

Country: Russian Federation
Committee: UN WOMEN
Topic: Empowerment of women

The Russian Federation thinks that gender inequality should not be an issue in today's century, however, there still are countless countries who believe in women's inferiority, which leads to discrimination in education, rights, wage, professional development, etc. Globally, over 2.7 billion women are legally restricted from having the same choice of jobs as men. Of 189 economies assessed in 2018, 104 economies still have laws preventing women from working in specific jobs, 59 economies have no laws on sexual harassment in the workplace, and in 18 economies, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working. The gender wage gap is estimated to be 23 percent, though these figures understate the real extent of gender pay gaps, particularly in developing countries where informal self-employment is prevalent. Women also face the motherhood wage penalty, which increases as the number of children a woman has increases. Facing all these facts, a question arises; How can all these be repaired? How can women be treated better, equally? The solution is definitely not easy to accomplish, although, there already are related organizations to empower, to provide support by the UN, such as; Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), mostly focusing on the economic aspect, Fund for Gender Equality (FGE) which has been, since 2009, UN Women's only global grant-making mechanism for civil society, "The Global Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI), which was designed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through regional partnerships, in order to respond to the urgent need to incorporate gender perspectives into national development frameworks. These organizations have been up for a good while, but the desired help has not been achieved, judging by the conditions women are in, especially in Central Asia and Africa.

As for Russia's past on the matter, The Soviet Union has scarred the roles of women, which changed dramatically over the course of history in Soviet Russia under different leaders, economic and physical conditions. Pre-Revolution Russia was a very backwards country; far behind in industrialization and politics. Most other European countries were experimenting with constitutions and democracy, and yet, Russia still had serfdom and a strong nobility. The industrial class rose up multiple times, finally during WW1 they won and Lenin took power and created Soviet communism. This liberated women and gave them opportunities to pursue careers as doctors and engineers along with many other professions. Women of eighteenth-century Russia were luckier than their European counterparts in some ways; in others, the life of a Russian woman was more difficult. The eighteenth-century was a time of social and legal changes that began to affect women in a way that they had never before experienced. Peter The Great ruled Russia from 1682 to 1725 and in that time brought about many changes to Russian culture, altering the Orthodox traditions that had been observed since the fall of the Byzantine Empire in the 1450s. The three major social classes present during these reforms experienced changes in varying degrees according to their proximity to the tsar and urban settings where reforms could be more strictly enforced. Large cities underwent the westernization process more rapidly and successfully than the outlying rural villages.

Noblewomen, merchant class women, and peasant (serf) women each witnessed Petrine reforms differently. For the lower classes it was not until the end of the eighteenth-century (during the time of Catherine the Great's reign) that they began to see any changes at all. When these reforms did begin to change women's lives legally, they also helped to expand their abilities socially. The Petrine reforms of this century allowed for more female participation in society, when before they were merely an afterthought as wives and mothers. The change in women's place in Russian society can be illustrated no better than by the fact that five women ruled the empire, in their own names, for a total of seventy years. There are some famous women in Russian history, who pursued an admirable career;

Anna of Russia, ruled as Empress of Russia from 1730 to 1740.

Elizabeth of Russia, reigned as Empress of Russia from 1741 until her death in 1762.

Catherine the Great, reigning empress of Russia from 1762 to 1796. She came to power after overthrowing her husband, Peter III.

Yekaterina Vorontsova-Dashkova: the first woman in Europe to hold a government office.

There have been significant changes in Russian policies regarding women, but in the late 1980's, the importance and care given to women's rights and equality has dropped considerably, and since then, modest improvements have taken place, mainly driven by countries' accession to the European Union. As of today's century, Russian Federation has laws that protect women, their equality, although in practice, women face lots of discrimination, and the country's current situation doesn't allow Russia to contribute help to women in general.

The usual main issue is that women are equal in theory, but not in practice. There are countless countries that 'protect' women's rights, but since there still are considerable problems regarding women, the laws are not taken into practice by the governments of the countries, which leads to the main issue. There's a quite easy solution to it, punishing men who abuse their wives/daughters, supporting women in workplaces, giving them equal wages, pursuing a policy which supports equality between genders, self-education on the matter, backing up the already-existing organizations, countless ideas to put in work to. The main reason why these ideas are only ideas is because there isn't enough hype and recognition in cities. Recognition is a need on these kinds of matters, therefore if the foundations are supported, their voices could be heard.