



# Graduate Women International

*Empowering women & girls through lifelong education*



## Graduate Women International Delegates and National Federation and Association Participants Handbook

Commission on the Status of Women 69<sup>th</sup> session

10-21 March 2025  
New York

\*The forsythia flower is often used as a symbol for women and the Beijing Platform for Action, which was established at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. The forsythia's bright yellow blossoms represent resilience, hope, and empowerment, aligning with the goals of gender equality and women's rights promoted by the Beijing Platform for Action.

Dear Graduate Women International (GWI) CSW69 Delegates and Friends,

The 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) begins on Monday, 10 March 2025, and will continue for two engaging weeks. We are pleased to introduce the GWI Delegates and Participants CSW69 Handbook, a comprehensive guide designed to provide you with essential insights and resources to support your engagement in CSW69.

Within these pages, you will find practical information, including the latest links to session schedules and key resources, all aimed at enhancing your understanding and participation. Whether you are a seasoned advocate or attending for the first time, this handbook serves as a valuable tool to help you make the most of your experience.

Your participation in CSW69 is deeply appreciated, and I sincerely thank each of you for your dedication. Your commitment to advancing the 106-year mission of GWI continues to inspire.

Wishing you a productive session filled with meaningful discussions, valuable connections, and impactful contributions.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to GWI intern Connie Preston for her efforts in preparing this handbook.

Warm regards,

Stacy Dry Lara  
GWI Executive Director  
[gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org)

**Be sure to follow the GWI CSW69 social media campaign!**

# Table of Contents

- Table of Contents*..... 2**
- GWI Official CSW69 Delegates* ..... 3**
- What is the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women?* ..... 4**
- United Nations Secretary General CSW69 Report and GWI Messaging*..... 5**
- Priority and Review Themes* ..... 5**
- What are United Nations CSW69 Side Events?*..... 5**
- How Do You Participate in the United Nations CSW69?* ..... 5**
- What is the NGO CSW Forum?*..... 6**
- CSW69 Forum Portal Registration: It’s Important!* ..... 6**
- What are CSW69 Forum Parallel Events?*..... 7**
- What are the Differences Between the United Nations CSW and the CSW Forum?* ..... 7**
- In-Person Parallel Events*..... 7**
- Not Traveling to New York? That’s Ok - Let’s Go Virtual*.....10**
- GWI Overarching Advocacy Goals* .....12**
- Five International Advocacy Talking Points for Delegates* .....13**
- Five Advocacy Points GWI CSW69 Delegates Should Avoid* .....13**
- GWI Written and Oral Statements*.....14**
- CSW69 written statement co-sponsors:* .....14**
- GWI Written Statement :* .....14**
- GWI Inscribed for an Oral Statement* .....15**
- Key messaging and delegate talking points:*.....15**
- GWI National Federation and Association Written Statements* .....16**
- Some GWI Cosponsored CSW69 Written Statements* .....16**
- GWI Six Interactive Dialogs (ID) Interventions* .....16**
- Your Reports Matter! How to Submit a CSW69 Report*.....17**
- Additional useful information* .....17**
- Practical Information for GWI Delegates Who Will Access the United Nations* .....19**
- A Few Other Titbits of Information* .....20**
- Some Interesting and Helpful Resources*.....21**
- Leading up to the CSW69 Priority Theme: Chronology of CSW Work* .....21**

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# COMMISSION *on the* STATUS OF WOMEN



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**#GraduateWomen #GirlsEducation #GWICSWDelegates #GWIImpact**

## GWI Official CSW69 Delegates

### ***GWI Board***

Patrice Wellesley-Cole, British Federation of Women Graduates  
Shirley Gillett, Graduate Women New Zealand  
Shaila Mistry, Women Graduates-USA

