

ASP MUN CONFERENCE



UN Commission on the Status of Women:

**Discussion of Regional Labor Rights for Women
Across the Globe**

Chair Letter:

Hi everyone!

As the chair of this year's UN Commission on the Status of Women Committee, I just wanted to say that I am very excited and eager to embark on this new endeavor with all of you! I know the prospect of a new committee that has never been done in an ASPMUN conference seems daunting, but myself and my vice chair will be here to guide you every step of the way. We will also be holding additional training/information sessions regarding this committee and how exactly it will be conducted, so you will all be sufficiently prepared in time for the conference. Again, I am very excited to chair this committee, and can't wait for this upcoming conference! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (fufumansour06@gmail.com) or my vice chair (Janna Jihad - janna.jihad@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

-Falasteen Mansour

Background on the UN Commission on the Status of Women Committee:

This United Nations organization began its mission to advance the rights of women when the UN itself was founded, in 1947. There are many subcommittees within the general umbrella of this branch, with many focuses such as gender equality and preventing domestic violence. Our particular UN Women Committee will focus on Labor Rights for women across the world. Labor Rights include equal pay, safe working conditions, and measures to prevent harassment in the workplace for all working women. Women in all regions of the world face horrible conditions while working, and this problem is often overlooked by major policies and politicians. Our committee will focus on coming up with reasonable and diplomatic solutions for labor issues regarding women, which will hopefully lead to a broader understanding of women's rights overall.

Information on Regional Labor Issues:

Western/European Region:

Western countries such as the US and the UK, as well as many European countries, are usually assumed to have little to no women's rights issues when that is not the case. Regarding labor rights, women in the US often face pay inequality, and also have to deal with cases of harassment at their workplace. Across the Western world, there is still embedded misogyny throughout the industrial and labor space, making it more difficult for women to move up the corporate ladder.

South American/Central American Region:

South and Central America also have a significant gender pay gap in many of their industries, as well as having to face unsafe working conditions in some cases. Many economies of countries in this region are struggling, making it even more difficult for women to keep up with their living expenses. There are also violence and harassment concerns within this region, especially for women who work in the industrial sector, where rules and regulations are often overlooked.

East Asian/ South Asian Region:

Generally, Pacific Asian countries "have" laws that protect women's rights, promote equality, and protect women from discrimination. But, the extent of the application of these laws on the ground varies between countries. There are so many factors that come into play when trying to understand this issue including stereotypes, poverty, conservatism, traditions, religion, social classes, overpopulation, climate, conflicts, violence, human trafficking issues, harassment, and many more.

Additionally, this region of the world has the biggest industries and factories, and there have been many controversies surrounding the applied ethics in these spaces concerning Labor rights especially (lower-class) Women's labor rights.

Issues of women's representation and inclusivity (rates compared to men in workplaces - taking opportunities and restrictions into account) are on the rise as well.

SWANA (South West Asia and North Africa) :

Fun fact- the “Middle East” is an inaccurate and colonial term. Use SWANA instead.

The SWANA region is unique because it's one rich in raw materials (crucial to building a successful industrial plan) which makes it really attractive to other foreign and colonial powers. This is a region filled with conflicts and a well-established patriarchal system, and women are the ones that get oppressed by all these harmful systems all at once.

Legally, many countries in the region have adopted and signed conventions related to women's rights to eradicate discrimination and establish equality and justice.

But, how many of these conventions are actually applied? And how many violations of women's rights are extremely “legal” and normalized?

Women are misrepresented especially in the industrial -work- sector, and they are hardly given the same opportunities as men.

Some countries have adopted laws as extreme as not allowing women to work without their husband's permission, and others have it a lot easier.

This is a region with shared (general) values. And, this is an issue linked to history, colonialism, patriarchy, culture, law, accountability, “family values”, power, shame, poverty, dominance, violence, harassment, and much more.

HELPFUL LINKS:

<https://laborrights.org/issues/women%E2%80%99s-rights>

For Western region:

https://www.ilo.org/washington/areas/gender-equality-in-the-workplace/WCMS_159496/lang--en/index.htm

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/women-labour-market-work-life-balance/womens-situation-labour-market_en#stereotypes

<https://www.socialeurope.eu/gender-equality-focus-on-the-world-of-work#:~:text=According%20to%20EU%20data%2C%20in,the%20persistent%20gender%20pay%20gap.>

For south and central america:

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2015/POWW-2015-FactSheet-LatinAmericaCaribbean-en.pdf>

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---actrav/documents/publication/wcms_810063.pdf

For South East Asia:

<https://www.asiapacificforum.net/support/human-rights/women-and-girls/>

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_897987.pdf

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new_delhi/documents/publication/wcms_233096.pdf

<https://www.iwraw-ap.org/9-must-read-articles-on-womens-labour-rights/>

For SWANA:

<https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/women-at-work-in-the-arab-world-trends-gaps-and-effects-on-the-region/>

<https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/womens-labor-force-participation-middle-east>

https://www.ilo.org/beirut/areasofwork/equality-discrimination/WCMS_712089/lang--en/index.htm

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/07/18/middle-east-and-north-africa-end-curbs-womens-mobility>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/03/07/the-state-of-womens-rights-in-the-arab-world>