



**REPORT ON CSW63 IN 2019 ATTENDED BY GWI BOARD MEMBERS,
NEW YORK UN REPRESENTATIVES AND GWI DELEGATES**

Written by Hazel Bowen : VP: Advocacy and Education
May 2019

Our Delegates:

ADEYEMI, Janet Febisola (Nigeria); DANTAS, Prof Jaya (Australia); DIENG DIOP, Tauty (Senegal); FALL, Rokhaya Daba (Senegal); GUERRERO RAMIREZ, Nayana Maria (Mexico); HECKSHER RAMSDEN, Glenda (Mexico); KHAMIDULLINA, Iulia (Russia); MASIIWA, Agnus (Zimbabwe), MASSAY, Jolie (DRC); NCUBE, Nolwazi Nadia (Zimbabwe); OFFERMANS, Anne (Johanna)(Netherlands); PILLAH, Dr Victoria (Nigeria); RAMIREZ DE GUERRERO, Gloria (Mexico); RANDELL, Prof Shirley (Australia); RWIYEREKA, Nsanga Sylvie (Rwanda); SINGH-WARAICH, Marianne (Canada) with BOWEN, Hazel Bowen (GWI VP: Advocacy and Education) who headed the delegation, and FOCKE-BAKKER, Eileen (GWI VP: Membership) and two GWI UN Representatives in New York, BYRNE, Maureen and HANNUM, Maryella.

Louise McLeod (GWI VP: Marketing) attended as a WG-USA delegate, Stacy Dry Lara (GWI Executive Director) attended on her UN pass. Geeta Desai (GWI President) was unable to attend due to family commitments. Sophie Turner Zaretsky (GWI UN Rep) was available for briefings to GWI delegates.

The sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 22 March 2019. CSW is organised by UN Women.

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the sessions, with the task of producing a final Outcomes Document.

GWI provided a Written Statement (see attachment) and was chosen to read our Oral Statement (also attached) on Monday 18 March (done by one of our UN Representatives, Maryella Hannum). Unfortunately, Maureen Byre, who was to read the statement had had an accident and was not able to be present.

NGO CSW NY co-ordinates the activities of non-governmental organisations during the CSW period. Prior to CSW NGO CSW NY has a number of committees working on various tasks to ensure that the parallel events run smoothly. Our NY UN reps, Sophie Turner Zaretsky, Maureen Byrne, Maryella Hannum, were on these committees:

NGO/CSW Committees: Sophie Turner (Handbook), Maureen Byrne (Zero Draft- Education - GWI), Maryella Hannum (Logistics).

Besides arranging parallel events, presented by NGOs/Community organisations, NGO CSW NY and its members work on the Zero Draft Document. Clauses in the previous Outcomes Documents relevant to the theme for 2019 are interrogated and recommendations made to UN Women regarding additions or amendments which should be considered.

THEME FOR CSW 63 :

Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

GWJ EVENTS

GWJ Board (Hazel Bowen, VP: Advocacy and Education) looked at the possibility of arranging a Side Event which must be arranged through a Government Permanent Mission. Working with Global Campaign for Education, GWJ came close to arranging such an event, entitled PREPARING FOR LIFELONG LEARNING FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN (including indigenous, rural and refugee communities). However, in the end this could not be finalised.

Global Campaign for Education then teamed up with GWJ to present our Parallel Event entitled Empowering Women through a Holistic Approach to Education. This aspect was in response to the CSW63 theme where GWJ (and GCE) wished to extend the importance of policies, social securities and infrastructure to include how essential a gender focus was in the decision-making leading to such plans, as well as the necessity to address all special needs to ensure that NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND. This panel discussion featured presentations by Prof Shirley Randell and Nsanga Sylvie Rwiyereka : The Rwandan government's holistic approach to policy development; Prof Jaya Dantas Implementation of Rights Based Approaches to Enhance Effective Education of Women; Nayana María Guerrero Ramírez PhD Student : Empowering Women and Girls Through A Holistic Approach To ICT Education; Nolwazi Ncube PhD student; Policy and Technology around Sanitary Dignity; Jennifer Rigg, Executive Director of the Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) : A Supportive Enabling Environment and the Right to Education. *A full outline of this event can be found on the GWJ website as a Toolkit for A Holistic Approach to Education.*

