



*2013 St. Bonaventure University  
Model United Nations Conference*

*United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*

**March 22 to March 23, 2013**

Greetings Delegates,

This year we are excited that you will be utilizing your sharp minds, dynamic debating skills, and most of all your knowledge of the world around you as you will be representing your countries in the committee of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women or what is also known as UN Women. In the UN Women committee each country will be working towards creating resolutions on the following topics in order to create better atmospheres for advancing the status of women around the globe. As a whole the roles of this committees roles include the formulation of policies, global standards and norms through the support of the inter-governmental bodies such as that of the Commission on the Status of Women; to aid Member States such as yourselves to implement such standards while readily providing suitable technology and financial support; and to create partnerships within civil societies. Finally, as the committee for United Nations Women it is expected of member states to hold other nations to be held accountable in their commitments towards creating gender equality through the monitoring of the overall status of women around the world.

In order to help the women of our global community and elevate discrimination as a whole nations must work to empower women in order to help them achieve equality especially when bridging relationships between genders. To do so actions such as development in communities, the upholding of the Declaration of Human Rights, aid through humanitarian action, and peace as well as security must be met. This committee was initially created in January of 2006 as just an idea and eventually became a reality in July of 2010 as a reform agenda put forth by the United Nations in order to united both resources as well as mandates to have a greater impact within the international community. Therefore, as each of you research these topics please keep in mind the foundations of the UN Women as you work to create resolutions that will work to resolve issues that the female population faces.

### **Topic #1: Violence against Women**

A recent UN report indicates that women in Afghanistan have been suffering from domestic violence, forced marriage, child marriage, and murder even after the implementation of laws in Afghanistan that are supposed to bar against such actions. This is because these sorts of laws have only been in existence for two years, and many of the crimes that they prohibit are not reported. Also, due to cultural norms and Islamic religious beliefs imposed on women, it is often seen as a great disrespect to their families if a woman was to report such acts of violence no matter how severe.

Other regions around the world have been affected by similar situations, such as West Papuan, the western half of the Island of New Guinea. Here, the West Papua National Committee, also known as the KNPB, has organized peaceful demonstrations to bring awareness to human rights in hopes of bringing about justice for women who have been abused by men in their community. As a result of these protests, the Jayapura District Court has sentenced protesters to jail as they work to crack down on such demonstrations. These actions have led to numerous rallies that brought the attention of international community to such inhumane actions and caused military intervention.

Violence against women is a pressing matter the United Nations has tried to address. It is a violation of human rights, with offenses ranging from sexual, physical, economic, and even

psychological abuse. This is a widespread problem where all nations are affected, and each country should take measures to ensure that the rights of women are protected and enforced. The questions I would keep in mind are: What is my country's position on ending violence against women? What measures can be taken to protect and preserve women's rights? How can my committee support the efforts of eradicating violence against women worldwide? I would reference previous resolutions pertaining to this topic as a source of information.

***Helpful Links:***

[http://www.unifem.org/attachments/products/UNIFEM\\_EVAW\\_Strategy\\_2009.pdf](http://www.unifem.org/attachments/products/UNIFEM_EVAW_Strategy_2009.pdf)  
<http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/un-trust-fund/>  
<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1301/S00006/west-papua-2012-human-rights-report-aus-west-papua-assoc.htm>  
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/violence-women-persists-afghanistan-u-n-report-article-1.1217646>

**Topic # 2: Peace and Security**

In October 2000, the Security Council passed Resolution 1325, which became the precedent in acknowledging women and including gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peace building and governance. In addressing such matters, the resolution calls for women's participation on all levels of decision making (peace negotiations, peace operations, in institutions on a regional and national level, etc.) It also calls upon nations to aid in the protection of women and girls from sexual gender-based violence. The resolution elaborates on the aspects of prevention, promotion, and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives.

During acts of war, women are the most affected where many are left without any options of survival. In certain areas, women are subjected to humiliation/violence, are dominated by a certain group or military personnel, and are at times forced to be relocated from their homes. Implementing peace-building operations can prevent and resolve many conflicts before they start. In order to impose law and order on areas of unrest, peace-building talks help bring about negotiations with fighting nations through reshaping the government's perspective on social, economic, and political issues. Women are increasingly becoming a part of peace negotiations on a local and international level; however the issues concerning them are of a low priority and lack support from surrounding governments and institutions.

As the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), how can we as a committee spread awareness on implementing women in peace negotiation efforts? How can we address the post-conflict issues of women and girls after a war has ended? How can we provide aid to the refugees and victims of conflict? I would research the impact of women as being a part of peaceful negotiations or general policies within your country. I would also research the positive influence UN Women has done to promote women's participation on the matters of peace and security.

***Helpful Links:***

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000))

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/women\\_war\\_peace/facts\\_figures.html](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_war_peace/facts_figures.html)  
<http://www.womenwarpeace.org/>  
<http://www.eplo.org/gender-peace-and-security>

### ***Topic # 3: Women, Poverty & Economics***

It is an undisputed fact that women endure the most discrimination in terms of employment. Men are dominant in the workforce, accounting for 17 percent more than women worldwide. They are subjected to long hours of hard labor, where they are barely making a profit or breaking even. Women are forced to migrate out of their country in search for income to bring back to their families. To date, about \$305 billion was sent back to developing countries; this money is crucial for sustaining positive outcomes in underdeveloped nations. Statistics show that women are more likely to live in poverty than men. This problem is increasing due to the lack of education women are receiving in developed and developing nations. Many who are affected do not have access to clean water, access to medical care, or decent living conditions. The growing financial crisis has greatly devastated the women's work force. Millions of export factories are forced out of business, leaving women unemployed and searching for work in developed countries and leaving their families behind. Many that are currently employed do not have basic rights, and are subjected to discriminatory laws that pertain to tax systems, budget systems, and trade regimes.

I would research any laws that instill gender based disparities towards women in your country. What has your country done to battle the problem of poverty amongst women? What can UN Women do to solve this issue of unemployment which greatly affects the female population? Are there any NGOs that are willing to help in the process of dissolving gender based laws benefitting the male population?

### ***Helpful Links:***

[http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/women\\_poverty\\_economics/women\\_migrant\\_workers.html](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_poverty_economics/women_migrant_workers.html)  
<http://www.unpac.ca/economy/whatcauses.html>  
<http://www.iwpr.org/initiatives/poverty>  
[http://www.womenscoalition.org.bw/povert\\_&\\_empowerment.htm](http://www.womenscoalition.org.bw/povert_&_empowerment.htm)