Cleveland-Spring Conference
2019

Position Papers for:

Commission for the Status of Women
The delegation from Belgium
Represented by: Rocky River High School

Position Paper from the Committee of Commission on the Status of Women
The cases for the Commission on the Status of Women are Women’s Rights During Times of Crisis and Empowerment of women in rural areas. The Delegation of Belgium is ready to protect women during times of wars and other catastrophic events. The Delegation of Belgium is also ready to help women in rural areas receive education, enforce fair gender laws, and protect women.

I. Women’s Rights During Times of Crisis

The delegation of Belgium along with the other countries of the world have all at one point in time been in crisis. All of these crises have affected the women of countries all over the world. It is of a dire need to help these women grow and rebuild their lives in a way that ensures safety.

The Delegation from Belgium in the past signed the Beijing Declaration, in which Belgium along with many other countries agreed for a plan of action in which outlines steps for equality, and world peace. Belgium has also worked with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to help stop gender discrimination, and since working with the committees in the early 1990s has brought gender discrimination to the forefront in politics. As well as prioritizing helping women in domestically abusive relationships and trafficking victims, showing their undoubted support for women in crisis, and how much they need help.

Belgium is taking action now. They have made a twenty-five act commitment to stop gender discrimination, and with that helping women in crisis. Belgium will work with UN women to implement new legislatures to help protect women and stop discrimination across all governments. Belgium will also be raising more awareness for on gender discrimination, women in crisis, and the consequences discrimination holds. This will be the sixth national plan that will help combat violence against women, both domestic and gender-based violence. This plan, 50-50 by 2030, will help women in crisis all over the world, by bringing awareness to them and the discrimination that they all face, as well as presenting new legislatures to prevent discrimination, and women being taken advantage of.

II. Empowerment of Rural Women

The Delegation of Belgium recognizes that women make up close to half the population yet some still lack basic skills in rural countries. Because women in rural areas never learned simple skills such as reading, basic math, and multiple languages they are unable to help support their families by working. The Delegation of Belgium relates this lack of skills to gender-based roles and the stereotypes they come with.

The Delegation of Belgium has taken steps in the past to ensure women in rural areas a role in the future. During the 2012 United Nations meeting Belgium, along with other countries, sponsored a workshop to educate fellow countries on problems such as the role genders play in society and women's education. In 2015, Belgium committed to twenty-five policies within and without of their country. Those policies helped to ensure women's safety, gender equality,
women’s education, and much more. The top priorities for Belgium were to create global awareness of the issues surrounding women’s rights in rural areas. Finally, in 2016, Belgium and other UN leaders signed the Framework Arrangement which helps ensure that Belgium will play a major role in rural women’s lives.

The Delegation of Belgium is prepared to move forward toward a brighter future for women in rural areas. When Belgium signed the Framework Arrangement in 2016 they committed to futures for women in rural areas. Right now they are looking at new education facilities, an increase in security, and gender equality. The Delegation of Belgium in hoping in 2030 the United Nations will have an Agenda for a Sustainable Development Plan.
Delegation from: Canada  
Represented by: Beachwood High School

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The issues for deliberation presented before the Commission on the Status of Women includes; Maternal Rights of Women and the Empowerment of Rural Women. The government of Canada is not only open to strong deliberation between member states, but is ready to become a leader to create comprehensive lasting solutions to the issues at hand.

I. Maternal Rights of Women

The issue of the maternal rights of women is an important one in that all human beings biologically have had and will have a mother. It is for this reason morally repugnant that so many countries across the globe continue to refuse new mothers the healthcare, aid, and workplace protections they deserve. This issue is neither exclusive to the sphere of underdeveloped nations nor is it exclusive to the western world. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, 920 mothers die in sub-Saharan Africa for every 10,000 successful childbirths. This is the highest maternal mortality rate on the planet, and providing mothers in the region medical assistance is humanitarily imperative. The United States, ever inflated in its airs of exceptionalism, fails its mothers sincerely too. The states have no federally mandated system to guarantee new mothers paid leave, nor does the government directly involve itself in the financing of a child’s effects, as many European nations do. The mothers of both the western world and of the third world require our immediate attention.

In Canada, every mother is allowed a 17 to 52 week paid maternity leave, and are guaranteed their same position and same benefits after their leave is over. What’s more, financial assistance is provided to new mothers, and parents can split the paid leave between the two of them in any manner they see fit. What is more, Canada acknowledges the marginalization of women born outside her borders, and maintains that social and legal equality to men should, and indeed must, be enjoyed by every woman across the globe. Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy maintains that the birthright of every human is gender equality, and encourages the citizens of Canada to take strides to propagote gender equality abroad, to developing nations. It is therefore ever important to Canada that their standards of maternal rights be upheld in every nation.

The delegation of Canada presents a multifaceted, universal program that grants new mothers justice. The first facet of the program would work to educate new mothers abroad to the usefulness of various methods of birth control, as well as the processes of sexual reproduction from a feminist, sex-positive position. Additionally, the program would encourage microfinance initiatives to build hospitals and transport midwives in the third world. Finally, the program would lobby the governments of participating nations to implement federal protections for the paid leave and financial support of mothers. Through the lens of the civil rights of women, it will be established that every government must grant to its people a set amount of paid maternity leave.

II: The Empowerment of Rural Women

For years Canada has remained dedicated towards the belief that empowering women throughout the world is central to realizing women’s rights and creating gender equality. Across the world, female participation in the workforce has hovered below the 40% mark. The Canadian government firmly believes that this figure is due to the lack of a proper education that is too often withheld from many women across the world, especially rural women. We must not only address this issue but also create a lasting framework to not only provide aid to rural women, but set them on a path for education and eventually help them create a lasting impact on the world’s workforce.
Holding to the beliefs that having strong women in the workforce would help create both a stronger economy and a stronger nation, Canada has created hundreds of outreach programs dedicated to improving the status of rural women both at home and abroad. To achieve these goals, the government of Canada stands firmly in the belief that allow for the empowerment of rural women, education is a key factor. Without providing for an education for rural women, their situation will only remain stagnant, however if provided with a form of education, they could become an integral part of both the local and international workforce. Keeping true to this belief, Canada has firmly supported resolution A/RES/70/132. In relation to clause 1, subclause aa, Canada has already established programs across the world to combat the problem of discriminatory practices within the education section, which is largely prevalent in underdeveloped nations along with areas embroiled in armed conflicts. Within the country of Columbia, Canada has dedicated resources towards creating assistance in three main areas; human dignity (including rural education) and growth that works for everyone (which economic empowerment for rural women and underemployed youth). As a result of the Canadian government’s efforts in Columbia, Canada has improved access to education to over 25,000 children and youth, of which 53% of those were women and girls, many of which were living in some of Colombia’s most conflict-affected rural areas. On top of providing an education to the youth of Columbia, Canada’s investments into rural development has allowed for the economic empowerment of over 7,000 rural women. Notwithstanding to Comumbia, Canada has increased its global push for the empowerment of rural women all across the world, to traditionally underdeveloped areas within the nations of Nicaragua, Ukraine, Peru, and South Sudan. Thus, Canada’s continuing mission across the world in relation to rural women is to first provide a quality education, then to assist in economic empowerment.

