



Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

United Nations Commission on the Status

of Women 70th session (CSW70)

Graduate Women International (GWI)

Delegate Reports

March 2026



Graduate Women International (GWI) thanks all delegates for their reports and valued contributions. This document contains responses to selected questions from the delegate reports. All excerpts are presented verbatim as originally submitted, without edits to wording, grammar, or content. Delegate names have not been attributed in response to requests from delegates and in support of data protection and privacy considerations, including GDPR principles.



How did this session contribute to ensuring and strengthening access to justice for women and girls, particularly through promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, or practices, and addressing structural barriers?

1. These Agreed Conclusions for CSW70, while being overly wordy, dense, and nonsensical in places, did, for the first time ever in CSW deliberations, highlight the need for governments to pay much more attention to women who are incarcerated. Women constitute 7% of all people imprisoned globally, often along with their children, in overcrowded, unsafe, and unclean conditions. It is good to see this being added after so many years.

I focused on sessions related to the nexus between justice and education, and those sessions of relevance to justice issues in New Zealand and the Pacific region. There were not very many sessions in either of these categories, and it would have been good to have seen more related to the first, as good access to education is so elemental to good access to justice. In future years, perhaps GWI could work with NFAs to look at doing a presentation in a side event on global education issues as they relate to whatever is the major CSW theme to give more prominence to the vital importance of education in any social, economic, or development sector.”

Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand

2. It highlighted the need for accessibility to legal protections and the need for education of women and girls to know where to find their rights and how to access them. It emphasised the need for gender sensitivity in reporting crimes of a private nature, such as sexual assault or rape, in a society where women may not feel comfortable coming forward and may be unsure of how they will be received by the police. It suggested that having more women law practitioners might help, but this was not borne out in a study conducted. 20% of lawyers are female, and 2/3s of them practice in cities. Access to the law for people living outside large urban centres was an issue. Litigation is expensive and lengthy. Free legal aid is not common, and few lawyers work pro bono. The law is perceived as complex and hard to navigate, and there is little education in the basic principles and rights.

Enforcement of the law was also considered not to be equal.

Suggestions advanced: Women must be involved in drafting laws and in the entire legislative process. Male police, lawyers, and judges should be schooled in gender sensitive responses. Effective enforcement must be guaranteed. Trust must be built up in the authorities across the legal process.” – **Delegate from Irish Federation of**

University Women, A Simple Suggestion To Improve Access To Justice For All

Women And Girls Side Event

3. Need to get information to women and girls living in rural areas.
Reaffirm that all people have the right to live free of violence.



Improved data on domestic violence is a must.

Keep girls in school as long as possible.

Teachers play a critical role in providing information regarding laws, the legal system, access to justice, and civic education. Legal literacy is a must.

Confront norms of discrimination and violence in and around schools.

Technology can provide girls and women with the language to access rights, but it must reach them in their primary language.

Safe online spaces are crucial.

There is a need to engage faith-based and community leaders in this struggle.

Organize collectively; shift from reactive to preventive; view education as a form of justice itself; provide sustained investment in education. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**, Education for Justice: Emerging Trends in Women's Access to Justice Through Education; 3/9/26

4. This session focused on some of the education and health policies UNICEF has pursued or will pursue over the coming years, as well as possible reforms coming to the UN under the UN80 Initiative. UNICEF reported a 46% drop in HIV in Adolescent Girls since 2010 and a 69% drop in child deaths. The latter was achieved in part by disrupting vertical transmission; that is, preventing HIV in girls and women so that it is not passed on to their children. UNICEF also reported on services to children from birth to 8 years of age during 2018-2023 in education, health, nutrition, and social protection. Despite COVID, 220 million children were reached, 150 million of them living in crisis situations. Unfortunately, grave violations against children in conflict situations were up 25% in 2024 compared to 2023, a staggering 41,370 such violations, the highest number since 1996. In some crisis settings, UNICEF prioritized secondary education to mitigate the severe risk that out-of-school Adolescent Girls face in refugee camps. Going forward, due to severe and rapid budget cuts, UNICEF will focus primarily on providing services during emergency or crisis situations. UNICEF is projecting a \$3.2 billion drop in international educational aid compared to 2023, including a 28% cut in overall education support for girls. Additional drops are projected in gender-based violence (13%), sexual abuse (21.8%), and mental health (15%). Member States urged UNICEF not to decrease services in education and social protection and to continue to help Member States develop national statistical offices.

