



Surf City XVIII

Huntington Beach High School



UNHRC

Combating Systemic Racism &
How the Covid-19 Pandemic Affects
Women's Rights

Thomas de Vaultx
Zayne Brundage
Madison Sewell



Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Huntington Beach High School Model United Nations Program, we would like to welcome you to our virtual Surf City XVIII advanced conference!

Our annual Surf City conference upholds the principles and intended purpose of the United Nations. Delegates can expect to partake in a professional, well-run debate that simulates the very issues that those at the United Nations discuss every day. Both novel and traditional ideas will be shared, challenged, and improved.

It is our hope that all delegates will receive the opportunity to enhance their research, public speaking, and communication skills as they explore the intricacies of global concerns through various perspectives, some of which may be very different from their own. We hope their experiences here give them new insight and values that they can apply outside of the realm of Model UN for the betterment of the world community.

Although we will be entertaining a new style of a virtual conference, we hope all delegates will experience a fruitful and enhancing debate. Please do not hesitate to approach our Secretariat or Staff Members with any questions or concerns that you may have throughout the day. We wish the best to all our participants and hope that they may share a fulfilling experience with us! Enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,

Summer Balentine
Secretary-General

Jenna Ali
Secretary-General

Kayla Hayashi
Secretary-General

Hailey Holcomb
Secretary-General



Meet the Dias

Thomas de Vaultx

Hello! My name is Thomas de Vaultx, I am a senior at Huntington Beach High School and this is my 4th year in MUN! With this program, I've traveled to New York for the international conference, where we won both of the highest awards. I am also on the leadership team of the school's debate team. Outside of MUN, I'm a busy person, from the 4 AP classes I am in, to surfing and crossing the United States on dirtbikes. I am training to be a pilot, which eats up most of my free time and any hopes of having a social life. Some random things about me: I was born and raised in France for 10 years, I am trilingual and I am building a hoverboard. Anyways, back to MUN, as I look forward to seeing all of you in February for committee!

Zayne Brundage

Hey guys! I'm Zayne Brundage, I am a senior at Huntington Beach High School and this is my fourth year in our MUN program. Last year I traveled with my co-chair Thomas to the NHSMUN conference in New York where not only did I have literally the best New York style pizza in Brooklyn but was also able to connect with delegates from all walks of life and from all over the globe. Besides being constantly anxious about anything MUN, I am an aspiring musician and audio engineer; my life pretty much revolves around anything that has to do with music (let me know if you have any band suggestions or if you want any suggestions yourself! I'm pretty diverse with my music taste). Other than that, I'm really excited to see what you all have to bring to the table and how online conferences will treat us this year. Good luck and stay safe delegates!

Madison Sewell

Hi everyone! My name is Madison Sewell, I am a junior at Huntington Beach Highschool. This will be my third year in the MUN program, and I am so grateful for all the opportunities it has given me thus far, such as staying in touch with what's going on in the world. Outside of MUN, I like to keep myself busy being on the Varsity Softball team here and playing travel softball outside of school. I also really enjoy surfing, hanging out with friends, watching movies, hiking, camping, and snorkeling. I've got my heart set on travelling out East for college, hopefully I'll land somewhere in Boston. I am looking forward to seeing you all in committee! Good luck!

**All Papers are due on January 2, 2020 by 11:59pm to
surfcity.unhrc@gmail.com**



TOPIC 1: “Combating Systemic Racism”

