



American Model United Nations

Commission on the Status of Women

**Report to the Commission on the Status of
Women on the responsibility of men and boys in
achieving gender equality**

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1 **Executive Summary**

2 The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is pleased to present to the Economic and Social Council
3 (ECOSOC) its final report on the topic of the Responsibility of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality. The
4 following report covers a wide range of sub-topics, ranging from sexual harassment in the workplace and parental
5 leave to the media's role in shaping the narrative surrounding masculinity and vulnerability, which perpetuates
6 gender inequality.

7 The first and only chapter covers the deliberations and proceedings of the CSW. It includes a brief summary
8 of the relevant and significant debate on this topic.

9 Matters calling for action

10 To organize discussion, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) used the definition of feminism from
11 the UN Women's He For She campaign to create overarching topics in which women have experienced consistent
12 inequalities: social, economic and political. Member States used these categories to define ways in which men and
13 boys can be involved in supporting gender equality. Each of these subsections were seen as effective catalysts in
14 which to incorporate the six concepts of the HeforShe campaign: education, health, identity, workplace, violence and
15 politics. Member States were encouraged by the speech given by UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson,
16 as introduced by the Secretary General, to facilitate the discussion of the Commission.

17 Social Inequalities

18 Member States emphasized that cultural norms play a large role in the gender inequalities that many women
19 currently face. Member States agreed that more inclusive cultural norms will facilitate an understanding between
20 the two genders. However, some Member States noted that culture is often country-specific; there is no "one size fits
21 all" solution to involving men and boys in achieving gender equality. Some Member States voiced the concern that
22 that local cultures and religions do not have to be assimilated into other cultures, especially Western cultures, in
23 order to accomplish gender equality.

24 Many delegations believed that governments should play a major role in encouraging men and boys to
25 facilitate gender equality, and noted that a lack of education surrounding topics of reproductive health, objectification
26 of women and the history and breadth of misogyny perpetuates gender inequality. Education can reevaluate social
27 norms, bring awareness to how social norms impact society and promote gender issues through educators.

28 Member States expressed concern regarding the identity and social constructs that society has propagated
29 upon men. Society's masculine-dominated culture has had clear adverse effects on men of all ages. Member States
30 were also deeply concerned by the high rates of men with untreated depression and other mental illnesses, which
31 frequently leads to suicide. In fact, men are 3.5 times more likely to die by suicide than women, a statistic that
32 Member States agreed is a direct result of societies that are led by a male-dominated culture. Member States
33 highlighted their concerns regarding the nature of gender roles in relation to mental health, as men are less likely to
34 seek healthcare as well as more likely to engage in life-threatening behaviors than women. This can be attributed to
35 cross-cultural ideas about manhood that perpetuate the acceptance of men engaging in risky and violent behaviors
36 to achieve masculinity.

37 According to the World Health Organization, the leading cause of death globally among women of reproduc-
38 tive age is HIV/AIDS. Member States, particularly Belarus and Bangladesh, noted with concern that HIV and AIDs
39 are the leading cause of death among women due to unsafe sex and access to health education and services. Girls
40 and women are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection due to pervasive gender-based inequalities in many nations,
41 such as the prevalence of sexual violence directed towards women. Since men may transmit HIV/AIDS to women,
42 Member States believed that reaching men with HIV-related prevention, treatment, care and support services is
43 vital.

44 Member States discussed further implementation of the Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) world-
45 wide campaign entitled "Men and Boys Can Make a Difference," which emphasizes that men and boys can facilitate
46 HIV/AIDS prevention and care through education, testing and other means. Member States recalled that the topic
47 of men's engagement and role in the prevention of spreading HIV/AIDS was first mentioned at the 21st Special
48 Session of the UN General Assembly held in 1999, which touched on the importance of gender equality as a means
49 to achieving success in the struggle against AIDS.

50 Economic Inequalities

51 Switzerland and other Member States urged others to further investigate paid parental leave and wage
52 disparity. According to the 2015 Millenium Development Goals Report, 50 percent of all women of working age have
53 a job, compared to 77 percent of men of the same age. Furthermore, 18 percent of women are working to contribute
54 to the family, though they have little to no financial security and social benefits. Member States acknowledged the
55 importance of parental leave in addressing issues of gender inequality in the home and encouraged the adoption

56 of paid leave laws for both parents in addition to attempting to remove the stigma from part-time jobs for men.
57 Switzerland offered their Part-Time Man Project, which promotes flexible working hours to allow men to spend more
58 time with their families, as a potential model for other Member States. Noting the difficulties domestic societal
59 norms and economic constraints can create, Member States stressed the importance of cooperation between both
60 parents in child rearing and urged governments to amplify their efforts to equalize both the gender wage gap as well
61 as parental leave.

