

# GriffMUN 2019

**Novice UNDP**

*Utilizing Robotics and Artificial*

*Intelligence*

*Gender Equality*

# Table of Contents

\*The Table of Contents is linked to the corresponding section for your convenience

1. [Committee Description](#)
2. [Chair Introductions](#)
3. [Topic 1: Utilizing Robots and Artificial Intelligence](#)
  - a. [Background](#)
  - b. [UN Involvement](#)
  - c. [Bloc Positions](#)
  - d. [Questions to Consider](#)
  - e. [Works Cited](#)
4. [Topic 2: Gender Equality](#)
  - a. [Background](#)
  - b. [UN Involvement](#)
  - c. [Bloc Positions](#)
  - d. [Questions to Consider](#)
  - e. [Works Cited](#)

## **Committee Description**

At GriffMUN, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will discuss two very different topics: Utilizing Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Gender Equality. The discourse taking place in committee will serve to not only expand your knowledge of an emerging technology that has useful potential and applications in every industry, but also stimulate your brains and creativity to find new, innovative ways on promoting gender equality and finding ways to combine both topics. We hope that your research into these fascinating topics make you realize the unlimited potential of robotics and AI and allow you to use that knowledge to make leaps in gender equality and female empowerment.

## **Chair Introductions**

### **Head chair:**

Hey! I'm Elizabeth Nguyen, aka Vi, and I'll be your head chair. I've been helping out with GriffMUN for four years, and I've already chaired the previous two years. At Los Alamitos High School, I hold the position of Undersecretary of Outreach and do the majority of communications of the club, as well as act as the Booster Club Student Liaison.

Outside of MUN, I enjoy making Andes mint chocolate cookies, banana bread, chocolate truffles, and brownies. One of my favorite things to do is staying out late; you can often find me munching on burritos with my friends at the beach at midnight. In general, you'll find me a very excitable and energetic person, and I love trying new things. A weird fact about me: my MUN-prep ritual is 5 chocolate chip waffles on the bus to a conference.

I hope that everyone is intrigued and excited to discuss two very different topics: robotics and AI, and gender equality. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in committee, and hope you all have a very enjoyable time!

**Vice Chair:**

Hi! I'm Camryn Miyashiro and I am one of your vice chairs. I'm a junior and this is my second year in MUN. Outside of MUN, you can find me making art and listening to music. It is very rare to find me without headphones on and I listen to pretty much everything except country music. I also participate in our school's feminist, YDSA, and QSA (queer-straight alliance) clubs. You can also find me often skateboarding to coffee shops to satisfy my major coffee addiction. I am excited to chair and hope that everyone will have a fun time in this committee!

**Vice Chair:**

Hi, I'm Nicholas Chen and I'll be your other vice chair. I'm a junior and I've been in MUN for two years now. Besides MUN, I'm also in Computer Science club and Spanish Honors Society. In my free time, I enjoy movies and gaming. I look forward to hearing you all debate and I'm sure you'll all do great.

# Utilizing Robotics and Artificial Intelligence

## Background

Humans have pondered how to create and implement autonomous machines since the Renaissance but only recently, in the late 20th century, have studies into robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) become a focus in the scientific community. Today, some autonomous robots and artificial intelligences are advanced enough to mimic human behavior through speech or movement. However, most are used in manufacturing or in dangerous scenarios.

Most AI today are used in data mining, data storage, medical diagnoses, and in various commercial and household appliances (most notably in smartphones). Advancements in both robotics and artificial intelligence have led to specialization, causing artificial intelligences and robots to be created for certain tasks, including military/police operations, nanorobots, agricultural tasks, and education, mainly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Corporate entities, mainly those that utilize human labor in factories and during the manufacturing process, have expressed interest in utilizing or advancing robots and/or artificial intelligence. Many companies believe that utilizing robots in the manufacturing process would allow for increased quality assurance, an improvement in the working environment, a more cost-efficient process of designing and manufacturing products, and increased flexibility when implementing changes. However, the prospect has also led to concern among laborers and factory workers who would be replaced by said automations.

## U.N. Involvement

In 2015, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) established its artificial intelligence and robotics program which employs the aid of experts in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence to effectively inform UN policy makers of the various uses of robotics and artificial intelligence within the international community. This program served as a stepping stone in opening the first Artificial Intelligence and Robotics center within the United Nations system. The purpose of the center, as stated by the UN General Assembly, is to enhance understanding of the risk-benefit duality of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics through outreach activities that include improved awareness raising and dissemination. The UNICRI hopes that, as a result of this artificial intelligence and robotics program, government officials and policy makers operating within the international community would be aware of the possible risks of AI and robotics implementation, as well as the benefits of such pursuits.

