

The Doon School Model United  
Nations Conference 2017

# BACKGROUND GUIDE



UNITED NATIONS  
COMMISSION ON  
WOMEN STATUS

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DSMUN '17

# ABOUT DSMUN

The Doon School Model United Nations Conference is one of India's biggest and most reputed high school MUN conference. Inaugurated in 2007, the Doon School Model United Nations Society has consistently hosted a series of engaging, entertaining and intellectually stimulating conferences, with each leaving a unique legacy behind it. DSMUN has grown to be one of the key entries in every MUNning calendar. DSMUN has a history of attracting the best of, both, the Indian and the international delegates from the Pan-Asiatic Region. Over the years, DSMUN has never failed to surprise, with an array of committees ranging from the orthodox to specialised and unconventional simulations, from the regional to the international and covering a range of time periods.

The Doon School, one of India's most reputed and prestigious institutions, is a member of the G20 Group of Schools, The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, The International Boys' Schools Coalition and the Round Square Conference. With its motto, "Knowledge our Light", the school aims to mold its students into leaders for the future and gentlemen of service. Model United Nations has now become one of the largest and most popular activities in school with over 200 students being involved in it. The beautiful and serene 72 acre Chandbagh estate, in which the school is set, creates a scenic backdrop to the challenging and pertinent issues being discussed.

The DSMUN Secretariat is proud to host The 11th Doon School Model United Nations Conference from the 18th to the 20th of August, 2017. Popularly referred to as DSMUN '17, this year's conference promises to engage delegates with 14 diverse committees, each of which will discuss various relevant, thought-provoking agendas.

We look forward to seeing you in Dehradun later this year as the rains drench the Chadbagh estate.

Crises to keep you on your toes, unforgettable memories, interesting new people to meet and an experience worth a lifetime! DSMUN '17 will have it all.

# DSMUN '17



Divij Mullick  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**

Deep Dhandhania  
**PRESIDENT**

Devang Laddha  
**CHAIRPERSON**

Hamza Hussain  
Shivendra Pratap Singh  
**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS**

# A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Greetings!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you all to the 11th Doon School Model United Nations Conference. Over the years, DSMUN has grown into one of the finest and most reputed high school MUN conferences in the country. This year too we hope to deliver the goods and make this year's session an unforgettable one. With agendas ranging from religious turmoil in the Middle East to the manhunt for Edward Snowden and Julian Assange, this year's simulations promise to be exciting, engaging and challenging.

I am a Humanities student and have a keen interest in Economics and History. Besides being a MUNner, I am a passionate theatre person and public speaker. I also have an interest in cricket and boxing.

I have served DSMUN in various capacities ranging from the Secretariat to being a delegate and eventually the Vice-president. DSMUN is an activity which has been very important to me during my school life and this time I am excited to head this very significant event.

I am indeed honoured to be working with such an accomplished and hard-working team on the Executive Board and look forward to a memorable time this fall!

Warm Regards,  
(Divij Mullick)

DSMUN '17



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**SECRETARY GENERAL**

Deep Dhandhanian  
**PRESIDENT**

Devang Laddha  
**CHAIRPERSON**

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Shivendra Pratap Singh  
**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS**

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

It is an honour and privilege to welcome all of you to the 11th Doon School Model United Nations Conference. Over the years, DSMUN has grown to be one of the most prestigious and competitive high school conferences in the country, and we hope that this year's conference will be a bigger success. With fourteen different committees ranging from the All India Political Parties Meet to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, we have strived to design an exciting and engaging conference for participating delegates.

I have been involved in DSMUN for the past 5 years in various capacities including Media and the Secretariat. I have an avid interest in history, politics and international affairs and wish to pursue international relations in college. I am also a passionate hockey player and the Editor-in Chief of The Doon School Yearbook.

This year, Divij and I hope to make this conference a successful and a truly memorable experience for one and all.

Looking forward to meet all of you at Chandbagh this August!

Warm Regards,  
(Deep Dhandhanian)



Divij Mullick  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**

Deep Dhandhanian  
**PRESIDENT**

Devang Laddha  
**CHAIRPERSON**

Hamza Hussain  
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## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Delegates,

As the Chairperson of the UN Commission on Status of Women (UNCSCW), I would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates at DSMUN'17. My name is Devang Laddha and I am currently in S Form (Class 11). My key interests are debating, reading, writing and, expectedly, Model UN.

