**Country**: United States of America

**Committee:** CSW

**Agenda Item**: Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women

The United States, officially The United States of America is a federal republic of 50 states. The US is the fourth largest country in the world in area. Its capital is Washington. Although the total population of the United States is large by world standards, its overall population density is relatively low. The United States contains a highly [diverse](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/diverse) population. The United States has a diversity that to a great degree has come from immense global immigration. No other country has a wider range of racial, ethnic, and cultural types than the United States. The United States is the world’s greatest economic power, measured in terms of gross domestic product (GDP). Education is provided in public and private schools and by individuals through homeschooling. By state law, education is compulsory over an age range starting between 5 and 8 and ending somewhere between ages 16 and 18, depending on the state. Compulsory education is divided into three levels: elementary school, middle or junior high school, and high school. With its well-established system, the United States spends more per student on education than any other country in the world. When it comes to health system, the US is the only developed nation without a system of universal healthcare, with a significant proportion of its population not carrying health insurance. Healthcare is provided by many distinct organizations, made up of insurance companies, healthcare providers, hospital systems and independent providers. The Human Rights Measurement Initiative finds that the U. S. is achieving 81.3% of what should be possible at their income level for fulfilling the right to health.

The European Union (EU) promotes and financially supports gender equality and women’s empowerment across the globe. Among the EU countries, Iceland, Finland, and Sweden are the leading countries that invests in gender equality in the most efficient way. Together with EU, the most developed countries such as Canada, United Kingdom, the US, and Japan are also the countries that play a key role in promoting gender equality not only within their territories but also worldwide. Despite substantial improvements and efforts since the 1900s, there are still numerous aspects of gender inequality in the United States, such as the unequal representation and participation of women in politics, occupational segregation, and the division of domestic labor. The United States is ranked 38th in the world by the 2022 SDG Gender Index, which analyzes the empowerment of women and girls across a range of criteria, including health, education, and employment rights. The report looks at pre-COVID data, and its authors warn that the picture for women and girls is even worse today. On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. For one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men. As of February 2021, 27.3% of seats in parliament were held by women. Looking at the labor market statistics from a gender perspective, the gender gap in pay has remained relatively stable in the United States over the past 20 years or so. In 2022, women earned an average of 82% of what men earned, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of median hourly earnings of both full- and part-time workers. Even though women have increased their presence in higher-paying jobs traditionally dominated by men, such as professional and managerial positions, women as a whole continue to be overrepresented in lower-paying occupations relative to their share of the workforce. This may contribute to gender differences in pay. Other factors that are difficult to measure, including gender discrimination, may also contribute to the ongoing wage discrepancy.

The US historically plays a key role in promoting gender equality. For instance, the Beijing Declaration, adopted by the UN at the end of the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995 puts a set of principles concerning the equality of men and women. The U.S. strongly supports the declaration and established a platform for action to mainstream gender equality within the US. Despite these, gender inequalities in the United States require a comprehensive policy response. One of the biggest barriers to gender equality, in the United States and worldwide, is the unequal distribution of unpaid caregiving at home. Gender gaps in employment widen with parenthood. American women are much less likely to work when they have young children, in part because the United States lacks the well-developed work-life balance supports that are common in most OECD countries. The lack of paid parental leave and inadequate access to good-quality, affordable childcare means that many American women cannot fully participate in the economy and in society. The stakes are high, and policy action is urgently needed. The United States recognizes that more than ever before, urgent, collective, and dedicated action is required. Watching out for signs of domestic violence is critical. Verbal attacks and psychological abuse also affect women. Often, all these things occur together. UN quoted that in most countries with data available, less than 40 percent of women who experience violence seek help of any kind. Among those who do, most seek out family and friends, and few uses formal institutions and mechanisms, such as police and health services. Less than 10 percent of women went to the police after suffering violence. Also, in order to help women gain power, women should play a key role when it comes to leading the world. According to [2017 data from UN Women](http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2017/femmesenpolitique_2017_english_web.pdf?la=en&vs=1123), only 17 countries have female heads of state and/or government. The overall average of women in legislative bodies is only 23.4 percent.

Women make up half of the world's population and need to be given more voice if we're going to address the issues such as poverty, inequality, climate crisis that the world is now dealing with. Therefore, gender equality needs to be achieved as soon as possible in all societies, everywhere in the world, in order for women to have a bigger voice without having a delay. To achieve this, we urge the UN and the committee to develop laws and regulations that encourage gender equality that are maintained by proper funding and come with responsibility for the promises made in support of women's rights in all areas. Also, it is urgent that women and girls should have equal access to education, health care, decision-making, employment, and participation in political and economic decision-making. Gender-based discrimination should be removed, new legal frameworks on workplace equality for women must be established, and damaging behaviors must be discontinued. More importantly, men and boys should be educated and a social and behavioral change among whole society should be achieved.

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