BACKGROUND

Systemic racism, also called institutional racism, can be best defined in broad terms as “a form of racism that is embedded as normal practice within society or an organization”¹. Societal racism heavily differs from individual racism due to its far more subtle nature. As Stokely Carmichael and Charles V. Hamilton put it, it “originates in the operation of established and respected forces in the society, and thus receives far less public condemnation than [individual racism]”². Another main difference is illustrated in the fact that systemic racism is not blatant and conscious, and ignorance and thoughtlessness add a new layer which is just as difficult to tackle. It reveals itself in many aspects of our society from housing to healthcare to criminal justice and even more. Looking at the history of it, in the 1930s in the United States, banks practiced redlining, a process of separating neighborhoods based on their risk of loan default. Those were the neighborhoods most typically inhabited by African Americans, as they were economically discriminated against in the workplace, it led them down a pit with no chance of rescue³. In places like Los Angeles, the neighborhood separation is most flagrant, where the freeways were built intentionally to destroy mixed-race neighborhoods with full federal support. When those communities would protest the building of the highways, they were ignored, while the white cities like Beverly Hills were left entirely untouched⁴. In the United Kingdom, criminal conviction is equally unfair towards the community of people of color. In the 2020 government data, the prison system which disproportionately incarcerated youth of color, who are also submitted to punishment that directly violates the Mandela Rules on the treatment of prisoners⁵. It was also found that some minors held in pre-trial detention have been moved to solitary confinement indefinitely, allegedly due to Covid-19 risks⁶.

To be clear, institutional racism does not only occur in developed countries, and many African countries are now proving to have racist societal structures and processes. This may be due to the lasting effects of the colonialism era, where the invaders mindlessly separated countries and instilled racism. For example, in Algeria, Muslims and their education was severely undermined as the French colonists stripped Muslim schools of funding and put all the money towards french schools. As time wore on, less than 5% of all Algerian children attended school in the late 1890s, and by 1954, that number had not increased sufficiently. As part of their mission to civilize Algeria, the French educated some Algerians in an entirely french curriculum with no room for Arabic studies⁷. The Republic of China has also not been particularly kind to non-chinese residents and anyone who is considered favorable towards the outsiders. For example, some chinese girls were arrested for their friendship with Africans, as the Chinese consider themselves superior⁸. Africans in Chinese schools “would hear Professors and classmates make xenophobic comments, such as ‘Africans are draining our scholarship funds’”⁹.

It must also be stressed that focusing solely on the recent Black Lives Matter protest in the United States simply takes no notice of the true far reaching impacts of societal racism in other developed countries and their police forces. In many Western countries, such as Canada and Australia, there is a huge discrepancy between the amount of minorities held in custody compared to how much of the country’s population they make up¹⁰. In the UK, for example, there has not been a single successful conviction of police officers responsible for the death of someone in their custody in the last 50 years¹¹. Another problem that black people and minorities



face is racial profiling, which is best defined as the process of specifically suspecting a person of criminal activity solely based on the stereotypically assumed behaviors of a certain racial or ethnic group¹². This act sadly has its roots in even the most democratic countries, praised as models of government. Finland is not quite as perfect as people may think, and even if the Freedom House has put Finland at the top of the list of freest countries, it is not that accurate¹³. According surveys conducted in 2018 state that Finland recorded the largest rate of violence against racial groups, and that racial profiling is very common in public places¹⁴.

One of the main setbacks that have been faced by governments that try to cut down societal racism has been the complete lack of official data regarding the problem. In many European Union countries, governments are scared of collecting data because of World War II, when Nazis used “Race Science” to try and prove their superiority. Since then, many countries have not dared collect data on race issues because discussion of ethnic issues is intertwined with that war¹⁵. It is so taboo that France, for example, removed the word “race” from every single law and forbade the use of race in the process of employment to favor a person over another, although it is still a country with systems against discrimination in place¹⁶. Other countries are not collecting data either, but this time for lack of political support for it, like Denmark, who do not believe they have a discrimination problem. On the other hand, if European countries started to formally collect data regarding race-related problems, they could create plans with more context than a snapshot of the full scope of the issue.