### ***GWI United Nations Representatives, New York***

Maureen Byrne, Women Graduates-USA  
Maryella Hannum, Women Graduates-USA

### ***GWI Executive Director and United Nations Representative, Geneva***

Stacy Dry Lara, Headquarters Geneva

### ***Delegates***

Name/NFA

**Aisha Alshawaf**, Project Development Committee Convenor, British Federation of Women Graduates

**Tatjana Betschart**, Swiss Association of Graduate Women

**Isabel Bolli**, Swiss Association of Graduate Women

**Ursula Bolli-Schaffner**, Swiss Association of Graduate Women

**Sally Dunbar**, Graduate Women Wellington, New Zealand

**Anino Emuwa**, British Federation of Women Graduates

**Mariam Ishak**, Canadian Federation of University Women

**Ioanna Katiforis**, Graduate Women New Zealand

**Lucia Guzman De Malo**, Mexican Federation of Women Graduates

**Jolie Massay**, Republic of Congo Association of Graduate Women

**Mbayame Ndiaye**, Senegal Association of Graduate Women

**Terry Oudraad**, GWI Immediate Past President, Women Graduates-The Netherlands

**Andrea Samaniego Sánchez**, Mexican Federation of Women Graduates

**Catriona Sutherland**, GWI Resolution Committee Convenor, British Federation of Women Graduates

***Additional Delegates***

Japanese Association of University Women Delegates:

**Ayano Kato**

**Ryu Kudo**

**Sara Mcinerney**

**Yuya Odanami**

**Ryoma Sasaki**

**Misaki Shimodaira**

**Chizuko Suzuki**

**Manami Takahashi**

**Yuki Tanaka**

### Are you also attending – in person or virtual?

There are many other GWI members who are participating in CSW69, either in person or virtually, yet we do not have everyone's name. Please let the GWI office know if you are attending from your GWI National Federation or Association GWI, and we are delighted to add you to this list, [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org).

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



The United Nations [Commission on the Status of Women \(UN CSW\)](#) is an official Commission of the United Nations, 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 intergovernmental body consisting of 45 Member State governments of the United Nations. It brings together representatives from governments, United Nations 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), with particular focus during CSW69 on the 12 Critical Areas of Concern stemming from the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA).

As the Secretariat of the CSW, UN Women (an official United Nations 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 session priority theme. For more information, visit the official [UN Women](#) website.

The formal United Nation program with accompanying side events takes place inside the United Nations 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](#).*

## United Nations Secretary General CSW69 Report and GWI Messaging

In his CSW69 report, Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks to the following points:

1. Persistent challenges since the BPfA of unequal access to education, economic disparities, gender-based violence, and the underrepresentation of women in leadership must be prioritized.
2. Pandemics and economic downturns exacerbated existing inequalities.
3. The report highlights commitment to policies that address systemic barriers to gender equality, emphasizing the need for legal reforms and enforcement mechanisms.
4. Access to quality education is identified as a critical factor in empowering women and girls, with a call for increased investment in educational initiatives.
5. Enhancing women's participation in the workforce through targeted programs and support structures is highlighted as essential for economic growth and gender parity.
6. The report underscores the importance of global partnerships and collaborative efforts to advance the rights and well-being of women and girls worldwide.

*United Nations Secretary General CSW69 Report can be found [HERE](#).*

### Priority and Review Themes

The main focus of the sixty-ninth session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the [BPfA](#) and the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#).

The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the BPfA 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.

### **Principle Outcomes Expected**

Outcome documents of the [UN CSW69](#) will be:

- CSW69 Review of the implementation of the BDfA
- Political declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women
- Multi-year programme of work of the UN CSW

### What are United Nations CSW69 Side Events?

Side events take place as part of the official United Nations CSW program and are hosted by Member States and United Nations agencies with ECOSOC-accredited organizations as partners. They take place inside of the United Nations headquarters and require a United Nations grounds pass or special event ticket to attend. Additionally, there will be virtual side events that are accessible by all. 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 [HERE](#).

### How Do You Participate in the United Nations CSW69?

Official GWI CSW69 delegates will hold United Nations grounds pass to access sessions and side events in the United Nations. If you will not hold a United Nations grounds pass, then see the CSW Forum section on page 6.



## What is the NGO CSW Forum?



The [NGO CSW Forum](#) is free, annual event open to all civil society that takes place in person in New York City, and virtually since 2021, parallel to the United Nations CSW. The NGO CSW Fo-

rum is organized by the NGO CSW 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 United Nations campus and do not require Member State sponsorship.

