



OISMUN 2025

# UNW

UNITED NATIONS WOMEN

## Agenda

Addressing the lack of political  
representation for women globally

## Executive Board

Mahi Sahai and Surya  
Lakshman

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# LETTER FROM THE secretariat

Dear esteemed delegates,

As the fortunate secretariat of this year's OIS MS MUN, we are thrilled to welcome you all to this conference. We are looking forward to seeing diverse and energetic delegates on the day of the event, and hope that all of you will benefit from this conference.

As students passionate about global issues, you possess the power to go on and make concrete changes in the future. This conference is a platform that will enable you to inspire and influence others with your ideas, your voice, and your actions. We hope that you will be able to carry forward this zeal for problem solving into your lives and be able to contribute meaningfully to issues that matter in your communities.

Having been a part of this conference and its organising team numerous times over the years, we can assure you that this conference will be a transformative experience for each and every one of you. Just as each of us left the MUN brimming with opinions and excitement to enact these beliefs, so will you. We hope that you feel a part of this community as much as we did, and leave the conference feeling empowered and inspired, with a deepened commitment to creating positive change in the world.

We encourage you to engage in meaningful and respectful dialogue with one another, throughout the conference, to listen attentively to different viewpoints, and to seek common ground amidst differences in opinion. We urge you to push your limits and challenge yourself, and one another by thinking critically to solve problems on the spot. We would love to see a display of political understanding from each and every one of you, and hope that this conference will be an opportunity for you to not only learn from one another, but also to support and uplift one another as you navigate through the complexities of the world around us.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of this year's Model United Conference. We are excited to see the impact that you will make, both during and beyond this event. We look forward to seeing you there!

With warm regards,  
OIS MS MUN Secretariat.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE executive board

## Mahi Sahai

Meet Mahi Sahi (if she tells you her last name is Sahai, she's lying), a perfect mix of being the scariest person in committee and the sweetest outside. But don't mistake nice for quiet, she can talk for hours, especially about how Folklore was Taylor Swift's best era (Do not. Bring up. Kanye West.). She spends most of her time stressing over Art homework (a decision that was COMPLETELY in her control) or writing impromptu speeches about why the USA is the worst (experienced Delegate of Russia right here). One thing you must know before meeting Mahi; keep your printer far away (The Sec Gen himself has been forced to print innumerable amounts of paper). If you've seen her at a conference, you know she's arriving with a 120-page essay, 60 of which are dedicated to slander. As your chair, she'll know every detail of the agenda, delivering ruthless questions from the top of her head with no remorse. But don't be afraid to approach her, Mahi is as supportive as she is intimidating (her greatest trauma? Scoring below an 8 in Spanish). In all, if Mahi Sahai is part of your EB, consider yourself lucky, because your committee will be nothing short of dramatic, engaging, and absolutely unforgettable.

## Surya Lakshman

Surya enters a conference with half a page of research and a loaded brain, improvising all his speeches and hoping the facts are correct. If he were to be described in one word, it would be 'turbo' - the only thing that thrills him more than watching Formula One cars blast through the tracks is a heated open floor or an exhilarating 3v3 in committee. Surya answers the most meticulously crafted POIs like it's nothing, probably because he spends all his time outside committee defending Tottenham (Arsenal hate is the fastest way to getting a chocolate in committee). The only person crying harder than Surya's opponents in committee is Surya himself whenever Ferrari bottles another race. Surya is more than a chair; he is a mentor, he is a friend, and he is always aiming for pole position in committee. His approach to POI's doesn't change when he's a chair; you may have to entertain many questions from the EB as a delegate under him. One thing's for sure: if you're in Surya's committee, you are guaranteed to have a blast.



# LETTER FROM THE executive board

Dear esteemed delegates,

As your executive board, we are thrilled to welcome you all to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, UNW. We look forward to energetic debate, consistent collaboration, and avid participation from each and every one of you.

Today, as delegates, you hold the capacity to shape both community perspectives and the future of society, through recognising right from wrong, engaging in active dialogue, and developing concrete solutions to global problems. This conference is simply a starting point, aiming to help you recognise the power of advocacy, teamwork, and inclusivity, alongside the true state of our international community, so you can then use this understanding to influence change and contribute positively to society.

Nonetheless, having been in your very position a multitude of times in the past, we recognise that MUN can at times be daunting, and that this is also likely a first time experience for many of you. Hence, our goal as chairs is to facilitate a safe and accepting environment for every delegate, regardless of your experience, and we hope you know that we are always available to assist you with whatever concern you might have.

On another note, we encourage you to familiarise yourself with the MUN rules of procedure (ROP), our conference agenda, being the lack of political representation for women globally, and your individual portfolio allocation. This study guide itself can serve as a helpful resource for when it comes to better understanding the agenda being discussed.

Lastly, throughout your MSMUN journey, we urge you to leave your comfort zone and challenge yourself, while trying to empathise with, pay attention to, and uplift your other delegates for a truly diplomatic and transformational experience.

Congratulations on being selected to be a part of MSMUN, and we look forward to meeting you.

Warmest regards,

Mahi Sahai (Director)

Surya Lakshman (Assistant Director)



# INTRODUCTION TO THE committee

Each year, member states convene for a two week session held at the UN headquarters in New York. Each conference is marked by a “theme” or “agenda” addressing a particular aspect in the pursuit for gender equality and the betterment in the lives of women.

In past years themes have ranged from deliberating upon “gender focused financial change” to identifying the role of technology in the development of women. The outcomes and resolutions of this session are forwarded to ECOSOC. Looking towards the future, UNW is committed towards upholding the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, or the sustainable

development goals, with a focus on goal 5, “gender equality”. UNW is also committed to further monitor the progress and implementation of past resolutions for the betterment of women.



