

PaxMUN 2022



Forum: Security Council

Issue: Promoting the role of women and youth in achieving international peace and security

Student Officer: Felix Wach and Daniel Lindholm

Position: Chair and Deputy Chair of the Security Council

Personal introductions

President: Felix Wach

As a long-term admirer of the hard work and dedication required to organise a Model United Nations Conference, such as PAXMUN 2022, It is a personal honour for me to be able to attribute personal experience and diligence to this conference. Having previous experience in conferences (MUNISH, BSNMUN, HMUN, etc.) has changed my perception of the work that goes on behind the scenes in making a conference successful, as well as proliferated my desire in ensuring the success and being a part of future conferences such as PAXMUN 2022.

My long-term involvement in the BSN Debate team has highlighted for me the importance of discussions to find solutions, but also the stark difference in trying to win a debate and finding common ground where everyone is content. My ambitions for President of the Security Council for PAXMUN and upcoming MUNISH APQ, have fuelled my drive and passion for the art of debate and this position has further propelled my engagement to MUN societies as a whole.

My first test of leadership came last year when Daniel and I founded the BSN chess club 2020, with all the COVID-19 complications and now our organisation of the BSN's first International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). This really surged my desire to take initiative in further projects, our aspirations even including the merging of the BSN STEM club with our ISEF project.), I can truly appreciate the true quality and stability of our already well-established MUN conferences. However, It would be a true shame to hinder the progress of the ever growing recognition and reputation amongst new conferences, especially within our own school, such as PAXMUN. We hope this year's conference will provide new delegates with an incentive to participate in further conferences and experienced delegates the opportunity to flourish their already established skillsets.

My hobbies are football and Basketball but I spend all of my free time analysing debates and working on my MUN chairing abilities. I am also a feminist. And environmentalist.

I cannot wait to see you at the conference!

Your president,

Felix Wach



Vice-President: Daniel Lindholm

Hi, I'm Daniel. Having admired the work done to bring MUN conferences to life, I look forward to chairing in this year's PAXMUN. From the rigorous debate to friendly banter amongst delegates and controversial gossip box ballots: MUN was the best way I could have possibly dived into extracurriculars. Both academic, and social, it's something I will seek never to miss out on again.

This is my first time chairing, so please take it easy on me - although I have attended 3 MUN conferences before as a delegate. I hope my leadership experience, in keeping that I am on the Board of Directors of BSNMUN, the Co-President of Chess Club alongside Felix and panel member of the Debate Society: provides some value to the conference. As a keyhole into my mentality: I'm currently achieving 9 A*'s in my GCSEs and 1 A, under-which span have received 2 Headteacher's commendations and an award for Academic Excellence in History, after two years of grit and drive. Dubbed by teachers as a "diligent student... [and] high performer", who has "a confident and commanding presence when debating issues [and a natural ability] to grasp concepts and arguments quickly", I hope to apply my skills to help you have a great experience.

Although I've had a short experience with the MUN organisation, I've truly become impassioned by it - and hope to help those around me achieve their goals. I can't wait to gain more MUN experience, to be able to support the new emerging and louder voice of the youth. As our generation spearheads into a world divided on universal issues, I hope I can contribute by leading by example and helping you to voice your opinions.

I'm Swedish-Italian, and among my hobbies are chess, basketball and debate. I also interestingly have a big dog called Sonic who is twice my weight.

Look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Your Vice-president,

Daniel Lindholm

Introduction

Ensuring the protection of children's rights and tackling the issue of gender inequality worldwide are major tasks the United Nations are attempting to confront with their UN sustainability goals and UN charter of Human Rights. Preventing the proliferation of gender inequality saves lives because in certain countries women and girls face life threatening situations. Studies have even displayed that global warming will further increase the severity of this phenomenon.

Furthermore, when the youth and women are given similar educational and job opportunities, they can be seen massively ameliorating any organisations they join. When gender equality is promoted, GDP increases of around \$6 trillion can be seen and conversely, pay gaps end up costing economies. Lastly, gender and child legal protection are also vital to reduce levels of domestic sexual and economic violence.

General Overview

Although Women's rights have come long way, contrastingly to a time where women could not vote, serve in the military or even own property: within many aspects of our society gender equality is still undermined by financial disparity, political representation, our society's expectation of the role of women in nuclear families and even our medical and sports industries. Whereas some of the issues women face in their day to day lives are reciprocated in the lives of men, there is still some disproportionate statistical evidence to suggest a lot of these problems affect women as a majority. These need to be addressed to ensure a general gender equality is achieved.

Furthermore, the exposure to mistreatment, exploitation, discrimination and violence subjected to our youth is significantly more present than in generally less vulnerable demographics. A modern principle of the 'Superior Interest of the Child' has seen our society target the specific well-being of each child - placing a major significance on the maintaining of child rights. Three aspects primarily focused on have been the physical, mental and social well-being, to ensure good health/sanitation and intellectual development/social flourishing. The maintenance of child rights must be primarily preserved by the child's parents and the community around them before governmental action can take place. Effective systems of law, politics and procedures must be implemented by states, in accordance with international standards of protection. Moreover, a state must place special importance on child profiles that include refugees, disabled, etc... to provide these people with long-lasting solutions.

