

FORUM:	Human Rights Council
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Introduction

The issue focused on women's rights has been highlighted from decades ago. Women's rights refer to rights to live free from violence and discrimination, to enjoy the attainable standard of physical and mental health, to be educated, to own property, to vote, and to earn an equal wage. Since a long time ago, women's opinions in Kyrgyzstan have been ignored. Due to 'Ala Kachuu,' also known as 'Bride Kidnapping' in Kyrgyzstan, millions of women have been compelled to be married regardless of their opinions. Although a woman expresses that she does not want to marry a man, her opinion is ignored, and a man abducts a woman that he wants to marry. Especially in developing countries, women's rights to participate in social affairs including citizenship, leadership, and politics are barely considered or almost neglected. Even though there have been a lot of campaigns and legislations that advocate women's human rights, a lot of biased cognitions toward women are obstructing those efforts.

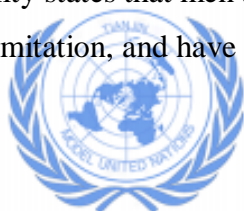
In 1995, the United Nations (UN) officially declared 'women's rights are human rights,' which acknowledges women are worthy as men and there should be increasing awareness of women's human rights than before. Soon after, the Millennium



Women holding Campaign

Development Goals (MDGs) announced that their goal in ten years, from 2005 to 2015, includes supporting women's rights so that women can attain freedom and be free from discrimination. After 2015, when the MDGs period was over, the UN adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which had a similar purpose as the MDGs, which was to promote world peace and freedom without any violence and discrimination. In SDGs, from 2015 to 2030, one of the major goals is gender equality. UNDP's Strategic Plan, from 2018 to 2021, was designed to reflect eradicate poverty, accelerate structural transformations for development, and build resistance to chaos.

Gender equality states that men and women should be treated equally, without any mind of discrimination and limitation, and have equal opportunity to participate in any field that they want to be



involved in. Through decades of efforts and trials, women and social organizations somehow changed much of the perceptions regarding men's superiority over women. However, women are still unequally treated as Kyrgyzstan's traditional bride kidnapping, 'Ala Kachuu' shows. Under the name of traditional custom, women are forced to go marry men that they do not want to be with, which sometimes results in murder cases. It is now the twenty-first century; it is time to strengthen and respect young women's rights in Kyrgyzstan.

Background

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kyrgyzstan has an average annual income of 1,220 USD, classified as one of the developing countries where women's rights are not protected enough. Although many efforts were made to improve the situation of women being oppressed in society, the cases of women being victims occur



Women in Kyrgyzstan

ceaselessly. Still, many facilities, organizations, and some companies reflect patriarchy, which shows the biased through that men are superior to women. Again, one of the reasons that men choose the women that they want to marry in Kyrgyzstan is due to gender superiority over women. This biased social cycle has been in work since a long time ago, generating an unfair atmosphere until contemporary society.

In many developing countries, they lack education and health care system. In general, people are earning low-income and toiling for arduous work for the economy's development. A senior researcher Margolis said, "Kyrgyzstan's government cannot afford to shirk its responsibilities toward women and girls. It is leaving the door open for women to die while waiting for laws to be fulfilled." With that being said, the Kyrgyzstan government is not actively supporting overall women's rights, rather standing away from the issue, losing a significant opportunity to grow potent young women.

Problems Raised

Ala Kachuu

Ala Kachuu is a form of bride kidnapping that happens without the bride's consent, which sometimes leads to violent mistreatment and rape of women. When the woman in Kyrgyzstan is suddenly abducted by a stranger, who is now her husband, she is driven several miles away from her home. Then, the woman is married to a stranger, and she is unable to contact her parents. It is inevitable violence and



some of those who refuse to marry even commit suicide. According to Russell Kleinbach, an estimated fifty percent of marriages in Kyrgyzstan are the result of Ala Kachuu, although it is an illegal traditional practice. This is the fate of young women and girls in Central Asia, including Kyrgyzstan.

Gender Employment Gap/Inequality in Average Income

Young women in Kyrgyzstan, around age twenty to twenty-five, if they are pregnant or need to take care of a family, are unlikely to have employment opportunities the same as men do. Especially in regions with high poverty rates tend to have higher migration rates, which also result in instability in the average income that they earn. Additionally, if there are any unfair processes of selecting a candidate, it would be selecting men on gender-based thoughts without considering women's capacity.

Lacking Fundamental Education

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), over 110 million children in developing nations are not educated, and sixty percent of them are girls. In Kyrgyzstan, women are still discriminated against. They lack education or are even checked by people for learning something. Education is crucial for an individual's self-worth and self-consciousness, which should be essential to every citizen in the world.

