



# BBMUN GAZETTE

DAY 2

## Labour of love, trapped in a wage-cage

- Samriddhi Roy opines on, equal pay for women;

Perhaps another usual yammer from news channels about the licit discord of a women-centric group would have demonstrated the essence of democracy, with political leaders dressed in the cap of Hades, designing quick fixes to silence the protests. The reality could not be further from the truth, with the notion of 'gender equality' sinking fast into a quicksand of unheeded social dilemma, it brings out the popularly contemplated issue of "economic equality" into steady focus.

Labour of love, that's how one defines the workload of a home-maker, for decades' feminists have been demanding wages for household work. Given the gender imbalance in all walks of life, it's scarcely surprising that women have ended up being the invisible nurturers and homemakers, while men go out and earn a living. Their contribution to the economy is seldom counted as productive.

Countless arguments are made against wages for housework, that it would ghettoise women and further confine them to the home. Well, the converse is also possible. She may gain new confidence and train herself to become financially independent. Needless to say, women constitute almost half the population, and their needs and issues have to be addressed. A salary for her work at home would be a tool towards her empowerment and provide her with a life of dignity.

Modern day philosophers against household payment, make much of the dubiety of the unfair historical origin of the division of labour. Nonetheless, History is witness to a different scenario.

Clothed with dust and ignorance in the massive govt. funded libraries lie the peerless ideas of Royal Empress of the Mughal Empire (1611-1627) Nur Jahan Begum. Nur Jahan as she is known in history, rose to become the most powerful woman in the Mughal empire – coins were minted in her name, she enacted legislation, issued proclamations, interacted with foreign traders and determined the empire's policy. What contemporary readers tend to miss out on, is how profoundly the begum impacted the economic structure which was earlier sheltered with firm male tutelage. Nur Jahan had unlimited wealth, and it surrounded her because she was the pivot of the Mughal administration of Jahangir's time. One can undisputedly comprehend from the source Tuzuk-e-Jahangiri- women and men would discharge responsibilities that were compatible with their physiological and cognitive capabilities and hence would contribute diversely, yet equally- to the beneficial functioning of their empire. Such a division through the passage of time, drifted from an understanding of individual roles and potentialities to a remorseless cycle wherein women's part in contributing to the society came under hard questioning.

In fact, this 'cult of domesticity' found ground in the nineteenth century in the middle and upper classes. Similar to individual cultures where the woman is patronised and put on a

pedestal, this cult promoted the virtues of piety, purity, domesticity, and submissiveness while constraining her sphere of work to the home.

With modern day economists and gender-sensitive propagators tabling the agenda of equal pay, it becomes increasingly essential to examine historical shifts in the division of labour, and its present-day implications can mend the ruptured world. To do the same, we need to immerse ourselves into questions such as-

1. To understand the various gender-biased wage patriarchies developed by institutions which hamper the economic independence of women;
2. How does the exclusion of women's work in the GDP of nations have a detrimental impact on her identity;
3. How to direct a two-prolonged plan of recognition for countries bearing the virulent historical beliefs;
4. How to muster a feasible framework of women's work-inclusiveness;

When society celebrates human endeavour every May on international Labour Day, we need to make sure that her labour and love that she put into it, is not being ignored.



## Transparency Mechanism: Arms Trade Treaty

*-Priyanshu opines on the proceedings of the United Nations General Assembly on transparency and confidence building and solutions for the conventional arms control.*

The ongoing conventional arms control discussions at the United Nations General Assembly have from beginning mostly focused on- its solutions, future Treaty's goals and on the on its scopes and parameters. Additionally, an equally important aspect of developing an Arms Trade Treaty is its future implementations, which has always occupied centrality in the matter.

The delegates strongly-worded their contentions on transparency and confidence-building and eventually trickled down to discussing the suggestions or solutions for the conventional arms control.

Ideas of transparency were brought under heavy scrutiny, straining delegates to wonder- how one can place it within the purview of conventional arms control? Delegates diligently debated on the same, citing numerous reasons for including a reporting mechanism and other transparency measures in the conventional arms control, among these the need to monitor and improve treaty implementation; build confidence and ensure lucidity between relevant parties; offer a means to measure states' compliance with the Arms Trade Treaty; and build the basis for a review system of verification or other further means.

Currently, many states are already domestically responsible towards their parliament on arms transfer control decisions and hence exercising a relatively high level of domestic transparency.

Many states noted the need for an Arms Trade Treaty to include provisions on information: - sharing, including suggestions: -

- Information on transfers approved or denied transfers;
- Information on "authorized arms procedures, dealers, importers, exporters, and whenever possible, carriers;
- Experience and know-how on controls of arms transfer;



The delegate of Israel also discussed how to strengthen the conventional arms control by stating that the Arms Trade Treaty must provide a clear and comprehensive framework that ensures and supports all implement of the treaty: it must increase the level of transparency in the international arms trade. Reporting requirements will do little to enhance transparency in the international arms trade. There are three fundamental flaws in the provisions on reporting, namely (a)record keeping and reporting requirements do not apply to transfers of ammunition and munitions, or to parts and components; (b)there is no provision for national reports to be made publicly available; (c)states are at the liberty to exclude information that is considered sensitive owing to commercial or national security issues.

The treaty should include an obligation on states to submit annual reports on all transfers. These reports need to incorporate information both on agreements and on deliveries on conventional arms, including ammunition and munitions and on parts and components. States should be obliged to make these reports publicly available. According to the member of the International Press, by establishing such obligations, the treaty could dramatically increase the level of public transparency in the international arms trade.

The delegates were informed to submit two Draft Resolutions with five sponsors each with the agendum being “reviewing conventional arms control regimes with special with emphasis on transparency and confidence-building measures”. Following which Delegate of Israel called upon states partly to the Arms Trade Treaty to develop a mechanism for a nationalised implementation of the treaty; Whereas Delegate of Congo recommended, stricter implementation of arms control regimes by all signatory members.

Unanimously, member states were urged to enhance domestic cooperation by ensuring that they have a domestic policy, coordinating mechanism and that it works efficiently. All in all, the committee was enthusiastic and raring to go. The participation was heartening, and the nuanced understanding of the treaty brought fresh aspects into sharp focus.



## Foundation of peace

-Gunjan Kamat assess the validity and viability of the UN peacekeeping forces mandate

*"The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting" -Sun Tzu*

The United Nations Human Rights council deliberated on the agenda- 'reviewing the mandate of an implementation of human rights in conflict regions by the UN peacekeeping forces', solemnity infused the conference hall.



Peacekeeping is a nuanced and complex process, one which is characterized by intensive strategy and concerted navigation in the murky path from conflict to peace. While some peacekeeping operations perform adequately, others have failed to protect civilians-notably at Srebrenica where the peacekeepers watched on impuissant as thousands of civilians were murdered. On the second day of the conference a motion was raised by Delegate pf Japan on 'technology and science in peacekeeping forces'. All countries agreed to the notion that the UNPKF lacks in the technological sectors. Post this all delegates were asked to devise solutions for countering the issues faced by the UNPKF. Some of them are given below: -

- To achieve gender equality and to tackle issues like sexual assaults and discrimination, the delegate of the Russian federation suggested that more women should be a part of the peacekeeping operations. This would lead to gender sensitization and eventually equality in this arena.
- Member states should be responsible for the military or civilian personnel deployed in a conflict region and suitable punishments shall be awarded by them in cases of abuse of power
- Frequent workshops should be conducted in all countries to make women aware of sexual exploitation and abuse by the peacekeeping forces.
- Women should be trained as ceasefire monitors and mediators to help in dealing with sexual violence.
- The attacks on children shouldn't be taken lightly and there shall be zero tolerance against warfare that harms children.



UN peacekeeping has proven to be an essential instrument for global peace and security over the years to respond to the various challenges mutual political commitment to peacekeeping has to be renewed. The member states need to develop a set of mutually agreed to principles and commitments create peacekeeping operations fit for the future.