The Canadian government firmly believes that enabling to create a strong and stable world, both economically and socially, it is a necessity to aid in the empowerment of rural women. As part of our firm conviction in providing education to the traditionally underserved female youth of rural areas, Canada believes that with increased programs such as the ones that Canada has established in Columbia, Nicaragua, Ukraine, and a plethora of other countries, we can move to quickly address the status of women in rural areas.
Delegation from: The Republic of Colombia  
Represented by: Beachwood High School

Position paper on the Status of Women (CSW)
The issues for deliberation before the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) include Maternal Rights of Women and Empowerment of Rural Women. The Republic of Colombia is dedicated to resolve both of the issues posed and would be willing to work with other nations to come to an agreement on the pressing issues.

I. Maternal Rights of Women

Discrimination against women permeates all societies. This discrimination requires urgent action and applies to maternal rights, including factors such as access to abortion, birth control, and healthcare. Worldwide, 214 million women want, but lack access to contraception and more than 800 women die daily from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. In December 1996, “Roundtable of Human Rights Treaty Bodies on the Human Rights Approaches to Women’s Health with a Focus on Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights” brought to attention the human rights perspective of women’s health issues, with a focus on women’s reproductive and sexual health. In the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, reproductive rights were stated to consist of separate human rights that are already recognized in national and international law. Still, females around the world, especially those living in poverty, face restricted or no access to information and services about their reproductive health and right due to blocks such as discrimination and restrictive laws.

The Republic of Colombia believes that reproductive rights are fundamental to women’s health and equality and that States Parties’ commitment to ensuring them should receive attention. In 2006, abortion became legal throughout Colombia. PROFAMILIA is a non-profit, nongovernmental association created at a time when there were almost no contraceptives available and the average number of children per woman in Colombia was seven. The organization provides education, information and services in family planning to low income women who had no access to such services. Through PROFAMILIA, the number of women seeking information and access to contraceptives increased rapidly from 83 during the last semester of 1965 to almost 23,000 only two years later, and that number has been growing. New services were then incorporated into the program, including treatment of infertility, cervical cancer diagnosis and general gynecological services. This list kept growing, and today PROFAMILIA provides diagnosis and treatment of the full range of sexual and reproductive health related issues.

Colombia recognized that the problem at hand is a multifaceted, but Colombia is ready to put forth an efficient and far reaching solution that will help resolve the issue of Maternal Rights of Women. To effectively produce a sustainable and peaceful solution, people (with an emphasis on females) should be educated regarding the rights of women worldwide from a young age. This is to be done through both public and private education systems that will require courses that involve information regarding women’s reproductive rights. Furthermore, Colombia recommends the increase of general education for women worldwide, thereby decreasing the global crude birth rate to provide for sustainable population growth as well as improve living conditions, especially in developing countries. Next, rights of women, especially to giving birth and to choosing not to give birth, are to be recognized worldwide as human rights. Columbia recognizes that in order to ensure every country respects these rights, a meeting must be held every five years in order for countries to discuss the rights of women. Finally, Colombia strongly advises the legalization of abortion in order to provide freedom for women worldwide.

II. Empowerment of Rural Women
Rural women play a fundamental role in ensuring the metamorphic economic, social and environmental changes required for substantial development. However, rural women face a plethora of challenges included but not limited to lack of access to credit, education, and healthcare. The challenges they face are further aggravated by global economic and food crisis as well as climate change. Although rural women play a pivotal role in the global atmosphere societies tend to downplay the importance of rural women. The empowerment of these women is the key to not only the well being of these individuals, as well as there communities but also overall economic productivity, as women make up a large amount of the agricultural workforce. The education and eventual assimilation of rural women into the labor force could stimulate the economy and provide for overall social development. However the moving target to hit is that an overwhelming amount of rural women are illiterate and possess great difficulty when trying to learn as lack of access to information is a prevalent problem.

Women’s empowerment has steadily been rising Colombia in the past few years. In rural areas, more than three-quarters of children in primary education go on to the next grade compared to almost 90 percent in urban areas. Between 1989 and 2011, girls’ completion of lower secondary school increased from 37 percent to 94 percent. Girls’ education has led to increased participation in the workforce, growing from 30 percent to 43 percent between 1990 and 2012. Additionally, fertility rates have been reducing, with the average woman having two children in 2012. Thirty-two percent of the government’s cabinet was female, whereas in 1998 only 12 percent was. As part of the Peace Accords of 2016, Colombia returned land to female victims of its 50-year conflict, indicating progress for women’s empowerment in Colombia. As in the countryside, women are not aware of their land tenure rights and are often not included on land titles and deeds. Therefore, it is more difficult for them to prove their land tenure rights. Additionally, the government provided start-up incomes to many women and families to kick-start their agricultural pursuits. Many of these women were forcefully displaced during the conflict. The return of their land shows an indirect step towards progress and an acknowledgment of women’s importance in the national economy. Additionally the Colombian chapter of the Verification Mission has been one of the most successful in the world, with around 48 percent of the team made up of women. While this is an independent mission, it does collaborate with the Colombian government, creating a cohesive effort. Moreover Colubia has inforced the New School model which innovates traditional teaching practices in Colombia and has been doing so since the late 1970s, growing to cover more than two-thirds of Colombia’s rural education system. The model has effectively brought education to rural and misrepresented areas, made school affordable, fostered a team-building environment in students’ work, trained teachers to initiate and manage settings conducive to learning, and stimulated entrepreneurial teachings, modernized education skills and fostered leadership aptitudes among children.

