



Amman Center for Human Rights Studies - Public Report



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING

“Accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”

United Nations Headquarters (virtual), New York, 21 July 2020

Introduction

The conference organised by UN Women highlighted that we cannot allow the coronavirus outbreak to threaten the lives of women. The main goal should be to continue to pursue gender equality. To achieve gender equality it is crucial to engage as many people in this discussion as possible. The conference gave the opportunity to people and especially women from various organisations and companies to highlight the issues and to come up with ways to tackle them.

Panels

First panel discussion Gender equality leaders dialogue

List of Panelists

Moderator: Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Chief Executive Officer, Rozaria Memorial Trust

Speakers:

- H.E. Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta, Minister of Women, Genders and Diversity, Argentina



- H.E. Zaruhi Batoyan, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Armenia
- H.E. Frankie Campbell, Minister of Social Services and Urban Development, Bahamas
- H.E. Jung-ok Lee, Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea
- H.E. David Moinina Sengeh, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Sierra Leone o Nino Lomjaria, Public Defender of Georgia, national human rights institution
- Allison Tummon Kamphuis, Global Program Leader Gender Equality & Community Impact, The Procter & Gamble Company, private sector representative
- Abel Koka, Project leader of Tutimize Ahadi project at Restless Development in Tanzania, member of the Beijing+25 Youth Task Force, Youth leader

The first panel focused how especially women are affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and what this means for their livelihood in different parts of the world. Questions that were raised and discussed, included how we can make sure that women are among those making decisions during the Covid-19 crisis? What are women's involvement?

- Women head a number of households and have more roles in the household.
- We need more role models in society that also include male leaders setting an example of how women and men should share the tasks in both the family life and work place.
- We need to pursue a culture of nonviolence and have a feminist foreign policy because gender issues know no boundaries.
- It is importance to focus on programs that unleash the potential of young women.
- **Generation equality is about respecting the youth! They are not leaders of tomorrow but leaders of today.**
- It is a traumatized world that we live in at the moment and children and women are affected enormously, which has deepened the existing inequalities.
- The current situation requires joint efforts in which diversity is respected.

Interactive panel discussion: Women's and girls' voices, participation and leadership

List of Panelists

Moderator: Chidi King, Director of the Equality Department of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Speakers:

- Jessica Vega Ortega, President of Global Conclave of Indigenous Youth; promoter and defender of the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Aya Chebbi, African Union's Envoy on Youth
- Risnawati Utami, Member, United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Jeff Hearn, PhD, Senior Professor of Gender Studies, Örebro University, Sweden
- Lydia Alpizar Durán, Co-Executive Director, Mexico and Central America Initiative of Women Human Rights Defenders (IM-Defensoras)
- Salam Al-Nukta, Founder and CEO of ChangeMakers, and member of the Beijing+25 Youth Task Force



The second panel build upon what the first panel focused on and discussed in depth the role of women, how meaningful participation of all women can be achieved and how men can be active. It was stressed that we are privileged in the sense that we have the tools to be part of this digital space and can participate in online education and conference like this one. Not many women have this luxury.

- Key issue that women's movements are raising: **addressing intersectionality to achieve equality for all.**
- Policies and strategies that have proven most successful in including women's and girls leadership: quota systems, political and financial support.
- Women leaders and female defenders are often at risk of violence - stop stigmatizing these women will contribute to end gender based violence.
- We need to create a safe civic space for women everywhere.
- We need to focus on `peaceful masculinity` and educate both women and men about the importance it.
- By changing mens attitude towards their masculinity the way gender equality is seen can be changed for the better.
- The progress of men and women continues to be uneven and this needs to be changed.
- We need to focus on accountability, dismantling oppression, collaboration and bringin a feminist agenda to the world.

Interactive panel discussion: Achieving gender equality is everyone's responsibility

List of Panelists

Moderator: Eddie Ndopu, United Nations Secretary-General's Global Advocates for the Sustainable Development Goals and Humanity & Inclusion's Global Ambassador

Speakers:

- Humberto Carolo, Global Co-Chair, Men Engage and Executive Director, White Ribbon o Anthony Keedi, Program Manager, Masculinities and Engaging Men in Gender Equality, ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality, MENA Region
- Misun Woo, Regional Coordinator, Asia Pacific Forum on Women in Law and Development (APWLD)
- Stephan Loerke, CEO, World Federation of Advertisers and founding member of the Unstereotype Alliance
- Martha Lucía Micher Camarena, Member of Parliament and leader of the Gender Commission of the Upper House of Mexico

This panel highlighted the importance of everyones involvement in ensuring gender equality. This includes governments, individuals and organizations all around the world. It also demonstrated how people who are active in large companies can play a role in promoting gender equality, such as the advertising business.

- Advertising can play a role in achieving gender equality when it engages and trusts women and their involvement.
- Global advertising only recognized that they had an issue in advertising three years ago but many are now working towards changing this and including a more feminist approach.



- The United Nations has assisted a number of countries to overcome gender based discrimination. This is something that we need to build upon.
- It is important to support development plans of smaller governments and redistribute power and opportunities.
- In human rights there will be no progress if we do not have the input from all sectors, we need commitment from everyone.
- It was stressed that, **meaningful solidarity is absolutely important.**
- A feminist environment needs to be provided.
- It should not be forgotten that there is a global agenda, but local realities which need to be addressed.

Interactive panel discussion: Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment: drivers for sustainable development

Moderator: Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Executive Director, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Speakers:

- Rachel Moussié, Deputy Director, Social Protection Programme, Women in Informal Employment (WIEGO)
- Mary-Ann Stephenson, Director, Women's Budget Group
- Corina Rodriguez Enriquez, Executive Committee Member, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)
- Leyla Zuleikha Makhmudova, Co-founder, FemAgora Feminist Foundation
- Noelene Nabulivou, Co-founder, Diverse Voices and Action for Equality (DIVA)
- Emmanuelle Larroque, Founder and Director, Social Builder

The last panel focused on how we can ensure the progress of gender equality and ensure that there is no regression to our rights. Especially girls' empowerment and how education plays a pivotal role in gender equality was discussed.

- The pandemic has made issues relating to gender equality much more visible and the enormous inequalities that exist - this is why we have to prepare for further crisis and educate girls.
- We need to stress the importance on educating girls to have ownership of their body.
- The focus of the future should be on developing online education and giving young people access to internet.
- Access to internet should include that women online are safe.
- **Learn to learn.** How is technology reshaping everything and how women can be creators in technology.

A conversation about the future

- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women



- Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary General's Envoy on Youth
- Hajer Sharief, Co-founder of "Together we build it"

Unfortunately, we cannot include a report on this conversation due to technical issues during the webinar.