CSW 61 Delegate Summary Report by Topic
by Louise McLeod, VP Marketing

Delegates reporting as of 04.20.2017
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Priority theme:
Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work

Review theme:
Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session)

Emerging issue/Focus area:
The empowerment of indigenous women
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GWI Written Statement


GWI CSW61 Forum Reports

The full list of reports in their entirety can be found on the GWI website. Member Center password is required.

http://www.graduatewomen.org/forums/forum/csw61-new-york/

GWI Advocacy, Policy, Manifestos, Press Releases

The complete list of GWI and NFA resource documentation that pertain to the GWI mission of education for women and girls through lifelong education is available on the GWI website. Member Center password may be required.

http://www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/constitutional-material/resolutions/
http://www.graduatewomen.org/who-we-are/gwi-manifestos/
http://www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/advocacy-media/policy-update/

CSW Agreed Conclusions – final

Analysis of CSW 61 Agree Conclusions
by Lakshmi Puri, UN Assistant Secretary General: http://tinyurl.com/kz7vdmw
Tags / Recurring themes

2030 Agenda, ability to work as a right, barriers to economic justice, barriers to hiring for women/girls, Changing mindsets and stereotypes, conflict mediation, economic independence, financial literacy, gender inequality & gender equality & SDG 5, gender based violence & domestic violence & violence in the workplace, human rights, inclusion of men/boys in solving gender inequality & gender based violence (GBV), intersectionality, lack of involvement for women & girls in STEM education, leave no one behind, micro-finance, safe access to a working environment & work at home, SDGs, skills development & vocational training, slavery and human trafficking, unequal work opportunities, unpaid & unrecognized (at home) work for women, unequal access to social benefits and pensions, vulnerability & economic empowerment, wage gap & equal pay for equal work, women's entrepreneurship, women, peace and security

UN TV Live Webcasts

See full list at: http://webtv.un.org/search?term=csw

Opening of the Session - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61), 13-24 March 2017 (English)

NGO briefing - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) (15 March 2017) (English)

NGO briefing - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61), 13-24 March 2017 (16 March 2017) (English)

UN Press Releases

Theme Elements

NGO Forum

In the opening statement at NGO/CSW forum on Sunday, March 12, Susan O’Malley (Chair) stated that the work of CSW is grounded in human rights under UNCHR 23.2, that everyone has the right to equal pay for equal work and that our work at CSW is the implementation of those rights, not just in the statement of them. Round table discussions, side events and parallel events over the two week of CSW61 were aimed at finding solutions to the following questions along with many others.

“How can we strengthen and support women in this changing world of work”?

“Women work harder and longer but their work is not valued / recognized. How do we change the norms”?

“How do we change perceptions and attitudes”?

“How do we create zero tolerance for violence against women both in the home and in the workplace”?

“What are the barriers to economic justice for women and what do we do about them”?

CSW needs to address the elimination of barriers that discriminate against women and girls such as the building of solid legislative frameworks and alliances, to include women and youth in all discussions, and to recognize the contributions of all NGOs, human rights organizations, the labor sector, civil society, and academia. In addition, we need to call attention to the threats that prevent forward movement and to fight xenophobia by upholding rationalism and humanism and have respect for human dignity. Economic empowerment for women is all about justice. Society must live up to women, not the other way around. Empowerment works best when laws serve everyone, not just men or not just women. Changes in discriminatory laws would affect 3 billion women and girls. As an example: If a male and a female are candidates for the same job or position, the woman is asked if she wants a family and is generally discriminated against. No one asks a man if he wants a family.

Good affordable education for women is one way to allow women and girls a sustainable chance for economic empowerment... and equality in the household is essential along with freedom from violence. Little will be done to achieve empowerment for women and SDG 5 if women are still subjected to violence whether it be sexual, physical or psychological. Men perpetrate violence and get away with it. When women have access to education, they are in a better position to develop their skills and leadership in the world, whether in education, politics or entrepreneurship. It is essential that women learn financial literacy and become competent with digital technology. We need a cultural shift with more women leaders, more women in uniform, more women at the peace tables. With these capabilities, they are better equipped to face the stresses of modern day
challenges and they are better able to cope with **human rights issues** such as **equal access ownership**, whether it be land, property or rights.

*The empowerment of women in the world of work, will enrich themselves, the family and ultimately render sustainability to the global economy.*

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**GWI Advocacy and NFA Activity addressing the economic empowerment of women**

2015 – Press Release - GWI and NFAs promote the economic empowerment of women as a key priority in the post-2015 development goals [Word]
http://www.graduatewomen.org/?pcsI=e7464cba43

2016 – Resolution – Safe access to public spaces and transportation: Sexual harassment of women and girls in public spaces as a violation of the human and civil rights:

2013 – Resolution – Globalization and its effects on women and girls in developing countries:
http://www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/constitutional-material/resolutions/globalization-effects-women-girls/

On the GWI website: The Business Case:
http://www.graduatewomen.org/the-cause/the-business-case/
http://www.graduatewomen.org/?s=economic+empowerment

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**Care Work within the Family / Work at Home / Family Support**

Positive changes must include unpaid, unrecognized work within the household such as child care, elderly care and other needed domestic services. Women who must stay home to attend to these duties are the ones most likely to be left behind and their contribution to the global economy is often not recognized and they need social protection. More than 90% of women in most countries are doing ‘informal’, unrecognized, unpaid work.

According to OxFam, the economy should be designed for women. The value of the care economy is $10 trillion USD but care work in generally is low paid and insecure, workers face exploitation and women are not the decision makers when it comes to policy.

Women spend about 6 weeks annually on unpaid work and care work so naturally they are not earning income or at best can only work part time. Women live longer than men and when a woman doesn’t have paid work, she isn’t contributing to a pension. What is needed most is a pension system that recognizes women’s contributions. At the end of the day we have a lot of poverty among elderly women.
Work is part of society and vital for food and housing security. It is a right. Government policies which invest in the care economy, social care and child care will actually increase employment and reduce poverty levels.

Various governments reported to have introduced minimum wage legislation or policy directives, also frequently recognizing non-remunerated work by women or girls relating to domestic or care work.

There is not a clear differentiation had been struck between work as a domestic worker (the minimum wage issue in many respects) and the social protection and acknowledgement (including possible remuneration) of women in their own domestic environment.

Furthermore, the controversy with regard to the right to and definition of “decent work” was not properly addressed. The mere fact that the right to work is not in principle equated with remunerated work and social protection or security, implies that statistics with regard to employment are skewed in some instances. The inclusion of non-remunerated care work into the employment statistics may also be criticized as a form of commercialization of motherhood.

In addition, although the right to micro-finance had been addressed by some governments, the intention of empowerment financing should not exclude access to businesses of all sizes. It was clear that not a lot of data is available (or shared) when it comes to women in the work place.

The role women play in the workplace is essential for the economy of the country in general, but has its challenges due to issues of security and family/community cultures. Women need structural and family support. 40% of the world’s workforce are women but their efforts are not always recognized or counted towards a country’s economic statistics.

**USA: does not recognize the importance of unpaid work and have not included it in national accounting**, including Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

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**Wage Discrimination & Gender Pay Gap, Training & Employment Opportunities, Minimum wage, Child Care**

23% of women worldwide earn less than men. They work 3 months longer than men for an equivalent income.