The UN 80 Initiative is focused on reforms to be made due to the significant budget challenges the UN is experiencing. Three nations – the US (22%), China (20%), and Japan (6.9%) - account for almost 50% of the UN budget. Four additional European nations (the UK, France, Italy, and Germany) provide an additional 16.3%. Financial restructuring is being considered, and Member States are being urged to pay their dues on time and in full. As of CSW70, only 80 countries had done so. Among the



UN80 Initiatives being considered are a budget cut of 20%, the loss of 6,900 jobs, agency consolidation (i.e., UN Women & UNFPA), systemic restructuring, and movement of agencies out of NY and Geneva. Future sessions will be held on the UN80 Initiative in July 2026 and September 2026. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**, GWI Breakfast Meeting 3/12/26

5. For the first time in 70 years, the CSW70 Agreed Conclusions outcome document was not approved by consensus. The United States Resolution: Protection of Women and Girls Through Appropriate Terminology was not acted upon due to a lack of negotiation (Proposed by Belgium; approval 23; rejection 4; abstention 17). A number of Member States said that, despite approving the Agreed Conclusions document, they had reservations regarding reproductive rights. Further, certain items or terms, particularly 'multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination', were either rejected outright or would only be interpreted within the context of their country's religion, culture, customs, and laws. That is, there would only be implementation within their national framework.

On a more positive note, Member States called for a more assertive document regarding justice for women and girls, as well as the reaffirmation of BPfA, multilateralism, and diversity, not discrimination. Finally, Civil Society was thanked for its advocacy. – **Delegate from Women Graduates USA**, 8th Plenary Meeting - CSW70 High Level Meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls; March 12, 2026

6. The Canadian mission global network of peace builders held an event hosted by the Canadian ambassador, where Senator Rechie Valdez discussed her experiences in peacebuilding through shared values and stories, inspiring grassroots members. Baroness Harriet Harman, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Women and Girls, highlighted that political parties compete to involve women on the feminist agenda as they say it is a vote-winner. She noted that growing female representation in Parliaments across the world fosters international collaboration despite cultural differences. She also mentioned Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper's commitment to women's roles in conflict zones. Viola Samuel from Nigeria spoke on women's peacekeeping efforts in South Sudan and Congo. Friha Rezayee, originally from Afghanistan and now in Vancouver, who competed for Afghanistan in the 2024 Olympics in Judo, emphasized the importance of education and sports for women's equality. Her work supported funding scholarships, which have enabled over forty Afghan women to study in Canada, helping reduce gender apartheid. Palestinian activist Rima Salah delivered closing remarks on how women in politics can strengthen communication between civil society and government, supporting female parliamentarians.

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) hosted a significant event at the EU mission house, focusing on the "Gender Parity Road Map" and emphasising the necessity for



this initiative to be firmly rooted in the rule of law as a prerequisite. Key figures in attendance included Dina Login, the current president; Mary Collins, secretary general; Anne Negre, vice president of EWL and immediate past president of UWE who attended online; as well as Petra Bayer, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Alena Mastantutuono, vice president of the Social and Economic Committee, highlighted the importance of applying a gender lens to policies concerning trade and migration. She emphasised issues such as access to justice, the gender pay gap, and pension equality. According to Mastantutuono, the path to gender parity must extend beyond parliament, encompassing trade unions and boardrooms as well. – **Delegate from the British Federation of Women Graduates**

