

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we gather to discuss a crucial issue that shapes our society: gender equality. Let's start with the facts. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, at the current rate, it will take 135.6 years to close the global gender gap. This is unacceptable. Consider the workplace. Women represent nearly half of the global workforce, yet they earn 16% less than their male counterparts for the same work, as reported by the International Labour Organization. This pay disparity is not just unfair--it limits economic growth.

Furthermore, leadership roles show a staggering imbalance. Only 29% of senior management positions worldwide are held by women. Companies with higher gender diversity are 25% more likely to outperform their peers, according to McKinsey & Company.

These statistics are not just numbers; they reflect systemic barriers that hinder progress. Enforcing equal pay, promoting women in leadership, and ensuring equitable educational opportunities are not just moral imperatives--they are economic necessities.

Gender equality is not merely a women's issue. It is a societal issue, impacting everyone. By addressing these inequities head-on, we can create a balanced and prosperous future for all.

Thank you.