

Graduate Women International Delegate and Member Handbook

70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
(CSW70)

9-19 March 2026
New York, New York

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#GraduateWomen #GirlsEducation #GWICSWDelegates #GWIImpact

GWI CSW70 Delegates

GWI Board

Patricia Patton, GWI President, Canadian Federation of University Women
Shirley Gillett, Vice President (VP) Education, Graduate Women New Zealand
Lynne Kent, VP Fundraising, Canadian Federation of University Women
Gisèle Scanlon, VP Advocacy, Irish Federation of University Women
Saskia Voortman, GWI Treasurer, Graduate Women Netherlands

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

GWI Delegates

Name/NFA

Laura Acosta Torres, Mexican Federation of University Women
Aisha Alshawaf, British Federation of Women Graduates
Isabel Bolli, Swiss Federation of Graduate Women
Monica Chitra, Swiss Federation of Graduate Women
Anino Emuwa, British Federation of Women Graduates
Genevieve Etornam Adukpo, Ghana Association of University Women
Anne Headley, Irish Federation of University Women
Ioanna Katiforis, Graduate Women New Zealand
Mbayame Ndiaye, Senegal Association of Graduate Women
Thi Vui Nguyen, Independent Member
Otila Osborne, Graduate Women New Zealand
Terry Oudraad, Graduate Women Netherlands
Andrea Samaniego Sánchez, Mexican Federation of University Women
Perya Short, Graduate Women New Zealand
Catriona Sutherland, British Federation of Women Graduates

Additional Delegates

Japanese Association of University Women Delegates:

Mariko Miyashita
Midori Inaba
Sumie Kato

Australian Graduate Women:

Jaya Dantas
Ly Nguyen
Manis Zaveri
Ayesha Ismail
Emila Randell
Shirley Randell

British Federation of Women Graduates:

Susan McKellar
Ruth Galwey
Nesrin Comert
Elize Freeman
Betty Axtell
Fungai Samushonga
Natalie Turney
Georgia Rayner
Lindsay Green
Rebecca Zerk

Women Graduates-USA:

Jeanette Westbrook
Fay Kittelson
Oluyemisi Akinsola
Blessing Asuquo-Ekpo
Emily Nielsen
Sophia Christoffersen
Elena Melnik
Fay Weber
Sally Chamberlain
Janet Edwards
Glenda Estela Hecksher Ramsden
Julia Pennington
Ellen Antwi-Adjei
Doreen Beatrice
Shaila Mistry
Kelly Dore
Laura Christoffersen
Carmela Roybal
Paola Moreno-Roman

Are you attending – in person or virtual?

Many additional GWI members will participate in CSW70, either in person or virtually. We only have the names of delegates who have informed the GWI office directly.

If you are attending CSW70 through your GWI National Federation or Association and have not yet notified us, please write to 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).

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's 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](#).*

Priority and Review Themes (2026)

Priority theme: Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers

Review 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 (agreed conclusions of the sixty-fifth session)



United Nations Secretary General CSW70 Report

In his CSW70 report, Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks to the following points:

1. Access to justice for all women and girls is identified as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of gender equality, peace, and sustainable development, with persistent legal and structural barriers continuing to undermine women's rights globally.

2. Discriminatory laws, weak implementation, and harmful social norms remain widespread, particularly in areas such as family law, violence against women, employment, nationality rights, and access to land and resources, preventing substantive equality despite formal legal progress.
3. Gender-based violence and impunity are highlighted as critical justice failures, with gaps in survivor-centered legislation, enforcement, and justice service delivery, especially for women and girls in conflict, crisis, and marginalized settings.
4. Structural and intersecting forms of discrimination based on income, disability, age, migration status, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity, compound barriers to justice and require inclusive, rights-based, and intersectional responses.
5. Legal empowerment, legal aid, and feminist civil society movements are identified as essential drivers of change, playing a decisive role in advancing legal reform, accountability, women's legal literacy, and access to remedies, particularly at the community level.
6. Systemic reform and investment in justice systems are emphasized, including gender-responsive law-making, adequate public financing, institutional coordination, data collection, and the responsible use of technology to ensure justice systems meet the lived realities and needs of women and girls.

United Nations Secretary-General CSW70 Report can be found [HERE](#).