Through all this UNW has remained an important and key player in the advancements of women’s rights, social promise and the role women play in the world. As delegates of this committee, you are tasked with working through the complex circumstances you will be faced with in the interest of a better solution.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE agenda

The lack of political representation for women across the world is a serious challenge to the ideals of equity, inclusivity, and effective governance. Women face systemic barriers in accessing political leadership roles, such as societal stereotypes, institutional biases, and unequal access to resources. Despite international agreements that emphasize gender equality, these issues continue to be outstanding and a major obstacle to the world.



This committee will adhere to the agenda "Addressing the Lack of Political Representation for Women Globally." The delegates are tasked with identifying the root causes of this disparity, assessing its impact on governance and societal progress,

and developing concrete strategies and solutions to ensure gender-balanced representation in political systems. The agenda is especially concerned with pathways to reform, such as policy recommendations and quotas, into international collaborations toward ensuring that more women have chances in leadership roles. In this pursuit, the committee aims to empower and encourage its member states to develop sustainable and inclusive and representative political frameworks that could reflect the nature of their diversities.

This underrepresentation creates a form of marginalization regarding the voice and also the dilution of diversified perspectives required for optimal policy making throughout the world. Studies have proven that a greater proportion of women in leadership positions leads to more representative policies, especially in the health, education, and social welfare sectors. Moreover, more gender-balanced countries have better economic stability, innovation, and social integration. However, the trend is not smooth. This remains one of the major setbacks in several regions concerning cultural resistance, sociopolitical instability, and systemic discrimination for the ladies, which continues keeping them away from leadership roles.



# HISTORY AND CONTEXT BEHIND THE agenda



Womens' political representation has been a significant concern for centuries, ever since societies began forming structured governments, (although we have moved past sexism in ancient empires), such as within the Athenian democracy of ancient Greece (5 BCE), where only male citizens could be involved politically.

However, the biggest shift in female representation took place between the 19th and 20th centuries, starting with New Zealand becoming the first democratic country to grant women the right to vote, in 1893, before this inspired similar movements internationally. For instance, through their influence, by 1920, the USA passed the 19th amendment, which too gave women the right to vote.

Nonetheless, progress from that point onwards has been fairly slow, with the first female head of state in modern history only getting elected into office 40 years later, in 1960, as prime minister of Sri Lanka, under the name Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

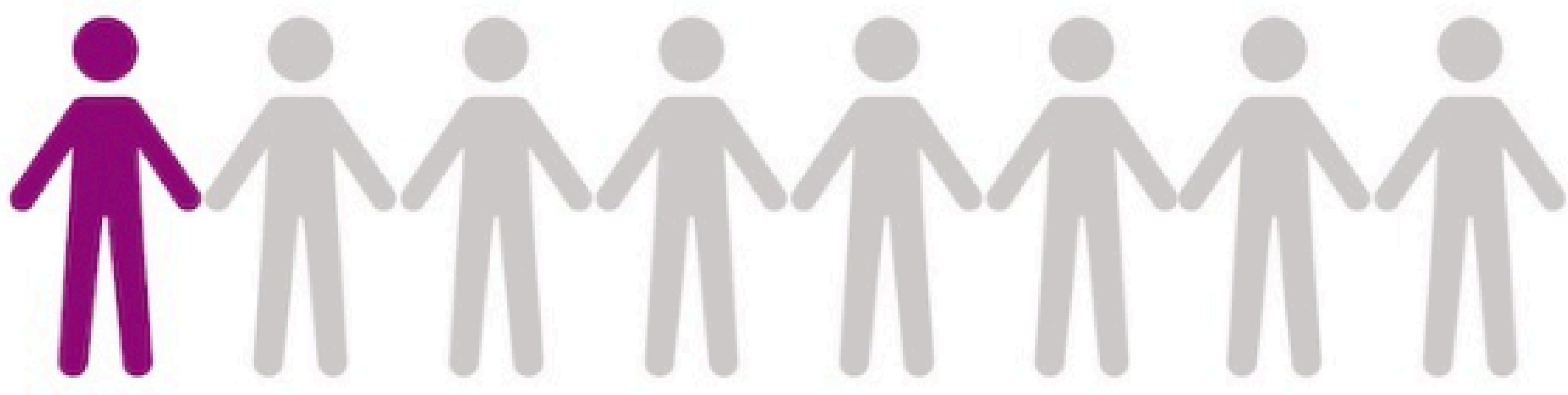
Even today, the situation remains dire, as though women are not legally restricted from participating on a political front in most countries, there is often prejudice, with them being seen as less suited or capable for international/community leadership positions as opposed to men. As a consequence, women still face systematic barriers such as unfair political persecution for no fault of their own.



Some instances of this can be seen in countries which are labelled as the most developed and diverse nations across the globe, such as the United States of America, or Japan, and also prominently in the Middle East.



## 1 in 8 Americans



**believe that women are too emotional for politics.**

In terms of the USA, although they gave women the right to vote in 1920, political representation remains limited, with only 28% of the American Congress being female, and them having no history of there ever being a female president in power.

Similarly, in Japan, despite being one of the largest global economies, women hold less than 10% of their parliamentary seats, and they too have never had a female head of state.

But the situation in the middle east far exceeds even this, with nations like Afghanistan, under the Taliban Regime, not only excluding women completely from political leadership roles, with not a single woman in power, but also absorbing their rights to vote, speak up regarding political affairs, or protest governmental matters publicly.

However, Afghanistan is not the only middle eastern country with unjust parliamentary restrictions for women. Places like Saudi Arabia and Iran too contain limitations, not permitting females to hold high ranking government positions or hold significant influence over government decision making processes.



In terms of Saudi Arabia, while a small number of women do serve in their Shura Council, their abilities, standing, and authority are often unfairly constrained by their male dominated environment. Likewise, in terms of Iran, women have never held presidency, and there are strict boundaries regarding the kinds of political posts they can possess.