The Republic of Colombia would like to reaffirm our willingness to collaborate with other nations in order to create a comprehensive plan to ensure the empowerment of rural women. This committee must come together to create a plan to confront the overwhelming amount of uneducated women. In order for this to happen, all nations must realize that providing education that if affordable will be a step in ensuring that rural women are effectively assimilate into the labor and is the next step to take to empower all of the world's rural women.
Delegation from: The Islamic Republic of Iran  
Represented by: St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

Position Paper for the Committee on the Status of Women

The topics presented to the Committee on the Status of Women are: Maternal Rights of Women and Empowerment of Rural Women. Iran is committed to promoting national sovereignty on the topic of women’s rights and would like for all nations to respect individual policies on women’s rights.

I. Maternal Rights of Women

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that Maternal Rights of Women is a truly important issue. This has been an issue since the beginning of humankind, and has changed over time. Maternal rights relating to the workplace have increased in prevalence, with countries seeing a large difference of anywhere from 90 days to 14 months. This issue has been addressed many times by the UN, including the United Nations Human Rights Council 2010 Resolution on maternal health. This resolution was following up on a similar 2009 resolution, both of which focused on support and advocacy programs. Iran entitles women to 12 weeks of leave with ⅔ of their salary and believes this is key to families.

Iran has worked closely on many international documents on this subject. Iran ratified both previously mentioned resolutions, under the condition that they be applied in way that conforms with the Islamic law of the country. Iranian law gives women employees 12 weeks with ⅔ of their salary, which is considered key to developing strong Muslim families. In Iran, this has worked as the mortality rate for children under 5 is 10.7 deaths for each 1,000 infants. Iran is committed also to informing women on their responsibility of caring for children through many outreach programs in association with Islamic organizations.

Iran is looking forward to collaborating with other nations to ensure positive progress is made on this issue. Iran believes that it is key to address the root causes of some of the problems associated with maternal rights of women. Iran also believes national sovereignty is key in this issue and countries should be allowed to consider this issue individually in order to ensure positive execution in each countries. For all of these reasons, Iran is very excited to debate this issue and work to ensure that reproductive rights around the world are respected.

II. Empowerment of Rural Women
The Islamic Republic of Iran has been making strides in women’s education in the last 10 years. For the safety of women, there have been restrictions put in place on jobs and some forms of education. To advance the country marriage is also highly suggested. At many universities, the classes are women dominate and Iran believes that they are doing enough for women’s rights and education. Other countries could possibly take from example and see if any solutions in Iran would be beneficial for them. Iran feels that this is not the most important issue to be discussed at this time given the safety precautions we already have in place.

Iran has many policies and points about this topic like the mandatory family classes for women who are looking to get married or already married. Those classes will help them become the best and most prosperous family they can become. Women who are married cannot hold specific jobs if they have children for the safety and wellbeing of their family. Most Iranian universities are women dominated given 42% of women who take a university entrance exam continue their education to the 29% of men. Going through a four year university has showed delayed starts to families and this delays the development of the country.

Iran believes that our policies are in the best interest of women and of helping develop our country. With help of other participating nations this committee can come to an agreement that is applicable to all countries of the world. Iran is very devoted to national sovereignty and that is a very pressing topic within this committee that can easily be addressed to the agreement of all countries.
Delegation from: the Republic of Iraq  
Represented by: Mayfield High School

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The commission on the Status of Women faces two major dilemmas that the council will attempt to address, these issues are: maternal rights of women and the empowerment of women living in rural areas. The Republic of Iraq is devoted to improving the lives of women in our country, but the Republic of Iraq also wishes to honor sharia law and obey the rules set forth by the Quran. The Republic of Iraq desires a solution to these problems that does not violate Iraq’s principles or a nation’s sovereignty.

I. Maternal Rights of Women

Maternal rights have continuously been pushed aside throughout history. It is in recent years that these rights are being crafted into law. The UN has made efforts to enforce and protect maternal rights since its creation. The rights of mothers are a serious issue across the world. Most developed countries abide to the precedents declared by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet many developing and undeveloped countries do not. The Republic of Iraq understands the issues of women, yet also would like to reaffirm the necessity for Islamic law to govern the Republic of Iraq and to respect the sovereignty of other foreign nations.

The Republic of Iraq is committed to following the ideas and rules of the Quran and sharia law. The Republic of Iraq wishes to help and foster rights for women within the country. The Organization of Women’s Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) wishes to create more rights for women within Iraq. Iraq will not follow the demands of OWFI or any other group that attempts to violate sharia law. Maternal rights fall into the category of women's rights. UNICEF in 2011 reported that women’s rights in sharia law is discriminatory towards women in a human rights perspective. Iraq will not agree to any terms that would undermine or contradict sharia law even if they are presented by authorities such as the CSW or the UNHRC, Iraq has ignored these requests in the past due to violation of sharia law and will continue to oppose requests that violate sharia law.

The Republic of Iraq desires a policy that would respect sharia law. Iraq wishes that the CSW will respect Iraq’s sovereignty and the idea of sharia law. Iraq does not believe that the UN and the CSW should create any documentation that would violate sharia law or a nation’s sovereignty. Iraq will not support any policy, no matter where the policy will be put into effect, that contradicts Iraqi and Islamic values.
II. Empowerment of Rural Women

Women in rural areas are generally discriminated against more than they are in urban areas. Women in rural areas struggle to get adequate sanitary living conditions and safety from diseases. The idea of helping these women stems from the idea of improving the living condition of lower classes and agricultural societies. Global organizations such as, G20 and the UN, have made efforts to improve the lives of these women. The Republic of Iraq recognizes the issues these women face, yet the Republic of Iraq also recognizes the need to follow and adhere to sharia law.

Agriculture is a major source of income for the Republic of Iraq. The Republic of Iraq wishes to see the improvement of the lives of rural women. The Republic of Iraq will support helping rural women become educated and literate, but only to an extent that does not violate sharia law. In 2015 Iraq signed the “Economic Development of Rural Women in Iraq”, this is designed to improve the productivity and economic status of women in Iraq. This project will also combat “gender based violence”. The Republic of Iraq will continue to support this project, but must have certain acts not be classified as violence, such as beating one’s wife, which is normal and advocated by sharia law. The Republic of Iraq will continue to oppose any act or project that will violate or undermine sharia law.

