

**COMMISSION** *on the*  
**STATUS OF WOMEN**



# Commission on the Status of Women 68th Session (CSW68)

## GWI Information Briefing

22 February 2024, 8:00 p.m. Central European Time



Graduate Women International (GWI)



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# Agenda

- Opening Technicalities: Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director
- Welcome: GWI President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole
- What are the CSW68 Priority and Review Themes
- How to Participate in CSW68
- GWI Advocacy Focus
- GWI and NFA Parallel and Side Events
- GWI In-Person Program
- Resources
- GWI Delegate Reports
- Q and A



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## **Difference between UN CSW and CSW Forum**

### **What is the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW)?**

The UN CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. This is the government side of the annual session. Side events must be sponsored by a Member State and are held inside the UN campus.

### **What is the CSW Forum?**

The NGO CSW Forum is a civil society gathering that runs parallel to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). It provides civil society the opportunity to engage with the CSW processes and sessions without any special qualifications (such as ECOSOC-accreditation). Parallel Events are produced under the CSW Forum and held outside the UN campus.



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## CSW68 Priority and Review Themes

The **CSW68** and **CSW68 Forum** take place **virtually and in person** at, or in the facility of, the United Nations headquarters in New York City from **11-22 March 2024**.

- Priority theme:** Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.
- Review theme:** Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session).



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# How to participate in CSW68

UN CSW68, CSW68 Forum, In-Person or Virtually

## UN CSW68



GWI Delegates are permitted to attend sessions inside the UN campus. **Some events require registration and tickets so research.**

**Side Events** are organized by Permanent Missions and NGOs and are only held inside the UN Campus. The schedule of CSW68 side events will be published here and should be checked frequently:  
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024/side-events>

The **CSW68 Organization of Work** constantly changes. Frequently check here to see activities and plan your day  
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024>

For support regarding the UN CSW68, please contact UN Women:  
[csw@unwomen.org](mailto:csw@unwomen.org)



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# How to participate in CSW68

UN CSW68, CSW68 Forum, In-Person or Virtually

## CSW68 Forum



The **CSW68 Forum** offers the opportunity to explore hundreds of events and connect with thousands of participants. The UN CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

**CSW68 Forum** – Registration is **FREE** and open to all civil society. Register here: <https://ngocsw68forum.vfairs.com/en/registration-form>

For support regarding the NGO CSW68 Forum platform, please contact NGO CSW New York : [ngocsw68forum@getvfairs.io](mailto:ngocsw68forum@getvfairs.io)





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# How to participate in CSW68

UN CSW68, CSW68 Forum, In-Person or Virtually



**NOT ATTENDING CSW68 IN PERSON?**

## Let's Go Virtual!

The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) offers a virtual environment that allows everyone to participate in the UN CSW68 and the CSW68 Forum sessions. The UN CSW68 and the CSW68 Forum offer opportunities to explore hundreds of events and connect with thousands of participants, **including events organised by GWI and many organized by GWI affiliates**. There is no reason to miss out. Follow the CSW68 sessions live and undisturbed! **Advocacy Idea:** Meet with fellow NFA members or colleagues to watch the sessions live or at a convenient time. Then, follow with discussion and advocacy planning.

Parallel event accessible from the CSW68 Forum.

Side Events accessible from UN CSW68.

Live events on UN WebTV.

Let's Go Virtual links:

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Lets-go-virtual-CSW68-6.pdf>



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# GWI Advocacy Focus Area for CSW68

GWI concentrates on the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for the United Nations 2030 agenda, with laser focus on SDG 4 as part of the GWI Renew and Rebuild programme.



**Goal 4** : Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



**Goal 5** : Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.





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# GWl CSW68 Parallel Events

Register for GWl parallel events vis the GWl website CSW68 page or directly in the CSW68 Forum.

*#1: Educating Outside the Classroom: Women's Museums Empowering Girls and Women 12 March 2024, 7:30 p.m. Central European Time (CET) / 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).* Developed by GWl VP Education, Shirley Gillett, and GWl Education Committee Chair Lucia Guzman, with support from EduCom.

Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtdemspz8qHdFiSi2papvI07L2Hjy\\_bR\\_1#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtdemspz8qHdFiSi2papvI07L2Hjy_bR_1#/registration)

*#2 Financial Institutions and Infrastructure Perpetuating Poverty – Gender Bias in Economic Policy 18 March 2024, 7:30 p.m. Central European Time (CET) / 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).* Developed by GWl VP Advocacy, Shaila Rao Mistry, and GWl VP Membership, Meera Bondre with support from MemCom.

