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SSUNS Position Paper

Status of Women: Canada

### **TOPIC I: Women and Sustainability**

Historically, women have had an extreme connection with sustainable development, in the government and the environment. This connection is not always respected. In more undeveloped nations in particular, women have many jobs, including: managing plants and animals, collecting items for domestic and public use/generating wealth, and overseeing land and water resources. It is imperative that in this committee several things are addressed: ensuring women have access to food and resources, providing jobs and representation for women in government, counteracting the stigma surrounding menstruation, and most importantly, making sure women's views and ideas are not only heard, but acted upon.

The delegation of Canada is openly supportive and interested in seeing women obtain equal rights globally and see them do their part in society. Women's rights are human rights, and as with in the past, the delegation of Canada is eager to let the world embrace gender equality.

Women were provincially given the vote in 1916, and were only the sixth country in the world to do so at the time. In Canada, abortion is completely legal during all stages of pregnancy, something not too many other countries can claim. All together, Canada is very far forward in the legal sense as far as women's rights, and human rights, are concerned, and it would be phenomenal if globally the world would enact similar changes.



Current environmental issues disproportionately affect women, who are the primary caretakers in many parts of the world. We have a responsibility as global citizens to preserve this earth for the generations to come. Damage to the environment places an undue burden on women as they are chiefly responsible for the gathering of water and food which are two things most deeply affected by the negative changes to our environment. Canada suggests that all nations unwilling to accept and enact legislature concerning global warming (and all relevant legislation enacted by the UN to reduce carbon emissions) immediately lose all money from the UN. The money saved is to be used to help save the earth, and put to supporting methods that have helped in the past, similar to the Kyoto Protocol (not identical however, as Canada is no longer a part of Kyoto). Additionally, Canada intends to take action to even the spread of land and subsequent control of that land amongst both genders.

## **TOPIC II: Elimination of Gender-Based Violence**

Violence towards women is a major problem across the globe. This violence includes assault, forced marriage, marital assault, rape/non-consensual sex, and female infanticide. Major changes must be enacted through the UN to improve this before the situation turns from bad to worse. This is one of the more important topics, which ought to be addressed immediately, as this issue is present everywhere globally. Using new ideas and past legislature that has held success, resolutions should be drafted to solve this pressing issue.



Canada is firmly on the side of ending this violence once and for all. Victorian and frankly incorrect ideas are perpetrated around the world concerning women in general, and great lengths have been taken to constrain them. Ideas that women have no place in the public sphere of society, and mustn't work, that a woman has to marry and have children, or that a woman's husband is totally in control of her. To put an end to this inhumane activity, these constraints must be broken, and explicit laws must be put in place, as well as severe consequences doled out to those who oppose these laws.

The delegation of Canada intends to present a plan going off of ideas that nations such as Norway have used in the past, ones our own nation has implemented, and fresh ideas to end gender-based violence. Closing the wage gap, and employment gap are two things to start with. Canada would suggest a 40/60 ratio of women to men minimum concerning board directors and CEO positions within 3-5 years. It is an abomination that in this day in age women earn less from their work than men. Measures should also be taken to drastically decrease the stigma of female children to prevent infanticide, such as positive propaganda and the aforementioned closing of gender gaps in employment. Countries in the UN that do not meet these requirements without a logical explanation will have funding and voting privileges revoked. If it does not meet a standard set by the committee and they have no logical explanation then they will lose voting privileges and be fined. Additionally any country with an age of consent below 16, and with more than a quarter of brides are under the age of 18 is to be immediately put on probation until these missteps are rectified. Nations under probation will be under strict surveillance and may lose privileges as the committee sees fit. This is a problem that requires immediate steps to resolve from



all nations that have such a problem inside their borders. Even the most developed countries such as the United States have many problems trying to wrap their heads around this issue so plainly in front of them that affects women every day. Finally, strict penalties should be put to all convicted rapists, such as life/long-term imprisonment. These steps should help to marginally decrease gender-based violence.

### TOPIC III: Women in Education and Employment

Education is an imperative for many forms of employment globally. In order to even out the wage gap and gender ratio in the workplace, education must be provided. Across the world, the priorities and well-being of men seems to precede that of women. In this committee, the topic of provide education and subsequent employment is one that should most definitely be breached and the proper steps should be taken to ensure equal opportunity for education. Legislation should be drafted that not only allows, but encourages the education of women.

The delegation of Canada supports the education of women and spread of knowledge.

Continuing to leave this issue unaddressed not only continues to perpetrate the idea of the inadequacy of women but keeps them from having the same advantages simply because they were born female. Education is a way to end this cycle of madness and really give women a voice. Creating funds to help give supplies, or even teachers is a simple step that will make an enormous amount of changes.



Currently,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the world's illiterate population are women. Canada would suggest providing the free education The Universal Declaration of Human Rights demands each child have the right to by setting up charity based organizations to provide transport, teachers, and supplies to children in need of schooling. Educating girls will directly lead to more college degrees and thus a higher rate of employment. Also, helping to breach cultural barriers caused by neighborhoods and regional differences is imperative to get all to accept the basic rights that women are owed. Campaigning imagery depicting successful women, especially to impressionable youth, will give all the right ideas about taking necessary steps to provide education, employment, and a brighter future to not only women, but everyone.