62 Member States also noted that men in the workplace can play a strong role in preventing sexual harassment,
63 which can shift attitudes and behaviors of both men and women at the individual level. Positive change in corpo-
64 rations and organizations requires strong leadership from senior management levels, where men predominantly hold
65 positions of power in both the public and private sectors.

66 Political Inequalities

67 While Member States acknowledged the exorbitant amount of difficulty in making political recommendations
68 to sovereign states, they believed it crucial to address the improvements that could be made in regards to gender
69 equality. Many Member States suggested offering education in order to encourage the dismantling of intergen-
70 erational violent practice in school programs and communities alike. They believed that positioning boys during
71 childhood to view women through a lens of equality will, in turn, decrease violence later in life.

72 Member States applauded the successes of currently implemented programs and their benefits on reducing
73 sexual crimes against women. The aforementioned programs have placed the responsibilities of sexual violence on
74 men and boys. The It's On Us campaign, backed by United States Vice President Joe Biden urged men and boys
75 to act instead of being innocent bystanders. Member States believed that increasing the prevalence of campaigns
76 like It's On Us will increase the amount of responsibility men and boys take on in regards to sexual violence against
77 women. Similar programs implemented in Brazil addressed those strict values, such as Projeto H and the Guy-to-
78 Guy initiatives by Promundo, a promoter of gender justice and prevention of violence, which engaged men and boys
79 in partnership with women and girls.

80 Member States were also concerned by the pervasive nature of gender-based violence, including sexual
81 violence, that is perpetrated by men worldwide. Member States were alarmed by the high rates of gender-based
82 violence and domestic violence gone unreported to authorities and therefore without further action of Member States'
83 governments. In light of this, Member States recognized the severity of the problem of femicide, defined as the killing
84 of women rooted in hate of the same, which affects a spate of countries across the globe. As reported by the World
85 Health Organization, the subset of Intimate Femicide is particularly concerning, as 35 percent of murders of women
86 globally are committed by an intimate male partner. Member States agreed that a UN FemWatch, as previously
87 called for by UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Dubravka Simonovic, which would be responsible
88 for compiling data regarding crimes related to femicide and acting upon them, would be an efficient method for
89 dealing with this issue.

90 Member States agreed upon the development of local institutions in order to combat violence against women
91 through the involvement of men. Moreover, the Member States on the CSW suggested using media as a vessel to
92 address how political leaders are represented and condoning gender stereotypes. Member States further agreed that
93 media commonly encourages the negative representation of women and their abilities to uphold positions of status
94 and power within government. Member States recommended the enforcement of The 50/50 by 2030 plan, which calls
95 upon sovereign governments to be composed of half men and women for equal representation.

96 Member States determined that it would be beneficial to use existing agencies to facilitate men's promotion of
97 women within the political sphere. Many Member States, such as countries within Southeast Asia and Latin America
98 have introduced the use of quota systems to foster women's representation within government. Furthermore,
99 Indonesia announced that it planned to reach 30 percent of women in government by 2030, and Bangladesh noted
100 that it currently reserves 15 percent of parliamentary seats for women.

101 Member States hoped to decrease gender stereotypes within politics by encouraging the aforementioned goals
102 through the use of media to address how current political leaders are doing such. Canadian Prime Minister Justin
103 Trudeau has advocated for women and encouraged other leaders to do the same, establishing a cabinet that is
104 composed of an equal number of men and women.

105 **Considerations of the Commission on the Status of Women**

106 Given the limited amount of time the Commission had to discuss this issue, the CSW agreed to revisit the
107 topic of the Responsibility of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality during another session in the near future.

108 **Adoption of the Report**

109 **ECOSOC I/4**

110 *Recognizing* the efforts made by the Commission on the Status of Women in producing a report on the
111 responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality as requested by the Economic and Social Council
112 (ECOSOC),

113 1. *Accepts* the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions