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欢迎.

Complete guide

12 Areas of Concern from the Beijing Platform

Delegate should read and consider the key questions for each issue

Topic: Women and Power

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his/her country.

The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of both accountable government and sustainable development.

Women occupy only 18% of parliamentary seats around the world and regional averages of the % of women in parliament vary

Women ministers remain concentrated in social areas (14%) rather than legal (9.4%), economic (4.1%), political (3.4%) and executive (3.9%) areas There are only 13 women in the highest State positions out of 189 governments

Women still do not with have the right to vote or have restrictions placed upon them in: Brunei; Lebanon; Saudi Arabia and more.

There are currently many countries in the world that have instituted a quota system to ensure a minimum number of women elected to office.

Nearly all experts agree that efforts to address other issues affecting women cannot succeed until women achieve parity in positions of power, leadership, and influence within those areas of concern and in the world generally.

Formal power through political participation is one crucial way in which women can affect their own destinies. As with economic empowerment, women's access to decision-making positions, political and otherwise, has profound implications not only for gender justice, but for the well-being of entire societies as their talents are brought to bear for the larger good.

Women are seen by some experts as possessing traits that lend themselves to quality leadership, such as a proclivity for consensus building and less corrupt behaviour. However, women seeking leadership roles face significant logistical and financial hurdles. Gender stereotypes play a role as well.

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Gbak1-1Yr8&feature=player_embedded

Questions to consider:
Has your country mainstreamed a gender perspective for political engagement? That is, have you assessed the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in any area and at all levels? How could your country be proactive (and promote equality)?

Further research:
Make measures to ensure women's access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making. Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.

Should countries introduce quotas to increase participation? This has worked well in places such as Rwanda http://worldsavvy.org/monitor/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=573&Itemid=1020

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/beijingat10/G.%20Women%20in%20power%20and%20decision-making.pdf
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_in_power_and_decision_making_3007.htm

Topic: Women and Media

"Committed to ensuring equal rights between Rwandans and between women and men without prejudice to the principles of gender equality and complementarity in national development" Rwandan Constitution

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Challenges for women in politics

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Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=g4AjSqkriMY
http://on.ted.com/Kamerick

Questions to consider:
Has your country mainstreamed a gender perspective in its political planning? That is, have you assessed the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in any area and at all levels?

Further research:
Should countries introduce quotas to increase participation? This has worked well in places such as Rwanda
http://worldsavvy.org/monitor/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=573&Itemid=1020
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/beijingat10/G.%20Women%20in%20power%20and%20decision-making.pdf
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_in_power_and_decision_making_3007.htm

Topic: Women and The MDGs

Why is attention to gender equality and women's empowerment essential to enable countries and the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Gender equality and empowerment are central to achieving the MDGs. If women are able to reach their full potential they may live a life of dignity, and be productive citizens.

Gender equality helps accelerate the achievement of each goal. In addition, there is solid evidence that progress in gender equality in one goal often contributes towards progress on a number of other development goals. For example, gender equality in education also makes significant contributions to a nation's economic growth and poverty reduction as well as to reduced malnutrition, fertility, and child mortality.

However, by its own measure, the international community is failing.

The overall picture is one of slow progress – delaying the achievement of these goals to after 2015 – or of no progress at all. The situation is bleakest for sub-Saharan Africa where, despite movement by individual countries on some goals, the region as a whole is on course to miss almost all the goals.

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHhJSz6yk6U&feature=player_embedded
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ReRx12QUv54

Questions to consider:
How much progress towards achieving the MDGs has been made in your country or region?
What impact has there been for women?
What needs to be done?

Further research:
://www.endpoverty2015.org/
http://www.actionaid.org.uk/doc_lib/aamdg.pdf
http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/the-millennium-development-goals-report-2012/
http://globalclassroomslondon.weebly.com/uploads/1/2/4/5/12451421/actions_necessary_to_accelerate_acheiving_the_mdgs.pdf

Topic: Women and the Environment

The threat of climate change, manifested in the increase of extreme weather conditions such as, droughts, storms or floods, has been recognised as a global priority issue.

Climate change is a sustainable development challenge, with broad impacts not only on the environment but also on economic and social development. The effects of climate change will vary among regions, and between different generations, income groups and occupations as well as between women and men. Developing countries and people living in poverty are likely to experience significant impacts as they do not have the necessary technology or funds to adapt.

Women form a disproportionately large share of the poor in countries all over the world.

Women in rural areas in developing countries are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, because of their responsibility to secure water, food and energy for cooking and heating.

The effects of climate change, including drought, uncertain rainfall and deforestation, make it harder to secure these resources.

By comparison with men in poor countries, women face historical disadvantages, which include limited access to decision-making and economic assets that compound the challenges of climate change.

It is therefore imperative that a gender analysis be applied to all actions on climate change.

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Zy3ZbDud-VY
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=xo1zM3Okjag

Questions to consider:
How does your country contribute to the changing climate?
How is your country affected by the changing climate now?
How will the poorest people in your region adapt to climate change?
What impact has there been for women?
What needs to be done?

Further research:
http://www.unwomen.org/focus-areas/climate-change-and-the-environment/
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/climate_change_poverty_women/files/Guardian_Climate_Change_Atlas_%20081208.pdf
http://www.oxfamamerica.org/files/climatechangewomen-factsheet.pdf

Topic: Women and Health

Women have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The enjoyment of this right is vital to their life and well-being their ability to participate in all areas of public and private life" UNWOMEN

"The world's women and children need more than pledges," Ban Ki-Moon

With just five years left to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, global leaders must intensify their efforts to improve women's and children's health. The world has failed to invest enough in the health of women, adolescent girls, newborns, infants, and children. as a result, millions of preventable deaths occur each year and we have made less progress on Mdg 5, improving maternal health, than any other

The health of women and children is the key to progress on all development goals. Every year around 8 million young children die of preventable causes, and more than 350,000 women die from preventable complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. These unacceptable deaths can and must be avoided by ensuring that all women and children get the prevention, treatment and care they need.

The health of women and girls is of particular concern because, in many societies, they are disadvantaged by discrimination rooted in sociocultural factors These factors include:

unequal power relationships
social norms
an exclusive focus on women's reproductive roles;
 physical, sexual and emotional violence.

The conditions, in which women and children are born, grow up, live and work has a major impact on their health.

Efforts to improve health must be closely linked to those intended to tackle poverty and malnutrition, improve access to education, ensure gender equity and empowerment, tackle major diseases, and improve access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and a clean, safe environment.

Integrating the care of women and children with other services is an efficient and cost-effective route to success.

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuF4ByQFq6s&feature=player_embedded
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-SWxizon1E&feature=player_embedded

Questions to consider:
What are the health issues affecting women and children in your country?
Are the needs of women being adequately met?
Is women's' health improving?
Will you achieve the MDGs?
Which barriers exist?
Has your country mainstreamed a gender perspective in its health planning? That is, have you assessed the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in any area and at all levels?

Further research:
Reproductive Health
HIV/AIDS
Drugs and Drug Abuse.
http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/EN_WHS2012_Full.pdf
http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/images/content/files/global_strategy/full/20100914_gswch_en.pdf

Topic: Women and The Economy

Women constitute half of humankind and 40% of the global workforce. They are a growing proportion of the overseas migrant labour force. As workers, entrepreneurs and service providers they contribute actively to social and economic development.

Yet women's economic and human rights, their contributions and priorities have been largely overlooked. They are more likely to be unemployed than men, dominate the unprotected informal sector, are more likely than men to be in part-time formal employment in most high income regions, spend more time than men.

