring for people and the planet*. 2024. Retrieved 10 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/unpacking-the-care-society-caring-for-people-and-the-planet>

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *Educate to Empower: UNGEI Annual Review 2018*. 2018. Retrieved 16 October 2024 from: <https://www.ungei.org/sites/default/files/2020-08/UNGEI-Annual-Review-2018-Educate-To-Empower-double-page-spreads-report-eng.pdf>

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *Gender, Learning and Teaching in Rural Contexts*. 2018. Retrieved 28 September 2024 from: <https://www.ungei.org/news/gender-learning-and-teaching-rural-contexts>

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. *What We Do / Overview*. 2024. Retrieved 6 September 2024 from: <https://www.ungei.org/what-we-do/overview>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948. Retrieved 21 July 2024 from: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966. Retrieved 21 July 2024 from: [http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/2200\(XXI\)](http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/2200(XXI))

United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*. 1979. Retrieved 21 July 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/34/180>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*. 1989. Retrieved 29 August 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/44/25>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1)*. 1995. Retrieved 21 July 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1>

United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Transforming Care Systems in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals and Our Common Agenda*. 2024. Retrieved 10 October 2024 from:



[https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/FINAL\\_UN%20System%20Care%20Policy%20Paper\\_24June2024.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/FINAL_UN%20System%20Care%20Policy%20Paper_24June2024.pdf)

United Nations, World Health Organization. *Climate Change*. 2023. Retrieved 26 July 2024 from:  
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>



## 2. Protecting Women and Children in Armed Conflicts

*"There will be no humanity, dignity, and peace until international humanitarian law is upheld for people of all genders."<sup>135</sup>*

### Introduction

The protection of women and children, in particular girls, is essential for advancing their rights, and achieving gender equality, peace, and development.<sup>136</sup> As of 2022, over 600 million women and girls live in conflict-affected countries, exposing them to violations of their human rights and risks to their health, safety, and well-being.<sup>137</sup> Women account for over 51% of the global population of forcibly displaced persons and refugees; thus, it is necessary to address their specific needs in conflict situations.<sup>138</sup> An 'armed conflict' occurs when there is a resort to use of force or an uncontested use of force by one or more states against another or by another party that is a non-state actor.<sup>139</sup> Violence against women is defined as any act of gender-based violence (GBV) that results or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty.<sup>140</sup> The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in its 63rd Session, highlighted the importance of addressing the effects of armed conflict and post-conflict situations on women and girls and the need to protect and empower them through social protection measures and programs.<sup>141</sup>

Women and girls in situations of armed conflict are particularly vulnerable to violations of their human rights.<sup>142</sup> According to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), women and girls face humanitarian emergencies differently, with sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) increasing in conflict settings.<sup>143</sup> Over 70% of women have experienced SGBV in crisis

---

<sup>135</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross. *Gender equality and war: "No humanity, dignity, peace until international humanitarian law is upheld for all genders."* 2023.

<sup>136</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*. N.d.

<sup>137</sup> United Nations Population Fund. *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*. 2002; United Nations, Security Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Women and peace and security (S/2023/725)*. 2023; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Women are increasingly at-risk in conflict, underrepresented in peace processes, according to UN Secretary-General report*. 2023.

<sup>138</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross. *International humanitarian law and policy on Protected persons: Women*. 2024; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS*. 2023. p. 3.

<sup>139</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross. *How Is The Term "Armed Conflict" Defined In International Humanitarian Law?*. 2024. pp. 9-15.

<sup>140</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104)*. 1993. p. 2.

<sup>141</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council. *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*. 2019. pp. 9-10.

<sup>142</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Women and Armed Conflict: CSW42 Agreed Conclusions (II)*. 1998; United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern*. 1998. pp. 3-4.

<sup>143</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Facts and figures: Humanitarian action*. N.d.



settings; however, this is not the only violation they suffer.<sup>144</sup> Access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, and products is also limited for women and girls in conflict situations, which exacerbates health issues, menstrual hygiene management, and period poverty.<sup>145</sup> Period poverty is the lack of access to menstrual products, sanitation, and handwashing facilities, or menstrual hygiene education.<sup>146</sup> Beyond the increased risk of SGBV and the deprivation of WASH services, women and girls also face high risks of child marriage, forced labor, malnutrition and food insecurity, poverty, loss of education, forced displacement, and the lack of freedom of movement, amongst other violations.<sup>147</sup>

The United Nations system considers mainstreaming a gendered perspective into all aspects of conflict situations as imperative.<sup>148</sup> In conflict situations, gendered roles and power dynamics are often exacerbated, with more women heading households but only 20% having paid work.<sup>149</sup> The incorporation of a gender perspective in addressing conflicts alleviates the harm and inequalities survivors, especially women, face in humanitarian emergencies.<sup>150</sup> This perspective enhances the understanding of how war affects people differently and ensures that assistance provided to survivors is more effective.<sup>151</sup> By increasing the currently limited gender-specific data, and including women in all facets of conflict and post-conflict situations, conflicts and protracted conflicts can be significantly mitigated.<sup>152</sup> As United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, stated, gender equality and parity are crucial in achieving not only development but a more peaceful and sustainable world.<sup>153</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

International human rights and humanitarian laws emphasize the equal rights of men and women.<sup>154</sup> The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) codifies universally protected human rights, specifically the

---

<sup>144</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Facts and figures: Humanitarian action*. N.d.

<sup>145</sup> United Nations Water. *Water and Gender*. N.d; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Gender Equality & Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Report of the Expert Group Meeting*. 2017. p. 9.

<sup>146</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *FAST FACTS: Nine things you didn't know about menstruation*. 2018; Rodriguez. Global Citizen. *Period Poverty: Everything You Need to Know*. 2022; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Period Poverty - why millions of girls and women cannot afford their periods*. 2024.

<sup>147</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons - in the context of armed conflict*. 2018; Centre for Girls. *The Consequences of Conflict on Women and Girls*. N.d; Girls Not Brides. *Child marriage and humanitarian contexts*. 2024; Modongo et al. The African Union International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa. *The Impact of Humanitarian Crises and Armed Conflict on Girls' and Women's Education in Africa*. 2024.

<sup>148</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-Conflict Peace-Building: CSW48 Agreed Conclusions*. 2004. p. 1.

<sup>149</sup> Durham et al. International Committee of the Red Cross. *Gendered impacts of armed conflict and implications for the application of IHL*. 2022.

<sup>150</sup> Ibid.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.

