

NAME:

COURSE:

**UN boss not doing enough for women**

*United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan received a stern **reminder** yesterday that he is not doing enough to reduce the gender gap that prevails worldwide. A global coalition of women’s groups wrote to the UN head castigating him for his **lack** of progress in moving towards equality. They voiced their disappointment and **outrage**, and accused Mr. Annan of paying little more than “lip service” to the promotion of women’s rights. They aptly pointed out that despite the UN’s lofty ideals and proclamations of parity and progress, “the position of women in high-level UN posts has **stagnated**.” They added: “Although we’ve had a lot of rhetorical **commitment** to women’s rights, it still hasn’t made it on to the big agenda of UN reform.”*

*Minimal progress has been made in the ten years since the 1995 Beijing conference on women’s rights. Many groups expressed consternation that there was only “token representation” of women on critical committees and high-level expert panels within the UN. “What is being called the UN ‘gender architecture’ is more like a shack. Women need a bigger global house if equality is ever to become a reality,” said Charlotte Bunch of the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership. Another pertinent point in the letter **highlighted** the need for change at the top: “We need new and innovative leadership and the way to get that is by ensuring we reach fifty-fifty women and men in all decision-making positions,” said June Zeitlin, executive director of the Women’s Environment and Development Organization. A sign that things are not moving in this direction is that a man replaced Ms. Louise Frechette last week as the UN deputy secretary general.*

**QUESTIONS**

**1. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points)**

a. Why has Kofi Annan been punished lately?


b. Is there a date to discuss about women’s rights in the UN agenda? Give reasons for your answer.


**2. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer. (1.5 points)**

a. *Bunch likes what the United Nations are doing for the women’s rights:* \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence:

b. *Louise Frechette is one of the UN deputy secretary general:* \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence:

**3. Find a synonym for each of the four words from these six options. (1 point)**

REMINDER	OUTRAGE	COMMITMENT	STAGNATE	HIGHLIGHT	LACK
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a. Absence:

b. Anger and shock:

c. Emphasize:

d. Will and devotion to do something:

