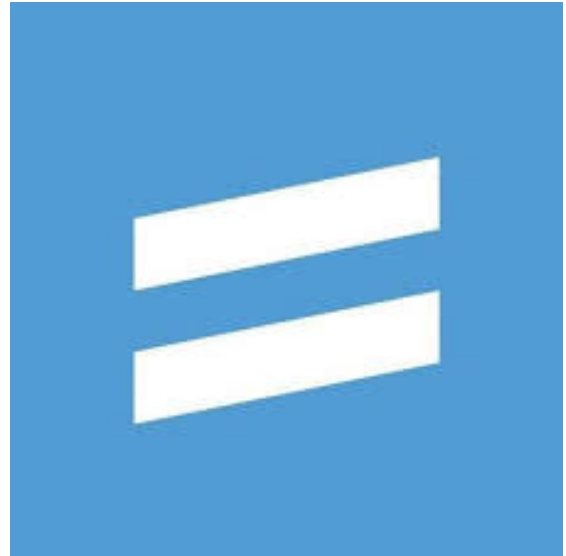


Welcome

Free and Equal.



José Ángel Serrato Collado.

Chairman of Free and Equal.

Enrique Aguilar Navarro.

Moderator of Free and Equal.

Annur Djamel Bazán Cuenca.

Conference Officer of Free and Equal.

Index.

Letter for delegates	2
About the committee	3
Delegation list	5
Topic A: The denial by the federal parliament to the projects against sexual crimes and female genital mutilation in Somalia	6
Introduction	6.1
Background.	7
Current situation.	8
Questions to consider	9
References of topic A.	10
Topic B: Violations of human rights towards the LGBTQ+ community in the Middle East.	12
Introduction	12.1
Background	12.2
Current situation	13
Questions to consider	14
References of topic B.	15

“You don't have true freedom until you allow a diversity of opinion and a diversity of voices.”

— Don Lemon

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the UN free and equal committee, we give you our deepest greetings to the 11th edition of CENMUN; it is an honor for this commission to have your participation in this model.

We admire the commitment it takes to represent an entire nation in this committee. Throughout the development of this model, you will build arguments to defend your delegation's position and address different challenges that are currently happening around the world. At the same time, you will enhance your debate and language skills, growing into a true global citizen.

During the debate, you will work collaboratively and competitively to find solutions that benefit the nation that you will represent. This event is not just another model; it is a unique experience designed to foster personal and intellectual growth in extraordinary ways.

As the chair of UN Free and Equal, we are excited to see an active and engaging debate. I encourage you, as delegates, to give your best effort throughout the development of this committee.

We wish you great success. Beyond addressing the pressing global issues of our time, we hope you enjoy an unforgettable experience in this XI edition of CENMUN.

Sincerely,

José Ángel Serrato Collado.

Chairman of UN Free and equal.

About the committee.

In every nation across the world, there are diverse groups of people with natural differences, distinct sexual preferences, among other characteristics. However, we all share the same rights, which must be respected by everyone, regardless of the country we belong to, because we are all Free and Equal.

Nevertheless, there are different ideologies which have a position not only against supporting distinct groups of individuals, but also actively violate their human and sexual rights. This is why this committee was established, to protect these groups and defend their rights.

The UN Free and Equal initiative was launched in 2013 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This committee has significantly contributed to increasing public support for the rights of LGBTIQ+ people and has been working to strengthen legal protections against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression and sexual characteristics.

Currently, almost one-third of the countries worldwide criminalize LGBTQ+ relationships. In these nations, individuals face discrimination, the loss of their jobs, arrest, forced sterilization, genital mutilation, or even the death penalty solely because of their sexual orientations. These practices result in severe physical and mental suffering for the affected individuals..

The UN Free and Equal commission aims to end these injustices by promoting proposals and solutions that ensure proper protection for discriminated groups based on their sexual identity or preferences. this is achieved through the following actions:

- Protecting the human rights of individuals discriminated against because of their sexuality.
- Protecting an international vision of inclusion, ensuring that everyone is treated equally, regardless of their sexual identity or preferences.

- Striving for gender equality for men, women, bigender, non-binary, among others.
- Preventing bullying and discrimination based on a person's sexuality.
- Safeguarding sexuality and preventing violations of these rights.
- Implement campaigns that advocate respect for all individuals, regardless of their sexual identity, preferences or characteristics.