And as if systemic racism was not detrimental enough, the COVID-19 pandemic has actually come and made things worse all around. Since minority groups work the majority of low-income jobs due to a history of discrimination, especially in America with slavery and the following Jim Crow laws, but this applies to other developed countries as well. These jobs often require their presence somewhere, with other people, while upper-income jobs, made up of a majority of white people, have been able to work remotely and from the safety of their home¹⁷. Since these minorities are repeatedly having to work multiple jobs, it creates a coronavirus spreader at every one of these jobs. Now that systemic racism is a problem growing into the light of the urgent issues, people are protesting for their rights worldwide, while COVID is still slithering around these mass gatherings. Many conservative politicians have been quick to condemn those protests as being unhealthy and not mindful of the risks of the pandemic, but have yet to negatively mention the anti-lockdown protests. These politicians are throwing oil on the fire which can only result in more protest and more fighting for fundamental human equality.

UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

The United Nations has been an advocate for fighting racism since the early 1970s. The earliest contributions to solving systemic racism, and racism in all forms, have been the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice. The World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination has met in session starting in 1978. Under Resolution 3057, this conference determined in its first session a list of provisions for countries and NGOs to adhere to in order to combat racism. Some of these solutions included biannual reports, the creation of new UN bodies specific to the issue, and close work with national governments. The programme in which Resolution 3057 aims to implement is the Program for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. This was a program set in place which condemns any form of racial



discrimination especially by governments and seeks out governments to take action against racism in their countries through policy reform, legislation, community outreach, and education. Another founding document for the UN's fight against racism is the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice which was published in 1978 as well. Articles 7-9 of this declaration explicitly condemn racism of any sort within the law, economy, and governmental provisions. Moreover, this Declaration has been the foundation of UN action against racism within governments and industries.

More recently, the UN has tackled the issue of systemic racism through various programs and resolutions. The most recent resolution, Resolution A/HRC/45/44 was passed June 19th of this year, following the death of an African American man, George Floyd. The death of George Floyd was so impactful that A/HRC/RES/43/36 was passed unanimously by the Human Rights Council. This resolution calls for the monitoring and encouragement of all nations in order to meet Sustainable Development Goals 10.2 and 10.3. SDG 10.2 tasks nations with eradication of all prejudice in the economic sector, and 10.3 affirms the need for the removal of all racist laws and policies of governments and institutions within a country's borders. Within A/HRC/RES/43/36, the UN calls upon the Human Rights Council Resolution 7/34. Resolution 7/34 extends the mandate for the Special Rapporteur to collect data, monitor, and educate governments and citizens, as well as recommend solutions for solving the issue of racial discrimination worldwide. It also implores the Special Rapporteur to condemn all and any forms of racist laws or policies and advocate for minority groups.

CASE STUDY: Xinjiang, China

Experiencing a brief period of independence in the 1940's, Xinjiang was quickly taken back under control by the Chinese Communist Party in 1949¹⁸. Despite being briefly controlled by the Communist Party, the Xinjiang region soon became an autonomous region in 1955¹⁹. At the time roughly 73% of the Xinjiang population were Uyghurs, a Turkic ethnic group who are natives to the Xinjiang region²⁰; however despite making up a majority of the 5.11 million people who then resided there, they were only granted less than 50% of the land, the other half would be dedicated to the thirteen other native non-Uyghurs residing within the region. Since then, ethical tensions between the Hans, another smaller native ethnic group within the Xinjiang region, and the Uyghars have caused much conflict. Since the 1950's ethnic Uyghars are disproportionately less educated, funded, overworked and underpaid than the Hans.

Since then Uyghars have long since complained about marginalization and discrimination based on ethnicity both by the Hans and the Chinese government itself, thus creating a sharp tension between the two groups and only on a handful of occasions between the 1970's and the 2010's have there been instances of anti-Han and separatist actions; these actions including the 1997 Ürümqi bus bombings, the 2007 Xinjiang raid, a thwarted suicide bombing attempt in 2008 on a China Southern Airline Flight and the 2008 Xinjiang attack on police officials four days before the Beijing Olympics.