**Barriers to Equality Hiring:**

The barriers to equality in hiring include the education gap between men and women and business recruitment strategies. Male CEOs and executives are likelier to have partners that work less than themselves and earn less. Female CEOs on the other hand are likelier to have partners that work as many hours are themselves or more and have higher salaries. Male CEOS are likelier to have partners that take greater share of the household duties and caring for children. Female CEOs and executives take the greater share of household duties and caring for children. (School of Social Sciences, Iceland)
The Gender Pay Gap

The UN is a marvel of modernism but modern things also get old. The modern progressive idea of equal pay for equal work begun in 1951 is getting old. So if the idea of equal pay was a human, it would be retiring right now. But this old idea is still too much for modern times. The Ministers of Belgium, Jordan, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Tunisia, Peru, Luxembourg, Morocco, Norway, Paraguay Brazil and Switzerland agreed that the pay gap is a complex issue and causes women to have more poverty, less pension, etc.

Belgium monitors the gap annually and takes corrective measures.

France does not still have a law for equal pay.

Peru has norms that are of equal opportunity (economic, social and political participation of women promoted since 2007); productive development (focus on states’ action for small, micro enterprises) and civil service (general rules for equal opportunities without discrimination). These three laws ensure equal pay, although there is still pay gaps.

Luxembourg has a new law to be voted on that will charge a significant fine if equality is not adhered to. They also want remote work (home) to not be a trap for women.

Morocco stressed the issue that it is not only in law but also mind set. Therefore, mindset and stereotypes have to be changed.

Paraguay added the need to look at other themes including domestic work. Wage-gap is not only between women and men but how these wages are vested in the home. Domestic work equality and sharing in the house is important. The other main point of agreement was the higher pay gap practiced in the private sector.

Private Sector: Continues to show wider gender pay gap than in public sector.

Government Role – Switzerland – role of disincentives – companies that don’t meet standards can’t get government procurements.

Child Care & Paid Maternity Leave

Jordan cooperates with private sector partners for child care in support of working mothers.

Dominican Republic working towards pre-post natal time off.

Norway raised the point that education preference of girls and boys had to be changed. Traditional education preference leads girls not to choose technology education.

Hungary: National and International plans for women empowerment in Hungary are extensive. The most remarkable though is the 3-year paid maternity (and/or paternity) leave granted in Hungary. Very strong focus is placed on family values and the
empowerment of community life.

On the GWI website

Wage gap: http://www.graduatewomen.org/?s=wage+gap

Unpaid work: http://www.graduatewomen.org/?s=unpaid+work

Child Care: http://www.graduatewomen.org/?s=child+care

Women and ICT

In a world where technology is expanding at a rapid pace, the gap between men and women online is widening.

Women need to be prepared for an increase in the use of technology in the workplace. The education preference of girls and boys had to be changed. Traditional education preference leads girls to not choose technology education.

There is extensive support for funding provided by the European Union for women entrepreneurs to combine certain areas such as IT into their start-up businesses especially those having an emphasis on internationalization.

The next one billion new internet connections will be made from mobile devices in the hands of young people in developing countries; mobile technology has become a medium for youth empowerment, activism and an engine for change. BUT, in developing countries up to 43% fewer women have access to internet than men. Smartphone ownership and locally relevant applications can be key to women’s empowerment, increase inclusion and build immeasurable confidence.

GWI Advocacy and NFA Activity addressing women and girls in ICT

2016 – Policy Update – Girls in ICT Day [PDF]:


2015 – Press Release – The role of girls and women in STEM [Word]:
http://www.graduatewomen.org/?pcsl=bd5de6df63
Women and Entrepreneurship / Start Ups and Fundraising

Women in Agriculture

Hungary: National and International plans for women empowerment in Hungary are extensive. The most remarkable though is the 3-year paid maternity (and/or paternity) leave granted in Hungary. Very strong focus is placed on family values and the empowerment of community life. Strong ties with rural development programs are noted, with grandiose empowerment programs for women in agriculture.

The EU: The extensive support provided by the European Union for start-up businesses by women entrepreneurs have been communicated. Emphasis is on internationalization, providing opportunities for women to also combine certain areas such as IT with agriculture in their businesses in order to qualify for even higher funding. Funding is provided as a non-refundable grant, and is available for application by women from all countries in the EU, Asia and the Americas who have registered companies in Europe. Africa’s involvement as a second partner to an application is also valued and supported by the EU’s funding program.

Skills Development, Artistry and Economic Empowerment

According to Ms. Cathy Stevaluk, film maker, the artisan sector is the 2nd largest sector in the economies of the developing world. Women find it easier .. and safer.. to work at home, often with crafts. It is important to note that travelers and tourists are more apt to purchase authentic quality crafts than anything else. Training women in vocational skills therefore leads to economic independence when they can use these skills to create and sell their products thereby allowing greater occupational diversity along with opportunities for mentorship (even mentorship by men), learning about ownership rights, empowering women through entrepreneurship and the provision of safety in the workplace which is usually in the home. The economic structure of poorer communities cannot open horizons larger than the community can support and in that context, women’s artisan work incomes become important. Stories abound of women’s empowerment in the craft world from local home craft producers to skilled artists and artisans.

The role of skills development and technical vocation training is a critical one for the World Bank with $2.8B USD invested in education and empowerment of women and girls. Skills training for women and girls leads to an increase in employment, enhanced entry in to the job market, and women’s entrepreneurship.
Emerging Issue Indigenous Women

Indigenous women worldwide suffer disproportionately from violence and abuse. Although the priority theme of the year’s CSW is the ‘economic empowerment of women in the changing world of work’, we are reminded of the emerging theme ‘empowerment of indigenous women.’

**USA:** Four out of five indigenous women in the U.S.A. experience violence in their lifetime and their murder rates are ten times the national average.

Canada: for more than 150 years indigenous women have been the most vulnerable women in the country. It is wrong and insulting to think that any decision about indigenous women is not made by them. A nation cannot exist without the hearts of women. In the Yukon, a study revealed that 95% of all issues were related to violence but it’s up to the communities to take matters into their own hands to solve the problem.

Solutions to solving some of the issues include more and better data and studies regarding violence against indigenous women; adopting resolutions to eliminate the violence; increased reporting and funding and commitment to put an end to it.

Review Theme Elements

The full list of reports in their entirety can be found on the GWI website. Member Center password is required. [http://www.graduatewomen.org/forums/forum/csw61-new-york/](http://www.graduatewomen.org/forums/forum/csw61-new-york/)

Education

**Education for Adolescent Girls: Afghanistan**

The Deputy Minister of Education of Afghanistan, presented recent statistics on the progress Afghanistan has made in girls’ education including number of schools, and girls’ enrollment in school. In 2000 the Taliban closed all schools for girls. In 2002 only 900,000 children were in school and all of them were boys. Today 9.4 million are in school – 3.7 million are girls - 40% of enrolled students. There are still 3 million students in rural, hard-
to reach areas that are not in school. This represents a loss of a whole generation leading to a devastating shortage of future nurses and doctors. Furthermore, many needs still exist – the curriculum is traditional and it does not address the tech issue and poor vocational training, the need for better security and transportation so both students and teachers can get to school, and the shortage of female teachers.

While the success was enabled by valuable partnerships with the UN/UNICEF, donor governments and NGOs, there was a request for more cooperation and support from the UN System. The success of this effort has clearly been due to a multi-prong effort – the government, civil society, outside countries such as Norway’s support of gender equality and school enrolment, organizations such as the World Bank, the Girls Support Program funded by the Canadian government, community driven initiatives supported by the Agha Khan Foundation, UNGEI (United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and UN Girls Education Initiative’s (UNGEI) sector-responsive education planning and the launch of a new guidance for gender-focused education planning. These efforts have improved teacher salaries and paid for transportation to school. Additionally, they have seen 142% increase in enrollment with a 110% increase in graduation. 500 girls have graduated and became teachers – many returning to teach in the schools they came out of.

Achieving Gender Equality (SDG 5)

Gender equality can only be achieved if men and boys also take responsibility for their choices and work along with women. Engaging men and boys is challenging and needs a change in the power dynamic. In a male dominated world, women’s issues must be addressed including historical injustices. Globally, women daily suffer new assaults on their dignity and denial of their rights. A good example of this are the 15 million girls that are forced to marry against their will each year.