While the NGO CSW Forum runs parallel to and complements the United Nations CSW, it is a separate process with separate organizers. *NOTE: NGO CSW Forum sessions are held outside of United Nations headquarters in many locations near and around the United Nations and can be attended by civil society at large. The CSW69 Forum will offer nearly 900 Parallel Events.*

**The CSW69 Forum is completely free and open to the public, welcoming thousands of registrations from around the globe, whether affiliated with an organization or not.** The Parallel Events are a cornerstone and a widely anticipated aspect of the CSW Forum. Parallel Events take place at the CSW69 Forum and are hosted by civil society organizations or groups. [Nearly 900 in-person virtual Parallel Events will be offered at CSW69 Forum.](#) Because they are outside the official United Nations CSW session, they are open to all civil society and free to attend.

Please note that registering for the CSW69 Forum does not include a United Nations grounds pass or access to the United Nations 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](#).

## CSW69 Forum Portal Registration: It's Important!



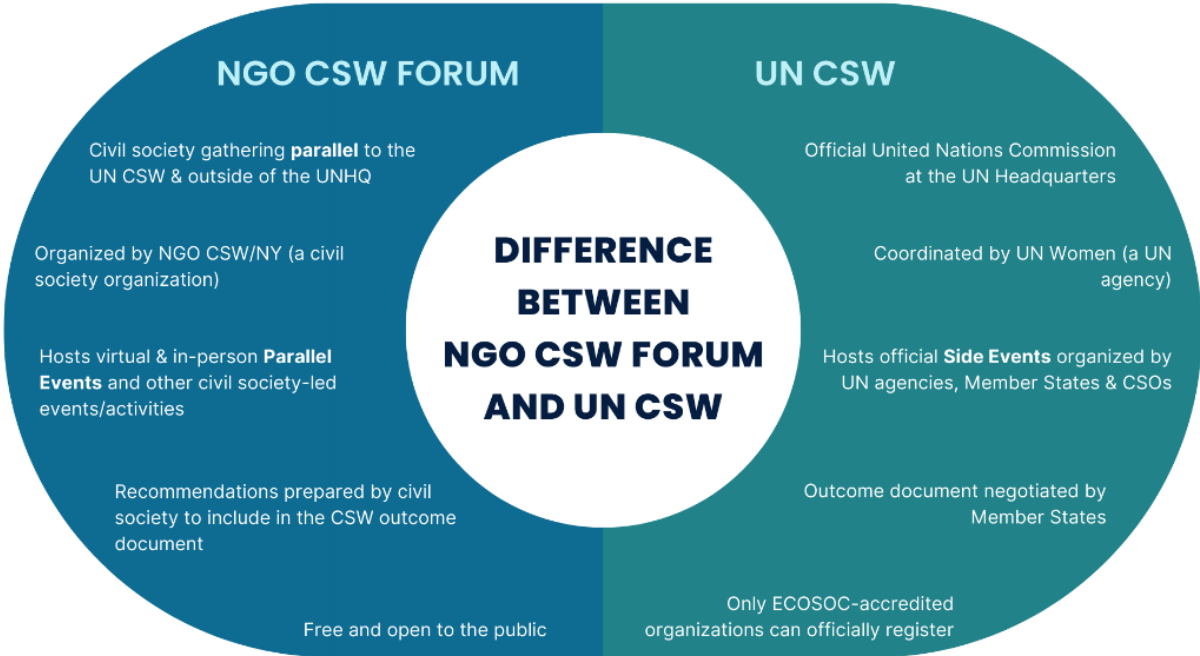
**The CSW69 Whova platform is packed with invaluable resources.** Here, you can network with like-minded individuals, customize your CSW69 agenda by selecting from a variety of parallel events, and access numerous other features to enhance your experience. You can register for

the CSW69 Forum [HERE](#). If you experience any technical issues with Whova, please contact their support. **GW** cannot help delegates with Whova technical issues.

**What are CSW69 Forum Parallel Events?**

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

**What are the Differences Between the United Nations CSW and the CSW Forum?**



**In-Person Parallel Events**

CSW69 Parallel Event Locations: Most CSW69 Forum Parallel Events take place namely at these locations. See the Forum official guide for final room announcements.

**Church Center of the United Nations**  
 777 United Nations Plaza  
 New York, NY 10017

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





GWI is organizing three Parallel Events, each featuring distinguished professional speakers. Register today for the two virtual events.