BRIEFINGS and SOCIAL OCCASIONS

Mon 11	7 – 8 am	Le Pain Quotidien 937 Second Avenue between 49 and 50 th Any refreshments were for own pocket	Welcome to CSW63 by Hazel, Louise, Eileen and Stacy. Reminder about Reports and Social Media/ photos Reminder about GWJ Parallel event at 4.30 pm/ hand out flyers Reminder social Dinner at 7 for 7.30 pm Brief introduction/main focus	Hand out GWJ badges/postcards etc. Reminder about UN badge collection
	4.30-6.00 pm	4 W 43rd St, Blue Room	GWJ Parallel Event: <i>Women empowerment through a Holistic approach in education</i>	
	7 pm	Ali Baba Restaurant (own pocket, cash and exact amount)	862 2nd Ave 46th Street (18 + 20 = 38 diners)	Other GWJ members (non-delegates) present
Thurs 14	8 – 9 am	Le Pain Quotidien (as above)	Discussion on reporting. Some feedback on experience of CSW63. Notices	NY UN Rep/s :
Fri 15	10 – 11.30 am	DPI Conference Room (UN Global Communications) Resource Room directly across the street from the UN in the UNITAR building at 45th & 1 st . 2 nd floor.	Combined with CFUW/WG-USA Stacy : plans to collaborate on the three organization's CSW63 conclusions/ recommendations to Member States.. We should combine efforts and submit to the	Oral Statement Accommodation possibilities for next year

			UN, UN Women our collective recommendations based on the topics/ sessions covered by all. Important to not only publish Final CSW63 Agreed Conclusions but also our own conclusions	Maryella was not present as we had been advised that the Oral Statements could be read that morning. However, this did not happen until Monday.
Tues	4.30 pm	4 W 43rd Street, Social Hall	Women's Protection Teams: Building Sustainable Protective Infrastructures in South Sudan The NonViolent Peaceforce (NP) and GWI	
Wed	10.30 am	4 W 43rd Street, Aqua Room	CFUW : The Power of Global Citizen Education and the Power of Digital Literacy (with GWI - Eileen)	Unfortunately both at the
	10.30 am	The Armenian Convention Center, Yerevan Hall	WG-USA : Deciphering the Money Maze	Same time on 13 th
Thurs	10-11.15 am	Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, 605 Third Avenue, 35 Floor	Finnish Assn : How free contraception is linked to empowerment and education (with GWI – Stacy)	
Fri	12.30 pm	43rd Street Room: Aqua Room	Title: Social Protection and Empowerment: A Showcase from Australia and Rwanda Presenters: Prof Jaya Dantas & Prof Shirley Randell (Australian Federation of Graduate Women)	
Second Week				
Mon			Oral Statement – we were provided with an opportunity.	Maryella read this, with Louise as support
Tues	9 – 11 am	UN Women (220 East 42nd Street, NY, NY 10017), Conference Room 19-20	Spotlight Initiative : a global initiative against Violence Against Women. They welcome dialogue with CSW participants and delegates.	RSVPs to Zebib Michal Kidane zebib.kidane@unwomen.org.

GWJ COMBINED MEETING with representatives of CFUW, WG-USA and GWI UN Rep

This was an extremely useful meeting.

The Draft Outcomes document is developed from the previous Official Agreed Conclusions/Outcomes Report. NGO CSW members then meet to look for gaps, check terminology etc.

Feedback : even members who have attended CSW on a number of occasions remarked that they had gained valuable insight into the whole process of CSW. Others mentioned that they found this meeting strategic and could be institutionalized to obtain ideas from each delegate to enlarge our global impact.

