

UN WOMEN



SAMUN

UN WOMEN



Index

Letter from Presidents

Introduction to UN Women

Key Concepts

Topic A: Liberal Feminism has Failed Women

Introduction

Current Situation and Approach

Questions

Useful links

Topic B: Women in Leadership Positions: how can we ensure that their power is real?

Introduction

Current Situation and Approach

Useful Links



LETTER FROM PRESIDENTS

Our kindest regards honorable delegates,

We are more than pleased to welcome each and everyone of you to the eleventh edition of SAMUN hosted by our prestigious school, Colegio Bilingue Santa Marta. This year's presidents for the UN Women's committee are Isabella M. De Las Salas Isaza and Silvana Yunda Altare.

We are very excited to hear your thoughts in both topics selected which women around the world have to face daily in their lives. We thought this topic would give a spin to the usual topics selected by this committee's leaders. Our goal was to introduce other important problematics women have to face and to hear new arguments and ideas.

We are very honored to have been selected to accompany you throughout this process and help you out when needed. Not only that but we are honored to have been chosen to be presidents of such a distinguished committee.

Please be sure to come, not only prepared, but ecstatic. This activity is going to expand your knowledge and ideals of the world. You are going to share and hear different sides of women's rights, therefore, you will learn more about how other people— that do not share your views— think and defend their standing.

We really do hope that you enjoy this committee! We worked very hard to make the following few days as enjoyable as possible.

If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact us at:
isabella.delassalas-isaza@cbsm.edu.co

silvana.yunda@gimnasioloscaobos.com

We will see all of you soon!

Sincerely,

Isabella M. De Las Salas Isaza and Silvana Yunda Altare

UN Women Presidents



INTRODUCTION TO UN WOMEN

In this committee, regarding UN Women, we will be discussing some subjects that fall or impact women's lives all over the world. We have decided to switch this committee a little by including some topics not discussed as much as they should, those topics are: liberal feminism has failed women and Women in Leadership Positions: how can we ensure that their power is real?.

UN Women is a branch of the United Nations dedicated and focused on making gender equality a real thing and empowering women. Some of the topics most discussed here are the wage gaps between men and women, discrimination in the work place, in sports, in politics, in basically anything and everything.

Women's rights has been a tough and long fight, and we are still not close enough to call it quits.



KEY CONCEPTS

Women Empowerment:

promoting women's sense of self-worth, their capabilities when it comes to determining their own choices, and their right to influence social change.

Feminism:

socio-political movements and ideologies that aim to define and establish the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes.

Male gaze:

the perspective of a notionally typical heterosexual man considered as embodied in the audience or intended audience for films and other visual media, characterized by a tendency to objectify or sexualize women.

Positions of Power:

political scientists define it as the position where an individual has the ability to influence the behavior of others with or without resistance.

Equality:

the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.

Armed forces:

the combined military, naval, and air forces of a nation

Politics:

the activities associated with the governance of a country or area, especially the debate between parties having power.



Topic A: Liberal Feminism has failed women.

Introduction:

Feminism is a radical political, social and philosophical movement that affirms women as persons with rights. This movement was made known in New York in 1848, by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott where gender equality, non-discrimination and the right to vote were demanded. And from there is when radical and liberal feminism is created, which lies in the fact that while radical feminism seeks to solve the root problem, liberal feminism seeks the solution to the problem of starting from society and the already existing structure.

Liberal feminists of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries affirmed women's ability and right to participate in public life, examined the institution of marriage and the legal framework of divorce and property, and challenged practices of denying women access to the same quality education as men and to the professions. Liberal feminists sought to end the treatment of women as legal dependents of their husbands or fathers.

Through examination of law and practice, liberal feminists such as Mary Astell (1666–1731), Mary Wollstonecraft (1759–99), Harriet Taylor (1807–58), John Stuart Mill (1806–73), Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815 –1902) and Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) drew on the liberal tradition's value of equality and individual liberty to argue that just as social status at birth was no longer a legitimate basis for discriminating between men as Liberals argued, too, gender at birth is no longer a legitimate basis for discriminating against women.



Current Situation and Approach

And although we can only see positive things about feminism, has this movement really fulfilled everything it claims to be? On many occasions, are the women themselves who are lowered compared to men, since instead of putting themselves in an equal position to that of the other gender, what they do is show that they are less so that society helps them obtain what they want, instead of obtaining it on his own merit, in a position equal to that of a man.

On other circumstances it can be seen how feminists exaggerate and try to solve problems or injustices that don't actually exist. One clear example is how some women affirm that it is not fair how men can walk on streets shirtless and women can't; although knowing that in some places they actually can, but almost no lady do it, by simple habit of society themselves. One of the most important cities in the world, New York City, walking around topless is legal for women, but nobody does it. With the creation of the 'Free The Nipple (FTN) campaign', which was started by filmmaker Lina Esco in 2012 to emphasize the fact that men do not get hassled when appearing topless in public but women are not provided the same freedom to do so.

Notions of choice and equality underpin liberal feminism, resulting in appalling ignorance when it comes to the material and lived reality of women and girls. For example, the abuse on social media against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) activists for using the expression "female" to describe this human rights violation, because for some people apparently it is transphobic to suggest that vaginas are exclusively female.



Another problem in society and specifically with the value of liberal feminism is how they confuse the power and profit of a woman with something that is already established by society and that ends up not only giving advantage but supporting the pleasure of man. Something that happens with the statue of Mary Wollstonecraft's, in London, UK. Depicting a naked woman apparently on top of many writhing naked bodies. Liberal feminists celebrate this as sexual liberation, but they ignore the fact that the vast majority of male statues are fully clothed, but being this a recent work, there was no need to do it without clothes, because, if it had been of a man, would they have done it like that?

Although it is fantastic that feminists try to get rid of the stereotype that says that women only serve to be mothers and to be in housework, something that if it should not be that way is that they judge and criticize a woman for wanting to be a mother and besides that for some reason she is a housewife and dedicates herself to her children and her home. Since supposedly the goal of feminism is to support and defend all women in society no matter what; it is somewhat contradictory that they judge someone for wanting to do something a little more traditional and not in the way they want.

All these problems cast doubt on the effectiveness of the movement, which initially wanted to try to seek equality and improve the lifestyle not only of women, but of all humanity. But at this time it is possible to put the intentions and actions of feminists in doubt, so is the movement and its members doing things as they should and as they said in a starting point?



Topic B: Women in Leadership Positions: how can we ensure that their power is real?

Introduction:

Women have finally been allowed to take part in more important roles other than cleaning their husbands houses and taking care of their children. In this subtopic, we will discuss all those women in powerful positions and if they are actually there because of their skill, or if they are there as a strategy from the men in power to make it seem as if they are being more accepting towards the female sex.

In this topic we will be discussing how we can ensure that women are actually participating in powerful positions, not just posing for the audience. We are to discuss different ways we can verify that women are being heard and being given a chance to share their views and solutions to problems that our society might be facing.

This problem is faced world wide. We can take the United States as an example, from one hundred Senates, the highest record of women there has been only twenty six.



Current Situation and Approach

Now a days it is much easier for women to obtain a leading position either in the government or in the military forces of a country, something that in the past was prohibited or very frowned upon, since it was said that these positions of power and of strength they were never going to be able to be well handled by someone of the female gender. But women all over the world have shown the opposite, demonstrating that every job that a man usually manages, a women can do it as well, or even better.

Although it is already possible that women have a position in power, do they really have it? Knowing that only 25% of national parliamentary seats are held by women and only four countries have 50% representation of women in the lower or sole chambers of parliament. Rwanda, with 61%; Cuba, with 53%; Bolivia, with 53%; and the United Arab Emirates, with 50%.

But this is unfortunate to know, as there is strong and growing evidence that the presence of women leaders in political decision-making processes improves those processes. Research on panchayats, which are the local councils in India revealed that the number of drinking water projects in areas where such councils are led by women was 62% higher than in those whose councils are led by men. Another example is in Norway, where a direct causal relationship was found between the presence of women on municipal councils and childcare coverage. Thus we managed to realize the importance of women having positions in government, since a balance between both genders would help not only to better manage governments, but to increase the well-being of citizens around the world.



Another important event to highlight is how women are achieving importance and power in the armed forces, as we can see with Patricia Ortega, who became in July 2019 the first female general of the Armed Forces in the history of Spain, in addition of this, she was the first woman to reach the position of colonel in the Spanish Army and has completed the promotion course. And although this should not be a reason to celebrate, since at some point it should be normalized, it is commemorated that women managed to represent 12.7% of the Armed Forces in Spain, in 2018, something that although it sounds little, compared to 1991 when they only represented 0.1%, it is something incredible.



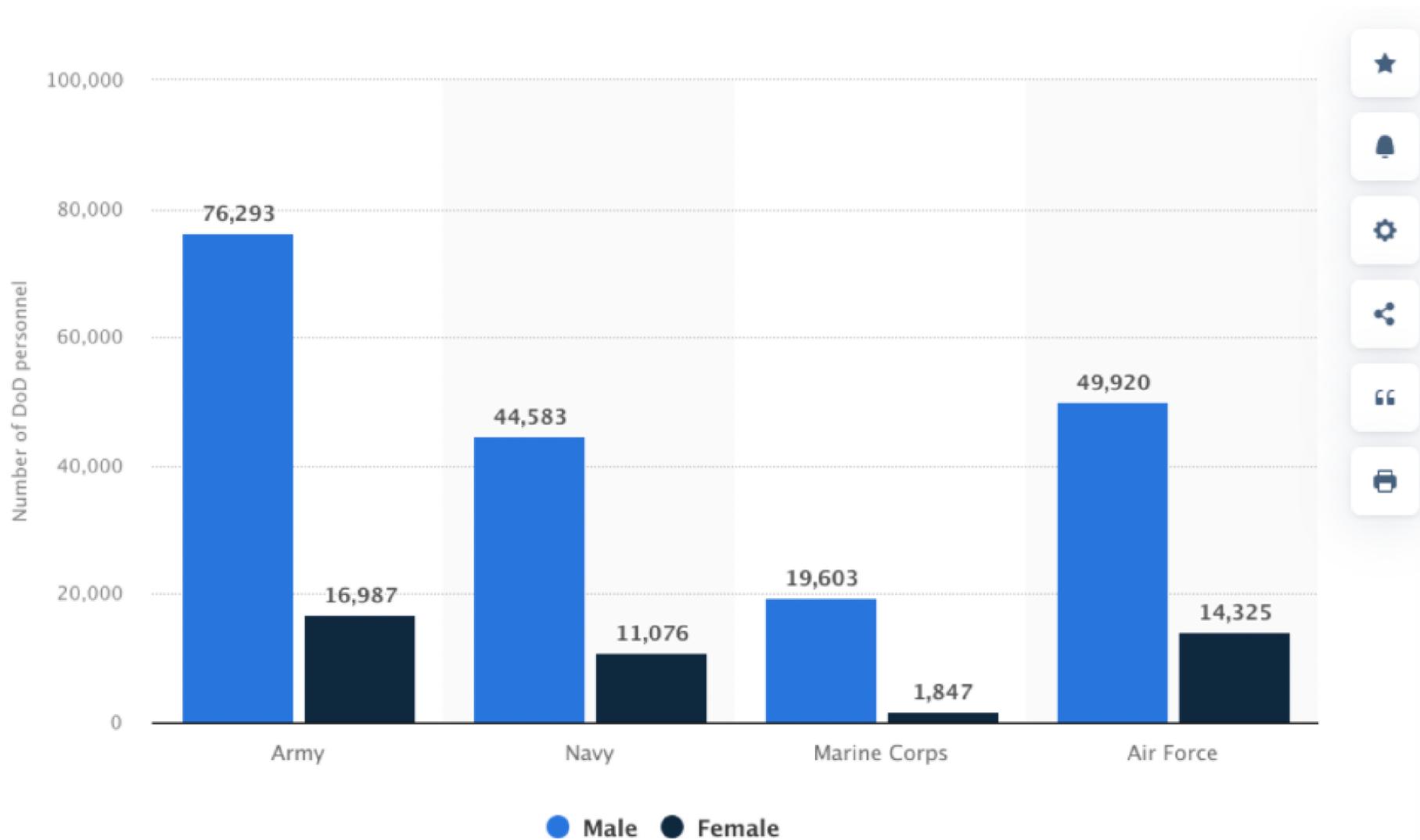
(DICIEMBRE 2018)
PORCENTAJE DE EFECTIVOS EN LAS FAS POR SEXO





And although we know that it is very good that women are achieving better positions of strength and power, is it really the power they deserve? Are those positions enough? Knowing that in Colombia the National Police took less time than the Military Forces in the incorporation of women and, in 1953, received 46 women in its ranks. Starting in 1977, permanent admissions began each year. Today it has almost 18,000 women, distributed in all spheres of action of the institution.

In the United States of America, one of the most powerful countries, gender equality in this situation is really low, since in 2020, there were more than 76 thousand male officers in the US Army, compared to 17 thousand female officers. Despite the fact that in the Marine Corps, this gap is even worse, where there were more than 19 thousand male officers in difference to almost 2 thousand female officers.





Knowing all this, it is necessary to analyze the situation of all women and the true power that is given to them in these positions, since regardless of whether it is already possible for them to be within any power in which they want, it is not known if In truth, they are given the position fairly and if they are actually treated in the same way as a man, where they can demonstrate their abilities and skills, regardless of their gender.



Useful Links

The Women's Leadership Gap. (2018, November 20). Center for American Progress.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/womens-leadership-gap-2/>

The Data on Women Leaders. (2021, February 25). Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/fact-sheet/the-data-on-women-leaders/>

Facts and figures: Women's leadership and political participation. (n.d.). UN Women – Headquarters.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>

S. (2020b, November 25). Women in leadership positions – a shocking reality. Soroptimist International.

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/women-in-leadership-positions-a-shocking-reality/>

Vogelstein, R. B. (2021, March 29). Women's Power Index. Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/article/womens-power-index>

Gender Discrimination Causes Inequality Between Girls and Boys Around the World. (n.d.). Save the Children.

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-gender-discrimination-impacts-boys-and-girls#:~:text=Gender%20inequality%20is%20discrimination%20on,violated%20by%20gender%20based%20discrimination.>

M., F., Blazhevskaya, V., Blazhevskaya, V., D., D., & D. (2020, July 23). United Nations: Gender equality and women's empowerment. United Nations Sustainable Development.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>

Soken-Huberty, E. (2022, March 23). 10 Causes of Gender Inequality. Human Rights Careers.

<https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/causes-gender-inequality/>