

BACKGROUND GUIDES



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Letter from the DIAS

Dear Delegates,

We, the chairs, welcome everyone to the United Nations Women (UNW) at GEMS WESGREEN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (WESMUN'26)! We are all extremely excited to chair this committee. We expect to see high-stakes debates, diverse discussions, and heated arguments, which will help you better understand the world and prepare for a productive committee session.

The dais urges every delegate to thoroughly review this background guide to understand this agenda and ensure you come to the conference with the necessary knowledge. However, that being said, every delegate still needs to look at their own country's policies rather than solely base their research on this guide. Please refrain from going away from your country's policy (even if you disagree!) as this would make your speeches politically inaccurate.

We encourage participation from all delegates and for everyone to step out of their comfort zone to interact with fellow delegates or even us chairs! Remember, MUN is where you make fond memories and build lifelong friendships with people you don't expect to be friends with.

The most important thing is having fun, and we, as the dias, will ensure that OUR committee is the best in WESMUN'26! We look forward to seeing you all at the conference, and we wish you the very best with your research and preparations! Please feel free to contact us for any queries or details, we'd be more than happy to help!

Regards,

The dais of UNW

Muhammad Hamdan | Chair

Anthony Sami | Chair

Kamilia Akbar | Chair

Introduction to committee

The UNW is the principal global forum dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women across all sectors of society. This committee brings together delegates from around the world to discuss pressing issues that affect millions, from ensuring women's participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution to combating the erasure of women from history. Here, your ideas, perspectives, and voices are not just encouraged—they are essential.

In this committee, you will engage in thoughtful debate, propose innovative solutions, and collaborate with your peers to address complex and interconnected issues. You'll have the chance to navigate real-world challenges, analyse policies, and advocate for change that can have a tangible impact on communities worldwide. While the topics we discuss are serious, the experience is meant to be dynamic, interactive, and, yes, fun. You'll not only build skills in diplomacy and leadership but also form connections and memories that extend beyond the committee room.

Whether this is your first MUN or you are a seasoned delegate, UNW offers a unique space to challenge yourself, explore different perspectives, and contribute to discussions that shape global policy on gender equality. We encourage you to be bold, curious, and confident, knowing that your participation here matters. This committee is a platform for learning, growth, and meaningful impact—and we can't wait to see what you bring to the table.

Agenda 1:
Examining Feminism as a
Geopolitical Tool and the
Westernization of Gender
Equality Narratives.

Introduction to the Agenda

The current global discourse surrounding gender equality has evolved beyond being just a social movement; feminism today is being formed, reformed and sometimes weaponised in order to serve the geopolitical needs of states, institutions and global powers. The idea of feminism as the women's struggle for liberation and the right to equality was initially seen as a universal struggle, however, many state, institutional and global political ambitions are using this struggle to promote their own political agendas. Thus, feminism today operates not just as a principle for advocacy; it is also used as an instrument of influence – to declare moral authority, the justification of policies and decisions, and to determine alliances for the future on an international level.

As a result of this evolution, there is a new and growing concern regarding the impact of Western culture on how we view the issue of gender equality. Gender Justice is a universal concept; however, the narrative of Gender Justice is often presented through a framework and interpretation that reflects Western priorities, Western assumptions and Western history. This domination of the narrative creates an imbalance in power, where certain feminist voices are enhanced and legitimized internationally, while other voices are left unheard or misinterpreted.

Through different international practices, countries deploy Feminism to advance their interests and to provide assistance (aid) to others. By framing women's rights, some countries have advanced women's rights in certain countries, but they have also chosen to ignore certain countries' violations of women's rights, while highlighting other countries' violations. By ignoring these countries' violations, these countries discredit and compromise their ability to promote women's rights.

Introduction to the Agenda

The imbalances in these narratives adversely affect the ability of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to promote women's rights through their development strategies. The policies created by these external structures do not necessarily reflect the realities that women experience, especially when those realities are affected by war, displacement, rural poverty, cultural expectations, or localized discrimination. The geopolitical aspects of feminism run the risk of becoming isolated from the women they claim to serve and empowering. A disconnect may generate distrust, resistance, and create discrepancies between the international commitments to women and what progress is made for the women themselves.

In order to achieve this change, the global community should deliberately incorporate a greater variety of different feminist voices that currently shape the way global discussions occur. It should also understand that although there are cultural contexts which may be part of some peoples' views about gender equality, these contexts do not mean that they oppose gender equality or that local feminist movements can be seen merely as secondary voices, but also as valid sources of knowledge regarding feminism. If this were to occur, we would have a more inclusive, multipolar feminist construct, collaboratively created rather than imposed, which gives a higher level of legitimacy to gender advocacy and ensures that it truly reflects the realities of women's lives, rather than the geopolitical strategies of countries.

In this new narrative, we will reclaim feminism as a global movement, based on justice, dignity, empowerment, free from any political interference and strengthened by the many diverse experiences of the world's women. Such a new global narrative is vital to developing a global agenda for gender equity that is credible, sensitive to context, and accurately reflects the needs of all women.

Key Terms

Feminism: A social and political framework that advocates against systems of inequality and prejudice based on gender bias while focusing on the advancement of women's rights across social, economic scales.

Westernization: The international influence of western gender norms cultural, political, and ideological values are excessively promoted overriding cultural belief and traditional social structures.

Feminist Foreign Policy: A policy strategy that centers gender equality as well as women's rights when diplomatic discussions are brought up.

Global Gender Governance: A collective system where gender norms and standards are closely monitored while designing new frameworks ensuring equality levels are held high.

Power Imbalances: Inequalities when faced with distribution of authority amongst states determining which countries' voices are prioritised in international discussions.

Gender Equality Narratives: Dominant frameworks of which gender equality is discussed between states as well as the way in which these perspectives are promoted within political outlooks and international discourse.

Geopolitics: The strategic and diplomatic approach between nations during interactions of political interest and ideologies that can influence not only relationships between countries but also affect global standards and international policy agendas.

Cultural Relativism: An approach which targets a relative understanding of a variety of different cultural beliefs , values and virtues rather than having automatic external judgement without basic general knowledge recognising cultural diversity.

Ideological Influence: Usage of cultural narratives when forming international policies while shaping diplomatic ties across borders and shaping public opinions.

Key Issues

- **Feminism as a tool of soft power and foreign policy:** Feminism has become a diplomatic tool, especially in the Western side that put gender equality into foreign policy agendas and development tactics. To add on, women rights can cause strategic relations like expanding diplomatic relations, forming political alliances, or economic parties. The popularization of gender equality can cause overshadowing the genuine cause of women's rights when policy decisions prioritize the geopolitical gain. This together can create discouragement in surrounding countries, where gender rights may be viewed as politically motivated rather than it be passionately driven.
- **Politicization of Feminism and Growing Backlash Movements:** As gender equality gets more popular and talked about in global politics, it has also become a tool of politics. Some governments and countries put feminism as a Western influence symbol, using this tactic as conservative support. This step back can fumble cooperation and restrict the activities of civil society organizations. The popularization of gender equality in politics makes it more difficult to agree in shared commitments and opinions to women's rights, even when there is agreement on basic principles.
- **Unequal Representation in Global Gender Governance:** Leadership in politics by global feminist is still unbalanced and concentrated in Western countries. This distortion shows which gender's issues receive international attention and which ones don't. Local activists struggle to reach the global stage, resulting in policies that could not actually reflect on the reality. For global gender talks to be acceptable, many voices from all parts of the world must be put into the action not only in suggesting solutions but in actual leadership roles.
- **Power Imbalances in Global Development and Aid Structures:** The development aid that was used to promote gender equality usually comes from countries in the North. These usually causes funding priorities like, success metrics and program designs, creating gender initiatives according to external power and worldwide standards rather than what the actual community's needs. This imbalance reduces the voices of local feminist movements, which can make it seem forced to align their agendas with the donor's requirements. When external gender programs are put into action, they risk it being legitimate limiting their ability to cause meaningful change.