<sup>152</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-Conflict Peace-Building*. 2004.

<sup>153</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Gender equality 'fundamental prerequisite' for peaceful, sustainable world*. 2022; Crespo-Sancho. World Bank Blogs. *Can gender equality prevent violent conflict?*. 2018; United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Gender Equality*. N.d.

<sup>154</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.



right to dignity, liberty, security of person, and freedom from cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, without distinction based on sex.<sup>155</sup> Furthermore, the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (1966) and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966) each further the tenants of gender equality by affirming women's economic, social, and cultural rights and civil and political rights.<sup>156</sup> The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) defines discrimination based on gender and provides recommendations on how Member States can end gender-based discrimination.<sup>157</sup> The culmination of these laws came at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, which adopted the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (Beijing Declaration) (1995), underscoring the human rights of women and the girl child as inalienable, integral, and indivisible parts of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.<sup>158</sup> Within its 12 themes, the Beijing Declaration highlights, 'Women and Armed Conflict' as a key area of concern, addressing six strategic objectives, including the promotion of women's contributions to fostering peace, and the provision of protection, assistance, and training to displaced women.<sup>159</sup> In 1996, CSW's mandate was expanded by Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 on "follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women" to include leading the annual monitoring and review of progress and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration.<sup>160</sup>

SGBV and the discrimination of women are recognized as severe violations of human rights under international law.<sup>161</sup> Articles 7 and 8 of the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* (1998) classify rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, enforced prostitution, sterilization, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity, as 'crimes against humanity', and war crimes when committed in breach of the *Geneva Conventions* (1949).<sup>162</sup> Further, the *Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War* (Geneva (III)) (1949) and the *Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War* (Geneva (IV)) (1949) reaffirm the equal treatment of women, and the need to protect women and girls against attacks on their honor.<sup>163</sup> Article 38 of the *Vienna Declaration and Program of Action* (1993) provides that violations of the human rights of women in armed conflict equates

---

<sup>155</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (A/RES/217 A (III)). 1948.

<sup>156</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (A/RES/2200 (XXI)). 1966; United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (A/RES/2200 (XXI)). 1966.

<sup>157</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (A/RES/34/180). 1979.

<sup>158</sup> United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. 1995.

<sup>159</sup> Ibid.; United Nations, Women Watch. *Women and Armed Conflict*. N.d.

<sup>160</sup> United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women* (E/RES/1996/6). 1996; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.

<sup>161</sup> United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. *CEDAW General Recommendation No. 12: Violence against women*. 1989. United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. *CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19: Violence against women*. 1992.

<sup>162</sup> United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*. 1998.; *Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War*. 1949.; *Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*. 1949.

<sup>163</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War*. 1949; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*. 1949.



to a breach of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law.<sup>164</sup> The Security Council first acknowledged the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in resolution 1325 (2000) on “Women, Peace and Security.”<sup>165</sup> This landmark resolution highlights the need to implement a gender perspective in all peace and security efforts, and the pertinent role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, specifically calling on all Member States to take special measures to protect women and girls against SGBV, and other forms of violence.<sup>166</sup> CSW, through its Agreed Conclusions and Expert Group Reports, outcomes of the Commission’s sessions, emphasizes the need to protect women in armed conflict from SGBV, and the need to provide women and girls with adequate WASH facilities.<sup>167</sup>

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* institutes a global plan of action for development that incorporates the intersectionality of gender equality, peace and security, and access to infrastructure for safety, health, and wellbeing.<sup>168</sup> Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (gender equality) aims to achieve gender equality and ensure the empowerment of women and girls.<sup>169</sup> SDG target 5.2 specifies the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking and other forms of exploitation.<sup>170</sup> SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) focuses on the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, with SDG target 6.2 providing that attention be paid to the needs of women and girls in vulnerable situations.<sup>171</sup> SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) in its first target, aims to reduce all forms of violence, including physical, sexual, and psychological violence.<sup>172</sup>

Regionally, several frameworks and policies highlight the need to respect and protect the rights of women and girls, and emphasize the vital role they play in protecting their communities.<sup>173</sup> The *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women* (1994) provides in Article 9 that special account be given to the vulnerability of women to violence, especially those affected by armed conflict.<sup>174</sup> The African Union (AU), through its *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights of Women in Africa* (2003) and *Gender Policy of the African Union* (2009),

---

<sup>164</sup> United Nations, World Conference on Human Rights. *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*. 1993.

<sup>165</sup> United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325(2000))*. 2000.

<sup>166</sup> Ibid.

<sup>167</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *CSW42 Agreed Conclusions (II): Women and Armed Conflict*. 1998. pp. 1-4; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Women and Health Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective into the Health Sector*. 1998.

<sup>168</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

<sup>169</sup> Ibid.

<sup>170</sup> Ibid.; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. N.d.

<sup>171</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*. N.d.

<sup>172</sup> United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*. N.d.

<sup>173</sup> United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. *Using the international and regional legal framework to stop all forms of violence against women and girls*. 2022.

<sup>174</sup> Organization of American States. *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, Eradication of Violence Against Women*. 1994.





reinforces the AU's commitment to the advancement of women, gender equality and their inclusion and effective participation in all aspects of peace, security, and conflict resolution.<sup>175</sup> Adopted in 2018, the European Union's *Guidelines on Violence Against Women and Girls and Combatting All Forms of Discrimination Against Them* outlines three strategies to address GBV and gender-based discrimination: the promotion of gender equality, the collection of data on violence against women, and combating the impunity of perpetrators while ensuring access to justice for victims.<sup>176</sup>

### **Role of the International System**

CSW acts as the principal organ dedicated to progressing gender equality and women's empowerment.<sup>177</sup> CSW outlines the expectations of gender equality on an international scale and monitors the implementation of the Beijing Declaration.<sup>178</sup> Every year, CSW holds a two-week session where Member States, civil society, and international bodies convene to examine the current progress and global issues regarding women and girls.<sup>179</sup> CSW serves as an expert on gender equality, contributing to sessions of other United Nations bodies, such as its contributions on women and girls in armed conflict during the General Assembly special session "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century."<sup>180</sup> UN Women is a prominent partner of CSW which also strives to achieve gender equality and to ensure the protection and full participation of women in all levels of peace processes.<sup>181</sup> Through its work on the inclusion of a gendered perspective in peace and security, UN Women implements initiatives to increase women's participation in conflict management and peace-building.<sup>182</sup> UN Women further supports the efforts of CSW by producing progress studies on the participation of young women in peace and security.<sup>183</sup>

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a key partner in the promotion of gender equality through the implementation of its gender-focused initiatives in conflict intervention.<sup>184</sup> In 2022, UNDP adopted the *UNDP gender equality strategy 2022-2025*, which underscores UNDP's continued efforts to address gender inequalities through shifting power dynamics at all levels of society and placing a gendered lens when building resilience.<sup>185</sup> As a complement to the 2022-2025 strategy, UNDP adopted the *10-Point Action Agenda for Advancing Gender Equality in Crisis Settings* (2022), which elaborates tangible actions across areas of participation and leadership, engagement of local agents of change, and

---

<sup>175</sup> African Union. *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*. 2003; African Union. *African Union Gender Policy*. 2009.

