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Feminism is an incredibly important aspect of modern society because, despite seemingly modern times, women still face inequality, judgement, and discrimination on a daily basis. This lack of women’s rights and equality has led to major changes in the UN. Throughout the last twenty-five years action has been taken to set up programs to insure governments are integrating gender discrimination concerns. [[1]](#footnote-1)“These programs promote three major changes: involving women in environmental decision making, addressing the concerns of women through government policies, and also analyzing the impact of development and environmental policies on women”. Alone, these changes cannot right the wrongs done to women across the world, but with international recognition and support, the issue of gender equality may very well cease to exist in the future.

Women are essential to the environment, they manage plants and animals, collect water, fuel, and fodder for domestic use and income generation, and also oversee land and water resources. Women can do just as much as men can. They are also important to our modern socioeconomic environment, have the capability to manage the aftermath of natural disasters, and playing a big role in production, distribution, and utilization of goods and services. The Green Belt Movement has focused on further empowering women in regards to environmental conservation, and works to improve their livelihoods. The (GMB) has begun encouraging women to grow seedlings and plant trees. [[2]](#footnote-2)“5,000 registered Green Belt Movement-supported tree nurseries across Kenya. This year’s report features details on the planting of over 4.2 million trees throughout Kenya and the launch of GBM’s watershed-based approach to tree planting and advocacy for environmental conservation.”

The disposal of sanitary napkins is one of the many issues faced solely by women on account of menstruation. This poses a risk to the environment as used sanitary napkins can contain infectious pathogens, which can contaminate ground water supplies if disposed of incorrectly. Many institutions have started using incinerators for proper disposal of napkins, but this can cause air related health issues. Another way to properly dispose of sanitary napkins are by using special disposal bags like they use in India. Women and their perspective is and should be important, for all issues including poverty, food security, and environmental sustainability. Gender equality is a fundamental right and women shouldn’t be treated any differently than men, but they still are discriminated against, abused, and ignored every day. [[3]](#footnote-3)“Past UN actions that have taken place, including the declaration of the recognition of the extremely adverse effects of intense poverty on women, which resulted in changing the global economy, the economic policies on a national level, and the process of political, economic, and social transformation in general.” The Millennium Development Goals was a program developed in 2000, in an attempt to eradicate poverty and discrimination specifically developing countries. Another effective program was the Sustainable Development Goals, they focused on ending poverty and promoting gender equality everywhere. Many countries themselves have tried setting up strategies to resolve violence and discrimination towards women, with varied success. The declaration of International Women’s Day by the UN has given many women hope that the issue of gender inequality will soon end and that their struggles have not been in vain.

[[4]](#footnote-4)“Gender equality in Nicaragua is intrinsically tied to economic, survival, health and reproductive rights, and the struggle against intra- familiar violence”. Nicaragua believes gender equality is an important issue that should be taken very seriously. We have come up with ways to address the issue, such as programs like the Gender and development committee, which promotes sustainability and gender equality. Despite the best efforts of many, this issue is a uniquely social one and will take decades to solve in its entirety. Some solutions that could be implemented to expedite this process would be: institution of a stronger, more centralized government, the creation of more humanitarian projects to specifically aid women in finding political channels to demonstrate and appeal, and donation of menstrual products, contraceptives, and childcare products. Another compromise could be measuring gender inequality in the economy; businesses should measure gender inequality within their organization, set goals and evaluate managers on meeting those goals. What gets measured, gets done. It is important we focus on the issue at hand, and address gender equality

1. Background guide [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.greenbeltmovement.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Background guide [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. www.oneyoungworld.com [↑](#footnote-ref-4)