



Expression of interest: CSW68 Interactive Dialogue – Focus Area/emerging issue topic: Artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenges and opportunities

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

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

**Topic:** Artificial intelligence to advance gender equality: challenged and opportunities

**Name of organization:**

Graduate Women International (GWI) ECOSOC

**Website of the organization making the request, if applicable:**

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

**In which country is your organization based?**

Switzerland

**If this expression of interest is being made on behalf of groups of groups of organizations, caucuses, or coalitions, please list the organizations that make up the group/caucus/coalition (must have consultative status with ECOSOC):**

It is not.

**Name of the speaker:**

Shaila Rao Mistry

**Speaker's title/function in your organization:**

Vice President- Advocacy,  
Founder - Advocacy Influencers Global - Advocacy Without Borders  
Graduate Women International

**Speaker's email address:**

[shaila@stem-institute.org](mailto:shaila@stem-institute.org)

**1 Does your organization have experience working on the intersection of gender and AI?**

Artificial intelligence and gender bias are both at a critical intersectionality. We can no longer ignore their insidious impact on all aspects of daily life, including decision making, economy, education and



health and climate to name a few. Today we witness, numerous benefits of Artificial Intelligence and technology as force for good, including empowering women and girls to participate more in countless opportunities and aspects of economy and advocacy, regardless of distance or economic status. However, many challenges are before us. AI in some respects has overtaken human influence, in rapidly shaping our world to perpetuate inherent biases that can perpetuate inequality and discrimination.

Graduate Women International has been pioneering this battle, tirelessly engaged in dismantling gender bias in community within AI systems. We were honoured to participate in the United Nations, Internet Governance Forum, and the World Summit on Information Technology. WSIS first phase took place in Geneva 2003, and the second phase took place in Tunis, Tunisia, in 2005. There we presented a paper and held a parallel event on “Human Rights and the Internet” and held a workshop on the “Impact and Inclusion of Next Generation”. I also coauthored the first ever Charter on Human Rights and the Internet, translated into several languages. We established the committee on Internet Rights and Principles, which continues today and exerts vigilance on AI influence. Much of what we presented then and fought for at the time, holds true even now.

Since then, our priority has been to educate and raise awareness on both gender bias and AI to our extensive member states constituencies, to reach out to wider communities and decision makers. At our recent Centennial Triennium, Geneva in 2019, we presented Futurist seminars-workshop on AI impact our education, health and climate and decision making. Our seminars in 2022 on “Futurist View of Climate”, highlighted discussions on ‘AI technology and social media as focal driver of Education. More recently all our oral and written statements to UN and other global agencies and Conferences such as COPS, Global Entrepreneurs Conference. Global Entrepreneurs Summit and Future Summit includes language on AI and perspectives of change.

## **2 Has your organization been engaged with policy dialogue and influencing gender and AI, including during the consultations on/around the Global digital compact?**

Graduate Women International has attended several virtual events and related opportunities on the Global Digital Compact. We have not participated in person by attending events. We believe our IGF experience is commensurate and indicates our dedication to the Digital Compact. Additionally, I have been both a Signatory and Participant at UN Global Compact for several years contributing to the conversation amongst tech companies and government, academia, and government.

GWI has engaged in policy dialogue with UN Internet Governance Forum since 2003 and continue to do so. As a founding member of the Internet Rights and Principles Working Committee, we are well informed on the dynamics and conversations in AI. We have been engaged with the large Tech companies to understand the processes and seek ways to include women at high leadership and at the crit Graduate Women International has been pioneering this battle, tirelessly engaged in dismantling gender bias in community within AI systems.

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Our upcoming Parallel event at This CSW 68 is on “Poverty and Access to Health - Artificial Intelligence and Gender Bias. Is held virtually on March 20 at 12.30 EST NY time, you are all invited.

**3 Has your organization produced written material or spoken in public (in conferences, symposia, workshops, etc.) on the interlinkages between AI and women's rights? (300 word limit)**

As discussed above Graduate Women International has presented several webinars and written language for inclusion in CSW Agreed Conclusion since 2009, recently in CSW in 2020,2021,2022 and 2023. We represent GWI in all sectors including several private sector forums, academic forums such as the University of California and the California State Agencies that control high decision making in business and economy. Opening doors of opportunity for women and girls is our primary focus. Education is a key driver and AI has become the driver of education, health, economy, finance, and other sectors. The following are highlights of our efforts.

GWI and I personally have participated in all CSW's since Beijing Platform for Action 1995. We have witnessed firsthand the detrimental effects of biased algorithms, perpetuated stereotypes and reinforcing societal inequalities. We strongly denounce this status quo and commit to tirelessly drive transformative equity. We have pioneered innovative initiatives that challenge the existing norms, striving to create AI systems that are fair, inclusive, and unbiased.

**Our Advocacy Influencers, Global - Advocacy Without Borders** is an example of our pioneering initiative efforts to engage all our member states to address both gender bias and AI and other common emerging issues such as climate, education, financing and unbanked and VAW.

We have conducted extensive research, collaborated with experts, and actively participate in conferences and workshops, to gain invaluable understanding of the complexities of gender bias in AI. We are engaging with communities directly to gain insights into impacts on under-served communities and lack of digital connection amongst marginalized groups. Their stories inspire our determination to advocate for change, to demand accountability from tech companies, and to push for policies that prioritize gender equality in AI development and deployment.

Intersectoral collective action, collaboration, remaining vigilant and self-education is critical for innovating AI, which meets greater sustainability to create an equitable world for every individual.

**Organizations selected to speak from the floor may do so in-person or virtually (via live remote connection). Please indicate your preference:**

In person

**Please confirm that the speaker is registered and approved for CSW68:**

Check box. YES I am registered



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