

MBC

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By Mesa Broadcasting Center

As the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine begins to reach a crisis point, Russia denies any reports of human rights abuses, laying out hypocritical claims.

In October of 2022, The United Nations Human Rights High Commissioner released a report containing numerous cases of rape, sexual violence and human trafficking in Ukrainian territories invaded by Russian armed forces. Around 82% of sexual violence has been reported by the UN to be committed by Russian forces, and over 440 graves were discovered near Izyum (East Ukraine) after the city was recaptured, with the victim's bodies often being displayed with bruises and injuries that further prove maltreatment. In an effort to divert attention away from the humanitarian crisis occurring in Ukraine, Max Ferguson, the Councilman of the Russian Federation, continuously dismisses all allegations of sexual violence and downplays the severity of the crisis, urging the Security council not to focus on "the special military operation". He says the reports of abuse are simply a case of misreporting, completely ignoring the numerous reports that state otherwise. The International Court of Justice has thus called for Russia to cease military activity on Ukrainian territory, but a resolution is yet to be made regarding the situation.

Amidst controversy revolving around alleged war crimes in Ukraine, a Russian delegate in General Assembly has deceptively called for the increased police presence to prevent sexual violence. This statement of opposition to sexual assault directly contradicts the actions of Russian soldiers in Ukraine, who have been responsible for widespread sexual violence against Ukrainian citizens.

During the 25th session of the Sonoran Desert Conference, representatives from all countries present in 3rd Committee have agreed to acknowledge the importance of addressing gender-based violence and together seek resolutions to best combat this foremost crisis.

Nations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Kenya have been major advocates for such actions during committee meetings, with each nation highlighting the work they have done to eliminate gender-based violence (GBV) and the actions they encourage fellow member states to take to eliminate this abhorrent practice. As stated by a delegate of the United States, "countries [should] not censor media that mentions the reality that women face nor should they censor any aims that work against violence," but instead actively promote discourse and education on this critical issue. The delegate of Kenya has also been advocating for change, discussing an "active vs. passive" approach to solving gender-based violence and continues to call for education and funding for the prevention and termination of GBV.

Together, these three countries have found common ground on GBV and assembled a coalition of other nations to address this issue. Together, they have outlined a proposal that would implement a three-part plan establishing gender-based violence centers providing medical care and safehouses, using these education centers to promote long-term prevention goals, and ensuring long term funding for these desperately needed centers. Meanwhile, other countries

have chosen to focus on issues they view as more pressing matters that must be taken care of before gender-based violence can be eliminated.

A delegate of Syria has continuously been advocating for the rights and protection of women and LGBTQ+ individuals. These comments come as Syria remains in the midst of a gruesome civil war, with civilian freedoms of expression, association, and assembly being more oppressed than ever. Despite the deteriorating state of Syrian human rights, this delegate continued to advocate for progressive western ideals, directly contradicting the stated policies of the conservative muslim Assad regime.

During the Security Council Committee, an unfortunate announcement revealed that the President of Brazil had been assassinated in a coup.

Delegates Rahul Patel and Shreyash Prakash offered their condolences to the close family and wished to fulfill their late President's ideals. The United States delegate Charlotte Pascoe has stated that the U.S. does not approve of this violence, and view this as an attack on democracy. Meanwhile, U.K. delegate Sanjana Lyer expressed that this coup is a direct result from the lack of a free press. Delegate Patel from Brazil called out other sovereign states for repeatedly accusing Brazil's crisis of being a result of poor political uneducation or a supposed lack of free press. While the U.K. delegate has expressed concern of using UN peacekeeping forces to assist Brazil, fearing to set a violent precedent, a delegate from Gabon has suggested that no action should be taken regarding Brazil's political crisis. Ultimately, two resolutions were passed by the Security Council Crisis Committee, one of which concerned the short term plans and the other focusing on long term solutions for both Brazil and the UN. Brazilian Delegates Patel and Prakash stated that they were overall happy with both resolutions and hope that their government will be returned to its former state with minimal harm done to the citizens.

