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CGW4Ua

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Dear King'sMUN 2023 delegates,

I am truly honoured as this year's Secretary General of King'sMUN to welcome you to our 9th annual conference and our first in-person conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. The secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible conference with a variety of unique committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

MUN is a reenactment of United Nations conferences at the high school and university level, where representatives from all over come together to discuss the most pressing issues that plague our world today. Students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures in order to create resolutions for both real and fictional issues and crises.

Throughout my time participating in Model United Nations, I have developed many valuable skills that I will take with me throughout my life. It has improved my confidence when public speaking as well as my ability to problem solve. Furthermore, MUN is valuable to me as it promotes lifelong connections with new people as you meet many other delegates who share your passions while in committee sessions. I truly believe that skills that you will learn through your participation in MUN will help you throughout your high school journey, in everyday life, and beyond.

Contrary to popular belief, MUN is truly for everyone. At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something that everyone will enjoy debating about. From the world's most pressing issues discussed in UNSC and UN Women to Indigenous affairs and from the gods on Mount Olympus to the prohibition in the 1920s, we strive to ensure that we can appeal to the passions of a variety of delegates. Everyone is welcome at King'sMUN, whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place for you here.

Once again, I am thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back in person to King'sMUN. I, as well as the rest of the secretariat, are looking very forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 25. Whether this is your first conference or your last, I hope you are able to engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2023.

Sincerely,

Athena Ponte
Secretary General
King'sMUN 2023

UN Purpose and History

The United Nations is an international organization guided by a Charter of principles and purposes to envision and develop a better world. Currently, the UN is made up of 193 Member States, and has evolved based on the rapid pace of global change, progression, and growth. The UN was founded in 1945, four months after the San Francisco Conference. The United Nations emerged after the ratification of its Charter by China, France, the Soviet Union, the UK, USA, along with other signatories. Even after 75 years, the UN continues to dedicate all its work towards achieving global peace and security, delivering humanitarian aid to those in need, protecting human rights, and upholding law upon the international level. Currently, the UN included new working targets by setting sustainable development goals (SDGs) to accomplish by 2030.

The Challenge

Globally, one in three women will experience a form of physical or sexual violence, and face long-term psychological and physical consequences. This impacts not only the individual, but families, communities, and countries at large. Globally, women are vulnerable to a wide range of challenges and inequalities, including gender based violence, discriminatory barriers to accessing basic needs, disclusion or exclusion from education and jobs, and violations towards human rights and freedoms. Domestic violence laws have been passed in at least 155 countries as well as 40 countries having legislation regarding sexual harassment in the workplace. However, despite the formation of gender based laws, challenges remain towards law enforcement, injustices, equality, and safety for women. The efforts of preventing gender based violence is weak within numerous countries around the globe, and unjust methods of punishment allow for the repetition and continuation of violating human rights for women.

History and Purpose of UNW

UN Women was established in 2011 after four distinct areas of the UN- DAW, INSTRAW, OSAGI, and UNIFEM, merged together and contributed mandates and resources to accelerate the progress of the organization's women empowerment goals for a more effective impact to achieve global gender equality. UN Women is dedicated to develop and uphold standards to ensure every individual of the female gender is included in an environment without human-rights violations and discrimination for every girl or woman to have the opportunity to live up to her full potential. The organization prioritizes women leadership and participants on a global scale within government systems to establish policies, help implement the set standards, provide humanitarian aid, taking accountability of monitoring system-wide progression, and coordinating the UN systems work to eliminate gender inequalities.

Topic: The Situation in Afghanistan

Currently, Afghanistan is being occupied by the Taliban. The Taliban are an Islamic extremist terrorist group, demanding to be recognized as a government, with a motive to instill their own strict interpretation of Sharia law into the country. The Taliban first rose to power during the 1990's, and are built of an estimated 75,000 members, including child soldiers. Since the Taliban gained an immense amount of power of Afghanistan, citizens have been terrorized by deadly attacks, torture, and human rights violations. US troops have been sent to Afghanistan to weaken the power of the Taliban, however, president Biden demanded the troops to be withdrawn, resulting in the Taliban's growth of power.

