

Our founder has been actively participating in the Convention on the Status of Women (CSW) which is instrumental in Promoting Women's Rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

On 6th March 2023, she was honored to deliver a presentation on **Somali Widows in Kenya**, with her presentation focusing on the Impact of Migration on Somali Widows and their daughters, Impact of Marginalization on Somali Widows and Rural Women and the Impact of Poverty on Somali Widows and their daughter during the 67th CSW, which took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The priority theme of the CSW67 was, **'Innovation and Technological Change, and Education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'**.

Her presentation highlighted four key areas of concern;

Status of Somali Widows in Kenya: She provided an overview of the current status of Somali widows in Kenya according to a report by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) that gives an estimate that the proportion of female-headed households among Somali refugees in Kenya is as high as 94%, which suggests that many women in these households may be widows.

Impact of Migration on Somali Widows and Their Daughters: She emphasized the detrimental effects of migration on Somali widows and their daughters. She discussed the hardships faced during the migration process, including displacement, loss of social support networks, and exposure to exploitation and violence.

Impact of Marginalization on Somali Widows and Rural Women: Her presentation delved into the issue of marginalization, underscoring how Somali widows and rural women often find themselves on the fringes of society. She discussed how their gender and cultural background contribute to their marginalized status that make them disadvantaged in terms of access to resources, decision-making power and participation in community affairs.

Impact of Poverty on Somali Widows and Their Daughters: She concluded her presentation by addressing the harsh reality of poverty among Somali widows and their daughters. She mentioned how poverty has made Somali widows and their daughters even more vulnerable, preventing them from realizing their full potential and engaging fully in society. Poverty has made it difficult for them to pay for essential medical care like vaccinations, prenatal care, and treatment for common illnesses. They live in unsanitary, overcrowded conditions that raise their risk of developing infectious diseases and other health issues. They often lack access to nutritious foods, which has resulted in chronic malnutrition and growth retardation. Due to a shortage of money to pay for textbooks, uniforms, and school fees, most daughters of Somali widows have been compelled to leave school. Additionally, they have been compelled to work to support their families, which restricts their ability to go to school. Their access to transportation and other necessities for attending school, such as computers and the internet, have also been restricted by poverty.