

YUNMUN XXX

Commission on the Status of Women

Topic 2: Women and Girls in Sports

The UNCSW was established in 1946 to promote, report on, and monitor issues relating to women's rights around the world. According to its official website, "the CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women."¹ Women's statuses are continuously changing, in both positive and negative ways and in all aspects of daily life, including recreational activities like sports.

Sport has the power to change lives, whether that is through team building skills, building physical and emotional strength, communication, or leadership skills. Countries across the globe have taken the initiative to use the medium of sport as a means to empower women and girls. For example, unwomen.org describes the strides and unification sports have made for women of different countries. "In Brazil and Argentina, girls are learning critical life-skills while playing sport; in Jordan, football camps for girls are helping to build better relationships between local communities and refugees; and in the Pacific, a partnership with Oceania Rugby is working to end violence against women."²

As there have been numerous initiatives and programs formed to combat these issues, the world of sport continues to remain plagued by gender related issues through equal pay, gender-based violence, a lack of targeted investment, and negative stereotypes and social norms.³ Just as women earn about 77% of a man's salary in the workplace around the world, this inequality is likewise seen in the sports industry. There are major gaps between the prize money, sponsorships, facilities and equipment allocated to women athletes compared to male athletes. In addition to the financial differences seen in the sports industry, many women and girls are scared to be involved in sports due violence and other forms of abuse in this industry. In some instances, collaborations and cover-ups have led to decades of abuse that affected hundreds of women. For example, as was the case with USA Gymnastics where young female athletes were sexually assaulted by gym owners, coaches and staff working for gymnastics programs and were only discussed in the past few years.⁴

However, in October 2018, FIFA (International Federation of Association Football), launched a global strategy for women's football where they began to make changes and bring light to these

¹ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

² <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-sport>

³ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/4/op-ed-ed-phumzile-empowering-women-through-sport>

⁴ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/4/op-ed-ed-phumzile-empowering-women-through-sport>

matters for women and girls in sport. These are pivotal issues that make it incumbent upon the CSW and the sporting industry to take a stance and make these changes.

Questions to consider while researching:

- Has your country taken any steps to empower women and girls through sport?
- How can these changes be implemented not only domestically in your country, but in other countries around the world?
- How can we eliminate these barriers to women's professional advancement in sport?
- What rules can be placed to ensure that violence and assault do not occur in the sports industry and how can it be regulated?
- What measures can be taken to certify that these teams/organizations will remain safe spaces for women and girls?
- I HIGHLY recommend watching this inspiring and powerful video as you research your country's opinions on the topic: [Why sport to empower women and girls?](#)

#WomenInSport

If you have any comments, questions or ideas as you go about your research, feel free to email me at takupfer@mail.yu.edu.

Best of luck,

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