FUTURE CSW ACCOMMODATION FOR DELEGATES

Hazel and Stacy reported on their site inspection of Marymount residential housing (linked with Marymount School of New York which is a college preparatory, independent, Catholic day school for girls). The housing is away from the school and is located on 55th between 2nd and 3rd. This would be approximately 10 blocks from the UN (45th on 1st). Small suites are available with 4 beds,

kitchenette and shower/wash room per suite. In 2019 Marymount suggested a cost of \$70 per bed. They would require all four beds to be taken up (or the cost would be divided by the lower number of occupants). A small lounge downstairs is available as is a laundry and gym. There is someone at a reception desk at the entrance and security is provided. Stacy and Hazel felt the suites (and rooms) were very suitable. We did mention that toilet paper, coat hangers, mirrors and a kettle per kitchenette would be required (bearing in mind our delegates would be “transient” residents). Marymount confirmed that linen, towels etc would be provided. They would require a GWI representative to stay in the housing with our delegates. We mentioned that we envisaged the accommodation being needed for the first week of CSW. We would have to arrange full suites for any delegates who wanted to attend CSW in the second week. Maryella Hannum offered to continue the contact with Marymount. A MOU would need to be drafted. We would hope that the arrangements will extend beyond one year. If this MOU is finalised soon we can advertise the accommodation to our delegates when we begin calling for applications to attend CSW for 2020 (September 2019).

It was also mentioned that hotels such as The Even Mid-Town East (219 E 44th St, Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues, New York City, NY 10017-4305) were willing to provide reduced rates for block bookings. This should be investigated to provide alternative accommodation but parallel with the Marymount.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES/ PRESENTATIONS ATTENDED BY GWI DELEGATES and members

Reports Submitted by Marianne Waraich–Singh * office, Nolwazi Ncube, Rokhaya Daba Fall, Anne Offermans, Victoria Pillah, Hazel Bowen, ** others went directly to office so I have no info

GWI BRIEFING SESSIONS

Although Maureen Byrne was unable to be present (she had had a very bad) Sophie and Maryella were on hand to provide some information on CSW. Every delegate (and other GWI member attending CSW63) was provided with a badge to identify them as GWI members. They also received postcards marketing both GWI and another for the GA/Conference. These provides very useful. Feedback received was that members felt better informed on GWI involvement on on-going events. However, they did request more input from UN Representatives (we did include more in the combined meeting held on the Friday).

PARALLEL EVENTS

1. Graduate Women International: “Women’s Empowerment through a Holistic Approach to Education”. An interesting overview from different countries on education. Striking that period poverty existing in the global North and South. A full report can be found on the GWI website under *Holistic Approach to Education*.

Take Away: Lessons from case studies of Rwanda holistic equality plan, on one hand, and the importance of technology for this Holistic approach, on the other hand.

2. NGO CSW NY – CONSULTATION DAY (Sunday 10 March 9.00 – 15.30) Paid activity

This was useful as one meets the people involved in NGO CSW NY and learns of the major concerns and activities. There is always music, dance and poetry interwoven between the talks.

Some key points:

- 9000 people had registered but just over 5000 were able to attend.
- Susan O’Malley, the current Chair, will retire after CSW63
- Keynote address given by Woman of Distinction 2019, Gharsanay IbnulAmeen (community mapping required regarding issues of leadership)
- We are reinventing the world/ rethink of policies. Governments are coming to UN Women for advice