Then reports started spilling in 2018 that the Chinese government were creating compounds used to detain between eight hundred thousands to upwards of two million Uyghars who are suspected of participating in or sympathizing with the attacks on the government itself²¹. These reports state that these compounds are being used as a sort of reeducation or internment camp and utilize them to brainwash, torture, discriminate and sexually abuse its inhabitants. The Chinese government at first denied any accusation of these camps but later started to admit to the



creation of these camps but would only state that they were used as training facilities in order to educate and redeploy Uyghars into more productive work sites.

Six years before these reports were leaked into the global community, Xi Jinping came into power when he was appointed General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. He was then appointed to President in 2013, a less powerful position but a position in government nonetheless. At the beginning of his administrative careers there were high hopes that he would be a more moderate leader and create a more progressive China, however these hopes were diminished when he started preaching conformity and uniformity rhetoric. He then appointed Chen Quanguo, who is notorious for establishing the concentration camps, in 2016 as Xinjiang Party Secretary. Although the reports of these camps did not come out until 2018, many speculate that these camps have been being used since 2016 and were simply hidden by the Chinese Communist Party, who already have a track record of failing to produce necessary information and having complete control of the media.

As for what actually occurs in these camps is very limited due to the lack of information from the Chinese government, but many former detainees have spoken out about what occurs within the borders of these concentration camps. Not only are the conditions incredibly harsh for the detainees but these people are being brainwashed into rejecting their own religion. These camps force its inhabitants to renounce Islam all together and are made to pledge loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party by threat of abuse²²; along with this, these Uyghur people are being forced to learn Mandarin in order to become socially accepted within their own country, something that Chen Quanguo has been pushing for ever since he was elected. Some ex-detainees have reported prison-like conditions within the camps and have stated that they are monitored via cameras and bugged rooms with microphones which are recording 24/7, allowing for the government to keep track of the people within the camp. Uyghur women in these camps are also treated more unjustly and are constantly sexually abused, forced to implant contraceptive devices and are even forced to have abortion if they were pregnant when arriving to the camp, a strategy speculated to be imposed by the government in order to diminish the number of Uyghurs within the country.

Along with these tortures, these internment camps have a history of separating families not only within the camps but outside as well. Oftentimes, these camps will take Uyghur parents and force them into the camps and then relocate their children into state-run orphanages, many of which start the brainwashing process in the orphanages in order to eliminate the progression of Uyghur culture and practices. Families are also separated when only part of them are brought into the camps while the other portion usually flees from China in order to become safe. In some instances, spouses are separated from each other as well as their children; these camps will on occasion bring in children and their parents as well. Many times when one of the spouses is able to seek refuge in separate countries they will have no idea as to whether or not their own spouses or children are even alive and will go years without any contact.

Not only is the Chinese government using advanced spyware and camera systems within its borders, there have been speculations that they are spying on advocates who speak out against the Chinese government outside of its borders. In an interview done by the CBC with a Uyghur that currently resides in Canada, the man requested that his full identity and face was to be disclosed due to his fears of the Chinese government coming after him even in Canada²³. The man even states that he was forced to lose contact with his family that resides within Xinjiang due to the possibility of the authorities bringing them into the camps as well.



The COVID-19 pandemic has also been a huge problem within Xinjiang and the concentration camps. As for the Uyghurs that reside in Xinjiang, local authorities have imposed incredibly strict rules for them. These people are usually never allowed to leave their homes for any reason whatsoever, not even just to simply buy food, toiletries or any other basic necessities needed in order to live comfortably or even survive²⁴. Along with this, many of the detainees are not equipped with enough masks to protect themselves nor are they spaced out evenly in order to ensure social distancing takes place within the camps.