Female political participation in the Middle East is often limited because of not only conservative governments, but also conservative populations, who often vote out any women running for positions of parliamentary power, driven by centurial bias and stereotyping.



However, it is still important to note that, although progress has been slow and fairly uneven, over time, political representation for women has improved, primarily as a result of large-scale political diversity initiatives adopted by European and African countries.

For example, countries like Sweden and Rwanda have made strides towards electing women into government leadership roles through adding minimum quotas for a certain number of women in parliament. Essentially, after their 1994 genocide trial, Rwanda constituted quotas which resulted in 60% of their parliamentary seats being held by women today, while Sweden also has one of the highest percentages of women in political leadership positions globally, because of similar reservations.





# TIMELINE OF events

## Women First Gain the Right to Vote (New Zealand, United States | 1890, 1920)

- On the 19th of September 1893, Lord Glasgow signed a bill that made New Zealand the first country that allowed women the right to vote
- On the 18th of August 1920, one of the world's largest superpowers, the United States, passed the 19th Amendment, allowing women the right to vote.
- These instances proved to be an important beginning for women in the world of politics. While these were not the only two countries that gave women the right to vote during the time, they signalled to the rest of the world that great change was imminent.



## The involvement of Women in Politics Grows (World Wide | 1920)

- In many countries, women for the first time ran for office.
- While many met challenges, set backs, and grave discrimination most women still persevered. Even while not getting elected, they became a beacon of hope and advocates for change.



## The UN Commission on the Status of Women is Established (World Wide | 1946)

- On the 21st of June 1946, ECOSOC passed resolution II(II) establishing the UN commission on the status of women. This commission would act to preserve the rights and freedoms of women worldwide, while also advocating for their advancements, soon proving helpful for women in politics.



## The First Female Head of State is Elected (Sri Lanka | 1960)



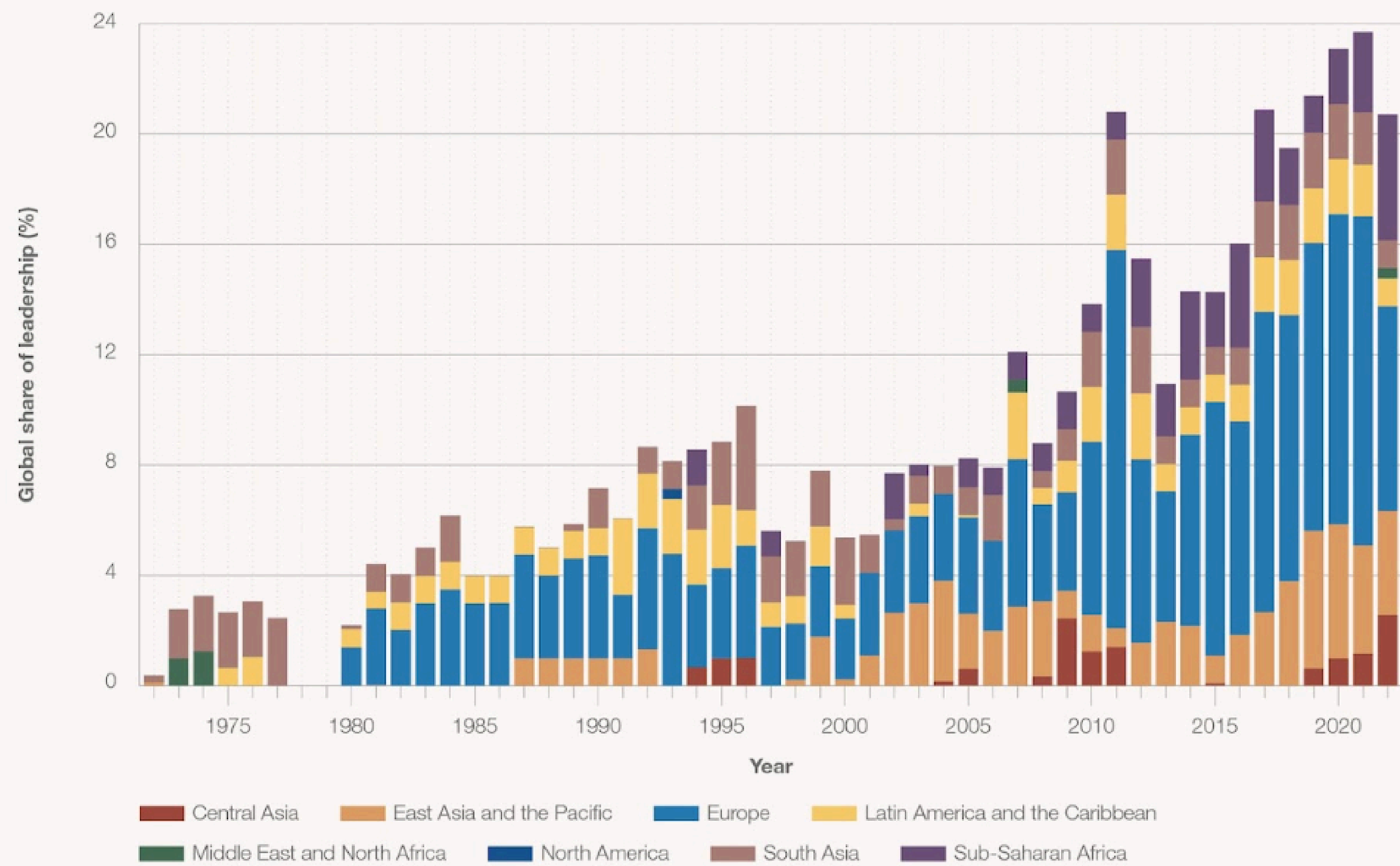
- In the Sri Lankan election in July 1960, Sirimavo Bandaranaike led her party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, to victory becoming the prime minister
- Bandaranaike faced great prejudice during her terms as prime minister. She was targeted for her shortcomings facing a large amount of gender based privilege
- Despite this, Bandaranaike still proved to be a decisive leader, making thoughtful and calculated changes to her country, proving that women very much deserve a spot at the top flight of politics.

