



Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

Graduate Women International (GWI) Delegate Handbook

Commission on the Status of Women 68th session (CSW68)



**11-22 March 2024
New York**

Dear GWI CSW68 Delegates and Friends,

The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) starts Sunday, 10 March 2024 with Consultation Day and then continues for the next two weeks. We are introducing the GWI Participants CSW68 Handbook, a comprehensive guide curated to provide you with invaluable insights and resources essential for your engagement in CSW68. Within these pages, you will find practical information, including links to the latest session schedules, and essential resources, designed to enhance your understanding and participation.

Whether you are a seasoned advocate or attending for the first time, the Handbook is a valuable tool to maximize your experience and impact.

Your commitment to participating in CSW68 is commendable, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you. Your dedication to promoting the 105-year mission of Graduate Women International (GWI) is inspiring.

We wish you a fruitful session filled with meaningful discussions, valuable connections, and impactful contributions, and knowledge collection. Together, let us strive to create positive change and advance the global agenda for our beloved GWI.

Warm regards,

GWI Office
Stacy Dry Lara
GWI Executive Director
gwi@graduatewomen.org

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
GWJ Official CSW68 Delegates	4
Let’s Start with Some Refresher Basics.....	5
What is the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women?.....	5
UN Secretary General CSW68 Report	5
UN CSW68 Priority and Review Themes.....	6
Principal Outcomes Expected.....	6
How Can You Participate in the UN CSW68?	6
What are UN CSW68 Side Events	6
What is the NGO CSW Forum?	7
CSW68 Forum Portal Registration: It’s Important.....	7
CSW68 Advocacy Toolkit.....	8
What are CSW68 Forum Parallel Events	8
What are the Differences Between the UN CSW and the CSW Forum?.....	8
In Person Parallel Events.....	8
GWJ Parallel Events.....	9
Let’s Go Virtual	12
GWJ In-Person CSW68 Program	13
GWJ Overarching Advocacy Goals	13
Five International Advocacy Points for GWJ CSW68 Delegates	14
Five Advocacy Points GWJ CSW68 Delegates Should Avoid.....	14
GWJ Written and Oral Statements	15
GWJ National Federation and Association Written Statements.....	16
Canadian Federation of University Women.....	16
Women Graduates-USA.....	16
Some GWJ Cosponsored Written Statements.....	17
GWJ Three Interactive Dialogs (ID) Interventions.....	17
Your Reports Matter! How to Submit a CSW68 Report.....	18
More Activities to Enhance Your Participation	18
Ministerial Roundtables.....	18
Civil Society Briefings	19
Networking During CSW68 is Powerful.....	19
Conversation Circles	19
Artisan Fair	19
Practical Information for GWJ Delegates Who Will Access the UN	20

UN Grounds Pass Collection.....	20
WiFi.....	21
Food and Beverage	21
A Few Other Titbits of Information.....	21
Be Vigilant	21
Some Interesting and Helpful Resources.....	22
Leading up to the CSW68 Priority Theme: Chronology of CSW Work.....	22



Graduate Women International (GWI) Delegate Handbook

**Commission on the Status of Women 68th session (CSW68)
11-22 March 2024
New York**

#GraduateWomen #GirlsEducation #GWICSWDelegates #GWIImpact

GWI Official CSW68 Delegates

Delegates

Name/NFA

1. Jolie Massay, Association Congolaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités
2. Tzazil Valencia Oseguer, Federacion Mexicana de Universitarias
3. Terry Oudraad, GWI Immediate Past President, Women Graduates-The Netherlands
4. Ioanna Katiforis, Graduate Women New Zealand
5. Gretta Mills, Graduate Women New Zealand
6. Shirley Gillett, GWI VP Education, Graduate Women New Zealand
7. Mira Karunanidhi, Graduate Women New Zealand
8. Isabel Bolli, Association Suisse des Femmes Diplômées des Universités
9. Ursula Bolli-Schaffner, Association Suisse des Femmes Diplômées des Universités
10. Basak Ovacik, GWI Immediate VP Fundraising, Turkish Association of University Women
11. Carrie de Silva, British Federation of Women Graduates
12. Patrice Wellesley-Cole, GWI President, British Federation of Women Graduates
13. Catriona Sutherland, GWI Resolution Committee Convenor, British Federation of Women Graduates
14. Sudha Srivastava, GWI Treasurer and Young Member Network President, British Federation of Women Graduates
15. Shaila Rao Mistry, GWI VP Advocacy, WG-USA
16. Maureen Byrne, GWI UN Representative, New York, WG-USA
17. Maryella Hannum, GWI UN Representative, New York, WG-USA
18. Salma Kilio Dhliwayo, Zimbabwe Association of University Women
19. Shingirirayi Mugaviri, Zimbabwe Association of University Women
20. Mercy Chatyoka, Zimbabwe Association of University Women