1. Principal Outcomes Expected from CSW70

Agreed Conclusions that outline commitments and actions to ensure and strengthen access to justice for all women and girls

2. Policy Recommendations centered around the priority and review themes to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women globally.

GWJ 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 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 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.

CSW70 Written Statement Co-sponsors:



GWI CSW70 written statement co-sponsors



GWI written CSW70 statement title: **The Classroom as the First Forum of Justice.**
Please read the full statement [HERE](#).

GWJ Written Statement Condensed Version for Your International Advocacy

GWJ reaffirms that education is the foundation of access to justice and a prerequisite for equality, civic participation, and the realization of women's rights. GWJ calls on Member States to recognize education as a structural component of justice systems and to ensure that justice is not a privilege but a lived reality for all women and girls:

- By integrating civic, legal, and rights education into national curricula, enabling women and girls to understand, claim, and defend their rights and to engage meaningfully with justice systems.
- By embedding educational equity and lifelong learning within access-to-justice strategies, recognizing education as the first point of contact in the justice continuum.
- By increasing investment in inclusive, quality education, particularly for marginalized, rural, conflict-affected, and displaced populations, to address cumulative and structural exclusion.
- By strengthening legal and rights literacy through partnerships among schools, universities, NGOs, and justice actors, ensuring accessible and community-based pathways to justice.
- By advancing women's and girls' participation in digital and STEM education, including ethical AI governance, to prevent new forms of exclusion and ensure that emerging technologies support equality and justice.
- By promoting coordination between education and justice ministries, aligning reforms with international commitments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) General Recommendations 33 and 36, SDG Targets 4.7 and 16.3, and the Beijing Platform for Action.
- By supporting research and data collection on the interdependence between education, civic participation, and justice outcomes to inform sustainable and evidence-based policy reform.

GWJ National Federation and Association Written Statements

Canadian Federation of University Women

CFUW calls on Member States, the United Nations, and justice institutions to address the consequences of failing to ensure access to justice for all women and girls, in line with SDG16. Drawing on global evidence it highlights how discriminatory laws, economic inequality, and intersecting forms of marginalization, particularly for Indigenous women, compound barriers to justice. It emphasizes the need for disaggregated data, accountability, and inclusive, trauma-informed justice reforms. To read the full statement click [HERE](#).

Women Graduates-USA

Women Graduates–USA highlights the structural, legal, and cultural barriers that continue to deny women and girls effective justice, particularly those facing intersecting forms of discrimination. It calls for the repeal of discriminatory laws, gender-responsive justice systems, expanded legal aid, and sustained institutional reform, urging governments, the United Nations system, and civil society to take coordinated, accountable action to ensure justice for all women and girls. To read the full statement click [HERE](#).

GWJ Cosponsored CSW70 Written Statements

- Federation of American Women’s Clubs Overseas (FAWCO). Read [HERE](#)
- International Alliance of Women. Read [HERE](#)
- National Alliance of Women’s Organizations. Read [HERE](#)
- National Council of Women Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Read [HERE](#)
- NGO CSW Vienna. Read [HERE](#)
- Red Dot Foundation. Read [HERE](#)
- Soroptimist International. Read [HERE](#)
- Widows Rights International (WRI). Read [HERE](#)
- Zonta International. Read [HERE](#)



Five GWJ International Advocacy Talking Points for Delegates

1. Advocate for access to justice for all women and girls by recognizing education as a foundational enabler of rights awareness, legal literacy, and civic participation, in line with the CSW70 priority theme. **Delegate talking point: *GWJ affirms that justice begins in the classroom and works to ensure women and girls have access to inclusive, quality education that enables them to understand, claim, and defend their rights.***
2. Echo the Secretary-General’s emphasis on eliminating discriminatory laws, weak implementation, and harmful social norms, particularly where they restrict women’s access to education, employment, nationality rights, and resources. **Delegate talking point: *GWJ advocates for legal and policy reforms that remove structural barriers to women’s educational and professional advancement and supports women’s academic advancement through its fellowship and grant programs.***
3. Address structural and intersecting forms of discrimination that compound barriers to justice and education, including discrimination based on income, disability, age,

migration status, race, and displacement. **Delegate talking point: *GWI promotes inclusive and lifelong learning approaches that reach marginalized women and girls, recognizing education as a prerequisite for equitable access to justice.***