7. At the closing of Day 1, member states agreed by broad consensus to the conclusions:
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. – **Delegate from the British Federation of Women Graduates**, 9/3/2026 Opening Session CSW - Day 1
8. Thanks to the next info: Be aware of cyberbullying (85% of women and 1/5 girls), only 15% of women file a complaint, 1/3 of victims think it is useless, and need to amend the agreements – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, Acces a la justice pour les femmes (Parallel event)
9. This presentation explores how artificial intelligence can illuminate systems that perpetuate disparities affecting women and girls. This session shows how AI exposes discriminatory practices and the importance of developing basic AI Literacy for women. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Digital Mirrors: AI, Gender Stereotypes, and Global Inequity
10. In this session, the growing threat of technology-facilitated sexual and gender-based violence is examined, with a focus on the role of artificial intelligence in enabling, amplifying, and obscuring harm. The discussion highlights emerging legal responses, accountability gaps, and good practices for gender-responsive AI governance. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Invisible Violence Made Visible: AI, Gender and the Fight for Justice, Tuesday 10 March 2026, Parallel Event



11. raising the need for additional data - as women are a forgotten group and particularly older women who the legal system pretty much puts on hold, hoping to never deal with their issue (sorry, can't think of a nicer way to say that)
3. We urgently need disaggregated data. Age ranges are often so broad that older women's experiences are hidden within them. Without age-specific, geographically nuanced, and context-sensitive data, including in conflict and occupation settings, policy responses will continue to miss those most at risk. – **Delegate from Graduate Women Scotland**, VAWG across the life-course
12. All speakers started with the premise that education is the bedrock to justice for women and girls in all their diversity. H.E. Mythen spoke of the 1968 policy that made public education equal for all, regardless of race, economic status, or gender, and equated this policy with Ireland's current success. H.E. Mahoi reported that a change in policy making education free brought girls into school at the same level as boys, but warned that violence in and around schools must be addressed everywhere. Ms. Aguele discussed the need for systemic change in Nigeria's schools but said it can only occur if the local community is part of the solution. Prof. Patrick Walsh stated that we need to think outside of the Pre-K to College framework and plan for lifelong learning. Ms. Britto argued that education should be seen as reparative justice, but needs to be brought into the 21st Century. A shift in technology, including the male algorithm dominance, is required as it relates to education, especially in the Global South. All speakers acknowledged that education, as it relates to justice, gives girls and women the capacity to question authority, become aware of their rights, challenge discrimination, and learn how to access justice for wrongs committed. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**, Knowledge is power: Education is the first step to power; March 11, 2026
13. Structural, socioeconomic, and cultural barriers, rooted in unequal power relations and discriminatory norms, hinder women's and, in particular, young women's participation in public life. This session looks at ways to support and increase participation in public life, leadership roles, and politics.
Young women and girls need to be exposed to more role models at an early age. The European Union is funding an initiative called WYDE - Women's Leadership to advance women's full and effective political participation, representation, and decision-making at all levels. One of its key strategies is the rolling out of intergenerational dialogues and exchanges for building critical skills, facilitating networking of young women in politics and decision-making. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Intergenerational engagement for advancing young women's leadership Side Event 13 March 2025



