

Topic A: Women rights

Dear delegates:

Welcome to Tarbutmun 2015. As every year, in the Human Rights Committee we discuss topics of extreme importance, we sincerely hope for you to discuss them with enthusiasm and seriousness.

The Human Rights committee looks for the enforcement of the human rights and we hope you take this as a way to learn not only about international agreements and resolutions, we also want you to learn about life, about hearing and paying attention, about speech as a way to solve problems, negotiating and getting to a win – win situation that is helpful for everyone.

In this committee we look after humans, people made of flesh and bone, people who can't speak for themselves and have to live in deplorable conditions, those who don't have a voice; in this committee we provide them a voice.

Take this as an educative way to learn about the world and life.

Best of luck, sincerely

Jennifer Silberstein

Human Rights Committee

The human rights committee is an independent committee that supervises the correct application of the international human rights resolution.

It was created on March 15th of 2006 and it's composed by 47 members picked by the General Assembly. This committee deals with everything that has to do with the human rights, it develops new international agreements and enforces their application.

Since 2008, the committee adopted an "institutional construction package" that evaluates year by year the situation of the 192 members of the United Nations about the human rights. This package allows the committee to evaluate correctly every country and to give a status of their actual situation, getting this way to establish priorities and set which topics are urgent.

Introduction:

Not a lot of topics are as urgent as women rights. Women rights are violated all around the world, but especially in the Middle East.

Around the world women are mistreated, and their basic human rights violated, in some cultures women are properties of their husbands and have no say or vote. Violation of the women's rights goes from not having the right of expression, to domestic violence, and in some countries not even being allowed to drive a car.

This is a topic of extreme urgency that is affecting all over the world and should be discussed.

History of the women rights.

The women's rights have been a point of discussion since before the XIX century, in the ancient ages, women didn't have any rights in a lot of cultures but some others, like the Aka culture in Nigeria were matriarchal societies. Surprisingly now days, there are still some cultures that still don't respect the women's rights.

In 1946 the United Nations established a Commission on the Status of Women. Originally as the Section on the Status of Women, Human Rights Division, Department of Social Affairs, and now part of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Since 1975 the UN has held a series of world conferences on women's issues, starting with the World Conference of the International Women's Year in Mexico City. These conferences created an international forum for women's rights, but also illustrated divisions between women of different cultures and the difficulties of attempting to apply principles universally. Four World Conferences have been held, the first in Mexico City (International Women's Year, 1975), the second in Copenhagen (1980) and the third in Nairobi (1985). At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995), *The Platform for Action* was signed. This included a commitment to achieve "gender equality and the empowerment of women". In 2010, UN Women is founded by merging of Division for the Advancement of Women, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues Advancement of Women and United Nations Development Fund for Women by General Assembly Resolution 63/311.

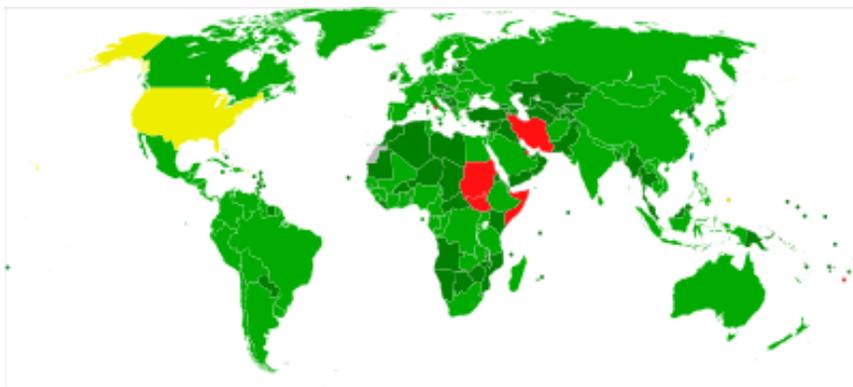
Actual situation:

Women's rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls of many societies worldwide. In some places, these rights are institutionalized or supported by law, local custom, and behavior, whereas in others they may be ignored or suppressed. They differ from broader notions of human rights through claims of an inherent historical and traditional bias against the exercise of rights by women and girls in favour of men and boys.

Issues commonly associated with notions of women's rights include, though are not limited to, the right: to bodily integrity and autonomy; to vote; to hold public office; to work; to fair wages or equal pay; to own property; to education; to serve in the

military or be conscripted; to enter into legal contracts; and to have marital or parental rights.