Register here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pfuusqT8pE9R-V\\_MEbC18s\\_5bGJqOi\\_Zb#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pfuusqT8pE9R-V_MEbC18s_5bGJqOi_Zb#/registration)

*#3: Sustainable Financing for Gender Equality: Young Women's Perspective 19 March 2024, 1:30 p.m. Central European Time (CET) / 8:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).* Developed by GWl Young Member Network President, Sudha Srivastava, and GWl Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsdOqrrT0rHNW6c-kQWj4d-wWgnR90HaEJ#/registration>



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# NFA Parallel and Side Events

(Note: this is the information available to me at this time)

- Women Graduates-USA Sponsored Parallel Events

## Virtual Events

***#1: Improving Infrastructure and Financing to Support Global Women in Midlife(40+) and Beyond, Sunday, March 17 – 2:30 p.m. EST***

**Presenters: Dr. Nirshila Chand and Dr. Rajasree Nambron**

***#2. Title: Challenge to Empowerment: Experience and Replicable Strategies of Refugee Women”, Tuesday, March 19 - at 2:30 p.m. EST***

Sponsored by: CAMEUS and presented by 3 refugee women explaining their pathway to professional success as they traveled from their home countries through Canada, Mexico and/or the United States.

***#3. Poverty Impacting Women’s Healthcare Access: Gender Biased Artificial Intelligence and Infrastructure Creating Barriers, Wednesday, March 20 – at 12:30 p.m. EST***

**Organizer: Shaila Rao Mistry**



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# NFA Parallel and Side Events

(Note: Information available at this time.)

## **Women Graduates-USA Sponsored Parallel Events**

### In Person Events

#1: Barriers to Economic Stability for Women and Girls Due to Political Instability, War and Lack of Education”, Thursday ?? at 8:30 a.m. EST (in the Congo) Dr. Magda Kaniki and Dr. Francisca Ramoni

#2. WG-USA sponsored luncheon on Tuesday, March 12 at 12:30 PM \$46 per person, IIE personnel are invited as our guests, you must register to attend

Other events to be announced as shared with GWI.




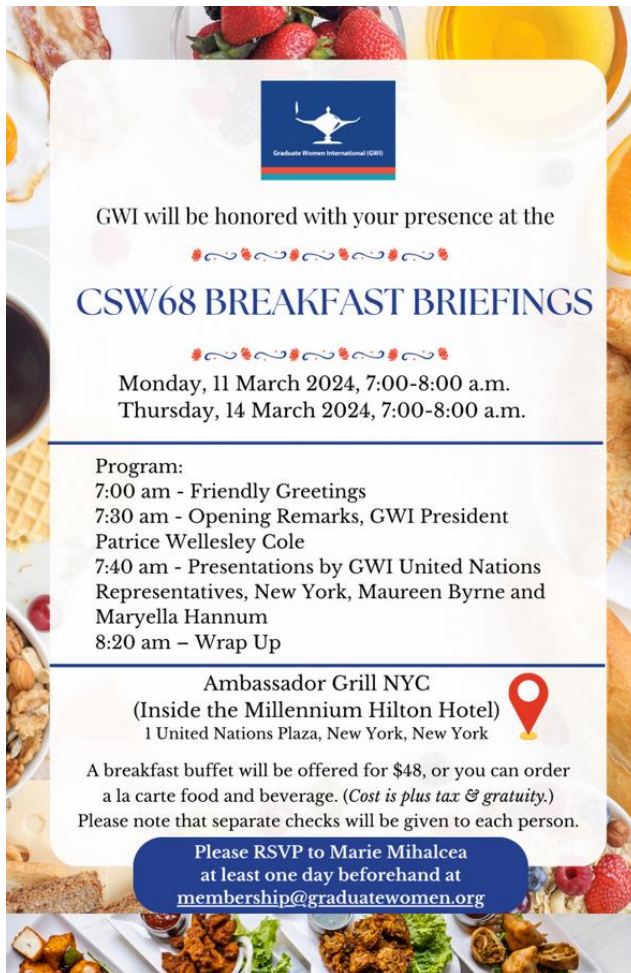
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# GWI In-Person Social Events

## Two Breakfast Briefings

Monday, 11 March, Thursday 14 March, 7:00 a.m.

Social Dinner: Wednesday, 13 March, 7:00 p.m.



GWI will be honored with your presence at the

**CSW68 BREAKFAST BRIEFINGS**

Monday, 11 March 2024, 7:00-8:00 a.m.  
Thursday, 14 March 2024, 7:00-8:00 a.m.

Program:

- 7:00 am - Friendly Greetings
- 7:30 am - Opening Remarks, GWI President Patrice Wellesley Cole
- 7:40 am - Presentations by GWI United Nations Representatives, New York, Maureen Byrne and Maryella Hannum
- 8:20 am - Wrap Up

Ambassador Grill NYC  
(Inside the Millennium Hilton Hotel)  
1 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York

A breakfast buffet will be offered for \$48, or you can order a la carte food and beverage. (*Cost is plus tax & gratuity.*)  
Please note that separate checks will be given to each person.