- 600 m girls are currently out of school (60%)
 - Issues of unpaid care giving still remain a major problem. Not an end in itself but to free up women's time. Ensure this does not merely enforce traditional role of women as carers. Women most excluded group from work and pensions
 - Global Action Week for Education – April 24 – May 1, 2019
 - Government leadership in global education required
 - The 45th G7 summit will be held on August 25–27, 2019, in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France (hosted by France). SDG 4 Review and Recommendations to be included.
 - A repeat of the call for reliable, disaggregated data
 - To take gender issues forward a multi-sectorial/multi-stakeholder approach is essential
 - Teacher support required
 - Political will is required – women must influence our governments/ “we won't be quiet”
 - Tax redistribution – women should be involved in decision-making. Also issues of Fair Taxation and Tax avoidance
 - Decent work still an issue
 - The shrinking space for NGOs
 - Emphasis that Women's Rights = Human Rights
 - Violence against women is on the increase in many countries
 - Issues of climate change and migration
 - Beijing+25 to be celebrated in 2020 (with 10 years of UNWomen). Identify what MUST go forward. 100 years ILO.
 - Visa problems again in 2019. US women were encouraged to take up this issue with their government/congress representatives as this violates the UN Treaty. Also it adds fuel to the call to move the UN from New York because “the ALL/grassroots” people are discriminated against. It was thought that with the new US Congress being mostly women this was an opportune time to “bombard” them on this issue
 - It was suggested that when delegates go for their interviews they should not mention human rights. They should take every bit of documentation to prove they have ties to their own country and would be returning there (although it is recognised that these “securities” again discriminate against the very women who should be present at CSW)
 - In the past twelve months new ground was broken with migration and sovereignty being discussed.
 - Technology (for example Identity Documents) could be used to reduce trafficking.
 - Second version of Outcomes Document – very weak, language needs to be strengthened
 - Femnet, Kenya – the personal is political
 - Partnerships can result in costs ballooning
 - Data – properly disaggregated. Qualitative not just quantitative
 - Oxfam – important to look at how resources are spent and the outcomes achieved
 - Justice is the priority
 - Dignity before Development (remember if you are not at the table, you are probably on the menu!)
3. NGO FORUM RECEPTION. New Yorker Hotel. Paid activity which Stacy Lara-Dry and Hazel Bowen attended. Good opportunity for networking.
 4. Building Social Protection Systems for Empowerment of Women and Girls in Developing countries
 5. Public Private Partnerships Accelerating Innovation and Ensuring Sustainability
 6. Childcare and Decent Work Making the Connections by Canadian Labour Congress 1030 Tuesday

7. Refugee Women need Social Protection in the Arab region 12.30 by GAWFCA
8. Shifting the Narrative: Financing Women's Rights through Tax Justice 12.30 Global Alliance for Tax Justice and Public Services International.
9. Legal Mediation as a Social Protection mechanism Center for Egyptian women's Legal Assistance and information
10. Gender Mainstreaming in Infrastructure, Services, Social Protection: Global Legal Critique
11. The Empowerment of W and G: Making Mental Health a Priority
12. American society of criminology. Division on women and crime: "Empowering Girls & Women Facing Violence in Family Settings". Creating safe spaces was very important. Long time strategy for care for survivors is necessary but does not yet exist.
13. American society of criminology. Division on women and crime: "The Safety of Women & Girls in Educational Setting". Sexual assaults at University Campuses are not well documented. Some female students described their experiences with sexual assaults at their university campus. Violence in public places (also schools) not well documented.

Relevance For GWI

As this relates to tertiary education this is an important topic for attention by GWI.

SIDE EVENTS

1. Opening ceremony with the Secretary General and NGO meeting with the Secretary General shared by UN Women. Venue: General Assembly. Date and time: Monday 11, 9:00 – 13:00; Tuesday 12, 8:30-12h00; Wednesday 13th, 13h15-14:30

Subject of meeting: Statements and Interaction between UN System and NGOs, Townhall meeting of civil society and UN Secretary General

KEY POINTS TAKEN FROM MEETINGS: UN ability to sustain the process and tools to combine the needs of States with those of the NGO organisations involvement (and wanting faster results).

