

AGENDA- Reforms for protection of women's rights and freedom especially in the Middle East and Asia.

Thursday, March 6, 2025 8:29 AM

Sweden's Foreign policy:-

1. Peace and Security

- Neutrality: Sweden has maintained a policy of military neutrality for over 200 years. It does not participate in military alliances like NATO but engages in peacekeeping missions under the United Nations (UN) and other international bodies.
- Conflict Mediation: Sweden actively works as a mediator in international conflicts, supporting peaceful solutions, particularly in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

2. Human Rights and Democracy

- Sweden places great emphasis on human rights and democracy, both domestically and internationally. It advocates for the rights of women, minorities, and refugees, and is a strong proponent of gender equality.
- Sweden is committed to promoting freedom of expression, the rule of law, and good governance across the world.

3. Multilateralism and Global Cooperation

- Sweden is a firm believer in multilateral diplomacy and works closely with international organizations like the United Nations, European Union (EU), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- It is an advocate for global development goals, especially in combating climate change, supporting sustainable development, and advancing global health.

4. Sustainable Development and Climate Action

- Sweden has integrated sustainability into its foreign policy, advocating for climate action, renewable energy, and the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- Sweden plays a leadership role in promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) globally.

5. Humanitarian Assistance

- Sweden is one of the largest donors of humanitarian aid and works through UNICEF, the Red Cross, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide aid in conflict zones, natural disasters, and regions facing poverty.

6. Refugee Protection and Migration

- Sweden has a long-standing tradition of providing refuge and asylum to those fleeing conflict, persecution, and human rights abuses. It is one of the most welcoming countries in Europe for refugees.

7. Security Policy and International Cooperation

- Sweden prioritizes non-military methods to promote security but has increasingly participated in EU security initiatives and NATO partnerships for counterterrorism and crisis management, without full NATO membership.
- Sweden is an advocate for arms control, particularly through the UN Arms Trade Treaty, to reduce the proliferation of arms and promote global security.

Examples of Sweden's Foreign Policy in Action

Sweden's foreign policy has been actively reflected in various global efforts, humanitarian initiatives, and diplomatic interventions. Here are some key examples:

1. Advocacy for Women's Rights and Gender Equality

- Feminist Foreign Policy (2014–2022): Sweden was the first country in the world to adopt a Feminist Foreign Policy, which aimed to strengthen women's rights, representation, and access to resources globally.
- Support for Afghan Women (Post-Taliban Takeover, 2021): Sweden has funded programs to support Afghan women's education and human rights through UN agencies and NGOs after the Taliban severely restricted women's rights.
- Fight Against Gender-Based Violence in the Middle East and Africa: Sweden has funded initiatives to combat honor killings, child marriage, and sexual violence in countries like Iraq, Syria, and Sudan.

2. Peace and Mediation Efforts

- Yemen Peace Talks (2018, Stockholm Agreement): Sweden hosted and mediated peace negotiations between Yemen's warring parties, leading to the Stockholm Agreement, a major step in reducing the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.
- Israel-Palestine Conflict: Sweden was one of the first Western countries to officially recognize Palestine as a state in 2014, advocating for a two-state solution and Palestinian sovereignty.
- Mediation in Ethiopia's Tigray Conflict (2021-Present): Sweden has supported mediation efforts in Ethiopia's Tigray conflict, advocating for humanitarian access and an end to hostilities.

3. Strong Humanitarian Assistance and Refugee Support

- Leading Role in Refugee Intake (Syrian Civil War, 2015-Present): Sweden accepted over 160,000 refugees in 2015 alone, one of the highest per capita in Europe, and has provided long-term integration support.
- Humanitarian Aid in Gaza and Rohingya Crisis: Sweden has provided millions in aid to support Palestinian refugees in Gaza and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- Ukraine War (2022-Present): Sweden has provided financial, humanitarian, and military aid to Ukraine, including refugee support and sanctions against

Russia.

4. Climate Action and Sustainable Development

- Major Contributor to the Green Climate Fund: Sweden is one of the largest per capita donors to the UN Green Climate Fund, helping developing nations transition to renewable energy.
- Ban on Fossil Fuel Investments (2022): Sweden stopped public financing for fossil fuel projects abroad, aligning with the Paris Agreement and climate sustainability goals.
- Supporting Climate Adaptation in Africa: Sweden funds initiatives to help African nations, including Kenya and Ethiopia, adapt to climate change impacts like drought and flooding.

5. International Sanctions and Support for Human Rights

- Sanctions on Iran (2023): Sweden, through the EU, has imposed sanctions on Iran for human rights violations, especially concerning the suppression of women's protests and persecution of activists.
- Sanctions on Russia (Post-Ukraine Invasion, 2022): Sweden has supported economic sanctions against Russia and has suspended diplomatic cooperation with Russian state institutions.
- Hong Kong and China (2020): Sweden has criticized China's crackdown on democracy in Hong Kong and human rights violations in Xinjiang, imposing restrictions on economic agreements.

