

# Position Paper



**Committee:** UN Women

**Country:** Latvia

**Agenda Item:** Empowering Women in Latvia

Honorable chair and fellow delegates,

Latvia is a country that has made significant progress in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in recent years. However, women in Latvia still face various challenges, including unequal pay, limited access to leadership positions in both the public and private sectors, and high levels of gender-based violence.

We recognize that gender inequality remains a pervasive problem that hinders the social, economic, and political progress of our societies. Women continue to face various forms of discrimination, including unequal pay, limited access to career opportunities, and sexual harassment.

Latvia is committed to promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in all aspects of life. Women's empowerment refers to the process of enhancing women's ability to exercise control over their lives and make decisions that benefit themselves and society as a whole. This includes access to education, health care, employment opportunities, political participation, and the ability to live free from violence and discrimination.

UN Women believes that empowering women is essential to achieving sustainable development and reducing poverty and inequality. Challenges Facing Women in Latvia Despite Latvia's commitment to gender equality, women in the country continue to face significant challenges.

*Duru Gürbay*

Latvia recommends the following strategies for empowering women in Latvia:

- **Combat Gender-Based Violence:** The Latvian government should adopt a comprehensive approach to combat gender-based violence, including strengthening legal and social services for survivors of violence, raising awareness of the issue, and ensuring that perpetrators of gender-based violence are held accountable.
- **Eliminate the Gender Pay Gap:** The Latvian government should implement policies that promote pay equity, including mandatory pay audits, and promote women's participation in higher-paying industries and sectors.
- **Promote Women's Political Participation:** The Latvian government should promote women's participation in politics by adopting measures that encourage women's political representation, such as quotas, and by ensuring that gender-sensitive policies and laws are developed and implemented.
- **Strengthen Women's Economic Empowerment:** The Latvian government should support women's entrepreneurship, ensure access to finance, and promote women's participation in higher-paying sectors and industries.

Empowering women in Latvia requires a comprehensive and sustained approach that addresses the root causes of gender inequality and discrimination. By implementing the strategies outlined above, the Latvian government can take significant steps toward promoting gender equality and ensuring that women have the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive

In conclusion, while there is still work to be done to achieve full gender equality in Latvia, the country has made significant strides in promoting women's empowerment and creating a more inclusive society for all.

Thank you.