The Republic of Iraq desires a policy that will empower rural women and their economic and social status. The Republic of Iraq will also strictly adhere to Islamic law and not support any notion that will violate Islamic law. The sovereignty of nations must also be respected in any policy proposed to the CSW. The Republic of Iraq wants a policy that will boost the health and social status of rural women across the world. A policy of economic aid will be supported by the Republic of Iraq, yet a policy of forced adjustment, military involvement, or a policy that violates sharia law will be vehemently opposed.
Delegation from: Ireland  
Represented by: Fairport Harding High School

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women Committee

The issues for the Commission on the Status of Women Committee are: Maternal Rights of Women; and Empowerment of Rural Women.

I: Maternal Rights of Women

Maternal is relating to a mother, especially during pregnancy or shortly after childbirth. The efforts to better the health of women and girls have primarily focused on maternal health and reproductive services. Gendered divisions in society cause women to encounter particular variation in accessing healthcare, as well as having a particular health concerns, such as generative and maternal health and a higher occurrence of negative experience, including gender-based violence, eating disorders and depression which influence their wellbeing.

II: Empowerment of Rural Women

In Ireland, women's rights have come a long way, but they haven't made any major improvements. Men still have more control and more say over women. Men still are the main people in the workplace and they still make a lot of decisions. Women are still kept from making major decisions. There are still many things women face, such as violence, domestic abuse and verbal abuse. These things play a big role in the life of a women. Women are not being treated fairly and since they don’t get higher pay they don't make a lot of money. That could affect many aspects of their life. Women still are behind men and they haven't really fixed it. They get left behind a lot in the big decisions and no one really takes them seriously.

There are many things that Ireland is trying to do for women. They are trying to help them get jobs as well as equal pay. There is also work being done to make sure that pregnant women have rights and services. These have been in legislation for years. No one really paid attention to them. Women aren't treated very well and they don't get listened to. This causes a lot of tension between men and women in Ireland. Women aren't treated equal. They don't get equal job opportunities. They are just there to raise a family basically. The wage gap in Ireland is still bad, but it is starting to get better slowly with time. More women are working, but their pay is low due to how many hours they can work. The unemployment rate was 5.4% in the summer of 2017.
Women work less hours and that interferes with their family life and how much they get paid. This causes a lot of different issues because women aren't treated right in the workplace and that causes them not to work. Women are not treated equally in the workplace and that causes tension between the men and women. Men are the shot callers and they make more money because of it. Women don't get paid enough to be independent and to build a future for themselves. Women don't make enough money to support themselves and their families. The workplace in Ireland doesn't treat women fairly and they don't listen to the women in the workplace. A lot of women don't get listened to and they don't get taken seriously enough. Ireland wishes to have more policies put in place by the UN to help women.
Committee: Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Topic: Empowerment of Rural Women

Country: Israel

Delegates: Judith E. Omenda & Adja N. Gueye

Legal and social equality of women with men have been promoted all around but is still not fully accomplished. As stated by UN Women, “the rights of new mothers worldwide is a persisting issue in many different countries”. Women face discrimination in many areas like at work. The rural women do not have the opportunity to work as the same as men. This is an important topic because for many years the women have been discriminated against and there has been problems in the equality of women and men. This topic touches it and raises awareness to the women and other people to think about these issues and to help in most of the activities.

There are many UN officials who have taken a step to talk about and express their views on this topic. Meghan Markle an actress and humanitarian is a very strong advocate for women empowerment “It is said that girls with dreams become women with visions. May we empower each other to carry out the visions because it is not only enough to talk about equality. One must work on it!” says Megan who works with World Vision which empowers the rural lives. ”We also need to create safe spaces in which the women feel empowered,” says Lakshmi Puri the UN women executive deputy director. One of the major resolution of UN on this topic is the economic empowerment where they foresee that women get employed and are given education on this. They also work on gender equality in the women’s working places and observation of their rights. The formation of the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 was a major milestone toward ensuring women rights and empowerment. There are a series of NGOs working on the empowerment of rural women. The Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) an NGO formed in 1972 is working strongly on the strengthening of rural women by giving them identity in form of work. CREA works on increasing women’s self confidence.
As Aviva Schechter stated it, Israel placed great importance on respect for human rights, adding that it was governed by the rule of law and that it was an open and dynamic society with a vibrant and active civil society. Israel had passed laws and amendments to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. The country strive to ensure that women have equal rights towards men and have access to a great education and job opportunities. Furthermore, in the UN Human Rights report, it’s noted that with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Israel was committed to achieving equality and leaving no one behind, and it had taken many steps. In addition, there is a economic development related to the empowerment of women that is making Israel seek for cooperation such as UN Women. It is clear that empowerment of rural women is an important topic for Israel.

Rural women play a critical role in rural economies and societies in both developing and developed countries. Israel believes that the other countries should encourage women’s empowerment by giving out more rights and more opportunities of job. Israel feels that the important part of the topic that must be addressed is the access of rural women to education and jobs, and important positions in the society. In order to make those plans a reality, agribusiness can be used as a tool to empower rural women.
Delegation from: The Nation of Japan  
Represented by: Saint John School  

Position paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission on the Status of Women are: Women's Rights During Times of Crisis; and Empowerment of Rural Women. Japan is working to balance rights between women and men but is eager for women to join the workforce. Most importantly, Japan is working to balance the value of tradition and positive effects of Womenomics.

I. Women’s Rights During Times of Crisis

The nation of Japan has become very progressive over the last few decades. Working to grow the number of women in the workforce and expand on the concept of Womenomics. The patriarchal society that Japan once was, was very traditional and standard to many other countries. But overall, throughout most of Japanese history, women have been treated fairly to men, such as having the ability to own property and take a stance in politics. Japan is taking a stance on this situation by passing legislature to equalize education and wages.