1. Women contribute substantially to economic and social development, but are discriminated against
2. Invest in gender equality and women's economic empowerment, more jobs and decent work for women
3. Implement development strategies, policies that generate more jobs and ensure decent work for women, particularly in the informal sector
4. Promote women's leadership in public and corporate economic decision-making and in employer's and worker's organizations
5. Promote a culture of equality and shared responsibility between men and women in paid and unpaid care work

The United Kingdom specifies a "Gender Equality Duty" for public authorities
The "Gender Equality Duty" effective from April 2007 requires public authorities: "to promote gender equality and eliminate sex discrimination. " Instead of depending on individuals making complaints about sex discrimination, the duty places the legal responsibility on public authorities to demonstrate that they treat men and women fairly. The duty will affect policy making, public services, such as transport, and employment practices such as recruitment and flexible working."

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=UaCwOdNeA7k
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6srAExtuhM&feature=player_embedded

Questions to consider:
Will you achieve the MDGs? Which barriers exist?
Has your country mainstreamed a gender perspective in its health planning? That is, have you assessed the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programmes, in any area and at all levels?
How could your country be proactive (and promote equality)?

Further research:
2009: Women's Control over Economic Resources and Access to Financial Resources, including Microfinance
2004: Women and International Migration
1999: Globalization, Gender and Work
http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/decent-work-and-women-economic-empowement_policybrief.pdf
http://www.unwomen.org/focus-areas/?show=Economic_Empowerment
http://www.unfpa.org/gender/empowerment1.htm

Topic: Education and Training

The Beijing Platform for Action called on Governments to eliminate disparities between women and men in both access to education and educational outcomes. Education and training are human rights and essential tools for achieving the goals of equality, development and peace. Non-discriminatory education benefits both girls and boys and thus ultimately contributes to more equal relationships between women and men. Literacy of women is an important key to improving health, nutrition and education in the family and to empowering women to participate in decision-making in society. Investing in formal and non-formal education and training for girls and women, with its exceptionally high social and economic return, has proved to be one of the best means of achieving sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable.

Creation of an educational and social environment, in which women and men, girls and boys, are treated equally and encouraged to achieve their full potential, respecting their freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, and where educational resources promote non-stereotyped images of women and men, would be effective in the elimination of the causes of discrimination against women and inequalities between women and men.

Women should be enabled to benefit from an ongoing acquisition of knowledge and skills beyond those acquired during youth. This concept of lifelong learning includes knowledge and skills gained in formal education and training, as well as learning that occurs in informal ways, including volunteer activity, unremunerated work and traditional knowledge.

This concerns all levels and forms of education, including basic and primary education, secondary and advanced studies, vocational and labour market training, adult literacy and lifelong learning.

The Beijing Platform for Action set out six strategic objectives:
Ensure equal access to education;
Eradicate illiteracy among women;
Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education;
Develop non-discriminatory education and training;
Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms;
Promote lifelong education and training for girls and women.

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=2XFKngBq6yI
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ye8iGQ1d9Cg
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=qZb8oFtLpwY#t=0s

Questions to consider:
Does your country have legislation (law) that protects and promoted education and training?
Which barriers exist?
Persistence of poverty, discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls, negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls, as well as negative stereotyping of girls and boys.
Lack of political will and commitment and insufficient allocation of financial and resources to improve educational infrastructure and undertake educational reforms
Insufficient national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child.

Further research:
http://web.unfpa.org/intercenter/beijing/education.htm
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/education_and_training_of_women_3002.htm
http://www.unicef.org/education/

Topic: Human Rights

Millions of women throughout the world live in conditions of deprivation and attacks against their fundamental human rights for no other reason than that they are women. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birth right of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments.