With the combination of systematic racism, unfair treatment, ethnically racist regime leaders and a whole new global pandemic the Uyghur people are constantly suffering. Not only this, but the Chinese government has completely denied the allegations and proof of human suffering within these camps. China's ambassador himself in an interview with Andrew Marr on the BBC, Andrew showed him a clip of thousands of people who have shaved heads, are blindfolded and are stuffed onto train cars to be shipped to eastern China for unpaid labor²⁵. In order to avoid the direct attack on the mistreatment of these people, the ambassador not only says that he cannot see the video being played in front of him but completely negates the video and continues to describe the scenery and landscape of Xinjiang; he later also claimed that the clip shown to him was not of Xinjiang and was being used by fake media outlets in order to demonize China.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways is racism present, politically, economically, and socially in countries?
2. How are racism and history of a nation related? Which nations are considered to be historically racist?
3. Why is racism still present today after years of activism? What methods can be used to eradicate racism entirely?
4. How has racism become more subtly institutionalized? In what ways has racism become more hidden?
5. Why do governments often allow their own legislation or institutions under their jurisdiction to have obviously racist policies?
6. How is racism different in developed and developing nations?
7. How can cultural barriers be altered to end racism?



TOPIC 2: “How the Covid-19 Pandemic Affects Women’s Rights”

BACKGROUND

Women’s rights are the liberties that women are entitled to. This concept fueled the women’s rights movement to secure basic rights in the 19th century, and the feminist movements in the 20th and 21st centuries for equal rights to men. These movements are more than just for the right to vote and equal pay, although those are two major aspects of the issue. Some equally, and less-known battles for women’s rights are in departments of equal employment, property rights, healthcare, education, reproduction and freedom from violence¹. Combined with the battles left to be fought, there is already a huge task at hand, and then came 2020 with its severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), or Covid-19, pandemic. While the virus obviously does not pick and choose a gender to have a larger impact on, the effects of the subtle suppression of women worldwide has led to a regression of the progress made the last few years.

The first and foremost reason why women have been bearing the brunt of the economic fallout of the pandemic is simply because the hardest hit sectors are made up of a majority of women². For example, the health sector was already a place of pay discrimination, since more than 70% of the workforce is made up of women, yet the wage gap is 28%, compared to the overall average of 16%³. When the pandemic arrived, this did not improve, but rather made everything worse. Worldwide, 58% of all women work in informal employment, a sector that saw wage cuts of up to 60%, well below a livable amount⁴. This is sending consistently more people into poverty, and an issue that saw numbers decrease for the last two decades. However the rate at which both genders are below the poverty line is anything but equal, and by 2021, there will be 118 poor women per 100 poor men⁵. If women were treated equally than men in the workplace, that rate would be 100 to 100, or something close to it. Instead, there is unfair discrimination against women and equal pay is nowhere close, and at every new crisis, women will be more impacted if nothing is done about this issue.

The next great impact that covid-19 is having on women’s lives around the world is in terms of unpaid work and overall inequality at home. Even before the pandemic hit, women were shouldering a staggering average of 4.1 unpaid hours of work every single day, while men dealt with 1.7 hours a day⁶. The pandemic worsens the situation for both, but has a greater impact on women, when looking at everything else in their lives. Around the world, it is tradition for women to be the caretakers of the family, children and elderly alike, which adds responsibility for women already dealing with a lot. To add insult to injury, around the world, there are approximately 3 billion people without access to clean water or cleaning at home, and the task of getting those survival elements almost always falls on the women and girls of the family⁷. These issues are not created by the pandemic though, it is only worsening the situation and shedding light into the international community and that something needs to be done about this rather than ignored and relegated for a later time.

Education is something we, in the United States, readily take for granted, but in many areas of the world, access to education is very limited, and even more so for girls. For example, in the Republic of Chad, only 14% of girls have attended schooling at some point in their lives,



and for an average of only 6 years⁸. That's the equivalent of dropping out after 5th grade, since there is no kindergarten or preschool in many underdeveloped areas. Now that the pandemic hit, girls around the world are suffering from school closures and restrictions, in African just like the rest of the world. Without this crucial education comes the risk of gender-based violence in the household, since women will be forced to stay home, having no other option⁹. Furthermore, women worldwide will have more economic instability, reducing chances of escaping trafficking rings and exploitation¹⁰.

