

Advocacy Report

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of UN Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of UN low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of UN Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.

Please bear in mind these three overarching, long-term goals in any UN intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these three goals further.

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, UN Reps are also invited to promote GWI key messages on areas where especially relevant e.g. women in STEM, securing investment in women teachers, addressing barriers to girls' education such as child marriage.*

Meeting attended: (place, date, time, name of meeting)

The Ninth Report from Norway to the 68th Convention for the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women

Palais de Nations 7 November 2017

Subject of meeting: Norway presented their 9th state report to the CEDAW Committee, followed by expert comments and statements by civil society.

The goal of the meeting was to assess Norway's response to issues raised during its last CEDAW review, and current issues regarding discrimination against women. The Norwegian Minister for Children, Equality and Social Inclusion was joined by a representative from the Ministry of Justice, and the Norwegian Mission to the United Nations.

Refers to SDG no #: (please reference)

SDG 5, although gender equality is integrated throughout all SDGs.

Intervention by GWI rep: (what you did)

Attended session, tweeted, wrote report.

How this serves GWI members:

- a. Explain trends in development in this particular subject.
- b. Explain why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI and NFAs.
- c. Outline what needs to be done at international and national levels.

Norway's efforts to achieve gender equality are some of the most successful in the world. However, there are several areas on which progress has stalled, and other issues have arisen. These issues include, but are not limited to, the following:

Major points raised by the Committee during the session, under Article 18, of particular relevance to GWI:

1. How clearly indicator 5.1.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals is reflected in the State party's legislation, policies and programmes. Negative impact that might arise from Norway's revised legislative drafting instructions that no longer explicitly mention the requirement to assess implications for the State party's human rights obligations, including gender equality and non-discrimination.
2. Negative stereotyping/objectifying of adolescent girls in youth culture, and steps taken to address this.
3. Progress made on violence against women, following high reported rates of gender based violence in Norway; in particular results from research on intimate partner homicide and domestic violence among indigenous communities.
4. Updated information on measures taken to address the persistence of gender segregation in upper secondary education, and underrepresentation of women among university professors.
5. Asylum-seeking and refugee women - the establishment of legal protection for women refugees and gender-sensitive early processing claims for asylum seekers.
6. Public sharing, awareness-raising and promotion of CEDAW.

Shadow reports by civil society including from the Norwegian Women's Lobby made recommendations advising against the increasing use of gender-neutral language in legislation:

'Norwegian legislation on equality between the sexes should be gender-specific and not neutralized. In relation to violence the perpetrators sex must be made clear.'

The full report can be found here :

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/NOR/INT_CEDAW_NGO_NOR_27247_E.pdf

Next steps:(what needs to be done)

Concluding remarks by the Committee, following Norway's responses, have not yet been released. In general, the Norwegian Government is keen to fund further research into the causes of gender-based violence and expand training in relevant institutions, for example the police. Similarly, gender equality in employment is a major area where the state is keen to promote greater opportunity for women in decision-making positions.

The relevant documents produced so far for the session can be found here:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1079&Lang=en

Following the end of the session it will be possible to summarise the key agreed areas for action. In the meantime it is necessary to reach consensus on the use of gender-neutral language amongst women's rights groups.