Other UN organizations, such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), have utilized artificial intelligence to contribute to the fulfillment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals which establish and detail a plan to end poverty, halt climate change, and fight social inequality. Because the achievement of these goals requires nations to gather and track data, the UNDP provides artificial intelligence to nations in order to assist in the evaluation of their unique national development plans. Additional humanitarian efforts that have begun to utilize (or consider the utilization of) AI include the World Food Program's exploration of self-driving trucks in order to deliver food assistance to those in need in developing countries or nations ravaged by war or natural disasters.

## **Bloc Positions**

- *Middle East and African Bloc*

The region is very diverse in its different social and economic situations. Although this

bloc would appreciate implementation of robotics and AI, they are not ready yet due to current conflicts in the region.

- ***Central and Eastern European Bloc***

Countries in this bloc are the center of the current European tech-hub surge and thus, are in favor of the use of robotics and AI. While they have the foundation and potential to grow its current technology, countries will work on modernizing the workplace before advancing.

- ***Latin American and Caribbean Bloc***

Artificial intelligence can be used to facilitate trade negotiations and grow the economics of this region, but countries are concerned about the repercussions of its use, mainly the massive increases in unemployment. As a result, they may be hesitant about its implementation.

- ***Western European and Developed Bloc***

This bloc aims to become a leader in the digital technology surge. Countries favor the use of AI and robotics due to its ability to increase the productivity and growth of the region.

- ***Asia-Pacific Bloc***

Many countries have taken an interest in AI and have declared their own plans to adopt AI into their industries. This is especially evident, as one of the major figures in this shift resides in this bloc.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. In today's progressive world, how do these new technologies affect regions that are more technologically advanced versus those that are not?
2. Are there potential implications of technology infringing on the national sovereignty of

other nations?

3. Is it the duty of the UN to extend the reach of AI and robots?
4. What else can AI/robotics potentially do?
5. Should there be restrictions on usage of AI and robotics? Why or why not?

## Works Cited

“Centre on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.” *UNICRI Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics The Hague*, The Netherlands, [www.unicri.it/topics/ai\\_robotics/centre/](http://www.unicri.it/topics/ai_robotics/centre/).

“Envisioning ZeroHunger.” Envisioning - Technology Intelligence Platform, [viz.envisioning.io/zerohunger/?i=0&d=0&o=0](http://viz.envisioning.io/zerohunger/?i=0&d=0&o=0).

SocialGood. “How the UN Is Using Robots, Artificial Intelligence, and Self-Driving Cars to Make the World Better.” *Medium.com*, Medium, 5 Mar. 2018, [medium.com/@plus\\_socialgood/how-the-un-is-using-robots-artificial-intelligence-and-self-driving-cars-to-make-the-world-better-a3b764f45698](https://medium.com/@plus_socialgood/how-the-un-is-using-robots-artificial-intelligence-and-self-driving-cars-to-make-the-world-better-a3b764f45698).

Motoyama, Sono. “Inside the United Nations' Effort to Regulate Autonomous Killer Robots.” *The Verge*, The Verge, 27 Aug. 2018, [www.theverge.com/2018/8/27/17786080/united-nations-un-autonomous-killer-robots-regulation-conference](http://www.theverge.com/2018/8/27/17786080/united-nations-un-autonomous-killer-robots-regulation-conference).

“The Risks and Benefits of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.” *UNICRI Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics The Hague*, The Netherlands, [www.unicri.it/in\\_focus/on/AI\\_report\\_Cambridge\\_02\\_2017](http://www.unicri.it/in_focus/on/AI_report_Cambridge_02_2017).

“UNICRI Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.” *UNICRI Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics The Hague*, The Netherlands, [www.unicri.it/in\\_focus/on/UNICRI\\_Centre\\_Artificial\\_Robotics](http://www.unicri.it/in_focus/on/UNICRI_Centre_Artificial_Robotics).

“Unlocking Artificial Intelligence to Beat Hunger.” WFP Innovation, [innovation.wfp.org/blog/unlocking-artificial-intelligence-beat-hunger](http://innovation.wfp.org/blog/unlocking-artificial-intelligence-beat-hunger).

“World Food Program Teams up with WeRobotics.” WeRobotics Blog, [blog.werobotics.org/2017/04/03/wfp-werobotics/](http://blog.werobotics.org/2017/04/03/wfp-werobotics/).