<sup>176</sup> European Union. *EU Guidelines on Violence Against Women and Girls and Combatting All Forms of Discrimination Against Them*. 2018.

<sup>177</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.

<sup>178</sup> Ibid.

<sup>179</sup> Ibid.

<sup>180</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. "23rd Special Session of the General Assembly." 2000.

<sup>181</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Women's Leadership and political participation*. 2024.

<sup>182</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Peace and Security*. N.d.

<sup>183</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Young women in peace and security*. N.d.

<sup>184</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Impacts on gender equality and women's empowerment in crises settings*. N.d.

<sup>185</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025*. 2022. pp. 4-6.





overall capacity enhancement.<sup>186</sup> Within this 10-point plan, UNDP establishes priorities to address trends of SGBV in conflicts and recommends that Member States integrate SGBV data in monitoring processes.<sup>188</sup> UNDP also aims to understand the role of gender in fatality rates in wars and disasters.<sup>189</sup> Supporting CSW's annual sessions, UNDP hosts complementary events that range in topics from financing for development to socio-economic empowerment of women in humanitarian and security crises.<sup>190</sup> The side-events at CSW68 emphasized and elaborated on UNDP's strategic goals to address gender equality since 2022, particularly in relation to financing of social protection systems and women's access to government positions.<sup>191</sup>

The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) is an active participant with CSW, producing solutions and insights on women and feminist policies at both national and international levels.<sup>192</sup> Through its publication, *Toward a More Feminist United Nations* (2016), ICRW highlights a practical agenda for gender mainstreaming and inclusivity within the United Nations.<sup>193</sup> The report includes the issues of creating more spaces for women's leadership at the United Nations and ensuring feminist implementation of the SDGs.<sup>194</sup> ICRW's report on "the Critical Importance of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare During Emergency Settings" (2022), highlights the risk of unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted diseases, and other factors that are worsened in crises, due to the lack of access to reproductive healthcare.<sup>195</sup> In addition, ICRW regularly hosts complementary events at CSW annual meetings, including presentations like "GBV in the World of Work," and "pathways to feminist foreign policy - evidence and implications for advocacy" during CSW65.<sup>196</sup>

Non-governmental and civil society organizations work to achieve gender equality and address GBV and sexual exploitation in conflict.<sup>197</sup> Fòs Feminista collaborates with grassroots, regional, and international organizations, activists, and national healthcare providers to reduce SGBV, promote sexual reproductive health in conflict situations, and empower women through policy implementation, awareness programs, and advocacy.<sup>198</sup> Equality Now partners with CSW and Member States to end sexual exploitation and violence in crises by providing and implementing policy recommendations and raising GBV concerns globally.<sup>199</sup> With its work spanning four continents, Equality Now works to implement policy recommendations in every Member State and hold them accountable.<sup>200</sup> With its work spanning four

---

<sup>186</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *The 10-Point Action Agenda For Advancing Gender Equality in Crisis Settings*. 2022. p. 2.

<sup>187</sup> Ibid.

<sup>188</sup> Ibid. p. 3-5.

<sup>189</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025*. 2022.

<sup>190</sup> United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP at the 68th Commission on the Status of Women*. 2024.

<sup>191</sup> Ibid.

<sup>192</sup> International Center for Research on Women. *Who We Are*. 2022.

<sup>193</sup> International Center for Research on Women. *Toward a More Feminist United Nations*. 2016.

<sup>194</sup> Ibid.

<sup>195</sup> International Center for Research on Women. *The Critical Importance of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare During Emergency Settings*. 2022.

<sup>196</sup> International Center for Research on Women. *CSW Side Events: Join Us at the 65th Commission on the Status of Women*. 2022.

<sup>197</sup> Fòs Feminista. *Creating a feminist future together*. N.d; Equality Now. *What We Do*. 2024.

<sup>198</sup> Fòs Feminista. *Creating a feminist future together*. N.d.

<sup>199</sup> Equality Now. *Our Approach*. 2024; Equality Now. *What We Do*. 2024; Equality Now. *What We Do*. 2024.

<sup>200</sup> Equality Now. *Our Approach*. 2024; Equality Now. *What We Do*. 2024.



continents, Equality Now also collaborates internationally with Member States and international entities to promote gender equality and collaborate internationally with countries and international entities to achieve gender equality.<sup>201</sup> Equality Now also participated at CSW68, presenting on “Sexual Violence: Strengthening Institutions to Eradicate Barriers to Justice for Women & Girls with Disabilities.”<sup>202</sup>

### ***Wash and Relief Services for Hygiene and Health in Conflict-Affected Regions***

Lack of access to WASH services in crisis settings exacerbates the prevalence of diseases and fosters violence.<sup>203</sup> Globally, 2.4 billion people lack the resources for basic sanitation, and in conflict-affected regions, women and girls are often at an increased risk of exposure to unsafe and inadequate water, sanitation, hygiene facilities, and hygiene infrastructure.<sup>204</sup> When water is not readily available, in 7 out of 10 households, women and girls are assigned the responsibility of collecting water, which reduces their well-being and the time available for education and work.<sup>205</sup> Women and girls globally are at risk of unsafe and insufficient water supply and sanitation facilities, which increases the risk of diarrhea, cholera, and poor menstrual hygiene.<sup>206</sup> A lack of WASH infrastructure results in indirect conflict mortality due to the conditions of life in conflict situations and not actual violence itself.<sup>207</sup> Depriving people of WASH services, however, can also be used as a strategy of war, in addition to being the cause of conflicts.<sup>208</sup> There is evidence that a lack of WASH infrastructure is interlinked with insecurity and violence, which leads to feelings of corruption and inequity thus causing or worsening conflicts.<sup>209</sup> CSW has centered many conversations around WASH services, inviting WaterAid to host a panel at CSW63 to present WASH policies and projects from across the international community that have promoted gender equality and the empowerment of women.<sup>210</sup>

Period poverty is regarded as a global health issue and not just a hygiene issue.<sup>211</sup> About 2 billion people menstruate every month, and an estimated 500 million people experience period poverty.<sup>212</sup> In least-developed countries, 73% of the population lacks access to basic hand washing facilities, exposing women and girls to a range of health issues, including reproductive complications.<sup>213</sup> Beyond health and negative mental health issues, period poverty can also lead to missed educational and work

---

<sup>201</sup> Equality Now. *Our Approach*. 2024.

