

Dear Delegates,

SECRETARIAT

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Crisis Committee*

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On behalf of the Kennedy Center for International Studies and Brigham Young University, I would like to welcome you to the 25th Annual BYU Model United Nations Conference. We are excited to have you participate in this conference. I can confidently say that this experience will be a highlight of your academic pursuits, and you will gain lasting and valuable skills.

My name is Madylyn Thorn and I will be your director for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). I am currently a senior at BYU studying public relations, and this is my second year on BYU's award-winning Model United Nations team. I have learned much from the BYU Model UN program, and I know you will learn invaluable skills as you prepare and participate in this conference. I am also looking forward to the discussion of this year's topics. The topics before CSW this year are:

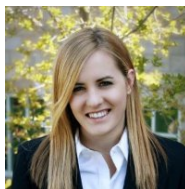
- I. Preventing Violence and Discrimination Through the Empowerment of Women
- II. The Role of Women in the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty

Women and girls account for more than 50 percent of the global population, so it is of the utmost importance that they are seen as equal counterparts to men and boys. The topics above can be applied to males as well as females, but women are particularly affected. CSW is focused on the issues pertaining to women, and the global environment is in need of innovative ideas and solutions to these problems.

It is imperative that you give your full effort to researching and learning about these topics in preparation for the conference. Your success will be determined by how prepared you are to fully participate. The background guide is a good starting point for your research, but I encourage you to research deeper and bring ideas and solutions to the conference. It is up to you and your fellow delegates to determine your success this year.

I urge you to study this background guide and the questions listed at the end of each topic. Familiarize yourself with important CSW documents and study what the Commission has done in the past. I truly believe that your participation in this conference will inspire you to take action and work towards a brighter future for coming generations. Your passion, leadership, and research will help you excel at this conference if you put forth your best effort. Good luck with your preparation, and I look forward to working with you this fall!

Sincerely,



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Committee History

Introduction

Since 1946, when the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was formally established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), it has devoted its attention to promoting rights and equality for women and girls within the United Nations (UN) and throughout the world.¹ Prior to June 1946, the UN housed the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women as part of the Commission on Human Rights.² Thanks to the work of feminists who were amongst the first delegates at the UN in 1945, this sub-Commission was established to address the concerns of equality for men and women.³ These early UN delegates also worked to include gender equality in the *UN Charter*.⁴ This accordingly appears in the Preamble, stating, “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in this dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.”⁵ The following year, ECOSOC *Resolution 11(II)* granted CSW its status as a full commission directly reporting to ECOSOC.⁶ Gender equality was incorporated into the UN Charter in 1945, and the establishment of CSW (which was composed primarily of women) meant that such issues had a clear place for discussion and action.⁷

Originally, CSW was composed of 15 members but was expanded several times, most recently through ECOSOC *Resolution 1989/45*, which increased membership to 45 Member States.⁸ Each Member State sends a representative each year for a 10-day meeting at UN headquarters in New York City.⁹ Member States are elected for four year terms from regional groups: 13 from Africa, 9 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 11 from Asia, 4 from the Eastern European region, and 8 from Western Europe and other states.¹⁰ Priority themes are set for the annual meeting of CSW and the goal of the Commission is to compile a report of agreed upon conclusions.¹¹ These conclusions are presented to ECOSOC for consideration and adoption.¹² They are evaluations of

¹ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, “Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women,” <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf> (assessed July 5, 2014).

² Ibid.

³ DeHaan, "A Brief Survey of Women's Rights," *UN Chronicle*, <http://unchronicle.un.org/article/brief-survey-womens-rights/> (accessed July 5, 2014).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ United Nations, "Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice," <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf> (accessed July 5, 2014).

⁶ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 11(II) (1946)*, 1946, p. 525.

⁷ Taylor & Francis "Gender in the Malestream-Acceptance of Women and Gender Equality in Different United Nations Organisations," <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08039410.2009.9666429#preview> (accessed July 5, 2014).

⁸ United Nations, "Commission on the Status of Women-Follow-up to Beijing and Beijing + 5," <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html> (accessed July 5, 2014).

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

progress on CSW mandate-related issues and address faults in implementation of CSW's policies or recommendations.¹³

Mandate

The original mandate of the Commission, set forth in 1946 in ECOSOC *Resolution 11(II) (1946)*, called upon CSW to focus on the rights and issues of women in political, economic, educational, and other civil systems.¹⁴ The earliest version of the CSW mandate also directed the Commission to bring issues of women's rights requiring immediate attention to ECOSOC.¹⁵ Since then, the mandate of CSW has been expanded to accommodate the changing nature of women's issues. Upon adaptation of ECOSOC *Resolution 1987/22*, the CSW mandate was modified to include "the functions of promoting the objectives of equality, development and peace, monitoring the implementation of measure for the advancement of women, and reviewing and appraising progress made at the national, regional, and global levels."¹⁶ In 1996, following the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, the mandate was updated to reflect the outcomes of this conference.¹⁷ The General Assembly (GA) requested CSW, through *Resolution 50/203 (1995)*, to play a major role in monitoring the implementation of the *Beijing Platform for Action*, which had been adopted as a comprehensive framework for action on women's issues at the Fourth World Conference.¹⁸ The *Platform* put forth a specific agenda to address precise measurement of women's empowerment and ability to abide as equal participants in global civil society, and CSW was to help implement these commitments.¹⁹ ECOSOC further tasked CSW with developing regular reviews of the *Platform* as well as a role for itself to mainstream a gender perspective in the UN system.²⁰ The *Resolution E/1996/6* further elaborated how CSW should follow-up on the action taken at the Beijing Conference of the previous year; this resolution called upon CSW to: (1) advise and assist ECOSOC with the evaluation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*; (2) keep up with its duty to mainstream a gender perspective in UN activity; (3) identify and make recommendations on how to approach issues that threaten progress toward gender equality; and (4) direct the public eye toward and conjure support for the implementation of the *Platform for Action*.²¹