**Organized by the GWI Education Committee this Parallel Event, titled, Education: Only Way to Solve Old and Modern Antifeminisms, will be held in-person 12 March 2025, 12:30-2:00 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST), Drew Room, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017**

The event will showcase video messages from child brides who will share their lived experiences. This will fuel a discussion on educational strategies for making a difference to influence related sociopolitical structures such as culture, religion, and poverty. We hope to see you there!

**Organized by the GWI Young Member Network this Parallel Event titled, Empowering Young Women for Sustainable Development: Progress and Future, will be held 19 March 2025, 8:30-10:00 am EST (Virtual)**

The interactive event will showcase the progress and challenges affecting the achievements of gender equality for the full realization of Agenda 2030. With case studies focusing on aspects of leadership development, digital spaces and AI, period poverty, environment. Gaps and challenges will be addressed providing the innovative solutions from an expert panel of young women from across the globe. There will be opportunities for audience interaction via breakout session, opinion polls and Q&A. Register in advance for this event [HERE](#).


**Organized by Shaila Rao Mistry, GWI VP Advocacy, the Women in Power and Leadership Accelerating Advancement Towards Gender Equity Parallel Event will be held 20 March 2025, 12:30-2:00 pm EST (Virtual)**


Women remain under-represented in leadership roles across all sectors: politics, business, government, and international organizations. Women leaders bring diverse perspectives and drive inclusive, foster innovation and sustainable policies, yet embedded barriers hinder their access to pivotal roles of decision-making and power nor reach mass representation. Join the event to hear from distinguished leaders from around the world. Register in advance for this event [HERE](#). Keep scrolling to see the flyer.

**Recognizing Qualifications for Employment of Women Migrating to North America will be held 18 March 12:30-2:30 EST.** Organized by the GWI CAMEUS region (Canada, Mexico and United States), this event will explore challenges female migrants face in having their previously acquired skills, education and experience recognized. Panellists will focus on this challenge as it relates to issues of gender, education and emotional health. Register in advance for this event [HERE](#). Keep scrolling to see flyer.

# RECOGNIZING QUALIFICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN MIGRATING TO NORTH AMERICA

Exploring challenges female migrants face in having their previously acquired skills, education and experience recognized. Our panellists will focus on this challenge as it relates to issues of gender, education and emotional health.

 Tuesday, March 18, 2025

 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM ET

**VIRTUAL** [Join here on Zoom](#)

**PRESENTED BY CAMEUS,**  
AN ALLIANCE OF CFUW-FCFDU (CANADA), FEMU (MEXICO), & WG-USA



## AN NGO CSW VIRTUAL PARALLEL EVENT



**Deana Hatcher**  
A former Registrar of Teachers, teacher advocate and forever a learner. An Administrative Officer at the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association.



**Sodaba Saeedi**  
A doctor from Afghanistan currently studying to be a nurse, as an intermediate step to becoming certified in Canada.



**Teyebah Nazarian**  
An architect and lecturer in architecture and urban design. She immigrated to the USA from Afghanistan.



**Ana Marcela Pérez Sánchez**  
A feminist activist from Colombia, who is currently in Mexico doing her PhD research in social science.



**Aída Chávez Zapata**  
Global Partnerships Manager at Talent Beyond Boundaries.



### Women in Power and Leadership: Accelerating Advancement Towards Gender Equity

Thurs, Mar 20, 2025, at 12.30 pm EST/ 9.30 am PST [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TO JOIN](#)

Full link provided below if copy-paste is needed

 <b>Keynote Speaker</b> <b>Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury</b> , former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN Initiator, as Security Council President - led 1325	 <b>Hon. Deputy Executive Director</b> <b>Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda</b> Integrating Gender Lens to Macroeconomic Policy	 <b>Moderator</b> <b>Shaila Rao Mistry</b> CEO Founder STEM-Institute, VP Advocacy, Graduate Women International
 <b>Eleanor Smeal</b> Founder and President of Feminist Majority	 <b>Irene Natividad</b> , President Global of Women, Globe Women Research and Educational Institute	

Why are women still under-represented in high leadership roles across all sectors: politics, business, government, and global organizations? To ensure Women's leadership is the norm, rather than an exception, we must expose intersectional factors shaping public perceptions and address systemic obstacles. To promote equitable access to leadership and build pathways to a gender-responsive future, we need to dismantle exclusionary barriers and advocate for policy reforms. **Join us to hear perspectives from our Keynote Speaker, H.E UN Deputy Executive Director and other distinguished High Global Leaders**

**Our Initiatives** - We invite you to join us in the following:

- ❖ Beijing +30 UNECE Geneva Report - an insightful Reflection of Gains and Losses
- ❖ Advocacy Without Borders: Advocacy Influences at Work - GWI initiative
- ❖ Resolution on Artificial Intelligence and impact on decision making – GWI/WG-USA

**Click or Copy link to register**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81254567890>

Parallel event

# ANTIFEMINISM AND CHILD MARRIAGE

**Lorena Cisneros Medina**  
(FEMU, Mexico)

**Dra. Raquel Partida**  
(FEMU, Mexico)

**Dra. Andrea Samaniego**  
(FEMU, Mexico)

**Fay Weber**  
(Past President WG-USA)

**Shirley Gillet**  
(GWI Education Vice President)

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 12:30 - 2:00 pm (EDT) Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN) 777 United Nations Plaza, 10017. Join on zoom

Federación Mexicana de Universitarias femumexico@gmail.com

## Not Traveling to New York? That's Ok - Let's Go Virtual

CSW69 offers a virtual environment that allows everyone to participate in the United Nations CSW69 and the CSW69 Forum sessions. The United Nations CSW69 and the CSW69 Forum offer opportunities to explore hundreds of events and connect with thousands of participants, including events organized by GWI and many organized by GWI affiliates. There is no reason to miss out. Follow the CSW69 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.

1. Follow United Nations sessions on United Nations Web TV [HERE](#).
2. Register for the CSW Forum as per above to participate in hundreds of Parallel Events

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 69TH SESSION  
CSW69

# LET'S GO VIRTUAL

Not attending CSW69 in person, then how about a get-together?

ORGANIZE A WATCH PARTY WITH YOUR FELLOW NFA OR COLLEAGUES!

Register for the NGO CSW69 Forum **HERE!**

Access the live stream **HERE!**

10-21  
**MARCH 2025**

The CSW offers a virtual environment that allows everyone to participate in the various sessions. This year's CSW offers **more than 800 events** with speakers from all over the world to **review the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including three parallel events organized by GWI.** Click **HERE** to register for GWI parallel events.

@GRADUATEWOMENINTERNATIONAL @GRADWOMEN @GRADUATEWOMENINTERNATIONAL

## **GWI IN PERSON PROGRAM**

GWI is hosting two Breakfast Briefings and one Social Dinner during CSW69. Please join us!

Please keep scrolling to see event flyers.

Note to RSVP for the social dinner no later than 10 March to [membership@graduatewomen.org](mailto:membership@graduatewomen.org). The cost of dinner is \$70 and will be collected at the door.





  
**CSW69 BREAKFAST BRIEFINGS**

Monday, 10 March 2025, 7:00 a.m.  
Thursday, 13 March 2025, 7:00 a.m.

Join us for:

- Welcome remarks from GWI President Patrice Wellesley-Cole
- Round of friendly greetings
- Presentations by GWI United Nations Representatives, New York, Dr. Maureen Byrne and Maryella Hannum
- CSW69 advocacy ideas presented

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

A la carte food and beverage can be ordered from the menu and paid for with separate checks




  
GWI will be honored with your presence at the festive  
**GWI CSW69 Social Dinner**  
and International Women's Day Celebration

**Wednesday, 12 March 2025, 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 delicious family-style plated meal will be served for \$70 per person, inclusive of gratuity. \*

**Space is limited to 40 attendees. RSVP required by 10 March to [membership@graduatewomen.org](mailto:membership@graduatewomen.org)**

\* Please note that the dinner cost is payable in cash and will be collected at upon entry.

Beverages of your choice will be available for an extra cost and payable at the time of order, with no exception.