<sup>202</sup> Equality Now. *Where You'll Find Equality Now at CSW68*. 2024.

<sup>203</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *FAST FACTS: Nine things you didn't know about menstruation*. 2018; Stockholm International Water Institute. *Peace starts with WASH: 8 steps toward stronger governance*. 2024.

<sup>204</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *FAST FACTS: Nine things you didn't know about menstruation*. 2018; United Nations Water. *Water and Gender*. N.d. International Rescue Committee. *Can WASH services transform health and well-being in vulnerable communities?*. 2023.

<sup>205</sup> Kaveri. Health Policy Watch. *Water and Sanitation Crises Hit Women and Girls Harder than Men*. 2023.

<sup>206</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *FAST FACTS: Nine things you didn't know about menstruation*. 2018.

<sup>207</sup> Stockholm International Water Institute. *Peace starts with WASH: 8 steps toward stronger governance*. 2024.

<sup>208</sup> Ibid.

<sup>209</sup> Ibid.

<sup>210</sup> WaterAid. *WaterAid at the Commission on the Status of Women*. 2019.

<sup>211</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Period Poverty - why millions of girls and women cannot afford their periods*. 2024.

<sup>212</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. *FAST FACTS: Nine things you didn't know about menstruation*. 2018.

<sup>213</sup> Ibid.



opportunities.<sup>214</sup> Though menstruation does not pause during conflicts, it is usually of the lowest priority, as with the already high cost of menstrual products, when people facing conflict have any income to spend, they will often opt to purchase other necessities, such as food and medicine, over menstrual products.<sup>215</sup> Women in conflict situations face increased period poverty, as they are often forced to flee their homes, and their access to infrastructure to practice clean hygiene greatly decreases.<sup>216</sup> For alternative menstrual products, such as cloth, sponges, and leaves, there are additional health risks, such as cholera.<sup>217</sup> UN Women research found that out of the 690,000 menstruating women and girls in Gaza, more than 540,000 lack access to menstrual products and adequate WASH facilities.<sup>218</sup> CSW works alongside civil society and other United Nations entities to foster dialogue to address period poverty and menstruation hygiene, as exemplified through the work of The Global Menstrual Health and Hygiene Collective.<sup>219</sup> The Collective's statement at CSW64 urged Member States to address barriers to menstrual hygiene products, invest in WASH resources and infrastructure, improve sexual education and gender policy, and develop strategies to minimize the stigma around menstruation.<sup>220</sup>

Women and girls bear the burden of inadequate WASH infrastructure; however, they also play a significant role in addressing these issues.<sup>221</sup> A report by the Human Security Centre provides that in 34 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, women play the primary role in collecting water, and in 8 countries they play a significant role.<sup>222</sup> Because the average distance to clean water access is 6 kilometers away in rural areas, women and girls will often spend considerable time collecting water, which takes away their ability to pursue education and puts them in dangerous environments.<sup>223</sup> The need to go outside to obtain water or access to safe toilets increases the risk of sexual harassment and violence against women.<sup>224</sup> The UN Women report on "Gender Equality & Water, Sanitation and Hygiene," provides that explicit attention be paid to gender mainstreaming in WASH programs through strengthening women's leadership, voice, and agency in WASH governance.<sup>225</sup>

---

<sup>214</sup> Shepherd. AIDS Healthcare Foundation. *Menstrual Health Day: We Must End Period Poverty*. 2024.

<sup>215</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Period Poverty - why millions of girls and women cannot afford their periods*. 2024; Martin et al. Think Global Health. *Periods Don't Stop For Conflict*. 2022; United Nations Fund for Population Activities. *5 reasons why menstruation support is critical in a humanitarian crisis*. 2024.

<sup>216</sup> United Nations Fund for Population Activities. *5 reasons why menstruation support is critical in a humanitarian crisis*. 2024.

<sup>217</sup> Victor. HumAngle. *Conflict and Climate Shocks Exacerbating Cholera Outbreaks in Horn of Africa - MSF*. 2023.

<sup>218</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Period Poverty - why millions of girls and women cannot afford their periods*. 2024; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Scarcity and Fear: A Gender Analysis of the Impact of the War in Gaza on Vital Services Essential to Women's and Girls' Health, Safety, and Dignity - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)*. 2024. p. 9.

<sup>219</sup> Global Menstrual Collective. *Who We Are*. N.d.

<sup>220</sup> WaterAid. *The Global Menstrual Health and Hygiene Collective statement on the occasion of the 64th session of Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d.

<sup>221</sup> House et al. *Violence, gender and WASH: a practitioners' toolkit Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming*. 2014.

<sup>222</sup> Biden. Human Security Centre. *Closing Gender Gaps in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Challenges, Progress and Equitable Access*. 2023.

<sup>223</sup> Ibid.

<sup>224</sup> Ibid.

<sup>225</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Report of the Expert Group Meeting: Gender Equality & Water, Sanitation and Hygiene*. 2017.



## Protection of Women and Girls against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SGBV is a prominent tactic of warfare and terrorism used to subjugate civilians, particularly women and girls, in armed conflict.<sup>226</sup> Used as a tool of attack, humiliation, repression, and intimidation, SGBV includes rape, sexual trafficking and slavery, enforced sterilization, and forced marriages, pregnancies, and abortions.<sup>227</sup> Although both men and women experience violence in conflict situations, women and girls make up the majority of victims of SGBV.<sup>228</sup> According to the 2024 United Nations Secretary-General's report on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), approximately 95% of CRSV is suffered by women and girls.<sup>229</sup> SGBV is heightened in humanitarian circumstances due to the displacement of women and girls, and the breakdown of legal and societal structures that hold perpetrators accountable.<sup>230</sup> This violence also persists in post-conflict situations, where displaced women and girls face SGBV in countries of asylum and resettlement.<sup>231</sup> In some circumstances, women and girls are forced to trade sexual favors for food, shelter, or physical protection.<sup>232</sup>

In conflict situations, SGBV is often not prioritized leaving survivors with no recourse.<sup>233</sup> In 2022, global humanitarian funding for SGBV response was only 18% of what was required.<sup>234</sup> This lack of funding links to the limited data and research collected on SGBV in conflict situations.<sup>235</sup> Further, due to the stigma and shame associated with SGBV, the collection and analysis of the needed data is often difficult.<sup>236</sup> This data is critical for understanding the scope and nature of SGBV in a region and enabling the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of intervention programs that aid survivors in getting justice.<sup>237</sup> Currently, as the world faces the highest number of conflicts since the Second World War, the agreed conclusions of CSW42 emphasize the need to ensure access to gender-sensitive justice for victims of armed conflict.<sup>238</sup> The conclusions highlight the importance of addressing the specific concerns of women refugees and women with disabilities, and their health and psychological needs.<sup>239</sup> The report outlines

---

<sup>226</sup> United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. 1995.