## Gender Quotas are Implemented in Select Nations (Rwanda, 30+ other nations | 1990 - 2005)

- In 2003 Rwanda issued a 30% female seat mandate accross its government, a historic step for women in politics.
- Today more than 30 other countries have followed suit, introducing seat quotas that help promote gender equality.



FIGURE 2.10 Women's share of time in power as heads of state, 1972-2022



- These quotas have shown to be effective with Rwanda's parliament being 60% female and other countries also seeing success, yet the question remains, are gender quotas "fair"?

## The First Female Head of State in Africa is Elected (Liberia | 2005)

- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected in 2005 becoming the first female head of government in Liberia and in Africa as a whole.
- Sirleaf election proved to be a signal for change in a continent where women had long faced discrimination and prejudice
- Sirleaf was instrumental in leading Liberia through reform and difficult times.

## Benazir Bhutto is Assassinated (Pakistan | 2007)

- On the 27th of December 2007, Benazir Bhutto was shot and killed at a political rally for her re-election
- Her assassination was a setback for women in politics and showed how women still face struggles and real danger even in the top flight of the world's leadership.
- Bhutto was the first female prime minister of Pakistan as well as the first female prime minister in a Muslim majority country serving two terms from 1988-90 and 1993-96.





## Further rise of Female Politics in the Nordic Region (Norway, Finland | 2010)

- The Nordic region became the leading area for gender equality. Today, near-equal representation in parliament has been achieved by them.
- The 2019 election of Sanna Marin as Finland's youngest female prime minister showed the region as more dedicated to women in leadership.



## Social Movements such as #MeToo Shed Light on the Mistreatment of Women (Worldwide | 2017)

- The #MeToo movement, which gained momentum in 2017, exposed widespread harassment and abuse across sectors, including politics.
- Resignations, reforms, and increased accountability highlighted the need for systemic change in order to secure women's safety and inclusion.
- The movement inspired global solidarity, empowering women to speak out and demand cultural shifts in workplaces and institutions.

## Afghanistan Falls to the Taliban (Afghanistan | 2021)

- The Taliban took over in 2021 and curtailed the rights of Afghan women, excluding them from politics, education, and public life.
- It was a big setback for the women of Afghanistan as the fall drew international condemnation and calls for action.





- Taliban policies have restricted women from attending schools, working many jobs, moving large distances without a male guardian, access to certain public spaces (such as parks and recreation centers, enacted on the 22 of November 2024), and their right to run for office and work in politics.
- The Taliban government has cited their belief in Islamic law and the concerns over allowing the mixing of genders as justification for these actions.

### **Women's Rights are restricted in Iran (Iran | September 2022)**

- In 2022, Iran imposed further restrictions on women's rights, which triggered protests, especially following the death of Mahsa Amini in police custody.
- These events portrayed systemic repression where women were leading demands for justice and equality under oppressive governance.
- The protests became a symbol of resilience and attracted international attention to fighting for women's rights in some sort of authoritarian regimes.

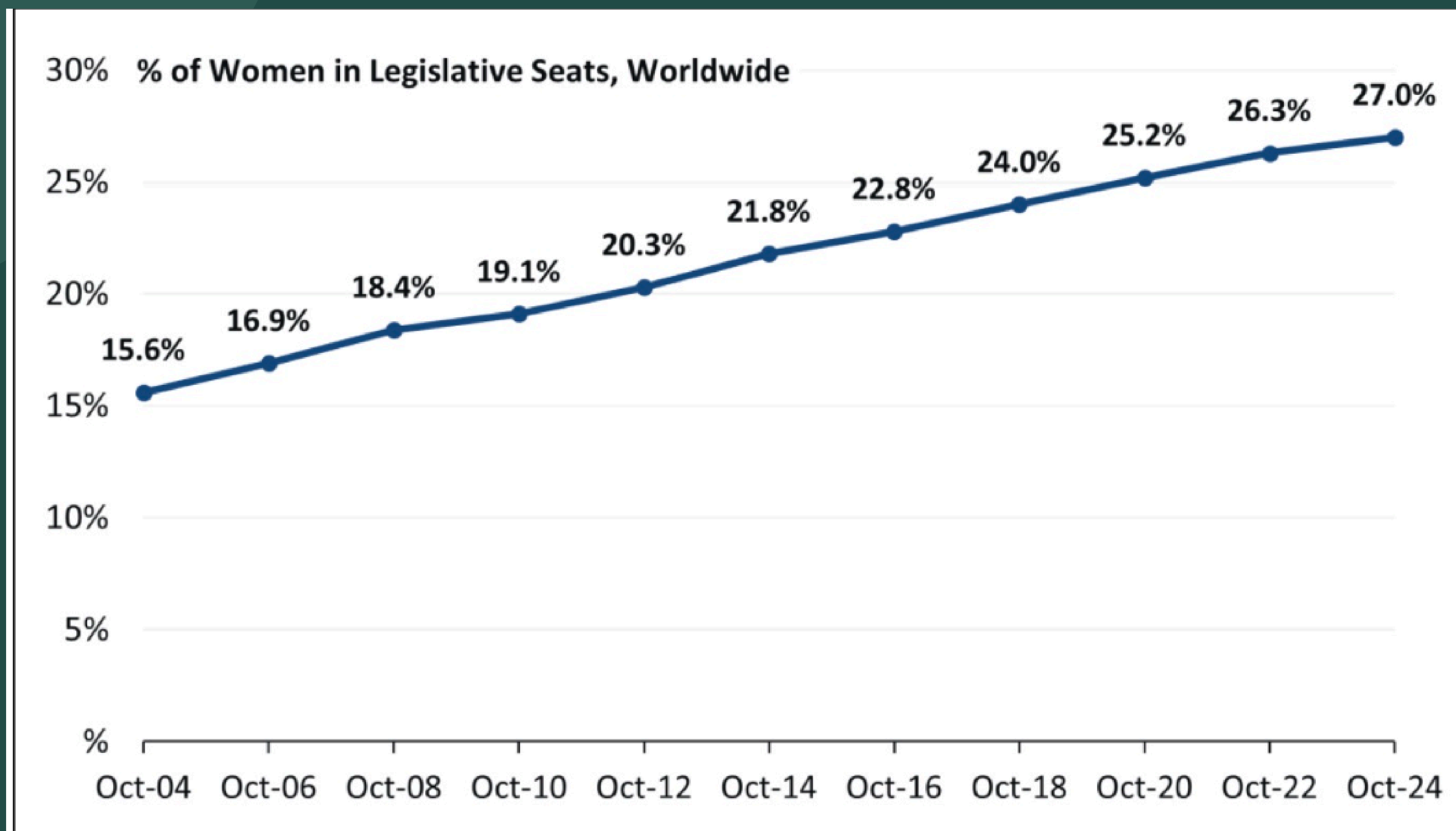
### **Kamala Harris loses the US Election (USA | November 2024)**

