

# General Assembly 4

## Protecting the Right to Free and Fair Elections



<b>Forum</b>	General Assembly 4 – Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (SPECPOL)
<b>Issue:</b>	Protecting the Right to Free and Fair Elections
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<b>Position:</b>	Chair

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## Introduction

Elections are frequently seen as the most age-old and pure form of establishing a democratic government: they are markers for civilisation within modern nations. Their representation of the views of a country's population is invaluable to modern-day political decisions and must be preserved in order to uphold.

The moment internal or external forces tamper with election setups and outcomes, restrict voting for certain groups of people or make elections any less accessible than to all eligible voters, it undermines the rights of citizens to have a say in the running of their country and the fundamental concept of self-determination: this report will provide a basis of knowledge for these issues so that they may be understood and solved by delegates.

Under the MUNISH XXXII theme of Multilateral Cooperation: The Path Towards Peace and Justice, it is your role as delegates to ensure continued international peace and cooperation without the need for election interference to maintain this, and with all votes being equitably represented. It is empirical that cooperation between nations be carried out in a transparent way.

It is important to recognise that election interference occurs most frequently in LEDCs, which can hinder their development. LEDCs should be allowed to autonomously develop without the need for political support from MEDCs in order to sustain their governmental authority; as delegates in GA4, a committee founded on the goal of decolonisation, delegates should aim to minimise the election interference that takes LEDCs' political autonomy away from them. Furthermore, a variety of oppressed groups receive systematic limitations to their voting power, displaying the methodical discrimination still occurring in our world today: delegates should recognise and aim to eradicate this under the UN Charter's First Article "promoting and encouraging respect for...fundamental freedoms



for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion” and the UN Covenant’s 25<sup>th</sup> Article protecting all citizen’s voter rights.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Elections

The formal processes of selecting a person for a form of office, usually public political office, through the use of casting of votes accepting or rejecting the person’s candidacy.

### Election interference

The involvement of foreign powers in internal elections in order to affect the outcome.

### More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs)

More developed countries in terms of infrastructure, overall wealth and Gross Domestic Product or Standard of Living: often countries in the Global North.

### Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs)

Countries that are less developed by the parameters indicated above, that have increased amounts of people living below poverty line and a poor Gross Domestic Product.

### Critical Race Theory (CRT)

A theory detailing the systematic discrimination of BIPOC within legislation, socioeconomic policies and general social structure. Highlights the oppression and restriction of opportunities for Black people and how this is propagated in an organised fashion.

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer and other (LGBTQ+ or LGBTQ+AI)

Refers to a community of individuals that are not cisgender or heterosexual. The abbreviation covers a range of sexualities and a spectrum of genders that people may identify with.

### Suffrage / Enfranchisement



Suffrage and enfranchisement both indicate having the right to vote and being eligible to vote or be involved in the political affairs of a nation.

### **Voter fraud**

Any sort of fraudulence during the voting process, such as in electoral fraud where results may be manipulated or in vote rigging and illicit voter registration.

### **Vote rigging**

The use of illegal methods to acquire a particular result in an election, often through vote change and ballot stuffing in order to favour a specific candidate.

### **Whistle-blowers**

An employee of an organisation that brings the organisation's illegal acts to the attention of the general public or law enforcement entities.

### **Self-determination**

The right of a nation to decide how it may govern itself, without external influence.

### **Ballot stuffing**

A form of electoral fraud whereby more ballots are cast than the actual amount of people who voted legitimately. This usually refers to illegal / unregistered votes and multiple votes by the same person.

### **Voter impersonation**

A technique used to cast multiple votes per person or inhibit certain people from voting whereby a vote is cast under the name of someone other than the person who has cast it.

### **Vote-buying**

Refers to the use of financial means to secure votes from individuals or organisations by paying them off to vote a certain way.

### **Spear-phishing**



A form of phishing and thereby a type of social hacking where through email or electronic communications, data is stolen or malware is installed on a victim.

