Security Council

Research Report

The Question of:

Promoting the role of women and youth in achieving international peace and security

Introduction

War, violent conflict, terrorism and violent extremism have differential and devastating consequences for women and girls. In the face of this, women are all over the world are leading movements for peace and to rebuild communities, and there is strong evidence suggesting that women's participation in peace processes contributes to longer, more resilient peace after conflict. Yet, despite this, women remain invisible to, and excluded from, peace processes and negotiations.

In 2016, an estimated 408 million youth (aged 15–29) resided in settings affected by armed conflict or organized violence. This means that at least one in four young people is affected by violence or armed conflict in some way. Estimates of direct conflict deaths in 2015 suggest that more than 90 percent of all casualties involved young males. However, conflict, crime and other forms of violence impact young people's lives in more ways than mortality. While it often goes unrecorded, young people suffer from a wide range of short-, medium- and long-term effects ranging from repeat victimization to psychological trauma, identity-based discrimination, and social and economic exclusion. Currently, poor data makes it challenging to accurately estimate how many young people are living in situations in which they are exposed to those diverse forms of violence and violation

The Committee

General information

The Security Council is a forum where the main goal is to discuss matters of international peace and security such as areas in conflict. The council will contain 15 people were 5 of the countries always have a guaranteed seat, these countries are the P5 (Permanent 5) countries:

China, France, The United Kingdom, The Russian Federation and the United States of America. These countries have veto-power which means that if one of the P5 member states disagrees to a proposal given then it automatically fails. These P5 countries have a lot of power.

The Security Council has the ability to make binding important decisions unlike the other organs of the UN. A key example of these decisions is the sending on UN peacekeepers to areas of conflict. This can only be certified by the UN Security Council.

Voting

An amendment or resolution needs 9 votes in favor in order to pass, and an no vote against from any of the P5 countries. Abstentions are always allowed, even in motions to divide the house.

Ad-hoc

In the Security Council, there is an Ad-Hoc debate procedure in use which means that no resolution is prepared beforehand and there is no lobbying. In the Security Council, delegates hand in individual clauses, each clause is debated, and it passes or fails. This way a resolution is created. As a delegate, it is very useful to prepare individual clauses in advance.

Key Terms

Feminism

Feminism is a range of political movements, ideologies, and social movements that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve political, economic, personal, and social equality of sexes. This includes seeking to establish educational and professional opportunities for women that are equal to those for men.

Women's Empowerment

Women's empowerment is the process in which women elaborate and recreate what it is that they can be, do, and accomplish in a circumstance that they previously were denied.[1][2] Alternatively, it is the process for women to redefine gender roles that allows for them to acquire the ability to choose between known alternatives whom have otherwise been restricted from such an ability.[1] There are several principles defining women's empowerment such as, for one to be empowered, they must come from a position of disempowerment. Furthermore, one must acquire empowerment themselves rather than have it given to them by an external party.

Youth Empowerment

Youth empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then act in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes. Youth empowerment aims to improve quality of life. Youth empowerment is achieved through participation in youth empowerment programs.

Sexism

Stereotypes and discrimination based on an individual's sex. This includes gender roles. Sexism is a common term used in today's society, and is something that has been an issues for hundreds of decades. Sexism is often used in language, such as words than end in -man, professions for example eg. policeman businessman chairman all which can be done by a woman.

Gender Roles

This is ways that we are supposed to act, speak or dress, based on our sex. The things that society has taught us to do, the specific "norm" standards. For example men are supposed to be

strong and bold whereas women are supposed to be weak, softies and polite. THe way we dress as well, women are supposed to dress feminine and sit in a feminine way.

Stereotypes
Similar to gender roles, gender stereotypes are certain factors which society has made the norm for women and men to do and fall into those categories.