Convention on the Political Rights of Women

In December 1952, the General Assembly adopted the works put forth when Commission on the Status of Women held a convention to discuss the political rights of women, after seeing a lack of female political participation. The *Convention on the Political Rights of Women* resolved that all women are entitled to vote in elections equally with men, and that every person, male or

¹³ United Nations, "Commission on the Status of Women-Follow-up to Beijing and Beijing + 5," <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html> (accessed July 5, 2014).

¹⁴ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 11(II) (1946)*, 1946, p. 525.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ United Nations, "Commission on the Status of Women-Follow-up to Beijing and Beijing + 5," <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html> (accessed July 5, 2014).

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 50/203*, 1996.

¹⁹ Charlesworth, Hilary, "Not waving but drowning: Gender mainstreaming and human rights in the United Nations," <http://regnet.anu.edu.au/publications/not-waving-drowning-gender-mainstreaming-and-human-rights-united-nations> (accessed July 7, 2014).

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Resolution 1987/22*, 1987.

female, has the right to participate in his or her government.²² Women are still largely underrepresented in political activity and government positions, but this convention made important advances in women's access and equality to government participation.

Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly requested that the Commission on the Status of Women draft a declaration that would more soundly consolidate the standards of women's rights that the UN wanted to uphold.²³ The declaration did not hold much power, however, it has allowed Member States to voluntarily uphold its standards if they chose to do so. It was a precursor to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.²⁴

UN Women

At the 104th General Assembly in July 2012, *A/RES/64/289* established the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).²⁵ This body, incorporated previously separate parts of the UN system into one body that supports the formulation and implementation of the work and output of CSW.²⁶ This system is also used to hold the UN accountable for its own commitments concerning gender equality and the empowerment of women, meeting the needs of women worldwide.²⁷ The creation of UN Women brought together the duties and directives of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.²⁸ The founding resolution states, "the General Assembly, the Economics and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, shall constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions and shall provide normative policy guidance to the Entity."²⁹ The GA, ECOSOC, and the executive board of UN Women, determined by the guidelines in *A/RES/64/289*, are to provide the structure for "operational policy guidance to the Entity."³⁰ UN Women supports the policy-making work of CSW as well as aiding Member States in realizing the policies and standards of the Commission.³¹ Finally, UN Women helps the UN system achieve gender equality in its work.³²

²² United Nations, *Convention on the Political Rights of Women*, http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/convention_political_rights_of_women_10741.htm (accessed July 5, 2014).

²³ United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, "Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women," <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf> (accessed July 5, 2014).

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ UN Women, "Governance," <http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/governance> (accessed July 7, 2014).

²⁶ UN Women, "About UN Women," <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/daw/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *Resolution 64/289*, 2010.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ UN Women, "About UN Women," <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/daw/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

³² Ibid.

Conclusion

The Commission on the Status of Women has seen its mandate broaden since its entry into the UN system as a full commission in 1946, due to a global awakening to issues that plague women around the globe. As the nature of international relations becomes more and more complex, so does the nature of the problems that face women and girls. There is now as much need as ever for diligent work on the behalf of women and girls who are perhaps unable to advocate for themselves. With the work and consultation of CSW and ECOSOC, the UN is more easily able to consider how their actions and attempts at shaping a more peaceful and equitable world affect the experiences and livelihoods of women and girls globally.

Annotated Bibliography

deHaan, Francisca. "A Brief Survey of Women's Rights." *UN Chronicle* 47:1 (February 2010). <http://unchronicle.un.org/article/brief-survey-womens-rights/> (accessed July 5, 2014).

This United Nations magazine, UN Chronicle, looks at a survey of women's rights around the world. It briefly discusses the role of women throughout various times in history, as well as the struggles that women have faced in gaining equal rights to men. It is a helpful resource to delegates, as it provides an overview of UN efforts in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Skard, Torild. "Gender in the Malestream-Acceptance of Women and Gender Equality in Different United Nations Organisations." *Forum for Development Studies* 36: 1 (2009): 155-197. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08039410.2009.9666429#preview> (accessed July 5, 2014).

This article discusses the UN's approach to gender and women's issues before the International Women's Year in 1975. It examines the way gender has been viewed and handled in various UN entities. Looking at past examples is an excellent way to understand the best way to approach future situations, and can give sound background to potential solutions.

United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice*. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/ctc/uncharter.pdf> (accessed July 5, 2014).

The Charter of the United Nations was written as the founding document for the UN. This Charter outlines the United Nation's role and responsibilities, and lists the ends this organization aims to fulfill. Every idea and solution you come up with should ultimately lead back to help the aims of the Commission on the Status of Women as well as the United Nations.

United Nations. "Commission on the Status of Women-Follow-up to Beijing and Beijing + 5." <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html> (accessed July 5, 2014).

The UN News Centre provides an overview of the Commission on the Status of Women that highlights the Commission's mandate, the make-up of its members, its annual sessions, and the output of the Commission. This source will show you which Member States are currently CSW and will give you an overview of past resolutions passed.

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. *Short History of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/CSW60YRS/CSWbriefhistory.pdf> (accessed July 5, 2014).

A brief history of the Commission on the Status of Women. This document succinctly discusses the growth of the Commission, as well as the major conventions and documents created by the Commission. Understanding how CSW has grown and changed since its creation provides an idea of the powers and abilities of this UN committee.

UN Women. "About UN Women." <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/daw/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

The UN Women website provides this helpful tab on the website, giving a brief overview about what UN Women does. The website discusses the aims of UN Women and the main role of this UN entity.

UN Women. "Governance." <http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/governance> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This tab on the UN Women website discusses the governance of UN Women and says what this entity has power to do. It is important to understand the abilities and limits of UN Women when planning to use this organization in potential solutions. It is also important to acknowledge how this entity fits in with other UN organizations and subcommittees.

I. Preventing Violence and Discrimination Through the Empowerment of Women

“There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable.”

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon³³

Introduction

Violence against women takes on a variety of different forms including, but not limited to, domestic abuse and rape, child marriages, selective abortion, and female circumcision.³⁴

Violence against women is a problem that is continually growing, despite efforts to eliminate it in all forms. According to a global review of available data in 2013, 35 percent of women have experienced some form of domestic or other violence.³⁵ These numbers jump up to 70 percent in some national studies of women who have experienced some form of violence from their life partner.³⁶ The core document from the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, called the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, declares, “Violence against women constitutes a violation of basic human rights and is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace.”³⁷

Although boys, girls, men, and women are victims of violence, it is much more common and pertinent in regards to women and girls. At least one in every three women around the world has experienced some form of abuse at least once throughout her life.³⁸ One example of a woman who has experienced abuse is Li Yan is a woman in China who married her husband in early 2009. Soon after they were married he began to abuse her. He beat her often, stubbed out his cigarettes on her face, locked her naked outside for hours during the freezing winter months, and one time cut off one of her fingers. She went to the authorities multiple times, seeking protection, but was offered no support or help.³⁹

Li Yan is just one of millions who have suffered some form of violence or abuse. Women who experience violence often have no voice and few sources of protection. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has made efforts since its founding to solve the issue of violence against women. The *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women* lists the rights that all women are entitled to, which include the “right to life, the right to equality, the right to liberty and security of a person, the right to equal protection under the law, the right to be free from all forms of discrimination, the right to the highest standard attainable of physical and

³³ UN Department of Public Information, “Secretary-General says Violence Against Women Never Acceptable, Never Excusable, Never Tolerable, As He Launches Global Campaign on Issue,” <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sgsm11437.doc.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

³⁴ United Nations, “Women and Violence,” <http://www.un.org/rights/dpi1772e.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

³⁵ UN Women, “Facts and Figures: Ending Violence Against Women,” <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures> (accessed July 7, 2014).

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ United Nations, “Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995,” <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/violence.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

³⁸ UN News Centre, “Behind closed doors: Violence against women,” <http://www.un.org/events/tenstories/06/story.asp?storyID=1800> (accessed July 7, 2014).

³⁹ Soroptimist International, *A Global Voice for Women*, http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/assets/media/documents/violence_against_women_-_case_studies.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

mental health, the right to just and favorable conditions of work, and the right not to be subjected to torture, or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”⁴⁰

Anisa was an orphaned girl from Afghanistan that was working as a health care worker to supplement her income as she attended high school. She was trying to both work and gain an education, which resulted in receiving multiple threatening phone calls warning her to discontinue her academic and professional pursuits. She continued to work, and was shot multiple times as she left her house for work one morning.⁴¹ This violence against her was a result of discrimination against women, and millions of women face similar challenges worldwide.

The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* defines discrimination against women as “any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.”⁴² Women around the world are discriminated against in almost every aspect of their lives. They are denied access to healthcare and education, they are denied the freedoms of participating in the political process, and they generally have poorer pay and working conditions, and less access to available jobs when it comes to working.⁴³

Violence and discrimination against women can be based on traditional societal and cultural values.⁴⁴ Historically, women have often been considered less than equal to men due to cultural norms. The UN acts to ensure that cultural traditions are respected within different cultures, but that these traditions support gender roles and the rights of women and girls.⁴⁵ Cultural influence is difficult to qualify when discussing statistics and, in turn, makes policy solutions elusive.⁴⁶

Physical and Psychological Effects

Discrimination and violence against women can have lasting physical and psychological effects. Research shows that when violence against women takes place in a household, children in that household will also suffer some form of violence.⁴⁷ A study done in Colombia reported that 49 percent of women who have been beaten, claimed that their children had also been beaten.⁴⁸

⁴⁰ United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women* (A/RES/48/104), <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁴¹ Soroptimist International, *A Global Voice for Women*, http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/assets/media/documents/violence_against_women_-_case_studies.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁴² United Nations, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, <http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cedaw/cedaw.html> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁴³ UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Combating Discrimination Against Women,” http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/discrimination_women.aspx (accessed September 9, 2014).