### **Black Indigenous People of Colour / People of Colour (BIPOC / POC)**

People originating from African, Southern American or Pacific Island native populations: “of colour” refers to the difference in skin tone which tends to be darker than that of Caucasian peoples.

## **General Overview**

The concept of elections and what it means for these to be “free and fair” has evolved over time. This report will focus on two central issues that have recurred throughout history and are currently the most prominent or exacerbated factors that cause flawed elections: election interference, and restriction of voter rights.

### **Free elections: election interference, rigging and fraud**

Election interference has existed historically as external parties involve themselves in the elections of other nations, usually to achieve an outcome that is favourable to them regardless of whether that is favourable for the nation hosting the elections themselves. This can occur through voter fraud, election rigging, etc. and is an urgent issue as it undermines the autonomy of independent states. Interference can be carried out by an external party to favour trade between two nations, avoid a party of a certain ideology from coming to power, or affect international relations in a way that is advantageous for themselves. Election interference is usually hard to recognise, prove or punish, as it is carried out behind closed doors since the external party or in some cases both the external party and corrupt members of the country’s government taking part in the interference are fully aware they are committing a crime, and therefore do this carefully and secretly. Electioneering laws are often put into place to protect against this, but are, as with any law, prone to violation: when these laws are broken, it damages the political process and therefore can have a significant impact on society. Many politicians are also quick to insinuate election interference if they do not agree with the outcome of an election when little of this has actually happened, making it even harder to distinguish when cases of interference are occurring or not. Interference and fraud occur in many forms, such as vote-changing, misinformation, financial support of a cause or candidate and propaganda. Election rigging often goes hand-in-hand with other forms



of interference: this is most often done internally. Practices such as ballot stuffing, felon vote fraud, voter suppression, voter registration fraud, voter impersonation or vote buying: the list continues.

### *Within LEDC's*

Election interference is most common in the context of LEDCs, which has been exacerbated historically by the fact that most LEDCs were colonized countries, so it is either their ex-coloniser still enforcing their authority in the region through election interference or more generally LEDCs are less politically stable or autonomous due to previous weak political and economic systems implemented or caused by their colonisers, so they are easier to interfere with. They are also more susceptible to internal electoral corruption as wealthy or influential figures can lord these powers over the people in LEDCs that frequently live below poverty lines. Often ex-colonialist powers still have trade links with their ex-colonies, so it is important for them to maintain these, and they also usually hope to maintain a government with a majority of moderate parties so that international relations can be maintained and the economy remains as stable as possible. There have, for example, been previous allegations of the US interfering with Filipino elections, where the Philippines was a past major colony of the US. Here, the CIA was accused of funneling money to a candidate of choice (Ferdinand Marcos Jr) and to media groups that would support the American stance in the election. LEDCs, due to weaker infrastructure and lesser voter education, are more prone to military coups (such as in Myanmar) and the setup of single-party states that may oppress the right to free and fair elections. The US especially has been largely involved with interference in LEDCs (often through the CIA), such as in Albania, Bangladesh, Chile, Congo-Kinshasa, El Salvador and Guatemala.

### *Case study: US and Russia (2016)*

One of the most prominent and publicised cases of election interference was regarding Russian attempts (and successes) to influence the US's presidential election in 2016. This included hacking of email accounts of Democrat party members and the leaking of private information from these, social media campaigns to influence voting, and dealings with organisations such as the National Rifle Association. The email hack specifically was attributed to a group called Fancy Bear and leaked Clinton and Podesta's emails which insinuated that Clinton had rigged within the Democratic party so that she would be nominated over Bernie Sanders. Through the use of spear-phishing, hackers were able to





access Democrat computer networks and steal data from these as well as undermine a voting machine company. Facebook counted circa 3000 ads placed on it by agencies with strong links to the Kremlin during this time and 470 fake accounts linked to this. Overall, the interference didn't seem to favour a particular candidate but rather encouraged divisive debate on contentious social

issues such as abortion and gun control. However, attacks against Democrats that occurred (whereof the impact cannot be truly measured) led to the discrediting of Trump's presidency win by many.