Key Issues

Policy and Governance Issues: In order to mitigate the economical and social impacts caused by AI, there is a need for effective governmental interventions and strategies at the global level so as to be capable of facing the challenges and risks posed by AI. This is because AI has developed at a much faster pace than the regulatory system in most countries, which has reduced the need for joint actions in relation to the transition of the workforce and ethical management.

Widening inequality between countries: Due to the unequal access of technology, skills, infrastructure, and governance capacity, AI has the ability of worsening inequality between countries, by reversing decades worth of progress in closing development gaps, where countries with strong digital readiness, AI investments, and well developed regulatory frameworks are set to capture and benefit from the majority of AI's economic gains, while poorer countries and vulnerable groups with inadequate infrastructure, lower educational capacity, and technology barriers fall further and further behind.

Major Parties

United States: The US greatly impacted modern counter-terrorism policies, particularly following the attacks of 9/11. Through legislations such as the PATRIOT Act and others, the US greatly increased detentions and the power held by law enforcement in the name of “National Security”. Practices like mass data collection and targeted killings which the US employs continue to be criticized by human rights organizations for violating due process and many other laws.

France: France is a major party because of their powerful counter-terrorism structure which was developed in response to repeated attacks on its land. Some measures include increased law enforcement capabilities and an extended state of emergency. While they limit freedom of speech, the balance between security and individual rights continues to change. Still, their approach shows how challenging it is to implement capable security measures that are balanced as well.

UK: The UK is one of the few countries which were able to establish a well-balanced legal framework that is both advanced and does not interfere with individual rights, it is among the most developed in the world. They did this by combining surveillance, investigatory powers, and interception of communications with due process such as RIPA. This combination of regulation of investigatory powers and engagement with UN human rights standards, show the UK's effort to integrate security measures while upholding international expectations.

Germany: Germany has shown to take remarkable action in shaping global gender policy aligning with its central role within the European Union. Using advanced technology, EU leadership and its rights-based foreign policy Germany has shown to have a steady and clear commitment maintaining advances in Western liberal interpretation of gender equality. Nevertheless, Germany faces criticism similar to France's from middle eastern, Asian and African states whose governments claim complete ignorance over religious factors, arguing that European feminist expectations do not reflect local cultural, religious, or societal norms.

Sweden: Sweden stands amongst the world's strongest promoters for gender equality. Occupying one of the top spots of global indices and maintaining some of the most comprehensive legal frameworks supporting women's rights. The Feminist Foreign Policy in 2014 was first formally introduced into legal systems in Sweden which as time passed on became the core pillar of Sweden's diplomacy. Sweden's strategic approach has shaped its global identity; however, it faces critics from middle eastern and African states as reflecting Western liberal assumptions that do not fully consider regional cultural or religious contexts.

Canada: Canada has set itself a steady voice in global discussions surrounding women's rights, often advocating strong diplomatic ties, partnership and providing funds for developing nations. Canada took strategic moves by launching the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) on the ninth of June

Previous attempts to resolve the issue

Global Standards for Advancing Women's Rights:

Global actions to support gender equality are structured by several international frameworks such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action that took place in 1995 to promote equality, another framework designed in 1979 which was the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Although these projects were the backbone for all-inclusive empowerment for women and providing universal protection, they have also faced harsh criticism embedding Western assumptions on gender and social roles causing an uproar amongst other countries for showing blatant ignorance towards cultural customs and avoiding the reality of diverse regional understanding. Consequently, these initiatives lit fire under nations with the perspectives that global gender norms were being set under the western influence contributing to the geopolitical tension surrounding feminist legislation.

Feminist Foreign Policy Initiatives by Western States

Multiple Western states have introduced the idea of feminist foreign policy structures as an influence, as a part of their diplomatic ties, as well as agendas where they have objectives in the placement of gender equality at the centre of international relations, which can help benefit and develop aid as well as build peace between borders. However, while these initiatives have put a spotlight on women's rights, critics take this opportunity to argue that Western states show bias when it comes to the selective application of women's rights, which lowers their credibility as well as reliability. In several cases, however, those Western states which do promote feminist foreign policy maintain diplomatic partnerships and ties across borders with states that violate women's rights. This raises concerns that the topic of gender equality is being used as a political tool rather than being upheld as a moral standard for the citizens within these countries.