# Gender Equality

## Background

Under the eight Millennium Development goals, the world continues to progress towards global gender equality, however, many women continue to face discrimination in both developed and developing nations.

In recent years, there have been many significant advances in the participation of women in the political, economic, and educational spheres. Nevertheless, women and girls are still subject to multiple forms of gender violence, including child marriage and FGM (female genital mutilation). 750 million girls have been married before the age of 18 and at least 200 million women and girls have gone through FGM. These practices have declined by 30% in the last decade, but still remain a large problem for many women and girls. One in three women have experienced physical/sexual violence from an intimate partner. Even though there are acts of mass femicide in some countries, many do not have laws to protect women against violence.

While gender-based violence towards women is more prevalent in developing or third-world countries in Asia or Africa, social or political discrimination against women is present all over the globe. In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working or seeking a job. In 39 countries, males are typically placed above women when an inheritor or heir is sought. In 49 countries, women are not legally protected from domestic violence or abuse. Many of the aforementioned countries are considered to be developed or on a stable path towards development and are active participants within the international community. Nevertheless, their individual societies prevent complete gender equality. While there have been more advances in female representation in government (in both developing and developed countries), only 23.7% of parliamentarians are women. The aforementioned low representation

of women in government allows laws against domestic violence to be effectively ignored by the legislative process in some instances.

## **U.N. Involvement**

A few key agreements form the basis of international action and decision-making when it comes to the facilitation of gender equality and female empowerment. In 1979, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is seen as the international bill of rights for women, and it firmly lays out the idea that men and women are equal and nations are required to take steps to eliminate gender-based discrimination. Those who have signed it are mandated to submit reports every four years laying out the steps and efforts taken to comply and establish the rights laid out in CEDAW.

At the 1995, Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was created, which confirmed the need to promote women's rights. It defined 12 Areas of Concern, which were areas that needed drastic improvements in order to achieve gender equality. Due to the lacking progress made, subsequent conferences have been held, promoting these same values and goals, especially since the fulfillment of these goals seem far from completion.

The United Nations has continued to promote gender equality and female empowerment as a main focus, with the establishment of the UN Women agency, which replaced and took over for UNIFEM in 2010. Their efforts aim to empower women through education. Intergovernmental bodies of the UN, including the GA, the Security Council, and ECOSOC have continued to push for gender equality and adopt resolutions aiming to give equal opportunities for both genders.

## **Bloc Positions**

- ***Middle East and African Bloc***

Although there have been major strides in female representation and equality in the Middle East and Africa in recent years, there is still a large sexist sentiment about the role of women in society. Countries often do not grant the same rights as men to make decisions, pursue a profession, travel, marry or divorce, head a family, or receive inheritance.

- ***Central and Eastern European Bloc***

Countries within this region are striving for gender equality. However, it has been difficult for them due to their prolonged histories of political instability and the adoption of the Western idea that women are objects of sexual desire.

- ***Latin American and Caribbean Bloc***

Countries favor gender equality and are working to further it through legislature. However, most citizens within the region still instill the traditional gender roles of males and females, creating a detrimental effect to reaching gender equality.

- ***Western European and Developed Bloc***

Members of this bloc have become more attentive towards gender equality within the past century and are working towards increasing their representation in all fields.

Although countries here are at the forefront of the movement, they are continuing to implement policies to create equality between the genders and support other countries doing the same.

- ***Asia-Pacific Bloc***

Most nations are not focused on working towards gender equality, with a few exceptions,

which include the Philippines and Singapore. This lack in progress is due to their maintained adherence to gender roles for women.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. Why might some possible solutions be seen as a violation of national sovereignty?
2. How can countries extend the influence and reach of possible solutions in regions that are isolated?
3. How can countries build on current UN programmes and solutions?
4. How can the global community collaborate on solutions together when each bloc has such varied cultures?
5. What is the perceived role of women in your bloc or region? How can this affect their decision or opportunities to attend school or enter the workforce?

### **Works Cited**

“European Institute for Gender Equality.” *EIGE*, 13 Dec. 2018, [eige.europa.eu/](http://eige.europa.eu/).

“Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.” *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/).

“ICRW | PASSION. PROOF. POWER.” *ICRW | PASSION. PROOF. POWER.*, [www.icrw.org/](http://www.icrw.org/).

“Latest News.” *NPH USA*, [www.nphusa.org/news/gender-equality-in-latin-america/](http://www.nphusa.org/news/gender-equality-in-latin-america/).

“Promundo.” *Promundo*, [promundoglobal.org/](http://promundoglobal.org/).

“Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.” *UN Women*,

[www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-5-gender-equality).