6. EU and NATO Cooperation for Global Security

- Closer Ties with NATO (2022-Present): After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Sweden applied for NATO membership, ending its decades-long military neutrality.
- Counterterrorism Support in Iraq and Syria: Sweden has provided military and humanitarian support to Iraqi and Kurdish forces to combat ISIS.
- Arms Control and Disarmament Efforts: Sweden is a key advocate for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and leads efforts to reduce global arms trade.

General Speaker's List (GSL) Speech – Sweden

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates,

Imagine a girl in Afghanistan who once dreamed of becoming a doctor. Today, she's forced to stay home because education is banned for her. Imagine a woman in Iran, walking down the street, arrested just because a strand of her hair is visible. This is the reality for millions of women today.

Sweden refuses to stay silent. In 2014, we became the first country to adopt a Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP), focusing on the Three Rs:

- ◆ Rights – Defending women's human rights and freedoms.
- ◆ Representation – Making sure women have a voice in leadership and decision-making.
- ◆ Resources – Directing aid and support toward gender equality initiatives.

Take Afghanistan—on August 15, 2021, the Taliban took over, and within months, women's rights were erased. First, on March 23, 2022, secondary schools were shut for girls.

Then, on December 20, 2022, universities were closed to them.

Sweden responded immediately, redirecting aid to underground schools and working with UN Women to support Afghan women fighting for their rights.

Then, there's Iran. On September 13, 2022, Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman, was arrested by the morality police for wearing her hijab "improperly." Three days later, she was dead—beaten in custody. Her death sparked massive protests, with women chanting "Woman, Life, Freedom."

Sweden took a stand, condemning Iran's brutal crackdown, pushing for a UN investigation, and leading EU sanctions against Iranian officials responsible for violence against women.

Sweden stands firm: Women's rights are human rights. This committee must take real action to demand legal reforms, accountability for oppressors, and stronger protections for women in conflict zones.

Because when one girl is denied education, one woman is silenced, or one voice is suppressed, we have all failed. The time to act is now.

Thank you.

What is Feminist Foreign Policy?

A Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) is an approach to international relations that prioritizes gender equality, women's rights, and inclusivity in diplomacy, security, development, and trade. It recognizes that global challenges—from conflicts to climate change—affect women differently and aims to ensure their voices are included in decision-making.

Sweden became the first country in the world to adopt a Feminist Foreign Policy in 2014, under then-Foreign Minister Margot Wallström. The policy focused on the "Three Rs":

1. Rights – Strengthening women's human rights globally.
2. Representation – Ensuring women are included in peace talks, diplomacy, and leadership.
3. Resources – Allocating funds and aid toward gender equality initiatives.

Examples of Feminist Foreign Policy in Action:

- ◆ Advocating for Women in Conflict Zones: Sweden has played a key role in supporting Afghan women after the Taliban's takeover, redirecting aid to women-led organizations.
- ◆ Challenging Gender-Based Violence: Sweden has imposed sanctions on Iranian officials involved in suppressing women's rights protests.
- ◆ Pushing for Women's Inclusion in Peacebuilding: Sweden ensures that women's voices are heard in negotiations on conflicts in places like Syria and Yemen.

Even though Sweden officially dropped its Feminist Foreign Policy in 2022 under a new government, its commitment to gender equality and women's rights globally remains strong.

COUNTRY WISE CASES

Thursday, March 6, 2025 7:24 PM

RUSSIA

1. Decriminalization of Domestic Violence (2017)

In **February 2017**, Russia passed a law **decriminalizing first-time domestic violence offenses** that do not result in serious injuries. Under this law, perpetrators of **non-severe domestic abuse** (such as hitting a spouse or child) face only **a fine of 5,000 to 30,000 rubles (\$80 to \$500)** or community service, rather than criminal prosecution

[straitstimes.com](#)

This law significantly weakened **legal protections for women**, given that domestic violence is a widespread problem in Russia. Reports indicate that:

- **14,000 women die annually** from domestic abuse in Russia
[straitstimes.com](#)
- **One in three women** in Russia experiences domestic violence
[straitstimes.com](#)
- **Only 3% of cases** of domestic violence reach the courts due to weak legal structures
[straitstimes.com](#)

Impact:

By decriminalizing domestic abuse, Russia has created a **culture of impunity**, where offenders are not held accountable, and victims struggle to get justice. Women are often pressured **not to report abuse**, fearing further violence or dismissal by authorities.

