

# FIGHT *racism*

# UN WOMEN

*United Nations Women*



# DAIS LETTER

*Honorable delegates,*

*The UN WOMEN committee welcomes you to the NC MUN 9th edition. During these three days you are going to have the opportunity to discuss and reach a resolution about these topics.*

*This is a great opportunity for you to take action in world issues that are happening day to day.*

*We would like to thank you for choosing this committee because we believe that these are issues of great importance and that need to be taken more into account. We are happy to know there are more people who care about these issues and care about the world. We are very excited to receive you , we would like to remind you that we are here for whatever doubt you may have .*

*With our background and your research we are sure you are going to do a great job,we would like this committee to be very orderly, respectful and for you to have fun as much as possible..*

*Regards.*

*Kennya Valerdi Arroyo and Sofia M. Villalpando Luna.*

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## *Introduction to the UN Women Committee*

*UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:*

- *Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems*
- *Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy*
- *All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence*
- *Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action*

## *Background and History of the topic*

*In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN WOMEN , the United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. In doing so, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the Organization's*

## *Mandate*

*The UN Women Committee stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas:*

- *Expanding women's voice, leadership and participation;*
- *Ending violence against women and girls;*
- *Strengthening women's full participation in conflict resolution and peace processes;*
- *Enhancing women's economic empowerment; and*
- *Making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting.*

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### **Function:**

*The UN Women Committee serves as the primary organ to promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights as cross cutting issues related to development. UN Women works to formulate new standards and norms within the United Nations (UN) and support Member States adaptations to these standards. Further, UN Women provides expert knowledge to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on political considerations and reports to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly on its operational activities.*

*This Background guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography to further your knowledge in these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper in accordance with the guidelines in the NCMUN Position Paper Guide.*

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# TOPIC A

## *Incorporation of women in politics*

### **Introduction:**

*The 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation stresses its critical importance in all contexts. It calls on UN Member States to take a variety of measures, including:*

*Review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women and their representation in elective bodies and adjust or reform those systems when appropriate;*

*Strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against women's participation, to develop their capacity to analyze issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote women's capacity to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties;*

*Promote awareness and recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the community, local, national and international levels;*

*Investigate complaints of violence, assault or harassment of women elected officials and candidates for political office, create an environment of zero tolerance for such crimes and, to ensure accountability, take all necessary steps to prosecute those responsible; and*

*Encourage greater participation of women who may be marginalized, including indigenous women, women with disabilities, women in rural areas and women from any ethnic, cultural or religious minority, in decision-making at all levels, and address and counteract the barriers they face. marginalized women to access and participate in politics and decision-making at all levels.*

*The 2003 United Nations General Assembly resolution on the political participation of women stipulates that member states must take measures that include: monitoring progress in the representation of women; ensure that measures to*

*reconcile family and professional life are applied equally to women and men; develop training mechanisms and programs that encourage women to participate in the electoral process and improve women's ability to cast informed votes in free and fair elections; promote the participation of young people, especially women, in civil society organizations; and develop programs to educate and train women and girls in the use of the media and information and communication technologies.*

### **Background and history:**

*Women have long been involved in politics and public life, even before the Nineteenth Amendment gave them the vote in 1920, but women's political activism took a giant leap forward starting in the 1960s. To be sure, we haven't yet had a woman president, but at all other levels of American political life, women have crafted a strong and vibrant history. For a long time, politics was defined very traditionally as voting, participating in organized political parties, and seeking elective office.*

*Conversely, when suffrage was won, that unity of purpose disappeared, and women scattered their political energy into a wide range of causes, not all specifically related to the advancement of women's status.*

*One of the earliest ways for a woman to enter political life was through widow's succession, an appointment to fill the term of her deceased husband. Smith, who for many years was the only woman in the U.S. Senate, even mounted a serious if ultimately symbolic run for the presidency as a Republican in 1964. Mink was the first Asian American to run for president and Chisholm broke new ground as a female African American candidate.*

*Spurred in part by the revival of feminism in the 1960s and 1970s, more women sought — and won — elective office, although the numbers were still fairly small, especially on the national level. With a focus on electing women to Congress, Democratic women founded EMILY's List (Early Money Is Like Yeast) in 1985 to promote pro-choice candidates, and in 1993 Republican women followed with the Susan B. Another route to political power was through appointed office, with women serving in the Cabinet and diplomatic corps as early as the 1930s.*

Representatives like Bella Abzug (New York), Millicent Fenwick (New Jersey), Shirley Chisholm (New York), Patricia Schroeder (Colorado), and Patsy Mink (Hawaii) worked effectively to increase women's visibility in politics; women governors such as Connecticut's Ella Grasso and Vermont's Madeleine Kunin demonstrated prowess on the state level. The daughter of Italian immigrants who represented a heavily ethnic, working-class district in Queens, Ferraro energized many female voters; her presence on the Democratic ticket was widely interpreted as heralding a new era for women in national politics. One factor behind Ferraro's precedent-breaking selection was increased attention to women's political clout at the polls, as represented by the newly christened gender gap, that is, the difference in men's and women's voting patterns.