Women's Rights have been a vital issue that the UN has tried to deal with and was further emphasized as one of the Sustainable Development Goals. Many attempts towards gender equality, however, have fallen short of the intended goal. To tackle this issue, the UNW is to draft a Bill of Rights for women across the world. To make the committee more engaging, this year we have modified the committee to include a more varied group of countries.

Delegates are expected to adapt to the committee and will be judged on their capacity to lobby, their content and their proposed solutions. They are expected to research extensively and provide detailed and concrete solutions that are pragmatic and can be practiced in real life.

Finally, I hope to see you all at DSMUN in August and hope that, along with having a memorable MUN experience, you also enjoy your stay with us!

Sincerely,  
(Devang Laddha)  
Chairperson- UNW

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# INTRODUCTION

Greetings Delegates! The United Nations Women Committee at the Doon School Model United Nations this year will be quite different from the general UN Women Committee (UNW). The nations present at this meeting will be different and have one, singular objective: drafting a bill of rights for women across the world.

Over the years, the UN has constantly cited gender equality as one of its primary and foremost goals and today the UNW stands to achieve just that, through various documents such as the Beijing Declaration, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the recent United Nations Sustainable Development goals. All these documents stand testament to the effort the United Nations has made towards attaining gender equality. However it has failed to attain the various goals it itself has set. Till date women across the world continue to face discrimination in almost all fields in life. From politics to education they stand at a disadvantage and in economically disadvantaged nations this difference is seen to be magnified.

According to the UNW one in three women still experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. They constitute only 23.3 percent of parliamentarians across the world and only 17 percent of women are ministers, mainly having portfolios regarding women and child development. These facts point to the disadvantage that women continue to face. Despite all this, some progress certainly has been made. Women have now on an average been more empowered and given more decision making power. However, this change has largely been centred in urban areas where the attitude of the people has changed. In the rural areas we see the continuation of the orthodox view of women being fit for only household duties.

To deal with the shortcomings of the past and the new problems of the future, the UNW has come together. It must draft a bill that will contain set proposals that will ensure the attainment of its goals. This bill has to contain legislation that can be enacted by nations across the world. Legislation proposed has to be practical, specific and effective.

## PAST DECLARATIONS

### THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

The CEDAW is an international treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979. Recognized as an international bill of rights for women, it officially came into effect in 1981. The document describes what is meant by discrimination against women and sets up action that must be taken to tackle this discrimination. The Convention has been ratified by 189 member nations, signed by 2 nations (Palau and the United States of America) and has not been signed by 5 nations (Iran, Holy See, Sudan, South Sudan and Tonga). However, even with the nations that have ratified the treaty, over fifty have done so with some objections. Specifically a lot of nations have disagreed to article 29 which states that 'any dispute between two or more State Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present

convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration'.

Article 1 of the convention defines discrimination as 'Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.' Following is a short summary of the entire convention:

- Part I (Articles 1-6) focuses on fighting discrimination, stereotypes regarding gender, and sexual trafficking of women.

- Part II (Articles 7–9) outlines the rights of women in public with an emphasis on politics, social representation, and rights regarding nationality.
- Part III (Articles 10–14) describes the economic and social rights of women, emphasizing health, education and employment. This part also includes protections made especially for rural women and the problems they face, covering the rural–urban divide.
- Part IV (Article 15 and 16) outlines a woman’s right to equality in marriage and family life along with the right to equality before the law.

• Part V (Articles 17–22) establishes the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – which has had around 110 experts serve on it as of 2007 – as well as the states parties’ reporting procedure.

• Part VI (Articles 23–30) describes the effects of the Convention on other treaties, the commitment of the member nations and the administration of the Convention.

*Full Text: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>*

## BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION

The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace was held in Beijing from the 4th to the 15th of September in Beijing, China. At the end of the conference, a resolution was adopted by the UN, known as the Beijing Declaration. Along with the declaration, a Platform for action was also adopted. Together, they constituted a global pledge towards attaining gender equality, women development and women empowerment across the world. The platform highlighted 12 key areas of concern which are the following:

- violence against women
- human rights of women
- women and armed conflict
- women and poverty
- education and training of women

- women and health
- women and the media
- women and the economy
- women in power and decision-making
- institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- women and the environment and
- The girl child

The Platform for action called upon governments to take action at various local and national levels to address these areas of concern. It outlined programmes for various governments that they could use to address these issues.

*Full Text: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf>*

## ISSUES VIOLENCE

The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

Violence against women is one of the greatest problems faced by women today. According to the UNW, today 1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence. This violence is generally perpetrated by a close relative or partner. Almost 30 percent of women according to the World Health Organization (WHO) report that they have been in a relationship

that have had some form of abuse and 38 percent of women murdered are killed by a intimate male partner. However, this violence is just the tip of the iceberg. Women are also subjected to countless cases of rape and harassment.

The impact of this violence range from immediate to long-term multiple physical, sexual and mental consequences for women and girls, including death. It negatively affects women’s general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. Further violence affects a woman’s standing in society along with gravely affecting the families of these women. Women who have been sexually



abused are twice as more likely to get an abortion and suffer from depression and 1.5 times likelier to Overall it also creates a lot of problems in the society itself: it reduces productivity and hampers overall development. However, fundamentally violence is a grave violation of a woman's rights and needs to be stopped.

Unfortunately for women, however, the problems of women do not stop at just violence. Women are publicly shamed if violence is committed against them. Rather than treated as victims, they are made to feel ashamed if they emphasize on their problems. This attitude aggravates the problem and does not get the people responsible for violence any punishment. Further lack of certain laws actually allow men to abuse women. A lot of countries do not have any laws prohibiting marital rape (the instance where a married woman is raped by her husband). Actually, certain countries allow men who rape girls under 18 to escape justice if they marry the girl. This practice generally ends up with the girl suffering more violence and being harmed more.

Female genital mutilation is a form of violence women face today. According to recent research, it has been seen that nearly 200 million girls have suffered genital mutilation. Another practice that causes great harm to girls is child marriage which is prevalent in many nations. In Bangladesh, more than 50 percent of females under the age of 18 have been married and 25 percent of them already have a child.

Law enforcement agencies across the world have failed to stop this violence. They are not sensitive to the problems and trauma faced by a woman and neglect their problems. They are not effective in getting any justice against women and often themselves tell women to move on. This has made women skeptical of law enforcement agencies themselves, making for a lot of women to not approach the police for any help. Thus women face violence in many forms and are constant victims to this violence and do not have the means to get justice. Violence against them virtually goes unpunished leading to it increasing and being nearly considered 'normal'. A lot of reform is required and new solutions are required to ensure

that women retain one of their most fundamental rights.

Questions to ask:

- What types of violence are faced by women and who are the most common perpetrators?
- How to bring the people responsible to justice?
- How to sensitize society towards violence faced by women?
- How to make law enforcement agencies more effective?
- How to stop social practices such as child marriage and marital rape?

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## ECONOMIC EQUALITY

*"Women are the most underutilized economic asset in the world's economy," says Angel Gurría, the secretary-general of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.*

Economic equality today is one of the most pressing matters for women. The reason behind this is pretty straightforward. Economic opportunities give women a chance at making money which makes them less dependent on males. Traditionally, in a household only the male works, while the female uses the money given to her by her husband for her day to day work. This makes her dependent on her husband for anything she requires and jobs give her freedom from this dependence. Being able to earn money for herself empowers women to not be dependent on men and gives them more decision making power. Having money also increases the status of women in

society and helps them gain respect.

Today, however, women face many problems in the economic sphere. They constitute a fraction of the labour force and do the most unpaid work – taking care of young is also work and women are not paid a penny for this. Further, women get insecure, low-wage jobs, and constitute a small minority of those in senior positions. Today a mere 5.4 percent of the CEOs of Fortune 500 companies are women. Women also get paid less for their work as compared to men. In sub-Saharan Africa this difference can go up to the point where women get 50 percent of what men get while on average women get 60-75 percent of what men get.

These economic disadvantages affect women very significantly. They restrict women from working and not only gaining economic but also social inequality.

It makes women submissive and feel undervalued. Single women have even greater problems due to this as they have no other source of income. Today it is estimated that nearly 75 percent of all single-parent households are run by women and they are due to these disadvantages, unable to sustain themselves. Due to this inequality women are also not educated in a lot of countries. While there is also the mentality that women cannot work, it is better to educate a boy as he can get a job more easily and also with higher pay.