Numerous international and regional instruments have drawn attention to gender-related dimensions of human rights issues, the most important being the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women established an agenda for national action to end discrimination, and provides the basis for achieving equality between men and women. It aims to ensure women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life as well as education, health and employment. CEDAW is also the only human rights treaty that affirms the reproductive rights of women. The Convention has been ratified by 180 states, making it one of the most ratified international treaties. The Optional Protocol establishes procedures for individual complaints on alleged violations of the Convention by State parties, as well as an inquiry procedure. So far the Protocol has been ratified by 71 States. In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo (ICPD) affirmed the relationship between advancement and fulfilment of rights and gender equality. In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women in saw the inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals

In spite of these international agreements, the denial of women's basic human rights is persistent and widespread. Indeed, many of the countries that have ratified CEDAW still have discriminatory laws on marriage, land and property. More than 100 million women are missing from the world's population - a result of discrimination against women and girls, including female infanticide. Two thirds of the 774 million adult illiterates worldwide are women - the same proportion for the past 20 years and across most regions. More than 60 million girls worldwide are forced into marriage as children. Each year 358,000 women die from pregnancy and childbirth-related causes. An estimated 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk of female genital mutilation/cutting each year. Rates of HIV infection among women are rapidly increasing. Among those 15-24 years of age, young women now constitute the majority of those newly infected, in part because of their economic and social vulnerability. As a consequence of their working conditions and characteristics, a disproportionate number of women are impoverished in both developing and developed countries.

Links to multimedia

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=mvL_6fXECP4
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=0ATz4dVAjuI
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=stAiIldUgM8

Questions to consider:

Is your country a signatory to the CEDAW? Has it ratified CEDAW?
Which Human Rights violations occur in your country and your region?
Does your country have legislation (law) that protects the rights of women? Is it enforceable and effective?
What resources are available to your country? What are your priorities? What new legislation or regional agreements are possible?

Further research:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/
http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10220
http://www.unwomen.org/
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/human_rights_of_women_3009.htm
http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2011/index.htm

Topic: Gender – Based Violence

'Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.'

Virtually every culture in the world contains forms of violence against women that are nearly invisible because they are seen as 'normal'.

Even in countries where laws criminalise violence against women, tolerance of violence may be found at all levels of society.

According to the UN Special Rapporteur: 'The greatest challenge to women's rights and the elimination of discriminatory laws and harmful practices comes from the doctrine of cultural relativism' and can only be addressed with the active involvement of the people most affected.

Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms…"

This violence against women includes, but is not limited, to:
Violence in the family
Violence in the community
Gender-based violence perpetrated or condoned by the state

In any of these categories, violence may be physical, psychological, and sexual and can involve deprivation, acts of violence or harassment - or a combination of either.

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=3fMNd1brABQ
http://vimeo.com/50128818#at=0
http://vimeo.com/7434889

Questions to consider:
Which Human Rights violations occur in your country and your region?
Does your country have legislation (law) that protects the rights of women? Is it enforceable and effective?
What resources are available to your country? What are your priorities? What new legislation or regional agreements are possible?

Further research:
The global situation
http://endviolence.un.org/pdf/pressmaterials/unite_the_situation_en.pdf

UN Action
http://endviolence.un.org/pdf/pressmaterials/unite_what_is_un_doing_2011.pdf

Country data
http://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/vaw_prevalence_matrix_15april_2011.pdf

Why is combating gender-based violence important?
http://www.unfpa.org/upload/lib_pub_file/531_filename_combating_gbv_en.pdf

Topic: Women and Armed Conflict

Women are vulnerable in situations of armed conflict and at a great risk of becoming victims of sexual violence and exploitation. They thus need special attention and protection.

It is estimated that close to 90 per cent of current war casualties are civilians, the majority of whom are women and children, compared to a century ago when 90 per cent of those who lost their lives were military personnel. Although entire communities suffer the consequences of armed conflict, women and girls are particularly affected because of their status in society and their sex.

Parties in conflict situations often rape women, sometimes using systematic rape as a tactic of war. Other forms of violence against women committed in armed conflict include murder, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and forced sterilization.

Sexual violence is often used as a weapon of war against civilian women and children. Survivors are at high risk of severe and long-lasting health problems. Consequences include unwanted pregnancy, unsafe self-induced abortion, infanticide, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. After much campaigning and lobbying, the international community has responded and now rape in times of conflict is recognised as a crime against humanity (1998). In October 2000, the UN Security Council made a historic decision when it passed Resolution 1325.