### Use of media & technology – Case Study: Cambridge Analytica

Technology can have an enormous impact on the outcome of elections in an increasingly digitalised world. This manifests itself in terms of media propaganda, politicians using social platforms to galvanise support, fact-checking organisations being used for political statements, hacking of voter databases for scores of unethical purposes such as tampering with election results, hacking or cyberattacking of those running for an election by external forces or others they are running against to attempt to find ways to discredit them, use of ransomware, the use of deepfakes and fake news to mislead voters: the list continues. One powerful thing only the media is able to do, that is especially dangerous, is turn an educated voter back into an uneducated one; this being through the use of misinformation. Social media in particular is increasingly being used by politicians as a playground to achieve their political aims or criticise those of others: the right to free speech that platforms are based around facilitates this as there are few policies stopping them from misinforming or spreading bias to large amounts of people about themselves or other election candidates.

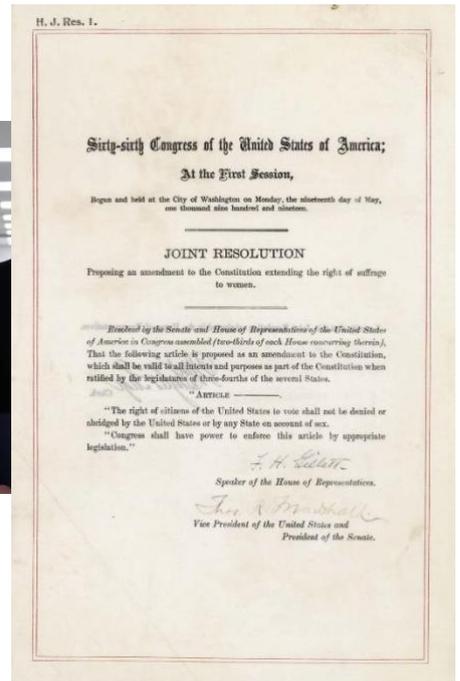
Cambridge Analytica was a massive scandal of data privacy breaching, mostly on Facebook, that was estimated to have hugely affected US elections in terms of spreading misinformation. Mark Zuckerberg expressed previous reluctance to restrict political advertisement, and when questioned by congresspeople as to what the bounds were to thereby spread misinformation, he dodged questions or gave evasive answers. He also came under fire for allegedly advancing white supremacy as the Daily Caller – a newspaper extremely tied to white supremacy - was newly listed as an official



Facebook fact-checker, and he was discovered to have regular dinner parties with conservative politicians (some of whom argued the conspiracy theory that white supremacy theory is a hoax). Later, it was revealed that executives knew of the data collection as far back as September 2015. The whistleblower, called Christopher Wylie, the director of research at CA, showed how information was used to profile voters in order to deliver them specific political advertisements. He alleged that Steve Bannon and Robert Mercer, two founders, were hoping to use it to advance an extreme-right-wing agenda using psychometric technology. CA was hired by Trump’s campaign to target specific individuals and gain advantages during the 2016 election: these were scores of illegal methods used to determine what political messages would encourage or change the minds of individuals to create a targeted strategy to win the elections. This was one of the largest and most unprecedented cases of both information harvesting and electoral fraud.

### Fair elections: voting rights

For elections to be effective, not only must a large proportion of the population vote, but because of this, voting must be made equally accessible to everyone who is eligible. This applies to both improving a country’s infrastructure so that voting offices are more reachable to e.g. people who live in impoverished areas, as well as to ensure that certain groups of voters are not systematically discriminated against such that their voting power is reduced or limited. This usually involves groups that are generally discriminated against, and this is therefore exacerbated in countries with national policies that exacerbate the marginalisation of these groups. However, as shown partially by CRT, in the idea that people of colour are systematically limited in their ability to vote even in countries that may claim to be egalitarian. This of course extends itself in very similar ways to other oppressed groups, such as the LGBTQ+ and women.