A problem that's always been around and is certainly not helping nowadays is the lack of knowledge and awareness of women's rights. Educating people about suppression of women's rights started in large movements with Abigail Adams, who said that "If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation,"¹¹. This sparked the continuous and ongoing fight for equal rights for women. This issue gets even worse in less-developed portions of the world, where women continue to be clueless about their own rights. Many states do pass progressive laws that enable women to have more rights, but without any knowledge of that, women continue to be marginalized and discriminated against illegally and without their knowledge. If that information was available to them, they could hope to pursue assaulters in court and seek proper justice for themselves and so many others¹².

Another view of how the coronavirus pandemic is constantly affecting women's rights is in the reproductive health sector. While people are stuck at home quarantined, unplanned pregnancies are likely to rise, and without increased access to abortion clinics and appropriate healthcare services in countries like the United States, maternal mortality rates will certainly increased, as they have in previous pandemics¹³. Other european countries, like the United Kingdom, have instead increased their access to abortion medication. This approach has allowed for an overall more equal way of life for women in the United Kingdom, in regards to impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, whereas the United States has seen women-led sectors get the most wage cuts and removal of work benefits.

Although this outlook on the world may seem grim and without hope, that is thankfully not true. The world is indeed grim, that is a fact when looking at women's rights, but hope is not completely lost. On the contrary, the faster actions are taken, the better off women worldwide will be in the longer term and for a better future. If we let off the fight for equal rights throughout the world, the problem will only get worse, where consequences might just be dreadful. Actions that remove laws that serve to oppress women, creating pathways for women in marginalized situations to reach their full potential and remove the injustice that women live in. Sadly, throughout the world, there is a sort of curse of being born as a girl, and such inequity needs to be dealt with for the sanctity of all.

UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

The United Nations has worked tirelessly to prevent backsliding on the issue of women's rights with the outbreak of the pandemic. UN Women has worked to implement gender conscious solutions into the COVID-19 response policies of all nations. Numerous reports, policy building guidelines, funding sources, and response plans have pushed for the inclusion of gender equality as a response to the pandemic. Thus far, UN Women has supported the implementation of a gender lens toward healthcare access during this time in 75 countries. Moreover, in 32 countries they have worked with national governments to implement gender



considerations into the official coronavirus policy. So far, the UN has worked towards the implementation of a gender emphasis into the widely adopted COVID 19 Response and Recovery Fund, which has been the basis of funding for many low and middle income countries looking for a structured response to the pandemic. Under the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, a UN entity made of various offices such as the World Health Organization, has pushed for a collective effort against the rise of gender issues with the spike of COVID 19. One of the main issues women are facing during this pandemic is the decrease in job opportunities. To combat this issue, UN Women has recently released a report which outlines the economic downfall for women across the globe, especially in rural areas. Similar reports have been issued that outline the failures of countries to foster female inclusion in the economy and push for a change in policy. In addition to financial decrease for women, the United Nations has recognized the increased risk of domestic violence with many countries under tight lockdown. The Women Count Programme has served as a useful outreach tool for women trapped in these situations. By collecting data sent in by women struggling through the pandemic, the Women Count Programme has been able to reshape the policy of over 12 nations by bringing this issue to light with real data. Secretary of the United Nations, António Guterres, has even spoken directly on the topic, and has created a campaign against gender based violence in regards to COVID 19. The UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign, calls upon the provisions of the Beijing Declaration and the Programme for Action to provide resources for survivors, bridge the wage gap between genders, and ensure that women have access to adequate healthcare. To provide a guided outline on how to achieve all these goals, UN Women has created a Five Point Government Response, which calls for integration of female healthcare personnel, hotline and services for domestic abuse victims, expansion of benefits and stimulus packages to account for mothers and women in charge of the family, female inclusion in response and recovery decision making, and join UN campaigns.