4. Support legal empowerment and feminist civil society engagement as drivers of systemic change, emphasizing education as a key tool for legal awareness, accountability, and community-level access to remedies. **Delegate talking point: *GWI collaborates with civil society and United Nations partners to promote legal literacy, rights education, and women's leadership as pathways to justice.***
5. Advocate for systemic reform and sustained investment in gender-responsive education and justice systems, including coordination between education and justice institutions and equitable participation in digital and STEM education. **Delegate talking point: *GWI calls for integrated education and justice policies that reflect lived realities of women and ensure women can participate in shaping the systems that govern their rights, including emerging digital justice frameworks.***

Five GWI Advocacy Points GWI CSW70 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.



What are United Nations CSW70 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 are 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 CSW70?

Official GWI CSW70 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 the next page.

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

Forum 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 CSW70 Forum will offer +750 Parallel Events.*

The CSW70 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 CSW70 Forum and are hosted by civil society organizations or groups. 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 CSW70 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.

CSW70 Forum Portal Registration: It’s Important!



The CSW70 Whova platform is packed with invaluable resources. Here, you can network with like-minded individuals, customize your CSW70 agenda by selecting from a variety of Parallel Events, and access numerous other features to enhance your experience. You can register for the CSW70 Forum [HERE](#) and download the Whova app [HERE](#). If you experience any technical issues with Whova, please contact their support. **GW cannot help delegates with Whova technical issues.**

What are CSW70 Forum Parallel Events?

One of the key components of the CSW Forum is Parallel Events. Each year, civil society organizations (around the globe) can 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 Side and Parallel Events

CSW70 Parallel Event Locations: Most CSW70 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 Centre

221 E 52nd Street
New York, NY 10022



GWJ is organizing a Side Event and a virtual Parallel Event, each featuring distinguished professional speakers.

Organized by the GWJ Young Member Network, this Parallel Event titled, “From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Pathways to Access Justice for Women” will be held **12 March 2026, 9:30 am Eastern Time (ET) (virtual)**.

The interactive event, led by a panel of GWJ young members from across the globe, will highlight the need to empower young women through education, mentoring and training opportunities providing solution-driven pathways to access justice. There will be opportunities for audience interaction via breakout sessions, opinion polls and Q&A. See flyer below. Register in advance for this event [HERE](#).

GWJ President, Pat Patton, will be a featured speaker at the CSW70 Parallel Event titled “*From Law to Life: How Women’s Organizations are Advancing Justice through Community Accountability*”, taking place in person on **12 March 2026, 2:30 to 4:00 pm ET at the Salvation Army Centre in New York**.

This interactive parallel event will bring together leaders of global women’s organizations to explore how civil society is turning gender equality commitments into lived realities through community accountability mechanisms. The panel will highlight practical strategies that advance justice, including education as a tool of empowerment, economic opportunity, and grassroots monitoring that strengthens implementation of women’s rights. Participants will gain insight into how women’s networks bridge the gap between law and life and contribute to achieving SDG 5 and SDG 16. The event will include opportunities for audience engagement through moderated discussion and Q&A.

In a Side Event Co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Ireland and Soroptimist International, GWJ President Pat Patton will deliver closing remarks. The Side Event is titled: “Knowledge is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls” and will be held on **11 March 2026, 13:15-14:45 ET, at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, 885 2nd Ave, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10017**.

This Side Event will delve into how education contributes to enhancing access to justice for women and girls, directly aligning with the CSW70 priority theme. It will highlight evidence-based policies that integrate education into legal empowerment frameworks, helping women and girls assert their rights. Key points include data and case studies showing how education reduces barriers to justice, with insights from India and globally. This Side Event will also discuss partnerships among United Nations entities, Member States, and civil society promoting scalable solutions for equitable legal systems.

