

Dear delegates, the equal rights of men and women are fundamental in our world today. Not only is gender equality intrinsic to humanity as a whole, it is something that has been agreed upon in the United Nations Charter adopted by world leaders in 1945. It is the duty of all nations, ethically, to ensure that gender equality DOES exist and that the protection and promotion of the rights of women is the responsibility of all states.

This delegate will not hide the fact that there have been problems in Ukraine regarding the equality of genders. Ninety percent of reported cases of violence in the Ukraine are violence against women. However, it is estimated that only one in four women who have been victims of violence sought support from the legal system. The civil unrest and armed conflict in 2014 only served to aggravate the situation. The condition only worsened after Crimea broke off from the Ukraine to join the Russian Federation in March of 2014. Due to this break off, armed violence in eastern Ukraine reached worrying levels with an estimate that most of the people internally displaced by the conflict were women and children.

Member nations, this delegate would like to reaffirm that Ukraine does indeed believe in the equality of genders. Gender discrimination has been specifically forbidden by the Ukrainian Constitution. Article 24 of said constitution guarantees freedom from any and all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of sex. The article states, and I quote:

“Equality of the rights of women and men is ensured: by providing women with opportunities equal to those of men, in public and political, and cultural activity, in obtaining education and in professional training, in work and its remuneration; by special measures for the protection of work and health of women; by establishing pension privileges, by creating conditions that allow women to combine work and motherhood; by legal protection, material and moral support of motherhood and childhood, including the provision of paid leaves and other privileges to pregnant women and mothers” (Ukrainian Constitution Article 24)

Delegates, solutions are in place to counter the situation. The Ukrainian government, praise be to its leaders, has funded the Programme, the purpose of which is to address a multitude of contributing factors to the gender inequality. The factors targeted include: expanding women’s participation in the work force, bringing national gender equality legislation up to par with European and international norms, improving the

procedure so that women may enforce their right to freedom from discrimination, and creating legislation that would enable men and women to balance responsibility to family and actively participate in both business and government.

The Ukraine has also identified several problems to be targeted. The main reasons why the full equality of women is not achieved is because of the unequal representation of women in a public or political life, negative gender stereotypes that are promoted by movements of anti-gender, and the educational system. The problem of education has been found to be the greatest problem as many women are unaware of their rights or what constitutes a violation of said rights.

To conclude my spiel dear delegates, all that is needed at this point in time is patience and support of member nations. Nothing can be achieved as the United Nations if we are not united nations.

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