⁴⁴ Badger, Emily, “The frustrating inadequacy of numbers about violence against women,” Washington Post. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/05/27/the-frustrating-inadequacy-of-numbers-about-violence-against-women/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ World Health Organization, “Violence Against Women: Health Consequences,” <http://www.who.int/gender/violence/v8.pdf> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁴⁸ Ibid.

Unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases are likely to arise as a result of sexual abuse. Sexual abuse can also result in unwanted pregnancy, causing potential physical harm for the mother and for the baby. When a mother is under 20, her child is 50 percent more likely to die in its first year of life than a baby born to a mother 20 or older.⁴⁹

Abuse can also have psychological effects on women as well. The World Health Organization (WHO) has examined the negative health effects of violence against women. The effects can be manifested in symptoms such as anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. WHO's study on the prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence states, "Traumatic stress is thought to be the main mechanism that explains why intimate partner violence may cause subsequent depression and suicide attempts. Exposure to traumatic events can lead to stress, fear and isolation, which, in turn, may lead to depression and suicidal behavior."⁵⁰ Violence can also result in eating disorders and dependence on alcohol and drugs.⁵¹

Current Prevention in Place

The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination* was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and emphasizes the need to eliminate gender discrimination and gender-based violence (GBV).⁵² Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Three deals directly with preventing violence and discrimination of women, as it aims to eliminate gender discrimination by giving every child access to both primary and secondary education.⁵³ In many Member States, women still continue to face discrimination in access to education and work. Teaching gender equality and equal gender rights in educational systems to both boys and girls beginning at a young age could potentially have a major impact for good on overall gender equality.⁵⁴

In January 2010, the UN created the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) as a way to make a greater impact on social reform and bring together resources to address gender equality throughout the world.⁵⁵ This UN system focuses specifically on female empowerment and gender equality. It is used to support UN entities and Member States implement standards set forth by resolution and other official UN documents.⁵⁶ This system is also used to hold the UN accountable for its own commitments concerning gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide, and it promotes the implementation of

⁴⁹ Girls Not Brides, "Health - Girls Not Brides," <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/themes/health> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁵⁰ World Health Organization, "Global and Regional Estimates of Violence Against Women," http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁵¹ World Health Organization, "Violence Against Women: Health Consequences," <http://www.who.int/gender/violence/v8.pdf> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁵² UN Women, "About UN Women," <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/daw/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁵³ United Nations, "United Nations Millennium Development Goals," <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/gender.shtml> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁵⁴ UNESCO, "Gender Equality in Education," <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-sustainable-development/gender-equality/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁵⁵ United Nations, "Commission on the Status of Women-Follow-up to Beijing and Beijing + 5," <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html> (accessed July 5, 2014).

⁵⁶ UN Women, "About UN Women," <http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/about-un-women> (accessed July 7, 2014).

laws and practices throughout the UN and Member States to assist in the protection of women against violence and discrimination.⁵⁷

Conclusion

The United Nations, Member States throughout the world, and others are continually battling the gender disparity and discrimination that women and girls face. Although there may be cultural barriers that initially stand in the way, women have the right to a safe and abuse-free life. The UN consistently works towards preventing discrimination and violence and also looks for new and innovative solutions that can eliminate the gender gap and create a more peaceful living environment for women and girls throughout the world. The Commission on the Status of Women has put forth many programs to aid in this effort, and conventions such as CEDAW are major efforts to combat this issue. Unfortunately, much of this violence occurs inside the home, and not in the public eye, so it is the responsibility of the UN to continue to ensure the safety of women all around the world and give them access to all rights within all aspects of life.

Questions to Consider

1. What is the best way to monitor programs that the UN has implemented and will implement in the future?
2. What can the UN do, as an international force, to ensure the security of women and girls?
3. How might we implement measures to prevent violence for women while remaining culturally sensitive?

Annotated Bibliography

Badger, Emily. "The frustrating inadequacy of numbers about violence against women." *Washington Post*. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/05/27/the-frustrating-inadequacy-of-numbers-about-violence-against-women/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This news article published in the Washington Post provides statistical numbers of women who have suffered from violence, and the insufficiency of these numbers, as they only explain the outcome of violence and fail to acknowledge the cultural input that largely affects the outcome.

Girls Not Brides. "Health - Girls Not Brides." <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/themes/health> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This website focuses strictly on child brides and the violence and health consequences that come from girls being married as children. It examines the impact of child marriages and cites specific statistics relevant to this topic. Child brides is a more specific topic within violence against women, but a very important one. Focusing on one specific issue could be an effective way to bring attention to violence against women.

⁵⁷ UN Women, "About UN Women," <http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/about-un-women> (accessed July 7, 2014).

