

**Comitee: UNWOMEN - The United Nations Programme for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**

**Country: Netherlands**

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**Topic: Strengthening protections around women's fundamental rights in MENA region**

In many countries across the MENA region, women face serious challenges regarding their fundamental rights. In the eyes of governments and legal systems, women are often treated as secondary citizens, with limited autonomy over their own lives. Many women are not free to make personal choices about how they live, travel, work and express themselves.

Access to essential healthcare—particularly reproductive and maternal healthcare—remains a significant problem. In some countries, women are pressured or even forced to give birth, while bearing the primary responsibility for childcare without sufficient social or institutional support. Moreover, in several MENA countries, women are subject to male guardianship systems, which legally place them under the authority of a male relative, restricting their travel independence and decision-making power.

The Netherlands has done many things about women's rights in recent years. The Netherlands has made a partnership with the MENA region called "Shiraka Contract" Shiraka contract focuses on children and women. Here are some main focuses in Shiraka contract;

- Societies that accept cultural and religious differences;
- States that respect the rule of law and protect individuals, minorities and human rights

The Netherlands financially supports UN programmes that promotes womens' rights. These programmes are aimed at:

- Better education opportunities for girls;
- Fighting maternal mortality, child marriage and violence against women;
- Encouraging political and economic participation by women;
- Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights .

Netherland also has launched SheDecides movement in order to build support for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls. SheDecides now enjoys political and financial support from around 60 countries.

Here are the Netherlands' suggestions;

- Heavier punishments for femicides to prevent prevent people from comitting these crimes.
- Cultural role of women in the society must be reshaped through education of younger generations.
- Positive discrimination must be applied in the emploment of women and employers must be encouraged to hire women.
- Women and men must be provided with better parental rights
- Women must be paid equally with men in similar positions

- Birth control must be easily available and free for all women