14. This session highlighted practical approaches to ensure women can participate safely, build digital skills and leadership, and help shape emerging technologies such as AI. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Women's Participation in Digital Public Life: From commitments to systems that deliver Side Event 13 March 2026
15. This session celebrated a decade of achievements under Women Count, including strengthened national capacities, improved data availability, and increased use of gender statistics in policymaking. It showcased country-level success stories and innovations that demonstrated the transformative power of gender data. It inspired action for the future by highlighting best practices on how gender data changes narratives, informs policy, strengthens accountability, and accelerates progress toward the SDGs. It mobilized renewed commitments and partnerships to support the next phase of Women Count. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**, A Decade of Making Women Count
16. The contributions made were centred on making sure that justice must go beyond a "courtroom moment" to include economic security, housing, healthcare, and comprehensive community-based support systems. Structural barriers and the urgent need to address the gap between rights on paper and in practice were also mentioned. The experts explored how to strengthen the "justice chain" by encouraging collaboration between police, health providers, community leaders, and civil society, ensuring that survivors are not navigating fragmented systems. The session urged a move away from sole reliance on traditional criminal justice systems, which often fail victims, toward restorative justice and economic justice initiatives that provide survivors with tools to rebuild their lives. The panellists advocated for Cross-Sectoral Solutions, which will strengthen the "justice chain" by encouraging collaboration between police, health providers, community leaders, and civil society, ensuring that survivors are not navigating fragmented systems. The discussion recognised the need to empower survivor leadership, ensuring that those with lived experience of gender-based violence (GBV) are active participants in designing justice solutions. – **Delegate from Ghana Association of University Women**, Justice Beyond the Courtroom: A Whole of Society Approach to Ending Gender-Based Violence; Monday, 16 March 2026, 16 Mar, 09:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Side event
17. Panelists
Austrian MP Petra Bayr, the Pres. of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)



Dr. Anne-Marie Goetz of the Center for Global Affairs at NY University, on her research documenting and analyzing violence directed at women in public life, and Canada's Senator Donna Dasko, an expert on Canadian public opinion, media commentator, and business leader with public policy experience; co-founder and former National Chair of Equal Voice.

Women lead in many ways, in volunteerism to strengthen their families and communities, in their employment, and in public office at every level of governance. Women in public life are often targeted disproportionately by various forms of harassment and violence - simply because they are women leaders and because the perpetrators wish to drive women and keep girls out of public life.

Far too many women in public life - including women holding office, journalists, and civil society leaders have experienced violence in one or more forms, designed to pressure them to quit their positions and retreat from public life, and to discourage other women and girls from trying. Panelists spoke to “antidotes” to the spectrum of violence that is a pathway for the “virus of inequality” evident in every country in the world. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, International Panel on Antidotes to the Virus of Inequality Driving Women from Public Life, 9 March 2026

18. By reading and discussing in a group biographies and autobiographies based on the theme of justice, youth described how literature-based reflections can foster agency, mutual understanding, and sustainable gender justice. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, “Bibliotherapy for Youth: Rewriting the Story of Gender Justice” March 9th

19. This event highlighted the realities faced by women and girls in Iran, including those from ethnic, religious, and linguistic minority communities, in accessing justice within discriminatory legal and institutional systems.

Drawing on testimonies, human rights documentation, and gender-sensitive legal analysis, the discussion underlined structural barriers such as gender-based violence, unequal legal protections, and the repression of women human rights defenders. Speakers explored pathways to promote inclusive and equitable legal systems and to strengthen protection and accountability mechanisms, while supporting community empowerment and the vital role of civil society in advancing justice for all women and girls. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Voices of Iranian Women: Pathways to Justice and Rights, 9 March 2026

20. Speakers:

Dr. Sima Samar, Former Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Special Rapporteur for Sudan, Visiting Scholar at Tufts University



Richard Bennett, Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Professor Rangita de Silva de Alwis, Distinguished Professor of Law and Global Leadership at the Uni of Pennsylvania

Eleanor Smeal, President, Feminist Majority Foundation

Makhfi Azizi, Director, Campaign for Afghanistan

For nearly five years, under the Taliban's brutal rule, Afghan women and girls have been forcibly erased from public life, subjected to horrific violence, barred from school and employment, and denied access to justice.