Murali, Vijaya, and Femi Oyebode. "Poverty, Social Inequality and Mental Health." *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*. <http://apt.rcpsych.org/content/10/3/216.full> (accessed July 4, 2014).

This paper looks at both the direct and indirect effects of poverty on social inequality and mental health of people. It examines behavioral, social, and psychiatric problems between the rich and the poor. Studying the differences between rich and poor helps in understanding what exactly it is that needs to be improved in the world. It also helps us understand the importance of keeping all human beings from living in poverty.

Soroptimist International. *A Global Voice for Women*.

http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/assets/media/documents/violence_against_women_-_case_studies.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

This document provides multiple case studies about women who have suffered some form of violence. It gives examples of women from Afghanistan that suffered violence and abuse from strangers who were upset about women in education and employment. Using real life examples illustrates the issues at hand and serves as an additional call to action.

United Nations. "Behind closed doors: Violence against women."

<http://www.un.org/events/tenstories/06/story.asp?storyID=1800> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This brief overview looks at violence to women behind closed doors in the home. It is an overview of 10 Stories the World Should Hear More About. This news release gives real life examples of women who have suffered from abuse or violence against them. Actual examples help make an issue more realistic and will get more of a response from those who have the ability to help.

United Nations. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*. <http://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cedaw/cedaw.html> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This provides a summary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Violence Against Women (CEDAW). This summary gives the history behind CEDAW, as well as the purpose and aims that this convention seeks to accomplish. This reference provides an effective definition of discrimination.

United Nations. *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women A/RES/48/104*. UN News Center. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This General Assembly resolution passed in 1993 is a universal declaration opposing violence against women. It defines the way that violence should be understood, and lists the liberties and living standards that all men and women have inherit rights to. Many women and men are still denied basic human rights, and this sources lists out some of those basic human rights.

United Nations. *The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women*.

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/violence.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

A written document from the Fourth World Conference on Women that took place in Beijing in 1995. It lists the Conference's Platform for Action and defines what violence against women means. It also provides the actions to be taken by different governments

that participated in the conference. This is a good source to refer to in order to more clearly understand what exactly violence against women means.

United Nations. "United Nations Millennium Development Goals." UN News Center. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/gender.shtml> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This web link specifically examines Millennium Development Goal 3, which is to promote gender equality and empower women. It particularly emphasizes Goal 3.A which is to eliminate gender disparity in education. Millennium Development Goals are an excellent source to refer to because Member States in the United Nations agreed upon these goals as the most important goals beginning in the year 2000.

United Nations. "Women and Violence." <http://www.un.org/rights/dpi1772e.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

The UN News Centre discusses human rights, and specifically the rights of women and preventing all forms of violence against women. It specifically identifies different types of violence against women including domestic violence, female genital mutilation, traditional practices, son-preference, dowry-related violence and early marriage, rape, sexual harassment, and other forms of violence.

UN Women. "Facts and Figures: Ending Violence Against Women." <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This webpage lists facts and statistics dealing with women and the effects of violence on them and their children. These are facts drawn from studying and statistical sampling done by UN Women. Knowing the effects that violence has on women and children will help people better understand the importance of eliminating all forms of violence.

World Health Organization. "Global and Regional Estimates of Violence Against Women." http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

This report examines the global and regional estimates of violence against women and the prevalence and health effects of both intimate partner violence and non-sexual violence. This explains the health affects of depression and anxiety after abuse.

World Health Organization. "Violence Against Women: Health Consequences." <http://www.who.int/gender/violence/v8.pdf> (accessed July 7, 2014).

The World Health Organization published research that examines the health consequences of women who have suffered some form of violence. It examines particular Member States, such as Thailand, Cambodia, Colombia, and cites specific statistics pertinent to women and children in those Member States. It examines physical, emotional, and psychological consequences of violence.

II. The Role of Women in the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty

“[I]n this new century, millions of people in the world’s poorest countries remain imprisoned, enslaved, and in chains. They are trapped in the prison of poverty. It is time to set them free. Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradication by the actions of human beings.”

- Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa⁵⁸

What is Poverty?

Poverty can be separated into two specific categories: absolute poverty and overall poverty.⁵⁹ Absolute poverty is defined as “a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and access to information. It depends not only on income, but on access to services.”⁶⁰ Overall poverty is defined as “lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion.”⁶¹ Those in overall poverty have less opportunities in decision-making processes and in different levels of community life.⁶² Poverty can be found within all Member States, and is caused by many different types of circumstances, including economic conditions and natural disasters.⁶³

Almost 3 billion people, approximately half of the population of the world, lives on less than \$2 a day, and 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 a day.⁶⁴ Poverty encompasses many facets of life, and not merely the amount of income for a person or family. Every Member State, whether they are developed or developing, struggles with cases of poverty. Furthermore, life situations unrelated to low-income could have an adverse effect upon a person’s poverty level including health, disability, and an inaccessibility to fundamental human resources as mentioned above.⁶⁵

Shyamola is a woman from Bangladesh that lives in extreme poverty with her two daughters. Her husband left her after she discovered she was pregnant with a second daughter, and she has experienced the increased stress of feeding many people while struggling to find work.⁶⁶ Left to live in the slums, Shyamola shares this fate along with thousands of other women in Bangladesh

⁵⁸ Nelson Mandela, “In Full: Mandela’s Poverty Speech,” *BBC*, 3 February 2005, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/4232603.stm (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁵⁹ Gordon, David, “Indicators of Poverty and Hunger,” http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ydiDavidGordon_poverty.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ UN, “Poverty,” <http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/briefing/poverty/poverty.pdf> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ United Nations Development Programme, “Bangladesh: Empowering women to fight poverty,” <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/bangladesh--empowering-women-to-fight-poverty-.html> (accessed July 7, 2014).

and billions of other people worldwide.⁶⁷ Hers is just one case of a woman and family that suffers from absolute poverty.