### Voting rights of women & Case Study: the Suffragettes

The suffragette movement or the movement for women’s votes, and subsequent movements for women’s voting rights, have been some of, if not *the* largest voter rights movements in the past centuries. The propagation of patriarchal beliefs in legislation on voting



meant that the suffragettes had to protest for extensive periods of time to even attain a right to vote for any women, and subsequently, gaining equal voting rights between women and men continues to be an uphill battle even today. Previous sexist stereotypes dictated that women should not and would not be interested in politics and thereby had no need for a right to vote, or that they would not possess the intelligence to do so in an educated way. This applies in a parallel way to women candidates for any civil position, who may experience disparities in resources that inhibit them from competing effectively with their male counterparts: women's participation in national parliament is at 24.3% as of 2019, less than a quarter of national MPs worldwide. Mass media often present negative and minimizing images of women, contributing to their exclusion from the political sphere. Violence against women in elections (VAWE) is also increasingly common for all women taking part in the electoral process, including harassment, sexual violence and emotional abuse.

Historically, the exclusion of women in voting was never seen as inhibiting democracy (as we now realise it does): in ancient Greece, the birthplace of democracy, women were already excluded from voting. The franchise was then widened, but women

**Sir John Rees, MP for Nottingham East**

"Women are tremendously accessible, extraordinarily impressionable, noted for the adoption of any new thing, and for the easy acceptance of other people's views.

"Are those qualities which fit women to rule over the home and foreign affairs of a mighty empire?"

continued to have zero right to vote. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, however, debate on women's suffrage expanded and by the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, women had won the right to vote in national elections or some local elections in certain countries. World War I signified a notable change in attitudes towards women as a whole, as their work in sustaining the war effort and subsequently their increased independence were appraised – also, many countries that gained their independence as a result of WWI ascertained equal voting rights for women and men

in their respective constitutions. It sped up the enfranchisement of women in both European and non-European countries: in 1914-39, 28 more countries were given increased voting rights. Still, this process was slow: women were at first only granted the right to vote in municipal, then local, then provincial elections: later national elections, and after that they would still have to wait considerably before their voting rights could be considered in any respect equal to men. Some women still await this today.



Fighting for women's suffrage was and is an uphill battle in all countries: for example, the UK's Reform Bill of 1867, despite a petition of 1,550 signatures from the first ever women's suffrage committee, did not contain any provisions for women's suffrage. Later, after the formation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, which brought more cohesive and organised action on part of the suffragettes, the continued lack of governmental action caused more militant sections to emerge such as those led by Emmeline Pankhurst. Succeeding years saw defeat of numerous suffrage bills within the British Parliament, and the suffragettes becoming more violent as a result.

After the suffragette's investment in the war effort in WWI they won massive public support for their cause and the need for women's enfranchisement was recognised by members of Parliament: the result of this was the Representation of the People Act where all women above 30 obtained complete franchise, followed later by a lowering of voting age for women to be the same as that of men (21).

In the US, a similar process occurred with the formation of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with the aim of establishing a Constitutional amendment that ascertained the ballot for women: again, World War I

reduced opposition by showing the major role of women. Later campaigns worked to secure the amendment's ratification by individual states: the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment later was proclaimed to be part of the Constitution and women were on par in terms of enfranchisement with men. It is important to note here that in practice, women of colour or in situations of poverty still experienced a continued denial of the right to vote in certain states for decades afterward.