#HeforShe – the Barbershop Toolkit (Iceland) – Global launch

https://www.mfa.is/barbershop/

"Barbershops are known to be a safe place for men to speak freely and be more open about what is on their mind, much like the locker room. Let’s bring the discussion here, let’s talk amongst ourselves about what we can bring to the table, how we can play an integral part in the movement of change, be champions of HeForShe”

Gudlaugur Thor Thordarson, Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs

Progress towards gender equality is held back by unequal power relations between women and men. Overcoming this barrier requires not only laws and policies but also a change in attitudes and behaviors. Men need to engage other men in finding solutions.

The Barbershop concept looks at innovative ways for men to mobilize and motivate other men to address discriminatory stereotypes of masculinity. It identifies ways for men to talk about gender
equality in comfortable and safe environment, and addresses how male leaders can drive this dialogue forward.

The Barbershop Toolkit for gender equality at work was launched at CSW61 because women cannot wait another 130 years to achieve gender equality (and that is how long it will take at today’s rate of progress).

The toolkit was created as a means to mobilize men and boys since men are largely missing from the discussion about gender equality. Barbershops and gyms are safe places for men to get together and talk. Gender equality is a win-win situation. 1 out of 9 men have joined the #heforshe movement but we need all men to engage in this effort.

The toolkit features 2 short films:
Film: Tom Stranger, a convicted rapist, talks about his encounter as a rapist and how he feels about it now. Tom has become engaged in talking to other men and have those conversations.. and with women. As men and boys are part of the problem, they have to be part of the solution. We need to change the idea of what masculinity means. “The world makes a rapist, women don’t give birth to them.”

Intersectionality

Intersectionality is a tool for analysis, advocacy and policy development that addresses intersecting inequalities. It helps to understand different sets of identities impact on access to rights and opportunities. An intersectional approach to gender equality acknowledges the fact that women have different experiences based on aspects of their identity including race, social class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, age as well as other forms of identity. The identity politics of the gender equality movement has been a source of community and strength. However identity politics sometimes ignores the differences within a group.

Netherlands: Gender issues should be dealt with a multidimensional approach to reach the right outreach and outcome. Intersectionality means no struggle with one other but together. The privileged need to understand underprivileged. In order to achieve equality, we need affirmative action and while inequality is a global issue, it needs to be recognized at the local level, tailored to specific needs with defined measurements.

GWI Advocacy and NFA Activity addressing gender equality and violence against women

2014 – Press Release – GWI and NFAs appeal to governments, legislators, civil society, and individual citizens to mobilize, unite and act for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

2013 – Resolution – Non-State actor torture:
Women, Peace and Security / Women’s Leadership / Partnerships

Women and children impacted by war are the least involved in the conflict. Their views and ideas are not valued. Women need to be involved in efforts to establish peace. Gender equality, recognition of victims of violence and women’s right violations and inclusion of women at the peace table are some of the strongest prevention tools in areas of conflict. We are better able to prevent conflict when we have women empowered and included, more sustainable solutions occur when women participate.

*Gender equality is the strongest indicator of a country's stability - as gender equality increases, gender violence decreases.*

Unless we deal with women's marginalization in areas of conflict, we cannot build on conflict resolution.

The UN SG has put sustaining peace and sustaining development front and center via a prevention agenda in an integrated manner. The best means of prevention is inclusive and sustainable development that includes all segments of society, most critically women.

For the first time, there will be a women’s mediation network in the Mediterranean region but more women need to be trained and involved in conflict mediation. Women’s situation rooms have been incorporated in areas for mediation all over Africa making a huge difference while relying on only modest resources.

The UN has created a new Peace Building Commission - PBC – the first of its kind for a body at the UN.