General Overview

Women's meaningful participation in peace processes

Between 1990 and 2017, women constituted only 2 percent of mediators, 8 percent of negotiators, and 5 percent of witnesses and signatories in all major peace process. When women are included in peace processes, there is a 20 percent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least two years, and a 35 percent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years. Because of these high numbers, we need to encourage women to stand up and take place in the political process. For example, a trend analysis on 1,500 peace and political agreements adopted between 2000 and 2016 (140 processes) shows that only 25 agreements discuss the role of women's engagement in implementation, which is about 1,7 percent of all agreements, while this should be a lot more.

Access and right to services and resources

Conflicts and emergencies limit children's and youth's access to education. In 2017, in Mali and Niger, three in 10 children of primary school age were out of school; in Liberia, the out-of-school rate even doubled, six in 10. In many of these settings, the out-of-school rate for girls is higher than for boys. In Côte d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka and Yemen, for example, girls of primary school age are out of school at the rate 1.5 times as that for boys.

Youth empowerment

Empowerment theory focuses mainly on processes that enable participation and create opportunities to learn new things and increase their knowledge. As stated in the Key Terms, youth empowerment is achieved throughout participation in youth empowerment programs. However, scholars argue that children's rights implementation should go beyond learning about formal rights and procedures to give birth to a concrete experience of rights. There are numerous models that youth empowerment programs use that help youth achieve empowerment. A variety of youth empowerment initiatives are underway around the world. These programs can be through non-profit organizations, government organizations, schools or private organizations.

Most of the programs focus on five things; positive sense of self, self-control, decision-making skills, a moral system of belief and pro-social connectedness. If you teach these five capabilities to young people, youth will become healthier thus more aware of all that is happening and that they can change things if they want.

There are a lot of organizations for youth empowerment. For example, Organization for Youth Empowerment (OYE), which focusses on helping Youth in Honduras. Or the Children and Youth International (CYI), which focused on empowering young people and their representative structures to actively participate in the preparatory processes of the UN conference on Sustainable

Development (UNCSD) in Rio in 2012. CYI also serves as one of the Organizing Partners of the Major Group for Children and Youth, which is an organization created by the UNAll of these organizations are there to empower youth to stand up for themselves.

Major Parties Involved

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women
The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UN Trust Fund) awards grants to initiatives that demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be systematically addressed, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated. The UN Trust Fund works with non-governmental organizations (NGO's), governments and UN country teams.

Zambia
A lot of children in Zambia don't go to school, especially girls. UNICEF is doing campaigns in Zambia to make girls go to school, but a lot of parents don't agree. Because if they go to school, the girls will emancipate, which is what Zambians don't want. Zambians want girls to marry someone, get a lot of kids and take care of them.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II. The Polish physician Ludwik Rajchman is widely regarded as the founder of UNICEF and served as its first chairman from 1946. In 1950, UNICEF's mandate was extended to address the long-term needs of children and women in developing countries everywhere.

United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY)
UN MGCY is the United Nations General Assembly mandated, official, formal and self-organized space for children and youth to contribute to and engage in certain intergovernmental and allied policy processes at the United Nations. The UN MGCY acts as a bridge between young people and the UN system in order to ensure their right to meaningful participation.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
Late 1800 – early 1900	First-wave feminism was a period of feminist activity and thought that occurred within the 19th and early 20th century throughout the world. It focussed on legal issues, primarily on gaining the right to vote for women.
1895	Indigenous Australian women (and men) were granted the right to vote, as the first country in the world. However, Indigenous Australians were not given the right to vote until 1963.
1905	Bertha von Suttner becomes the first woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize
1915	Women from Europe and the United States all gather in the Hague for the first ever Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

