Delegate: Alexandra Gardilcic

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Women and Sustainability

Country: Brazil

School: Lower Canada College

Climate change causes economic, social and environmental consequences that have a significant impact on women. In developing areas, women are much more vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. For example, it is often the responsibility of the woman to secure water and food, both of which could become more difficult to procure if there were a drought caused by global warming. Furthermore, water is necessary for sanitation, and many woman and girls suffer larger consequences because of menstruation. There is undoubtedly a relationship between women’s rights and economic stability, and many changes could be implemented to stop global warming. Based in Kenya, the Green Belt Movement is an environmental organization that focuses on environmental concerns and female empowerment. The movement was mainly founded due to the fact that many Kenyan women were complaining that streams had dried up, causing them to travel increasing distances to procure water. Not to mention, many Kenyan woman must also travel long distances to procure firewood, as forest areas shrink. This is a serious issue as over 65% of the Kenyan population uses biomass energy, charcoal and firewood for cooking. It is imperative that we focus on women having equal access to resources.

The Federative Republic of Brazil has always been a leader when it comes to gender equality, and environmental sustainability is also one of the country’s chief concerns. Brazil has effectively eliminated gender divide in the areas of health treatment and education, yet unfortunately a disparity still exists when it comes to women’s salaries and political influence.[[1]](#footnote-1) Brazil is proud of the progress it has made, and notes the importance of gender equality and the impact of environmental problems on women. A little less than 15% of Brazil’s population resides in rural areas, and women risk being negatively impacted by environmental factors.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Women are much more vulnerable to the negative consequences of climate change, and this is an issue that we must face. Action must be taken to minimize the potential issues and dangers women grapple with due to climate change. The issue of climate change is a large problem; one that must be addressed. We must work to end the social and economic barriers that prevent women from having equal access to resources such as education and proper sanitation.

Delegate: Alexandra Gardilcic

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Elimination of Gender-Based Violence

Country: Brazil

School: Lower Canada College

Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination against women that can result in, sexual, mental or physical harm to woman. There are many issues to consider in relation to this topic, such as forced marriage, a practice that is unfortunately still prevalent in many regions of the world. Another issue to consider is consent and marital assault. Consent is an issue in forced marriages and in other situations such as marital assault. In many cultures, the husband holds domestic power over the wife, and this can result in psychological and physical consequences for the woman. Finally, female infanticide is an issue that connects to gender bias and socioeconomic status. The low status in which woman are viewed creates an unequal gender bias which motivates some towards female infanticide.

The Federative Republic of Brazil recognizes that gender-based violence is an atrocity that should not be allowed to continue. While female infanticide and forced marriage are uncommon, Brazil recognizes that sexual and domestic violence are unfortunate issues in the country. Views on sexual harassment and sexual violence have been influenced by culture and by sexual harassment laws, laws that are commonly ignored, due to Brazil’s man-centrist culture.[[3]](#footnote-3) Brazil is considered one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a woman. One woman is killed every two hours and assaulted every 15 seconds in Brazil.[[4]](#footnote-4) Despite significant gains made in women’s rights over the past few years, women in Brazil still face large gender divides, specifically in this important area of empowerment and respect.

It is imperative that we strive to eliminate gender-based violence. Many countries have come to solutions that have created systems that empowered women at home and at work. To solve this issue, systems that create a healthy famly environment, promote female empowerment, and emphasize the need for work roles for women, must be implemented. The resolution must be one that supports accountability for those who participate in acts of violence against women. It is extremely important that we come to a solution that benefits the woman, so that she may be given the rights that she deserves.

Delegate: Alexandra Gardilcic

Committee: Commission on the Status of Women

Topic: Women in Education and Employment

Country: Brazil

School: Lower Canada College

Women’s access to employment and education are critical not only for the advancement of society as a whole, but also for the well-being of women. Employment opportunities and education have been much more available to men than to women. Girls already face many obstacles such as early marriage, pregnancy, gender bias, and gender-based violence, and require an education in order to flourish. A girls’ access to education can be limited for many reasons, such as poverty, lack of resources, cost of education, social and cultural barriers, and familial economic demands. Education and employment opportunities go hand in hand as education qualifies girls for more employment opportunities later. However, even when employed women generally make less money than men. This wage gap harms women who work, as they are able to afford less food, healthcare, shelter, and transportation.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The Federative Republic of Brazil has made sustained efforts in the area of female education and as a result has made very significant progress in the area of education for women. In Brazil, women have a slightly higher literacy rate than men, and they represent a majority of those attending college courses.[[6]](#footnote-6) However, Brazil regrets that despite significant effort, the same cannot be said about female employment. Despite many more woman joining the workforce, employment opportunities remain segregated by gender, with much less opportunity available for women. Current participation shows that 85% of men are a part of the workforce, compared to only 65% of women[[7]](#footnote-7)

The issue of women’s rights when it comes to education and employment is critical for the social and economic development of a country. Resolutions must work to promote access to education for all girls. They must also consider how to deal with the significant economic and social constraints faced by girls wishing to pursue an education, and the impact of poverty on access to education. Furthermore, an educated female populace will result in an increase in employment opportunities, and the resolution must therefore address the issue of equal pay. Female employment opportunities and education are necessary to achieve gender equality.

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2. The World Bank. “World Bank Staff estimates based on United Nations.” Accessed November 3rd 2016. http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Nicolas Lake. “Addressing Sexual Harassment in Brazil.” Accessed November 8th 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Will Carless. “Brazil's shocking violence against women.” Accessed November 7th 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. UN Women. “Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment.” Accessed November 9th 2016. http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/economic-empowerment/facts-and-figures [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. UNESCO Institute for Statistics. “International Literacy Data 2013” Accessed November 9th 2016. http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Pages/data-release-map-2013.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. “Women in Employment” Accessed November 3rd 2016. http://wiego.org/sites/wiego.org/files/publications/files/Tokman-Domestic-Workers-Latin-America.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-7)