UNW has made several efforts to make women get economic opportunities. It started a project in Zimbabwe where women were given the equipment and training needed to fish. This enabled the women to enter the local fish market which was generally male dominated. By entering the market, the women could get a source of income for themselves and then were able to sustain themselves. The project yielded positive results and was a success. Another project like this was taken up in China where female farmers were educated on agriculture, which enabled them to grow better crops and get a larger yield. Thus, training women has been an effective solution to

opening economic opportunities for women.

It has also been seen that with more female participation, economies tend to grow. According to ActionAid, an NGO that helps reduce poverty, economic inequality for women causes a loss of nearly nine trillion dollars per year. Thus to make economies function better and to help women become independent and gain more decision-making power, giving them economic opportunities and economic incentives is a good solution. Economic incentives such as flexible timings, maternity leave and crèches have helped increase female participation and serve as a good model to gaining economic equality.

Questions to ask:

- How to increase the number of women in jobs?
- How to make jobs more secure and safe for women?
- How to get equal pay for women?
- How to account for all the unpaid work done by women?
- What economic incentives should be put in place for women?
- What other existing models and projects have successfully helped make women economically better off?

## RELIGIOUS LAWS

Religious laws across the world have often been obstacles faced by women trying to gain independence. These laws are not only limited to Islam but are also seen in various texts such as the Bible. In Judaism, women are expected to be restrained to the household and perform household activities while the male is supported to work outside. In Hinduism practices such as sati and dowry continue to be practiced. Triple talaq, a norm wherein husbands can get divorced from their wives by just saying the word talaq thrice continues to be practiced today. Proper systems for divorce, property rights and child care for women is absent in any nations and needs to be changed. People cite religious texts and norms for these practices and this needs to be stopped.

Specifically however, Sharia Law in Islam is seen to be one of the most conservative religious laws enforced on women. From having them forcefully wear the burqa (Note: Some do so willingly and with pride),

not gain education and be extremely submissive to their husbands, Sharia Law has come under great scrutiny and needs reform.

The 114-page report, “Unequal and Unprotected: Women’s Rights Under Lebanon’s Religious Personal Status Laws,” found that, across all religions, personal status laws erect greater barriers for women than men who wish to terminate unhappy or abusive marriages, initiate divorce proceedings, ensure their rights concerning their children after divorce, or secure pecuniary rights from a former spouse. The laws also violate children’s rights, most significantly the need to consider their best interests in all judicial decisions concerning their welfare.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), In health care, we are seeing hospitals, insurance companies, pharmacies, and other health care entities discriminate against women by denying basic care—such as birth control, emergency



contraception, and abortion—in the name of religion. Many of these institutions receive taxpayer funding. The ACLU works to ensure that women are not denied information and the health care they need because of the religious views of their health care providers. In employment, we have seen a recent spate of cases in which religiously affiliated schools have fired women for getting pregnant while single or for using IVF. These cases are suggestive of a past when women were routinely pushed out of the workplace because of pregnancy. Such discrimination is now illegal, even if religiously motivated.

To understand Sharia, one must understand that it is not a legal system. It is an overall way of life of Islam, as people understand it according to tradition and early interpretations. These early interpretations date from 700 to 900 CE, not long after the Prophet Muhammad died in 632 CE. Sharia can and should evolve with Islamic societies and address their needs today. Thus, Sharia is a way of living is completely dependent on the interpretation one takes from the Quran.

Following are a few of the rules that constitute Sharia Law:

- A non-Muslim man who marries a Muslim woman is punishable by death.
- A man can marry an infant girl and consummate the marriage when she is 9 years old.
- A woman can have 1 husband, who can have up to 4 wives; Muhammad can have more.
- A man can beat his wife for insubordination (see Religion of Peace).
- A man can unilaterally divorce his wife; a woman needs her husband's consent to divorce.
- A divorced wife loses custody of all children over 6 years of age or when they exceed it.
- Testimonies of four male witnesses are required to prove rape against a woman.
- A woman who has been raped cannot testify in court against her rapist(s).
- A woman's testimony in court, allowed in property

cases, carries  $\frac{1}{2}$  the weight of a man's.