To guarantee the implementation of these actions, the UN Free and Equal commission operates with the following faculties:

- Protect people from violence.
- Prevent torture or degrading punishments.
- Repeal discriminative laws.
- Prohibit and understand discrimination.
- Respect the freedom of expression and pacific union.

Taking into account the concept that we are all humans, and we have the same rights, UN Free and Equal makes the commitment to defend the human and sexual rights of different sexual groups who are being discriminated.

Delegation list

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

People's Democratic Republic of Aegelia

Kingdom of Bahrain

Kingdom of Denmark

Republic of Finland

Islamic Republic of Iran

Republic of Iraq

State of Israel

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

State of Kuwait

Lebanese Republic

Kingdom of Norway

Sultanate of Oman

People's Republic of China

State of Qatar

Republic of Rwanda

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Federal Republic of Somalia

Republic of South Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

Republic of Turkey

Republic of Uganda

United Arab Emirates

United States of America

Republic of Yemen

Topic A: The denial by the federal parliament to the projects against sexual crimes and female genital mutilation in Somalia.

Introduction.

The violation of sexual rights has been present throughout the history of humanity. These types of violations are considered as one of the most harmful infringements of universal human rights, profoundly affecting individuals' dignity and well-being.

Some common ways people violate others' sexual rights include:

- Discrimination based on gender .
- Discrimination based on sexual preference.
- Not respecting the privacy of someone.
- Showing an unwanted attitude towards the nature of somebody else.
- Disrespecting someone's relationship because of their sexual preference.
- Forcing someone to get married with a determined person.
- Among others...

In some countries, the violations of sexual rights reach extreme points, such as genital mutilation based on gender, severe discrimination, including denying education to women and girls, imposing the death penalty on individuals based on their sexual preference, etcetera. These situations represent a huge problem for the integrity of each individual.

However, some countries are either not interested in addressing these issues or lack the resources to implement solutions or accept some plans and campaigns aimed at supporting sexual rights. This creates a highly complex situation for the population of those nations, posing a significant threat to the protection and fulfillment of their sexual rights.

Although, some nations actively work with international organizations and participate in initiatives to support individuals in countries that are unable to ensure the sexual rights of their population. Nevertheless, the real challenge arises when a country rejects the solutions proposed by those nations seeking to make a difference.

Background.

At first glance, it may seem that gender-based discrimination is a thing of the past . However, if we take a closer look, especially at Somalia, reveals that violations of women's sexual rights persist in that country.

For a long time ago, sexual discrimination has existed all over the world. However, in order to address its harmful consequences, discussions during the 13th World Congress of Sexology, held in Valencia, Spain, in 1997, laid the current understanding of sexual rights.

Despite this efforts, discrimination, violations of sexual rights and female genital mutilation have continued to spread and intensify. According to UNICEF, it is estimated that 200 million women and girls worldwide have experienced a genital mutilation, some of them even before they were 15 years old. Genital mutilation represents one of the most severe violations of sexual rights, making it a crucial issue which must be attended immediately.

A report from Mogadishu dated February 6th, 2021, highlights Somalia's alarming genital mutilations rates. UNICEF's latest data indicates that 99% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 in Somalia have experienced this harmful practice.

The mutilation in female genitals is widespread in Somalia because many religions and community leaders encourage this damaging practice, claiming it is a religious obligation that preserves women's chastity. This justification not only promote Female's genital mutilation, but also influences Somalia's federal parliament to reject projects aimed at supporting women's sexual rights.

It remains also critical to call on Somalia's government to revive the efforts of FGM Bill, which has remained stalled in the legislative process for several years. International organizations, including UNICEF and UNFPA, have been working to change community's opinions about the mutilation throughout Somalia, encouraging societal shifts to eliminate this harmful practice.

Current situation.

According to Amnesty International's official webpage, in August 2023, the UN published a report analyzing the current situation of sexual rights in Somalia, particularly for women. This investigation revealed that women continue to face various violations of their sexual rights, including rape, genital mutilation and domestic violence which were gender based.

By today, harmful and misguided religious beliefs still establish female genital mutilation as a requirement for women, often before marriage, forcing them to forego their sexual rights.

Despite the critical nature of this issue and the urgent need for solutions, Somalia continues to struggle with addressing sexual rights violations and respecting women's autonomy. Additionally, the country has not signed several key conventions to eliminate the threat that violating sexual rights represent in that country.