- Kamala Harris, the 49th Vice President of the United States contested for the oval office during the 2024 US presidential election against Donald Trump and the GOP
- Despite being considered by many the world's greatest superpower, the USA has never had a woman hold the presidency. Kamala made history in 2020 by becoming the first woman to hold the vice presidency, the highest rank a woman has held in the US government.
- During her election campaign, Harris faced a great amount of prejudice against her, once again displaying the difficulties women face to attain positions in higher levels of government.





# CURRENT SITUATION OF THE agenda



To summarise the current situation, female political representation remains a significant issue, with women still being underrepresented in the parliamentary and governmental bodies of nearly every country internationally. Despite legal advancements, females hold only 26.9% of parliamentary seats worldwide, with their presence being the most limited in Asia and South America.

To provide evidence, in India, women make up only 14% of the parliament, despite making up nearly half of the population, at 65.19 crores as of 2023. Similarly, nations like Brazil and Mexico also have women only composing 16% of their political seats. This complete lack of representation and these disparities primarily stem from factors such as centurial gender bias, cultural norms and stereotypes, and a lack of democratic support for women running for office.

Additionally, the alarmingly minimal parliamentary participation of women can be seen more clearly in the context of the quantity of them serving as heads of state globally. Today, across the European Union, there are a total of just 6 female heads of state, including both presidents and prime ministers, spread across Slovakia, Italy, Slovenia, Finland, Greece, and Denmark.





Moreover, even when we explore on a more international level, out of 195 countries in the world, there are solely 21 heads of state (presidents or prime ministers) who are women, present in: Bangladesh, Barbados, Denmark, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Moldova, Namibia, Peru, Samoa, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Zambia, and New Zealand.

All of the above research and evidence helps us conclude that the lack of political/parliamentary representation for women is a category which has clearly not been addressed with as much urgency and acknowledgement as necessary, as it continues to persist prominently and hinders any chances of success for the global fight against gender inequality. Hence, as delegates, it is essential that you all ensure to work together collaboratively and constructively to prevent continuation.





# BLOC positions

## Active Advocates for Female Involvement in Politics

Championed by countries such as Rwanda and Sweden, this bloc is extremely proactive and focused on the involvement of women in politics. This bloc believes women need active support and reinforcement for their participation in politics. Characterized by their direct methods including gender quotas and drastic advances, this bloc remains a key player and advocates for change and progression, all the while boasting countries such as New Zealand, Finland, and Iceland as other participants.



## Dissidents Against Women in Politics

Dominated by nations such as Afghanistan and Iran, this bloc works to limit the participation and role of women in politics. This bloc is largely defined by its strong right wing beliefs and its method of acting through societal manipulation and other non direct means. This bloc also has the power to sway other neutral actors towards their cause, using their strong resolve and determined motives. Moreover, its key participants are primarily limited to a majority of the middle east, a region with a more conservative outlook to women in politics. Some countries involved, barring Afghanistan and Iran include Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, and more.





## Neutral Actors

Exhibiting large world powers, including the USA, UK, Russia, and France, this bloc remains largely neutral and exhibits a host of different types of states. While not actively working against women in politics, this bloc does not take any large steps to encourage participation either. Aside from completely neutral participants, this bloc also contains member states leaning towards the dissident bloc, that have changed their stance to appease the larger world. While this bloc could be taken as a failure to address an important issue, they play an important role in mediating the demands and advances of the other two.



# QARMA

## (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

1. Do women play a different or unique role in politics that needs to be considered?
2. What responsibilities does a state have in protecting the interests and rights of women in its own political system?
3. Should the degree of involvement of women in politics be left to each individual state?
4. Are “gender quotas” a fair means of encouraging women’s participation in politics?
5. How can gender equality be encouraged while still allowing states a large amount of autonomy.
6. How will states be held accountable for political misrepresentation?
7. How will states be held accountable for blatant gender based discrimination or inequality.



# RESEARCH guidance

Research is one of the most important parts of preparing for an MUN conference, because it helps you establish your stance, past actions, and involvement with the agenda much more clearly and more concretely, while also making the process of developing unique solutions to address your agenda simpler, because you have a more comprehensive understanding of the problem at hand and previous methods through which countries have tried to solve it.

