

HASTRAIN'21

UNWOMEN STUDY GUIDE



Women and
girls with
disabilities

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Letter from the Secretary-General

Honorable participants,

At long last, it is my immense pleasure to invite you to the 7th iteration of Kadir Has University's train conference, which is set to be held from Saturday, December 4th to Sunday, December 5th of 2021 in Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey!

Last year, to much proud, our club hosted two online conferences in a row for the reason of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Following our online season, we are now very thrilled to welcome our participants in our school's building. Our conference's main mission is to give our participants the best experiences in various ways, and show what Model United Nations conference is. As HASTRAIN'21 is a train conference, we are ready to help all of our participants on their MUN journey. Therefore, there is no need to hesitate in any circumstances, our team will accompany you in their best.

As our world is in an era that almost every crucial topic is related to technology, we aimed to focus two of our committees around it. Crypto market (in WTO) and the Cyber Security (in DISEC) will be discussed in our committees with current width. On the other hand, we have considered discussing the possible consequences of Taliban's new regime in SOCHUM. Last but not least, our fourth committee (UNODC) will be a special committee which will held the discussion about drugs in a world that Colombia is a renown narco-state.

Above all else, it is important to know that I and the entire HASTRAIN team is ready to meet with you. We hope that we will have the best experience together in the first weekend of the December.

Warmly,

Bulut Vize

Secretary-General HASTRAIN'21

Letter from the Under Secretary General

Dear delegates of UNWOMEN,

I am Beril Anıl and I'm a student at Yıldız Technical University on Communication Design. It is a pleasure for me to serve as the Under-Secretary-General of UNWOMEN in Kadir Has University Model United Nations conference, which is one of the most prestigious and one of the most long-established conferences in Turkey.

I have been working with different disabled groups in different non-governmental-organisations and projects myself, I wanted to make sure that I can still make an impact on the matter of disabled individuals and at least raise some awareness for my delegates.

I kindly ask you to think about how you can make women's life better even though your country's policy is not suitable to defend the rights of women somehow. Model United Conferences are not only for to get certificates, making friends or just to have fun but to widen your perspective about the events around you, around the world as well, at least this was the case for me and I can assure you that I changed a lot through what I have learnt in MUN conferences. I am hoping this committee will help all of us to create a better environment at least for women around us even if we can not reach out to every woman in the world.

I would love to thank Bulut Vize, our Secretary-General for making it possible for me to be a part of this amazing journey in the Kadir Has MUN community once again.

If you would have any inquiries or questions, please feel free to contact me via berilanil@outlook.com.

Best regards.

Beril Anıl

Under Secretary-General of UNWOMEN

Agenda Item: Women and Girls With Disabilities

Introduction to the Committee

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

(UNWOMEN): UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.¹ UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide.² UN Women's main roles are to support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms, to help Member States implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society and to lead and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality, as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.³

Introduction to the Agenda Item

It is estimated that one in five women live with a disability.⁴ Women with disabilities experience various types of impairments—including physical, psychosocial, intellectual, and sensory conditions—that may or may not come with functional limitations. In addition, the diversity of women with disabilities includes those with multiple and intersecting identities across all contexts, such as ethnic, religious, and racial backgrounds; their status as refugee,

¹ Empowering women empowering humanity. (2016, August 29). Retrieved April 25, 2021, from <https://www.unicef.org/turkey/en/press-releases/empowering-women-empowering-humanity>

² About UN Women. (n.d.). Retrieved April 25, 2021, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>

³ Ibid.

⁴ World Health Organization (WHO). 2011. World Report on Disability.

migrant, asylum-seeking, and internally displaced women; LGBTIQ+ identity; age; marital status; and living with or being affected by HIV.⁵

Stance of Key Terms and Concepts

Disabilities

Disability is an evolving concept which results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.⁶

“Types of Disabilities

- **Vision impairment:** Vision impairment refers to people who are blind or who have partial vision.
- **People who are deaf or hard of hearing:** Hearing impairments can range from mild to profound. People who are hard of hearing may use a range of strategies and equipment including speech, lip-reading, writing notes, hearing aids or sign language interpreters.
- **People with mental health conditions:** Mental illness is a general term for a group of illnesses that affect the mind or brain. These illnesses, which include bipolar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, anxiety and personality disorders, affect the way a person thinks, feels and acts. A person with a mental health condition may experience difficulty concentrating, which can sometimes be a result of medication.
- **People with intellectual disability:** A person with an intellectual disability may

⁵ *Women and girls with disabilities*. UN Women. (n.d.). Retrieved November 27, 2021, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/women-and-girls-with-disabilities>.

