

At that point my wife came out asking why I was spanking my son. I told her I was punishing him for eating the cookies. She said “he didn’t eat the cookies, I gave him a chocolate bar”. I felt very badly. I had observed some facts, but “jumped” to the wrong conclusion – just like the police “jumped to the wrong conclusion” in our case. The drugs, although by his feet, were not his. Also remind the jury, that the defendant’s punishment, if wrongfully convicted, will be far worse than the wrongful spanking suffered by my son.

Remember these two approaches to refute – or at least raise reasonable doubt – to the State’s evidence.

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GENDER EQUALITY IN THE UNITED NATIONS

The issue of gender equality is quite relevant nowadays and a great number of scholars all over the world pay attention to this problem. There are different international documents related to the gender equality and ways of fighting against the discrimination. The importance of research into gender parity is based on various factors, among them: unequal employment and educational opportunities for men and women, dramatic difference in salaries and wages, medical care, out-of-date legislation, high qualities to achieve the leading position, physical, sexual or domestic violence against women etc. For example, over 2.7 billion women are legally restricted from having the same choice of jobs as men. Of 189 economies assessed in 2018, 104 economies still have laws preventing women from working in specific jobs, 59 economies have no laws on sexual harassment in the workplace, and in 18 economies husbands can legally prevent their wives from working [1]. Labour force participation rate for women aged 25-54 is 63 per cent compared to 94 per cent for men [2]. Women tend to spend around 2.5 times more time on unpaid care and domestic work than men [3]. Furthermore, women are just 13 per cent of agricultural land holders.

According to this statistics, we consider that the issue of gender inequality affects on the policies, directions and programs of states and international organizations, such as the United Nations, Interpol, the Council of Europe, Europol, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of American States (OAS) etc.

The United Nations (the UN) is seen as leading the call for gender equality as a part of a human security strategy in the twenty-first century [4]. We should indicate that the UN engages women in all aspects of their policies and programs. In our study we will describe some documents and institutions within the UN, which are concerned with the gender equality.

Firstly, one of the most important international documents in the sphere of gender equality is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and entered into force on 3 September 1981 after the twentieth country had ratified it. The Convention takes an important place in bringing the female half of humanity into the focus of human rights concerns. The spirit of the Convention is rooted in the goals of the United Nations: to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity, and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women [5]. Nowadays the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is adopted by international treaty and 189 states ratified it; especially Ukraine ratified it in 2003.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women focuses on and includes articles regarding non-discrimination, sex stereotypes, and sex trafficking; women’s rights in the public sphere with regard to political life, representation, and nationality; economic and social rights of women in regard to education, employment and health; women’s right to equality in marriage and family life, and equality before the law; and establishes the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Resolutions 1325 and 1820, adopted in 2000 [4].

Secondly, there is the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) within the UN, which is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women. The main aim of the Commission on the Status of Women is 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 [6]. UN Women, established in 2010, serves as its Secretariat and plays an important role in ensuring and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the UN.

Due to the official website, UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: 1) women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; 2) women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; 3) all women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; 4) women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action [7].

Finally, we ought to examine the UN peacekeeping. Nowadays women are deployed in all fields of peacekeeping – police, military and civilian. Women have proven that they can work under the same conditions and perform the same roles as men. Specifically, women are more tolerant and polite in conflicts, so they can provide the support and access for local children and women, communicate and help them in dangerous situations.

The official statistics shows that in 1993, women made up 1% of deployed uniformed personnel; in 2014, out of approximately 125,000 peacekeepers, women constitute 3% of military personnel and 10% of police personnel in UN Peacekeeping missions. While the UN encourages and advocates for the deployment of women to uniformed functions, the responsibility for deployment of women in the police and military lies with Member States. UN Police Division launched 'the Global Effort' to recruit more female police officers into national police services and into UN police operations around the world [8].

Striving towards gender parity amongst UN staff is a priority for the UN Secretary-General. At the UN Headquarters in 2012, 48 per cent of staff were women and 52 per cent men, with the most disparity showing at the mid and senior levels. In peacekeeping operations and special political missions, the figures are more challenging, with women making up only 29 percent of international and 17 per cent of national staff [8].

We should pay attention to the interesting fact, that the UN also provides and focuses on the gender-inclusive language, which means speaking and writing in a way that does not discriminate against a particular sex, social gender or gender identity, and does not perpetuate gender stereotypes [9].

In conclusion, we have to note that the United Nations really deals with the problem of gender inequalities through the adoption of international documents and the activities of organizations within the UN. Promoting and encouraging respect for human rights, increasing leadership and employment opportunities for women, making equal access to health care, education, economic, social and political life, eliminating violence against women are the main ways of putting an end of the gender-based discrimination in the world.

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