

UN GIRLS ADVOCACY FORUM

Elevator Pitch by Niamh Carney

There is an obvious lack of technology in Ireland, which present disadvantages within the education system, as well as within STEM jobs. One of the recommendations put forward by the girls involved in the CSW67, was about the concerning digital gap caused by a lack of insufficient infrastructure, which in turn creates this inequality in access to technology. This is an enormous problem in the north of Ireland. There is a severe lack of trains where I live, in the north-west of Ireland. If you look at a map highlighting the country's railway infrastructure, you would see the absence of a railway system, where I live, staring back at you.

This problem only presents barriers to the education of students here in Ireland. Some of the technology and machines which students need to help them with their course may only be available to use in Belfast, the capital of the north. These impedes their learning, and as they spend the majority of their time studying, they may not be able to afford a car. This is where the railway system would be vital, however, the closest one to my home is an hour's drive away. This slows the educational progress of girls and women as they are being restricted in their access to such technology. This can impact on girls and women's overall educational achievement.

It is evident today, that boys have better access to technology, and this puts girls at an unfair disadvantage. This impacts on what opportunities they can avail of, especially in relation to their careers in the future, mainly in STEM. This hinders the diversity which should be evident within these fields. It is imperative that the government takes action to prevent this issue from deteriorating further.