- A female heir inherits half of what a male heir inherits (see Errors in Quran).
- A woman cannot drive a car, as it leads to fitnah (upheaval).
- A woman cannot speak alone to a man who is not her husband or relative.

As can be seen, Sharia Law does place a lot of restrictions on women. They cannot do a lot of things, however this depends on countries. While women in Saudi Arabia are not allowed to drive, women in the United Arab Emirates are. Thus, Sharia Law depends on the interpretation one takes from it. This interpretation and understanding is very important for it shows that there is a chance to reform Sharia Law.

Thus, while it seems that by allowing people the freedom of religion we are severely disabling women's rights, it is not so. A special clarification that needs to be made here that women often don't get to choose their religion and also cannot get out of it. They cannot choose to leave their religion and practice something else. They cannot get out of their religion, however one must also realize that religion itself needs to be reformed. Women should not have to leave their religion to get their rights. They should get both options, the option to leave their religion and also practice their religion without having restrictions placed on their rights.

Questions to ask:

- How to form laws on religion
- How to enforce these laws in order to restrict religion
- Can religion be reformed from within and if so, then how?
- How to get women the choice of leaving and taking up any religion they seem fit?
- How to specifically end male dominance in religion?
- How to make religion help in aiding women's rights and be used as a mechanism to further it?

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## POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

In July 2016, only 22.8 per cent of all national parliamentarians were women. This was a slow increase from 11.3 per cent in 1995 and is evidence of the lack of women in political office. Women historically have been kept from political office and now, while being allowed to contest elections, seldom participate and are voted for. Even the world's largest democratic and liberal country, the United States of America, has not had a female president. Also, while political participation has increased, women are generally assigned portfolios regarding women and child empowerment, being sidelined from major portfolios such as defense, home affairs and foreign relations.

Female participation in politics is very important to women empowerment. Once in office women parliamentarians can easily bring the government's attention to the status of women in the country. The United Nations itself states that at least 30 percent of the members of a parliament should be women to ensure that public policy reflects the interests of women. Women parliamentarians can easily influence social activity and can present excellent role models to the women of the country.

According to the National Democratic Institute (NDI), 'Research shows that women in politics raise issues that others overlook, pass bills that others oppose, invest in projects others dismiss and seek to end abuses that others ignore. Where women are able to participate in peace processes, the chances of reaching an agreement at all improve, and the peace is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years. Yet women face many barriers to their political participation. At current rates of progress, political parity will not be reached until 2080, making equality in politics the highest hurdle women face. NDI puts these barriers into three categories. At the individual level, women who are equally qualified as men talk themselves out of running for office. At the institutional level, political bodies – like parties and legislatures – remain unwelcoming to female colleagues. At the socio-cultural level, the media – for example – focuses overwhelmingly on what

a woman wears, her marital status or her voice, as opposed to her policy positions.'

Further, women bring new viewpoints to any discussion. This is especially important when one is discussing public policy as policy affects a lot of people. Policy needs to be made effective and in developing countries, resources are limited and thus efficiency is vital. Women can help increase this efficiency by giving insights that might not come from men. The simple reasoning behind this is that women understand family life and relationships better. They have experiences that men can't simply have due to the basic biological differences. Women naturally care more for their children and get to know more about them as they carry them with themselves for nine months. This special care given by women intrinsically makes them better at understanding relationships. Thus, women in parliaments are required for their different opinions that can help shape political discourse and policy better.

However, the less women participation in parliament violates the fundamental principle of democracy. A parliament in a democracy is meant to be representative of the people and not having enough women in parliament is a simple violation of that. Today women nearly constitute 52 percent of the population and have near 20 percent of seats in the parliament. The disparity is alarming and needs to be corrected.

Women continue to face very large obstacles to get political participation. Majorly, they are discouraged from standing for office. Women are not engaged in political discourse and are largely kept out of it. Further, women are not seen as leaders and are not considered capable enough for holding a political office. They do not get votes and are seldom elected into political office. Largely, there is no institutional support for women. They are not supported by politicians and by voters and thus are kept out of politics. Another problem that exists is that women as a group have never existed as a voter base. Women mostly vote according to their community or their male counterparts. In rural areas a woman



is deprived of the right to even think for herself. Thus, women as a group have failed to band together behind a particular candidate. If however, they were to get together and vote for a particular candidate, of their volition, then the number of women in power would rise.