**The most critical ways to ensure that you are well researched before a conference is to:**

- Explore as many resources and perspectives on the topic you are trying to find out more about as possible, so you can make sure that you have taken into consideration every aspect of and possible opinion towards it. This helps you significantly for when it comes to both speech writing and defending your stance in committee, because you can assess possible responses to questions people can raise about the topic you are speaking about, because you looked at all the different kinds of perspectives, and you can also make sure that your speeches showcase a well researched argument which recognises and acknowledges other opinions to the same topic, whether you agree with them or not.
- Try to reference sources which are credible, objective, and reliable. When researching as a delegate, it is important that the information you gather is factually accurate, because it is often what you will end up referencing to justify your stance in speeches or generally in committee, and what you will base any spoken or written content on during the conference.



To ensure the same, using resources which are generally classified as reliable and primarily factual or objective, such as the United Nations Digital Library, Oxford Academic, The International Court of Justice, World Bank, official government websites, past UN resolutions, and more, can be very beneficial for accurate and usable information. Aside from these sources, an easy way to determine whether or not some other resource you want to reference is reliable or not is through the use of the OPVL method, which helps classify which sources are objective/subjective, and credible/potentially shady.

- When finding sources, try to reference websites which are more renowned for providing information regarding civil affairs, politics, legal issues, economics, or international relations, because their focus on the very theme of MUN will ensure that the information they provide is extremely usable for speech writing and MUN related research.



# COMMITTEE procedure

For UNW at MSMUN this year, all the delegates present are going to be from the 5th grade, and most likely a lot of your own school peers. Given how young our committee is going to be, alongside the fact that most of you do not have much or any experience with MUN conferences in the past, your chairs are going to try to simplify the procedure and committee flow as much as possible. We will be there to help you out in case you are unaware regarding how to raise a certain motion, what different motions might mean, how formal voting takes place, the time limits of different speeches, and more.

However, to provide a rough overview on how committee will most likely progress:

Firstly, attendance will be taken by your chairs, for which you can either choose to be “present” or “present and voting” (if you are unaware of the difference, let us know when it’s time for attendance, so we can explain it). Following this, proper committee always begins with a “motion to enter formal debate”, raised by any delegate. Then, a delegate needs to raise a motion to “enter the GSL/ general speakers list”, which, once passed, will proceed. The number of people who speak for the GSL, being 90 seconds per person, will be determined by how many the delegate who raised the motion requests. Essentially, after you raise the motion, if you haven’t included a number of speakers in it directly, the chairs will ask you how many speakers you would like to include to speak, and this can be anywhere from 5-15 usually.



If a delegate has time remaining out of their 90 seconds after they finish their speech, they can decide as to whether they want to devote this time to POIs (questions from other delegates), comments, or simply to the chair to absorb.

Following the GSL, the next motion will be determined by the preference of the committee, and it is usually a moderated caucus, with a speaking time of 45 seconds to one minute per person, and a number of speakers, once again, determined by the delegate raising the motion. Again, if time remains after a delegate has finished speaking, they can choose what they want to do with it. This is roughly how the committee will progress for a few hours, with new moderated caucuses being raised after one is over/elapses, until we slowly start to move into solutions. When moving into solutions, delegates can raise another moderated caucus to discuss possible solutions that they have brainstormed for the agenda, before then requesting an unmoderated caucus to discuss these solutions informally with one another and make blocs based on similar viewpoints and allies.

Once the unmoderated caucus is over, delegates can choose to enter another moderated caucus to build on solutions they have discussed and establish the blocs they are a part of, before a larger unmoderated caucus is passed, for them to write draft resolutions/DRs.

Once the DRs are completed, they will be mailed to the chair, and then discussed in committee through a few delegates from each bloc coming forward to first present their DR, and then answer questions related to it from other blocs.



After DR discussion is completed, a vote will take place to pass either one or more of the draft resolutions and effectively “pass” committee in general. To pass a resolution, a simple majority, or 2/3rd of the committee’s favour is required, and the number of resolutions which pass is completely dependent on how the delegates vote. There is a chance that everything passes, but also one that none of the DRs pass, in which case committee would end up “failing”.

Formal voting on the DRs is usually the last thing done in a MUN, and hence, after this, all the delegates will have time to informally play games such as “confessions” with the rest of the committee.

This is the overall procedure of a MUN committee such as ours, and, on another note, the general format to raise a motion for a moderated caucus is: “motion to raise a moderated caucus, on the topic \_\_, for a total time of \_\_, and a per speaker time of \_\_ (either 45 secs or 1 minute) \_\_.” The total time divided by the per speaker time automatically tells the chairs how many people will be able to speak for your motion, but you can also mention this explicitly, through adding “with \_\_ number of speakers”. Moving on, the format to raise a GSL motion is “motion to enter the general speaker’s list/GSL, for a total time of \_\_, and a per speaker time of 90 seconds, with \_\_ number of speakers”. Lastly, an unmoderated caucus can be raised through “motion to enter an unmoderated caucus for a total time of \_\_.”



# COMMITTEE PREPARATION

# guidance

## Outline - What to Prep

To ensure that you are, as a delegate, aware, well researched, and as prepared as possible before an MUN, there are a few basic things which you should focus on prepping before the conference date arrives.

1. A General Speaker's list Speech - as this is always what a MUN conference begins with, and you will be given an opportunity to speak for a GSL motion regardless of what committee you are in.
2. 2-3 Moderated Caucus speeches - as these are, once again, a critical and very common part of a MUN conference, which will definitely be brought up and discussed by your committee.
3. A research document - this is composed of a rough summary of important highlights and pieces of information from your agenda, factual and statistical information you can reference during speech writing or while making defences, a summary of the stance of your country regarding different parts of and generally the agenda, and more. It will prove useful because you can use it as a constant guide during the conference, to recall events and information, as internet access is restricted for the entirety of committee.
4. A dirt/slander sheet (optional) - This is not a basic necessity when it comes to preparing beforehand, but it is definitely beneficial. A dirt sheet is a list of the most important countries in your committee, supported by previous human rights violations, treaty violations, controversial initiatives, and more, that they have taken in the past, both in general and, very importantly, specifically related to the agenda.