Discussed : food crisis, access to employment, GBV/FGM, Youth training (skills for the workplace), women and access to resources, Charter on Women in Technology

2. Orientation Session. Venue: 777 Union Plaza, New York NY 10017, 2nd Floor
Monday 11 March 2019 – Topic: NGO CSW 63 NGO Forum

Key points:

Africa is the one that brought the term "girl child" into the conversation around the status of women at the Fourth World Conference on Women: *Action for Equality, Development and Peace* was the name given for a conference convened by the United Nations during 4-15 September 1995 in Beijing, China. Director of the Civil Society Division of UN Women, Lopa Banerjee, made some useful interventions: (a) "[The effect of] Policy is not coincidental [e.g. poverty, the disenfranchisement of women] – it is because of policy choices". (b) "The care burden on girls and women is one of the biggest challenges to their education and work".

RELEVANCE FOR GWI/NFAs

We cannot speak of work whilst not considering the invisible work of women (e.g. care work).

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

"The second remark above by Lopa Banerjee resonates with my PhD which speaks to the disproportionate division of labour in households of girls compared with their boy counterparts".

3. UN Morning Briefings (daily 9.15 – 10.00 am). Very useful to attend. Clear message from the UNWomen: Keep a broad picture in view: women's rights are human rights!
4. Advocacy Training – lunchtimes. Excellent – very useful for all GWI representatives. Free guidebook provided.
5. Permanent Mission of Finland. International Helvi Sipilä Seminar: "My body is mine". GWI Executive Director, Stacy Lara Dry, took part on behalf of GWI and discussed the revolutionary

effects of accessible family planning. The Seminar focussed on how free contraception is linked to empowerment and education. The politics in Helsinki of free contraception were highlighted (for 15 – 25 year olds). In Norway abortion diminished by 1/3 after free contraception for every girl / woman. Topic linked with with SDG Goals 4, 5, 10 and 2.

A key take away : We have to engage men and boys also as well as focus on migrant girls and stateless girls. Tremendous lessons from Finnish case studies, in several approaches such as political, administrative and social. A few GWI delegates in attendance make interventions, including the issue of embarrassment or cultural barriers which prevent young women approaching staff in clinics etc.

6. Canadian Minister of Women and International Development, Mariam Monsef, Conference Room 12 at 1.15 on Monday.
7. Mexican Mission. MW-S was asked by our Mexican delegates to talk on CEDAW in Canada.
8. A High Level Intergenerational Dialogue: "Take the Hot Seat":. Subject of meeting: Youth voices. Conference Room 1, United Nations Headquarters, New York, Wednesday 13 March 2019. Refers to SDG no #: 16

Some key points :

UN Women Executive Director, Phumuzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, highlighted the importance of Beijing-25. One youth remarked that this was no longer the time for promises but rather for action and implementation. Ms Jayathma Wickramanayake of Sri Lanka, who has been made the UN Secretary General's next Envoy on Youth, made a number of meaningful interventions: (a) "We still live in an ageist society in many countries across the globe but youth must have a voice." (b) "We need to remove the age barriers to youth participation in politics." (c) "If the table is too small, then it needs to be made bigger so women and girls can have a voice."

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

There seemed to be a bit of waxing lyrical. It was inspiring, however, to see young women parliamentarians, for example Marta Lucia Ramirez who had been the first female (and young) Cabinet Minister in a number of portfolios and is now the first female Vice President of Colombia.

9. Permanent mission of the Netherlands: "Women in the media".

Minister for Education, Science and Culture in charge of women's affairs presented: GWI delegate raised the importance of education for the poorest girls because the uneducated girls are at high risk of traffickers.

10. Permanent mission of the Netherlands: "Lessons for future funding" (projects in the global South) Nothing new!

11. The European Union (Council): "Women on the frontlines: Lessons learnt from Syria & Yemen", led by the EU High representative for Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini.

Moderator was obvious looking for examples of reconciliation to be used in the EU negotiations following days in Brussels.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION: Typical example for effective lobby opportunity.

10. The European Union (Commission): "Access to rights for women & girls who are victims of trafficking". The EU Special rapporteur against trafficking has only a Coordinating function.