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<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2018/Empowerment-of-women-and-girls-with-disabilities-en.pdf>

have significant limitations in the skills needed to live and work in the community, including difficulties with communication, self-care, social skills, safety and self-direction.

- **People with acquired brain injury (ABI):** Acquired brain injury (ABI) refers to any type of brain damage that occurs after birth. The injury may occur because of infection, disease, lack of oxygen or a trauma to the head.
- **People with Autism Spectrum Disorder:** Autism is an umbrella description which includes Autistic disorder, Asperger's syndrome and atypical autism. Autism affects the way information is taken in and stored in the brain. People with autism typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions and other activities.
- **People with physical disability:** The common characteristic in physical disability is that some aspect of a person's physical functioning, usually either their mobility, dexterity, or stamina, is affected. People with physical disability are usually experts in their own needs, and will understand the impact of their disability. There are many different kinds of disability and a wide variety of situations people experience. The disability may be permanent or temporary. It may exist from birth or be acquired later in life. People with the same disability are as likely as anyone else to have different abilities.”⁷

⁷ <https://services.anu.edu.au/human-resources/respect-inclusion/different-types-of-disabilities>

Discrimination

Discrimination on the basis of disability is any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation.⁸

RELATED INTERNATIONAL NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS ABOUT THE AGENDA

International and national laws and policies on the rights of persons with disabilities have historically neglected aspects of gender equality. Similarly, laws and policies addressing gender equality have traditionally ignored the rights of women and girls with disabilities. Systemic barriers coupled with the failure to prioritize the collection of data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities have perpetuated the invisibility and situation of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that excludes them from various aspects of life as well as across the humanitarian development continuum.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international legal instrument that requires countries to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in all areas and promotes women's and girls' equal rights. CEDAW is often described as the international bill of rights for women, and is one of

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<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2018/Empowerment-of-women-and-girls-with-disabilities-en.pdf>

the key international agreements that guides the work of UN Women in achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. CEDAW for Youth is a youth-friendly version of CEDAW, that was authored by a young woman and young man.

While CEDAW does not explicitly refer to women and girls with disabilities, the General Recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women No. 18 (a) notes that women with disabilities are doubly marginalized and recognizes the scarcity of data, and (b) calls on States parties to provide this information in their periodic reports and ensure the participation of women and girls with disabilities in all areas of social and cultural life.⁹

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (CPRD)

The CRPD includes equality between men and women as one of its general principles. Article 6 on women and girls with disabilities recognizes the multiple forms of discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities, and calls for the full development, advancement and empowerment of women. The General Comments on the Convention address issues that uniquely or disproportionately affect women and girls with disabilities, including General Comment No. 3 on Article 6: Women with disabilities.

Note: Please be reminded that you are expected to click on the links of the articles to read the whole comments.

⁹ UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), CEDAW General Recommendation No. 18: Disabled Women, Adopted at the tenth session, 1991. Available at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT/CEDAW/GEC/4729&Lang=en

General Comment No 1

[ARTICLE 12: Equal Recognition Before the Law](#)

General Comment No 2

[ARTICLE 9: Accessibility](#)

General Comment No 3

[ARTICLE 6: Women and Girls With Disabilities](#)

General Comment No 4

[ARTICLE 24: Right to Inclusive Education](#)

General Comment No 5

[ARTICLE 19: Right to Independent Living](#)

General Comment No 6

[ARTICLE 5: Equality and Non-discrimination](#)

General Comment No 7

[Article 4.3 and 33.3: Participation with persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention](#)

Convention on the Rights of Child (CRD)

The CRC recognizes the rights of children with disabilities in Article 23. The Article states that children who have any kind of disability have the right to special care and support, as well as all the rights in the Convention, so that they can live full and independent lives.

Article 23

1. States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance, and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

2. States Parties recognize the right of the disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension, subject to available resources, to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child.
3. Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development.
4. States Parties shall promote, in the spirit of international cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling States Parties to improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The Declaration identifies specific actions to ensure the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities in various areas, bringing disability inclusion into the general efforts to address the multiple barriers to empowerment and advancement faced by women and girls.

The Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

The charter is endorsed by Member States, UN agencies, including UN Women, and a number of human rights networks and organizations, made specific reference to women and girls with disabilities. The Charter calls for the empowerment and protection of women with disabilities from physical, sexual and other forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and harassment and commits to collecting data on persons with disabilities disaggregated by age and sex.

RELATED BODIES & ORGANISATIONS

International Network of Women with Disabilities: The International Network of Women with Disabilities (INWWD) is comprised of international, regional, national or local organizations, groups or networks of women with disabilities, as well as to individual women with disabilities and their allies. The mission of the INWWD is to enable women with disabilities to share our knowledge and experience, enhance our capacity to speak up for our rights, empower ourselves to bring about positive change and inclusion in our communities and to promote our involvement in relevant politics at all levels, towards creating a more just and fair world that acknowledges disability and gender, justice, and human rights.¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/women-and-girls-with-disabilities.html>

Problems that Women with Disabilities Face

“Women and girls with disabilities are often pushed to the extreme margins and experience profound discriminations. This can lead to lower economic and social status; increased risk of violence and abuse, including sexual violence; gender-based discriminatory practices; and limited access to education, health care (including sexual and reproductive health), information, services, justice, as well as civic and political participation. These barriers hinder their full and effective participation across the humanitarian-development continuum, including during pandemic and in post-conflict and transition settings.”¹¹ “The systemic marginalization, attitudinal and environmental barriers they face lead to lower economic and social status; increased risk of violence and abuse including sexual violence; discrimination as well as harmful gender-based discriminatory practices; and barriers to access education, health care including sexual and reproductive health, information and services, and justice as well as civic and political participation. This hinders their participation on an equal basis with others.”¹² “As a consequence of multiple identities, some women and girls with disabilities are pushed to the extreme margins and experience profound discriminations.”¹³

¹¹ Women and girls with disabilities. UN Women. (n.d.). Retrieved November 27, 2021, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/women-and-girls-with-disabilities>

¹² <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2018/Empowerment-of-women-and-girls-with-disabilities-en.pdf>

¹³ Association for Women’s Rights in Development, “Intersectionality: A Tool for Gender and Economic Justice”, Women’s Rights and Economic Change, No. 9 August 2004, p. 2.

Barriers to the Participation of Women and Girls With Disabilities

The barriers include inadequate availability, implementation and resourcing of data and evidence, legislation, policies, and governance mechanisms; the lack of design of accessible products, environments and processes; and inadequate access to justice, education, rehabilitation, habilitation, and personal and assistive technology services. Discriminatory attitudes present additional barriers to education, employment, and health care, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as social, political and cultural participation and access to justice. These attitudes can manifest in or be caused by harmful gender-based prejudices, practices and cultural norms – such as ageist attitudes and intimate partner and familial violence.

Questions to be Answered

- 1. How can Member States ensure that the data collection and processing of data can be enhanced in order to collect required information to take the necessary steps effectively?**
- 2. How can Member States make sure that disabled individuals are not invisible and disintegrated into the society?**
- 3. How can Member States raise awareness on the matter of women and girls with disabilities and make sure the media representation of disabled individuals is promoted with the accurate voice of persons?**
- 4. How can Member States work on the matter of disabled refugees, migrants, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced women?**
- 5. How can the United Nations make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) count for women and girls with disabilities?**
- 6. How can Member States make sure that the assistive technologies and tools are approachable for women and girls with disabilities especially in under-developed**

countries?

7. How can Member States make sure that the employment issues with disabled women and girls can be tackled properly?

Further Reading

- <http://humanitariancharter.org/the-charter/>
- <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2018/Empowerment-of-women-and-girls-with-disabilities-en.pdf>
- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/women-with-disabilities-fact-sheet.html>
- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues.html#data>
- <https://womenenabled.org/fact-sheets/>
- https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/assets/documentation/UN_Disability_Inclusion_Strategy_english.pdf
- <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/sconcerns/disability/statistics/#!/activities>
- <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/conference-of-states-parties-to-the-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2/list-of-non-governmental-organization-accredited-to-the-conference-of-states-parties.html>
- <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20429&LangID=E>