Ambassador Maria Emam Mejia Velez in a side event on skills development, stated that 40% of combatants in recent conflicts in Colombia are women and girls. Post-conflict, these same women and girls are now required to learn how to become productive citizens and become involved in the efforts to sustain peace in the area.

Partnerships & Alliances

Building alliances and partnerships between governments and other stakeholders is needed for gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 SDGs, especially goal 5 concerning gender equality. The challenges of implementing the somewhat detailed conclusions adopted each year by the Commission can be found in the UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases of the UN Website. Please refer the members to that site, for those interested in finding out the details. [https://www.un.org/press/en](https://www.un.org/press/en)
Role of Female Parliamentarians

Canada: The Canadian Minister highlighted the fact that women were frequently forgotten when solutions are designed, while they are powerful agents in contributing to the solutions and their design. In the effort to have women’s voices heard, Canadian Parliament had 325 young women sit in Parliament to discuss these issues. As a result, $650 million has recently been allocated for sexual health. So this is a new feminist approach by Canada. Similarly, bringing women together has helped collaboration among themselves and now Iraqi and Kurdish women are working together. The important initiative is to empower women to improve their community, which may not lead to immediate results but in the long-term it will be effective.

UNDP: In order to achieve SDG’s by 2030, girls and women need to be empowered and boys and men need to be involved. UN Development Programme (UNDP) Deputy Director stated that UNDP gives this area high importance. They are working with 70 country offices to strengthen Parliamentary programmes, systematize civic engagement and capacitate parliamentarians for the 2030 agenda achievement. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women are working together to strengthen these programs.

Tunisia: Has a long history, with its first constitution in 1860’s and a focus on education and emancipation of women at the start of 1900’s. The most recent constitution of 2014, although not too bad, needs a few laws to be changed. Life, livelihoods have become more and more Islamist. While there were no women wearing hijabs in the 50’s, by the 1980’s, 8 out of 10 women were wearing them. Parity law was enacted in 2011, with 51% women in parliament the majority of whom are from the Islamist party.

Iran: This country is affected by conflict while people need peace. When reaching out to civil societies, governments and other partners, parliamentarians were left out. Responsibility sharing more than power sharing can be achieved with the participation of Parliamentarians. Budget is very important and parliamentarians can play an important role in appropriate allocation of funds.

Points raised:
– Power being associated with men needs to change.
– UN Women all over the world need to be supported by all civil society colleagues.
– Women need to sit at the table during discussions on national security.
– The women’s caucuses should be used for peace-building. UNDP can put this forward.
– How to end Inter-tribal wars in Africa with support from parliamentarians

GWI Advocacy and NFA Actions addressing women, peace and security

2013 – Resolution – Protection of Women and Children in War Zones through unarmed civilian peacekeeping (UCP):
http://www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/constitutional-material/resolutions/protection-women-children-war-zones/

On the GWI website:
Women as leaders: http://www.graduatewomen.org/?s=women+in+politics
Modern Day Slavery

46m people are affected by slavery especially women and girls through the mechanisms of refugee and migrant status, bonded labor, kidnapping of young girls who are sold off for early marriage and/or slave labor. Slavery is a neglected/invisible societal issue driven by a criminal network. The victims are part of a hidden society.

Senator Aisha al Hassan from Nigeria noted in a keynote address that poverty and unemployment feeds the trafficking racket with women and girls being the most vulnerable. A direct correlation exists between poverty and slavery with discrimination based on sex/religion/cast contributing to slavery vulnerability. Nigerian women and girls are often forced into prostitution and child labor. The ILO reports that 21m people are currently in enforced slavery worldwide at any moment in time and 22% of them are used for sexual exploitation. Slavery is the third most profitable industry worldwide after drugs and arms dealing.

Slavery is a cross border issue exacerbated by migration issues, enforcement is weak, and prosecution is rare. Women face social protection issues when there is no legal protection for domestic violence, no health care available, and no recourse to justice.