The Special Committee on Decolonization has voted to approve a resolution supporting the right of New Caledonia, a colony of France, to determine its status going forwards.

This resolution outlines three options for future governance of New Caledonia, including independence, Free Association with France, and further integration with the French Republic. These options would be presented to the people of New Caledonia in a territory-wide referendum, with the government of France being encouraged to abide by the results of this referendum and support New Caledonia in its decision.

La Prensa Mesa

Will The UN Do Nothing About Women's Rights In Latino Nations?

"Our entire committee is dedicated to helping women become more prevalent and peacekeeping." - the delegate of Mexico. Women's rights have been limited in both economical and political positions due to gender inequality. Resolutions are being made in each committee to resolve this problem.

There have been many plans that have been presented to help women's rights. Of such the United Mexican States (Mexico) has proposed the plan to educate women to help them get on the "path to become peacekeeping members." it would ensure that the rights of women would be maintained within peacekeeping missions, and allow them to become more prevalent in society and the government.

The Republic of Argentina brought forth a different approach to help women's rights and their potential growth. The delegate introduced the Women and Sustainable Growth Program or WSGP. The plan would broaden membership to the G 24 for an international forum which addresses issues related to economic and gender inequality. It would bring problems of the economy together to resolve them, and to improve gender equality and sustainable development. Furthermore the WSGP will also help UN member nations to improve the world of women by creating worldwide education programmes about the problems of climate change and pollution targeting women. Also to implement programmes and new and member nations educating about the problem of gender pay inequality and demonstrating the effects that equal pay will have on the economy and sustainable development.

Statistics of the United Nations have shown that despite a closing disparity between the number of working men versus women, the new figures demonstrate that the gap between women's labor participation versus that of men still amounts to more than 25 per cent on average. Further, a deeper dive into pay scales shows that for each hour worked, women's earnings are on average 17 per cent below those of men, of the same age and education and economic status.

Technology, equal access to education, declining fertility rates, and greater levels of average income have levied the time needed to carry out domestic tasks, which have collectively contributed to greater numbers of working women in the region, Alicia Bárcena, ECLAC's Executive Secretary, and Juan Felipe Hunt, the ILO's acting Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Gender inequality has been a political and economical problem that has targeted women. The plan presented by Argentina (the WSGP) will ensure gender equality, which would improve the world wide educational programs to help move women in Central and South America in economical and political positions. Resolutions are making their way to being passed that could possibly help all women especially in Latino countries.

Al-Mesa

Middle Eastern Countries Boldly Address The Issue of Child Trafficking And The Situation of Palestinian Women Within Their Region

By Kevin Pham and Emmalia De Luna
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The issue of child trafficking has consumed the Middle East for decades. As the trafficking of children increases, the subject has found its way to the center stage, with countries such as Lebanon and The United Arab Emirates in the spotlight. Today member states have gathered at the United Nations to address the topic. Many countries have spoken out on the matter; however, particularly these Middle Eastern countries have captured the attention of all.

Lebanon came forward with the unique approach of strengthening its laws, claiming that if the law was strict in its definitions, perpetrators could not find legal loopholes to escape accountability for their actions. Additionally, they seek to spread awareness on the subject through public education and campaigns such as the Blue Harp Campaign. In spreading awareness of child trafficking, Lebanon states it will educate law enforcement on identifying trafficking so they can intervene. Such preventive actions are said to be taken, but Lebanon adds that if trafficking occurs, it will not stay a heavy hand for the punishment of these abusers.

The United Arab Emirates followed this by declaring similar views and solutions as Lebanon. They seek to create the “Specialist Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons” to ensure that law enforcement can properly identify and handle child trafficking situations. They put heavy emphasis on spreading awareness to the general public as a preventive measure as well.