Since the Taliban held control of 85% of Afghanistan, the Taliban's morals successfully excluded women and girls from public life by forcing women under house arrest unless escorted by a male relative, effectively removing women from politics, preventing access to education or working outside the home, stop issuing drivers licenses, and wearing a burqa to entirely cover their faces outside the household. In addition, about 87% of Afghan women will face a form of abuse at some point in their lifetime. These morals under the Taliban's control discriminate

against women accessing basic needs such as medical care, safety to escape violence, and limits the ability of earning a living- creating more obstacles for Afghanistan to move forward in order to escape this crisis. Despite domestic violence and rape being criminalised, women are not able to receive compensation, justice or safety for their abuse. Abusers rarely face consequences for their actions due to the strict implementation of Sharia Law. Sharia law states that in order for a rapist to be proven guilty, there needs to be four adult Muslim male witnesses. Without this proof, women end up getting charged with adultery and face life threatening punishments despite their innocence. Sharia Law also allows for men to beat women under a certain amount of force. However, some Afghan women have mentioned providing law officials with medical x-rays revealing broken bones, and were not granted any justice.

Afghan women are living through a collapse of their basic rights and dreams, and face daily risks to their survival. Weakening the Taliban and aiding the people of Afghanistan who are deeply affected is not a task manageable by the country alone. Without abolishing the Taliban, Afghanistan's future looks dark.

Questions to Consider

1. Despite all the damage Taliban has inflicted upon Afghanistan, the Taliban stands as the only form of leadership and structure for many people including children. Is there any way the Taliban could be placed in a positive light?
2. How is your country contributing to weaken the Taliban and aid those impacted?
3. Why couldn't the Afghan forces better resist the Taliban despite all the US' training and assistance?
4. How does the public exclusion of women impact a country?

Topic: The Situation in Iran

Thousands of people in Iran face interrogation, unfair prosecutions, unjust detainment and imprisonment for peacefully exercising their basic human rights. The Iranian Morality Police began patrolling the streets in 2006 by the hardliner President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in order to successfully spread his idealistic version of the culture of modesty and hijab. Including a mandatory dress code for all women above the age of puberty to wear loose fitting clothing and head covering. Shorts, ripped jeans, or any other form of clothing that may expose the shape of a woman's body is strictly against Iranian law. The Morality Police do not have a clear guideline on which particular clothing can qualify as inappropriate, resulting in unfair accusations and enforcers arbitrarily detaining women. Iranians have reported women facing detainment for as little as a few strands of hair falling outside the hijab. In 2018, a study was conducted revealing that about 60-70% of women in Iran do not strictly follow the mandatory dress code due to the unclear rules and guidelines. While detained, women have faced different forms of violence and torture that has resulted in death on several occasions.

Back in September, Iran's Morality Police arrested a 22 year old woman named Jina Mahsa Amini for wearing clothing deemed to violate the Iranian dress code. After her arrest, she was sent to a police station where she fell into a coma. 3 days later, Amini was pronounced dead in the hospital. Amini's death deeply angered the people of Iran, resulting in several anti-government rallies involving dozens of cities in the country. In response, thousands of women made a public presence without wearing a hijab, burned hijabs, and flashed banners promoting women's rights. Some shared footage of the mass protests on social media to encourage others to join and end unfair treatment to women. The message spread by the Iranian women informed the world about the negative impact Iran's Morality Police had on women, religious clothing, and Islam. During the protests, security forces arrested thousands and used unreasonable force on protesters resulting in 448 deaths.

However, Iran implemented Sharia Law into the country, meaning, even if the Morality Police are abolished, mandatory dress codes and other forms of gender based discrimination will continue to exist, the Morality Police are only the law enforcers.

Further Questions

1. What are protesters in Iran hoping to achieve?
2. What is your country's position regarding the protests in Iran? Is your country's response helpful to the situation?
3. How has the protest impacted Iran's gender inequalities? Has the situation improved? Has it worsened?
4. How can your country contribute to reaching gender equality in Iran?

SDG Connections



The severity of each crisis can be reflected through various Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), which are goals the UN plans on achieving by 2030. Despite the differences and severity, the same SDGs can be applied to the crisis in Afghanistan and Iran. First, SDG 1- No Poverty. Women are being dragged onto the poverty line due to escaping abusive households and domestic violence with no other options for safety from the imposed Sharia Law. Second, is SDG 2- Zero Hunger. When suffering from poverty, food insecurity follows. Third, is SDG 3- Good Health and Wellbeing. Women facing domestic abuse, forceful marriages or pregnancies, discrimination within the healthcare system, and restrictions from everyday activities prevent a healthy lifestyle, physical and psychological health. Fourth, is SDG 4- Quality Education.