Thus, women today are not equal to men in politics. In this sphere, they continue to be harassed by obstacles that men don't have to face. They simply lack the opportunity to get political office which is key for them to defend and sustain their rights and to gain status in society. With more political power, women themselves can easily be empowered which is necessary. Solutions to this problem have been tried across the globe. Social activists have tried to get women out into the open and talk to them about politics. They have tried to make them understand the value of the ballot and convince them to vote. These efforts have borne fruit as women voter participation has increased over the years. However, women have

still not been able to gain office. In several countries a quota for women has been established. The effect of this varies from country to country but it has certainly gotten more focus on women rights and has helped make parliaments gender sensitive.

However, this effort needs a lot of work, especially at the ground level. Women need to be convinced to run for office and others have to be convinced to vote for these candidates. A large scale effort is required and various measures need to be taken.

Questions to Ask:

- How to increase women participation in politics?
- What have been the shortcomings of the efforts in the past to do this?
- What kind of women have been able to rise to office?
- What factors are responsible for women voting?
- Are quotas for women required?
- Do women have a legitimate choice in regard to who they vote for?

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN

Societal attitudes towards women vary a lot. Amongst societies and even within them, the perception people have of women can be very different. In different cultures, the expectations from women are also distinct, highlighting that a woman's role can be nearly anything – from a submissive caretaker to an independent decision-maker. Over the years the attitude towards women has significantly changed. Women have gained more power and capability to do things. They can now own property, vote in elections and are respected, however in effect, women are still looked down upon. The change within the outlook towards women has been limited to urban and wealthier communities and has failed to embed itself in the economically disadvantaged part of society.

Women since an early age are made to feel inferior to men. Gender based discrimination against girls can be seen across the world. It is present in all strata of society and can be seen in various forms. As per research, girls have been treated inferior to boys and this inferiority is deeply embedded in their minds. Due to this inferior treatment, girls often fail to understand their basic human rights and do not fight for them. Sex selection of the male child

before birth and neglect of the female child after birth, in childhood and, during the teenage years has outnumbered males to females in countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and South Korea. There are 1029 women per 1000 men in North America and 1076 women per 1000 men in Europe, but there are only 927 women per 1000 men in India. These numbers tell us quite a harsh story about neglect and mistreatment of girls across the world.

This neglect has made women across the world less empowered and has deprived them of any decision-making power. It has made them submissive to males as they themselves believe that males are superior to them. Further, various stereotypes have been formed around both men and women. Women inherently are seen as poor workers, who are only meant to do household work and cannot go out. This attitude has caused a lot of problems for women, who have been constant bearers of abuse and violence.

For the sustainability of women's rights, a change in this attitude is essential. Women need to be respected and their rights cannot be violated. However, this is a very hard task. Changing mindsets has always been a long and arduous task. Convincing anyone

to leave their beliefs requires a substantial amount of evidence that cannot be questioned. Also, people have to see this evidence themselves for that is what they ultimately have total faith on. What the orthodox view of women has also done is that it has restricted women from making choices. Having only the job of raising a child and considered incapable of working outside, women are sidelined because of their dependence on men.

For change to happen, women have to step up in society. The more women take risks, break boundaries and prove to people that they can work and also sustain their households and become independent, the more mindsets will change. The more mindsets change, the more women are encouraged to go out and the process repeats. The process is a cycle. However, this cycle needs to be started and for this, a huge impetus needs to be given to women. Once this impetus is given to women, they can actually become independent. This independence will help

them acquire decision-making power and make them capable of fighting for their rights, against the social justice meted out to them.

Thus a change in attitude is required within society. This internal change can alleviate a lot of other problems faced by women. However, this is a long term goal and must be realized as such. However, this process needs to start now. The minds of people need to be made more liberal and more supportive of women. Questions to ask:

- How can one learn about another person's mind set?
- How can someone change someone else's opinion?
- How can people be made to witness the ability of women themselves?
- How can women be encouraged to rise and become independent?
- How can we give more decision-making power to women?

## GUIDELINES FOR DELEGATES

1. Other Issues: The number of issues that can be discussed in committee are not limited to the above list. Delegates are free to choose issues of their own that they think should be discussed by the committee. However, delegates are required to first submit these issues to the Executive Board who will look over it. After getting confirmation from the Executive Board, the delegate may raise a motion to discuss the topic. If the committee votes on discussing the topic, then the committee will deliberate upon it.