These Middle Eastern countries have shown progression in the issues consuming their land; such as child trafficking and the situation of Palestinian Women.

Palestinian women have now, more than ever, faced atrocities that put them in a position that is dangerous and exploitative. Fortunately, many Middle Eastern countries have acknowledged these injustices and have begun drafting and discussing ways to solve the situation of Palestinian women.

One common opinion that seems to be a part of the mindsets of Middle Eastern countries is that Israel's solutions will not be effective in solving the injustices Palestinian women face. They believe this is the case because Israel is responsible for the situation of Palestinian worsening over the years. However, Israel states that it is not the only one causing the problem and it's at least trying to create a solution.

Israel proposes a plan that will benefit themselves and Palestine in hopes of neutralizing the problem in two places at the same time. They call it the “2 state plan” which will help to give women more protection and resources to stay safe. However, Palestine has made it clear that

it does not want to, in any way, unite with Israel expressing that independence is in its best interest. Israel has also finally spoken on the situation of Palestinian women within its areas that aren't as well developed, proclaiming they are considering creating groups focused on the unification of women.

Iran on the other hand has chosen to focus more on the healthcare aspect of the conflict. They want to establish organizations that provide easily accessible doctors at a low price. Along with that, one of the major solutions that they have created is making connections with more developed countries. They hope that by doing so, there will be a mutually beneficial relationship that will help Palestinian women. However, Iran states that it doesn't want developed countries to impose their ideologies on their citizens or influence them.

Many Middle Eastern countries have spoken out on these topics of great importance today. A common theme of progression has been seen throughout it all and it is safe to say that the world can expect many positive changes from these countries in the future.

MCCNA

Delegates of China demonstrate considerable participation and cooperation

MCCNA

By Gavin Rivera

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MESA, United States: The 2023 conference has seen a high amount of participation and cooperation between the delegates. In several committees, delegates from China demonstrated this at a relatively high degree and was met with approval from other delegates.

For example, in General Assembly, China stated it challenges its previous patriarchal system, giving women access to jobs and the right to have abortions. The delegate of the United States along with a few other delegates commended China in response.

Meanwhile in the Fourth Committee, a delegate of China commends Egypt on its efforts and shared interests to reduce cases of gender-based violence. Currently the delegates representing both countries are sponsors on a resolution regarding women in peacekeeping and the situation of Palestinian women. The two countries both support the centralization of the goal to reduce gender-based violence as much as possible.

In the same committee, the United States and China plan to examine cultures of individual countries to make a long-term solution to improve the status of women in peace-keeping.

Furthermore, UNICEF delegates of Mali and the UAE made a resolution to make education more accessible online, claiming it will help both children and adults. China recommended voting on resolutions immediately.

In other news, an extremely noteworthy discovery made by MCCNA is that the UNHCR delegates of Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Mongolia are involved in a resolution made by Germany. This resolution focuses on pushing humanitarian aid and cleaner energy.

In the International Court of Justice, the court ruled in favor of Ukraine in the Ukraine v. Russia case, deciding Russia must pull their troops out of Ukraine. In the Gabon v. Equatorial Guinea case, the court ruled in favor of Equatorial Guinea and determined the Convention Demarcating the Land and Maritime Frontiers of Equatorial Guinea to be invalid.

In the UNICEF committee, Fiji proposed to increase the number of immigration officers to prevent child trafficking. Ethiopia, responding to Fiji's speech, recommended focusing on prosecution of child traffickers. Currently, the delegate of Fiji is working on a resolution with Russia and Denmark focusing on ensuring education for all. Their plan emphasizes building infrastructure to house and educate refugees. On the other hand, Lebanon encourages more severe punishment for child traffickers. In response, Mali emphasizes working to end conflicts in Lebanon which may hinder their efforts.

Overall, across numerous committees, the delegates of China had a voice in numerous topics and commended other delegates for their shared ideas.