### ***LGBTQ+ voting rights***

The LGBTQ+ have long experienced systematic restrictions to their rights to vote as part of the discrimination they live and have historically lived every day. A higher representation of LGBTQ+ people in political positions is crucial for them to reduce this



discrimination as it has a direct impact on lawmaking, frequently leading to enactments of equality laws and making same-sex marriage more likely to happen as a whole with openly gay MPs as shown in a 2013 study. Members of the LGBTQ community often see a restricted accessibility of voting or suppression of their voting rights, especially in countries with national doctrines that do not agree with the notion of being LGBTQ. Voter ID laws are some of the most frequently cited cases of restriction of trans votes as they require a photo ID matching the listed gender identity, which can stop masses of gender nonconforming people from voting: people with a gender identity that does not match the name, gender or photo shown on their identification documents are more likely to be disallowed from voting – and making any changes to one’s legal ID is often expensive and inaccessible. Voter registration forms also often need voters to choose one of two binary gender options, meaning large amounts of LGBTQ voters are often not even registered (such as 2 million in the US). Laws limiting the LGBTQ from voting exponentially worsen their situation as a whole as they inhibit them from electing someone who will protect their rights to health, safety and education. This also projects itself onto other groups as people of colour are more likely to identify as LGBT, low-income people are more likely to identify as LGBT (or 40% of the US’s homeless youth) and LGBT people are also more likely to be disabled or handicapped. Discriminatory views are often compounded with people belonging to multiple oppressed minorities, so queer people of colour, for example, experience heightened voter restrictions than almost any other category.

### *BIPOC voting rights*

As one of the most oppressed ethnical / racial groups in history, the POC accordingly see a disproportionate restriction in their voting rights as a whole, and when analysing this further we observe that due to the systematic oppression POC (or immigrants in a country) are subject to, they tend to inhabit less affluent areas and therefore have fewer opportunities to access voting as an indirect result of their oppression in society. Especially after the ends of periods of slavery in some countries, it was expected that emancipated POC would be granted the opportunity to vote, when in reality this took them decades to achieve. Restrictive legislation such as the Black codes in the 1860’s in America denied POC suffrage for prolonged periods of time, and there was later even a presidential veto (which was overridden for the first time in history) against the Civil Rights Bill which aimed to give Black Americans right to suffrage. The 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> amendments were later passed in 1866 and



1870 respectively, giving African-Americans rights to vote and equal protection under law. Black officials still face constant dangers when voting or proposing themselves as candidates, such as in violence or intimidation (which is frequently carried out by white supremacist groups). The Jim Crow laws are particularly prominent examples of marginalisation of African Americans that flat-out denied them the right to vote. Worldwide, due to their systematic oppression in legislations as theorised by Critical Race Theory – which also provides evidence for restriction of Black votes – many BIPOC are also affected disproportionately by issues of poverty that can decrease their access to voting, and they are also more heavily policed and frequently imprisoned, meaning they have a further decreased access to voting on legislations that may actually affect them more so than other segments of the population.

“Slavery is not abolished until the Black man has the ballot.” – Frederick Douglass, May 1865

## Major Parties Involved

### Myanmar

Relating to the November elections, the military proclaimed that over 8 million cases of voter fraud had been discovered, shortly after which the military seized power in a coup. This alleged fraud involved voter lists and the idea that there were many inconsistencies and cases of ineligible voters casting their ballot or people casting their ballot twice, with almost 10.5 million instances of this. The national election commission strongly declined this. There is little evidence to concretely support voter fraud, but it has caused a loss of trust in governmental institutions. The Rohingya minority here are also marginalised as a group and extremely disenfranchised. The country experiences a broken bureaucracy and indicates weaknesses in voter registration percentages.

### Kenya

Kenya has seen a massive loss of trust in elections and the government among citizens as a result of many unreliable elections: for example, a poll showed that only 29.2% of Kenyans believed the 2017 election was free and fair: they largely believe that the government’s favoured candidate wins regardless. There are issues with voter registration here as well as the electoral commission continues to fail to register even a quarter of their target of voters each year.