Japan is one of the most progressive countries and modernization is one of the most important aspects of their country. Although Japan is continuously working to preserve our culture, we want to grow with the times in terms of equality. In 1985, the The Equal Employment Opportunity Law was enacted which eliminated discrimination in the workplace and higher education. The amount of female workers increased from 15.48 million in 1985 when the law was enacted to 24.36 million in 2014. Women now account for 43 percent of the labor force, up from 36 percent 30 years ago. More and more women are becoming educated and joining the workforce. More often than not, married women leave the workplace sooner than men due to having children and starting families. At the 2016 World Assembly for Women Conference, the three main areas of focus were, namely reforming work styles, leadership by women, and building a peaceful and safe society with women playing key roles.
The Nation of Japan would like the Commission on the Status of Women to make it a requirement for every country to agree on a universal treaty that will settle gaps between genders and create an equal opportunity for women in Administrative and Managerial positions.

II. Empowerment of Rural Women

Along with their involvement in Iran, Japan has made large strides recently to encourage and involve rural women in equal partnership opportunities for families. Although Japanese women have long been stepping up and taking these roles, the support for them to do so has greatly increased, by government as well as personal motivation to be able to support their families and villages.

Women born in the post-war era were the first to receive formal, democratic education and after marriage began farming. Serious leadership roles are filled by these women and those following in their footsteps after marriage and having children. In Japan, projects have begun in every rural area to help send women to assemblies and try to incorporate them in important decisions and to further their leadership skills. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, the local government, and agricultural cooperatives support as well as participate in these events and gatherings also. To aid in the processes, the Nation of Japan has recently donated $500,000 to the WFP that will benefit over 2,500 families and households and will go towards the empowerment of women. This will include job training, home economics lessons, business skills, and much more.

The Nation of Japan, although pleased with the steps taken and improvement so far, would like to see more women in leadership roles throughout their communities and onto larger scales such as government. To do so, we would like to see much more emphasis on "Family Management Agreement" and "Rural Women Enterprise". In addition to this, we would also be open and interested in partnering with some of our allies to collaborate and encourage all of our rural women, who are so important to our country.
Delegation from: Norway
Represented by: Strongsville High School

Position Paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the World Health Organization are: Maternal Rights of Women and Empowerment of Rural Norway continues to show its devotion to improving the rights given to women by improving within their own country. Norway is committed to working with other member-states in order to achieve a solution that will benefit the people.

I. Maternal Rights of Women

Across the world, maternal rights that are given to women are not adequate, and prove to be a problem. Developed, and undeveloped nations both have very minimal policies towards new mothers that result into unemployment. In addition to unemployment, many of these mothers who wanted to delay or prevent the pregnancy were not given the opportunity due to the lack of contraceptives. Many of these women who have a baby, do not receive the check ups needed to ensure the baby's safety. This issue of maternal right is an extremely broad topic that ranges from providing enough maternal leave to giving the option to prevent or delay pregnancy.

Norway continues to show its dedication to improving maternal rights and bettering legislation regarding this topic. The maternal rights that are in place in Norway currently gives parents twelve months of paid leave. In addition, Norway has universal access to childcare at highly subsidised rates. Unlike most other nations, Norway has paid leave for both the husband and wife. With this policy, it is easier to raise a child within the first few months. Most other nations do not have these flexible conditions with maternity leave. At the age of one, children are given the opportunity to go to school in Norway. Norway also gives routinely check ups for those who are pregnant within their paternal care. All of these initiatives are great ones in order to better improve the maternal rights. Norway looks forward to making progress on this topic through global collaboration.

In response to the previously mentioned issues, Norway offers member states a variety of solutions in effort to improve maternal rights for women. Norway suggests that member states collaborate together in order to implement more rights for women. One way to do this would be providing more contraceptives for women, so they have the option to delay or prevent pregnancy. More access to contraceptives will make it easier for women to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Similar to Norway, member states should have a program in which all expecting mothers are given the opportunity for check ups to ensure their baby is healthy. A major improvement would be one including maternity leave. In many nations, maternity leave is very short and unpaid. Norway suggests member states give maternity leave to both parents, to make it easier so they can return to work quicker. In addition, having paid maternity leave can really decrease the level of unemployment for many pregnant women. There are a variety of ways that member states can work together to better the maternal rights for women, however it is crucial that we began to resolve this issue.
II. Empowerment of Rural Women

Most member states fail to recognize that rural women play a pivot role within different economies of the world. The amount of rural women is on the rise, and is still growing. These women can play a major role in providing social and economic change. Due to this, it is important to ensure that these women are empowered. One major issue with empowering women is lack of literacy. Many of these women to do not have access to education, and therefore do not know how to read or write. With the lack of knowledge of literacy, many women cannot participate in trade. If these women cannot trade, the value they bring to the country decreases. In order to empower these women, a fundamental step is teaching them basic literary skills.

As a member state of the United Nations, Norway understands the importance of empowering women in rural areas through literacy and education.

Although Norway does not have a big rural women population, they have still implemented changes to empower women, and push gender equality within their country. In 2017, Norway had begun their push to create gender equality. They had discussed it at a conference in collaboration with the United Nations. In this discussion, it had been said that Norway would promote women as producers and consumers, and blockchain technology. All of these initiatives help define the independence of women, and show that women are as powerful as men. These steps taken in Norway, have empowered women throughout their nation and has implemented change. In addition, the Global Partnership for Girls’ and Women Education has been trying to employ change around the world in hopes to educate more women. They have teamed up with nations such as the United States and Pakistan, to help women seek education. Norway notices this major issue, and hopes to purpose solutions in order to combat this problem.

In order to combat this crucial issue on a worldwide scale, Norway is encouraging other member states to take part and be in support of the following proposed solutions. One of these solutions include placing little schools within rural areas. These schools could be funded and ran by the government, or by non profit organizations. With these schools, little girls could be educated at a young age and women could go there to learn how to read and write. If member states were to implement this, the trade amongst different member states would increase. This is due to the fact that many of the people who work in rural areas are women. If these women could read and communicate with other, there would be a whole side of trade opened to the world. This could benefit all member states. If schooling is not possible, member states can ask outside funds such as the Malala Fund, to help create alternate solution to the issue. In addition, Norway suggests that member states attempt to promote equality, and show the importance that women play within a country. If many people around the world believe that women are important, their empowerment will began to increase. There will be more confidence and demand for women within the labor force. With an increase in literary skills, and the confidence in women, rural women can be empowered. The member states must work in conjunction with each other in hopes of putting an end to the issue of the lack of empowerment within the community of rural women.
Position Paper for Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the Commission on the Status of Women are Maternal Rights on Women and Empowerment of Rural Women. The Republic of Peru is excited to partner with other delegations and begin to create and enforce resolutions.