Restrictions, safety risks, and poor quality education for women impacts literacy and opportunity for the futures of women and girls. Fifth, is SDG 5- Gender Equality. Although the severity varies from country to country, women face discrimination, gender based violence, and inequality globally. Sixth is SDG 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth. Women in Iran and Afghanistan are commonly told to dedicate lives to stay and look after children, in other words, being labeled as too “unintelligent” to partake in the same lifestyle and jobs as a man. Afghanistan's house arrest laws and occupational restrictions stunt the country's economic growth since women hold the same occupational potential as men. Seventh, is SDG 10- Reduced Inequalities. Iran and Afghanistan are currently environments where the female gender, and various minority groups are vulnerable to violence, inequality and discrimination. Lastly, is SDG 16- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Government corruption, terrorist groups, and injustices against minorities and women continue in Iran and Afghanistan.

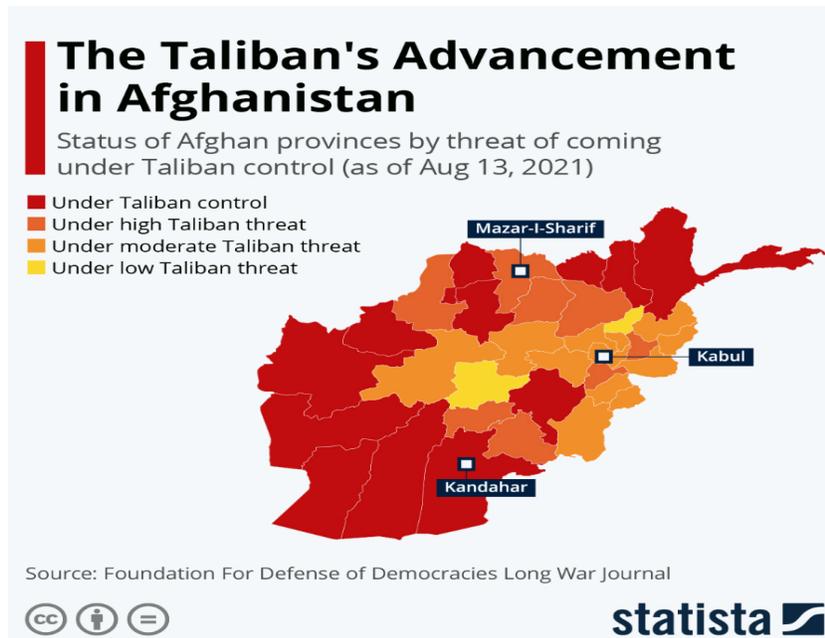
Graphs and Statistics



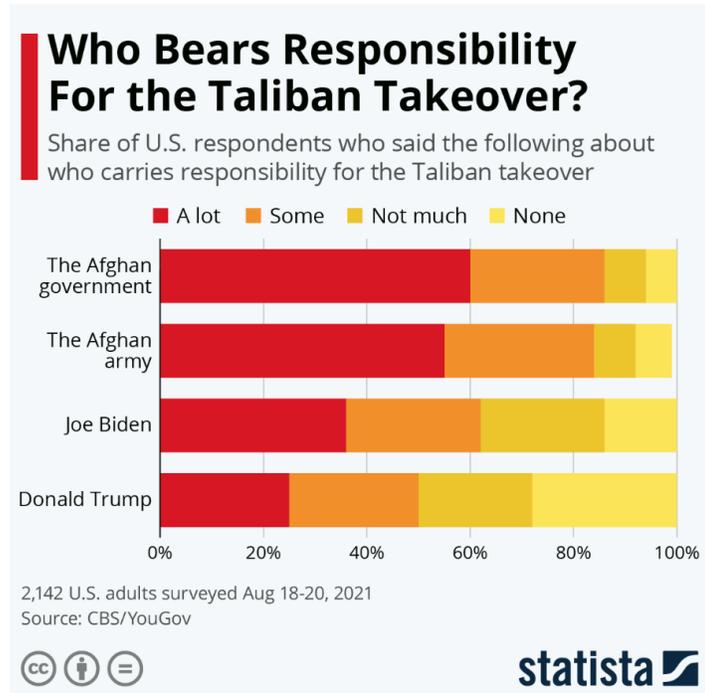
Afghanistan's female literacy rate for ages 15 and over compared to other countries



The timeline of Iran's mandatory hijab law



Map of Afghanistan and where the Taliban controls



Comparisons of opinions regarding who is to blame for the Taliban takeover



Map showing the locations of protests in Iran

Sources

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