<sup>227</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Strongly Condemning Rise in Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Speakers Urge Security Council to Better Prevent, Enforce Accountability for Such Crimes*. 2023.

<sup>228</sup> Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Armed Conflict*. N.d.

<sup>229</sup> United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Gender-Responsive Arms Control, Ending Impunity Key to Reverse Record Level of Sexual Violence against Women, Girls in Conflict Zones, Speakers Tell Security Council*. 2024.

<sup>230</sup> Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Armed Conflict*. N.d.

<sup>231</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Women's human rights and gender-related concerns in situations of conflict and instability*. N.d.

<sup>232</sup> Ibid.

<sup>233</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict: United Nations Response*. 1998.

<sup>234</sup> Humanitarian Funding Forecast. *Gender Based Violence*. 2024.

<sup>235</sup> United Nations Population Fund. *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*. 2002. pp. 23-24.

<sup>236</sup> United Nations, Women Watch. *Women and Armed Conflict*. N.d.

<sup>237</sup> GBV Guidelines. *DATA COLLECTION FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RISK MITIGATION*. 2021.

<sup>238</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *CSW42 Agreed Conclusions (II): Women and Armed Conflict*. 1998. pp. 1-4.

<sup>239</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *CSW42 Agreed Conclusions (II): Women and Armed Conflict*. 1998. pp. 1-4.



actions that can be taken by the Commission, governments, and the international community, including ensuring legal systems provide gender-sensitive avenues of redress for SGBV survivors and mainstreaming gender and gender expertise in decision-making bodies, amongst others.<sup>240</sup>

A multi-pronged approach with multiple stakeholders is necessary to address SGBV and systemic gender inequality.<sup>241</sup> Several actors, such as United Nations bodies, international organizations, and non-profit organizations, have taken varied steps to ensure its prevention in fragile contexts and situations.<sup>242</sup> These efforts include empowering women and girls, engaging male allies, including women in decision-making spaces and peacebuilding efforts, and supporting local women's rights organizations.<sup>243</sup> UN Women and CSW are making strides to enhance data collection and analysis on GBV in conflict situations, build a cohort of male allies and champions and work with partners to address hygiene facilities and GBV in conflict situations.<sup>244</sup> UN Women promotes a gendered perspective by teaming Ukrainian women with activists to change their barriers into opportunities and resources during conflict, and suggest realistic solutions through interactive theater performances to influence government action.<sup>245</sup> The World Bank's State and Peacebuilding Fund works in refugee districts and trains service providers to ensure that survivors of GBV have access to essential services, legal aid, shelters, and healthcare services.<sup>246</sup> Additionally, the WithHer Fund, established by the United Nations Foundation and European Union Spotlight Initiative, seeks to provide funding to women's rights organizations working to address GBV, particularly in conflict situations.<sup>247</sup> The International Rescue Committee also provides case management, mental, emotional, medical, and psychosocial support for SGBV survivors in conflict situations.<sup>248</sup>

## Conclusion

To ensure peaceful societies, women and girls in armed conflict must be protected.<sup>249</sup> Both viewed as global public health emergencies, SGBV and the lack of access to WASH infrastructure are constant threats to the lives of women and girls, especially those in humanitarian emergencies.<sup>250</sup> Providing WASH, hygiene, and health services, including menstrual products, is necessary for protecting women and girls from diseases, infections, and indirect conflict mortality.<sup>251</sup> By delivering health services, creating awareness, and collecting and analyzing adequate data on SGBV in conflict situations, women and girls

---

<sup>240</sup> United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Follow-Up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Action in the Critical Areas of Concern*. 1998.

<sup>241</sup> European institute for Gender Equality. *What is gender-based violence?*. 2024.

<sup>242</sup> International Rescue Committee. *What is gender-based violence - and how do we prevent it?*. 2023.

<sup>243</sup> Ibid.

<sup>244</sup> Human Rights Watch. *Women and Armed Conflict*. N.d; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Ending violence against women*. N.d.

<sup>245</sup> United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Internally displaced women of Ukraine find voice through interactive theatre*. 2017.

<sup>246</sup> World Bank Group. *Tackling Gender Based Violence in Fragile Contexts*. 2023.

<sup>247</sup> Zack. United Nations Foundation. *Stand With Her: 6 Women-Led Organizations Tackling Gender-Based Violence*. 2022.

<sup>248</sup> International Rescue Committee. *What is gender-based violence - and how do we prevent it?*. 2023.

<sup>249</sup> Espinosa. United Nations Chronicle. *Peace Is Synonymous With Women's Rights*. 2020.

<sup>250</sup> Zack. United Nations Foundation. *Stand With Her: 6 Women-Led Organizations Tackling Gender-Based Violence*. 2022; World Health Organization. *Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)*. N.d.

<sup>251</sup> Kaveri. Health Policy Watch. *Water and Sanitation Crises Hit Women and Girls Harder than Men*. 2023.





can be prescribed the necessary protection they need.<sup>252</sup> Overall, a gendered perspective must be adopted to ensure an understanding of the varied effects of conflict on women and girls and identify the appropriate protection measures.<sup>253</sup> Gender plays a significant role in armed conflict, and until a gendered approach is taken in addressing conflict situations, lasting peace is distant.<sup>254</sup>

### **Further Research**

As delegates conduct further research and consider how to address this topic, they should consider: How can a gendered perspective be applied in responding to conflict and humanitarian emergencies? What are some specific ways Member States can proactively provide proper WASH infrastructure in conflict situations? What measures can be taken to prevent and better respond to all forms of GBV against women? How can CSW partner with existing organizations to better protect women and girls in armed conflict globally?

