



Press Corps/L'Osservatore Romano

Press Corps

Reporter: Acadia Courville

Topic: ECOSOC / Advancement of Women

The advancement of women is vital to the SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 5: gender equality. Because we would like to achieve this goal by 2030, the advancement of women is a key point that needs to be addressed. In order to achieve this SDG, the world needs to overcome the lack of the advancement of women so we can move forward to achieve this goal. The lack of the advancement of women “has been going on since society started” according to the Delegation of Lebanon. Clearly the advancement of women is something that we need to address.

When I inquired about the acts of oppression against women I got many answers, however the ones that kept surfacing were sexual harassment, lack of education, childhood marriage, being forced into marriages, being thought of as less than, and lower wages. When I asked several countries about the typical age range that oppression has been common in, I got mixed responses. When I asked the Delegations of Lebanon and the Congo they said typically 13-18.

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When I asked Morocco, they said around 15-18. When I asked the Delegation of Kazakhstan I was told 14-20, and when I asked the Delegation of Portugal, they said 6-17. So, from my observations sexual harassment, and acts such as that can happen as early as when a girl is six years old, however the more common age is when girls are in their teens to when they are in their early twenties. Unfortunately, the question I was most eager to have answered, why has this been happening, did not have a definite answer either. I was given a variety of answers from “women are being thought less of” to “people are sexist.” Another question I wanted to know the answer to, where has the oppression of women mainly been happening and I also got a variety of answers, however, the most common answer was all over the world.

Throughout my time in the committee room, the topic of the education about sexual harassment showed up frequently. The Delegation of Kazakhstan first brought up the idea of a class, they stated that they would like to “start a class on sexual harassment for young girls.” Then, they later added, that boys should take a class as well. Then, the Delegation of Haiti brought up the idea of “integrating both boys and girls so they can learn about it together.” Overall, all of the delegations that I heard spoke came to a general consensus that there should be a class to educate young people on sexual harassment.

Later, the topic of child care and health care was raised, first by the Delegation of Eritrea who stated that “give mothers child care opportunities, so the women will feel comfortable having jobs.” Later in the conversation, the Delegation of Kazakhstan brought up the fact that women and girls should have free health care, which later brought up a possible solution that women and girls should have free health care up until the age of 18.

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Right before the break for lunch, sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as the topic of jobs came up in the conversation, first by the Delegation of Lebanon. The Delegation stated that they should encourage business owners to take action against their employees who have committed sexual assault. Later in the conversation both the Delegations of Kazakhstan and Haiti made excellent points. Kazakhstan stated, “when stereotypes are used there is less opportunity for women getting a job, because a stereotypical woman stays home and does housework, while the stereotypical man goes out and provides.” In response to that, the Delegation of Haiti said that, “by breaking stereotypes, it will show men and women that women do not always have to stay at home and that they can work, too.”

After three hours of discussion, some of the delegations have drafted possible solutions to put into the resolution. Some of the suggestions are, a recommended minimum amount of schooling, a recommended age of marriage, and a marriage contract signed by both parties with a lawyer present. Overall, this was a successful day one.