Hunger

Hunger refers to the want or scarcity of food in a country, and more broadly, the world.⁶⁸ The United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that between the years 2010 and 2012, every one in eight people around the world suffer from hunger or malnutrition.⁶⁹ 842 million people in the world do not have enough to eat; 827 million of these under-nourished people live in developing countries; and poor nutrition causes nearly half of the deaths in children under the age of 5.⁷⁰

In Somalia, a family of four children, two adults, and three animals divides up 500g of boiled wheat between them, providing them with their only food and nourishment for the day. No other food, let alone vegetables, fruits, or milk, are available for the family to eat, resulting in severe malnourishment for the whole family, specifically the children.⁷¹ This extreme case of hunger came as a result of a severe drought in Ethiopia in July of 2011. Maria Farah, the mother in the family, travels four hours to the nearest water hole in order to provide water for herself and her family. Their animals are unable to provide any help to the family.⁷²

Hunger can be directly related to the status of poverty that an individual, family, or society holds. About 24,000 people die every day due to hunger, and the life expectancy of people living in chronic hunger is 38 years old.⁷³ Those who live in poverty are more likely to experience hunger, as well.⁷⁴ Poverty and hunger can be caused by many different factors, but lack of education, lack of employment, and lack of healthcare are all factors that strongly correlate with both poverty and hunger.⁷⁵

UN Documents Addressing Hunger and Poverty

In 1948, the UN established the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which states that all humans have access to certain rights, including “life, liberty, and security of person,” and “the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family,

⁶⁷ United Nations Development Programme, "Bangladesh: Empowering women to fight poverty," <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/bangladesh--empowering-women-to-fight-poverty-.html> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁶⁸ World Hunger Education Service, "2013 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics," <http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ World Food Programme, "Hunger Statistics," <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁷¹ IRIN, "ETHIOPIA: Somalis living from drought to drought," <http://www.irinnews.org/report/93200/ethiopia-somalis-living-from-drought-to-drought> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁷² IRIN, "ETHIOPIA: Somalis living from drought to drought," <http://www.irinnews.org/report/93200/ethiopia-somalis-living-from-drought-to-drought> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁷³ United Nations, *Bulletin on Eradication of Poverty*, http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty/documents/boep_10_2003_EN.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.”⁷⁶ In 1966, the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* established important economic, social, and cultural rights that all global citizens should enjoy.⁷⁷ The first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1), to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, has been successful in helping eliminate extreme poverty and hunger throughout the world. The target to reduce extreme poverty a rate by half was met five years earlier than the anticipated 2015 deadline.⁷⁸ In the 56th Session Report of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Commission emphasized that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty and hunger.⁷⁹ Particularly important is the role of indigenous women in the eradication of poverty and hunger. The UN has recognized the cultural and traditional roles that indigenous women play, as well as the different needs and concerns that each individual culture faces.⁸⁰ It is significant to remain aware of the roles that culture and tradition play, while addressing the ever-present issue of hunger and poverty of people in all areas of the world. The UN, along with other organizations, have also made concentrated efforts to improve both issues of poverty and hunger at the same time.⁸¹ The UN Bulletin on the Eradication of Poverty states, “Economic growth and more equitable access to resources and markets in the context of sustainable development are essential for poverty reduction and food security worldwide. These are challenges that require broad multilateral cooperation among governments, civil society, and the private sector.”⁸²

Fighting poverty and hunger are global issues that need to be approached through many different methods in order to be successful. Public and private organizations need to work together with communities and families to improve access to food security and economic stability. The world produces enough food to feed every human being, and global agriculture processes produce 17 percent more calories for each individual in the world than existed 30 years ago, even though the number of people on earth has significantly increased.⁸³ Despite this increase in the availability of food, the means of getting this food to the hungry people around the world is not sufficient enough, and this issue accordingly needs to continue to be discussed in order to be fixed.⁸⁴

Reasons for Change

Extreme poverty and hunger affect people all over the world, in both developed and developing countries. According to the World Bank, since 2000, extreme poverty around the world has been cut in half through increased support in agriculture, government financial assistance, education,

⁷⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, <http://www.amnestyusa.org/research/human-rights-basics/universal-declaration-of-human-rights> (accessed September 20, 2014).

⁷⁷ United Nations, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx> (accessed September 20, 2014).