---

<sup>252</sup> Human Rights Watch. *Women and Armed Conflict*. N.d; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Ending violence against women*. N.d; Kaveri. Health Policy Watch. *Water and Sanitation Crises Hit Women and Girls Harder than Men*. 2023.

<sup>253</sup> WaterAid. *Integrating gender equality into water, sanitation and hygiene projects*. N.d.

<sup>254</sup> Human Rights Watch. *Women and Armed Conflict*. N.d.



## Bibliography

African Union. *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*. 2003. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from:

<https://au.int/en/treaties/protocol-african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights-rights-women-africa>

African Union. *African Union Gender Policy*. 2009. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from:

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/assets/documents/NAPS-Website/6.Policy/2009-African-Union-Gender-Policy-AU-2009.pdf>

Biden. Human Security Centre. *Closing Gender Gaps in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Challenges, Progress and Equitable Access*. 2023. Retrieved 4 October 2024 from:

<http://www.hscentre.org/economic-development/closing-gender-gaps-water-sanitation-hygiene-wash-challenges-progress-equitable-access/>

Centre for Girls. *The Consequences of Conflict on Women and Girls*. N.d. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from:

<https://center4girls.org/the-consequences-of-conflict-on-women-and-girls>

Crespo-Sancho. World Bank Blogs. *Can gender equality prevent violent conflict?*. 2018. Retrieved 7

August 2024 from: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/dev4peace/can-gender-equality-prevent-violent-conflict>

Durham et al. International Committee of the Red Cross. *Gendered impacts of armed conflict and implications for the application of IHL*. 2022. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from:

<https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2022/06/30/gendered-impacts-of-armed-conflict-and-implications-for-the-application-of-ihl/>

Equality Now. *Our Approach*. 2024. Retrieved 7 September 2024 from:

<https://equalitynow.org/our-approach/>

Equality Now. *What We Do*. 2024. Retrieved 7 September 2024 from: <https://equalitynow.org/what-we-do/>

Equality Now. *Where You'll Find Equality Now At CSW68*. 2024. Retrieved 3 October 2024 from:

[https://equalitynow.org/news\\_and\\_insights/where-youll-find-equality-now-at-csw68/](https://equalitynow.org/news_and_insights/where-youll-find-equality-now-at-csw68/).

Espinosa. United Nations Chronicle. *Peace Is Synonymous With Women's Rights*. 2020. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from:

<https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/peace-synonymous-women%E2%80%99s-rights#:~:text=based%20differentiated%20impact%20Gender%20equality%20is%20a%20stronger%20predictor%20of%20a%20State's%20peacefulness.and%20champions%20on%20gender%20equality>.

European Institute for Gender Equality. *What is gender-based violence?*. 2024. Retrieved 5 September 2024 from:

[https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/what-is-gender-based-violence?language\\_content\\_entity=en#:~:text=Gender%2Dbased%20violence%20is%20a,person%20because%20of%20their%20gender](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/what-is-gender-based-violence?language_content_entity=en#:~:text=Gender%2Dbased%20violence%20is%20a,person%20because%20of%20their%20gender)

European Union. *EU Guidelines on Violence Against Women and Girls and Combatting All Forms of Discrimination Against Them*. 2018. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from:

[https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/03\\_hr\\_guidelines\\_discrimination\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/03_hr_guidelines_discrimination_en_0.pdf)

Fòs Feminista. *Creating a feminist future together*. N.d. Retrieved 7 September 2024 from:

<https://fosfeminista.org/about-us-2/>

GBV Guidelines. *DATA COLLECTION FOR GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RISK MITIGATION*. 2021. Retrieved 3 October 2024 from:

<https://gbvguidelines.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/GBV-Risk-Analysis-Guidance-2021.pdf>





*Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*. 1949. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/geneva-convention-relative-protection-civilian-persons-time-war>

*Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War*. 1949. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/geneva-convention-relative-treatment-prisoners-war>

Girls Not Brides. *Child marriage and humanitarian contexts*. 2024. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from:

<https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-and-humanitarian-contexts/#:~:text=Humanitarian%20crises%20can%20increase%20inequalities,greater%20risk%20of%20child%20marriage.>

Global Menstrual Collective. *Who We Are*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from:

<https://www.globalmenstrualcollective.org/who-we-are/>

House et al. *Violence, gender and WASH: a practitioners' toolkit Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming*. 2014. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from:

<https://violence-wash.lboro.ac.uk/toolkit/>

Humanitarian Funding Forecast. *Gender Based Violence*. 2024. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from:

<https://humanitarianfundingforecast.org/gbv/>

International Center for Research on Women. *Toward a More Feminist United Nations*. 2016. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from: <https://www.icrw.org/publications/towards-feminist-united-nations/>

International Center for Research on Women. *CSW Side Events: Join us at the 65th Commission on the Status of Women*. 2022. Retrieved 2 October 2024 from:

<https://www.icrw.org/csw-side-events-join-us-at-the-65th-commission-on-the-status-of-women/>.

International Center for Research on Women. *The Critical Importance of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare During Emergency Settings*. 2022. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from:

<https://www.icrw.org/publications/the-critical-importance-of-sexual-and-reproductive-healthcare-during-emergency-settings/>

International Center for Research on Women. *Who We Are*. 2022. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from:

<https://www.icrw.org/who-we-are/>

International Committee of the Red Cross. *Gender equality and war: "No humanity, dignity, peace until international humanitarian law is upheld for all genders."* 2023. Retrieved 6 August 2024 from:

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/women-conflict-and-international-humanitarian-law>

International Committee of the Red Cross. *How Is The Term "Armed Conflict" Defined In International Humanitarian Law?*. 2024. Retrieved 16 July 2024 from:

[https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/document\\_new/file\\_list/armed\\_conflict\\_defined\\_in\\_ihl.pdf](https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/document_new/file_list/armed_conflict_defined_in_ihl.pdf)

International Committee of the Red Cross. *International humanitarian law and policy on Protected persons: Women*. 2024. Retrieved 5 August 2024 from:

<https://www.icrc.org/en/law-and-policy/protected-persons-women#:~:text=In%20recent%20conflicts%20there%20have.be%20treated%20with%20particular%20care>

International Rescue Committee. *Can WASH services transform health and well-being in vulnerable communities?*. 2023. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from:



<https://www.rescue.org/article/can-wash-services-transform-health-and-well-being-vulnerable-communities>

International Rescue Committee. *What is gender-based violence - and how do we prevent it?*. 2023. Retrieved 5 September 2024 from:

<https://www.rescue.org/article/what-gender-based-violence-and-how-do-we-prevent-it>

Kaveri. Health Policy Watch. *Water and Sanitation Crises Hit Women and Girls Harder than Men*. 2023.

