

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Position: Ghana

Delegate: Jenna Cahn

Topic 1: Women and Sustainability

Advancing women's political participation and leadership and economic empowerment are two central goals. The UN supports more women to get on ballots, attain political office and go to polls to vote. They assist women to get decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies, while underlining the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute the burden on women for unpaid care. The UN promotes women's role and leadership as a humanitarian action, such as conflict-prevention and efforts to ensure peace and security. They advocate for ending violence, raise awareness of its causes and consequences and boost efforts to prevent and respond, including ensuring the rights of women living with HIV. They also work to ensure that governments reflect the needs of women and girls in their planning and budgeting, and engage men and boys, urging them to become champions of gender equality.

Since 2012 programs have trained women in Ghana to use sustainable farming techniques such as inter-cropping, composting, nitrogen fixing crops, low tillage, reduced run-off and eco-harvest techniques. This has combined gender dialogues, market access training and support for village savings groups. One Woman in Ghana said "In the past men would take everything to the market and use the money for pitu [liquor] and meat and bring nothing home. Now if there's money we decide how to spend it together, we drink and eat together. There is peace and harmony."

To fix the issue of Women and Sustainability the delegation of Ghana purposes that we make it a law that women must be more involved with politics by donating money to the women to campaign. We also purpose that the UN fund a project in which we educate men more on the importance of equality in order to gain or keep sustainability in countries all across the world.

Topic 2: Elimination of Gender Based Violence

Gender-based violence as a form of discrimination against women has become increasingly visible and acknowledged internationally. Despite normative standards having been set, the reality is that violence against women remains a global epidemic, which is further complicated when considering multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Discrimination in the context of violence against women and provides a conceptual framework for further discussion. Reality that while multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination have contributed to and exacerbated violence against women, information on the intersections between gender-based discrimination and other forms of discrimination, and the consequences thereof, are too often overlooked.

Ghana has intensified the combat against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) as well as elimination of all forms of violence against women and children. Nana Oye Lithur, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, who said this at Ghana's side event of the on-going 60th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) in New York, said "gender-based violence must be eliminated not only in Ghana but across the world". Ghana's statistics indicate that SGBV cases increased from 4,697 in 2010 to 7,572 in 2014 and out of a total of 34,887

cases recorded within the four-year period, female victims were 30,333 while males were 4,554.

In order to solve the problem of Gender Based Violence the delegation of Ghana suggests a plan to. Provide women with access to legal representation and opportunities to pursue justice against perpetrators of violence through the formal legal system. Promote gender equality in schools and widen access to education for girls. End forced early marriage and premature pregnancy. Bring greater attention to violence that is perpetrated by a partner or spouse. Revise marriage laws that are institutionally biased against women, particularly those that deny women custody over their children, inheritance, and land rights in cases of death, separation or divorce.

Topic 3: Women in Education and Employment

Education is one of the most critical areas of empowerment for women. It is also an area that offers some of the clearest examples of discrimination women suffer. Among children not attending school there are twice as many boys than girls, and among illiterate adults there are twice as many women as men. Offering girls basic education is one sure way of giving them much greater power if enabling them to make genuine choices over the kinds of lives they wish to lead.

Based on household populations in Ghana, about 50% of men and only 29% of women have secondary schooling or higher. This number will soon become more balanced, however, as more girls are in school now and will continue into secondary school. Over the timespan of 2008-2012, 4% more girls were enrolled in preschool than boys. Net enrollment and attendance ratios for primary school were both about the same

for boys and girls, net enrollment standing at about 84% and net attendance at about 73%. Enrollment in secondary school for girls was slightly lower than for boys (44.4% vs. 48.1%), but girls' attendance was higher by about the same difference (39.7% vs. 43.6%). Most women in Ghana are in the profession of teaching. However, women in research professions report experiencing more difficulties than men in the same field, which can be linked to restricted professional networks for women because of lingering traditional familial roles.

In order to stop Gender gapes in Employment and in Education. The delegation of Ghana purposes that we pass a law saying that all children under the age of 16 must attend school during the week. This will hopefully close the gender gap because then everyone will have to be in school. In the schools we will educate about gender tolerance so that women will be more successful in higher jobs in the country so they can have more power. This will help against ending gender discrimination.