This will help you ask good POIs in case countries say something contradictory or controversial in committee, and also defend yourself against other nations in certain situations.

## How to write a GSL?

A GSL is one of the most important speeches a delegate delivers in an MUN conference. It is generally the very first speech of committee, and it introduces the stance/opinion, past actions, and possible solutions of your assigned country on your committee's agenda. This speech is usually 90 seconds, or one and a half minutes long, and follows a similar structure or format every time, covered below.

1. A strong hook - a delegate must always start their speech with a dramatic but impactful hook, to captivate the attention of their chairs and other delegates. This hook can be a famous quote, an appropriate joke, an idiom, etc.
2. Substance - throughout a GSL, though primarily in the body paragraph, there must be substance. Substance entails factual information, in the form of examples to support any arguments, numbers or statistical data, and more. This helps build the credibility of any argument you propose in your speech, and makes you look like a very well researched delegate.
3. A specific stance - the stance of your country on your committee's agenda should be very well and specifically established through your GSL, with you explaining it carefully throughout the speech, and supporting it with dramatics, facts, and examples.
4. Solutions or a call to action - When you conclude a GSL, it is critical to not end abruptly, but rather, with either a solution or a call to action. If time permits, a simple but effective solution which helps solve any problems your stance on the agenda has highlighted previously can be very beneficial, but if not, simply a call to action, which addresses the entire committee and preaches the importance of immediate action, can suffice as well.



## **General Structure of a GSL**

Moving on, the general structure of a GSL is fairly simple. You start off with your captivating hook, followed by a brief 3-4 line introduction to the agenda from your country's perspective, which emphasises it clearly and logically. This is then usually followed by the body paragraph, which further emphasises upon your stance by adding depth and complexity, while also now providing factual evidence and examples to justify it adequately, alongside being dramatic/theatrical. Facts and examples can also be included in your introductory paragraph, but try to keep them limited and keep this paragraph short, highlighting most of them in the body. Moving on, the body paragraph is tied in with a conclusion, in which you briefly summarise your stance, and follow this 1-2 line summary with either a beneficial solution or the importance of finding a solution, which is a call to action. When bringing up a solution, make sure that it is either something which applies to every country present in the committee, or something every country can work towards, to make your speech more inclusive. Similarly, in terms of a call to action, you can try to address everybody in the room together, by stating the importance of finding a solution all together or as a team, for the greater good. The general word count of a GSL, to maintain 90 seconds, is around 250 words.

## **An Example of a Good GSL**

**Agenda:** Cybersecurity and maintenance

**Country allocation:** Russia

**Context:** Russia and the United States are generally very strong enemies, and hence they are enemies in this committee, in terms of this agenda, as well, and so a lot of the speech is focused on targeting the USA.



“Delegates, how did the hackers get away?

No idea, they must have ran-some-where.

Where?

The United States delegates, the country to which every criminal runs and every sane person attempts to escape. After all, what can you expect from a region with a foreign policy as haphazard as a headless chicken at an obstacle course?

But, how did they escape?

Because this planet was so busy wasting time discussing irrelevant matters such as the invariable 2nd world war, that cyber security, an issue not from the 1900s, but now, as nations suffer losses worth 2.5% of their total GDPs, progressively got overlooked.

Delegates, do people not comprehend that, today, the world is on the brink of losing its ability to even have a forum for these very meaningless discussions, as they persistently involve Russia in a extensive blame game under the term “caution”, following the lead of a country with a collapsing economy who claims to care about its citizens, but its healthcare system indicates otherwise.

Every single mechanical development potentially borders on getting completely destroyed by single entities, with over 14 ransomware attempts, including the NASA attack and the Melissa Virus, both instigated by, expectedly, the United States, serving as more than sufficient evidence.

Conversely, the Russian federation stands here today, although appalled by countries fanatical behaviour towards hypocrisy, urging this committee to support a progressively advancing Russia in its journey towards formulating a multilateral treaty addressing global cyber responsibilities, in order to fight the real war of the 21st century, ransomware.”



## **How to write a Moderated Caucus**

A moderated caucus, or a mod cauc, is a short speech, generally between 45 seconds to 1 minute, which discusses different perspectives upon an important sub-topic of your committee's agenda.

For instance, a sub-topic to an agenda such as the India Pakistan wars and controversies could be the issues that these two countries have/have had previously regarding Jammu and Kashmir.

The easiest way to be able to come up with sub topics is to either map it out like a mindmap or think about the different categories that fall under your broader agenda which are relevant. This study guide can prove to be a huge help, because it covers lots of subcategories of our agenda which you can then convert into mod topics and write about.

## **General Structure of a Moderated Caucus**

The format of a moderated caucus includes: A catchy hook, followed by a brief introduction which introduces your perspective to the sub-topic. You can then further emphasise your opinion with more in depth reasoning as to why, supported by some dramatics but also proper facts and statistics, in the form of a body paragraph. Follow this body paragraph with a short but impactful conclusion involving a possible solution that you have to any problems discussed as part of this moderated caucus (either in your own speech or in the speeches of other delegates), or simply a call to action.



## An Example of a Good GSL

Agenda: Cybersecurity and maintenance

Moderated caucus topic: The NotPetya Ransomware attack of 2017

Country allocation: Russia

Context: The NotPetya attack was said to have been started in Russia, according to the United States, though Russia continues to deny these allegations and defend the fact that they are very cyber aware and safe.