Retrieved 2 August 2024 from: <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/water-sanitation-hit-women-girls-harder/>

Martin et al. Think Global Health. *Periods Don't Stop For Conflict*. 2022. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from:

<https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/periods-dont-stop-conflict>

Modongo et al. The African Union International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa. *The Impact of Humanitarian Crises and Armed Conflict on Girls' and Women's Education in Africa*. 2024.

Retrieved 27 June 2024 from:

<https://cieffa.au.int/en/blog/impact-humanitarian-crises-and-armed-conflict-gwe-africa>

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Women's human rights and gender-related concerns in situations of conflict and instability*. N.d. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/women/womens-human-rights-and-gender-related-concerns-situations-conflict-and-instability>

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Using the international and regional legal framework to stop all forms of violence against women and girls*. 2022. Retrieved 8 September 2024 from:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/03/using-international-and-regional-legal-framework-stop-all-forms-violence-against>

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS*. 2023. Retrieved 10 October 2024 from:

<https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-women-and-girls.pdf>

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. *Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Armed Conflict*. N.d. Retrieved 4 October 2024 from: <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/1/9/524088.pdf>

Organization of American States. *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, Eradication of Violence Against Women*. 1994. Retrieved 27 June 2024 from:

<https://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-61.html>

Rodriguez. Global Citizen. *Period Poverty: Everything You Need to Know*. 2022. Retrieved 26 June 2024 from:

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/period-poverty-everything-you-need-to-know/>

Shepherd. AIDS Healthcare Foundation. *Menstrual Health Day: We Must End Period Poverty*. 2024.

Retrieved 2 August 2024 from:

<https://www.aidshealth.org/2024/05/menstrual-health-day-we-must-end-period-poverty/#:~:text=Observed%20annually%20on%20May%2028,education%20and%20resources%20like%20Period>

Stockholm International Water Institute. *Peace starts with WASH: 8 steps toward stronger governance*. 2024. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from:

<https://siwi.org/latest/peace-starts-with-wash/>

The WASH Foundation. *History and Overview*. 2024. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from:

<https://thewashfoundation.org/overview/>



United Nations Children's Fund. *FAST FACTS: Nine things you didn't know about menstruation*. 2018. Retrieved 26 June 2024 from: [https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fast-facts-nine-things-you-didnt-know-about-menstruation#\\_edn2](https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fast-facts-nine-things-you-didnt-know-about-menstruation#_edn2)

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *CSW42 Agreed Conclusions (II): Women and Armed Conflict*. 1998. Retrieved 06 November 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw42/CSW%201998%20Agreed%20Conclusions.pdf>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Follow-Up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Action in the Critical Areas of Concern*. 1998. Retrieved 26 June 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/armed.htm>

United Nations, Commission on the Status of Women. *Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-Conflict Peace-Building: CSW48 Agreed Conclusions*. 2004. Retrieved 29 June 2024 from: [https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/48/CSW48b\\_E\\_FI\\_NAL.pdf](https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/48/CSW48b_E_FI_NAL.pdf)

United Nations, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. *CEDAW General Recommendation No. 12: Violence against women*. 1989. Retrieved 1 October 2024 from: <https://www.refworld.org/legal/general/cedaw/1989/en/53527>

United Nations, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. *CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19: Violence against women*. 1992. Retrieved 1 October 2024 from: <https://www.refworld.org/legal/resolution/cedaw/1992/en/96542>

United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*. 1998. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.183/9>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. N.d. Retrieved 29 June 2024: [https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5#targets\\_and\\_indicators](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5#targets_and_indicators)

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*. N.d. Retrieved 6 August 2024 from: [https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6#targets\\_and\\_indicators](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6#targets_and_indicators)

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*. N.d. Retrieved 29 June 2024 from: [https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16#targets\\_and\\_indicators](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16#targets_and_indicators)

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict: United Nations Response*. 1998. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/rwanda/pdf/sexual-violence-and-armed-conflict-1998-UN-report.pdf>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Women and Health Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective into the Health Sector*. 1998. Retrieved 2 October 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/healthr.htm>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *23rd Special Session of the General Assembly*. N.d. Retrieved 20 October 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/women/newyork2000>



United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Gender Equality*. N.d. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/gender-equality>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Gender equality 'fundamental prerequisite' for peaceful, sustainable world*. 2022. Retrieved 4 October 2024 from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114072>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Strongly Condemning Rise in Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Speakers Urge Security Council to Better Prevent, Enforce Accountability for Such Crimes*. 2023. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from: <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15357.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Gender-Responsive Arms Control, Ending Impunity Key to Reverse Record Level of Sexual Violence against Women, Girls in Conflict Zones, Speakers Tell Security Council*. 2024. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from: <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15676.doc.htm>

United Nations Development Programme. *Advancing Gender Equality in Crisis Settings*. 2024. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/gender-crisis#:~:text=UNDP%20has%20developed%20a%2010,Women%2C%20Peace%20and%20Security%20agenda>.

United Nations Development Programme. *Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025*. 2022. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from: [https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-09/UNDP\\_Gender\\_Equality\\_Strategy\\_2022-2025\\_EN.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-09/UNDP_Gender_Equality_Strategy_2022-2025_EN.pdf)

United Nations Development Programme. *Impacts on gender equality and women's empowerment in crisis settings*. N.d. Retrieved 24 June 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/gender-crisis>

United Nations Development Programme. *The 10-Point Action Agenda For Advancing Gender Equality in Crisis Settings*. 2022. Retrieved 10 September 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-11/UNDP-10-Point-Action-Agenda-for-Advancing-Gender-Equality-in-Crisis-Settings.pdf>

United Nations Development Programme. *UNDP at the 68th Commission on the Status of Women*. 2024. Retrieved 1 October 2024 from: <https://www.undp.org/events/undp-68th-commission-status-women>.