⁷⁸ United Nations, "United Nations Millennium Development Goals," <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/poverty.shtml> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁷⁹ United Nations, *Commission on the Status of Women 56th Session: Report on the 56th Session (E/2012/27)*, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2012/27 (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ United Nations, "Bulletin on Eradication of Poverty," http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty/documents/boep_10_2003_EN.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ World Hunger Education Service, "2013 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics," <http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁸⁴ Ibid.

technical assistance, and other means.⁸⁵ Unfortunately, more than a billion people worldwide continue to live in extreme poverty.⁸⁶ Those in extreme poverty put their health at risk in order to work in perilous conditions to support themselves and their families any way they can, and they often are unable to afford healthcare.⁸⁷ The burden of illness could result in a family selling their property, removing their children from school and forcing them into child labor in order to make ends meet.⁸⁸ Extreme poverty and hunger not only have health implications for individuals influenced by these conditions, but social, economic, emotional implications as well. This cycle of poverty will continually restrict the family from overcoming impoverishment and can potentially prevent future generations from living in better conditions.⁸⁹

Living in poverty not only negatively affects the individual or family, but society at large as well. Children raised in poverty are more likely to have low-earning jobs when they reach adulthood with poorer health.⁹⁰ Reduced productive work and health can generate a direct loss of good to the economy of the community and Member State in which they live.⁹¹ Economic stability, competitive markets, and investment in public infrastructure are all considered necessities to achieving a reduction in poverty, as well as increased economic growth.⁹² Economic programs should be implemented to prevent more people from experiencing poverty and to assist those currently living in poverty, in order to improve their living conditions.⁹³

Poverty and extreme hunger affect the physical and the psychological health of people, especially children. Infectious diseases and susceptibility to illness are direct physical effects of living in poverty and hunger, because of lack of nutrition, medical care, and clean water.⁹⁴ According to a report titled *Poverty, Social Inequality, and Mental Health*, “there [is] a direct relationship between the experience of poverty and a high rate of emotional disturbance, as well as differential availability and use of treatment modes and facilities by different social classes.” Accordingly, poverty can be both a cause and consequence of poor mental and emotional health.⁹⁵

⁸⁵ The World Bank, "Millennium Development Goals," http://www.worldbank.org/mdgs/poverty_hunger.html (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Health Poverty Action, "Key Facts: Poverty and Poor Health - Health Poverty Action," <http://www.healthpovertyaction.org/policy-and-resources/the-cycle-of-poverty-and-poor-health/the-cycle-of-poverty-and-poor-health1/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Poverties.org, "Causes and Effects of Poverty," <http://www.poverties.org/effects-of-poverty.html> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁹⁰ Center for American Progress, "The Economic Costs of Poverty," <http://americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/report/2007/01/24/2450/the-economic-costs-of-poverty/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² International Monetary Fund, *Economic Issues No. 26--Rural Poverty in Developing Countries: Implications for Public Policy*, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues/issues26/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Murali and Oyebo, "Poverty, Social Inequality and Mental Health," *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*, <http://apt.rcpsych.org/content/10/3/216.full> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁹⁵ Ibid.

Potential Solutions

Microfinance and microcredit loans are tested methods for aiding women in their efforts to rise out of poverty.⁹⁶ These small loans provide enough money for women to create steady income for herself and her family.⁹⁷ Research has shown that women who take out microcredit loans have an elevated status in their homes and communities, thus empowering them.⁹⁸ Microfinance has the ability to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, in allowing women to sustain their own livelihood and create better working conditions for themselves.⁹⁹ By the end of 2006, microfinance services had reached over 79 million of the world's poorest women.¹⁰⁰ It is of the utmost importance that women are able to manage their own loans, so that their husband or another male family member does not interfere and take charge of making decisions.¹⁰¹ Children of women that have accepted microfinance loans are also positively impacted by these programs, as there is an increased likelihood of attending full-time education with lower dropout rates.¹⁰² Considering how these programs can be further improved to help the needs of women is an important issue to discuss and work towards refining.

An example of successful empowerment is Lazia, a 50-year-old woman in Tanzania, who benefitted greatly from a microfinance loan that allowed her to leave her work of stone breakage and join a women's cooperative to build a hen house. This project that Lazia was included in helped women gain new skills in business and management, which has led to direct improvements in her livelihood and welfare and an increased attendance in school for her six children.¹⁰³

Conclusion

All individuals, and particularly women and girls, have the potential to play a powerful role in the eradication of both poverty and hunger in all communities and homes around the world. The Commission on the Status of Women is continually working alongside other UN entities and organizations to create and implement a way to eliminate poverty and hunger. There are many new and innovative solutions that have the potential to bring health, economic stability, and other basic human rights to women, men, and children throughout the world.

Questions to Consider

1. How can programs such as microfinance be implemented and monitored, especially where indigenous women are involved? How can they be used to empower people and assist with poverty and hunger rates in different local communities, Member States, and throughout the world?

⁹⁶ International Fund for Agricultural Development, "Women and microfinance," <http://www.ifad.org/events/yom/women.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ International Labour Office, "Small Change, Big Changes: Women and Microfinance," http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@gender/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_091581.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

2. What can the UN do, as an international force, to assist women in achieving economic stability?
3. How can we ensure that women are empowered through the programs we aim to implement, so that they remain in charge of their own lives and finances?
4. How does empowering women help future generations avoid poverty?
5. What does your Member State do to help people in poverty and hunger, and what can they do to empower women in relation to this topic?