## **GWI ADVOCACY**

### GWI Overarching Advocacy Goals

1. 100% of United Nations 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 United Nations low-income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations 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 United Nations intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these five goals further.*



## GWI IMPACT MESSAGING

### Five International Advocacy Talking Points for Delegates

1. Advocate for the recommitment to the BPfA implementation towards equal educational and employment opportunities. ***Delegate talking point: GWI works to ensure women's access to higher education and advocates for policies that support their career progression.***
2. Highlight the Secretary-General's emphasis on financing gender equality by advocating for sustained investment in education, including scholarships, fellowships, and digital infrastructure, as a catalyst for national and global development. ***Delegate talking point: GWI supports women's academic advancement through its fellowship and grant programs, helping women achieve their educational goals and professional careers.***
3. Support the Secretary-General's call to bridge gender gaps in innovation and technology by urging permanent missions to remove barriers and expand initiatives that encourage women's participation in STEM fields. ***Delegate talking point: GWI urges action to remove barriers and support women's careers in science and technology. GWI promotes women's participation in STEM through international advocacy, mentorship, and initiatives that encourage girls to pursue STEM education.***
4. Aligning with the Secretary-General's call to accelerate women's decision-making power in all sectors, women must be equally represented in leadership at all levels. Governments must commit to policies that remove barriers to women's leadership in academia, policymaking, and business. ***Delegate talking point: GWI raises awareness on the need for gender-equal leadership, works with the United Nations to advocate for policy change, and supports women's leadership through mentoring initiatives***
5. Advocate for policies that guarantee education free from discrimination, harassment, and violence, supporting the Secretary-General's urgent appeal for legal and institutional reforms to end gender-based violence. ***Delegate talking points: GWI advocates for safe access to lifelong learning and promotes inclusive learning methods for all ages through awareness-raising and policy engagement.***



## GWI ADVOCACY TO AVOID

### Five Advocacy Points GWI CSW69 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.

- 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 key insights, data, and perspectives that inform CSW policy discussions and decision-making. Through written and oral statements, NGOs highlight the lived experiences of women and girls, amplifying their voices to influence CSW deliberations. As advocacy tools, these statements help shape priorities and outcomes, advancing gender equality and women's empowerment globally.

CSW69 written statement co-sponsors:



GWI CSW69 written statement cosponsors.

GWI written CSW69 statement title: ***Graduate Women International and Statement Cosponsors Mark 30 Years of the Beijing Platform for Action with Calls for Enhanced Digital Education Access and Modern AI Strategies.*** Please read the full statement [HERE](#).

## GWI IMPACT MESSAGING

### GWI Written Statement Condensed Version for Your International Advocacy

GWI reaffirms its commitment to advancing gender equality through inclusive digital education and integrating gender perspectives in AI development. GWI calls on member states to support the need for careful AI Implementation to ensure that technological advancement does not reinforce systemic inequities:

- Through supporting local governments and educational institutions financially and strategically in investing in necessary infrastructure to train staff and students in the use of IT services and digital devices.*
- By encouraging local, higher education institutions to expand online offering, ensuring sage and secure digital environments.*



- *By facilitating local and national governments to improve access to electricity across rural and urban areas.*
- *By incentivizing local and national governments to collaborate with private sectors and local NGOs to ensure sufficient access to necessary hardware is available for those who cannot afford it.*
- *Through mainstream gender perspectives in AI and digital policies, tools, programs and budgets to promote lifelong learning for women and avoid gender stereotypes.*

## GWJ Inscribed for an Oral Statement



Should GWJ be selected to deliver an oral statement, here are key messaging and delegate talking points:

**30th Anniversary of BPfA:** Recognizing progress in gender equality through education while addressing emerging challenges in digital education and AI.

### **Education and Digital Divide**

- Education drives women's empowerment and economic growth.
- Digital education expands access but worsens inequalities.
- Only 20% of women in low-income countries have internet access vs. 32% of men.
- The \$23 trillion digital economy (by 2025) risks leaving women behind.

### **AI and Gender Equality**

- AI can enhance learning but also reinforces gender biases.
- Nearly 50% of AI systems exhibit gender bias.
- Women hold only 30% of AI-related jobs.
- GWJ calls for gender-inclusive AI development policies.

### **Calls to Action – Be Heard! Member States must:**

- Invest in digital education infrastructure (internet, devices, AI training).
- Expand online courses and secure digital learning spaces.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships for digital access.
- Integrate gender perspectives in AI policies.

### **GWJ's Role**

- Raising awareness and promoting gender equality through education.
- Supporting AI training programs to increase women's participation in tech.

- Advocating for policy adaptation in the digital age.
- Committed to collaboration for an inclusive digital future.
- Influencing national policies.