Dominance of Western Actors in Global Gender Institutions

Global gender governance departments, which include international NGOs as well as several forums, are usually led and heavily influenced by Western ideologies and are run by Western states as well as organisations. This unyielding power has shaped several gender issues across the global sphere, as these issues receive significant international attention as well as funding through diplomatic ties and nations, while concerns that do not align with Western political interests are often overlooked. Simultaneously, many grassroots solutions as well as local feminist organisations are found struggling to access decision-making spaces, which limits the diversity of perspectives represented in the global gender discussion and keeps the world trapped in a continuous cycle of existing power imbalances.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

- What are strategies that the UN can design and promote gender equality while simultaneously considering religious values and cultural contexts to such an extent that reforms are not made out to impose western interference?
- How can wealthier countries assist vulnerable nations establishing digital-protection systems while avoiding the projection of Western feminist norms?
 - What criteria can the UN utilize to evaluate whether or not states are prioritising women's rights, leveraging them to influence international relations?
- In what ways can international institutions stimulate gender-equity policies that do not override cultural contexts and religious values in order to prevent the insight of western imposition?
- How can international measurements detect whether or not AI technologies are enforcing existing gender inequalities and whether AI-driven hate enables new forms of digital oppression against women?
- What responsibilities should governments, as well as large technology companies and platforms, share in taking accountability when countless women remain unprotected from AI-driven online abuse, whilst ensuring transparency?

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Agenda 2:

Discussing the challenges
caused by Digital oppression
of Women in the age of AI

Introduction to the Agenda

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly evolving and changing the way we communicate, govern, and develop. However, AI also creates new forms of gender-based inequalities, particularly in relation to the digital oppression of women. AI allows for increased access to learning and job opportunities; however, it is being exploited by various institutions and state systems to maintain and create new forms of gender-based discrimination. Technology serves as the tool of power, with AI making decisions related to policies, determining the visibility of information, establishing, and reinforcing power dynamics.

Technology is no longer an impartial force, but rather the means of implementing particular political and ideological agendas. As digital technologies become more prevalent, there is growing concern over who will shape the global dialogue regarding AI and gender. Most of the ethical frameworks for the use of AI in most countries are based on the views of the dominant cultures of the West and often ignore the voices of women in disadvantaged areas or areas impacted by conflict. The influence of the leading technology companies on the conversation surrounding digital safety and access continues to limit the diversity of views represented on these important topics.

The "AI for equality" rhetoric used by many governments is often a cover for advancing their geopolitical agendas, using the example of gender discrimination occurring in other countries to distract from the issues that women face in their own countries. While supporting the digital empowerment of women, governments do not address the online surveillance and cyber-harassment that women experience and ignore. This inconsistency in supporting women's rights digitally undermines the commitment to women's rights digitally globally and allows for the continuation of harmful behaviours without consequence.

Introduction to the Agenda

Women's rights organisations and local based women's projects stand to lose a great deal in the fight against digital discrimination due to significant global inequalities. Policies developed and created from a distance do not account for the day to day lives of women affected by algorithmic discrimination or establish localised methods to solve the problem of discrimination. The discrepancy between how technology is developed and how technology is governed before being introduced can create a gap between what is stated internationally for women and safety in relation to technology. This lack of confidence and inability to work in partnership between women's rights organisations and technology governance bodies can create an increased number of women experiencing gender-based violence within digital spaces.

In order for the international community to achieve meaningful changes regarding the victimisation of women through uncontrolled digital oppression (digital bias and inequality as created by AI), all sector levels of the AI user community need to include the voices of many, especially those most directly affected by this issue. In addition, prior to addressing this issue, cultural and socio-economic contexts must be examined. Women's movements and local communities should be considered primary and credible sources of code of conduct and practice developments within the global community.

Having a more collaborative approach to policy development can help to build an environment that is sensitive to culture when looking at digital rights around the world; this also creates an environment where digital rights are created collaboratively rather than being dictated by governments or businesses, thus making it more legitimate on a global level. By establishing this kind of collaborative approach and creating failure narratives through those experiences, the international community is starting to create an environment where we can build towards an equitable digital world. Therefore, the diverse experiences have given the international community the standing and legitimacy to develop a collaborative approach that is based on values of dignity, justice and empowerment free from the influence of politics and enriched by the diverse experiences of all women.