Join us to hear from Afghan leaders, scholars, and activists about the efforts to include gender apartheid as a crime against humanity, prevent the Taliban from occupying Afghanistan's seat at the UN, and insist that women be equally present in every discussion on Afghanistan's future. – **Delegate from Graduate Women**

International Netherlands, Listen to Afghan Women: Gender Apartheid, Its Implications and Resistance, 10 March 2026

21. Other speakers were :

Anne Negre, Vice-President of the European Women's Lobby and Special Advisor to the President of University Women of Europe – participating online

Christa Schweng, President of the Equality Group

Saša Gavrić, Adviser on Gender Issues at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Ligia Nobrega, Senior gender expert working at the European Institute for Gender Equality - participating online Auður Önnu Magnúsdóttir, Managing director of Icelandic Women's Rights Association

Nicola Grigg, Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Minister for Women, Associate Minister of Agriculture (Horticulture), and Associate Minister for ACC – video message

Iliana Balabanova, EWL member – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Achieving fifty-fifty parity in power, how can this gap be tackled concretely? 11 March 2026h

22. It emphasized the role of teaching about rights and legal processes for girls and young women in education settings such as schools. It also addressed what actually is "school" in the modern era, describing it as stuck back in old systems and structures. To confront discrimination, etc., as above, schools need to change. Maybe we don't need schools as we know them currently. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: EDUCATION AS THE FIRST STEP TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



23. This session described the advancements for women in leadership in the field of justice and changes to policies in Egypt, Portugal, and Saudi Arabia.

New laws, an increase in women in legal positions, and moving from recipients to providers of justice. – **Delegate from Canadian Federation of University Women**, Enhancing Women's Access to Justice: Scaling Judicial Leadership; side event

24. 'Tuvalu is Drowning'

As a Samoan New Zealand woman, I am acutely aware and concerned with the issues that our Pacific sisters and their families are encountering. At the forefront are 'Global Warming', 'Climate Change Poverty', and Population Displacement. Several low-lying Pacific island nations face an existential threat from rising sea levels, with Tuvalu most affected, followed by Kiribati and the Marshall Islands. Rising sea levels threaten. Scientists warn that many of these nations, with land masses often only a few meters above sea level, could become uninhabitable or submerged within decades, displacing thousands of people. I attended 6 Parallel events and 4 MeetUps hosted by and involving Pacific Island delegates, plus we spent time speaking with Pacific Island women after these events. The two most poignant sessions are noted below with related SDGs

SDG.13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Pacific Island women need access to finance. Due to encroaching seawater onto their land, fresh water access is diminishing, and women are unable to grow important food crops, which not only sustains their family but is also a vital source of income. Valuing education, women are going without food to pay for transportation and for food for school lunches. Women in the islands are at the forefront of every crisis, natural disaster, flood, tornado, and tidal wave. Not only do these crises have devastating financial impacts, but women and children are also affected by family violence that stems from these events. Structural barriers regarding accessing Climate Finance were highlighted, along with discriminatory USA Visa requirements of \$5k-\$15k bonds, which restricted Pacific Island delegates from attending CSW70 and arguing their case. This injustice was acknowledged and addressed by the Pacific Island activist Doris Tuifoa, who delivered an impassioned speech calling attention to the state of Tuvalu and other endangered Pacific nations and the prospect of displacement to a crowded room of civil society agents, government officials, and Pacific Island delegates. Three High Commissioners (all male) from Germany, Australia, and Portugal agreed to financially support the Pacific Nations in their call for action. We witnessed collaborative efforts to alleviate systemic injustices that need to be addressed and enforced in policy and practice. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, CSW70 Side Event



25. From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Pathways to Access Justice for Women, this session was led by GWI Young Members to present information from their perspective on accessing justice for women and girls and hold a discussion on how this is accessed in participants' countries and solutions for change.

At what age does justice begin for a girl, an adult woman in the legal system, or when, as a girl, she learns that her voice matters? Exploration of the leadership pipeline, digital exclusions leads to injustice and the right to participate; AI is not diverse in its cultural foundations, data sets are blind when participation is narrow; girls can learn about AI through early exposure in creative expression, development of safe, culturally responsive learning spaces, and can be identity-building rather than intimidation; barriers to justice begin in the school where education is the gatekeeper; mentorship provides influence, guidance and direction given by trusted mentors; young women need to see women in action - role models; need to have more girls complete secondary education and be taught how to use systems in order to support more girls in education, encourage young girls to speak up and to speak to their women leaders; don't be complacent, understand the systems in which we work and live; make sure girls and women know they have rights and help them to understand their legal systems; overcome gender bias in the education system; UN Townhall: speaker UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres: when there is equity, institutions become stronger; the UN has achieved parity in 50%+ of UN Officials now women; push against the patriarchy; keep shaking the foundations of privilege; no giving up; no to the pushback; no to the rollback