1918	Voting for women becomes allowed in Great Britain
1948	There was a change and addition in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was the basics of promoting equal rights everywhere and freedom.
1952	The right for women to vote everywhere and also participate in political elections becomes legal, stated on the Covenant on Political Rights of Women passed by the United Nations.
1973	Billie Jean King wins a tennis match against male player Bobby Riggs also known as the "battle of the sexes" tennis match which then became very popular and stood as a statement in order to demand more opportunities for aspiring female athletes.
1975	UN participates more with women's rights, First ever International Women's year in order to resemble women's rights and equal rights for all. First UN Women Conference help in Mexico.
1979	The UN produces the Convention of the Elminiatoins of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Convention is about the rights for women and what factors discriminate women and how to eliminate them. A new set of rules for equality for women.
1993	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women successfully produced. World Conference in Vienna where women speak out about women's rights and the importance of this.
2000	Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) are produced by the UN and include the promotion of gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women.
2000	The UN Security Council pass a resolution about the effect on women in areas of conflict and urges all UN nations to involve women in peacebuilding and begin to promote peace and security.
2008	UN Security Council passes another important resolution about sexual violence in areas of conflict and has become an act of war crime. Calls for all the nations to be aware of this and to ask for protection for women in areas of refugee camps.
2015	Sustainable Development Goals Launched which include the promotion of gender equality.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

The UN has had previous attempts in order to solve this issue, there has been 8 resolutions which have been published by the Security Council. UN women as mentioned above is a huge party which works towards solving this issue and work to work with women with various ethnic backgrounds in order to promote peace. The resolutions work towards the issue working towards peace and preventing conflict.

Resolution The Security Council 31st October 2000 **S/RES/1325**
Resolution The Security Council 19th June 2008 **S/RES/1820**
Resolution The Security Council 30th September **2009 S/RES/1888**

Resolution The Security Council 30th September 5th October 2009 **S/RES/1889**
Resolution The Security Council 16th December 2010 **S/RES/1960**
Resolution The Security Council 24th June 2013 **S/RES/2106**

The Future

The upcoming future with the resolutions that the UN security council has passed will be successful. The strong support from the branch of UN women is currently working with 50 different countries empowering women and promoting peace all around the world in all the continents. Expanding the network around peace and security and at all times active on the events that occur on this issue and updating with accurate information. The need for UN Women has become more than ever, with the new uprising threats towards peace and security such as human trafficking and humanitarian crises, the UN has recognised the importance of this branch and has many events planned for the future in order to promote global peace.

Sexual violence in areas of conflict is very common, not to say the least in armed conflict areas, the UN has recently taken proper action against this with a new campaign, the UN action against sexual violence in areas of conflict. Reports have been produced in order to keep track of the situation around the world, the reports are in detail and have been collected by a trustworthy source.

Important Decisions a Resolution Must Take

The resolution must tackle the issue from the roots as a primary. There are several possible solutions and important key areas that this resolution must have.

First creating a new separate branch can be a useful idea, a branch which only focuses on this issue as a whole. This is important because with this new branch, such a huge issue can really be taken into full consideration and a whole team will dedicate their agenda towards just this.

Secondly all aspects must be considered in order to make this resolution successful, both peace and security and protecting the women in areas of conflict as well as getting them involved in achieving peace and security.

Further Reading

- https://ufmsecretariat.org/empowerment-young-people-women-key-development-faten-kallel/ - Empowerment of young people and women; the key to developing.
- http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures#_Meaningful_participation – Facts and figures; peace and security

Most relevant UN documents

- http://undocs.org/S/RES/2437(2018) – Resolution 2437 on Maintenance of international peace and security
- https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2242.pdf - Resolution 2242 on Women, Peace and Security
- https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf - Youth, political participation and decision-making

Bibliography

- "Youth, political participation and decision-making" United Nations, 2018, https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf
- "Coverage: Women's meaningful participation in peace—where are the barriers and what can be done?" United Nations, 24th of October 2018, http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures#_Meaningful_participation
- United Nations Secretary General's Peace Building Funds (PBF) Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, https://www.pbfgypi.org
- "Peace and Security" – United Nations, http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security
- http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures#_Meaningful_participation – Facts and figures; peace and security