Key Terms

Data Privacy: The right to control how one's personal information is collected, used, and shared online. Weak data privacy protections increase women's vulnerability to tracking, harassment, or exploitation. Lack of data privacy affects women, making them vulnerable to stalking, harassment, abuse, and the use of their personal data.

Digital Literacy: The skills and knowledge needed to use technology safely and effectively. Low digital literacy can prevent women from protecting themselves online or accessing digital opportunities. The lack of digital literacy skills affects a woman's potential for accessing opportunities, identifying threats, securing private information, and safely engaging with cyberspace.

Automated Decision-Making: When computers make decisions, like approving loans or screening job applicants without human involvement. These systems can unintentionally discriminate against women if they use biased data. Such systems, when trained on biased data, have the potential to discriminate against women when it comes to employment, credit, or services.

Content Moderation: The process platforms use to remove harmful or abusive content. Weak moderation can allow online harassment against women to spread, while overly strict systems may silence women activists. In weak moderation, harassment of women can flourish, while in biased moderation, the voices of female activists might remain unheard.

Technological Redlining: The use of AI or data systems to disadvantage certain groups like historical redlining in housing. Women may be excluded from digital services or opportunities due to biased algorithms. Women might lack access to financial services, technological solutions, and resources because of gender-discriminatory technologies.

AI Governance: The laws, rules, and standards that guide how AI is developed and used. Strong governance is needed to prevent discrimination and digital violence against women. Having strong AI governance is necessary in order to promote non discrimination, accountability, and safeguard women against cyber harm.

Key Issues

Online Harassment, Cyberbullying and Gender-Based Violence: Women face amounts of online abuse nowadays, including stalking, threats, doxxing and the distribution of non consensual images. Social media algorithms frequently promote harmful or abusive material because it drives engagement thereby increasing women's exposure to digital violence. These assaults can mute women's voices restrict their participation in environments and result in tangible psychological and social consequences.

Restricted Availability of Technology and Digital Skills: Women in developing areas encounter difficulties in accessing technology, such as reduced internet connectivity and fewer chances to develop digital competencies. As AI increasingly plays a role, in education and jobs this digital gap contributes to gender disparities. Insufficient access hinders women from engaging in the marketplace comprehending their online rights or safeguarding themselves against cyber harassment.

Insufficient Female Presence in Technology and AI Creation: Most AI systems are created predominantly by groups within AI firms. When women have limited participation in STEM disciplines, leadership positions and coding jobs their perspectives and contributions are absent from the development phase. This results in technology that overlooks women's requirements, safety or individual experiences potentially perpetuating inequality, in environments rather than improving it.

- **Deepfakes and Non-Consensual AI-Generated Content:** Artificial intelligence tools can now produce lifelike fake images, videos, and audio. Deepfake pornography and reputational attacks specifically target women. Such content can cause serious emotional distress, ruin careers, and spread quickly before social media moderators can take it down. It is challenging to punish dependable individuals or protect victims due to a lack of international regulation.

Major Parties

China

China stand against gender issues with strict frameworks linking back to state philosophy creating a differentiation between western evaluation of women's rights To build strong foundation in its approach China has restrained from enforcing external gender equality initiatives, instead China has planned emphasises social order, economic integration, and government-led initiatives as central pillars of female empowerment. Moreover, China's growth in the digital world continues to expand and is only increasing overtime, becoming an additional controversy. China ranks second as the world's largest AI market, raising concerns with the fact that many Chinese women suffer from different forms of digital abuse such as online harassment, coordinated abuse, and AI-assisted impersonation.

India

Over the years, India has consistently maintained its distance from Western feminist frameworks, often creating an emphasis on the importance of women's empowerment sprouting from historical, religious, and cultural backgrounds, strengthening India's distinctive position. Simultaneously, India has come face-to-face with a surge of AI-powered danger targeted at women. Studies have noted that India records a high account regarding deepfake abuse globally, with sexual content soaring amongst all forms of digital abuse pointed at young girls.