## Citizenship Amendment Act: For the Better or Worse?

*Members of Parliament discussed the Citizenship Amendment Act and its effects on the citizens of the country.*

The Citizenship Amendment Bill aims at amending the rules for Indian citizenship to facilitate granting the Indian citizenship to non-Muslim immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who are of Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Parsi, Buddhist and Christian extraction. These are the people who had migrated to India without valid travel documents, they were compelled to seek refuge in India owing to religious persecution or fear of the same in their respective countries. It is to be noted here, that The Bill has no provision whatsoever for Muslim sects such as Shia and Ahmediya, whose members face persecution in Pakistan.

The Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the Saturday session quoted "If we focus on the feelings of the people, it shall automatically lead to the betterment of the country" which was then countered by Opposition member Mr. P.R. Natarajan, who exclaimed how The Prime Minister's statement fails to highlight how the feelings of the Muslims, Zoroastrians and atheists aren't focused on here, furthermore putting forward the accusation whether "the feelings of a particular community is more important than others".



This led to the discussion of the grave problem here, as stated by Smt. Smriti Irani that Muslims aren't "persecuted" in these countries whereas the other minority groups are. The fact that the Opposition stands with here however remains that even if one claims religious persecution does that give them the right to get citizenship in any country? Moreover, when the Bangladeshi Prime Minister refuses any such persecution, do we furthermore question her and spoil the diplomatic relations between the countries?

The intense deliberations eventually led to the point that it is quite clear that the government would need to revisit the Citizenship Amendment Bill before reintroducing it in the Parliament. The Members of Parliament seemed to be in accordance with the fact that it is, indeed, a vote bank method by the ruling government, and thus the need for an inclusive and secular Bill comes in view.

## CONVALESCENCE OR DELINQUENCY?

Mehek Naqvi

The special session of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, numerous things have been discussed on the agenda- "Reviewing the training missions in Iraq and Afghanistan for countering terrorism and non-state actors"- some debatable, all interesting.

Terrorism is a result of an inhuman desire for power and sadism that leads people to commit atrocious acts against humanity in order to achieve their political aims. For years, it has posed a serious threat to humanity- physically, psychologically as well as morally. And so it is that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation convenes today to address this the threat that terrorism poses towards the world by attempting to eradicate it in the countries where it is most prevalent.

Over the course of two days, the countries went on to discuss a number of important subjects, including the implications of the existence of terrorist organizations such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda for the world, the training camps in Afghanistan, and the efforts that each country was putting into unraveling these groups. The entirety of the committee held a strong belief that the war on terror had to be carried out with full respect for human rights. "The fight against terrorism must not be allowed to infringe human rights, fundamental freedoms or international humanitarian law", stated the delegate of Belgium, addressing the inhumanity with which terrorists themselves were often handled and persecuted.

Keeping all of this in mind, the committee attempted to come up with a number of solutions to battle this threat of terrorist destruction. There was some conflict of interests as countries argued about the correct course of action that should be taken. Some of the solutions that were suggested are as follows-

- Reduction of youth recruitment in extremist groups
- Setting up of new training camps in more areas that are central to world terrorism, as well as reviewing the data of already existent camps and making necessary changes according to the current situation.
- Implementation of secret missions in terrorist prone areas
- The combination of French and American knowledge and resources for the development of Artificial Intelligence in order to set up unmanned drone surveillance in terrorist-prone areas to have the ability to monitor these areas with minimization of casualties.

The session ended with the release of a joint statement, as well as a plan of action to counter-terrorism that would be carried out by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And with this, another step was taken towards world peace.

## BREAKING STRUCTURAL BARRIERS: INTERSECTIONALITY AND GENDER

International Press reports on the proceedings of UNW

The special session of United Nations Women convened on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019, embarked upon a truly herculean task to discuss the agenda- "Addressing the issues of intersectionality within gender".

The committee over the course of two days dealt with dissecting the word intersectionality and its subsequent meanings. Moving the discussion forward, a motion was raised for a moderated caucus on the topic "Laws for protection and empowerment of women". Which received an active response from the delegates who majorly talked about the laws for protecting the rights of women in the countries they were representing.