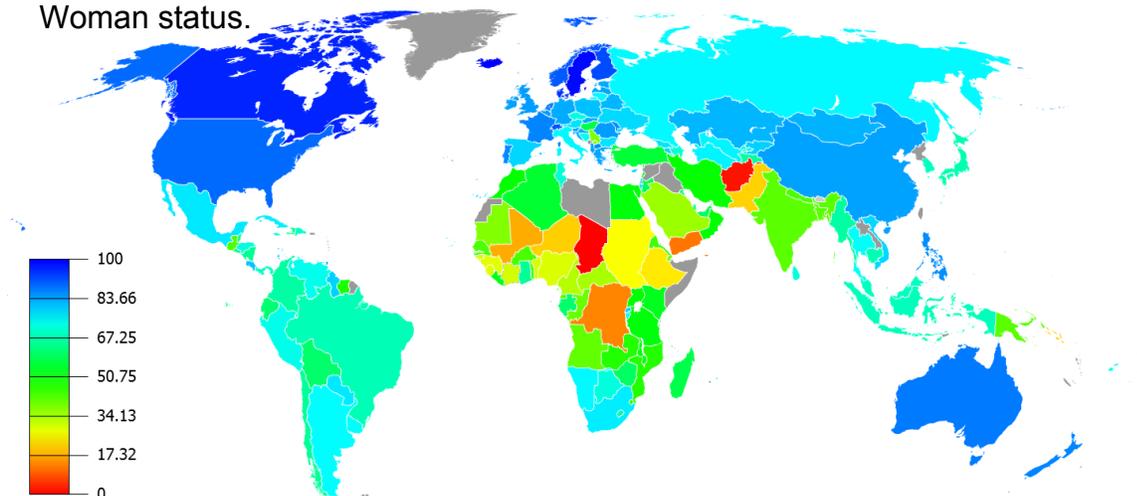
Statistics:



Participation in the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)



Woman status.



Topic B: War prisoners' rights

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Introduction:

The Third Geneva Convention defines humanitarian protections for prisoners of war. Prisoners of war are defined as:

- 1) Members of the armed forces or members of militias or volunteer corps forming part of such armed forces belonging to a party to the conflict.
- 2) Members of other militias and members of other volunteer corps, including those of organized resistance movements, belonging to a party to the conflict and operating in or outside their own territory, even if this territory is occupied, provided that they fulfill the following conditions, such as being commanded by a person responsible for his subordinates, having a fixed distinctive sign recognizable at a distance, carrying arms openly, and conducting their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war.
- 3) Members of regular armed forces who profess allegiance to a party not recognized by the Detaining Power.
- 4) Persons accompanying armed forces but are not members of, such as war correspondents, civilian members of military aircraft crews, supply contractors, and members of labor units or of services responsible for the welfare of the armed forces.
- 5) Inhabitants of a non-occupied territory who spontaneously takes up arms in resistance who are captured by an enemy power, provided they carry arms openly and abide by the laws and customs of war.

Prisoners of war may not renounce rights secured by the Conventions. Those rights include the rights to humane treatment which prohibits specifically violence causing death or seriously endangering health, or physical mutilation or scientific or medical experiments, protection from acts of intimidation, insults and public curiosity, protection from reprisals, exercise, protection from physical or mental torture, adequate physical and psychological treatment, to keep personal items including money, to be evacuated if the territory in which they are held becomes too dangerous, to adequate food, water, shelter and clothing, sanitary living conditions, religious freedom, and to complain. Detaining powers have the right to use appropriate force in the event of escape or a riot, to require prisoners to give their name and rank, and to utilize prisoners for labor as long the work doesn't have to do with the war effort.

History

The events of World War I and World War II had a profound effect on international law due to the denial of civil rights and liberties on the basis of racial, religious, and political discrimination. The systematic use of violence, including murder and ultimately genocide, the use of slave labor, abuse and murder of prisoners of war, deportations, and confiscation of property forced changes to the status quo. Over the proceeding decades, large scale changes began to occur in all areas of international law, and prisoners' rights were no exception. Now, there are

numerous international instruments which lay down codes by which prisoners should be dealt with. Foremost amongst them are the Geneva Conventions, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Actual situation

Guantanamo Bay

The American government has been accused of many breaches of prisoners' rights in international law. The most publicized case is the detention facility it maintains in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The American government claimed that the facility was not covered by the Geneva Conventions protecting prisoners of war as the detainees were 'enemy combatants'. Regardless of the status accorded to detainees, international law still prohibits torture. It is now clear that the CIA allowed water boarding which is not only a breach of international law but also the American Army Field Manual which prohibits cruel, humiliating or degrading treatment.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, US soldiers are accused of abusing prisoners in a secret prison in Bagram Air Base. The prisoners held there were exposed to extreme temperatures, not given adequate food, bedding, or natural light and religious duties were interfered with. There are also claims of abuse in Shebarghan prison in northern Afghanistan for which America is jointly responsible with the Afghan government. Shebarghan prison is claimed to be overcrowded with inadequate bathing and ablution facilities, as well as lack of food and medical care.

Iraq

In 2003, accusations started to emerge of prisoner abuse in Abu Ghraib prison. US soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison serving there were accused of beating prisoners, forcing prisoners to strip, forcing prisoners to masturbate, threatening prisoners with dogs, smearing prisoners with feces, making prisoners simulate sex and form naked piles. There were also accusations that prisoners were raped, sodomised and beaten to death.

Resolutions made

- Third Geneva Convention
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners
- European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Breaches of prisoners' rights in international law