*Women's bodies become war zones and battles are waged over them.*

Trafficking in Persons and kidnapping fuel conflict and finance and sustain military operations. People on the move such as refugees are the most vulnerable because there are no social safety nets. Millions of girls battle stereotypes and face double jeopardy when they are kidnapped, sold as child brides or for slave labor and then face rejection when returned to their families or when attempts are made to rehabilitate them back into their communities. Their basic Human Rights are disrespected when there is no accountability for Human Rights violations.

Slavery in conflict zones is exacerbated. Legal norms against slavery is the strongest in international law but the hardest to enforce.

*Slavery is about power.*

Slavery is about power. A deliberate erosion of power occurs to make people vulnerable to enslavement. Slavery is a political issue with unscrupulous people deliberately setting up situations for enslavement. Slavery is mostly legal because we don't call it that. For example, enforced child marriage when young girls are denied the options to NOT marry is a socially sanctioned method of enforcing slavery (Boko Haram).

Vulnerability to slavery is reduced when women are economically empowered. EDUCATION for girls is the key. Girls’ rights must be at the heart of all education systems. Girls given basic education that lead to vocational skills lead to systems of empowerment.
and decrease their vulnerability to slavery. What also works are good laws, awareness, partnerships, local employment, and consistent research on the issues of slavery.

Governments and development agencies must understand this but it is difficult to enforce when $150B per year is generated on the back of the 21m slaves around the world.

GWI Advocacy and NFA Actions addressing Human Trafficking and Slavery

2014 – Press Release – GWI and NFAs call for the immediate return of Nigerian schoolgirls to their homes [Word]:
http://www.graduatewomen.org/?pcs=20756fad3b

2016 – Resolution – Human Trafficking:

2013 – Resolution – NonState Actor Torture:

2013 – Resolution – Working against trafficking:
http://www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/constitutional-material/resolutions/working-against-trafficking/

On the GWI website:
Early Child Marriage: http://www.graduatewomen.org/?s=early+child+marriage

Human Trafficking: http://www.graduatewomen.org/?s=human+trafficking

Leaving no one behind: the imperative of inclusive development

The Report on the World Situation, 2016 prepared by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

World’s situation: social inclusion is critical to 2030 agenda and SDGs, how to realize it, and then identify who are most likely to be left behind. The report prepared by UNDESA is an attempt in addressing these questions and issues, based on the research reviewed in these areas so that women are not left behind.

It is an abstract topic and therefore the starting point is with defining the concepts and measurements by analyzing three sets of indicators: access to opportunities namely education, health and other basic services; access to employment and income; and participation in political, civic and cultural life. Unequal opportunities in these areas create barriers to inclusion or lead to social exclusion.
Prejudice and discrimination on the basis of their identity or characteristics is a common cause of exclusion. Societies make distinctions based on ethnicity, race, sex, gender or other characteristics. Discrimination affects opportunities that people have, that in turn affects their well-being. Both formal/systemic and interpersonal discrimination were explained with the methods of their measurement: statistical analyses (i.e. indirect evidence), perceived experiences, (i.e. inquiring about perceptions), attitudinal studies, experimental survey techniques, and field experiments to detect these practices.

The final section introduced the policy options for inclusion: since a single set of policies or strategies is applicable to all contexts, countries, they do not provide a prescriptive approach, rather a more equity based approach.

Conclusion: There is a need to establish a universal approach to social policy, to leave no one behind, to reach as many as possible through broader social protection systems and utilize increased data disaggregation to identify excluded social groups complemented with political will and commitment.

Secondly is the need to promote inclusive institutions, engage more with civil society and implement effective anti-discrimination laws.