The growing number of armed conflicts and the violations associated with them has resulted in an increase in forced internal displacement and refugee flows. More than 75 per cent of displaced people are women and children, and in some refugee populations they constitute 90 per cent.

Despite this, women should not be viewed solely as victims of war. They assume the key role of ensuring family livelihood in the midst of chaos and destruction, and are particularly active in the peace movement at the grassroots level, cultivating peace within their communities.

However, the absence of women at the peace negotiating table is undeniable. All rural people suffer during emergencies, but men and women are affected in different ways. Emergencies arising from natural disasters, drought, diseases, civil conflict, market shocks and extreme climate events often have their greatest impact on poor rural populations. Specific threats to women must be identified and stopped, and women must be at the centre of peace talks and post-conflict reconstruction

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Zy3ZbDud-VY
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=xo1zM3Okjag

Questions to consider:
Is your country engaged in conflict?
Are there conflicts in neighbouring countries?
Which Human Rights violations occur in your country and your region?
What have the impacts been on women and girls during and after conflict?
Does your country have legislation (law) that protects the rights of women? Is it enforceable and effective during and after conflict?
Are the rights of women, girls, refugees and IDPs sufficiently protected?

Further research:
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/session/presskit/fs5.htm
http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Impact_final.pdf (Africa)
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_armed_conflict_3005.htm
http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/women/
http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/publications/2010/EN_SOWP10.pdf

Topic: The Girl Child

Girls are born with the inherent and inalienable rights of all human beings They are also born with the unique rights of childhood which will enable them to reach their full potential as individuals and members of society.

In too many parts of the world, girls experience "apartheid of gender". Beginning from birth their fundamental rights are denied and violated. Lack of access to education and adequate health care, sexual abuse, female genital cutting, and too early child bearing are some obstacles that impede their full development and deprive millions of girls of the opportunity to play a productive and equal role in their societies. Today, the scourge of HIV/AIDS disproportionately effects girls in many parts of the world with increasingly destructive effects on their societies.

In situations of armed conflict girls are frequent and deliberate targets of systematic rape, abduction and murder. Even in some refugee camps where they have sought protection, they are too often exploited. Too often the deprivations and inequalities suffered by them are accepted as their preparation for womanhood.

The continuity of traditional inequities will make it impossible for girls and women to contribute to the fundamental changes needed for creating more equitable societies and sustainable development.

Key Facts
Of the more than 110 million children not in school, approximately 60 per cent are girls.
In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls have HIV rates up to five times higher than adolescent boys.
Pregnancies and childbirth-related health problems take the lives of nearly 146,000 teenage girls each year.
In sub-Saharan Africa, a woman faces a 1 in 13 chance of dying in childbirth. In Western Europe, the risk is 1 in 3,200.
At least one in three girls and women worldwide has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime

"Short-changing girls is not only a matter of gender discrimination; it is bad economics and bad social policy. Experience has shown, over and over again, that investments in girls' education translate directly and quickly into better nutrition for the whole family, better health care, declining fertility, poverty reduction and better overall economic performance."
From the Millennium Report

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=CCXcjrUFbHs
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP6VxOWlimY&feature=player_embedded
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ro9gsQMZyOI&feature=player_embedded#t=0s

Questions to consider:
Does your country have legislation (law) that protects the rights of the Girl Child?
Is it enforceable and effective?
What resources are available to your country?
What are your priorities? What new legislation or regional agreements are possible?

Further research:
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/girl.htm
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/the_girl_child_3012.htm
http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/briefing/girl/index.htm

Topic: Girls and Violence in Armed Conflict

It is clear that there are categories of children who are especially vulnerable in situations of armed conflict, such as girls, refugee and internally displaced children, and child-headed households. These children require special advocacy, attention and protection.

The girl child is often the victim of sexual violence and exploitation, and, increasingly, girl children are being recruited into fighting forces.