11. The European Parliament: Debriefing

Observations from the EU Commission /Topics of the CSW session are:

- . Sexual and reproductive rights, Climate, Migration, Family and the rights of minorities
- . Gender pay gap within EU remains still substantial. Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women received much attention; however, eradication of violence against women remains very difficult. Women's organizations were asked to organize pressure on governments to comply with promises. The EU kept up a unified approach.

12. The EU Commission: Debriefing.

For very young mothers it is hard to find a way back to education. Final document: Much focus on the younger generation with little on the older generation.

RELEVANCE FOR GWI

Intergenerational approach and young mothers trying to go back to their studies.

13. Holy See (Vatican): "Social protection systems and access to public services in the fight against human trafficking".

Education and social protection against human trafficking. You should know your own human rights. Examples of female literacy rates: global 80 %, China 83 % and India 65 %. Much research has been done to show the correlation between lack of education and people falling prey to traffickers.. Education, formal or informal is the key to community resilience.

Health care and social protection against trafficking. Health services are central to a survivor's recovery and should be given by professionals who understand trafficked persons. The language and behaviour of the health care giver should not worsen the trafficked person's trauma. "There is no shame in being trafficked".

14. African Arab lunch : UN restaurant on top of the UN building. 5 March; 12:30-14h30

Subject of meeting: The Arab-African Initiative for Sustainable Development in Africa

KEY POINTS TAKEN FROM MEETING: Arab Boosting African Arab funds to finance. A follow up is required to be sure that funds can be allocated to reach GWI goals in Africa.

14. SADC : Government representatives from the various SADC countries (such as Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa) enumerated the social protection legislation and policies enacted in their countries. It was mentioned that social protection should not be regarded as "charity", and that an important question is "what is the cost if a country does not have these protections". Social development is a Human Right. Namibia mentioned it had made history by being the first to enact a minimum wage for domestic workers. South Africa saw the access to services as a means of keeping patriarchy at bay. South Africa also highlighted that child-headed families needed a range of support and services. Minister Dlamini felt that big business and financial institutions could do more to ensure dignity for women and children. Although the girl child is excelling there are still gaps such as drop-outs. The issue of land ownership by women was also emphasised (when discussing poverty and unemployment). Mention was made of the new 2018 Zimbabwean Constitution. Tests for Cervical cancer is being done (seems from quite a young age), there is an Aids levy (3% tax) which goes into a National Aids Trust Fund to assist with treatment. 75% of the funds come through partnerships. Malawi mentioned housing and schooling in rural areas. They have set up a Youth Employment Programme.

15. Tackling discrimination to strengthen social protection. New ILO convention on harassment at the work place to be signed in July 2019. (Finally after at least 10 years a new convention). In education many barriers for girls: Sexual violence in school, lack of toilets, period poverty, no attendance during this period. Quality education is human rights based. Much more violence against women/girls after football matches, more homicides immediately after the death penalty (state violence). More family violence committed by men. (In New Zealand paid leave for women after domestic violence).

Relevance for GWI/NFAs:

Women's and human rights organizations should contribute to the country reports for the CEDAW Committee, Special rapporteur on Violence and the Universal Periodic Reviews. ("Making the invisible, visible").

OUR AFFILIATES

1. The Promise of Global Citizenship Education and the Power of Digital Literacy CFUW and GWI 1030 Wednesday. Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI VP: Membership presented on behalf of GWI. Her presentation was excellent, providing advantages of digital possibilities for women and

girls all over the world but also highlighting issues of unethical behaviour. The call was for people to take responsibility for their own digital behaviour. Also highlighted: Social media can also cause loneliness, poor social skills including not being able to read social cues; also the threats of cybercrime.

2. Social Protection and Empowerment: a Showcase from Australia and Rwanda GWI

Venue: 4W43, Aqua Room 15th March, 2019, 12.30 pm.

