## Delegate: Gözde Karamehmetoğlu

**Topic:** Human Rights and social situation of women in Armed Conflicts

Country: Bhutan

Committe: Commission on the Status of Women



Gender relations can be the main reason for a country to enter into armed conflicts and the whole society is badly affected by this situation. In terms of gender gap, it is women and girls who are most affected by this situation. Sexual violence against girls and women is used as a very common war tactic in conflicts. One of the examples that can be given to this situation is the sexist discrimination of the Taliban terrorist organization against the Afghan society. With the fall of the Taliban from power, there has been a significant change and progress in terms of women's rights and education in the country. In 1999, there was not a single girl enrolled in secondary education. There are only 9,000 female students in primary education. By 2003, 2.4 million girls were able to go to school. This number is currently around 3.5 million. About one-third of students at public and private universities are women. However, according to the information provided by UNICEF, there are more than 3.7 million children who are out of school due to the ongoing conflicts and the lack of adequate schools and female teachers, and 60 percent of them are girls. The Taliban says they are no longer opposed to girls' education. On the other hand, according to Human Rights Watch reports, very few organization officials in Taliban-controlled areas allow girls to go to school after puberty. In the report of the UN Secretary General, it was stated that the human rights violations in Afghanistan are escalating and called for "Immediately stop the violations and abuses of human rights". Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children Remaining in Armed Conflicts, called for the safety of life and protection of fundamental rights of all people, including women and girls, in Afghanistan.

In the Middle East, where peace seems still far away, many people lost their lives, as well as broken families, injured people, burned buildings, destroyed hopes. There is an increasingly heavy picture in the form of; and that hits more women. In conflicts throughout history, the victorious parties not only destroyed the historical and cultural values of the places they conquered and looted their property, but also strengthened their sovereignty by raping the women of the defeated country. Women, who are the main subjects of sexual violence in conflict-torn societies, are exposed to permanent effects such as unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and social exclusion after the conflict. As a result of these events, the WomenWarPeace.org web portal was established to address the lack of data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls. Rape of the women of the enemy country in times of conflict is a common act. Because the female body is perceived as a homeland and represents a piece of land obtained.

According to Enloe, women are mostly reduced to symbolic roles in nationalist movements and conflicts. Women who were exalted by the nation in nationalist movements became the spoils of war to be captured and humiliated in conflicts. International sanctions are on the agenda in order to prevent sexual and gender-based violence against women's bodies from continuing in wars and conflicts, ceasefire and peace processes. These sanctions underline what states should do to protect women regardless of religion, race, origin and group. However, the acceleration of violence against women in many countries shows that the protection in the law is not reflected in practice.

Under the law of Bhutanese, women have a substantial right to freedom and are considered equal with men. Agricultural activities constitute a large part of our country's economy. Most women play a large role in the rural and urban economy, while others hold managerial positions in the public and private sectors. Married women, in addition to being housewives, often earn as much as their husbands. According to official records and sources, Bhutan is literally considered the island of women's rights in Asia. On a worldwide basis, Bhutan is in a very good position in terms of Women's Rights. The country's government is based on a constitutional monarchy based on parliamentary democracy. And in this form of government, women are greatly respected and honored. The tradition of inheritance/leaving is proof of this. Contrary to the rules in the patriarchal system, in Bhutan all property and possessions such as real estate, animals and land are inherited by the eldest daughter of the family, not their son.

In order to solve this situation, all countries must be united. Supporting women's participation in the peace process and emphasizing the importance of women's representation in decisionmaking bodies, United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and supporting resolutions are important regulations for women. It invites member states to be sensitive to womenpeace-security issues and to increase the number of women representatives while taking peace decisions that determine the fate of all humanity. As Bhutan, everyone is equal, without discrimination of women. We do not face such a problem when a conflict does not occur in our country. We should mention that the people in our country are happy and we even have the Ministry of Happiness. It is very normal not to encounter such a situation in a country where peace and prosperity are high. As another solution, other countries can focus on bringing the peace within the country to the highest level by establishing such a Ministry within themselves.

## Bibliography:

https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-againstwomen/2014/conflict#:~:text=UN%20Women's%20programmes%20on%20women,stop%20 conflict%2Drelated%20sexual%20violence.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women\_in\_Bhutan

https://www.nato.int/docu/review/tr/articles/2016/05/04/afganistan-in-yaninda-olmakstratejik-secim/index.html