More often than not, women and youth are displayed as victims of conflict: creating a stereotype that masks the pivotal important responsibilities both women and youth can play as leaders:



demanding activism, helping end conflicts and aiding in post-conflict recuperation of states and communities. Women and youth's active presence in zones of conflict can sometimes not be recognised societally: as they may participate as soldiers, in solely providing for the families, involvement in peacemaking initiatives, and encounter disproportionate exploitation in the form of sexual violence and displacement. Systematically however, women are excluded from aid initiatives post-conflict and their organisation and distribution: leading to non representation and under prioritisation.

A large disparity in salaries (Gender Pay Gap) for different genders is also extremely prominent world wide, e.g. in the USA where women's earnings average at roughly 80% of men's salaries and worldie in which, in 2020, for every 82 cents a woman earned every man earned a dollar. This Pay Gap however varies massively between employment occupations and industries as well as nation (In Argentina and Panama for example where women were paid on average 2.9% more and 6.7% more respectively). However, in 180 of the 195 countries world wide, men earn more than women on average. Although legislations, such as the Equal Pay Act of 1963, have been passed - detailing that men and women should earn the same salary when working the same job in the US - A gender pay gap is still present. Some reasons attributed to this disparity include sex segregation by occupation in which women disproportionately enter certain employment fields and pay gaps within occupations where men generally occupy higher positions within jobs. In 2019 for example, only 29% of senior management roles, globally, have been fulfilled by women.

With 1 in 10 children being subjected to Child Labour of some kind (often times detrimental to their health and as a result of child trafficking), Child labour is most often present in less developed nations, although also found in richer industrialised nations but in smaller percentages, with a higher concentration in continents Asia and Africa, the nation Eritrea being the most severe case where no laws protecting child rights exist. Work that deprives children of their childhood is detrimental to their physical, mental and social well-being and oftentimes traps them into a vicious cycle of poverty. Most present in the Agricultural sector, as it often does not entail advanced skill sets that require training, poverty, cheap industry and weak legislation are a primary cause of this. Child Labour is increasing at an alarming rate in the world, despite legislations that have been passed, and most significantly in countries that have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Definition of Key Terms

Stereotypes

A standardised concept that is held in common by members of a group and that represents an oversimplified opinion, prejudiced attitude, or critical judgement of a specific judgement. - ([Merriam Webster](#))

This can apply widely to demographics such as women, children, activists such as feminists and minorities to criticise or disparage them.

Sexism

Prejudice or discrimination based on an individual's sex or gender - ([Britannica](#)), especially against women in history and the status quo. Sexism appears as a purposeful or unconscious product of society's gender roles.

Extreme forms of sexism manifest in sexual violence, or less severely workplace inequality - that arises from societal traditions and stereotypes.

Patriarchy and gender roles

Patriarchy is a system of relationships, beliefs, and values embedded in political, social, and economic systems that institutional structure gender inequality - ([ScienceDirect](#)) between men and women based on sexist and stereotypical philosophies.

Institutionally, it often dictates domestic roles of genders or sexes, and largely excludes them from societal and governmental initiatives: limiting their self-sufficiency.

Patriarchy is notably most deeply rooted in countries such as but not limited to: Zambia, India, Yemen, Pakistan, Nepal, Peru, Turkey, Sudan, Afghanistan, the DRC and the USA.

Feminism

Feminism, is the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. Although largely originating in the West, feminism is manifested worldwide and is represented by various institutions committed to activity on behalf of women's rights and interests. - ([Britannica](#))

It manifests as a range of political and social movements, seeking to equate all sexes educational and professional opportunities and more generally, rights.

Youth empowerment

Youth empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes. - ([Wikipedia.org](#))

Major figureheads in the uprising of Youth Empowerment, especially in education, include Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

Exploitation

Exploitation is a legal term that refers to the action of using something in a cruel or unjust manner. Typically someone exploits an individual, an object, or a resource for personal gain. In general, exploitation refers to the act of unfairly taking advantage of someone. - ([LAWS](#))

On a larger scale, companies or organisations can exploit workers/employees in both forced and self-imposed labour. This is particularly present in lower income nations, especially in the lack of workers trade unionists that campaign for worker rights.



Major parties involved

Organisations

CEDAW: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), a group of independent experts entrusted with monitoring the implementation of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, consists of 23 experts on women's rights.

CEDAW has been proven invaluable in changing the daily lives and representation of Women globally, and opposing effects of discrimination such as violence, poverty, and a lack of legal protections.

Childhood without Borders (NGO)

This NGO (founded in 1998) acts in developing nations, such as Honduras, Nicaragua, Niger, Sri Lanka, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, to sensitise citizens around the world to fight in favour of children's rights. They also provide general assistance to improve living conditions and remove any inequality that affects them. Ultimately, 'Childhood Without Borders' works to ensure the correct nourishment of minors in households in worse financial situations. They do this to protect minors and women who are amongst the most vulnerable social groups during conflict, natural disasters and general poverty.