“Knowledge is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls”

Wednesday 11 March 2026,
 13:15-14:30 EDT
 Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations
 885 2nd Ave, Floor 21, New York, NY 10017

[REGISTER NOW](#)

12 March 2026
 3:30PM CET (Central European Time)

Registration Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8MgmkRt1t6bMBKRLZdUYA>

“From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Pathways to Access Justice for Women”

PANEL OF SPEAKERS

<p>Sudha Srivastava (United Kingdom) “Leadership Begins Young: Policy Pathways to Women’s Access to Justice”</p>	<p>Nana Adwoa Adowaa Nsiah (Ghana) “Digital Exclusion is Injustice: Girls, AI and Right to Participate”</p>	<p>Tzazil Valencia (Mexico) “Justice Starts in the Classroom: How Education Shapes Women’s Access to justice in Mexico”</p>	<p>Nkem Menkiti (Nigeria) “Mentorship: A key Driver for Women’s Access to Justice in Nigeria”</p>
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BREAKOUT SESSION LEADERS

<p>Cynthia Adinortey (Ghana)</p>	<p>Carla Pierini (France)</p>	<p>Alukhanyo Xonti (South Africa)</p>	<p>Menna Mohamed (New Zealand)</p>
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GWY Young Members Network CSW70 Parallel Event

The event is developed and produced by Sudha Srivastava (President YMN GWI) with YMN Team. The session highlights the need of empowering young women through education, mentoring and training opportunities - providing solution-driven pathways to access justice. The event is highly interactive and the programme is divided into a few engaging sections – diverse panel presentation followed by breakout room discussions led by young women. There will also be further opportunities for audience to participate in opinion polls and interactive Q&A.

FROM LAW TO LIFE:

How Women’s Organizations are Advancing Justice through Community Accountability

<p>Bandana Rana CEDAW Committee</p>	<p>Diana Barragan President BPW International</p>	<p>Susan Jones President Project Five-O</p>	<p>Renata Probst President Scrapmetal International</p>
<p>Salla Tuominen President Zonta International</p>	<p>Patricia Patten President Graduate Women International</p>	<p>Dr Luana Parisi MCAA University of East London</p>	<p>Emily Van Vlieck NGO CSW NY</p>

This parallel event brings together the world’s leading non-governmental women’s organizations to explore how civil society is turning legal commitments into real change

12 March, 2:30 4:00 pm | **Auditorium, Salvation Army Centre**

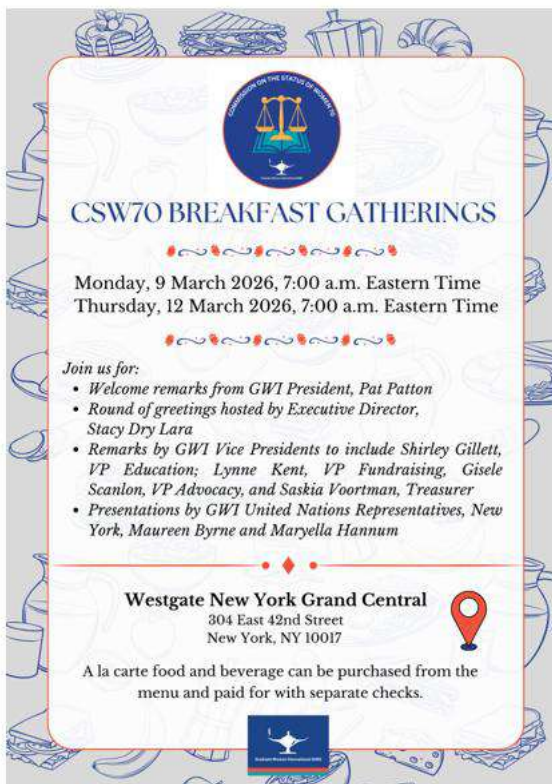
CSW 70 - Physical Parallel Event




GWI IN PERSON PROGRAM

GWI is hosting two Breakfast Briefings and one Social Dinner during CSW70. Please join us!