### Russian Federation

The USSR involved itself in numerous cases of both covert or overt election interference during Cold War years to ascertain its influence, especially in Eastern bloc countries. Currently, the elections experience large unfairness in terms of elimination of opposition through arrests, targeted violence, poisoning of figures such as Alexei Navalny, control of media outlets, buying out of government officials to deliver an outcome, which is invariably the victory of Putin. Putin’s critics, including Navalny, are prevented from running, and multiple reports of ballot stuffing, irregularities, and forced voting emerged, all of which are still denied by the electoral commission.

Last Name	First Name	Sex	D.O.B	Age
S	WINNIE	F		45.3
S	WINNIE	F		45.3
M	LINDIWE	F		57.3
M	LINDIWE	F		57.3
S	SIBONGILE	F		39.3
S	SIBONGILE	F		39.3
A	FABBY	F		69.1
A	FABBY	F		69.1
M	LINDIWE	F		39.1
M	LINDIWE	F		39.1
M	LETINA	F		28.1
M	LETINA	F		28.1
M	LINDIWE	F		40.2
M	LINDIWE	F		40.2
A	WILBERT	M		39.2
A	WILBERT	M		39.2
S	JOHN	M		71.5
S	JOHN	M		71.5

### Zimbabwe

A local observer group, the Zimbabwe Election Support Network, have recognised a “systematic effort to disenfranchise an estimated one million voters”, as urban voters were given more difficulty to register than voters in rural areas. Many discrepancies were also noted, with duplicate votes in 838,000 cases and about 109,000 votes in the names of people over 100, most of whom were actually dead. Some were detained for the distribution of fake voter registration slips and voter intimidation.

### United States of America (US / USA)

The US also had widespread involvement (mainly in European countries) in elections during the Cold War to retain its influence: the CIA has interfered in some way with more than 80 elections in the last century. LGBT people only hold around 0.2% of elected positions in the USA despite being around 6% of its population. Numerous states have restrictive voter ID laws, and the Supreme Court ruled in its 2013 Shelby v Holder case allowing new restrictions on voting that affected POC and Latino voters especially. The US also has mass incarceration issues, which, when partnered with the policy of felony disenfranchisement, lower the quantity of registered eligible



voters significantly. It has also been the site of massive election fraud cases such as that of Cambridge Analytica: being an epicentre for technological development, politicians are expecting to see even more extreme cases of media disinformation and hacking within future elections.

### United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (UNOHCHR / OHCHR)

The OHCHR has recognised voting rights and the importance of fair elections under its general mission of maintaining international human rights. Among other things, they enforce international human rights within elections through awareness campaigns, technical and technological aids, and reporting on the quality of human rights in the context of elections. They also work with a Special Rapporteur with their reports on freedom of speech, opinion and expression during elections. They frequently release handbooks or plans of action regarding elections and voter rights, as well as articles on their monitoring of human rights in electoral processes.

### Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of event
1865	First women's suffrage committee formed in Manchester
1865-66	Period with the Black Codes
1866	14 <sup>th</sup> Amendment (US) approved by congress (later ratified in 1968)
1869	US national Woman Suffrage Association formed
1870	15 <sup>th</sup> Amendment (US) passed
1897	UK National Union of Women's suffrage societies formed
28 <sup>th</sup> July 1914	World War I starts: women gain independence and take active roles in war efforts
June 1917	Representation of the People Act passed in House of Commons: women age 30 and above receive voting rights.
4 <sup>th</sup> June 1919	19 <sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US constitution passed by congress: grants women the right to vote.
1947	Beginnings of the Cold War: US and USSR begin to massively interfere in elections
1965	Voting Rights Act signed to overcome African-American voter discrimination
December 2015	Initial Guardian article on Cambridge Analytica released



May 2019	Election Security Act passed
8th November 2020	Myanmar general elections

## UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Special Rapporteur's report to the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/20/27)
- Special Rapporteur's report to the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/23/39)
- UN Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1952 (CPRW)
- UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1976 (ICCPR)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979 (CEDAW)
- Resolution on Women and Political Participation, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (A/RES/66/130)
- Security Council Resolution on Women's Political Participation, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2000 (S/RES/1325)
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995 (A/52/231)

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Many states in the US and elsewhere have replaced the male/female binary option on voter registration forms with a blank space to accommodate trans people.