Annotated Bibliography

Center for American Progress. "The Economic Costs of Poverty."

<http://americanprogress.org/issues/poverty/report/2007/01/24/2450/the-economic-costs-of-poverty/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This report tells about the subsequent effects of children that grow up poor in the United States. I used this source to highlight the similarities and difference of poverty in developed and developing countries, and to show that developed countries are not exempt from having citizens that live in poverty.

Gordon, David. "Indicators of Poverty and Hunger."

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ydiDavidGordon_poverty.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

The report discusses indicators of both poverty and hunger and complete definitions of both absolute poverty and overall poverty. It also has charts and graphs that can help in visually understanding statistics relating to poverty and hunger. Using concrete definitions and statistics can help in more fully understanding and discussing this topic.

Health Poverty Action. "Key Facts: Poverty and Poor Health - Health Poverty Action."

<http://www.healthpovertyaction.org/policy-and-resources/the-cycle-of-poverty-and-poor-health/the-cycle-of-poverty-and-poor-health1/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This fact sheet looks at the links between poverty, poor health, and hunger throughout the world. It examines infectious diseases that are more prevalent in poverty-stricken communities and discusses its economic impact on the global community.

International Fund for Agricultural Development. "Women and Microfinance."

<http://www.ifad.org/events/yom/women.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This website explains what microfinance is and how it relates to women. It also explains how microfinance helps the United Nations achieve their Millennium Development Goals. Microfinance is an interesting potential solution to examine, and it is always very important that all actions and resolutions fulfill the goals outlined by the MDGs.

International Labour Office. "Small Change, Big Changes: Women and Microfinance." http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@gender/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_091581.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

This report considers women and the use of microcredit to help bring them out of poverty. It provides multiple real life examples of women who have improved their social and economic standing by using microfinancing. It also acknowledges instances in which microcredit is ineffective, as well as the negative implications of microcredit.

International Monetary Fund. "Economic Issues No. 26--Rural Poverty in Developing Countries: Implications for Public Policy." *Economic Issues No. 26--Rural Poverty in Developing Countries: Implications for Public Policy.*

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues/issues26/> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This article from the International Monetary Fund examines rural poverty in developing countries and the implications that this poverty has on creating and implementing public policy. Poverty varies widely around the world, and this article focuses on poverty specifically in developing countries and how government policy can affect poverty in these areas.

IRIN. "ETHIOPIA: Somalis living from drought to drought."

<http://www.irinnews.org/report/93200/ethiopia-somalis-living-from-drought-to-drought> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This article highlights a woman and her family that have suffered from hunger and poverty due to poor environment and economic conditions. This story shows the very little amount of food that was available for this family's consumption every day.

Murali, Vijaya, and Femi Oyebo. "Poverty, Social Inequality and Mental Health." *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment.* <http://apt.rcpsych.org/content/10/3/216.full> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This source comes from a series of papers on poverty's implications on social inequality and mental health. This article considers direct and indirect effects of relative poverty on the development of emotional, behavioral and psychiatric problems. Examining how poverty affects women and children's mental health and not just their physical health is an interesting approach to the important and important to consider.

United Nations. "Bulletin on Eradication of Poverty."

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty/documents/boep_10_2003_EN.pdf (accessed July 7, 2014).

In this source, the United Nations gives a bulletin on the eradication of hunger. Pages 6 and 7 particularly examine how microcredit and microlending can be used to alleviate poverty worldwide. Microcredit and microfinance are solutions that are not perfect, but could potentially have the ability to eradicate poverty. It is important to understand how these programs work, as well as know examples of where they have and have not worked around the globe.

United Nations. "Poverty."

<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/briefing/poverty/poverty.pdf> (accessed July 7, 2014).

A brief overview of global poverty, as well as poverty in specific countries. This paper examines the debt occurrences of various Member States and how this debt continually affects the overall poverty amongst each Member State's citizens. This is interesting to study when looking at how various Member States compare to each other in relation to poverty. Every Member State has some form of poverty: no one is exempt.

United Nations Development Programme. "Bangladesh: Empowering women to fight poverty." <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/successstories/bangladesh--empowering-women-to-fight-poverty-.html> (accessed July 7, 2014).

This source provides the real-life example of a woman in Bangladesh that has lived through poverty and has been helped by UN programs using microfinancing. Examples of women from all around the world who have experienced and overcome poverty give hope for future efforts and help people understand the seriousness of this issue.

World Food Programme. "Hunger Statistics." <http://www.wfp.org/hunger/stats> (accessed July 7, 2014).

On their website, the World Food Programme gives ten easy-to-read and understand bullet points that conversationally discuss hunger statistics throughout the world. These facts are easy to digest and easy to use in discussions and speeches as you represent your Member State.

World Hunger Education Service. "2013 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics." <http://www.worldhunger.org/articles/Learn/world%20hunger%20facts%202002.htm> (accessed July 7, 2014).

Here, the World Hunger Education Service gives a fact sheet that provides definitions for hunger, world hunger, and malnutrition, and gives statistics and numbers for people and children that have suffered from some form of hunger. It also discusses how much food the world produces and is capable of producing.