International Response:

The UN and women's rights organizations **strongly condemned** this move, calling for Russia to reinstate criminal penalties and introduce stronger protective measures. However, Russia has largely ignored these appeals

[straitstimes.com](#)

2. Legal and Structural Discrimination

Workplace Inequality and Job Restrictions

Until **2021**, Russia had a **list of over 400 jobs banned for women**, including firefighting, mining, and certain roles in manufacturing. These restrictions were based on **Soviet-era laws** that deemed these jobs "too dangerous" for women.

After legal challenges, in **2021**, Russia reduced the list but **many restrictions still remain**, reinforcing workplace discrimination

[straitstimes.com](#)

Marital Rape is Not a Crime

Russia is **one of the few countries in the world where marital rape is still legal**. The government argues that "**family matters should not be regulated by the state,**" leaving women completely unprotected from sexual violence in marriage. This legal gap allows abusers to act with impunity, and victims have **no recourse to justice**

[straitstimes.com](#)

Lack of a Comprehensive Domestic Violence Law

Unlike many countries, Russia does not have a **dedicated domestic violence law**. Victims have **no legal protection orders, no shelters funded by the government, and no clear legal framework to seek help**. Women's rights activists have repeatedly called for legal reform, but the government has ignored these demands

[straitstimes.com](#)

Impact:

These discriminatory laws **reinforce gender inequality**, make it difficult for women to escape abusive relationships, and **prevent them from achieving economic independence**.

3. Russia's Role in Conflict-Related Violence

Sexual Violence in Ukraine (2022 - Present)

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in **February 2022**, multiple reports from **the UN, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International** have documented **sexual violence committed by Russian soldiers against Ukrainian women and girls**.

- In April 2022, Ukrainian officials reported **cases of mass rape** in occupied areas, with victims as young as **11 years old**.
- The **UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict** stated that these crimes "**were not isolated incidents but part of a systematic pattern**"

[straitstimes.com](#)

- Survivors have reported **torture, sexual slavery, and brutal assaults**, often in front of family members

[straitstimes.com](#)

Impact:

Russia's use of **sexual violence as a weapon of war** has been classified as a **crime against humanity**, with calls for **international tribunals to hold Russian officials accountable**.

Gender-Based Oppression in Chechnya

In **Chechnya**, a region controlled by a pro-Russian government, women face extreme gender-based violence:

- **Honor killings** are rampant, with **dozens of women murdered each year** for refusing arranged marriages or attempting to escape abusive families.
- **Forced marriages** of teenage girls to much older men are **state-approved**, with no legal consequences for abductors.
- **Women who refuse to wear Islamic dress** in public risk **beatings or public shaming by authorities**

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International Response:

The European Union and human rights organizations have **repeatedly condemned** Russia for enabling human rights abuses in Chechnya. However, Russia has done **nothing to stop these crimes**, allowing local authorities to continue oppressing women

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4. Russia's Stance in Global Women's Rights Discussions

Russia has consistently **blocked or weakened** UN resolutions aimed at improving women's safety.

- In 2019, Russia **blocked a UN resolution** that sought to recognize **sexual violence as a war crime**, arguing that it was "an attack on traditional values"
[straitstimes.com](#)
- In 2023, Russia **vetoed stronger measures** for protecting women in conflict zones, stating that such laws "**undermine national sovereignty**"
[straitstimes.com](#)
- Russia **opposes LGBTQ+ rights, abortion access, and gender equality policies** at the UN, arguing that such measures promote "**Western liberal ideologies**"
[straitstimes.com](#)

Impact:

By **actively opposing international efforts** to protect women, Russia **prevents progress on global gender equality** and sets a dangerous precedent for other authoritarian regimes.

Conclusion

Russia's failure to protect women is **evident** at every level:

- **Domestic policies** weaken legal protections and allow violence to continue.
- **Workplace discrimination and marital rape laws** reinforce inequality.
- **Conflict-related sexual violence** in Ukraine and Chechnya reveals a **systematic pattern of gender-based oppression**.
- **Blocking UN women's rights initiatives** proves that Russia is not committed to global gender equality.

If we are to **truly protect women's rights**, we **must hold Russia accountable** for its actions. **Words are not enough**—it is time for real consequences.

Iran (Mahsa Amini Case)

The tragic death of Mahsa Amini in September 2022 while in police custody sparked global outrage and protests against Iran's oppressive dress code laws. Despite international condemnation, Iran continues enforcing these restrictive policies with force.

Does Iran truly believe that controlling women's clothing through violence and intimidation is justifiable in today's world? And if these laws are meant to ensure "morality," why do they result in brutality, arrests, and even deaths instead of protection and dignity for women?

India (Nirbhaya & Laxmi Agarwal Cases)

India has strengthened its laws after the Nirbhaya case in 2012, yet horrific attacks like Laxmi Agarwal's acid attack (2005) and many others continue to happen. Even with regulations, acid is still easily available, and survivors struggle for justice.