The work of UN Women is notable as they established Feminist Unions across Africa and the Middle East, such as the Egyptian Feminist Union, and through these established election watchdogs and quotas for women in political positions: its initiatives have been successful in helping people sign National Charters for women's participation in politics. However, the effectiveness of this was reduced in countries unwilling to cooperate or with strong anti-feminist regimes.

The UN CPRW, ICCPR and CEDAW were significant pieces of international legislation, but many anti-feminist countries disregarded these.



Security Council resolutions have been most effective as they have the opportunity to impose measures on countries, such as the implementation of quotas to increase the numbers of marginalised groups in oppressive positions, following numbers of declarations that stated voting rights as a human right for all, so while these alone may not be effective enough, they are often followed by more imposing international laws that help them in achieving their goals.

Many nations and parliaments have seen the formation of advocacy organisations such as the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus in the US House of Representatives, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT Rights in the UK, TransAction in Pakistan, Parliamentarians for Global Action and the European Parliament Intergroup on LGBTI Rights, which monitor the work of their affiliated parliaments, promote human rights equality, repeal discriminative legislations and create reports on the situations of LGBT people in various areas, contexts or countries.

The US saw a Federal Election Campaign Act and the formation of the Federal Election Commission, which regulated the contributions and donations of money to individuals or groups involved in elections and thereby arguably were effective in lowering the rate of financial corruption: similar organisations are in place around the world. While these may not tackle the problems of non-financial election interference, they begin to tackle the most common form of electoral fraud.

## Possible Solutions

Multiple solutions delegates can propose can come in the form of international legislation, such as establishing legal frameworks for recognising, criminalising and punishing election interference in all forms that it occurs as, or developing a UN organisation tasked with investigating and verifying the validity of certain elections as they happen. Delegates wishing to propose these solutions should be aware that some nations, especially single-party states will be less willing to implement these or allow UN involvement in internal elections due to matters of national sovereignty, so a balance must be found between all nations' privacy concerning internal elections and being able to establish a common standard for how these are carried out. Investigations of elections can be done predominantly for LEDC's as these have historically shown a higher likelihood to experience election interference.

Issues with voting accessibility can be tackled by directing UN funds towards building more voting offices in countries that require external funds for this, and ensuring more of these are placed



in less affluent areas (where there may be less people financially able to travel longer distances to vote, therefore this would increase the equality of voting as polling stations would become more reachable) and also within areas containing higher number of immigrant families, POC voters or LGBT voters, as again this would equalise votes more since normally these groups would have less access to voting (even on issues that disproportionately affect them) or would lack, often in the case of immigrant families, the resources or capability to be fully educated on voting and how to do it. Essentially, making voting more accessible for groups whom it would normally be less accessible for would begin to counteract the issue of voting accessibility. Introducing quotas for the amounts of people from certain groups in elected positions is also a tried and tested method of increasing their political representation.

Another way to increase voting accessibility and the proportion of educated voters as well is by providing education on voting or making this a required part of public school's syllabi. This would include both education on why to vote and how to vote, so that citizens may take a higher interest in local or national politics and the number of voters would increase. It would also, to some extent, combat the misinformation that may be spread by the media.

Regarding issues with technology, again legal punishments for companies or organisations running certain political ads during elections, especially those that are found to target predominantly certain IP addresses or zip codes in order to convince groups of voters to vote a certain way. International standards or systems for fact-checking can be implemented, and in terms of propaganda, company policies can be called into question to see how this can be reduced. Especially for social media platforms, delegates must keep in mind that the right to free speech and the importance of voters being educated and unaffected by bias from the media should be weighed off accordingly here.

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