International Actions

Online Social Messaging Tools

There have been such media like the U-Report by UNICEF that allows anyone in the world to respond to polls and amplify their voices about social concerns that they are currently suffering from. "In Kyrgyzstan, almost a third of the population is between 14 and 28 years old. With U-Report, youth can propose their agenda for the issues which are the most important for them. And I call on the government and partners to listen to those voices and act together to make their lives better," says UNICEF Representative in Kyrgyzstan Christine Jaulmes. It allows the world to help the girls by consistently reaching them for safety.



Kyrgyzstan becomes 89th country of implementing U-Report

UN Women's Strategic Plan

UN Women helped Kyrgyzstan's women's rights situation become much better, especially for young women. UN Women's Youth and Gender Equality Strategy (LEAP) mainly tries to empower young women and young men as partners in order to get rid of gender inequality. LEAPs include leadership of women, economic development of young women, and action to end violence through partnerships with young women's voices. With intergenerational partners, it is believed that the strategic plan can significantly improve the young women's situation in Kyrgyzstan.

Key Players

UN Women

The UN Women is a United Nations-affiliated organization that makes progress for gender equality and the empowerment of women. This organization strongly believes there should be gender equality all around the world, so it works closely with civil governments and organizations to implement women rights related policies and laws to improve women's daily lives. The UN Women mainly focuses on women participating in social affairs actively so that they can benefit overall society. Moreover, they consider women's income security and freedom from any kind of violence. The UN Women works closely with UN sustainable development goals to achieve the goal of gender equality.



UN Women in Kyrgyzstan

The Women for Women International

Women for Women International is a non-profit humanitarian organization that fights for women's rights. It financially supports women and helps them to earn and save money through jobs. This organization focuses on supporting women in marginalized and weak-conditioned (i.e., war and humanitarian conflict) areas. Women for Women International has helped more than 478,000 women in the world who were just seriously affected by violence. The organization collaborates with other organizations to make changes in policies and to advocate long-term changes for women.

Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan (FWNGO)



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The Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan (FWNGO), established in 1994 for the consolidation and strengthening of women's movement towards gender equality and empowerment, works to increase young women's participation in Kyrgyzstan through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). FWNGO thrive to integrate women's activists into the global effort for women's rights. It contributes to the development of women's networking and educational training, the promotion of women's advancement, and the constant management of conferences, workshops, and seminars for women's rights.

Possible Solutions

Reinforcement of Legislation and Policies

The programs for women's rights held by the UN decades ago significantly helped in promoting and ensuring Kyrgyzstan women's fundamental rights. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) emphasizes women's rights to participate freely in every public life. One of the effective ways to hold the message of the organization, campaigns, and other efforts is to enact bills and laws that can protect women's rights. Some legislation regarding women's rights, such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1235, urges all citizens to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives. However, there should be stronger and more ingenious policies that can practically improve each one of women's life. Reinforcement of policymaking not only diminishes gender inequality but also decreases the crime rate.

Provide Education for Rural Women

The UN Women supports women's political participation and leadership by providing various education programs for women. It is essential to educate women in developing nations to let them know how crucial it is to learn something and become self-confident. This allows them to learn that everyone, in the world, is a potential leader in the communities. In Kyrgyzstan, UN agencies and the government trained around



UNICEF Education in Kyrgyzstan

fifty teachers and tested new teaching methods to remove gender-biased thoughts from the education system. The initial step in education is to increase the number of teachers who can teach students. The Republican Institute of Teacher Training (RITT) embarks on teacher training programs that foster the



registry of teachers. These efforts will enable a nation to build itself as a stronger entity, which will promote better citizenship.

Fundraising Activities

Raising funding activities to end violence against women and girls will highly help in promoting young women's rights in Kyrgyzstan. There have been several fundraising activities, brought by UN Agencies, its partners, and Spotlight Initiative supports, to raise awareness of and to end gender-based violence. The 16-Day campaign, an annual international campaign to oppose violence against women and children, is part of the wider efforts to prevent gender-based violence in Kyrgyzstan. UN Agencies also scaled up the support in fundraising events, so that they can further support the helplines and crisis centers that provide support to the women and girls.

Glossary

Women's Rights

Human rights that are especially for women are women's rights, which should never be violated by any means. Women's rights include freedom from violence and discrimination, rights to have own property, to enfranchise, and to earn equal income.

Patriarchy

The society or organization under the system of men mainly holds power and authority, whereas women are excluded or prohibited from ruling or even influencing social groups. Many developing countries, which have bigotry thoughts toward women, mostly follow a patriarchal system that results in gender inequality.

Wikigender

A global online platform that links all policymakers from developed and developing countries to make significant improvements on the issue of gender equality.



Online Platform "Wikigender"



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