In intervention initiatives for war-affected children, such as community-based reintegration programmes for children associated with fighting forces, it is girls that are in greatest need of care

Girls are missed as many of them are unwilling to come forward in the first place, to be identified as "bush wives" or to have their children labelled as "rebel babies."

Communities often stigmatize and ostracize girls because of their association with rebel groups and the "taint" of having been raped. Often, rebel groups categorically refuse to give up the girls at all even after commitments have been made to release children. In many conflict situations combatants have been reluctant to release girls to transit care facilities, holding them captive as "wives."

What grabs the headlines is children being killed and maimed by the bombs and bullets of war. But some are recruited to become soldiers themselves and are placed directly in the firing line. When the heat of battle is over, landmines and unexploded ordinance can leave a deadly legacy for years.

Rape and sexual violence are increasingly being used as a weapon of war. Many girls and young women have babies as a result, or are injured in such a way that they cannot have children in the future

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=OluOgBA9u4M

Questions to consider:
Sexual and gender-based violence and the vulnerability of girls in the context of armed conflicts must be a priority for Member States. Member States should also give priority attention to addressing sexual and gender-based violence, including through adoption of appropriate national legislation and rigorous and systematic investigation and prosecution of such crimes, with emphasis on support to and the well-being of victims.

How can countries work together to protect violence against girls and children in conflict ad pot-conflict zones?
How does this issue affect your country?
What needs to be done?

Further research:
http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/briefing/soldiers/soldiers.pdf
http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/childsoldiers/whatsgoingon/
http://www.fasngo.org/assets/files/resources/UN_girl_soldiers.pdf

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Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=V_idiRoOLN0
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=hNnXGV4KjEw
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=A7LTu3l41AI

Questions to consider:
Sexual and gender-based violence and the vulnerability of girls in the context of armed conflicts must be a priority for Member States. Member States should also give priority attention to addressing sexual and gender-based violence, including through adoption of appropriate national legislation and rigorous and systematic investigation and prosecution of such crimes, with emphasis on support to and the well-being of victims.
How can countries work together to protect violence against girls and children in conflict ad pot-conflict zones?
How does this issue affect your country?
What needs to be done?

Further research:
http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/briefing/soldiers/soldiers.pdf
http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/childsoldiers/whatsgoingon/
http://www.fasngo.org/assets/files/resources/UN_girl_soldiers.pdf

Topic: Gender – Based Violence: Trafficking

Despite increasing global attention and significant, if fractured, national responses, human trafficking is, today, a very tragic reality. While the majority of Member States have ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and other international instruments, human trafficking still remains a crime with low risks and high profit.

Although slavery has been formally abolished from the world, the trade in human misery continues. Women, still considered property in some places, may be sold into marriage. Women may be coerced into working in brothels, sweatshops, construction sites and fields. As illegal migrant workers, they may be subjected to sexual violence, horrific living conditions, threats against their families and dangerous workplaces.

Because of their subordinate position, women and girls are most vulnerable. Poverty and inequity are root causes of trafficking. Gender discrimination within the family and the community, as well as a tolerance of violence against women and children, also come into play.

Lack of appropriate legislation and political will to address the problem, restrictive immigration policies, globalization of the sex industry, and the involvement of transnational organized criminal networks are other causal factors.

Statistics about trafficking are unreliable for a number of reasons, including the clandestine nature of the activity. However, rough estimates suggest that between 700,000 and 2 million women are trafficked across international borders annually. Adding domestic trafficking would bring the total much higher, to perhaps to 4 million. Traffickers target poor communities to persuade poor families to sell their daughters for small amounts of money.

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=8KzXcHZU4us
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=W5u2IUF8JUw

Questions to consider:
Are women and children trafficked from or into your country or region?
What safeguards and legislation exists to protect women and punish perpetrators? Does this work? What needs to be done?
Does your country have legislation (law) that protects the rights of women? Is it enforceable and effective?
What resources are available to your country?
What are your priorities?
What new legislation or regional agreements are possible?

