**Okinsite Role Sheet**

**Core Beliefs**

You are a proponent of the philosophy of Susan Moller Okin’s as it is outlined in “Toward a Humanist Justice”. This text is the foundation of your beliefs. In some moments in the game it may be obvious how Okin’s arguments oblige you to speak and act. At other times however it will likely be unclear how to apply the text’s various claims and principles to political issues of the here and now. In such instances you will need to decide for yourself what to say or do. So long as your speech and actions do not contradict your foundational principles you will be living up to your role.

The foundational claim of Okin advances is that our world, as currently configured, is unjust to women and children and our gender system is to blame. This system, the structure and dynamics of gender roles and relations, is unjust because it makes women and children vulnerable to domination, subjugation, exploitation, and abuse. For these reasons, Okin’s primary conclusion is that, in the name of justice, we should abolish the gender system. To this end, she endorses broad and systematic policy interventions.

While abuse and exploitation are generally regarded as injustices, Okin draws on Rawls and Walzer in order to show that additional features of our gender system are unjust. She argues that, if we were to consider marriage, parenting, domestic responsibilities, and divorce, along with related elements of social life, in light of Rawls’s original position, we would reject them in their current forms in light of the vulnerabilities and inequalities they produce.

Okin then applies Walzer’s separate spheres test, asking whether or not injustices in one sphere of life overflow into others. Using this test, she concludes that this sort of overflow is abundant. For example, she notes that the fact that our system typically demands more domestic and childcare labor from married women leaves them relatively less likely to be financially independent. This, in turn, makes them potentially vulnerable to subjugation or domination by their husbands on whom they are likely to rely financially. Since children learn about gender dynamics within the context of these unequal relationships, they are then likely to expect and to reproduce these unjust dynamics in their own lives.

While other factions and roles do not emphasize gender and family relations to the degree that Okin does, the liberal factions and many indeterminates will be generally sympathetic to your emphasis on gender equality and concern for the well-being of children. Further, you might draw on the connection between Okin and Rawls or Okin and Walzer to find common ground with other roles influenced by either Rawls or Walzer.

Given the sorts of policy proposals your view naturally encourages, you are likely to find strong opposition from the small government faction as well as indeterminates who are generally opposed to government intervention.

**Major Goal**

Your overarching goal is to dismantle the gender system. Since this is a broad target, and likely not something you can accomplish with a single piece of legislation, your aim is to get the legislative assembly to pass motions that fight the injustices of the gender system. Okin identifies a number of measures that would serve this goal, including: government subsidies for high-quality child care; robust parental leave policies; equal legal entitlement for both spouses to all household income; establishing high-quality after-school programs; changes to school curricula so that gender representation is more balanced and gender politics are explicitly discussed.

You might consider pushing for other measures that Okin identifies or to devise your own that serve your overarching goal. What matters most is that you concern yourself with passing motions that actively support equal opportunity for all genders and that help to produce just citizens—rather than citizens who help replicate/perpetuate the gender system and its injustices. Regardless, under no circumstances should you allow the passage of any motion that enshrines, supports, or further entrenches the gender system.

You will need to feel out what type of proposals have the best chance of being passed and make their passage your central goal. This outcome is far from assured: other indeterminates will have their own proposals that they will want to add to the agenda. You will need to build support for your initiative by forging alliances with other indeterminates and, especially, with members of the three main factions.

Unlike some other characters, you have a separate issue of concern. The United Nations will soon review its Human Development Index (HDI), an international ranking of countries according to their level of development. The notion of development that the HDI has traditionally employed is based on capabilities, reflecting the involvement of Amartya Sen. The review, however, means there is a real possibility that that may change. You believe that the HDI should be revised according to a different design, one that reflects your view that the status of women and children are of special concern. It will be a major victory for you if the assembly to passes a resolution that aligns with your view. The purpose of doing so will be to send a message to the UN in the hope of influence its review.

Note that this resolution does not need to outline the particulars of the HDI in any detail: your concern is with the philosophy of its overall approach. So long as the assembly to endorses your view as it pertains to the HDI, you will have achieved a significant personal victory. But be warned: there may be other players in the game who want the HDI to take a different approach. Remember that you can bargain with factions and other indeterminates, possibly voting to support a measure of theirs in return for their support of yours.

More information on the HDI is available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev>. See in particular the section, “Intellectual and Historical Underpinnings.”

**Tips and Strategies**

Your overarching goal is abolishing the gender system, but even Okin acknowledges that this process will not happen quickly and will require a broad range of interventions. With this in mind, your approach can be both piecemeal and flexible. While proposing legislation of your own is one route to achieving your goals, you might also find opportunities to see your goals advanced by adding to or refining the motions others propose.

Since many other roles do not overtly endorse notions of justice that revolve around the family, it may take additional effort for you to convince them of the importance of your main concerns. However, you have natural allies in the liberals and indeterminates who emphasize equality and, in particular, those open to applying Rawls’s original position to domestic/family life. There are also other possible allies, including any roles that place a central importance on non-oppressive relationships. If you seek them out, you will be significantly more likely to achieve your goals. While your goals are broad in scope, your role allows you a great deal of flexibility in voting on matters that do not bear on the gender system, making you an asset to any faction that takes the time to ally with you.

Many of the philosophers whose work other roles are based on have written on Rawls’s original position and questions of equality as well as gender. Discovering what these texts say could be of great benefit to you, if you take the time to do the research.

**Victory Conditions**

The assembly votes on (but does not pass) an HDI proposal that would give the status of women and children special consideration: one point

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| **Points** | **Objective** |
| 1 | The assembly passes any proposal that substantively improves the status of women and children |
| -1 | The assembly passes any proposal that enshrines oppressive gender relations as they currently exist |
| -2 | The assembly passes any proposal that would allow new opportunities for oppressive gender relations |
| 2 | The assembly endorses an HDI proposal written by you that gives the status of women and children special consideration |
| 1 | The assembly endorses an HDI proposal that gives the status of women and children special consideration |
| 0.5 | The assembly votes on (but does not pass) an HDI proposal that would give the status of women and children special consideration |

**Primary Essay**

Okin, Susan. (1989) Toward a Humanist Justice, *Justice, Gender and the*

*Family.* New York: Basic Books, 170-86.