



Committee: Economic and Social Council

Agenda: Fostering youth advocacy in combating Gender-based violence and protecting women's reproductive right

Country: The French Republic

Gender-based violence is any act of harm directed at an individual [or group of people] based on their gender identity, gender expression, or perceived gender. This violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, or economic. And Women's reproductive rights are the fundamental rights [or freedom] of all women to make their own choices about their body and their reproductive health. Violation of women's reproductive right and gender-based violence is now a global issue. At present, almost one third (27%) of women aged 15-49 years who have been in a relationship report that they have been subjected to some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner.

The French Republic is working tirelessly in order to protect the human rights of everyone regardless of their gender. By 2025, France is committed to ensure that 75% of the projects funded by France's official development assistance helps to improve gender equality. Moreover, the French Republic enshrines abortion as a constitutional right on 8th March, 2024. In 2023, France declares the launch of its new International Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights 2023-2027.

The United Nations has played a significant role in addressing the current crisis, making valuable contributions through the passage of resolutions such as A/RES/62/134, A/C.3/77/L.21/Rev.1 which specifically focus on eliminating gender based violence. The United Nations has employed a range of mechanisms, including investigations, monitoring, and advocacy, to effectively tackle this issue. Notably, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been instrumental in safeguarding and advancing the women's reproductive rights and eliminating gender-based violence. Additionally, the establishment of special mechanisms, such as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, has further enhanced the United Nations' efforts. Through this mechanism, an impartial expert is appointed to diligently monitor, promote, and raise awareness about Gender-based violence and protecting women's reproductive right. The expert's work is aimed at strengthening the international response to gender-based violence and ensuring the women's reproductive rights. Furthermore, international organizations like the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Labour

Organization (ILO), the UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been actively engaged in safeguarding and advancing the women's reproductive rights and eliminating gender-based violence. Leveraging their extensive networks, these organizations gather crucial information, deliver vital humanitarian aid, and raise awareness about the issue at hand.

Finally, The French Republic respectfully suggests the following measures to alleviate the issue at hand:

- Continue supporting the meaningful participation of young people in national and international decision-making processes related to gender-based violence and women's reproductive rights;
- Utilize the media to raise awareness of gender-based violence and women's reproductive rights;
- Recognize, reduce and redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care received by women and girls;
- Ensure access to safe and legal abortion services in accordance with national laws and international human rights obligations;
- Assist least developed countries to run the campaigns by providing monetary funds and skilled instructors.

Reference:

- <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>
- <https://apnews.com/article/international-womens-day-france-abortion-constitution-e9475951b59cd5778b9741aa4a21f339>
- <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/gender-equality-a-priority-for-france/>
- <https://focus2030.org/Sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-global-overview-and-French-strategy>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-violence-against-women#:~:text=Ms.,and%20consequences%2C%20since%20August%202021>