

# EGYPT

Country: Egypt

Committee: UNWOMEN

Agenda Item: Strengthening Protections Around Women's Fundamental Rights in the MENA Region

Countries in the MENA region have possibly the least protection around women's rights in our current world. While women's rights have been improved in certain parts of the region, they've gotten a lot worse in other parts. Women who live in the MENA region today are faced with many issues like not having proper access to healthcare (Especially when it comes to sexual and reproductive healthcare), restricted freedom which stems from both the existence of the male guardianship system and a lack of financial independence and most importantly the issue of femicide and the fact that a lot of crimes targeting women don't get taken seriously enough. A big part of this kind of unequal treatment can be sourced back to the culture in these countries and a view of women that sees them as lesser than men that has become ingrained in most of these societies. As a country in the MENA region we are very much aware of the inequalities and discrimination women face in our country and we hope to find a way to reduce these as much as possible.

There have of course been previous discussions on strengthening women's rights that have produced very reasonable and fitting solutions that we can currently look at in the form of international documents, namely CEDAW and The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Both of these documents provide us with solutions to a lot of the problems we are facing often with very detailed frameworks. While both of these documents have bettered women's rights to an extent it is important to note that the implementations of these frameworks are mostly left up to the states' own will as there are no real consequences to not putting them in action. There is also the issue of the wording not being precise enough in some instances which can lead to some states purposefully misinterpreting them to prevent having to make any actual change. These issues aside, the solutions presented in these can solve a lot of our problems if the necessary precautions are taken to make sure states actually implement them.

As we have mentioned before, a big cause of discrimination as a whole is the cultural views of women. In order to change these harmful views we can implement changes in the national curricula and run public awareness campaigns. Cultural reform like this will take a very long time however and to ensure that women are safe until these views can change it is very important to take legislative action. This can be in the form of affirmative action to help women become financially independent and therefore more secure, but also in the form of punishment for violation of women's rights. It is crucial that in order to better women's rights in the MENA region we take advantage of already existing solutions and frameworks. Seeing how they weren't properly implemented in the past however it is also very important for us to give incentives to implement them and properly and regularly monitor their progress over the years. Especially this last part crucial to actually making actual change happen as we have observed that while great solutions have been found in the past they failed to have an impact simply because they weren't implemented.