*Delegation From* *Represented By*

South Korea John Abbott College

Commission on the Status of Women

With the adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 63/311, the international community has clearly taken a relatively positive and progressive stance on women’s rights and gender equality[[1]](#footnote-1). South Korea, in recent decades, has made similar noteworthy strides in this area.

For the first topic, Women and Sustainability, South Korea has made numerous strides in the past few decades, the first of which being the expansions of the social care provision which allows for the elderly to have long-term insurance, for there to be publicly subsidized childcare and for there to be statutory parental leave[[2]](#footnote-2). These measures have improved the number of women who have entered the workforce in South Korea by allowing them the opportunity to earn an income without needing to worry about who will care for their aging parents or their children on a daily basis, as it used to be very common, and still remains fairly popular for South Korean women to take on these tasks in everyday life[[3]](#footnote-3). These steps taken by South Korea demonstrate their commitment to ensuring that women will play a key role in their economic sustainability.

The second topic, Gender-Based Violence, is one that South Korea has taken very seriously. This is demonstrated by their having passed numerous law on sexual assault in the 1990’s, and, more recently in 2010, have passed the Prevention of Sexual Assault and Protection of Victims Thereof[[4]](#footnote-4). These steps outline very specific and preventative measures which, along with stricter laws about the punishment of perpetrators of any type of gender based, demonstrate South Korea’s resolve to protect its citizens against any form of gender-based violence, including sexual assault. On top of these, South Korea passed the Special Act on Domestic Violence and the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Victims Protections Act which, though it appeared to show an increase in domestic violence, seem to have actually led to an decrease in the number of cases left unreported until now[[5]](#footnote-5).

South Korea has, in recent decades, come to support the last topic, Women in Education. As of 1998, 99.5% of women had graduated from elementary schools and 61.6% had graduated from both high schools and universities[[6]](#footnote-6). This is due in part to South Korea making elementary education and middle school education compulsory, despite gender, until the age of fifteen[[7]](#footnote-7). As can be seen by the strides taken in this area, South Korea offers a fair education system to its populace despite gender.

To conclude, South Korea has overall taken the stance that women should have equal rights and equal opportunities as men.

1. General Assembly Resolution 63/311, *Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women*, A/RES/63/311 (14 September, 2009), available from <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/513/62/PDF/N0951362.pdf?OpenElement>   
    [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UN Women, *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014 Gender Equality and Sustainable Development* (United Nations, 2014) available from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1900unwomen_surveyreport_advance_16oct.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. AsiaSociety, “The Value and Meaning of the Korean Family,” *Global Center for Education*, 2016. <http://asiasociety.org/education/value-and-meaning-korean-family> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ambassador Shin Dong-Ik, “Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled ‘Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century’,” Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea, 11 March 2013, available from <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw57/generaldiscussion/memberstates/rok.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Byun, Wahsoon. “Violence Against Women in Korea and its Indicators,” *UNDAW, UNECE and UNSD*, 10 October, 2007. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw_indicators_2007/papers/Invited%20Paper%20Korea%20Whasoon%20Byun,.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. AsiaSociety “Women’s Role in Contemporary Korea,” *Global Centre for Education*, 2016. <http://asiasociety.org/education/womens-role-contemporary-korea> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. “South Korea Educational System Overview,” *State University*, 2016. <http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1400/South-Korea-EDUCATIONAL-SYSTEM-OVERVIEW.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)