If India has laws restricting acid sales, why is it still sold openly in markets and online? And why do survivors face delays in medical care, compensation, and rehabilitation despite legal provisions? Shouldn't there be a total ban on acid sales and a stronger support system for survivors?

After the Laxmi Agarwal acid attack case (2005), several other high-profile acid attacks in India have highlighted ongoing issues with enforcement and victim support:

1. **Preeti Rathi Case (2013)** – A 23-year-old nurse, Preeti Rathi, was attacked with acid at a [Mumbai railway station](#) by a man whose marriage proposal she had rejected. She later succumbed to her injuries. This case led to increased demands for stricter regulation on acid sales and harsher punishments for attackers.
2. **Reshma Qureshi Case (2014)** – Reshma, a teenager from [Uttar Pradesh](#), was attacked by her brother-in-law and his accomplices. She later became a face of anti-acid attack campaigns, walking the New York Fashion Week runway to raise awareness about survivors.
3. **Meena Khatoon Case (2021)** – A domestic violence survivor, Meena was attacked with acid by her husband, who went unpunished while she struggled with severe injuries. She continues to fight for justice and better rehabilitation for survivors
[fairplanet.org](#)
4. **Delhi Schoolgirl Acid Attack (2022)** – A 17-year-old girl was attacked in broad daylight in Delhi by two men on a motorbike. The incident sparked protests and renewed calls for an absolute ban on over-the-counter acid sales
[fairplanet.org](#)

Despite legal restrictions imposed after the Nirbhaya case, including the **2013 Supreme Court ruling** that banned acid sales without identification proof and proper records, enforcement remains weak. Acid continues to be sold openly at local shops and online, making it accessible to attackers. Victims also face challenges in obtaining adequate compensation and medical support

France (Delphine Jubillar Case & Femicide Crisis)

France has been facing a femicide crisis, with one woman killed every three days by a partner. The Delphine Jubillar case (2021) is one such example. How does France plan to bridge the gap between legal reforms and actual protection for women facing domestic violence?

United States (Kesha Case & #MeToo Movement)

The Kesha vs. Dr. Luke case became a symbol of how women in the entertainment industry struggle to get justice against powerful men. Even with the #MeToo movement, many women still fear legal retaliation when speaking out. What further actions can the U.S. take to strengthen protections for survivors of workplace harassment?

The case between Kesha and Dr. Luke (Lukasz Gottwald) was a long and complex legal battle that began in 2014 when Kesha accused Dr. Luke of drugging and sexually assaulting her, as well as emotionally abusing her throughout their professional relationship. She sought to be released from her recording contract with him.

In response, Dr. Luke denied all allegations and countersued Kesha for defamation, claiming that she fabricated the accusations to break her contract and boost her career.

Key developments in the case:

- In **2016**, a New York judge denied Kesha's request for a preliminary injunction to free her from her contract, citing a lack of evidence and stating that breaking the contract would be unfair to Dr. Luke and Sony Music.
- Later that year, the judge dismissed Kesha's abuse claims, ruling that they either lacked specificity or were outside the statute of limitations.
- In **2020**, a judge ruled that Kesha had defamed Dr. Luke by falsely stating to Lady Gaga that he had also raped Katy Perry. She was ordered to pay him nearly

\$374,000 in damages.

- However, in **2021**, a New York court ruled that Dr. Luke was not a public figure, which meant the legal standard for proving defamation was lower.
- In **June 2023**, both parties settled the lawsuit privately, with Kesha stating that "only God knows what happened" and Dr. Luke maintaining that the allegations were false.

This case led to widespread public support for Kesha, including the "#FreeKesha" movement, and sparked discussions about artists' rights in the music industry
en.wikipedia.org

Delegate of the United Kingdom (Sarah Everard Case):

The murder of Sarah Everard on March 3, 2021, by **Wayne Couzens**, a serving Metropolitan Police officer, exposed deep failures in the UK's law enforcement system. Couzens used his police powers to falsely arrest her, revealing alarming gaps in police accountability. Despite his sentencing to life imprisonment on September 30, 2021, public trust in the police remains shaken. With multiple inquiries exposing systemic misogyny and misconduct within the force, what concrete actions is the UK taking to ensure that law enforcement officers—who are meant to protect women—do not become the perpetrators of violence?

Delegate of Canada (Rehtaeh Parsons Case)

The case of Rehtaeh Parsons (2013) exposed the dangers of cyberbullying and victim-blaming after sexual assault. While Canada introduced cyberbullying laws, cases of online harassment still persist. What additional measures can Canada propose internationally to criminalize digital violence against women?

