

Delegation from Morocco

Position Paper on Morocco's views on The Commission on the Status of Women

Overview

The Commission on the Status of Women has been meeting since 1947, discussing the relevance of equality among genders and allowing women to receive the empowerment they deserve. This Commission supports the idea of overcoming the disadvantages that women in the past have suffered from and rising above them to move forward. This progression includes women becoming empowered through the possibility of proper education and fairness in employment. Moreover, the abuse against women physically and emotionally will be discussed, highlighting how harassment can affect a woman's full potential of helping her community.

Topic 1: Women and Sustainability

In order for women's rights to be maintained, those who are important in the development of a country must be respected. Morocco allows women to be in their government, highlighting that more input of individuals in a country will help to further develop a country's in a beneficial way. However, at times a woman's opinion may not be taken as seriously as a man's.

In February 2016, Morocco hosted a very large gathering about balance between genders and the rights women should be entitled to. The significance of this was that women in Arab countries have minimal rights, yet Morocco has taken many steps in developing the rights of women. By doing so, women's proper participation in a country's development will ultimately heighten its overall well being due to more people working to make the country a better place. Moreover, women are considered to be people, thus it is a

duty to allow equality for women. Morocco also has a network called the “Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality” (a.k.a. Ra’edat, which means pioneers in Arab), which is run by Rula Alhroob.

In order to reform a society that has suffered in the past, a country must respect human rights, create jobs, the reformation of the economy and delivery of service. If women are given an opportunity to help the country in these ways, they drive the country towards the better.

When women have their menstrual cycle in Morocco, they are considered “unclean”. It is also a very untalked about topic because it is considered awkward and unacceptable for discussion. However, the birth rates and number of children per family has decreased drastically. In the 1980s it was about 6 children per family, yet in the more recent 2010 check, it displayed an average of 2.8 children per family. This could be due to the higher usage of contraceptives and the fact that women are getting married at a later age and are given more say in who they are marrying.

Topic 2: Elimination of Gender-Based Violence

Morocco has been a place where human trafficking is a reality. However, an anti-trafficking law that was proposed in 2013. Officials in Morocco suggested that this law would lead to less occurrences of human trafficking. Despite this claim, men in Morocco have been known to force their wives into prostitution (which is illegal in Morocco) and lie about not knowing, taking themselves out of the trouble. Moreover, the moroccan police force are lenient on what defines a case as human trafficking. Women have been used as victims of human trafficking. Consequently, the new laws passing and the acknowledgment of human trafficking being a problem by the moroccan government is a step towards the elimination of this type of gender-based violence.

Verbal harassment towards women, usually sexual, are not advised by the government due to the laws in place. However, in Morocco these laws are not our priority, we have larger problems to deal with than catcalling. Moreover, a woman should not does provocatively unless they want that kind of attention. Dressing conservatively is important, thus chest, shoulders and thighs at east must be covered in order to receive respect. In addition, Morocco is 99% Arab, meaning that most moroccans follow the Muslim faith. Religious laws are very important in Morocco and it also initiates how one should dress.

In the past women have been sexually used and abused in Morocco, however only recently has the gender-based violence been truly taken account for. The minimum age for marriage used to be years old for females, while 18 for males. In today's time, it has been changed to 18 for women as well (Family Code 2004). Women now have the same parental authority as men in the household, which boosts their rights and responsibilities. Despite this movement forward in the justice of married women, there are still certain important laws. For those women who live with their husbands in rural areas, they are unable to have full inheritance of their husband's land. This is also true with inheritance of money as well, as a man must inherit a portion of this whether it be land/money/etc.

Polygamy is legal in Morocco, however after the 2004 Family Code, there is the restriction of the husband treating all his wives equally. This has lead to a lower amount of many women being in one marriage and has even pushed men away from the idea of polygamy altogether. Morocco's government has caused there to be less polygamy in the country.

Topic 3: Women in Education and Employment

Like the Commision on the Status of Women, Morocco believes that with women being properly educated, it will advance the economy because more people will be working.

Morocco has also really developed their gender-responsive budgeting, allowing women to be a little more beneficial. In addition, Morocco accepted a new constitution which included an Article 12. This article suggested that women deserved the same rights as men for civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights. This also includes the idea of men and women having equal representation in the country, especially where important decisions are to be made.

Women are encouraged to become educated, especially since women take up half of the population of Morocco, thus their education will lead to advancement in their country. However, education they receive will usually gear towards them becoming better housekeepers and mothers. In more recent times, women's topics of study have broadened. Rural women will usually work in the privacy of a smaller community, while urban women will be more individual and seen as someone who is separate from her husband because she has more opportunities to work in a different section of work than her husband (ex. the rural women could be selling the crops her husband had grown).

By women being in the workforce, this allows ultimately a higher number of employment, thus rising the overall economy of Morocco. Having women in the workplace can be beneficial to the country's overall progression. However, it was not always like this. In the past women were expected to be housewives. To this day, women are still expected to have this role in the family unit, even if they have a high-maintenance job or are going through an education. Most of the time, men are still considered as the head of a household.

In the 1960s, women began to work outside of their homes, however it was dishonourable towards a family. These jobs they got included being a domestic or working

in the industry, where they would be low-paid. Women will usually continue to work in their homes, despite having a job outside of their home.