Madeleine Saulnier-Gallant: Citadel High School, Model United Nations

madeleine saulnier-gallant <msaulniergallant@gmail.com>

Position Paper- The commission for the status of women

Lesotho

Main focus points of Lesotho regarding

Women

1. Women and sustainability
2. Elimination of gender based violence
3. Women in education and employment
4. Women and sustainability

Having most of all energy coming from hydroelectric plants, Lesotho is a very green country. Their priority for sustainability is mainly food security. Since the act of the legal capacity of married persons (2006) women are allowed to own and inherit land taking into consideration that women are more environmentally conscious then men, because of such, more land overall is being used and woman can use this as an opportunity to sell and provide safe and secure food. Lesotho encourages women to join the government as women in sustainability policies is proven to work. Such encouragement has made much needed change and Lesotho is proud to have their first female chief of justice. Lesotho is prepared to continue to prosper in environmental issues along with women.

Therefore Lesotho

1. Encourages women to help with sustainability policies.

2. Provide safe and secure food with farm land owned by women.

Rates of gender based violence in Lesotho are very high at 46% with the Child and Gender Protection Unit reporting that around 125 cases are recorded each week. Lesotho is fully committed to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive gender discrimination in all its forms and manifestations. Traditional beliefs and lack of financial stability leaves women especially vulnerable. Lesotho is fully aware of such things and notes the progress they have already made. Empowerment of women and financial independence are keys to make women less vulnerable to abuse. The legal capacity for married persons act (2006) repealed *marital power* which a husband acquires over the person and property of his wife.

Therefore Lesotho

1.Will continue its promotion of gender equality

2. Will continue to empower women

1. Women in education and employment

Lesotho is willing to prioritise increasing women’s financial independence which will also help decreasing violence against women and achieving environmental sustainability. Such financial independence will be achieved with paid job opportunities and good education. The paid maternity leave of 2-6 weeks and the nursing hour for up to one year is something Lesotho is fully prepared to improve on, to increase women’s equality in the paid labor market. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is a great opportunity especially those in Lesotho where such job opportunities are becoming increasingly rarer, as jobs are being found in South Africa. Bearing in mind that good jobs come from good education, Lesotho has come a long way, now being number 1 in **education** and health gender gaps in the world. Lesotho is welcoming the SDG4 plan for 2030 and its idea of the achievement of the equality and empowerment for women and girls though it knows this will only translate into reality if the international community can ensure adequate financing.

Therefore Lesotho

1. Recognizes the need to have more paid job opportunities
2. Recognizes the need for a quotas for public infrastructure

**Reference**

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