During the Senate confirmation hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas, a conservative black jurist, to the Supreme Court, Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill accused Thomas of having sexually harassed her when she worked at the Department of Education and the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission in the 1980s. Besides sparking a national debate on sexual harassment, the hearings fostered a widespread sense that Congress needed more women in seats of power. Angered at the treatment Hill received on Capitol Hill and in the national media, a record number of women ran for public office in 1992, with definite results: Women saw dramatic gains in both houses of Congress, as well as in state and local elections across the country.

The 1992 election also introduced voters to a woman who would become one of the most respected but also one of the most deeply polarizing figures in recent American life: Hillary Rodham Clinton, the wife of presidential candidate Bill Clinton. After Obama won the Democratic primary and went on to win the presidency, he selected Hillary Rodham Clinton as his Secretary of State. Eight years later, as Obama prepared to leave office, Hillary Rodham Clinton once again mounted a serious challenge for the presidency and won her bid to be the Democratic party's candidate. However, 2016 would not be the year when the United States joined other countries from around the world in electing a female leader.

## **Current Situation:**

*In 2020 — for the second straight election cycle and 100 years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women suffrage — the number of women running for Congress set a record and more women than ever before competed in the Democratic presidential primary. Harris (D-Calif.) could be one heartbeat away from breaking what 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton called the “highest, hardest glass ceiling.” Harris’s selection as the vice-presidential nominee is particularly significant because many women of color were systematically disenfranchised for decades after the 19th Amendment — and still, today, they can face steep obstacles to casting ballots and especially winning office.*

*But the mere fact that we continue to mark so many “firsts” for women in politics tells us that the playing field with men remains uneven. The most elite White women were charged with the patriotic, but unequal, task of being republican mothers who raised sons to be the next generation of American leaders, while serving as moral guardians of the home.*

*Discontent with their limited opportunity, six working-class women from New York petitioned the state’s 1846 constitutional convention to extend their political rights. By the late 19th century, a broad women’s rights agenda had narrowed to focusing on suffrage, in part because voting was seen as a means to achieve true equality with men. Selling suffrage as a democratic wartime measure during World War I provided the final momentum needed to compel just enough legislators to achieve ratification of the 19th Amendment by one vote. Yet, the face of political power remained White and male, and politicians were in no rush to yield to women.*

*This meant that White women’s best shot at office, as one reporter noted in 1925, was “a dead husband.” More than half of the women who served in the U.S. House of Representatives in the first two decades after 1920 were widows of men who had held office. The 1960s proved a turning point for women in politics — one embodied by the 1964 election of Rep. Patsy T.*

*State legislatures shifted faster, with the number of women in office increasing by 50 percent between 1972 and 1974. Even so, the 1970s — a decade when pundits predicted during each campaign season that it might just be a year of the woman — actually closed with fewer women in Congress than there had been in 1960. Even at this historic crossroad, the number of women in Congress increased by only 4 percent.*

*Hillary Clinton's defeat by the far less qualified Donald Trump inspired more women to enter the fray, and they have worked to channel energy from the 2017 Women's March and social movements such as #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter into political contests. Using social media to reach deeper into the grass roots than groups like the NWPC and Emily's List did in the past, women launched efforts such as Pantsuit Nation, She Should Run and Raising Our Sisters' Assets (ROSA PAC). As more diverse women run for and enter office, they can further shift our limited perception of political leadership.*

### **Cases:**

*In Peru, nearly half of all female mayors and local council members have reported acts of violence related to their political positions (Quintanilla, 2012). This violence is demoralizing, making female politicians less likely to stand for reelection and to leave after fewer terms served. One-third of female local politicians in Sweden, for example, said they considered giving up their positions as a result of these incidents (Krantz, Wallin and Wallin, 2012), while 48 per cent of the women leaving office in Bolivia in 2010 reported being victims of such violence (Acobol, 2012).*

*The impact of this violence also extends beyond the women who are directly affected. In Australia, 60 percent of women aged 18 to 21 and 80 per cent of women over 31 said they were less likely to run for office after seeing how negatively the female prime minister was treated (Shepherd, 2014), while nearly all participants in a program for aspiring women leaders in the UK had witnessed sexist abuse of female politicians online, leading over 75 percent of them to say it was a concern when considering whether or not to pursue a role in public life (Campbell and Lovenduski, 2016).*

## **Key Questions:**

*Are women able to do a better job having an important role as a government server?*

*What would happen if women didn't have the opportunity to be enrolled in politics?*

*Do you consider that a nation or a whole country would be taken to a better future if the majority of the members of the government are females?*

*Which is your position on having women as part of the government in your country?*

# REFERENCES

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