“Delegates, No doubt, the NotPetya cyber attack instigated havoc across the planet, along with formulating severe economic recessions for over 350 international and government establishments. However, doesn’t it seem a little suspicious that, just a month after the United States accused DPRK, one of their biggest enemies, of instigating the WannaCry attack, they decided to pick on yet another adversary for NotPetya? Perhaps, though this country claims that Russia is, quote unquote, “ripping up the cyber rule book”, this accusation was a response to the suspicion which arose following not one, but four significant ransomware attacks, including the Solar sunrise and the Church of Scientology, the United States’ population was found guilty of? Conversely, here’s another suspicious occurrence, not a single entity sanctioned them. Delegates, all western countries care about is blaming other nations while completely ignoring the skeletons in their own closets because they’re insecure of their ineffective claims to global dominance. Lastly, though incriminations are an exponential waste of time, when it comes to accusations, the truth must be told, and the truth is, the United States, is a hypocrite.”



## How to Speak on the Spot/Impromptu?

Speaking on the spot, or impromptu, is one of the most critical skills that you should develop and familiarise yourself with as a delegate. This is because you will often be put in situations for which you did not previously prepare, such as a moderated caucus for which you haven't written a speech getting passed in committee, or you getting asked a question you didn't expect for a certain speech you delivered.

Hence, some of the simplest ways to ensure that you are able to speak articulately and constructively, even without preparation, include the following:

1. Understanding the agenda and the perspective of your allocation beforehand: so you can easily interpret what the possible perspective of your country would be in the situation at hand, and give speeches or speak in accordance.
2. Anticipating potential questions to speeches: Anticipating possible questions that delegates might ask you, based on your speech, and then brainstorming best fit answers/defences for them, can help ensure that you are prepared for any kind of POI you might end up receiving, and are able to respond confidently and informatively on the spot. The easiest way to do this is to review your speeches after writing, and mentally highlight any controversial or debatable statements/paragraphs. You can then try to come up with questions of your own for these, which you think another delegate might potentially ask you, alongside sufficient answers. This not only helps you become more prepared to answer POIs, but also to ask them, as you automatically end up practicing how to come up with questions too.
3. Being confident and trusting: Firstly, confidence is the most essential method to ensure that you can speak adequately on the spot, because it enables you to actually focus on the topic or question that you need to speak for/answer, instead of being fixated on nervousness and anxiety. Moving on, if you are sure that you understand your agenda and stance,



trusting yourself to be able to react in an impromptu situation, even without proper preparation, is also critical. Even if you were to mess up, the more you put yourself out there and exit your comfort zone to try, the better you will become at impromptu over time, through experience.

### **How to write a Point of Information?**

A point of information is a question that you raise after another delegate's speech. It could be raised against something controversial that they said, the violation of a certain treaty or convention they are signatory to, because they mentioned a solution in their speech which doesn't make logical sense/is not doable, etc. Generally, try to only raise POIs for countries which are not your allies or supporters, but rather, against you on the topic being discussed. This is to ensure that you align with your foreign policy, or the political beliefs of your allocated country, and represent them properly.

Moving on, when it comes to how to write a POI, ensure that your questions include specific statistical references/examples, and as many explicit details as possible, so they are not vague or generic, alongside not backed up sufficiently. This is primarily because it is very easy for a delegate to deny a claim if your question isn't well supported by evidence or concrete in detail, and most of the time you won't be able to reply once again to the answer given by the responding delegate, as this is only provided in very specific cases. However, at the same time, make sure that your questions remain concise, because extensively long questions, which feel like speeches, will not be looked upon favourably by the EB, and also make you lose the actual meaning of the question beneath additional unnecessary information.



## Other Kinds of MUN Points

1. A point of personal privilege: A point of personal privilege is what a delegate raises if they have a concern which is specific to only them, and not related to MUN in general, such as not being able to hear another delegate's speech, not understanding something the chair just explained, being unsure of the break timings for the conference, or needing to fill their water bottle/go to the washroom.
2. A point of order: A point of order is used when you want to point out a factual inaccuracy in a speech/statement made by another delegate, or, occasionally, in something the chairs said or wrote during committee. This point can be raised at any time during the conference, such as after a speech, after DR presentation because you found something factually wrong in another bloc's draft resolution, etc.
3. A point of parliamentary inquiry: A point of parliamentary inquiry is to ask a procedural/MUN protocol related question to the chair. Usually, you would raise a point of parliamentary inquiry in instances such as when you want clarification regarding voting procedure, in case you want to ask permission as to whether you are allowed to say/bring up a certain thing during a speech, etc.

### Side Note:

Except a POI, all three other points (above) only address the chair, and not other delegates, whereas a POI, although raised to the chair, if approved, is followed through in the format of asking your question directly to the delegate you want to question.



# CONCLUDING remarks

Dear Delegates,

As we move closer to the conference date, your EB would like to extend their appreciation for choosing to be a part of MSMUN for this academic year. We hope this study guide served as a sufficient introduction to the pressing global issue that this committee has at hand, as it aimed to provide some foundational knowledge regarding the current and historic status of political representation for women.

Nonetheless, we still encourage you to delve deeper into developing a more comprehensive understanding of the agenda and the stance of your country, examining more case studies, recognising other challenges women in politics experience, and brainstorming concrete and effective solutions.

Furthermore, please remember that the end goal is not just to win an award, but also to efficiently address and contribute to the improvement of a critical international problem, while fostering an environment of empathy, understanding, and collaboration within committee.

Lastly, as your chairs, we eagerly look forward to hearing your speeches and witnessing proactive approaches for the amelioration of our committee's crisis. Please also keep an eye on your inbox for all important updates up until the conference day, including details regarding an informative session explaining UNW's rules of procedure (ROP). Moreover, do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have related to the agenda, your allocation, logistical/procedural factors, and more.

Best Regards,

Mahi Sahai (Director)

Surya Lakshman (Assistant Director)



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