Refers to SDG no #: 4 AND 5

Key points taken from meeting:

Start small, knowledge is power, together we can; women helping each other in their struggle; Women telling their story through photography; community farming and owning their project; the photovoice project; development of app to identify water leakages in homes; women artisans eg. the lady plumber; old-aged pension, parent payment schemes; general social protection policies (a case study of Australia); access to public services in Rwanda; achievement of a 50/50 cabinet in 2018 in Rwanda as reported by Shirley Randell.

Relevant for GWI/NFAs

The 50/50 political cabinet seats occupied by women in Rwanda in 2018

The photovoice project in Australia

Interventions

Jaya Dantas was asked (regarding parent payment), if the number of children per family was restricted by government or how would the government cope if families had large families or practiced polygamy where a man could have four wives and twenty children.

The Voice of America correspondent/producer, Aunshuman Apte interviewed Victoria Pilah on early child marriage, and was it necessary to raise the issue at CSW63. Victoria replied that it was very apt to continue to bring the issue to the table until implementation of restrictions took place. She believed that taking a girl of under 16 years to marriage was evil and such girls should be allowed to divorce in the face of violence and abuse. She should not be denied divorce under the pretext that she is (now) under aged.

3. Women's Protection Teams: Building Sustainable Protective Infrastructures in South Sudan, The Non-violent Peace force (NP) and GWI. 4 W 43rd Street, Social Hall, 12 March 4:30 – 18:00

Subject of meeting: Transforming the world's response to conflict

Refers to SDG no #: 5 & 16

KEY POINTS TAKEN FROM MEETING: conflict analysis, mediation. Peace negotiation and gender based violence protection.

RELEVANCE FOR GWI/NFAs: new way for Peace protection for countries in conflict, women's role; take care of lack of inclusion of local people when talking about their own issues.

My intervention during the Sudan case conducted by DPI was lead from my experience in CAR (Central African Republic) and the WZ (Women's Zone) concept that was build there to assist vulnerable people and involve women in peace negotiations.

PRIVATE MEETINGS

1. Canadian delegates with Minister Monsef in which the attendees had a chance to state priorities, including, for example, childcare. The Minister reiterated her announcement of \$100 million dollars over 5 years for the sustainability of women's organizations in capacity building grants and mentioned the GBV policy including collecting from civil society of data on GBV, as well as a parliamentary advisory committee to address GBV. Through this initiative FaceBook had been persuaded to remove revenge sexual harassment. Internationally there will be 100 million dollars for organizations around the world to address GBV, also in the digital world. She stated that men and women use ICT differently and women need to be at the table when products are being developed.

2. Netherlands' NGO's briefing (daily 5.00 – 6.00 pm). Good for the coherence between national representatives.

CEDAW – called the Bill of Rights for Women. A 1979 development to help implement the Beijing Platform which brought about the domestication of legislation to ensure substantive equality. It also provides greater visibility for the issues contained in the Platform. 189 countries have ratified CEDAW making these countries accountable for ensuring women's rights. A reporting mechanism is now operational every four years on achievements, progress and challenges. There are general guidelines on reporting and on interpretation of the articles contained in CEDAW. Peace and security were not highlighted but have been added through general recommendations. A new recommendation now covers climate change. Article 5 (Combatting Stereotypes) does not mention "violence". Amendments can take up to two years as an "inclusive" process is followed.

What about accountability of states which have not ratified (or fully ratified)? eg USA, President Carter in 1979 signed the document which went to a Senate Judiciary Commission. It has never come to the Senate floor. An interesting development is that a number of major cities within USA are taking it upon themselves to endorse CEDAW.

16 Days of Activism – grassroots to grassroots.

GENERAL PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

CSW63 was a big eye opener. It was heartwarming to note the emphasis that educate and access to education for a girl child is a right, that women and girls are generally vulnerable and that they need empowerment and any support that will assist them to achieve education, peace and gender equality. Power is never given, it has to be taken, and we can only do that when we are well equipped (which is what CSW does).