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UNDP

Commission on the Status of Women

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is an advocate for gender equality on their official website they have claimed that granting women equal rights will equate to healthier families, more children in school, agricultural improvement, and an increase in income. The relationship between women and their environment is a close one; in developing countries women build their lives around the environment, relying upon it to provided their everyday necessities, they adjust and adapt to their surroundings. Yet the women of these nations have very little access to the resources that are accessible to the men. Woman receive only 5 percent of agricultural extension services worldwide.[[1]](#footnote-1) In many countries there have been laws put into place to prevent women from owning land, these laws need to be repealed as women do as much, if not more, work than men do. Women play an important role in food security, and in order for women to act appropriately to climatic stress the constraints placed against women need not limit them. If women farmers were given the same access to resources (such as finance) as men, women’s agricultural yields could increase by 20 percent to 30 percent; national agricultural production could rise by 2.5 percent to 4 percent, and the number of malnourished people could be reduced by 12 to 17 percent.[[2]](#footnote-2) Women and men should have access to the same resources. Policies should be written with both sexes in mind, integrating men and women’s concerns and taking into consideration how the policy will affect humanity as a whole.

In most developing societies women are seen as a man’s property, to do with what he will. There are too many countries where domestic violence is legal, including the Russian Federation, Egypt, Iran, and Pakistan. Domestic violence doesn’t just affect the one getting harmed, it affects the future population as well. Children are more likely to be malnourished, and have a range of mental and behavioral issues when exposed to domestic violence. The key to stopping gender-based violence is to develop policies that address gender discrimination and promote gender equality. The Violence against Women Act (VAWA) was signed in 2013 by President Obama for its third reauthorization; this act includes provisions to protect Native American women and LGBT victims of violence. Policies such as VAWA should be enacted in every country. Empowering women is also a step in the right direction, as it lowers the wage gap and will lead to increased female participation in the workplace.

Another benefit of empowering women is seeing more women in school and at work. To empower women the gender-related constraints in the workplace should be removed. Women should have equal access to resources as men, and should not have to be ashamed of their menstrual cycle. Women should hold more legislative positions in government. In Albania UN Women helped the government recalibrate their law on Economic Aid and Social Services to notice women vulnerable to the economy.[[3]](#footnote-3) UN Women have partnered up in Moldova to help form the Women’s Network of Mayors and Local Councillors as a component in the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova. The reason for this network was the lack of women in political power. Less than 20 percent of mayors and district councillors are female in Moldova.[[4]](#footnote-4) This statistic is not favorable to those whose agendas include making policies that benefit women. The UN Women have also worked with the UN Global Compact to launch the Women’s Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business, hundreds of CEOs have signed a Statement of Support and agreeing to incorporating gender equality in the workplace.

1. FAO 2011a [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. FAO 2011b [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UN Women Macroeconomic Policies and Social Protection [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. UN Women Parliaments and Local Governments [↑](#footnote-ref-4)