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**Commission on the Status of Women**

Women and girls face multitudes of challenges that other genders simply don’t. The societies in which many girls grow up are not benefitting them. Regardless of where a woman lives, she has never experienced what it's like to be in complete control of her body, her ambitions, and her life. The International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) strongly believes that all women and girls should be able to make decisions in all aspects of their lives. The FIDH understands that the inclusion of women in decisions of all levels of importance is a vital step toward improving our world. Women make up 50.4% of our population, yet they seldom have the accurate representation in government and other important positions of power necessary to fully provide for their needs.

**Abuse of Women**

Violence is also a key issue when talking about women’s rights. Women around the world have a 35% chance of being physically or sexually abused in their lifetimes, and almost one third of women who have been in a relationship report intimate spousal abuse. This statistic is truly shattering and shows great insight as to the way in which women are viewed in our societies. 15 percent of women and 71 percent of women in ethiopia report sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes. This extreme of a report is truly heart breaking and the thought of the women going through this violence is even more so. These instances have detrimental effects on women's mental and physical health. People who suffer from domestic violence have a 28% likelihood of attempting suicide, and 42 percent of women worldwide who reported domestic violence also reported injury as a result of this violence. In the United States alone, 18,500,000 women seek out mental health care because of intimate partner violence.

**Women’s Right to Choose**

Out of the 42 million abortions worldwide 21.6 million are illegal. Of the women who choose to have an unsafe abortions experience 47 000 women die because of complications in unsafe abortions year. That is 47 000 deaths yearly that could be prevented. What governments do not understand when they make abortions illegal is that abortions are still going to happen and that women are going to die because of them. One third of pregnancies each year are unplanned and one quarter of women who get pregnant, planned or unplanned, choose to have an abortion. Making abortions illegal does not reduce the amount of abortions, in does, however, increase the quantity of women who die because of them. Legal abortions, when done correctly with the right techniques, are about as safe as an injection of penicillin. One can not know exact statistics of unsafe, or illegal abortions but some have speculated that up to 50% of illegal abortions do have complications that need medical attention. Weather or not the woman seeks that attention is vital for her survival, but many do not, because of laws that would put them in jail because of that abortion.

**Access to Care**

The FIDH recognizes that countries are different culturally, economically, and physically and that all of these factors can lead to progress at different rates. This is one of many issues that stand in the way of women and their success. Women face inequalities in every aspect of their lives, but especially when it comes to their bodies. Menstruation is a natural and important part of human existence and the extent to which it is stigmatized is truly appalling. In India and many other countries, it is nearly impossible to find and buy products that can, and have, have made women’s lives in the world so much easier. This unequal privilege of some women shows that we, not as individual nations, but as a global society, have not done enough to unsure and enforce fair treatment of women. Products that are marketed specifically to women are in general 43% more expensive than products marketed to men. North American women spend about $1, 350 more than men on the same products each year. This inequality is an inconvenience to some, and absolutely detrimental to others.

**Representation**

The only country with more women in government worldwide is Rwanda with 63.4% as of 2013. The worldwide average for women in government is 20%. These governments that are dominated primarily by men, make decisions about women. They decide how many women will die from unsafe abortions, and whether or not to regulate sexual assault. If women do not have the ability to determine the regulations placed on them and their bodies, what do they get to decide? Women appear to not have the trust of men. They are paid less and elected less. Women made up 39.6 % of the worldwide workforce, as of 2014. If a woman is also a mother, she has almost an 80% possibility to be doing most, if not all of the housework. Women make less money, for the same job, with a worldwide average of 75% to the man’s dollar. Of single parent families, 80% have mothers, meaning that these women are earning 75% of what they should be and doing the large majority of the housework, this situation could be cause major harm to the woman’s mental health. Stress had been known to increase the risk of death: heart disease, cancer, lung ailments, accidents, cirrhosis of the liver and suicide. If this oppression is to be stopped, we must address employment inequalities, and how they affect everyone.

**Education Inewualitied**

Education inequalities between men and women are also extremely prevalent worldwide. The worldwide illiteracy rate is 17%, and two thirds of the world's illiterate are women. That means that eleven percent of the 3.52 billion women are illiterate. If we do not educate women, and help them understand their capabilities, then how would we progress the women’s rights movement? If a girl is uneducated she will probably live a very similar life to her parents which limits her life and, if she has children, the life of her children. Even in places where education Inequality if rampant, girls tend to outperform boys in academic subjects. This could be due to girld understanding inequality at a young age, and knowing that they have to work harder, to achieve success. Educating women has been proven to lower rates of childbirth, and marriage at an early age. Education of women had also been shown to diminish the wage gap. The importance of educating women is vital for the success of women.

**Possible Solutions**

In order for women's issues to be addressed, women need to have a place at the helm of all the movements that are there for them. If women are not included in decisions about their bodies and lives, we have already failed. Women need to feel like their bodies are theirs, and other people do not have the right to touch, or control them. Women need to have a place in government, not where they are tokens, but actual builders of change. Governments need to create campaigns that celebrate women and highlight the issues that they face. Men need to be raised in such a way that women are not seen as their property but as their partners. There can be no governmental tolerance for abuse of women. Abortions need to be made legal, and accessible, for the safety and security of the woman. Education need to be a primary concern for governments. We need to work together to insure that women are safe, and and that they know that they can do anything.