Further research:
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/trafficking_of_women_10312.htm
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/170
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/5343036.stm
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-18144333
http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/human-trafficking

Topic: Gender-Based Violence – Honour Killings

So-called 'honour killings' are an extreme symptom of discrimination against women. The reality for most victims, including victims of honour killings, is that State institutions fail them and that most perpetrators of domestic violence can rely on a culture of impunity for the acts they commit – acts which would often be considered as crimes, and be punished as such, if they were committed against strangers.

Honour killing is a practice whereby a family member/s kill a female relative who is perceived as having damaged family honour. Her death restores the honour of the family. Honour killing can be triggered by a woman or girl talking with an unrelated male, consenting to sexual relations outside marriage, being the victim of rape, or refusing to marry a man chosen by the family.

Honour killing is often mistakenly believed to be an Islamic practice or a practice condoned by Islam since it often occurs in Muslim-majority societies. In actual fact honour killing is forbidden in Islam and there is no mention of this practice in the Qur'an or in the Hadiths.

International Human Rights Foundations... is your country a signatory? Have they been ratified?
Article 1 of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Womenproclaims "the term 'violence against women' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination of All Forms Against Women (CEDAW) concludes that "...State Parties [should] take all appropriate measures [...] to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices [...] and all other practices which are based on the idea of inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women."

CEDAW General Recommendation 19 clarifies that traditional public and private ideologies that regard women as "subordinate to men" and seek to "justify gender-based violence as a form of protection or control" deprive women of mental and bodily integrity.

The Platform for Action on Women's Human Rights from the UN Fourth World Conference on Women calls upon states to "take urgent action to combat and eliminate violence against women, which is a human rights violation resulting from harmful traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and extremism."
The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) asserts that "every human being has the inherent right to life" in addition to "the right to liberty and security of person".

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=yaMierIT8U8
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyunVoRKL8k&feature=player_embedded

Questions to consider:
Do 'Honour' killings and crimes occur in your country and your region?
Does your country have legislation (law) that protects the rights of women?
Is it enforceable and effective?
What resources are available to your country? What are your priorities? What new legislation or regional agreements are possible?

Further research:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/honourcrimes/
http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA33/018/1999/en/9fe83c27-e0f1-11dd-be39-2d4003be4450/asa330181999en.pdf
http://minmedia.minheder.nu/2011/05/honorkillings.pdf
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8B7ZsuClqXY
http://honour-killings.com

Topic: Gender – Based Violence: FGM

Every year, millions of women and girls worldwide suffer violence, be it domestic violence, rape, female genital mutilation/cutting, dowry-related killing, trafficking, sexual violence in conflict-related situations, or other manifestations of abuse.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Communities that practise female genital mutilation report a variety of social and religious reasons for continuing with it.

Seen from a human rights perspective, the practice reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women. Female genital mutilation is nearly always carried out on minors and is therefore a violation of the rights of the child.

The practice denies women and girls their right to:
Physical and mental integrity
Freedom from violence
The highest attainable standard of health
Freedom from discrimination on the basis of sex
Freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatments
Life (when the procedure results in death).

Links to multimedia
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=rMCQk-TBHPA
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKdTIx_-_I8&feature=player_embedded

Questions to consider:
Is FGM and issue for your country and region? Why does it occur?
What safeguards and legislation exists to protect women and punish perpetrators? Does this work?
What safeguards and legislation exists to protect women and punish perpetrators? Does this work? What needs to be done?
Does your country have legislation (law) that protects the rights of women? Is it enforceable and effective?
What resources are available to your country?
What are your priorities?
What new legislation or regional agreements are possible?

Further research:
http://www.endfgm.eu/en/female-genital-mutilation/what-is-fgm/what-is-fgm/
http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw52/statements_missions/Interagency_Statement_on_Eliminating_FGM.pdf
http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/
http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/en/index.html
http://www.unfpa.org/gender/practices3.html
http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/news/pid/9976