Note to RSVP for the social dinner no later than 9 March 2026 to membership@graduatewomen.org. The cost of dinner is \$70 and will be collected at the door





CSW70 BREAKFAST GATHERINGS


Monday, 9 March 2026, 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time
Thursday, 12 March 2026, 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time

Join us for:

- Welcome remarks from GWI President, Pat Patton
- Round of greetings hosted by Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara
- Remarks by GWI Vice Presidents to include Shirley Gillett, VP Education; Lynne Kent, VP Fundraising, Gisele Scanlon, VP Advocacy, and Saskia Voortman, Treasurer
- Presentations by GWI United Nations Representatives, New York, Maureen Byrne and Maryella Hannum

Westgate New York Grand Central
304 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

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




GWI will be honored with your presence at the festive

GWI CSW70 Social Dinner

and International Women's Day Celebration

Wednesday, 11 March 2026, 7-9 p.m.
(Please arrive by 7:00p.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 9 March 2026 to membership@graduatewomen.org**



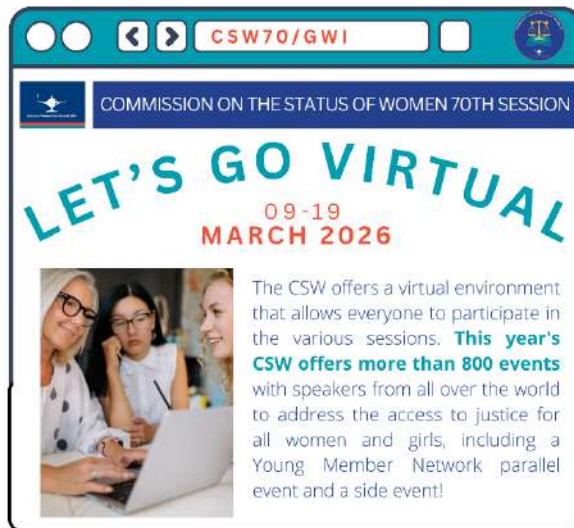
* Please note that the dinner cost is payable in **cash** and will be collected at upon entry.

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

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

CSW70 offers a virtual environment that allows everyone to participate in the United Nations CSW70 and the CSW70 Forum sessions. The United Nations CSW70 and the CSW70 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 CSW70 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 [HERE](#).



Access the
live stream
[HERE](#)

Not attending CSW70 in person, then how about a get-together?

Organize a watch party with your fellow NFA or colleagues!



Register for the
NGO CSW70
Forum [HERE](#)



@GRADUATEWOMENINTERNATIONAL



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@GRADWOMEN



@GRADUATEWOMENINTERNATIONAL



Your Reports Matter! How to Submit a CSW70 Report

GWI representatives to CSW70 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 CSW70.

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 CSW70 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 the 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, United Nations 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 United Nations New York campus for those delegates who receive a United Nations grounds pass.

Networking During CSW70 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 CSW70 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 Day New York



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

Designed to prepare, inspire, and connect participants ahead of the Forum, get key insights into the CSW themes, and engage with global leaders. Featuring speakers from civil society, the United Nations, and governments. Share ideas, explore advocacy solutions, and get inspired to build partnerships and drive action.

NGO CSW New York Consultation Day, 8 March 2026, 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 CSW70 Forum participants. The Artisan Fair will take place on Wednesday, 11 March at 1:30-5 pm. Location: Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10017.

NGO CSW/NY 70 Forum Reception

Celebration of the CSW70, an unforgettable evening with a DJ, dancing and full buffet, all for \$100 (\$95 ticket + \$5 processing fee). 10 March 2026, 6:30-9:30 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 CSW70 NGO representatives to access United Nations premises.

Look for the UN Women Advisory about picking up your United Nations grounds pass. Please read the entire document carefully.

Due to the high number of registrations for CSW70, 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 45th 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 CSW70 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 CSW70!**

Each representative should have received a CSW70 confirmation email when their CSW70 registration was approved by the Conference Focal Point of the organization. The title of the email reads “[Indico] 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) 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 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 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 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 CSW70 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 Tidbits of Information

Texting and participating in the GWI CSW70 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

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 Outerwear: 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.

- Be Aware of surroundings and stay alert.
- If something doesn't feel right or if you sense danger, trust your instincts and take action to remove yourself from the situation.
- While it's not always necessary for women to walk in groups, traveling with friends or acquaintances can provide an added sense of security.
- Before traveling, familiarize yourself with the route, including transfer points and stops. This can help reduce anxiety and ensure a smoother journey.
- 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.

Leading up to the CSW70 Priority Theme: Chronology of CSW Work

CSW69 (2025): Priority theme: 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 (Agreed Conclusions of the sixty-fourth session).

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.

We hope you have a successful and enjoyable CSW70 experience.

GWI thanks intern, Mila METIVIER, for her invaluable contributions to this handbook.