**The rise of the tradwives and online anti-feminist movements: Threat to gender equality?**

Tradition and feminism can coexist, ensuring dignity for all.

Challenges with Gender-Based Violence and Patriarchy:

6. Balancing Tradition and Modernity: India emphasizes that cultural traditions can coexist with gender equality. For example, Indian women have historically balanced family roles with leadership in politics, business, and activism (e.g., Indira Gandhi, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw). India rejects the binary framing of trxadition versus feminism, advocating for a model where women’s empowerment complements cultural values.

Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017 Increases paid maternity leave to 26 weeks.

Mission Shakti (launched 2020): Safety and empowerment of women, combines multiple schemes under one umbrella.

Digital Gender Gap addressed through Digital India, STEM education push for girls.

Recent Stats:

Gender Inequality Index 2023: India ranked 122/191 (UNDP).

The constitution of India clearly states that women have equal rights with men and are legal for citizens of the country

We must protect those who choose domestic roles, yes, but never at the cost of glorifying a system that traps them there.

**UNCSW-INDIA**

**The rise of the tradwives and online anti-feminist movements: Threat to gender equality?**

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates,

India stands before you, a nation of vibrant diversity, where the **dreams of millions of women have been forged** through centuries of struggle, resilience, and sacrifice.

Indian women have come a long way from the days of systemic denial — denial of **voting rights**, **educational access**, **property and inheritance rights**, and **reproductive autonomy**. They have overcome the shackles of **child marriage**, **Sati**, **widow oppression**, **workplace discrimination**, and the lack of a voice in societal decisions.

Today, the female literacy rate in India stands at 70.3% (2021), up from just 8.9% in 1951. Women constitute 43% of the agricultural labor force, 20.37% of the total labor force, and 11.8% of Parliament—up from a mere 5% in the 1950s.

With time, as women asserted their rights, we’ve reached a phase where they now excel in every field. From **Sarojini Naidu** being the *Nightingale of India*, (India’s **first female Governor)**, **Indira Gandhi** becoming the first and only female Prime **Minister**, and **Kiran Bedi**, the **first woman IPS officer**, reform the nation’s justice system. **Kalpana Chawla** soared as the **first Indian woman in space**, while **Mary Kom**, **Sania Mirza**, and **Zoya Akhtar** continue to shine in sports and cinema while in politics **Nirmala Sitharaman (First full-time female Finance Minister**), in academia, Shakuntala devi also called the Human calculator, inspire generations..

Today, Indian women are no longer confined to the outdated image of “**trad wives**”, being confined to domestic roles or reliant on their husbands to earn and lead the family.

Picture a girl, nurtured by **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, (**a schemeto address concerns of gender discrimination and women empowerment in the country), her dreams crushed by **trad wife influencers** on X preaching she “belongs in the kitchen”. Feel the anguish of a survivor, reaching for India’s Women Helpline, only to be silenced by the misogynist approach of communities like **MRM**.  Groups like **Incels** and **MGTOW** spread hatred, accusing women of being deceitful, while online trolls harass and degrade women. while online trolling and doxxing cases against women journalists, influencers, and activists in India have seen a 62% rise from 2020 to 2023.

To counter this, India stands firmly rooted in both constitutional values and global human rights frameworks. We **have adopted International Human Rights Applications Supporting Women** whichincludes 7 key international human rights treaties**, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** 1993, **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), SDG 5 – Gender Equality (UN Sustainable Development Goals),**  T**he Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)** achieving gender equality, empowering women, and addressing issues like violence against women, health care, and education **The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)** calls for the inclusion of women in peace and security decision-making, promoting the role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

**This is not empowerment; it is a betrayal. It is a deliberate assault on the essence of gender equality.**

Feel the anguish of a survivor, reaching for India’s Women Helpline—181, which handles over 25,000 cases monthly—only to be ridiculed by online anti-feminist communities like MRM, which trivialize Section 498A—a law that reported over 13,000 cases of cruelty by husband or relatives in 2022 alone.

Nationally, our legislative measures—like the **Dowry Prohibition Act (1961)**, **Protection from Domestic Violence Act (2005)**, **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2013)**, **Maternity Benefit Amendment Act (2017)**, and **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2006)**—help dismantle barriers to women’s dignity and freedom.

In conclusion, India believes that **tradition and feminism are not at odds—they can coexist.**  
Our heritage is filled with women like **Rani Lakshmibai**, who was both a traditional queen and a fierce warrior. Her legacy shows us that honoring culture does not mean denying progress.

India firmly believes that tradition and feminism are not mutually exclusive, we envision a society where women can choose their paths freely whether in leadership, science, family, or art without being bound by outdated roles. Every woman holds the right to tradition, to progress, and most of all, to choose.

Greetings chair and delegates

India is a state where dreams of millions of women have been **forged** through centuries of **struggle, resilience and sacrifice.**

Indian women have come a long way from denial, **denial of voting rights**, **educational access** and **property and inheritance rights**. They have broken free from practices like **child marriage**, **sati**, **widow oppression**, and **workplace discrimination**. Key legislation, like **Dowry Prohibition Act**, **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act**, **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace** **Prevention Act, Commission of Sati**, and women’s reservations in various sectors, has driven significant changes.

From a literacy rate of **8.9%** in 1951 to **70.3%** in 2021, women will constitute **33% of India’s Parliament** and **20.37% of our workforce**.

Today Indian women are **no longer confined to the outdated image of the trad wives and beliefs of the misogynist groups like MRMs and incel cultures**.

Picture a girl nurtured by Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, but then her dreams crushed by trad wives’ influencers preaching she **belongs to the kitchen?**

India actively collaborates in global forums and joint campaigns to combat gender-based violence, promote education, and empower women economically. We have also introduced *Digital Media Reforms* through the *IT Rules*, ensuring that online platforms remain accountable.

In India, we believe that, tradition and feminism are not enemies, they can coexist but crucially, it ***must be the woman's choice to define her path not the mandate of society.***

Delibration and definition of a difference between imposition and choice of tradwife lifestyles

In India’s history, we have seen how a woman’s dignity was gambled, like Draupadi’s in the Mahabharata, and how practices like sati and child marriage were often forced upon women going against their will.  
This highlights the critical difference between **choice** and **imposition**.

In the Ramayana, even Sita, who was deeply respected, was forced to undergo an Agni Pariksha to prove her purity.   
When a woman chooses a path for herself freely, it is her power. But when society keeps forcing one image for instance, in india we believe that Sita’s is an ideal example of a perfect wife and teach our children the same leaving them no choice to choose their definition themselves. Tradition is not the enemy. But using tradition to limit a woman’s dreams, her education, her freedom — that is where the harm begins.  
True respect for tradition is when women are free to define their lives — whether that means being a homemaker, a leader, a dreamer, but by their own choice and not by the pressure of others.   
India acknowledges that challenges still persist, especially in rural corners, but we have begun taking strong measures to address them. With sustained efforts, we are committed to ensuring that gender equality is not just promised, but achieved.