CASE STUDY: United States of America

The fight for gender equality within the United States has been raging ever since the US became independent from British rule. Women were often tied to house and husband, not being allowed to do any outside work, vote or even get a divorce on threat of death. Despite having to endure these hardships, the fight for equality stayed strong. Many believe that the Women's Healthcare Movement within the US started with Margaret Sanger in the 1900s when she began the fight for the right to women's access to birth control¹⁴; before this, women were very susceptible to pregnancies and this often led to a high number of infant and maternal mortality rates. Despite Sanger's constant battle and eventual victory regarding women's health rights, real progress was not actually made until the 1960's and 1970's when large scale feminist movements began to fight for more health rights. In the 1960's abortions were completely illegal unless the life of the mother was under threat, and then and only then were abortions permitted. With this statute in place, roughly 8,000 therapeutic abortions were performed annually and over one million illegally performed abortions; many of these unsafely performed abortions led to complications that often needed professional medical attention. Because of this, roughly 1,000 women died annually from these abortions.

Fights like these would constantly arise throughout US history and similar battles are being fought in today's world. Currently, women within the US are fighting private insurance



agencies and the unfair cost of life placed on not only women but on Americans as a whole, especially low income families. Things like access to contraceptives, reproductive healthcare and even giving birth to a child costs up to thousands of dollars, whereas in countries like Canada with their Medicare processes birthing a child can oftentimes cost nothing¹⁵; the highest birthing costs can go in Canada is only \$1000. Along with high costs of healthcare during birth, women in the US are three times more likely to die in childbirth compared to maternal mortality rates in countries like Norway or Sweden¹⁶.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has been of no help for the battle for equal healthcare for women and has further exacerbated the situation along with any other underlying problems that have been plaguing the US, such as systemic racism and unequal access to a proper education. One of the major issues of the pandemic overall is the sharp increase of unemployment within the country, which all together makes living situations worse for those in low income households; however this situation has become much worse for women and people of color, who are now more susceptible to catching or spreading the virus as well as making access to healthcare and any COVID-19 related treatment¹⁷. The maternal health crisis prior to the pandemic was already becoming a large scale problem, especially for people of color and lower income families; now with the pandemic taking up a large portion of local hospitals resources and time, maternal mortality rates have now skyrocketed especially for rural communities or communities of color who already had much less resources available to them than upper class neighborhoods. The recent pandemic has also affected safety-net providers, such as Title X and Planned Parenthood, and has further lowered their already incredibly low funding. These providers play an input role in providing lower class citizens to gain the help that they need, whether it be for reproductive health or for general health care options in general. Although the US has sent out the CARES Act which will fund community health centers \$1.32 million in emergency funds, family providers have largely been excluded from this act mainly because of the power conservatives currently have within the US government.

For years women within the United States have had to endure a constant battle between them and legislators controlling what they are allowed to do. Because of these actions, maternal mortality rate, unequal access to reproductive healthcare and lack of ability to protect women and people of color from the COVID-19 virus have become major crises and create tensions between the people and their government.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways, politically, socially, and economically, are women at a disadvantage during the pandemic?
2. How can nations who have primarily patriarchal family structures make sure that aid is accessible to women during lockdowns?
3. What are some strategies that nations can use to improve the financial situation for women? How can women specifically be included in fixing the economy?
4. How can gender equality be made a priority for countries during the pandemic? What benefits are there to ensuring gender equality?
5. What are some ways women can continue to receive education remotely? How can progress towards equal learning opportunities be continued?



