

FORUM: Human Rights Council

QUESTION OF: Ensuring the Upholding of Women's Rights Globally

MAIN SUBMITTER: Mexico

CO-SUBMITTERS: Benin, Côte D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Vietnam, United Kingdom,

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

Acknowledging the challenges faced by women and girls worldwide which include gender-based violence, lack of access to education, economic inequality, and underrepresentation in leadership positions,

Recognizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as the fundamental frameworks for ensuring women's rights,

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, which calls for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

Emphasising the importance of international cooperation to ensure education, and economic opportunities and equal treatment of women,

1. **Encourages** all member states to strengthen policies and legal protections that uphold women's rights through means such as but not limited to;
 - a) Reviewing and amending already existing legal frameworks to eliminate gender-based discrimination, especially in areas such as:
 - i) Property ownership, inheritance, and land rights,
 - ii) Access to credit and employment,
 - iii) Personal status laws regarding marriage, divorce, and custody;
 - b) Ensuring stricter penalties for crimes such as domestic violence and sexual assault through means such as but not limited to:
 - i) Establishing fast-track courts or special tribunals to handle gender-based violence cases with urgency and sensitivity,
 - ii) Mandating victim and trauma-informed training for judges and prosecutors handling such cases,
 - iii) Enforcing mandatory reporting and monitoring systems for repeat offenders;
2. **Promoting** equal access to education and economic opportunities for women through means such as, but not limited to:

- a) Expanding educational programs focused on gender equality, including:
 - i) Scholarships and financial assistance for girls and women in primary, secondary, and higher education, development of gender-inclusive curricula that challenge harmful gender stereotypes,
- b) Support for adult literacy and vocational training programs tailored for women.
- c) Encouraging women's financial inclusion through initiatives such as, but not limited to:
 - i) Equal pay policies and labour laws that protect women from workplace discrimination,
 - ii) Microfinance programs to support female entrepreneurs,
 - iii) Digital banking access to facilitate women's participation in economic activities,
 - iv) Public-private partnerships that promote job training and career development for women;

3. **Calls for** the establishment of a United Nations (UN) led initiative to monitor and address violations of women's rights, in collaboration with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), by:

- a) Conducting annual status reports on the state of women's rights globally;
- b) Providing legal and financial assistance to victims of gender-based violence;
- c) Establishing 24/7 emergency helplines and shelters for survivors of domestic violence and rape;
- d) Increasing law enforcement training to effectively respond to and prevent gender-based crimes;
- e) Implementing awareness campaigns to challenge harmful cultural norms and stereotypes;

4. **Encouraging** the Strengthening and Enforcement of Legal Frameworks for Women's Rights through means such as, but not limited to:

- a) Collaboration with international bodies, including but not limited to:
 - i) The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women),
 - ii) The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee,
 - iii) Regional human rights courts and institutions.
- b) The implementation of national policies ensuring gender equality through measures such as, but not limited to:
 - i) Strengthening anti-discrimination laws in education, employment, and healthcare,

- ii) Enforcing penalties for gender-based violence (GBV) and other violations of women's rights,
- iii) Ensuring legal aid and protection services for women facing discrimination or abuse,
- iv) Regular review and amendment of laws to align with international human rights agreements;

5. Encouraging Financial and Technical Support from MEDCs to LEDCs to Advance Women's Rights through means such as, but not limited to:

- a) Establishing international funding mechanisms, including:
 - i) Dedicated grants for LEDCs to implement gender equality programs,
 - ii) Low-interest loans and financial aid to support women's economic empowerment,
 - iii) Increased official development assistance (ODA) specifically allocated for women's rights,
- b) Expanding educational opportunities for women and girls in LEDCs through:
 - i) Scholarships funded by MEDCs for girls from disadvantaged backgrounds,
 - ii) Infrastructure support, such as building schools and training centres
 - iii) Providing free digital learning tools and resources to improve literacy and STEM education,
 - iv) Teacher training programs focused on gender-sensitive education;

6. Demands all member states to recognize reproductive autonomy as a fundamental human right through means such as;

- a) Establishing legal safeguards that protect individuals' right to reproductive autonomy, ensuring that personal choices regarding contraception, abortion, and family planning remain free from external influence and/or restriction, through:
 - i) Decriminalization of abortion in all cases where a pregnant individual's health, or safety is at risk,
 - ii) Implementation of clear, patient-centred consent policies in reproductive healthcare,
 - iii) Elimination of restrictive policies that hinder reproductive healthcare access;

7. Urges all member states to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate child marriage by means such as, but not limited to:

- a) Enforcing minimum age requirements for marriage in line with international standards,
- b) Implementing community-based awareness programs to change cultural perceptions,

- c) Strengthening legal enforcement by prosecuting individuals who facilitate and/or engage in child marriage, including husbands, family members, and religious or traditional leaders who authorize such unions,
- d) Ensuring adequate protection and support for the victims;

8. Reaffirms that access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is essential to the realization of women's rights and sustainable development, and:

- a) Encourages States to ensure universal access to:
 - i) Safe and affordable contraception;
 - ii) Comprehensive sexuality education in schools;
 - iii) Skilled maternal and obstetric care, especially in rural areas;
- b) Requests that development partners increase funding to SRHR programs, particularly through:
 - i) Contributions to multilateral mechanisms such as the Global Financing Facility and UNFPA;
 - ii) Support for feminist civil society organizations in the Global South;

9. Calls for the protection of women's rights in conflict and post-conflict zones through means such as:

- a) Ensuring the prevention of sexual gender-based violence.
- b) Providing trauma counseling and medical assistance to survivors.
- c) Increasing the presence of female peacekeepers in UN peacekeeping missions.
- d)