Please RSVP to Marie Mihalcea  
at least one day beforehand at  
[membership@graduatewomen.org](mailto:membership@graduatewomen.org)

[www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)



GWI will be honored with your presence at the festive  
**GWI CSW68 Social Dinner**  
and International Women's Day Gathering

Wednesday, 13 March 2024, 7-9 p.m.  
(Please arrive by 7:00 p.m.)

**Ali Baba Mediterranean & Turkish cuisine**  
224 E 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022

A family-style plated dinner will be served for \$60 per person, inclusive of gratuity.  
**Please note that the dinner cost is payable in cash & will be collected at upon entry.**  
Beverages of your choice will be available for an extra cost.

Space is limited to 50 attendees. Please RSVP to Marie Mihalcea  
soon, and by 11 March at [membership@graduatewomen.org](mailto:membership@graduatewomen.org)







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# Some Resources

## **GWI Website: What We Do/CSW/CSW68**

<https://graduatewomen.org/csw68-general-information-and-registration/>

## **GWI Executive Director and UN Representatives, New York:**

1. Stacy Dry Lara, [sdl@graduatewomen.org](mailto:sdl@graduatewomen.org)
2. Maureen Byrne, [mbyrne22222@verizon.net](mailto:mbyrne22222@verizon.net)
3. Maryella Hannum, [maryella.hannum@gmail.com](mailto:maryella.hannum@gmail.com)

**CSW68 Forum Website:** Everything related to the CSW68 Forum: registration, parallel event schedule, civil society briefings, conversation circles, and much more. <https://ngocsw.org/ngocsw68/>

**UN CSW68 website:** Everything related to UN CSW – Organization of Work, side events schedule, latest Zero Draft, Agreed Conclusions and more. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024>,

**UN Web TV:** live and recorded UN CSW68 sessions.  
<https://webtv.un.org/en>

# Some Resources



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1. Stacy Dry Lara, [sdl@graduatewomen.org](mailto:sdl@graduatewomen.org)
2. Maureen Byrne, [mbyrne22222@verizon.net](mailto:mbyrne22222@verizon.net)
3. Maryella Hannum, [maryella.hannum@gmail.com](mailto:maryella.hannum@gmail.com)

**CSW68 Forum Website:** Everything related to the CSW68 Forum: registration, parallel event schedule, civil society briefings, conversation circles, and much more. <https://ngocsw.org/ngocsw68/>

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# More Resources: GWI CSW68 Written Statement

## GWJ CSW68 Written statement

Education is the cornerstone on which a more equitable and prosperous future can be built for women and girls, and it is through financing of education that we can address poverty, narrow the gender gap, and strengthen institutions....

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/n2338087.pdf>.

### **Messaging for advocacy:**

1. Education, especially for women and girls, is pivotal for achieving gender equality and reducing poverty.
2. Graduate Women International (GWI) advocates for universal access to quality education and lifelong learning.
3. GWI urges states to prioritize education financing as a means to eradicate poverty and narrow the gender gap.
4. Strengthening institutions is crucial alongside education to ensure sustainable progress.
5. Gender-responsive financing is essential to dismantle systemic biases and promote gender equality in education.





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# More resources: GWI Cosponsored NFA CSW68 Written Statements

## Canadian Federation of University Women

CFUW calls on member states to ensure publicly funded quality primary education for all, accelerate actions to meet SDG 1 targets, and invest in evidence-informed, targeted strategies to dismantle systemic barriers of economic exclusion. They also advocate for investments in community-based, women-led poverty eradication initiatives and in reskilling/upskilling workers affected by AI technology.

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/n2338073.pdf>

## Women-Graduates-USA

Financial systems inadvertently perpetuate poverty, hindering progress despite efforts to promote gender equality. Addressing poverty requires comprehensive measures, particularly in education, health, and economic empowerment for women, as these factors are deeply intertwined and crucial for achieving sustainable development and gender equality.

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/n2333692.pdf>



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# GWI Cosponsored CSW68 Written Statements



1. **International Federation of Professional and Business Women**  
[https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/IFBPW-CSW68\\_GWI-Cosponsor.pdf](https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/IFBPW-CSW68_GWI-Cosponsor.pdf)
2. **Soroptimist** <https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/n2335048-1.pdf>
3. **Widow's Rights International:** <https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/n2335059.pdf>
4. **Women's Federation for World Peace International**  
<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/n2339676.pdf>
5. **Zonta** <https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/n2335060.pdf>



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# GWI Reports

**Reporting is critical to the legacy of CSW68 and future advocacy work.**

All GWI representatives to CSW68 are encouraged to submit reports of sessions attended. This comprehensive summary is available worldwide with Calls to Action for governments, public and private sectors, educational institutions, and other NGOs stemming from CSW68.

**Your reports are important and** easy-to-complete with the online report that can be accessed here:

<https://graduatewomen.org/csw68-delegate-reports/>

Reminder: Photos can be uploaded to the reports. Don't forget to **take pictures!**



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# Thank you!



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**A PROUD MEMBER OF GWI**