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WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Introduction. The problem of women’s access and participation in politics is extremely important today and has received considerable attention worldwide. Gender equality in politics is a fundamental indicator of a modern democratic society. According to international standards, both men and women should have equal rights and opportunities to fully participate in all aspects of the political process. In practice, it is difficult for women to gain access to the politics, and this is a violation of human rights [5]. According to statistical data, states where number of women in political positions is equivalent to the number of men demonstrate stronger economy and successful development, as well as in domestic and foreign policy [1].

That is, **the objective of the paper** is to discuss the issues of gender equality and, namely, women in international politics. The basic international document for the protection of women’s rights is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1979 [6]. The Convention provides equality between women and men through ensuring women’s equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life – including the right to vote and to stand for election – as well as education, health and employment [6]. At present, women occupy only 22 per cent of national parliamentary positions globally [2]. This means that women are under-represented in all aspects of the political process often through social and cultural barriers, lack of education, quality of life and resources to the political organization of women.

The most successful area in involving women in politics is the European Union. According to the European Commission in 2015 in EU average women occupy 29% of seats in parliament [1]. Northern European countries have impressive and highest indices of women’s representation in political institutions. Almost 50% of members of parliament in Finland, of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden are women [2]. Islamic

countries have very negative indices for women's representation in government institutions. The worst part is that women can't even make important life decisions. For example, in Saudi Arabia women have no right to make decisions about marriage, medical examination, education, etc. without the permission of her husband or father. It is clear that these countries have strict religious tenets, but in the XXI century, it is inadmissible.

According to The Global Gender Gap Report today in the parliament and government offices of UAE, Iran, Turkey women constitute 20%, 3%, and 14.4% correspondingly [2]. On the African continent, Rwanda takes 5th place on gender equality among 144 countries [2]. Countries like Burundi, Namibia, South Africa and Mozambique included in the top 20 countries of gender equality in politics [2]. But today in most African countries, the issue of women's rights is still problematic. The situation in the US about the representation of women in politics is much better than in Asia and the Middle East. In the US Congress and Senate in 2016, women constitute 19 and 20% correspondingly [2]. Compared to the leading EU countries this is not enough. American journalist Adrian Bonenberh says: «America is still not a country of equality, but we already have a fair treatment of women because moving in the right direction» [3]. But when compared to Scandinavian countries, the US holds only 45 place and about the representation of women in political institutions 73rd. The main reasons why women in US Congress hold than 17 percent of seats include the media coverage, lingering stereotypes and often women run later in life, after they've had children. For the state, which is perceived as a free and democratic country and is a leader among the countries of the world, this situation is very critical.

In Ukraine, women continue to be discriminated in the political sphere. Experts define several reasons such as the low social status of women, economic dependency on men, uneven distribution of family responsibilities, lack of institutions for the political education of the population, lack of support for female politicians, influence stereotype «policy - a male thing» [4]. According to The Global Gender Gap Report ranks Ukraine 107th among 144 countries in the number of women in public institutions [2]. In 2017 the Parliament of Ukraine has total 52 women among the 450 deputies, it is the largest presence of women in the history of our country's independence.

Conclusion. Taking it into consideration we can say, that gender imbalance in politics still exists. Most countries don't fully comply and don't care about women's rights in general. The list of reasons why women should actively participate in government is growing every day. Economic, social, cultural, information and religious factors have the important relationship on the political participation of women. What is more, we shouldn't forget about other important women problems. For example, domestic violence, problems of employment, working conditions, access to medicine, education, human trafficking, sexism in advertising and the media, as the attitude of women to the object, discriminatory stereotypes and so on. According to the UN, «there is no region, country or culture in which women are subjected to violence» [6]. Thus, the struggle for women's rights should continue and improve.

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*Nations now stand in such constructed relations to one another
that none can stand any weakening of its culture
without losing power and influence in relation to the others.*

Immanuel Kant [1]