I. Maternal Rights on Women

In Peru, within the poor communities, free maternal care and infant health care are made available which causes many communities as a whole becoming entitled to free health care. But, because of the poor economy and lack of occupation for many, they can not afford to attend to the health centers. Today, women are facing several maternal issues that are not being addressed: there is a high maternal mortality rate, rejected abortions resulting in fatal and life-long health issues, and serious mental health issues that are putting many in a dangerous situation. At this point, this is a discussion of the economy and social scripts; in order to help give women time off work, assistance in reproductive health, and aid with infantile health, lots of money, that is currently nonexistent, is needed.

In 2002, the Ministry of Health statistics showed that 25% of the 6,500,000 population did not have access to primary health care. Within the health care centers that are provided, there is only 1.12 physicians and 1.5 hospital beds per every 1000 individuals; WHO (the World Health Organization) recommends there be at least 2.3 physicians per every 1,000 persons. But, many people struggle with getting access to hospitals and physicians due to location and situation. Although many great hospitals are listed within Peru, many Peruvians do not have cars and the closest good hospital is 130-150 hours of walking from Peru. With the years leading up to 2007, the government was able to finance 54% of health expenditures and patients paid about 40% of the cost out-of-pocket. But, over 60% of the population had no health insurance coverage. Although many morbid and crisis worthy events are occurring in the field of maternal rights, there is still hope.

Seguro Integral de Salud, or SIS, became effective in the year 2006 and was able to cover 16% of the population. The program also covered basic emergency care for poor and uninsured adults who either had permanently damaging conditions or a life-threatening disease. In 2007, they were able to cover 21%. Another program, El Seguro Social en Salud (EsSalud), was able to provide benefits during retirement and a year of unemployment which greatly aided women and their children. It was financed by a 9% payroll tax, though. The National Health Service attempted to assist, but the program only allowed for $18 to be spent on a person. Along with that, several offers to the government to extend the budget has come in, but the government has rejected almost every time and has refused to pay any health care bills. Over time, Peru’s economic stability has deteriorated due to government mishaps and budget shortfall; the Republic of Peru hopes to not only ameliorate maternal rights but to also bring stability to financial situations and their economy.

II. Empowerment of Rural Women
Since the beginning of time, women have always played a role part in the evolution of society. In the aspects of social, economic, and environmental change, women are so crucial to ensure development and growth. Given that 50 percent of the world’s population is female, their value is so important and needs to be preserved. Rural women, in particular, face many issues regarding these factors inhibiting them to succeed. These women lack empowerment; without the proper education and resources, they cannot contribute fully to their country’s economy and society as a whole. Rural women need to have an increase in education to help further their literacy skills. By doing this, they will be able to communicate with others in an easier fashion. Therefore, when looking at the stance Peru holds on this topic, the empowerment of rural women is vital to the growth and success of the country.

The Republic of Peru is well aware of the status rural women hold in society. The education, or lack thereof, that rural women are able to access is minimal in contrast to urban women. In Peru, only 43 percent of rural women complete secondary school, compared to 58 percent of men. Because of this, an emphasis on male education is created. At a young age, a rural women’s education is hindered by the need to fulfill family commitments. With that being said, an estimated 34 percent of children in Peru work in order to help their families. It becomes a challenge to balance work, school, and domestic chores while trying to achieve an equal education. The Republic of Peru has taken steps to gradually help close the education gap between genders. Since most secondary schools are placed in urban areas, public institutions such as the Peruvian Ministry of Education have made strides in the education system by placing boarding schools and increasing infrastructure in these rural areas. Although this is useful, it is only a starting point. More action needs to be taken to ensure that the full empowerment of rural women can be achieved.

When dealing with women’s empowerment, it is important to remember that not one single action will fix this issue. The Republic of Peru hopes to find solutions to ensure that rural women, not only in Peru but internationally, are able to live an equal life to their male counterparts. This issue needs to be addressed in different sections starting with the increase in education. Without proper education, rural women are unable to engage in important trade agreements and collect information. By improving their literacy skills, many problems can be solved. Going off of that, this issue cannot be solely solved by the government; by partnering with non-governmental organizations, more action can be taken to achieve equality amongst women. In the near future, The Republic of Peru hopes to bridge not only the education gap rural women are faced with, but also help to achieve empowerment throughout their whole society.
Delegation From: The Republic of Korea
Represented By: Rocky River High School


The cases being reviewed by the Commission for the Status of Women are: Addressing the Maternal Rights of Women and Increasing Empowerment of Rural Women. The Republic Of Korea believes that women are an important part of society and that refugee women in particular need to be uplifted and empowered through education and equal opportunities. In addition, women in rural areas need to be treated with the same respect and given the same chances as urban women and men.

I. Maternal Rights of Women

The Republic of Korea believes that the maternal rights of women are an important issue and that every woman should have access to basic health care to accommodate. Women are entitled to all of the rights that men have access to. More than half of south korean women are employed and female politicians have gained more seats now than ever before. In South Korea, women are entitled to maternal compensation for up to 90 days and have access to maternal health care. In addition, contraception is readily available to the population. Although most have access to healthcare and contraception, many women are still not able to access the resources necessary.

The Republic of Korea has, in recent years, begun to recognise and support women’s healthcare needs. Since 1973, abortions have been legalized in specific circumstances and a push for legalizing all abortions is currently occurring. Birth control is legal as well, although emergency contraception cannot be obtained without a prescription. Expectant mothers are entitled to 90-day paid maternity leave after having worked for the company for 180 days. The Republic of Korea hopes to ensure that mothers can have safe and healthy pregnancies and that they have the ability to care for their children. In August 2018, we committed 1 million dollars in funding to the UNFPA humanitarian response to the gender-based violence experienced by Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. This aid is specifically targeted toward women and girls and will help establish 5 new female-friendly spaces serving refugees and host communities. In addition, the Korean International Cooperation Agency will be co-financing an agreement that will allow UNFPA to scale up their humanitarian aid to meet the critical needs of women and girls in Borno State. The project will run from 2018 to 2020 and will improve access to maternal care and provide comprehensive health care.