6. What are the most common issues for women brought about by COVID other than the virus itself?

Works Cited

Endnotes Topic 1:

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/13/us/george-floyd-racism-america.html>
2. Carmichael, Stokely; Hamilton, Charles V. (1967). *Black Power: Politics of Liberation* (November 1992 ed.). New York: Vintage. p. 4
3. Moreland, Kimberly; Wing, Steve (2007). "Food Justice and Health in Communities of Color". In Bullard, Robert Doyle; Bullard, Robert D. (eds.). *Growing Smarter: Achieving Livable Communities, Environmental Justice, and Regional Equity*. MIT Press. pp. 171–188.
4. <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-06-24/bulldoze-la-freeways-racism-monument>
5. Catherine Cox; Hilary Marland (June 2020). "'Their minds gave way': mental disorder and nineteenth-century prison discipline" (PDF). *Early Career Academics Network Bulletin*. Howard League for Penal Reform (44): 18–23.
6. https://www.newslocker.com/en-uk/news/uk_news/teenager-will-be-locked-inside-council-house-as-theres-no-secure-accommodation-available/
7. Horne, Alistair (1978). *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria, 1954-1962*. Viking Press. pp. 60–61.
8. Girard, Bonnie. "Racism Is Alive and Well in China". *The Diplomat*. Retrieved 3 September 2020.
9. <https://medium.com/@jakepagano/african-students-encounter-institutional-racism-at-a-top-chinese-university-raising-urgent-cd8a6eeb1fa4>
10. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/audio/2020/jun/12/new-data-on-the-unfair-policing-of-indigenous-people>
11. <https://fullfact.org/crime/prosecutions-deaths-police-custody/>
12. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/profiling>
13. <https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores?sort=desc&order=Total%20Score%20and%20Status>
14. https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-being-black-in-the-eu_en.pdf
15. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/07/15/global-democracy-supporters-must-confront-systemic-racism-pub-82298>
16. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/breaking-frances-race-taboo/>
17. https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/in-the-covid-19-world-systemic-racism-is-deadly/2020/07/14/aa61672-c601-11ea-b037-f9711f89ee46_story.html
18. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-16860974>
19. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xinjiang#Republic_of_China
20. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uyghurs>
21. <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/behind-times/uyghurs%E2%80%99-history-china>
22. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-repression-uyghurs-xinjiang>
23. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4TReo_G74A
24. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx0JFgwATh0>
25. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwBaL-5o1oc>

Endnotes Topic 2:

1. Bureau des Traités. "Liste complète". *Conventions.coe.int*. Retrieved 18 July 2016.
2. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/feature-covid-19-economic-impacts-on-women>
3. <https://www.bcg.com/publications/2019/women-dominate-health-care-not-in-executive-suite>
4. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_626831.pdf
5. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/8/press-release-covid-19-will-widen-poverty-gap-between-women-and-men>



6. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/07/14/hrc-urged-address-womens-rights-impact-covid-19-pandemic#>
7. <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-07-2017-2-1-billion-people-lack-safe-drinking-water-at-home-more-than-twice-as-many-lack-safe-sanitation#:~:text=Some%203%20in%2010%20people.report%20by%20WHO%20and%20UNICEF.>
8. https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/print_cd.html
9. As quoted by Guy Horton in *Dying Alive – A Legal Assessment of Human Rights Violations in Burma* April 2005, co-Funded by The Netherlands Ministry for Development Co-Operation. See section "12.52 Crimes against humanity", p. 201. He references RSICC/C, Vol. 1 p. 360.
10. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39047787>
11. <https://opentextbc.ca/womenintheworld/chapter/chapter-9-human-rights-of-women/>
12. Amnesty International USA (2007). "Stop Violence Against Women: Reproductive rights". SVAW. Amnesty International USA. Archived from the original on 20 January 2008. Retrieved 8 December 2007.
13. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/news/2020/05/29/485606/protecting-promoting-womens-rights-key-defeating-coronavirus-home-abroad/>
14. [https://www.jognn.org/article/S0884-2175\(15\)33790-4/fulltext](https://www.jognn.org/article/S0884-2175(15)33790-4/fulltext)
15. <https://newlifevisa.com/giving-birth-in-canada-how-much-does-it-cost/>
16. <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/podcast/2019/jan/how-us-fails-women-when-it-comes-health>
17. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2020/04/23/483828/coronavirus-crisis-confirms-us-health-care-system-fails-women/>