UNICEF

UNICEF, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, was first created in 1946 to provide emergency food and medical treatment to children in countries devastated by World War II. However, in the status quo, one of five children live in areas affected by war and armed conflict. Since the turn of the century, the number of protracted conflicts has increased, forcing more and more children to flee their homes and live as refugees. UNICEF aims to ensure all children live in peace –free from violence and fear.

Countries



Zambia

Although Zambia has evidenced some ambitions in achieving gender equality by passing legislations such as the 2011 Act against Gender Based Violence and the Equality Rights Bill, these ambitions are seemingly being stifled by a range of social and economic mores and the structure of Zambia's statutory/customary laws. This has led to perpetuated gender inequality as women endure unfair treatment in terms of child marriage and distribution of property. Furthermore, the low rates of education for young girls, propagated by bad cooperation between organisations such as UNICEF and local citizens, sees Zambians often promote the stereotype of nuclear families and 'fertile' women in their societies.

India

In India, a pervasive issue of unequal treatment of women has characterized society for decades. The country was ranked 108 out of 144 in the Gender Development Index in 2016 — an indicator of how far India is from achieving gender equality despite comparative rapid rates of economic growth in the past decade. While India's GDP has grown by 6%, female participation in the workforce has fallen from 34% to 27%. Likewise, the average earnings per hour of Indian men versus women has hardly budged from a 50% pay differential.

Timeline of key events

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

Description of event

Late 1800-1900

First-wave feminism was a period of feminist activity and philosophy that sparked globally within the 19th and 20th century: focussing on electoral participation or suffrage, and legal discrimination.

28/04/1915

Internationally, from countries as far as the United States and Australia, women gathered in the Hague for the first ever Women's International League of Peace and Freedom (WILPF) with 1200 delegates present

06/02/1918

Suffrage granted in UK under "The Representation of the People Act" of 1918, which allowed women over 30 to vote

10/12/1948

Ammendement to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that laid the foundation for promoting equal rights unilaterally and freedom regardless of age or sex

31/05/1953

The "*Convention on the Political Rights of Women*" was passed by the UN GA, mandating the right for women to vote globally and participate in the electorate

1975

UN participates more with women's rights and hosts first ever International Women's year in order to proliferate women's rights and equality

18/12/1979

The UN passes the "*Convention on the Eliminations of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women*" (CEDAW), mandating an effort to remove institutional prejudices and improve women's rights

20/12/1993

The UN GA adopts the "Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women", hosting a conference in Vienna for women to advocate for equality



01/01/2000	Millenium development goals (MDGs) are released by the UN, detailing the promotion of gender equality and elimination of discrimination
31/10/2000	A resolution in passed in the UN SC, concerning the effect on women in areas of conflict - urging all UN member states to advocate for women's involvement in peacemaking and promoting peace and security
19/06/2008	A resolution in passed in the UN SC, concerning sexual violence in areas of conflict, making it a war crime. Calls for UN member states to be aware of this and accommodate for this in peacemaking initiatives and refugee camps
2020-2021	COVID-19 pandemic has caused a large influx in domestic abuse, child labour and prejudices

Previous attempts to solve the issue

The UN Security council has previously attempted to solve this issue, working towards peace and preventing conflict, through the 8 resolution's listed below:

- Resolution The Security Council 31st October 2000 S/RES/1325
- Resolution The Security Council 19th June 2008 S/RES/1820
- Resolution The Security Council 30th September 2009 S/RES/1888
- Resolution The Security Council 30th September 5th October 2009 S/RES/1889
- Resolution The Security Council 16th December 2010 S/RES/1960
- Resolution The Security Council 24th June 2013 S/RES/2106

Organisations such as the OHCHR, UNICEF and UN Women as mentioned above have furthermore been large contributors to working to solve this issue, underrepresentation and inequality: working with Women and children of various backgrounds in order to start peacemaking initiatives.



Possible solutions

The resolution produced in our session must effectively tackle the issue from its roots at their conception, taking strides to make impactful policy changes that reduce inequality and patriarchy in UN member states denying women's rights and involvement.

1. Mandating regulation of equal representation in peacemaking initiatives for all UN member states
2. Creating a sub-branch of the UN responsible for woman representation in Peacemaking (e.g. Woman Peacemaking Initiative, WPI), so a whole taskforce can take the issue into full consideration with a dedicated agenda preventing misrepresentation
3. Expanding UNICEF and Woman UN campaigns by supplying more funding, and recruiting more women peacemakers in organisations responsible for de-escalating conflict

Bibliography

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[Child labour | UNICEF](#)

[Patriarchy | Science Direct](#)

[Exploitation | LAWS](#)

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<https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/peacebuilding-social-cohesion>

<https://in.one.un.org/page/sustainable-development-goals/gender-equality-sdg-5/>

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