The case of **Rehtaeh Parsons** was a tragic incident that highlighted the dangers of cyberbullying and victim-blaming after sexual assault. In 2011, at the age of 15, Rehtaeh was allegedly sexually assaulted by four boys at a party. A photo of the assault was taken and shared widely among her peers, leading to relentless online harassment and bullying. The trauma and public humiliation deeply affected her mental health. In April 2013, at the age of 17, Rehtaeh attempted to take her own life and was placed on life support. She passed away a few days later when her family decided to remove life support.

Initially, law enforcement did not pursue charges, citing a lack of evidence. However, after significant public outcry and new information emerging, two individuals were later arrested in connection with the case. The incident led to increased awareness of cyberbullying in Canada and prompted legislative changes, including **Bill C-13 (Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act)**, which criminalized the non-consensual distribution of intimate images

Case Study: Iran's Gender Apartheid

Iran's 2024 penal code mandates 10-year sentences for unveiled women and revokes medical access for non-compliant individuals. An expanded embargo would:

- Block Iran's drone exports (a \$3B industry funding repression).
- Target entities like the IRGC's Basij militia, which enforces veiling laws.

Accountability Metrics

Sweden advocates for:

- Annual scorecards evaluating states on:
- Repeal of discriminatory laws (e.g., guardianship)
- Prosecution rates for gender-based violence
- Women's participation in security sector roles
- Suspension from UN Women for states scoring below thresholds.

From <https://www.perplexity.ai/search/i-m-taking-part-in-mun-in-uncs-vnljxRrkQOSIIWNZI_H9w>

Legal Basis: UNSC Resolution 2664

This 2022 resolution allows sanctions exemptions for humanitarian aid but lacks binding measures on gender rights. Sweden seeks to:

- Amend 2664: Require gender impact assessments for all arms exports.
- Activate UNSCR 2242: Link arms sales to Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) compliance.

Operational Challenges

From <https://www.perplexity.ai/search/i-m-taking-part-in-mun-in-uncs-vnljxRrkQOSIIWNZI_H9w>

GENDER BASED MUTILATION

Saturday, March 8, 2025 6:50 AM

Key facts

- More than 230 million girls and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where FGM is practiced.
- FGM is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15.
- FGM is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- Treatment of the health complications of FGM is estimated to cost health systems US\$ 1.4 billion per year, a number expected to rise unless urgent action is taken towards its abandonment.

From <<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>>

Global Initiatives Falling Short

1. SDG 5.3: Target to end FGM by 2030 requires 27x faster progress in MENA/Asia⁷.
 2. CEDAW/CRC: Only 4/94 FGM-practicing countries face sanctions for non-compliance⁷.
 3. Funding Crisis:
 - MENA receives <2% of global anti-FGM funding despite 6 million cases⁷.
 - Asia's \$0.18 per capita spending vs. Africa's \$2.10⁵.
- Case Study: The Asia Network to End FGM/C (launched 2019) connects activists across 10+ countries but operates on a \$500k annual budget – insufficient for region-wide impact⁵.

From <https://www.perplexity.ai/search/i-m-taking-part-in-mun-in-uncs-vnljxRrkQOSlISWNZI_H9w>

Combating FGM in the Middle East and Asia: Unique Solutions and Recent Incidents

As a delegate in the UNCSC (United Nations Commission on the Status of Women) committee, addressing FGM requires solutions aligned with the commission's mandate to promote gender equality and eliminate harmful practices. Below are unique strategies and recent incidents highlighting the urgency of action:

Unique Solutions

4. Legal Framework Strengthening:
 - Enact Specific Laws: Encourage countries like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to adopt specific anti-FGM laws, similar to Indonesia's 2023 criminalization.
 - Cross-Border Protections: Develop legal frameworks to address cross-border FGM practices, ensuring perpetrators cannot escape accountability.
5. Community Engagement:
 - Engage Religious Leaders: Collaborate with religious figures to debunk myths linking FGM to religious practices. In Egypt, imams have been instrumental in changing community perceptions.
 - Empower Women and Girls: Support education and economic empowerment initiatives that reduce vulnerability to FGM. Higher education is linked to lower support for FGM.
6. Healthcare Interventions:
 - Prevent Medicalization: Train healthcare workers to prevent FGM medicalization and provide comprehensive care for survivors. UNFPA and UNICEF have enhanced healthcare responses through their joint program.
 - Survivor Support: Ensure access to psychological support and medical care for FGM survivors.
7. International Cooperation:
 - Global Partnerships: Leverage partnerships with organizations like UNFPA and UNICEF to mobilize resources and expertise. Their joint program is the largest global effort against FGM.
 - Funding for Grassroots Movements: Prioritize funding for local organizations working to change social norms and support survivors.
- Recent Incidents Highlighting Urgency
8. Indonesia's Criminalization: In 2023, Indonesia criminalized FGM, marking a significant legal step. However, enforcement challenges persist, with many cuts still performed by medical professionals.
9. Maldives' Legislative Progress: The Maldives amended its Penal Code in 2023 to criminalize FGM, following international pressure. This change reflects growing recognition of FGM as a human rights violation.
10. Egypt's "Dropped the Blade" Movement: This initiative has trained imams to speak out against FGM, contributing to a decline in support for the practice. Despite progress, 54% of households still support FGM.
11. Malaysia's Backlash: In 2024, Malaysia faced backlash against anti-FGM activists, with some jailed for speaking out. This highlights the challenges faced by advocates in regions where FGM is deeply entrenched.
- Actionable Recommendations for UNCSC
12. Resolution on FGM: Propose a UNCSC resolution calling for increased international cooperation to end FGM, emphasizing the need for legal reforms and community engagement.