## GWI National Federation and Association Written Statements

### **Canadian Federation of University Women**

CFUW calls on member states to convene a high-level meeting mid-way between 2025 and 2030 to address the 2022 United Nations Transforming Education Summit, fund young feminist led education organizations and initiatives, increase investments in education in crisis zones with focus in innovative and technology enabled approaches, encourage and fun engagement and participation of women and girls in the development and governance of new AI technologies, and integrate united nations agencies and educational efforts to accelerate the achievement of quality education and facilitate access to United Nations resources, frameworks and expertise. To read the full report click [HERE](#).

### **Women Graduates-USA**

Women Graduates- USA call on member states to mainstream gender perspectives in educational programs, infrastructure development and teacher training, invest in quality education through financing mechanisms that guarantee every girls right to education and address harmful social norms and stereotypes in education system that enables gender inequality and hinders progress in learning and development. To read the full report click [HERE](#).

## Some GWI Cosponsored CSW69 Written Statements

1. **International Alliance of Women:** To read the report click [HERE](#).
2. **International Federation of Business and Professional Women:** To read the report click [HERE](#).
3. **Make Mothers Matter:** To read the report click [HERE](#).
4. **NGO Committee on the Status of Women – CSW Vienna:** To read the report click [HERE](#).
5. **Widow’s Rights International:** To read the report click [HERE](#).

## GWI Six 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 six of eight ID. ID are held in person inside the United Nations campus and an official delegate United Nations grounds pass is required to enter. Speaker selections are not announced at the time of the handbook release.

Below are the six Interactive Dialogs that were submitted by GWI:

1. **Beijing@30: A dialogue with youth representatives (submitted by Stacy Dry Lara)**  
Friday, 14 March 2025, 3-6:00 pm EST
2. **Inclusive development, shared prosperity, and decent work (submitted by Stacy Dry Lara)** Monday 17 March 2025, 3:00-4:30 pm EST
3. **Freedom from violence, stigma, and stereotypes (submitted by Stacy Dry Lara)**  
Tuesday 18 March 2025, 10.00 – 11.30 am EST
4. **Participation, accountability, and gender-responsive institutions (submitted by Stacy Dry Lara)** Tuesday 18 March 2025, 11.30 am – 1:00 pm EST
5. **Accelerating implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: The role of the Commission on the Status of Women (submitted by Stacy Dry Lara)** Tuesday 18 March 2025, 3-6:00 pm EST
6. **Peaceful and inclusive societies (submitted by Stacy Dry Lara)** Wednesday, 19 March 2025, 4:30-6:00 pm EST



To see GWI Impact Messaging as responses to the Interactive Dialog applications, we invite you to click [HERE](#).

### Your Reports Matter! How to Submit a CSW69 Report

GWI representatives to CSW69 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 CSW69.

Your reports are important and easy-to-complete with the online report that can be accessed [HERE](#).

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

### Additional useful information

#### ***Ministerial Roundtables***

Ministerial round tables will provide ministers attending CSW69 with the opportunity to engage in dialogue and discussion. They will be open to all United Nations Member States and observers. The outcomes of the ministerial roundtables 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 United Nations Women, the Civil Society Briefings bring together civil society, United Nations agencies, and Member States to share the state of play as developments within the CSW and outcome document negotiation process unfold. Civil

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society briefings are held inside the United Nations New York campus for those delegates who receive a United Nations grounds pass.

**Networking During CSW69 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 CSW69 Forum and United Nations CSW there are plenty of chances to network and build relationships with like-minded individuals who share the GWI passion.


**Global Consultation Days Geneva and New York**

Kickoff event for the NGO CSW Forum, bringing together a distinguished lineup of speakers:

- Member states and representatives from United Nations Entities for a high-level panel
- Individuals' integral to the 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women and were instrumental in drafting the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA).
- New activist paving the way for the next 30 years on gender equality advocacy.

**NGO CSW Geneva Consultation Day, 4 March 2025, 4-6:30 pm.**

*Harnessing Civil Society to Implement the Beijing Platform for Action* Register [HERE](#).



