

WGG Response to Third Committee Draft Resolutions Pertaining to Girls

Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.22

Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) is committed to the elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) and supports Malawi in this comprehensive resolution to intensify global efforts around this issue.

We are in agreement with the recommendations to eliminate FGM “whether committed within or outside a medical institution,” (4) and “when the practice occurs outside the country of residence” (9) We appreciate the wide scope of named participants in this effort to end FGM and feel the resolution could be strengthened even more with mention of working with local communities to develop culturally sensitive alternatives.

Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.20

Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) is pleased to support the very comprehensive draft resolution put forth by Malawi on the “Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula.” (A/C.3/69/L.20).

We wholeheartedly endorse the recognition of the interlinkages between “poverty, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, early childbearing and child marriage as root causes of obstetric fistula” (1). In addition we welcome the insight that the “eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and rights of women and girls” (1)

As mentioned in the draft resolution, the right to a good quality education for girls on an equal basis with boys is essential in this effort. In addition we strongly support the call for strict enforcement of laws regarding a minimum age for marriage that will eliminate early and forced child marriage.

A/C.3/69/L.9/Rev.1

Literacy for Life: Shaping Future Agendas

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) is pleased to join in supporting this effort that recognizes “the impact of disrupted educational services in humanitarian emergencies.” We join with Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Georgia, Indonesia, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Panama, Timor-Leste and Turkey in calling for reliable measures of literacy including data that is “disaggregated by age, sex, disability, socioeconomic status, geographical location (urban/rural areas) and other relevant factors.”

We note, with appreciation, the repeated recognition that efforts to promote literacy must include “scaling up literacy actions for girls and women” (6). Too often in humanitarian emergencies the responsibility for unpaid care work placed on women and girls detracts from their ability to continue their education. We too believe that the Post 2015 Development Agenda must include the issue of literacy training, especially as it impacts women and girls.

Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.19

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) is pleased with the comprehensive draft resolution on the “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls” sponsored by France and the Netherlands. The WGG welcomes the broad scope of this resolution.

In particular we support the calls for systemic change such as eliminating gender stereotypes in the media and criminalizing all violence against women and girls. Section 20 (m) is a welcome summary of the many issues that need attention if girls are to have equal access to education.

Although girls are mentioned in the title and in several places in the text, we feel there are some notable omissions of girls, such as in 20 (b) and 20 (j) which, if corrected would make the resolution even stronger.

Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.24

Rights of the Child

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) acknowledges with gratitude the fifty-four cosponsors of the Draft Resolution on the Rights of the Child. We welcome the rights-based approach to this topic as well as the recognition that girls are often disproportionately affected when human rights are denied.

We take special note of section 47 (e) which addresses stereotyped gender roles and proposes to “to mainstream in this context a gender perspective into all development and human rights policies and programmes, including those relating to children and those specific to the girl child.” We also appreciate the recognition given to education and the prevention and elimination of violence as they pertain to girls

Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.5

United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) welcomes the effort to enumerate “Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” We have a special concern for girls in detention and are pleased to see an articulation of specific practices that will ensure appropriate treatment for them (21).

Girls in detention are a particularly vulnerable group, especially if they are not separated from the adult population and not separated by gender from their peers. Violence resulting from contact with the criminal justice system must be eliminated. We urge member states to consider the unique needs and vulnerabilities of girls in all decision-making processes and policy implementation (41).

Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.25

Combating bullying and other types of violence against children

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) welcomes the Draft Resolution on “**Combating bullying and other types of violence against children**” (A/C.3/69/L.25). We support Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Iceland, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Uruguay in this effort to address this very timely issue.

We are pleased to note that the resolution provides for data that is “disaggregated by sex, age, disability, national or social origin,” (3 b.) as we believe this kind of information is essential for moving forward with this effort. We note the two calls for the “participation of children and youth” (3 c., 3 d.) which are key to the success of this effort.

Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.23

Child early and forced marriage

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) endorses Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.23 on **Child early and forced marriage** and notes its appreciation for the countries of Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia for this strong call to end this practice.

We note with appreciation the call to “support already married adolescents,” (2) a group that is often overlooked in efforts like this. We too support including this issue in the Post 2015 Agenda. We look forward to further discussions about steps to address the “gaps in research and implementation” (5), and consider this a high priority.

Trafficking in women and girls

The working group on Girls (WGG) endorses Draft Resolution A/C.3/69/L.21 on **Trafficking in women and girls** and notes its appreciation to the Philippines for sponsoring this Resolution. We support the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons and encourage her in her task to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons.

WGG is encouraged by acknowledgement that efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labor and other forms of exploitation. The 59th Commission on the Status of Women should consider the issue of trafficking through this lens and advocate for the inclusion of measures to specifically address the issue of trafficking in girls in the post-2015 development agenda.

We also call attention to the invitation, within this resolution, to the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls.