

Country: Ukraine

Committee: UNWOMEN

Agenda Item: Women on Governance and National Planning, Promoting Gender Equality in the Digital Age

Gender inequality is an issue that women have been facing for centuries. Even though women should have the same rights as men, women have been discriminated against and ignored throughout history. Social pressure, stereotypical cultural norms, and lack of education can be given as causes of discrimination against women. In recent decades, the world has been trying to overcome discrimination against women and girls which is a significant issue for a sustainable world. It is substantial for women, who make up half of the world population, to be in governance and national planning. Representation of women is crucial for combating gender discrimination. Women should be encouraged to be in governance and national planning. To overcome gender inequality issues, women should be more involved in life. In today's world life continues in the digital world. Despite technology being an instrument for women to access the world, show their abilities, and seek their rights, the digital age has come with obstacles and challenges for women. Being restricted by their family, illiteracy, stereotypical thoughts, being abused online, and the heightened risk of cyber violence against women and children can be instances of obstacles and challenges. As a result of the low participation of women in the STEM field, women can't access technology, are sexualized and weak in games and the internet, and feel inadequate for STEM.

Ukraine thinks gender inequality and discrimination against women and girls is a nonignorable issue. Ukraine gives great importance to gender equality. According to the Constitution of Ukraine's Article 24 'Citizens shall have equal constitutional rights and freedoms and shall be equal before the law. There shall be no privileges or restrictions based on race, skin color, political, religious, and other beliefs, sex, ethnic and social origin, property status, place of residence, linguistic or other characteristics. Equality of the rights of women and men shall be ensured by providing women with opportunities equal to those of men in public, political, and cultural activity, in obtaining education and in professional training, in work and remuneration for it; by special measures for the protection of work and health of women; by establishing pension privileges; by creating conditions that allow women to combine work and motherhood; by legal protection, material and moral support of motherhood and childhood, including the provision of paid leaves and other privileges to pregnant women and mothers.'. Also, Ukraine adopted the law "On Amending Certain Legislative Acts to Provide Mother and Father with Equal Opportunities to Take Care of Their Child" on 9th of May 2021. After Russia attacked Ukraine on 24th of February 2022; women and girls have been experiencing difficult times. Ukraine has been collaborating with the UN to provide gender equality. According to the World Economic Forum's 2023 Global Gender Gap Report, Ukraine ranked 66th out of 146 countries and increased its ranking by 15 places compared to 2022. The number of women members of Parliament increased from 12% to 20.5% in the 2019 elections. Women are 28% of members of regional councils and about one-third of members of district and city councils. Olena Kondratiuk, the co-founder of the UWC (Ukrainian Women's Congress), indicated that the list of more than 450 professions that were prohibited to women was canceled and the law on equal rights and opportunities for men and women in military service was adopted. Olena Kondratiuk said 'Gender quotas in

party election lists have been set at 40%. The Istanbul Convention was adopted. Responsibility for domestic and gender-based violence has been strengthened.’ at the 7th Ukrainian Women’s Congress.

Ukraine believes education and raising public awareness is crucial for providing gender equality. The most significant way to combat gender inequality is to eliminate social pressure and stereotypical cultural norms with education and awareness. We propose adding political literacy and digital literacy to the school curriculum as compulsory subjects. Also, gender quotas in political parties and having female candidates in every three elections should be obligatory. Education and access to materials are significant for increasing girls including inside STEM and esports field. We propose to establish a fund called ‘Access World!’ to procure internet, electronic devices, and STEM education for girls all around the world. But Ukraine believes the most outstanding thing is education. Engrain gender equality in person since children are the best way to extirpate gender inequality and discrimination against women and girls.

Bibliography:

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