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/RES/1996/6)*. 1996. Retrieved 4 October 2024 from: <https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/ECOSOC/resolutions/E-RES-1996-6.doc>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern*. 1998. Retrieved 29 June 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/thematic.htm>

United Nations, Economic and Social Council. *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*. 2019. Retrieved 1 October 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2019/L.3>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *About UN Women*. N.d. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women>



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of. *Commission on the Status of Women 44th Session*. N.d. Retrieved 24 June 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes#:~:text=44th%20session%20>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Facts and figures:*

*Humanitarian action*. N.d. Retrieved 26 June 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/humanitarian-action/facts-and-figures#:~:text=Conflict%20affects%20women%2C%20girls%2C%20boys,for%20the%20sick%20%5B2%5D>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *GENDER EQUALITY IN THE 2030 AGENDA: GENDER RESPONSIVE WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS*. N.d. Retrieved 9th September 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2018/Issue-brief-Gender-responsive-water-and-sanitation-systems-en.pdf>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Peace and Security*. N.d.

Retrieved 1 August 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*. N.d. Retrieved 28 June 2024 from:

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/armed.htm>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Young women in peace and security*. N.d. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/young-women-in-peace-and-security>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Gender Equality & Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Report of the Expert Group Meeting*. 2017. Retrieved 1 September 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/News%20and%20events/Stories/2018/Expert-Group-Meeting-on-gender-equality-and-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-Report-2017-12-en.pdf>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Internally displaced women of Ukraine from voice through interactive theatre*. 2017. Retrieved 4 October 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/6/feature-internally-displaced-women-of-ukraine-find-voice>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Civil society activists and international leaders highlight the triple threat of climate crises, conflict, and gender inequality and call for women-centered commitments*. 2022. Retrieved 13 October 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/news/2022/03/civil-society-activists-and-international-leaders-highlight-the-triple-threat-of-climate-crises-conflict-and-gender-inequality-and-call-for-women-centered-commitments>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *In Focus: UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)*. 2022. Retrieved 3 October 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2022/03/in-focus-un-commission-on-the-status-of-women-csw66#:~:text=This%20year%2C%20the%2066th,in%20the%20context%20of%20climate>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Women are increasingly at-risk in conflict, underrepresented in peace processes, according to UN Secretary-General report*. 2023. Retrieved 28 June 2024 from:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2023/10/women-are-increasingly-at-risk-in-conflict>





[t-underrepresented-in-peace-processes-according-to-un-secretary-general-report#:~:text=More%20than%20600%20million%20women,USD%202.2%20trillion%20in%202022.](#)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Period Poverty - why millions of girls and women cannot afford their periods*. 2024. Retrieved 24 June 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2024/05/period-poverty-why-millions-of-girls-and-women-cannot-afford-their-periods>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Scarcity and Fear: A Gender Analysis of the Impact of the War in Gaza on Vital Services Essential to Women's and Girls' Health, Safety, and Dignity - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)*. 2024. Retrieved 13 October 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/gender-alert-gender-analysis-of-the-war-in-gaza-on-vital-services-essential-to-womens-and-girls-health-safety-en.pdf>

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Women's Leadership and political participation*. 2024. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation>

United Nations, Fourth World Conference on Women. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. 1995. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>

United Nations Fund for Population Activities. *5 reasons why menstruation support is critical in a humanitarian crisis*. 2024. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from: <https://www.unfpa.org/news/5-reasons-why-menstruation-support-critical-humanitarian-crisis>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948. Retrieved 24 June 2024 from: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/2200\(XXI\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/2200(XXI))

United Nations, General Assembly. *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*. 1966. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: [http://undocs.org/A/RES/2200\(XXI\)](http://undocs.org/A/RES/2200(XXI))

United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*. 1979. Retrieved 24 June 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/34/180>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104)*. 1993. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/48/104>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons - in the context of armed conflict*. 2018. Retrieved 6 August 2024 from: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GloTIP2018\\_BOOKLET\\_2\\_Conflict.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GloTIP2018_BOOKLET_2_Conflict.pdf)

United Nations Population Fund. *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls: A UNFPA Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction*. 2002. Retrieved 2 August 2024 from: <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/impact-armed-conflict-women-and-girls>

United Nations, Security Council. *Report of the Secretary-General on Women and peace and security (S/2023/725)*. 2023. Retrieved 27 June 2024 from: <https://undocs.org/s/2023/725>





United Nations Water. *Water and Gender*. N.d. Retrieved 7 August 2024 from: <https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/water-and-gender>

United Nations, Women Watch. *Women and Armed Conflict*. N.d. Retrieved 24 June 2024 from: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/forums/review/conflict/>

United Nations, World Conference on Human Rights. *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*. 1993. Retrieved 25 June 2024 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/vienna.aspx>

Victor. HumAngle. *Conflict and Climate Shocks Exacerbating Cholera Outbreaks in Horn of Africa - MSF*. 2023. Retrieved 1 August 2024 from: <https://humanglemedia.com/conflict-and-climate-shocks-exacerbating-cholera-outbreaks-in-horn-of-africa-msf/>

WaterAid. *Integrating gender equality into water, sanitation and hygiene projects*. N.d. Retrieved 4 October 2024 from: <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxoof256/files/integrating-gender-equality-into-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-projects---guidance-for-ngos-and-implementing-partners.pdf>

WaterAid. *The Global Menstrual Health and Hygiene Collective statement on the occasion of the 64th session of Commission on the Status of Women*. N.d. Retrieved 3 October 2024 from: <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/sites/g/files/jkxoof256/files/global-menstrual-health-and-hygiene-collectives-statement-for-the-commission-on-the-status-of-women.pdf>

WaterAid. *WaterAid at the Commission on the Status of Women*. 2019. Retrieved 2 October 2024 from: <https://washmatters.wateraid.org/publications/wateraid-at-the-commission-on-the-status-of-women>

World Bank Group. *Tackling Gender Based Violence in Fragile Contexts*. 2023. Retrieved 7 September 2024 from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2023/03/07/tackling-gender-based-violence-in-fragile-contexts>

World Health Organization. *Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)*. N.d. Retrieved 8 September 2024 from: [https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash#tab=tab_1)

Zack. United Nations Foundation. *Stand With Her: 6 Women-Led Organizations Tackling Gender-Based Violence*. 2022. Retrieved 8 September 2024 from: [https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/stand-with-her-6-women-led-organizations-tackling-gender-based-violence/?gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwufq2BhAmEiwAnZqw8p0xN1mnAeQ9jNvfg4K8t-zphkSYFsp6u0vOkS0-qTVJDjUEoAW\\_6BoCkIQQAyD\\_BwE](https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/stand-with-her-6-women-led-organizations-tackling-gender-based-violence/?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwufq2BhAmEiwAnZqw8p0xN1mnAeQ9jNvfg4K8t-zphkSYFsp6u0vOkS0-qTVJDjUEoAW_6BoCkIQQAyD_BwE)