The committee experienced a slow-down as delegates made redundant points and failed to dive deep into the agenda. Gender equality is an essential tenet for sustainability in the conception of any kind of development programme. If the entirety of the human population isn't receiving its due, there is no upward graph for the state of world affairs. It hence falls upon the nations of the world to recognize and eliminate the multifarious obstacles that stand in the way of the realization of universal gender equality. The member nations of the UNW made large strides in this endeavor, by engaging with issues such as socio-religious oppressors in various cultures of the world, violence against women, marital rape, the impact of climate change and natural disasters on women, health rights, etc. These discussions created an accurate image of the ground reality of inequality in the world, and brought many unacknowledged issues to light, in addition to enabling member nations to reach a common definition when it came to the idea of gender and the multiple realities of different types of women in the world.



Upon reaching this common agreement, the committee began to focus on the main issue at hand-that of equal labour rights as a way of tackling such inequality. Delegates of nations like Canada, Brazil, Republic of Korea, China and Ukraine made impassioned speeches about many notable issues such as, reforms in the public and private sector for the protection of women from discrimination, women's voices at different levels of decision making, maternity/paternity leave for employees, gender based wage gap, and so on.

These speeches raised as many questions as they did answers. When changing legal frameworks to keep women in the centre were raised as viable solutions, they were met with larger concerns about prevailing historical and cultural stereotypes; Similarly, ideas of redressal of socio-economic disadvantage, were met with extensive pondering on a platform for women independent from men in the public sphere.

In the end however, these discussions helped the member nations iron out their differences, clear misconceptions and unite to achieve the over-arching purpose of the committee- to create a draft resolution with possible solutions to the agenda, to be proposed in the United Nations General Assembly. Said draft resolution contained clauses relating to the role of governments in creating programmes for the monitoring and enforcement of gender equal practices in the public and private sector; acknowledgement of women's labour and strict adherence to the principle of equal remuneration for equal work; transparency in workplaces about wages so as to tackle the wage gap and ensuring effective remedies for complaints against sexual violence and harassment against women in workplaces.

Awareness and contemplation are half the battle won, and such comprehensive and exuberant debate can only yield positive results both for the present, and the future-setting the ball of sustainability in motion already.



## UNODC: ON DRUGS AND CRIME

*The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime held a detailed discussion on combating the drug scenario.*

On September 28 and 29, the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime dealt with the issue of online drug trafficking and the pertaining laws of cybercrime. Various skills of the delegates like their problem-solving, persuasive writing, teamwork, diplomacy, public speaking etc were seen throughout the duration of the conference.

While the internet and the digital economy represent a significant opportunity, it's also an enabler for criminal activities. Cybercrime is a global problem which requires a coordinated international response. The conference saw countries addressing the problem of drug trafficking and the laws and measures that can be taken to cope with it.



"The solution to combat drug trafficking is rather simple: legalize the drugs, since it largely eliminates the need for drug trafficking to even exist." stated the delegate of Jamaica, the cybercrime laws of which country seem to be successful in fighting cybercrimes at a fast rate as examined by the Convention on Cybercrime.

Another such country with active measures is Colombia, "The Ministry of National Defense of the republic of Colombia has a national cyber security and cyber defense strategy which has been incredibly successful in eradicating the cyber evil, as agreed with by the European Union too" proudly stated their delegate.

The situation needs urgent actions, as agreed by the committee members. Drug trafficking is a crime that poses major threat to the entire society, harming human health, degrading human dignity, causing offspring degeneration, disrupting family happiness, and gravely affecting social order, safety, and national security, all from a distant place. As the delegates addressed the potential changes in their respective and international laws of cybercrime they swore to demolish and put a special check on the issue.

Furthermore, the resolutions for the same were discussed in detail, one of them is making deals with the UN and the involvement of revolutionary groups in the same. The responsibility of citizens in this aspect is necessary too, being aware of their rights and responsibilities towards their nation. Educating the public about this is also necessary. The 'Just Say No' campaign to drugs is just one version of education that could be offered to children. A thorough curriculum that looks at the illicit and illegal drugs, their harmful effects on health, reasons why people often take drugs and how to battle the addiction, etc. are some forms of education that may help eliminate the desire to experiment with them in the first place. With this, the conference of the UNODC concluded, with all the member states dedicated to wage war against drug trafficking.



## THE TOLL OF WAR

-Gunjan kamat

**"Mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality"**

**-Martin Luther king, junior**

When the sky turns crimson  
And your face, oh so pale  
You'd know  
You'd know they're coming for us.

When the stocks fall  
And so do our soldiers at the borders  
You'd know  
You'd know they're coming for us.

When you call in peace keeping forces  
To maintain peace by 'force'  
You'd know  
You'd know they're coming for us.

When you hear a knock out front  
And you shudder while turning the doorknob  
You'd know  
You'd know they're coming for us

When you dream of  
The nauseating stench of blood  
Or the noises of gunfire  
You'd know  
You'd know they're coming for us.

But when  
But when man kills man  
In the name of emancipation of man, liberation of man, preservation of man  
You'd know  
You'd know they came for us and painted our very own house red.  
....and there is nothing, n o t h i n g that we can do about it.

War is sweet only to those who haven't experienced it. War is nothing but destruction; destruction of everything in the visible spectrum.

## Damsel in Distress

Mehek Naqvi, on women in society

"I am strong", said the little girl when she was told not to try to pick up the heavy objects- the boys would do it.

"I am a fighter," said the girl when she was told she could participate in boxing because it was a game of strength and she was simply to be feminine and pretty.

"I am not ashamed," said the girl when she was told she is impure because of the blood she shed every month.

"I am as good as you," said the girl, when she was told that boys were stronger, smarter, more rational. Because she was all those things, and so much more.

The world denied her this equality, the basic right that she had to be at the same level as a male. She was subjugated and marginalized, made to obey what society had defined as her role in life.

Without even looking at her, they brushed away all her attributes because they thought she wasn't capable of having them. They ignored who she was, simply because they wanted to, because they wanted her to keep her voice to herself and be the quiet, docile creature they saw her as.

And when she fought back, she was stripped of her personality to be seen only as a problem- an irrational female chauvinist, a 'feminazi' who would do anything to be given a status.

There were only two sides of a woman- the compliant and obedient damsel, or the enemy.

## Russian Annexation or Crimea's Homecoming?

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Vania Dhall

**NEW DELHI-** Our correspondents at today's session of the UN Security Council interviewed the of Delegate of Federation of Russia

Q1. The West accuses Russia to have annexed Crimea by means of an illegal referendum. I would like to hear your stand on the issue?

Answer: The issue is simple, the first fact that can be established is in February the president of Ukraine was illegally deposed and power was used up by our nationalist elements which we regard as unconstitutional. Therefore, Russia still recognizes Yanukovich as the head of the state of Ukraine, this was followed up by Crimea issuing a legal self-determination request to declare independence and accede to Russia. Russia recognized it and now all western countries argue that this all illegal however within the principles of UN Charter itself there are two exceptions for using force this consists of r2p doctrine (Responsibility to Protect) and intervention upon invitation and Russia fulfilled both of those.

So Crimea was not annexed rather unified with Russia legally. Moreover, the referendum was also legal. It cannot be unilaterally declared illegal by the West and the United States.

Q2. Normally, whenever such a referendum is carried it is under the supervision of the United Nations. How did it go differently this time?

Answer: That is very subjective in nature. Let's take the case of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus there were no united nations. UN didn't mandate yet a referendum was held. Of course, the UN doesn't recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus however de facto Northern Cyprus exercises governmental control within their territory even though it's not internationally recognized. Same is the case of Kosovo case internationally UN didn't intervene until ICJ'S report it was recognized. Just because the US doesn't accept the self-determination practiced by Crimea that doesn't mean Russia can stand idle and watch Crimea suffer under the oppressive rule of their new interim government that was established.

Q3. According to Russia, the whole idea was to save Crimea from the oppressive rule and work for their development but for that Russia needs to invest financially and provide basic means of livelihood. So wouldn't it be an economic burden for the Russian Government?

Answer: Firstly, Russia didn't take over it intervened on legitimate request and it wasn't annexation it was re-unification. Russia is blessed with a pretty stable economy. Although it got hampered by various illegal economic sanctions imposed by the west. Yet it has a strong economy to help Crimea at time of crisis. Crimea has a powerful economic base and Russia just needs to expand it which shouldn't be a problem. What's important is that the local people's wish has been fulfilled.