13. Funding Allocation: Advocate for dedicated funding within the UN system to support grassroots movements and survivor networks in the Middle East and Asia.
14. Global Awareness Campaigns: Organize global awareness campaigns to highlight the human rights violations associated with FGM, leveraging platforms like the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.

Sample Speech

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates,

Today, we address a profound human rights violation: Female Genital Mutilation. Despite progress, FGM remains a stark reality for millions in the Middle East and Asia. As members of the UNCSC, we must act decisively.

We urge countries without specific anti-FGM laws to enact them immediately. Community engagement is crucial; we must empower women and girls through education and economic opportunities. Healthcare systems must be strengthened to prevent medicalization and support survivors.

Recent incidents in Indonesia and the Maldives show legal progress, but enforcement remains a challenge. In Egypt, grassroots movements have reduced support for FGM, yet much work remains.

Let us unite to end FGM. We propose a UNCSC resolution calling for increased international cooperation and dedicated funding for grassroots movements. Together, we can create a world where no girl or woman is subjected to this inhumane practice.

Thank you.

Key Dates and Reports

- February 6, 2025: International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.
- 2023: Indonesia criminalizes FGM.
- 2023: Maldives amends Penal Code to ban FGM.
- UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme: Delivering the Global Promise to End FGM by 2030.

From <https://www.perplexity.ai/search/i-m-taking-part-in-mun-in-uncs-vnljxRrkQOSlISWNZI_H9w>

Technological Interventions

15. Early Warning Systems: The Last Mile4D program in Kenya uses solar-powered technology and an online platform to monitor girls at risk of FGM. This approach includes education, monitoring, and crisis intervention components, such as hotlines and safe housing¹.
16. Digital Platforms for Reporting: Establishing digital platforms for reporting suspected FGM cases can enhance community surveillance and facilitate timely interventions.

Community-Led Initiatives

17. Engaging Religious Leaders: In many communities, religious leaders have significant influence. Engaging them to debunk myths linking FGM to religious practices has been effective in changing social norms³.
18. Empowering Women and Girls: Education and economic empowerment are crucial in reducing FGM. Higher education is linked to lower support for FGM, and empowering women can lead to a shift in family decisions².

Legal and Policy Reforms

19. Strengthening Legal Frameworks: Enacting and enforcing specific anti-FGM laws is essential. In countries like Burkina Faso, legal reforms have been instrumental in reducing FGM prevalence⁵.
20. Chain Approach: This method involves collaboration between various sectors (healthcare, law enforcement, education) to provide comprehensive prevention and protection services⁴.

Innovative Community Engagement

21. Alternative Rites of Passage: Initiatives like tree-planting ceremonies have been used as alternatives to FGM, symbolizing girls' transition to womanhood without harm¹.
22. Media Campaigns: Utilizing media to send unified messages against FGM can influence public opinion and reduce support for the practice³.

Recent Incidents Highlighting Urgency

23. Indonesia's Criminalization: Despite legal progress, enforcement challenges persist, with many cuts still performed by medical professionals¹.

24. Malaysia's Backlash: Anti-FGM activists face backlash, highlighting the need for continued advocacy and legal protections¹.

Actionable Recommendations

25. Scale Up Successful Programs: Expand initiatives like Last Mile4D to other regions, leveraging technology for real-time monitoring and intervention.
26. Strengthen International Cooperation: Enhance partnerships between governments, NGOs, and international organizations to ensure comprehensive support for anti-FGM efforts.

27. Empower Local Communities: Support community-led initiatives that engage religious leaders and empower women and girls to challenge FGM norms.

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates,

Today, we address a profound human rights violation: Female Genital Mutilation. Over 230 million girls and women worldwide have undergone

FGM, with a 15% increase since 2016, as reported by UNICEF in 2024¹². The largest burden lies in Africa, followed by over 80 million cases in Asia and 6 million in the Middle East¹².

In Asia, countries like Indonesia have criminalized FGM as of 2023, yet enforcement remains a challenge³. In the Middle East, Iraq's Kurdistan region has seen significant reductions in FGM prevalence through community-led initiatives³.