GWl NFA Members

There are many other GWl members who are participating in the CSW68, but we do not have everyone's name. Some are: Jaya AR Dantas and Shirley Randell, Australian Graduate Women Inc., Mbayame NDIAYE, Adama DIEYE, Bintou Ramatoulaye SANE, and Amsatou FALL all from the Senegalese association of University Women, and many others. Please let the GWl office know if you are attending as GWl, and we are delighted to add you to this list, gwi@graduatewomen.org.

GWl Staff

Stacy Dry Lara, GWl Executive Director

Let's Start with Some Refresher Basics

What is the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women?

The United Nations (UN) [Commission on the Status of Women \(UN CSW\)](#) is an official Commission of the UN, established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946, that focuses on the rights and empowerment of women and global gender equality. It's an inter-governmental body consisting of 45 Member State governments of the UN. It brings together representatives from governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders with the goal to play vital role in advocating for women's rights, shaping global standards, and monitoring progress made in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

During the Commission's annual two-week session, all stakeholders discuss emerging issues affecting gender equality, and actions to promote women's rights through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As the Secretariat of the CSW, [UN Women](#) (an official UN agency), supports all aspects of the Commission's work. At the end of the two weeks, an outcome document called the Agreed Conclusions is produced on the theme. For more information, visit the official [UN CSW](#) website.

During UN CSW is a formal United Nation program with accompanying side events take place at UN headquarters New York. NOTE: Formal program sessions may require registration or secondary passes to attend in-person. The list of official meetings can be found here: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/CSW68-2020/official-meetings>

*Each NGO in consultative status with the ECOSOC, is permitted a maximum of 20 registered delegates to attend UN CSW. Registration for the UN CSW68 closed on 24 January 2024. Due to space constraints, some of the sessions are further restricted on how many representatives can attend in-person meetings and events per organization.

UN Secretary General CSW68 Report

In his CSW68 report, Secretary General Antionio Guterres speaks to the following points:

1. Women's and girls' poverty
2. Financing and institutional challenges
3. Strengthening financing and institutions with a view to ending women's and girls' poverty

4. Fostering new development strategies towards sustainable economies and societies
5. Conclusions and recommendations

UN Secretary General CSW68 Report can be found here: <https://documents.un.org/doc/un-doc/gen/n24/011/64/pdf/n2401164.pdf?token=bMPo8eA6ilcQZNfd5j&fe=true>

UN CSW68 Priority and Review Themes

- **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 CSW63)

Principal Outcomes Expected

1. Agreed Conclusions that outline commitments and actions to advance gender equality and the rights of women.
2. Policy Recommendations centered around the priority and review themes to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women globally.

These outcomes contribute to advancing the global agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment as outlined in international frameworks such as the BDPfA and the SDGs. In addition, summaries by the Chair of the Commission of high-level round tables and interactive dialogues highlight key issues discussed, including recommendations for further action. These summaries are not negotiated.

How Can You Participate in the UN CSW68?

If you are an official GWI CSW68 delegate, you will have your UN grounds pass to access sessions and side events in the UN. Many events require pre-registration for a maximum number of attendees or for tickets, so you need to check the schedules regularly.

What are UN CSW68 Side Events

Side events take place as part of the official UN CSW program and are hosted by Member States and UN agencies with ECOSOC-accredited organizations as partners. They take place inside of the UN HQ and require a UN grounds pass or special event ticket to attend. (Additionally, there will be virtual side events which will be open to the public.) The side event schedule is fluid and it's recommended to check the schedule regularly as you plan your daily activities. For more information about side events, visit <https://www.un-women.org/en/csw/csw68-2024/side-events/schedule>

What is the NGO CSW Forum?



The [NGO CSW Forum](#) is an annual event that takes place in New York City, and virtually since 2021, parallel to the UN CSW. The NGO CSW Forum is organized by the [NGO Committee on the Status of](#)

[Women New York](#) and provides an opportunity for NGOs, activists, advocates, and experts working on women's rights and gender equality issues to come together, share information, collaborate, and engage in advocacy efforts. The forum facilitates Parallel Events that are held outside of the UN campus and do not require Member State sponsorship. Any NGO or individual may apply to hold a Parallel Event.

While the NGO CSW Forum runs parallel to and complements the UN CSW, it is a separate process with separate organizers. NOTE: NGO CSW Forum sessions are held outside of UN headquarters in many locations near and around the UN and can be attended by civil society at large. The CSW68 Forum will offer nearly 900 Parallel Events.

The CSW68 Forum is completely free and open to the public, welcoming registrations from individuals, whether affiliated with an organization or not. The Parallel Events are a cornerstone and a widely appreciated aspect of the CSW Forum. Parallel Events take place at the CSW68 Forum and are hosted by civil society organizations or groups. Nearly 900 in-person and virtual Parallel Events will be offered at CSW68 Forum. Because they are outside the official UN CSW session, they are open to the public and free to attend. These events allow for education and galvanizing around different issues and topics within the feminist and women's movement.

Please note that registering for the CSW68 Forum does not include a UN grounds pass or access to the UN building. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing essential details and a link to access the virtual portal for exploration. For additional information regarding registration, please click here: <https://ngocsw.org/ngocsw68-faqs/>

CSW68 Forum Portal Registration: It's Important



The CSW68 VFairs platform is packed with invaluable resources. Here, you can network with like-minded individuals, customize your CSW68 agenda by selecting from a variety of parallel events, and access numerous other features to enhance your experience. You can register for the CSW68 Forum here: <https://ngocsw68forum.vfairs.com/en/registration-form>.

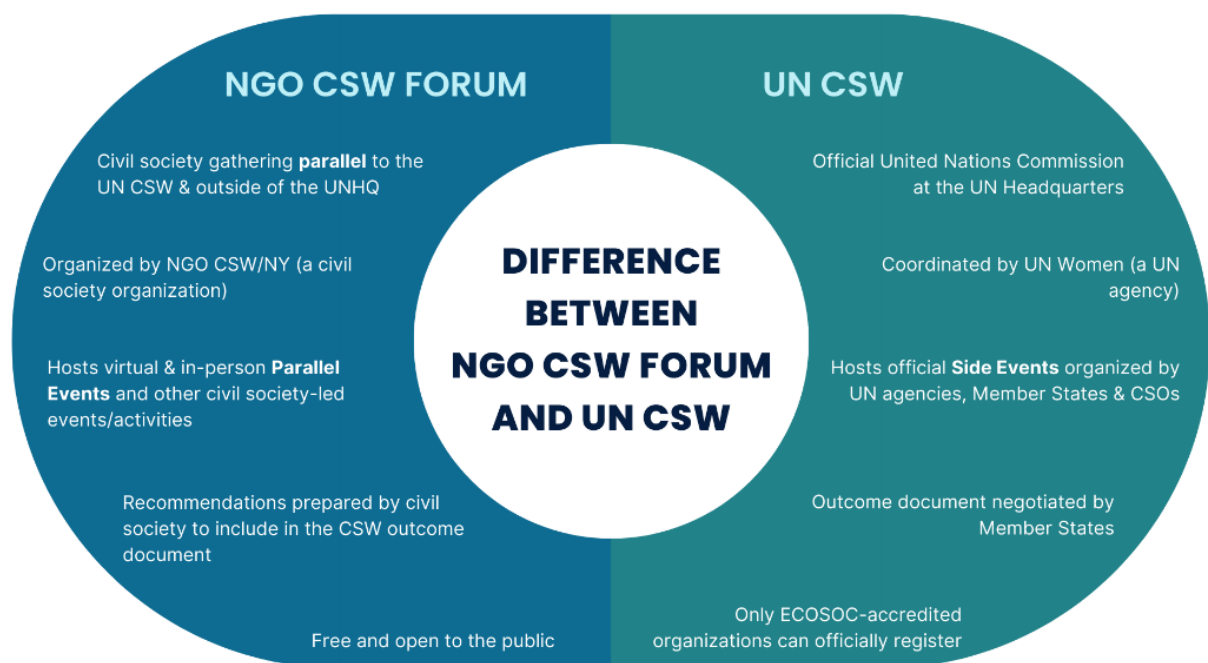
CSW68 Advocacy Toolkit

A comprehensive resource empowering NGOs, civil society representatives, and feminist activists to enhance their advocacy skills for their organizations and advance global gender equality efforts. The comprehensive toolkit can be found here: <https://ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/NGO-CSW68-Advocacy-Toolkit-compressed.pdf>

What are CSW68 Forum Parallel Events

One of the key components of the NGO CSW Forum is the Parallel Events. Each year, civil society organizations (around the globe to apply to host a Parallel Event, regardless of their UN ECOSOC accreditation status. These events are completely organized by the host organization and address the UN CSW priority and/or review theme in some way. Parallel Events are held in person and virtually. It is recommended to

What are the Differences Between the UN CSW and the CSW Forum?



In Person Parallel Events

CSW68 Parallel Event Locations: Most CSW68 Forum Parallel Events take place namely at these locations:

Church Center of the UN
777 UN Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Salvation Army
221 E 52nd Street
New York, NY 10022

Armenian Convention Center
630 2nd Avenue at 35th St
New York, NY 10016

GWI Parallel Events

GWI is organizing three Parallel Events, each delivering quality, professional speakers. Please take a look at the following flyers and register for the events.

Register here for the women's museum event here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtdemspz8qHdFiSi2papvl07L2Hjy_bR_1

Graduate Women International
Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

Educating Outside the Classroom: Women's Museums Empowering Girls and Women

Speakers:

- Shirley Randell** (Australia): "Her Place: Women's Museums in Australia"
- Patricia Galeana** (Mexico): "The Women's Museum in Mexico: an open book for the people"
- Geneviève Adukpo** (Ghana): "Women's Museums empowering girls and women: The case of Ghana"
- Shirley Gillett** (New Zealand): GWI Education Vicepresident
- Confidence Dikgole** (South Africa): "Shining a spotlight on South African heroines"
- Nesrin KOÇ** (Turkey): "Empowering women: A Journey through some Turkish Women's Museums"
- Lucía Guzmán** (Mexico): GWI Education Committee convenor

Date:
12 March 2024
7:30 p.m. Central European Time (CET)
2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

QR Code: [QR Code]

To register for this parallel event, visit the next site:
<https://graduatewomen.org/csw68-general-information-and-registration/>

ID Zoom, more information and register in: repcionmuseomujer@gmail.com

Facebook: [MuseodelaMujerMexico](https://www.facebook.com/MuseodelaMujerMexico) | www.museodelamujer.org.mx

Twitter: [@museodelamujer](https://twitter.com/@museodelamujer)

Instagram: [@museodelamujercdmx](https://www.instagram.com/@museodelamujercdmx)

YouTube: [Museo de la Mujer](https://www.youtube.com/Museo de la Mujer)

Register here for the financial institutions event: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pfuusqT8pE9R-V_MEbC18s_5bGJqOi_Zb



Commission on Status of Women
Graduate Women International Geneva

Financial Institutions and Infrastructures Perpetuating Poverty and Gender Bias

Mon, Mar 18, 2024, at 2.30 pm EST/ 11.30 am PST



Financial institutions and infrastructures intended to promote economic growth and alleviate poverty, systematically contribute to perpetuating and widening gender bias. Understanding inhibitive financial policies exposes the causal linkage with poverty, and the intersectionality of infrastructures with mindsets, which exclude women's economic participation. What are some meaningful advancements to ameliorate systemic barriers to access the money-well? Are we addressing unbanked women? Are we including women in decision making ?

Click [HERE](#) to register for this parallel event.
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pfuusqT8pE9R-V_MEbC18s_5bGJqOi_Zb#/registration



Shaila Rao Mistry
CEO Founder STEM-Institute,
VP Advocacy, Graduate Women International
Moderator - Speaker
Financial Institutions Perpetuating Poverty
and Gender Bias



Hana Brix
Global Director, Gender, World
Bank
Innovating for Women's
Empowerment and Leadership



INVITED - Recently Appointed
Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda
UN Deputy Executive Director for
Normative Support, UN System
Coordination and Program Results for
Gender Equality and Empowerment of
Women



Monique Newlak
Deputy Chief of the IMF's Inclusion and
Gender Unit
Integrating a Gender Lens into
Macroeconomic Policy

Join an insightful debate on financial Institutions Perpetuation Poverty and Gender Bias

Let's Go Virtual



COMMISSION *on the*
STATUS OF WOMEN
11-22 March 2024



The 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.


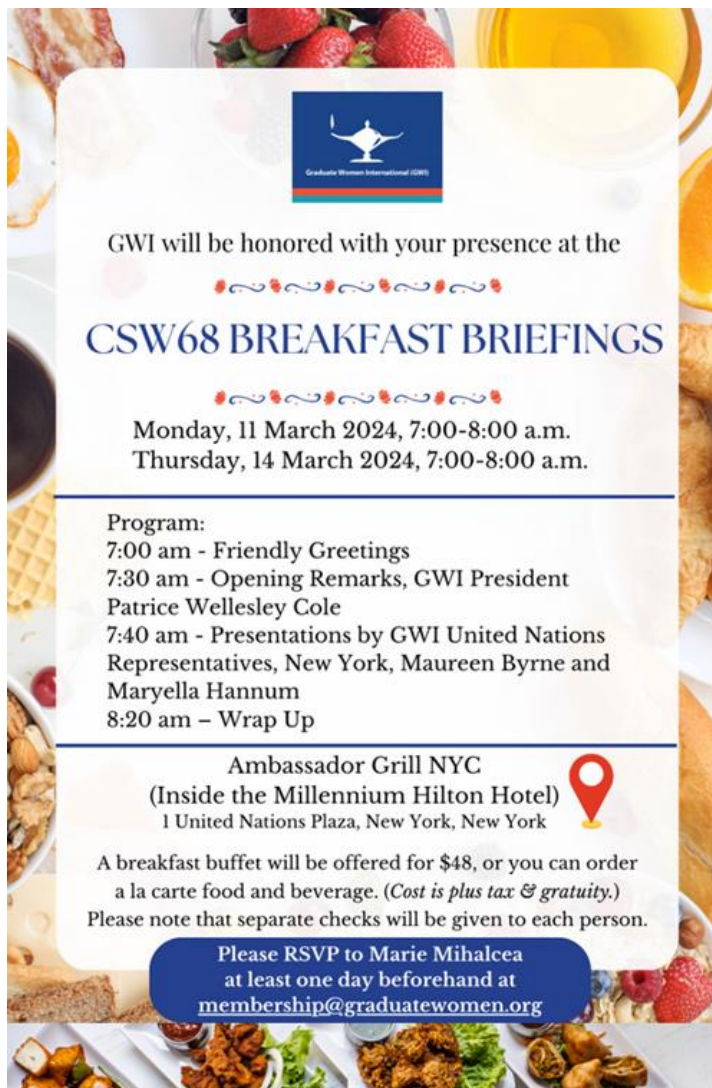
**ADVOCACY
IDEA**

Meet with fellow NFA members or colleagues to watch the CSW68 sessions live or at a convenient time. Follow with discussion and advocacy planning.

1. Follow UN sessions on UN Web TV <https://www.un.org/webcast/schedule/latest.html>
2. Register for the CSW Forum as per above to participate in hundreds of Parallel Event

GWI In-Person CSW68 Program

GWI is hosting two Breakfast Briefings and one Social Dinner during CSW68. Please join us!



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



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 40 attendees. Please RSVP to Marie Mihalcea soon, and by 11 March at membership@graduatewomen.org



GWI Overarching 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.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

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

Five International Advocacy Points for GWI CSW68 Delegates

1. Emphasize the importance of gender equality in education and employment opportunities. This includes stressing the need for policies and initiatives that promote equal access to education and employment for women at all levels, including graduate and postgraduate levels.
2. Highlight the significant impact of investing in women and girls' education on national and global development. Delegates can advocate for increased funding and support for scholarships, fellowships, and infrastructure including for digital access.
3. GWI delegates can raise awareness about the underrepresentation of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and the importance of addressing this disparity. Delegates can urge permanent missions to support initiatives that encourage and empower women to pursue careers in STEM and to remove barriers that hinder their participation.
4. Delegates should emphasize the importance of promoting women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes at all levels, including academia, research, policymaking, and in the private sector.
5. Delegates should advocate for policies and measures that ensure women have access to safe and inclusive learning environments free from discrimination, harassment, and violence.

Regarding the CSW68 Priority Theme: GWI delegates should stress the critical link between women's education, economic empowerment, and poverty alleviation. They can advocate for policies and programs that provide women with equal opportunities for economic participation, including access to education, vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and financial resources. Delegates should urge permanent missions to prioritize initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by women and girls to their inclusion in efforts to achieve economic sustainability.

Five Advocacy Points GWI CSW68 Delegates Should Avoid

1. Avoid making unsupported assumptions about a country's policies or practices related to education without sufficient evidence or understanding of the local context.
2. Avoid speaking on behalf of all women or making sweeping generalizations about women's experiences as needs vary from member state to member state.
3. Avoid focusing solely on problems or challenges without offering constructive solutions or suggestions for collaboration and partnership with the country's permanent mission and GWI.
4. Avoid promoting a one-size-fits-all approach to education and poverty alleviation, as member states have unique cultural, social, and economic contexts that require tailored approaches and strategies. Instead, emphasize the importance of dialogue, collaboration with GWI tailored support and in-country knowledge.
5. Avoid discussing sensitive financial matters related to GWI. It's critical to maintain confidentiality and professionalism with any setting and especially in a diplomatic setting,



to uphold GWI's integrity and reputation. Instead, focus on advocating for support and resources for GWI's mission and initiatives, highlighting the positive impact of investing in women's education.

GWI Written and Oral Statements

NGO statements provide valuable insights, data, and perspectives in support of the CSW priority theme, and they contribute to informed policy discussions and decision-making processes during CSW sessions. NGO written and oral statements shed light on the lived experiences and challenges faced by women and girls around the world to collectively amplify women's voices and influence CSW deliberations. NGO statements serve as advocacy tools and play a crucial role in shaping the discussions, priorities, and outcomes of CSW sessions, ultimately contributing to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide.



GWI CSW68 written statement sponsors.

GWI written CSW68 statement title: *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.* Please read the full statement here: <https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/n2338087.pdf>.

GWI Written Statement Summary for International 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.



GWI Full Oral Statement

Graduate Women International (GWI) and its global network of graduate women strongly assert, as we have done for the past 105 years, that education is the cornerstone of gender equality and socioeconomic empowerment. We embody the approach that education is a powerful tool in narrowing the gender gap, combating poverty, and strengthening institutions. Today, as part of the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, we call upon states to renew their commitment to existing UN mechanisms and resolutions, emphasizing integrating education into poverty reduction strategies, institutional strengthening, and gender-responsive financing.

Research consistently highlights the impact of education in breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing gender disparities. By equipping women and girls with skills and knowledge, education enhances their economic opportunities and fosters their financial independence. GWI urges states to align their efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4 for quality education that in itself will alleviate poverty, and to recall their commitment to the Third Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

Moreover, GWI emphasizes the critical need to strengthen institutions to translate educational opportunities into tangible progress effectively. We stand ready to support states in comprehensively addressing the root causes of poverty, advocating for inclusive policies and practices that leave no one behind.

In addition to education, GWI underscores the importance of gender-responsive financing to dismantle systemic biases and promote equality. By prioritizing resources tailored to address gender disparities in education, we can empower individuals and communities, especially those in rural and marginalized areas.

As part of the CSW68 agreed conclusions and actions long after the session has ended, GWI urges states to prioritize partnerships, recommit to UN mechanisms, develop gender-sensitive policies, and promote evidence-based policymaking. By working collaboratively with civil society organizations such as Graduate Women International, we can, together, build a future where all women and girls, have the opportunity to thrive, paving the way for a more equitable and sustainable societies and nations. [388 words, approximately three minutes]

GWI National Federation and Association 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>

Some GWI Cosponsored Written Statements



1. **International Federation of Professional and Business Women** https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/IFBPW-CSW68_GWI-Cosponsor.pdf
2. **Soroptimist International** <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>

GWI Three Interactive Dialogs (ID) Interventions

A limited number of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC will be able to make oral interventions during the interactive panels, subject to time availability. Interventions must be focused on the theme of the panel and not on any other issues. GWI inscribed to make an intervention at three ID. ID are held in person inside the UN campus and an official delegate UN grounds pass is required to enter.

ID Opportunity #1 Monday, 18 March 2024 | 10.00 am – 1.00 pm EST

Prepared by Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director, Graduate Women International

Topic: 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. Does your organization work on financing for gender equality in the context of addressing poverty and inequality? Based on your organization's work, what social/economic/fiscal policies would be most effective in ending women and girl's poverty? Does your organization work with or represent constituencies including trade unions/women's collectives/worker movements advocating for the rights of women and girls living in poverty? The ID concept note can be found [here](#). We invite you to read the full ID submission here: https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CSW68-Interactive-Dialog-Submission_Opportunity-1_PriorityTheme_SDL_FINAL.pdf



ID Opportunity #2 Thursday, 14 March 2024 | 3.00 - 6.00 p.m. EST

Prepared by Sudha Srivastava, President, Graduate Women International Young Member Network

Topic: Interactive dialogue with youth representatives on the priority theme: How does your organization work with young people? What innovative approaches or policies has your organization adopted to ensure youth participation and leadership? Please share concrete examples where young people have played a pivotal role in your organization's strategies or actions. The ID concept note can be found [here](#). **We invite you to read the full ID submission here:** https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CSW68-Interactive-Dialog-Submission_Opportunity-2-YMN_SDLSS-FINAL-V2.pdf

ID Opportunity #3 Thursday, 21 March 2024 | 10:00 am – 1:00 pm EST

Prepared by Shaila Rao Mistry, GWI Vice President Advocacy and Founder Advocacy Influencers Global – Advocacy Without Borders

Topic: Artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenged and opportunities. Does your organization have experience working on the intersection of gender and AI? Has your organization been engaged with policy dialogue and influencing gender and AI, including during the consultations on/around the Global digital compact? Has your organization produced written material or spoken in public (in conferences, symposia, workshops, etc.) on the interlinkages between AI and women's rights? The ID concept note can be found [here](#). **We invite you to read the full ID submission here:** https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CSW68-Interactive-Dialog-Submission_Opportunity-3-Artificaila-Inteligence-FINAL-SDLSRM.pdf

Your Reports Matter! How to Submit a CSW68 Report

GW representative to CSW68 are encouraged to submit reports of sessions attended. A comprehensive summary will be created and distributed worldwide with Calls to Action from GWI to 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!

More Activities to Enhance Your Participation

Ministerial Roundtables

Ministerial round tables will provide ministers attending CSW68 with the opportunity to engage in dialogue and discussion. They will be open to all UN Member States and observers. The outcomes of the ministerial round tables will be in form of Chair's summaries, prepared in consultation with the regional groups through the members of the Bureau. This year's topics and schedule can be found [here](#). A Discussion Guide for the Ministerial Round Tables can be studied [here](#).



Civil Society Briefings

Co-hosted by NGO CSW/NY and UN Women, the Civil Society Briefings bring together civil society, UN agencies, and Member States to share the state of play as developments within the CSW and outcome document negotiation process unfold. Civil society briefings are held inside the UN New York campus for those delegates who receive a UN grounds pass.

Networking During CSW68 is Powerful

Meet and mingle with fellow advocates, new and longtime friends! The CSW Forum is a fantastic opportunity to connect with other organizations and leaders in the worldwide movement for gender equality and women's rights. With diverse sessions hosted by CSW68 Forum and UN CSW there are plenty of chances to network and build relationships with like-minded individuals who share the GWI passion.

Conversation Circles

Conversation Circles are a place to raise issues and exchange ideas on different topics in a semi-structured space during CSW68. Each conversation will present a specific topic related to gender equality and the CSW68 priority theme, guided by two to three intergenerational co-facilitators who are experts on the topic. Participants will be encouraged to engage in discussion by chat. See the schedule of sessions and register below!

1. Youth Panel | 14 March @ 10 am EST. Register here for virtual participation.
2. Social Justice & Poverty [Being Held in English, Spanish, French & Arabic] | 18 March @ 10 am EST. Register here for virtual participation (English), Register here for virtual participation (Spanish), Register here for virtual participation (French), Register here for virtual participation (Arabic).
3. Women's Poverty & Climate Change | 19 March @ 10 am EST. Register here for virtual participation.
4. The Debt Crisis' Impact on Women | 20 March @ 10 am EST. Register here for virtual participation.
5. Gender Bias in Economic Policy | 21 March @10 am EST. Register here for virtual participation.
6. Education & Poverty | 22 March @ 10 am EST. Register here for virtual participation.

Artisan Fair

The Artisan Fair is a space where artisans from around the globe can sell their goods to thousands of CSW68 Forum participants. The Artisan Fair will take place on Tuesday, 12 March through Thursday, 14 March 2024 at 10 am – 5 pm each day. **Location:** The Artisan Fair will be hosted in the large ballroom at the Armenian Convention Center (ACC). The ACC Ballroom space will be a central hub for Forum participants to come recharge, network, and shop. There will also be Parallel Events taking place in surrounding rooms in the venue. **Address:** 630 2nd Ave, NY, NY 10016 (On the corner of 35th St.)



Practical Information for GWI Delegates Who Will Access the UN

UN Grounds Pass Collection

The following information is pertinent for approved CSW68 NGO representatives to access UN premises. Please read the entire document carefully.

Due to the high number of registrations for CSW68, UN grounds pass collection will have extended hours starting on Friday before the session begins, over the weekend as well as during the first days.

Collection of UN grounds passes takes place at the UN Pass & ID Office which is located at 320 East 45th street (between First and Second Avenue), outside of UN premises. Do not proceed to the main entrance of the UN until you have collected your grounds pass. Representatives should expect that there will be long lines and an extended wait on Monday, 11 March and Tuesday, 12 March mornings. Representatives are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the collection hours prior to the session on 8, 9 and 10 March.

Have your CSW68 confirmation email and passport issued by a Member State or an Observer State of the UN (or government-issued photo ID if coming from within the U.S.) ready before entering the UN Pass & ID Office located at 320 East 45th street. **Without these documents, you will not be able to obtain your UN grounds pass for CSW68!**

Each representative should have received a CSW68 confirmation email when their CSW68 registration was approved by the Conference Focal Point of the organization. The title of the email reads “[Indico] 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) confirmation letter”. This letter is required to collect your grounds pass. **Due to data protection and privacy, the GWI office did not receive your confirmation. This is an email you received directly from Indico.**

For the most up to date information, please use this link https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/english_csw68_ngo_advisory_grounds_pass_collection.pdf For any questions related to the CSW registration of participants with disabilities, please click <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/ngo-participation/accessibility>

Security

Every time you go in and out of the UN complex you will have to go through security, and you will need to show your badges. Please build that time into your schedule. It may be lengthy due to the number of CSW attendees, the time of day and the weather. Please allow 15 to 30 minutes just for that process. You will need to remove your coats etc. and put everything through the scanner. Security is in a separate building situated at the entrance. If it’s cold, you will need to put everything back on to walk across the courtyard into the UN itself.



WiFi

Free WiFi is available for guests in the UN Buildings complex.

Food and Beverage

Food is available in the UN complex in the UN cafeteria and in the Vienna Café which is in the central court where the conference rooms are. No food or drinks can be taken into the meeting rooms. Outside the UN complex there are a number of small restaurants along 2nd and 3rd avenue. There is a new cafeteria style restaurant called Mona's on 44th Street. Their food is excellent, quick, and not as expensive as some other places nearby. Aragvi is also an excellent restaurant nearby at 230 E 44th Street.

The UN New York campus is becoming more sustainable by charging an extra for cutlery and reducing disposable paper products. It is therefore recommended that CSW68 delegates bring their own cutlery and coffee cups to the UN or be prepared for the extra cost. The UN gift shop sells re-usable cutlery in a bag labelled SDG 12.

A Few Other Titbits of Information

Texting and participating in the GWI CSW68 WhatsApp group will be helpful and keeping each other informed about something of interest. A WhatsApp Group for that purpose will be created. If you want to be added to the WhatsApp Group email to terry.oudraad@online.nl

Be inclusive. Invite someone to spend the day with you or attend a meeting you think they might be interested in.

Be flexible. You never know what might come up at the last minute. Keep an eye open for opportunities or contacts that may be beneficial to your NFA or GWI.

CSW can be overwhelming so pace yourself. You don't need to do everything or be everywhere. Get enough rest, eat properly, and keep hydrated in the over-heated UN buildings.

Weather and Outwear: NYC weather in March can be variable from a first warm spell to a snowstorm. However, there is no coat storage anywhere, so be prepared to carry everything with you all day. It is recommended you wear comfortable shoes suited for walking.

Be Vigilant

It's important to be cautious and aware of potential risks in New York while walking around or taking transportation. By taking sensible precautions and staying vigilant, you can help ensure a safe and comfortable travel experience.

1. Be Aware of surroundings and stay alert.
2. If something doesn't feel right or if you sense danger, trust your instincts and take action to remove yourself from the situation.
3. While it's not always necessary for women to walk in groups, traveling with friends or acquaintances can provide an added sense of security.



4. Before traveling, familiarize yourself with the route, including transfer points and stops. This can help reduce anxiety and ensure a smoother journey.
5. When using taxis or ride-sharing services, ensure that you're using a licensed and recognized provider. Stick to reputable companies and avoid accepting rides from unmarked vehicles.

Some Interesting and Helpful Resources

1. Discussion guide for the ministerial round tables to be held under the priority theme <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/415/04/pdf/n2341504.pdf?to-ken=K79TaKHGUN1YJcgvZC&fe=true>
2. UN Women convened a virtual expert group meeting (EGM) in October 2023 on the priority theme. The report can be found here: https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/csw68_egm_report_final.pdf
3. In preparation for the sixty-eighth session of the CSW68, the African Union Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs convened a hybrid virtual/in-person consultative meeting on 14 November 2023 at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The report of the meeting can be found here: https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/pre-csw_68_africa_final_outcome_document_english.pdf
4. The ministers and high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women in Latin America and the Caribbean convened on 11 and 12 October 2023 in the framework of the sixty-fifth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Regional Declaration can be found here: https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/23-00949_mdm.65_declaration_adopted_.pdf

Leading up to the CSW68 Priority Theme: Chronology of CSW Work

CSW67 (2023): Priority theme: Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Review theme: Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session)

CSW66 (2022): Priority theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. Review theme: Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session)

CSW65 (2021): Priority theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)



CSW64 (2020) The main focus of the session was the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The review included an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CSW63 (2019): 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).

We hope you have a successful and enjoyable CSW68 experience.