Position Paper- Ayele Atiwoto: Citadel High School

Ayele Atiwoto [guenouayele@gmail.com](mailto:guenouayele@gmail.com)

Equality Now

Commissions On The Status Of women

The issues facing women and women's rights

1. Women and Sustainability

2. Elimination of Gender-Based Violence

3. Women in Education and Employment

1. Women and Sustainability

The connection between Women's rights and sustainability has been far more acknowledged these past couple of decades. This acknowledgement is noticeable in many international agreements such as; The principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Started in 1992, it states women being extremely essential to achieving sustainable development. In the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it called upon government to integrate gender concerns into policies and programs for sustainable development.The United Nations conference on Sustainable Development notice the significance of gender equality and women's empowerment in economics, social, and environmental sustainable development, and agree to promote the involvement of women sustainability policies and programs.

Women have been proven to be more environmentally conscious than men, thus allowing them to play a very specific role in the environment in addition to handling soil, water, forests, and energy. Although women are more environmentally conscious than men, women tend to carry the strain of climate change and the effects of extreme weather conditions. For example after the horrifying effects of Hurricane Katrina, the persons who struggled the most to recover were women, who result to make up the majority of the impoverished in America.

In developing countries men and women play distinct roles in assuring food security for their families and communities. Men grow mainly field crops, and women are subject to growing and preparing food eaten in the home.

Women are more prone to spending their own earnings on food and children. A child's chance of survival increased by twenty percent when the mother controls the family finances, shows research. Thus, women, play a crucial role in food security, and children's health.

However, gender bias, limit women's food production. Approximating the studies shown in Ghana, finding that insecure access to land led women farmers to use shorter fallow periods than men, reducing their yields, earnings and the opportunity of food for the home.

Therefore, Equality Now

1. Aims to bring awareness by combining legal advocacy with strategic litigation to bring laws that benefit women.
2. Influence policy makers to strengthen human rights laws and mechanisms

II. Elimination of Gender Based Violence

The World Health Organization characterize violence directed towards 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.” Some gender violence issues include; forced marriage, marital assault and consent, female infanticide, and dowry-related violence. In many cultures and countries around the world, women and girls are seen as less than men, thus allowing gender based violence against women and girls. International conventions have brought forth the importance of women's reproductive rights and roles in the family as a part of women's and human rights commissions.

Therefore, Equality Now recognizes:

1. The importance of having their human rights lawyers, activists and supporters holding government responsible for legal inequality and sexual violence.
2. That human rights abuses take place everyday all over the world and inspiring the public to take action against it can really bring a change.

III. Women in Education and Employment

According to UNESCO, there are 774 million people in the world that are illiterate. Women make up two thirds of them. According to UNICEF there are 31 million primary school aged girls that are out of school and 17 million are anticipated to never enrol in school. There are many aspects as to why there is such minimal education for women, including poverty, absence of parental education, gender-based violence at schools, or early marriage.

Relating to employment though, women in contrast to men, receive lower wages for the same work they do. In both rural and urban areas men's wages are much higher than that of women's. With this unfair wage gap women tend to have a much higher poverty rate than men. On the fortieth UN Committee on the Status of Women session, the government of many countries dedicated to improve their efforts to remove the strain of poverty that women unfairly bear.

In closing Equality now has:

1. Helped many women around the world overcome many of these gender inequalities that they face, by advocating for them and assisting them with obtaining jobs and an education.

References:

SSUNS Commissions on the Status of Women booklet

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