Sweden is committed to combating FGM. We have enacted strong laws and support international efforts like the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme. Globally, innovative solutions are emerging. For instance, Kenya's Last Mile4D program, launched in 2018, uses technology to monitor and prevent FGM, providing early warnings and support for at-risk girls.

To overcome FGM worldwide, we must:

28. Strengthen Legal Frameworks: Enact and enforce specific anti-FGM laws.
29. Empower Communities: Engage religious leaders and empower women and girls through education.
30. Enhance International Cooperation: Increase funding for grassroots movements and support global initiatives.

From <https://www.perplexity.ai/search/i-m-taking-part-in-mun-in-uncs-vnljxRrkQOSIIWNZI_H9w>

KENYA NYUMBA KUMI

Kenya's Nyumba Kumi initiative is a community policing strategy that has been utilized to enhance security and combat various social issues, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Here's an overview of the initiative and its application in addressing FGM:

Nyumba Kumi Overview

- Meaning: "Nyumba Kumi" translates to "ten houses" in Swahili. It is a neighborhood watch program where ten households form a unit, working together to monitor and report suspicious activities.
- Origins: The initiative was launched in response to security challenges in Kenya, including terrorism and interethnic clashes. It aims to foster community vigilance and cooperation with law enforcement.

Application in Combating FGM

31. Community Engagement: The Nyumba Kumi structure allows for community members to be actively involved in monitoring and reporting FGM practices. This grassroots approach helps identify at-risk girls and prevent FGM.
32. Legal Enforcement: In Kenya, FGM is criminalized under the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2011. Nyumba Kumi helps in enforcing this law by encouraging community members to report suspected cases.
33. Cultural Sensitivity: The initiative operates within existing community structures, making it culturally sensitive and more likely to be accepted and effective in rural areas where FGM is prevalent.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Challenges: While Nyumba Kumi has shown promise, there are challenges related to confusion about roles and responsibilities among community members and law enforcement. Some communities may view the initiative as an external imposition rather than a community-led effort.
- Opportunities: The initiative offers a platform for integrating anti-FGM efforts into broader community policing strategies. It can be scaled up and adapted in other regions to combat FGM effectively.

Recent Developments

In recent years, there has been an increased emphasis on utilizing Nyumba Kumi to combat FGM. Chiefs and local leaders have been directed to leverage this initiative to eradicate FGM by enhancing community surveillance and reporting mechanisms.

Sample Speech

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates,

Today, we discuss innovative solutions to combat Female Genital Mutilation. Kenya's Nyumba Kumi initiative offers a promising approach. This community policing strategy empowers local communities to monitor and report FGM practices, enhancing enforcement of anti-FGM laws.

By integrating Nyumba Kumi into broader anti-FGM efforts, we can leverage community vigilance to protect at-risk girls. This model can be adapted globally, fostering community-led initiatives that respect local cultures while challenging harmful practices.

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Role of International Treaties in Influencing Legal Reforms for Women's Rights

International treaties have played a pivotal role in shaping legal reforms for women's rights globally. These treaties provide a framework for countries to adopt and implement laws that promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women.

Key Treaties and Their Impact

1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):
 - Adoption and Ratification: Adopted in 1979, CEDAW is one of the most widely ratified human rights treaties, with nearly all countries endorsing it.
 - Provisions: CEDAW outlines state obligations to eliminate discrimination against women in all areas, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural fields. It emphasizes the importance of legal reforms to achieve substantive equality[25](#).
 - Influence on Legal Reforms: CEDAW has influenced legal reforms by encouraging countries to enact laws that protect women's rights. For example, many countries have amended their constitutions to include provisions on gender equality, such as the principle of non-discrimination[1](#).
2. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:
 - Adoption: Adopted in 1995, this platform sets forth a comprehensive agenda for women's empowerment and gender equality.
 - Impact: It has been instrumental in guiding national policies and legal reforms to address gender-based violence, economic empowerment, and political participation[1](#).
3. Regional Treaties:
 - Maputo Protocol: Adopted by the African Union in 2003, this protocol supplements the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights by providing specific protections for women's rights in Africa. It has led to significant legal reforms in many African countries[1](#).
 - ECOWAS and SADC Treaties: These regional agreements have also contributed to legal reforms by promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in West and Southern Africa[1](#).

Mechanisms for Influence

1. Reporting Mechanisms: Treaties like CEDAW require states to submit periodic reports on their implementation progress. This process helps identify gaps and encourages countries to reform their laws to align with treaty obligations[4](#).

2. International Pressure and Cooperation: The ratification of international treaties often leads to international pressure and cooperation, which can motivate countries to enact and enforce gender-sensitive laws.
3. Judicial and Legislative Reforms: Treaties have influenced judicial decisions and legislative reforms by providing a framework for interpreting national laws in line with international human rights standards[3](#).