Efforts like the FGM Bill have remained stalled or rejected, creating significant obstacles for international organizations, such as UNICEF and UNFPA, that aim to support women in Somalia. The women of Somalia urgently need the support of the nations present in this committee to achieve the full recognition and exercise of their sexual rights. Women's sexual rights are not respected in Somalia, nor in many other parts of the world. Therefore, this committee must develop and implement concrete plans and campaigns to promote and protect sexual rights in this region.

Questions to consider

- *Which is the current relation of your country with Somalia?*
- *Is your country against sexual crimes and female genital mutilation?*
- *Does your delegation have any plans to defend sexual rights and women in your country or to help Somalia?*
- *Does your delegation have plans related to defending sexual rights on an international scale? Which are they?*
- *Have any of the supportive programs from your country been denied by any government?*
- *How did your delegation solved this denial? (If it did)*

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Topic B: Violations of human rights towards the LGBTQ+ community in the Middle East.

Introduction.

LGBTQ+ community, alongside other organizations, has long fought for the respect and exercise of their human rights. Many nations of the world have accepted LGBTQ+ individuals as integral members of their society. However, there are still numerous countries that reject any form of LGBTQ+ conduct, penalizing it through criminalization or even death. Different organizations and committees are actively seeking solutions and actions to ensure respect for the rights of LGBTQ+ community, with the UN Free and Equal commission being one such prominent example.

In countries where people are not free to express their sexual preferences openly, members of the LGBTQ+ community face severe discrimination. They are often denied access to essential services, such as education, employment or even a household. In some countries, particularly islamic and Middle Eastern regions, these individuals are not only criminalized but also subjected to harsh punishments, including the death penalty.

These unfair and discriminatory actions can no longer be tolerated. This is why different international organizations are working collectively to put an end to such harmful and inappropriate practices, especially in the Middle east.

Background.

LGBTQ+ rights throughout the Middle East have a complex history. Cultural, religious and political dynamics have played an important role in controlling the attitudes and legal code in that region, directly influencing how citizens perceive LGBTQ+ individuals. Gender non-conformity is criminalized in many Middle East countries, with grave human rights violations imposed through arbitrary detention, physical abuse and even the death penalty. In this way, it is fundamental to understand the challenges that LGBTQ+ community face in this context, so we can address discrimination and advocate for freedom and for equality.

Historically, laws criminalizing gender non-conformity in the Middle East have roots in both colonial-era legal systems and strict interpretations of Islamic law. Over time, societal norms have exacerbated these challenges, fostering an environment where LGBTQ+ individuals frequently face violence, exclusion, and limited access to essential services such as healthcare, education, jobs, and housing. This combination of legal restrictions and societal stigma perpetuates cycles of discrimination, making it difficult for individuals to live freely and safely. Addressing these deeply entrenched issues requires understanding their historical origins and the current cultural context.

Additionally, from Türkiye to Jordan, many countries with Islamic-majority populations enforce some of the world's most restrictive and exclusionary rules concerning sexual preferences. LGBTQ+ individuals are often denied the liberty to express their sexual orientation freely, with religion and its requirements frequently cited as justification. This use of religion as an excuse has become one of the primary obstacles to achieving a world that values freedom and equality for all.

Current situation.

The LGBTQ+ community in the Middle East faces significant and widespread violations of their human rights. Most of the countries criminalize consensual same-sex relationships and expressions of non-conforming gender identities. These restrictions are often justified using religious and cultural norms, particularly Islam, creating barriers for organizations striving to achieve equality and safety on an international scale.

Stigma and discrimination are pervasive in society. While some local realities demonstrate how governments enforce harsh measures to suppress activism and advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community, resistance to change continues to frame outdated cultural conservatism around religious ideologies.

In Qatar, for example, security forces have detained individuals based on their gender expression, subjected them to physical abuse, and coerced them into conversion therapy.

Similarly, other countries force LGBTQ+ individuals to suppress or hide their sexual orientation through threats, punishments or severe restrictions.

Questions to consider.

- *Does your delegation support the LGBTQ+ community?*

If it does...

- *How does your delegation supports them?*
- *Are there any national programs willing to support LGBTQ+ people?*
- *Which has been the impact of supporting LGBTQ+ people?*
- *Is your delegation willing to defend the rights of LGBTQ+ community in other countries?*

If it does not...

- *Why does it not supports them?*
- *Is there discrimination or criminalization against LGBTQ+ in your country?*
- *Is your delegation willing to make some changes or accept international help in order to support LGBTQ+ people?*

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