Committee on the Status of Women Geneva



Advocating for Women and Girls Since 1973

Commission on the Status of Women 69th session

# Consultation Day Geneva

*Harnessing Civil Society to Implement the Beijing Platform for Action*

**TUESDAY, 4 MARCH 2025**  
**4-6:00 PM CET**  
**ZOOM**

**REGISTER NOW**

We invite you to join our interactive and informational session with dynamic speakers from NGOs, youth organizations, the United Nations, and government! Engage in insightful discussions, exchange ideas, and explore innovative solutions for advancing the Beijing Platform for Action. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a transformative conversation.

[HTTPS://NGOCSW-GENEVA.CH](https://ngocsw-geneva.ch)

**NGO CSW New York Consultation Day, 9 March 2025, 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Register [HERE](#).**

### ***Artisan Fair***

The Artisan Fair is a space where artisans from around the globe can sell their goods to thousands of CSW69 Forum participants. The Artisan Fair will take place on Wednesday, 12 March at 12-6 pm each day. **Location:** Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017.

### ***NGO CSW/NY 69 Forum Reception***

Celebration of the CSW69, an unforgettable evening with a DJ, dancing and full buffet, all for \$65. **11 March 2025, 7:30-9:30 pm**, The Centennial Memorial Temple's Mumford Hall 120 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011. To attend, buy your tickets [HERE](#).

## **Practical Information for GWI Delegates Who Will Access the United Nations United Nations Grounds Pass Collection**

The following information is pertinent for approved CSW69 NGO representatives to access United Nations premises.

Click [HERE](#) for the February 2025 United Nations Women Advisory about picking up your United Nations grounds pass. Please read the entire document carefully.

Due to the high number of registrations for CSW69, United Nations 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 United Nations grounds passes takes place at the United Nations Pass & ID Office which is located at 320 East 45<sup>th</sup> street (between First and Second Avenue), outside of United Nations premises. Do not proceed to the main entrance of the United Nations until you have collected your grounds pass. Representatives should expect that there will be long lines and an extended wait on Monday, 10 March and Tuesday, 11 March mornings. Representatives are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the collection hours prior to the session.

Have your CSW69 confirmation email and passport issued by a Member State or an Observer State of the United Nations (or government-issued photo ID if coming from within the U.S.) ready before entering the United Nations Pass & ID Office. **Without these documents, you will not be able to obtain your United Nations grounds pass for CSW69!**

Each representative should have received a CSW69 confirmation email when their CSW69 registration was approved by the Conference Focal Point of the organization. The title of the email reads "[Indico] 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) 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.**

### ***Security***

Every time you go in and out of the United Nations complex you will have to go through

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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 United Nations itself.

### **WIFI**

Free WIFI is available for guests in the United Nations Buildings complex.

### **Food and Beverage**

Food is available in the United Nations complex in the United Nations 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 United Nations complex there are several small restaurants along 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue. There is a new cafeteria style restaurant called Mona's on 44<sup>th</sup> 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 United Nations New York campus is becoming more sustainable by charging an extra for cutlery and reducing disposable paper products. It is therefore recommended that CSW69 delegates bring their own cutlery and coffee cups to the United Nations or be prepared for the extra cost. The United Nations gift shop sells re-usable cutlery in a bag labelled SDG 12.

### **A Few Other Titbits of Information**

**Texting and participating in the GWI CSW69 WhatsApp group** will be helpful and keeping each other informed about something of interest. A WhatsApp Group for that purpose has been created. If you want to be added to the WhatsApp Group email to [membership@graduatewomen.org](mailto:membership@graduatewomen.org)

**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 United Nations 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. Information can be found [HERE](#).
2. United Nations Women convened a virtual expert group meeting (EGM) in August 2024 on the priority theme. The report can be found [HERE](#).
3. In preparation for the CSW69 the CSW/NY distributed a survey in 2024 to “collect input, ideas and views on how to transform the CSW to increase its value and potential to accelerate the advancement of gender equality in countries worldwide.” Read the survey results [HERE](#).
4. Results notes and decisions taken from the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women held in Geneva from 13-31 may and from 7 to 25 October 2024. Report can be found [HERE](#).
5. The draft written for the Political declaration on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Report can be found [HERE](#).
6. The draft for the multi-year programmes of work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Report can be found [HERE](#).

### Leading up to the CSW69 Priority Theme: Chronology of CSW Work

**CSW68 (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).

**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 CSW69 experience.**