GWI Advocacy and NFA Actions addressing inclusive development

2016 – Policy Update – Gender indicators and sex-disaggregated data [PDF]:

On the GWI website:
Inclusive development: http://www.graduatewomen.org/?s=inclusive+development

Religions and Human Rights: Challenges for Muslim Women

[This report in its entirety can be found on the GWI website. Member Center password is required. http://www.graduatewomen.org/forums/forum/csw61-new-york/]

The economic rights discussion focused on how the harnessing of modern technologies, electric devices and IT savvy may assist Muslim women to create more employment opportunities. It was concluded that strong pillars in supporting Muslim women include building international Muslimat Economic Networks, legislating the muslim women economic rights through proper legislation, special and family-friendly tax exempt or tax relief, soft skills and technological advancement, gender responsive budgeting and new ijtihad or juristic reasoning based on current cyber and online issues. The Organization of Islamic Countries has 57 member states. They also claim that religion plays a role on 1.6 billion people. Women have always held elevated roles in the Islamic world. Health and
education is at the core of traditions, beliefs and therefore need the role of religious leaders and religion to be protective.

GWI Advocacy and NFA Actions on Religious and Human rights


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General Comments about CSW

- **Attendance** was smaller than expected, less than CSW60.
  - Over 8600 reps pre-registered but only 3800 attended. US visa restrictions played a part.
  - 560 organization attended.
  - There were over 400 parallel events.
  - Due to the subject of the priority theme, trade unions, labor organizations, domestic worker alliances and others were well represented.

- Regarding the **review theme**, member states are accountable for what they have done about previous agreed conclusions.

- On the **emerging theme**, indigenous people were mentioned but there was no action. It was stressed that indigenous people must be included if they are being discussed.

- Civil society space is decreasing in the world, however, there is some positive change at the UN, e.g. with **young people** playing a bigger role. Young women must be included in negotiations and be part of delegations.

- Need data about how many delegations include members of civil society to increase the number of voices having access to officials who will be negotiating.

- **Data Statistics**: Only 13-percent of countries dedicate money to gender statistics and 80-percent of the indicators for gender equality across the SDGs are lacking data.
  - Countries need to include data from civil society with that of national statistics and surveys.
  - Statistics need to be more transparent and more accessible to users – it was suggested to use web-based sites, videos, social media.
  - To improve data collection, countries and organisations need to develop statistical literacy. National surveys even at the household level may not accurately reflect the position of women. Widows of all ages face discrimination, need data collection (re: marital status) in member states.
  - Recommend the collection of information as Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM). This would answer whether women have access to assets, land, ability to market products etc.
  - Disability Inclusion in data is mostly missing.
  - The briefing recommended the use of Washington Group short set of questions.

**UN Women: Consolidate and build on gains**

*Areas of Agreement:*
* Intersectionality
* North-South Issue – responsibility of developed nations to help developing nations
* Taxation is an important means to address gender discrimination
* Need to focus on Indigenous Women

Lack of Agreement:
* Unpaid work and role of state

Quotes

“[there are] Not enough leaders in the world with zero tolerance for gender inequality…”
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka (ED UN Women)

“If you are a woman, you are a worker... period”.
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka (ED UN Women)

“It’s always ‘micro’ when you’re talking about financing for women.”
Esther Mwaura, Groots, Kenya

“78% of women in Guatemala work in precarious situations and for low pay.”
Dr. Mabel Bianco, Foundation for Studies and Research on Women.

“Women make the difference in every part of the globe”.
SG Antonio Guterres

“Modern Slavery affects an estimated 46 million people worldwide, over half of whom are women and girls.”

“Better data, better lives”

“Without half the population, there is no way you can have a prosperous society.”

“Women give 90% of what they earn to their families. Men only give 40%.”

“Leave no woman behind.”
Photos

Panel discussion at the UN General Assemblee

GWI-members at a working breakfast

Panel discussion by the Minister of Education and Family Affairs of Aruba, mw. Michelle Janice Hooyboer-Winklaar

Coffee sleeve for UN Women

A one minute 'walkout' in honour of the women of Iceland who stopped working for one day in 1974 for equal pay.

GWI Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara at the CSW Town Hall, March 17, 2017

GWI Delegates and NFA members

Courtesy of Maria Peenze