To ensure that women worldwide have access to the resources needed to ensure safe pregnancies, the Republic of Korea calls upon the countries of the world to assist these women. We would like to continue to help fund the UNFPA and would, in addition, like to set up a comprehensive curriculum tailored specifically for women in crisis. Education is a key point in assisting women and giving them working skills and knowledge can allow smoother pregnancies and maternities. This curriculum would include basics on pregnancies and steps to take during delivery in addition to classes on sexual & reproductive health, maternal health, gender equality, and threats such as discrimination and sexual abuse. These topics need to be taught due to a lack of easy access information
on them. With these steps, it is hoped that the Republic of Korea can help these women and the world as a whole have a brighter future.

II. Empowerment of Rural Women

The Republic of Korea believes that the issues of rural women, and subsequently their empowerment, is a vital issue for every country within the United Nations Commission for the Status of Women. Within the Republic of Korea, 17.41% of our total population is rural and 49.95% of that rural population are women. Therefore, 4,456,478 people in the Republic of Korea are females residing in rural areas. Many rural women don’t have the same access to safe living conditions, health care, education and many other amenities of modern life as rural men and urban women do. If we, as a committee, make improvements to the empowerment of rural women, it can positively impact the global economy.

The Republic of Korea has taken steps in the past to improve conditions for all of our rural citizens. As of 2015, all of our rural citizens had improved access to sanitation facilities and 87.9% of our rural residents had improved access to water as of 2012. We have attempted to improve quality of life for all of our rural citizens. As a relatively new democratic nation, we have been slow to improve rights for our female citizens. But, now we realize that we must make our laws equal for citizens.

In order to ensure equality for citizens of all genders, the Republic of Korea would like to assist in creating a program that would allow rural women to learn valuable skills. The plan that we believe is the best course of action is to establish community centers in rural areas to afford access to resources. Women in rural areas have the least access to basic living essentials. Through these centers, women would be connected to the resources that they need. Women, specifically in rural areas, are significantly less likely to be landowners, even though they make up about 50% of the workforce. Through these centers we would also be able to provide educational classes on how to create a better life for themselves within their community. They will be able to learn to read, money management, etc. Education is one of the main things that can help women to empower themselves by allowing them to control their life. Using the UN Women’s Fund for Gender Equality. We can also use this fund to help allocate money for some women to own their farms, or if they already do, get access to the same technology as their male counterparts. These centers can also help them with reproductive, maternal, and sexually healthcare. Women will be able to control their own bodies with access to this information. In better off rural areas, education still is important. We can still give them access to information in the forms of written words, educational videos, etc. Even women in more developed and better off countries require empowerment. Through these centers and educational material we can help create a better future for women in rural areas, and therefore the entire world.
Delegation from: Russia  
Represented by: Vermilion High School  

Position paper for the Commission on the Status of Women

I. Women’s Rights During Times Of Crisis

Women and girls represent half of the world’s population and, therefore, also half of its potential. Gender equality, besides equality being a fundamental human right, is essential for peaceful societies, with potential and development. In Russia there has been many equal opportunities for both Women and men, although the Soviet model of gender equality gave women opportunities to participate in public fora that they were formerly excluded from education, paid employment, and public office, but for many women, Soviet “equality” was experienced as a double or even an triple burden of care work, paid employment, and civic duties.

An crisis is is any event that is going or is expected to lead to an unstable and dangerous situation affecting an individual, group, community, or whole society. Crises are deemed to be negative changes in the security, economic, political, societal, or environmental affairs, especially when they occur abruptly, with little or no warning. More loosely, it is a term meaning "a testing time" or an "emergency event". During the time of an crisis in Russia women are considered powerless and “less important then men”. One of the main factors to focus on is the pay gap according to the International Labor Organization, Russia has the largest pay gap in the world. Women earn an average 32.8% less than men in Russia, even though “observable factors” like education, experience and job role should mean they should probably make 11.1% more due the fact that women are more like to have higher education then a man. Nadia Plungian, a feminist activist and a researcher at the State Institute for Art Studies, said "not only is the wage gap severe in Russia, but women often take care of household tasks while still working outside the home and receive fewer child benefits than their counterparts countries in Europe". Any women is more likely to be considering unless and unhelpful during any crisis due to their weak appearance in Russia. “In the 1990s, we were hit by a squall of sexism, and the situation became much more obvious with workplace discrimination, the dominance of household murders and violence against women, prostitution, a lack of access to protection,” Plungian says.

An appropriate approach to the unequally presented in Russia is to balance out the pay gap or make a change in the laws. Although the financial crisis is occurring now and cuts in education stipends, Women are very vulnerable and very conservative. Those who go protest are the ones without a steady job or those who can change their job without consequences.”- Plungain stated.
Women should still have a equal life and an equal say in what occurs during this crisis or any other crisis.

**Topic II. Empowerment of Rural Women**

In Russia the ratio of men to women is 86 men per 100 women. Like many countries Russia has a long history of mistreating women, and before 1917 Russia was a patriarchal society. Which basically means that men have a higher authority over women.

In the upper classes, women were viewed as possessions, trophies confined to the home. Although peasant women worked just as hard as their menfolk, peasant women were subordinate to their husbands, fathers, and even their brothers. The issue of sexism was never raised because no one thought their lifestyle could be any different. Besides that, women became comrades and were given the right to vote and the right of equal education. In 2017 deputy prime minister, Olga Golodets highlighted that “37 percent of Russian women have a higher degree than men”. She also stated that women usually combine their job with housework and child care. Even though women have a higher degree than men their salary rate is 73% of the males average salary.

Catherine the Great was Russia's empress from 1762 until 1796. Meaning, she was the longest running woman to rule Russia. More women should be able to take office, but they can’t, due to unfair treatment and unfair pay. Women shouldn’t be the only people in the family to take care of things in the house, and the children. Women deserve to get paid just as well as men, when they are doing equivalent work or are even more skilled and educated than their male peers. They deserve to be treated equally. Women should be compensated as well as men, when they are doing the same job as a man. A person should be paid based on their skill, and education, not on their gender.
Delegation from: Saudi Arabia
Represented by: Mentor High School

Position Paper for the The Commission on the Status of Women
The issues before the The Commission on the Status of Women are: Maternal Rights of Women; and Empowerment of Rural Women.

I. Maternal Rights of Women
The maternal care for new mothers in developing countries, or lack thereof is a growing problem in developing countries. As new rights are being created for women in the middle east especially, the care of them needs to be updated as well. Medical care for women that are trying to become pregnant or are pregnant, are minimal, compared to other areas. As a lack of care persists for these women the amount of miscarriages caused by a lack of medical assistance persists as well. Saudi Arabia feels that the current legislation, while somewhat effective needs to be further for the advancement of countries with developing women's rights. Our country recognizes that our own programs and care are by far, outdated and outclassed by other developed countries, so we would look to the rest of the United Nations body for advice and assistance on the problem of maternal care in growing countries. The rights of new mother worldwide should be an important issue for countries worldwide and the development of new medical programs for them is of the essence.

II. Empowerment of Rural Women
The delegation from Saudi Arabia recognizes the large number of women currently and expected to be in the rural workforce in the future. Saudi Arabia realizes that due to the large amount of these women in the rural regions, many can not access the proper educational benefits otherwise awarded to people of their age. This lack of education of these rural women will likely lead to unexpected and widespread problems that will affect the world as a whole. Saudi Arabia must stress to the world that all though in the past, our resolve to empower women has been questioned, we are fully committed to work together with the united body to solve this issue. As a country in the Middle East with a large urban population it can be difficult for us to focus on a smaller portion of our population, but we understand some of our closest neighbors and allies have a large rural population. With this understanding we will work to improve the lives of women in the rural sectors of our own country as well as the world. Promoting literacy within
affected regions would likely be a good place to start, but also the overall promotion of women’s status in rural communities should be a focus point.
Delegation: Kingdom of Spain
Represented by: Strongsville High School

Position paper for Commission on the Status of Women

The issues before the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women are maternal rights of women and the empowerment of rural women. The Kingdom of Spain is devoted to the promotion of gender equality.

I. Maternal Rights of Women

Maternal rights of women are an improving issue, but still needs considerably more action taken. Maternal mortality is on the decline, but the lack of sufficient maternal care in developing nations leads to high levels of infant and child mortality, as seen in Sub-Saharan Africa where the under-five mortality rate is nearly 4 times than Europe’s. The leading cause of this is low quality and non-rights-based healthcare.

The promotion of gender equality, in this case the maternal rights of women, is an issue Spain is devoted to, as seen in Spain’s involvement in domestic and international legislation concerning the issue. Some examples of involved legislation are A/HRC/11/L.16 and A/61/338. The promotion and protection of all human rights, and the preventable deaths of mothers, a majority “could be averted if all women had access to the interventions for addressing pregnancy and birth complications,” respectively. With the women that do receive medical assistance almost half experience a lack of privacy, lack of consent, and verbal abuse, this leads to more and more pregnant women and girls to avoid seeking the care that could save them. Drugs, such as oxytocin and misoprostol, are administered to mothers, in Spain and around the world, this aids in the labor process and preventing hemorrhaging and sepsis. Spain has a national health care service, the Spanish National Health System, which aids every citizen. Women in Spain who choose to give birth in the hospital typically pay 1,700 euros (1,920 USD), the low cost helps mothers postpartum.

The Kingdom of Spain sees the influence that the Commission on the Status of Women with international women’s rights has. In order to promote the maternal rights of women, healthcare must be centered around rights based assistance, healthcare must be easily accessible to women and girls, and this must provide support for mothers during and after their pregnancies. Contraceptives, education on safe sex, and the ability to meet all the recommended antenatal checkups (approximately 10), are of utmost importance for any resolution to come. These services must be able to reach the most at-risk women (i.e. those in developing nations with low education). An international system, operated by the UN, to provide the necessary drugs, checkups, and provide sufficient access to contraceptives is a dire need in promoting maternal rights. Legislation mandating work leave would be ideal, but cannot be imposed, but a system of skilled medical persons and doctors would be able to aid women who cannot afford healthcare in their county, or have faced previous disrespect and stigmatization from healthcare providers of their country. The stigmatization women often face when going to the doctors is unreasonable, the CSW must take steps to eradicate
the immense disrespect that childbearing women face in all nations. Spain supports and encourages any and all progressive resolutions by the CSW.

II. Empowerment of Rural Women

The Kingdom of Spain is in full support of pushes toward equality, both in regards to gender-based equality, as well as equality founded in economic and social growth. Spain is well aware of the vital role which rural women play in the development of a nation, and recognizes their empowerment as an issue of utmost importance. Spain has continuously made contributions, and has been in complete support and devotion toward movements and legislation toward gender equality, especially through equal opportunity, such as that needed to empower rural women. This includes, but is not limited to; access to education, healthcare, and finance, and freedom from gender-targeted violence.

As stated previously, the issue concerning the empowerment of rural women is one that is ranked in a position of high importance. The priority which the Kingdom of Spain places on the empowerment of rural women and on all relevant and sub-issues can be demonstrated by Spain’s contributions made in conjunction to (Spain-supported) CSW initiatives to combat gender-based violence, especially that which is all too common in majority-rural nations. This includes aggressions such as; child marriage, genital mutilation, trafficking, as well as many other forms of violence against women. In Spain’s Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities 2014-2016, the commitment to the empowerment of rural women, and the recognition given by the Kingdom of Spain toward the role of women in the development of a nation can be seen plain and clear in the EUR 3.1 million budget allocated for this exact purpose. In 2015, Spain partnered directly with the United Nations in a partnership framework for the promotion of gender equality and women’s rights and empowerment.

The desired outcomes which the Kingdom of Spain would like to see from the Commission for the Status of Women include the recognition of importance which women play in the development of a nation, as well as the recognition of the acts of gendered violence which take place in majority-rural areas. Spain hopes to see connections made between these two statements, and has a desire to take part in, as well as support fully, legislation made to help empower rural women, such as access to education, medical care, and finance/financial independence. Along with this, Spain would like to see initiatives taken in regards to combating violence against women, much of which takes place in less-developed/majority-rural areas. While still maintaining national sovereignty, it is a must that the CSW takes steps to eliminate blatant violations of human rights, through whichever means possible.