Challenges and Future Directions

- Implementation Gaps: Despite widespread ratification, many countries struggle with implementing treaty obligations due to cultural, legal, and political barriers.
- Plural Legal Systems: In some regions, customary or religious laws may conflict with treaty obligations, requiring additional efforts to ensure that gender equality provisions are enforced[1](#).

Sample Speech

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates,

Today, we discuss the pivotal role of international treaties in shaping legal reforms for women's rights. Treaties like CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration have been instrumental in guiding national policies towards gender equality.

These treaties have influenced legal reforms by encouraging countries to enact laws that protect women's rights. However, challenges persist in implementing these obligations due to cultural and legal barriers.

Let us strengthen international cooperation and support countries in aligning their laws with treaty obligations. Together, we can create a world where women's rights are respected and protected across cultures.

Thank you.

Key Dates and Reports

- 1979: Adoption of CEDAW.
- 1995: Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- 2003: Adoption of the Maputo Protocol.

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SOLUTIONS

Virtual Reality Training for Legal Professionals

4. Enhancing Empathy and Understanding:

- VR Simulations: Develop VR modules that simulate real-life legal scenarios involving gender-based violence. These simulations can enhance empathy and understanding among legal professionals by allowing them to experience cases from the victim's perspective.
- Realistic Environments: Create immersive environments that replicate courtrooms, negotiation rooms, or law firms. This helps trainees practice their skills in realistic settings, improving their ability to handle complex legal challenges.

5. Customization and Accessibility:

- Tailored Training: VR training can be customized to meet the specific needs of legal professionals. This includes adjusting the level of difficulty and the types of legal scenarios presented to match the trainee's skills and learning objectives.
- Accessibility: VR technology allows for flexible learning opportunities that can be accessed remotely, overcoming geographical barriers and ensuring that professionals worldwide can benefit from high-quality training.

6. Implementation Steps:

- Development Phase: Collaborate with legal experts and VR developers to design and develop the training modules.
- Pilot Testing: Conduct pilot tests with a small group of legal professionals to refine the modules based on feedback.
- Rollout and Evaluation: Implement the VR training widely and continuously evaluate its effectiveness in enhancing legal professionals' skills and empathy.

Global Women's Rights Index

7. Tracking Progress:

- Comprehensive Framework: Develop a comprehensive index that tracks countries' progress on women's rights across various dimensions, including legal reforms, economic empowerment, and social inclusion.
- Data Collection: Gather data from multiple sources, including government reports, NGOs, and international organizations, to ensure a robust and accurate assessment.

8. Guiding Policy Decisions:

- Policy Framework: Use the index to guide policy decisions by identifying areas needing improvement and informing investments in initiatives that support gender equality.
- International Cooperation: Facilitate international cooperation by providing a standardized framework for comparing progress across countries.

9. Implementation Steps:

- Index Development: Establish a team of experts to design the index framework and indicators.
- Data Collection and Analysis: Collect and analyze data from participating countries.
- Reporting and Feedback: Publish annual reports and provide feedback to countries on their progress.

Crowdsourced Legal Reform Platforms

10. Participatory Approach:

- Online Platforms: Create online platforms where citizens can contribute to drafting and refining legal reforms related to women's rights. This participatory approach ensures that laws reflect community needs and values.
- Inclusive Lawmaking: Engage diverse stakeholders, including women's rights organizations and community leaders, to foster more inclusive and effective legal reforms.

11. Digital Accessibility:

- Accessibility Features: Ensure that platforms are accessible to a wide range of users, including those with disabilities, by incorporating features like text-to-speech functionality and high contrast modes.
- Security Measures: Implement robust security measures to protect user data and ensure that contributions are anonymous if desired.

12. Implementation Steps:

- Platform Development: Develop user-friendly platforms that allow for easy submission and review of legal reform proposals.
- Community Engagement: Promote the platforms through social media and community outreach to encourage participation.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Establish mechanisms for users to provide feedback on proposed reforms and track the progress of their contributions.

Sample Speech

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates,

Today, we discuss innovative solutions to advance women's rights. I propose developing VR training modules for legal professionals to enhance empathy and understanding of survivors' experiences. This immersive technology can revolutionize judicial training by providing realistic simulations of gender-based violence cases.

Additionally, let us establish a Global Women's Rights Index to track progress and guide policy decisions. This index will facilitate international cooperation and ensure that investments support gender equality.

Lastly, we must create crowdsourced legal reform platforms that engage citizens in drafting and refining laws related to women's rights. This participatory approach ensures that laws reflect community needs and values.

Together, we can create a world where women's rights are respected and protected across cultures.

Thank you.

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