Russia

Russia without fail has stood its ground in its own countries prioritising traditional values and rejecting western feminist ideals. Although Russia maintains high standards when it comes to cultural values within its border, women are often found to be faced with severe harassment with the wave of AI-enabled hostility directed at women only growing day by day. Russia has occupied the top spot as one of the major producers of deepfake AI pornography in eastern Europe targeting young women and children.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue

Early International Attempts to Address Digital Violence Against Women

With the widespread of online communication drowning the digital sphere causing UN women as well as several other global figures such as Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the UN General Assembly designed and uploaded guidelines and studies addressing online harassment, cyberstalking, emerging AI-driven harms, digital misogyny pointing awareness at records soaring at an all-time high. Data displaying assessments from 2017 to 2023 shared rapid growth of online abuse and emphasized the sophistication of AI powered tools to detect digitally targeted abuse towards women. However, these initiatives caused major disparities between countries creating an underlying difference between nations. This differentiation left many women to face digital harassment on their own with no protection at all.

International Conversations on AI Ethics and Human-Rights Protection

The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in 2021 and the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) took initiative to create shared norms to take accountability for AI enhancement. Initiative put forward display increased awareness within the private sector acknowledging the rise in cyber-violence against women. However, their devotion is questioned based on its effectiveness. Numerous independent investigations and civil-society reports reveal that enforcement is often inconsistent, content moderation remains understaffed or outsourced with little accountability, and user data continues to be handled in ways that expose women to further risk. These continuing issues have led governments and human-rights groups to question whether voluntary promises from tech companies are enough, or whether stronger, enforceable regulations are the only way to guarantee meaningful protection for women online.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue

Corporate-Level Attempts to Moderate AI and Online Harm

Well used platforms that dominate the modern generation, companies including TikTok, OpenAI and Google established safety tools enabling deepfake-detection and safety-reporting mechanisms. These stringent measurements highlighted global programmes recognition of the gravity of AI-powered gender violence. In spite of these standards critics have brought light on the inconsistency of these rules, expressing frustration of inadequate moderation capacity and poor data-handling practices exposing the insufficient work of these platforms which claim support for victims under online harassment, digital abuse and AI - driven gender violence yet profits motives and weak oversight mean digital violence and AI bias persist. Leaving authorities to speculate on whether platform governance remains inconsistent and platforms continue to hide their contradictory solutions when they seem to benefit from the harassment of its online users.

Domestic Laws Targeting Online Abuse and AI Misconduct

Although many governments try to seize the opportunity to enforce frameworks to work around online abuse many still suffer. However, many governments have put in place substructures to regulate online violence through national legislation. For instance, in 2022 the European Union launched a Digital Services Act planning to open doors for removal of harmful content and seek assistance from larger tech companies in countries such as Australia, Brazil and India in providing greater transparency to help reinforce these laws, penalising cyberstalking, deepfake AI production and sharing of inappropriate imagery. Additionally, the United Kingdom established the Online Safety Act in 2023 criminalizing those who created and spread AI - produced sexual imagery. These acts have been influential yet fail to remain consistent with governments facing problems with limited enforcement capacity or even struggling with jurisdictional boundaries and even cross-border issues weakening their impact.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

What precautions can be taken to ensure prevention of western biases on AI systems as well as guaranteed AI platforms also reflect diverse cultural identities?

How are social media platforms meant to take accountability for digital mistreatment directed at women without shifting blame or creating regulatory inadequacy?

What alternative structures can be put forward to nations with minimal digital capability to assist in combating AI-facilitated gender violence?

How can the UN intervene and take action within states which leverage AI-enabled monitoring or discourse-analysis tools targeting to suppress women human-rights advocates?

What substructures can be enforced that counter AI driven harassment against women while shielding freedom of expression digitally?

What adjustments can be made to audit AI powered platforms in order to prevent against gender and cultural prejudices that hinder women across demographics?

What should be the immediate response for the international community in countering when states deploy AI-powered monitoring tools to track or coerce female human-rights advocates?

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