2. Foreign and Domestic Policy: Delegates are expected to thoroughly read about their representative countries and know their domestic and foreign policy. All comments and statements made in committee should be in accordance to the various policies. Any statement made that violates the member nation's policy will be looked down upon and the delegate would be marked down heavily.

3. Pragmatic Solutions: Solutions proposed by delegates are also expected to be pragmatic and

realistic rather than idealistic. Delegates must realize that the world they inhabit has a lot of problems and obstacles that need to be overcome. Thus, delegates should ensure that any solution proposed by them is realistic and pertinent in the real world.

4. Concrete Solutions: All solutions that are proposed by delegates need to be planned out and should be specific. Any vague proposal will be looked down upon and delegates are expected to work on how their solutions will work on the ground level. Extensive research must be done by delegates to make sure that their solutions have the necessary details any policy action requires.

5. Programmes: Delegates are required to research on previous and ongoing on-ground projects run by UN Women and other organizations and governments. They should know about the working of these organizations and how much they have been able to accomplish. They are required to refer to these projects when making solutions.

## REFERENCES

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<https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/rs-religious-studies/social-issues/attitude-towards-women>

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## POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions.

A good position paper will include:

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
- How the issue affects your country;
- Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
- Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
- Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
- UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
- What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and
- How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

## SAMPLE DRAFT RESOLUTION

### General Assembly Third Committee

Authors: United States, Austria and Italy

Draft Resolution GA/3/1.1

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate perambulatory clauses]**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations, Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**
2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;
4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;
5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;
6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance;
7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development;
8. Decides to remain actively seized on the matter. **[end resolutions with a period]**



# PREAMBULATORY AND OPERATIVE CLAUSES

## PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

The preamble of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a perambulatory phrase) and ends with a comma. Perambulatory clauses can include:

- References to the UN Charter;
- Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion;

- Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
- Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue; and
- General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.

## SAMPLE PREAMBULATORY PHRASES

Affirming

Alarmed by

Approving

Bearing in mind

Believing

Confident

Contemplating

Convinced

Declaring

Deeply concerned

Deeply conscious

Deeply convinced

Deeply Disturbed

Deeply Regretting

Desiring

Emphasizing

Expecting

Emphasizing

Expecting

Expressing it's appreciation

Fulfilling

Fully aware

Emphasizing

Expecting

Expressing its appreciation

Fulfilling

Fully aware

Further deploring

Further recalling

Guided by

Having adopted

Having considered

Having examined

Having received

Keeping in mind

Noting with deep concern

Nothing with satisfaction

Noting further

Observing

Reaffirming

Realizing

Recalling

Recognizing

Referring

Seeking

Taking into consideration

Taking note

Viewing with appreciation

Welcoming

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## OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Operative clauses offer solutions to issues addressed earlier in a resolution through the perambulatory section. These clauses are action oriented and should include both an underlined verb at the beginning of your sentence followed by the proposed solution. Each clause should follow the following principles:

- Clause should be numbered;
- Each clause should support one another and continue to build your solution;
- Add details to your clauses in order to have a complete solution;
- Operative clauses are punctuated by a semicolon, with the exception of your last operative clause which should end with a period.

## SAMPLE OPERATIVE PHRASES

Accepts	Endorses	Further requests
Affirms	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Approves	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Authorizes	Further invites	Notes
Calls	Deplores	Proclaims
Calls upon	Designates	Reaffirms
Condemns	Draws the attention	Recommends
Confirms	Emphasizes	Regrets
Congratulates	Encourages	Reminds
Considers	Endorses	Requests
Declares accordingly	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Deplores	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Designates	Further invites	Supports
Draws the attention	Further proclaims	Takes note of
Emphasizes	Further reminds	Transmits
Encourages	Further recommends	Trusts

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THE DOON SCHOOL,

Mall Road,

Dehradun—248001,

UK, India

Phone: +91 8279824714

e-Mail: [chair.unw@doonschool.com](mailto:chair.unw@doonschool.com)

[dsmun@doonschool.com](mailto:dsmun@doonschool.com)

Website: [www.dsmun17.com](http://www.dsmun17.com)