Power to Lead, Power to Justice: leadership is needed to strengthen democracy; women in parliament can identify and address inequality in Parliaments; women influence the peace-making process; hold peer-to-peer discussions and Women's Townhalls; sustain funding needed for women's leadership and support for facing security threats; Afghanistan - raising funds to help women leave the country for education

Strengthening Justice: design prison systems for women's unique needs, current systems are designed for men, therefore they are non-responsive to women's needs; prevent violence against women & girls inside prisons; Media: media controls images across the life course; reshape the stories being told and tell the stories of women. -

Delegate from Canadian Federation of University Women, From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Pathways to Access Justice for Women, Parallel Event; Voices for Change: Shaping a Resilient and Equal Future for Women & Girls, Parallel Event; Tuesday Townhall, UN event; Power to Lead, Power to Justice: Women Parliamentarians Transforming Governance, Parallel Event; UN-EU Caucus, Parallel Event; Strengthening Justice: Women & Girls in Health, Law & Media



26. This session focused on the effects of poverty and financial deprivation on women and children in Senegal. Panel members engaged in both high-level political and leadership discussions, as well as attention being given to the practical challenges that civil society, government agencies, and aid workers have in providing support and education to women and girls in the outer regions of Senegal and similar geographic locations. Working in the mines has adverse effects on the health of women and girls, with women and girls working for subsistence wages, and at the same time, mining contributes to environmental harm. Education is not considered a priority when women live in these conditions.

Poverty and the need to meet basic human needs, such as providing food, shelter, and security, underpin women's decision to work in the mines, and are a key driver of why children are not attending school. While government and NGOs are focused on encouraging girls to education, structural and geographic barriers exist. These barriers could be addressed by increased access to funding and improved legal systems legitimising land rights for women. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, Social Justice for Women and Girls in Mining, Through Transformational Leadership Side Event

27. Key issues with funding are the need for statistics and data, which can be extremely challenging to capture in developing nations where the internet is not accessible, and the cost of technology is prohibitive. Following the progress of this collaboration established ten years ago between Senegal, Australia, Denmark, and Nigeria was heartwarming. These nations created a pact a decade ago to commit to improving gender equality via data analytics and AI. Finances, skills, and resources were pooled to develop tools that could be used by 'on the ground' Aid workers and NGOs to capture data. This data has been used to highlight key issues and behaviours that are needed to support funding applications and aid efforts, as well as influence policy. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, Session: A Decade of Making Women Count: Powering Gender Equality Through Data, Celebrating 10 Years of the Women Count Programme - Side Event

28. It showed the interdependence of gender-equality, human rights, democratic rights, democratic security, and modern democracy – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, PROTECT DEMOCRACY, DEFEND GENDER EQUALITY 11 Mar, 01:15 PM - 02:30 PM

29. Strengthening gender equality in all fields and on all levels is crucial to access to justice. – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, COUNTERING BACKLASH AND SAFEGUARDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS 12 Mar, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM



30. This session emphasised that access to justice begins with access to education, information, and legal literacy. It highlighted how structural barriers such as unequal access to education, digital exclusion, and limited institutional awareness prevent women and girls from understanding and claiming their rights. Speakers demonstrated that education is both a preventative and empowering tool, enabling women to engage with legal systems, participate in decision-making, and challenge discriminatory practices. The discussion reinforced that inclusive and equitable justice systems must be underpinned by accessible knowledge, strong institutions, and targeted efforts to remove systemic barriers affecting marginalised women and girls. – **Delegate from Irish Federation of University Women**, Knowledge Is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls
31. The panel held on March 11, titled "Access to Justice for Women and Girls in Mexico: Structural Challenges, Persistent Violence, and Institutional Responses," contributed to ensuring and strengthening access to justice through several strategic areas:
- Identifying and Addressing Structural Barriers: The session was specifically designed to diagnose the "structural challenges" and "institutional responses" regarding violence against women. By examining the "capacities" and "limits" of the current justice system, the panel highlighted the systemic failures that often prevent women and girls from obtaining effective legal protection.
- Promoting Gender Perspective in Legal Frameworks: A core focus of the session was the need for "Justice with a gender perspective," particularly in the context of emerging threats like digital violence. Dr. Andrea Samaniego Sánchez discussed the limitations of current regulatory frameworks and how algorithms can complicate legal access, advocating for more inclusive and equitable legal systems that adapt to modern challenges.
- Linking Economic Autonomy to Justice: The panel addressed the gender gap in science and technology as a matter of "rights and economic autonomy".
- Strengthening a woman's economic position is a critical step in removing the structural barriers that often make them vulnerable or unable to navigate the legal system effectively.
- Feminist Advocacy and Victim Support: By exploring "feminist responses to violence and victim accompaniment," the session promoted practices that go beyond mere legislation. It emphasized that a truly equitable system must provide comprehensive support to victims, ensuring they are not re-traumatized by discriminatory institutional practices.
- Diplomatic and International Engagement: As noted in our conversation, the delegation's meeting with Deputy Ambassador Muñoz Ledo and the participation in the broader CSW70 framework allowed FEMU to voice concerns directly to diplomatic representatives, ensuring that the need for legal reform in Mexico



remains a priority in international human rights agendas. – **Delegate from Mexican Federation of University Women**, Parallel Event: "ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MEXICO: STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES, PERSISTENT VIOLENCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES. DIAGNOSIS BY THE MEXICAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN"

32. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Mexican Federation of University Women, and Graduate Women USA contributes to access to justice for women and girls in the following ways:

Regional Collaboration for Legal Equity: By formalizing the CAMEUS partnership within the framework of CSW70 (Commission on the Status of Women), these organizations create a unified North American front to advocate for the elimination of discriminatory laws and policies across borders.

Leveraging Professional Expertise: As federations of university-educated women, the signees use their collective academic and professional influence to identify and address structural barriers that prevent women from fully participating in or being protected by legal systems.

Global Advocacy and Standards: The participation of Graduate Women International (GWI) leadership indicates that this session aligns local and national efforts with international human rights standards, ensuring that advocacy for inclusive legal systems is part of a broader global movement.

Symbolic and Strategic Focus on Justice: The prominence of the Lady Justice icon in the event's framework emphasizes that a core objective of this trilateral agreement is to ensure that legal systems are not only equitable but also accessible to all women and girls, regardless of their background. – **Delegate from Mexican Federation of University Women**, Parallel Event: "MEMORANDUM OF

UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING CEREMONY" BETWEEN CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN MEXICAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN GRADUATE WOMEN USA

33. Les sessions ont mis en évidence des voies complémentaires pour améliorer l'accès à la justice en combinant les réformes institutionnelles, les développements juridiques et la transformation sociale et technologique. Ils ont souligné la nécessité de systèmes juridiques plus inclusifs et représentatifs pour s'assurer que les lois reflètent les réalités des femmes et des filles. Le renforcement de la participation de la société civile, en particulier des organisations de femmes, aide à combler le fossé entre les systèmes juridiques et les expériences vécues, permettant une élaboration de politiques plus réactive. Les discussions ont également souligné l'importance d'adapter les cadres juridiques aux formes émergentes de violence, en particulier en



ligne, comblant ainsi les lacunes juridiques et assurant des recours efficaces pour les victimes. Dans le même temps, les solutions technologiques (sécurité par conception, détection des abus, mécanismes de signalement) aident à éliminer les obstacles structurels, y compris la peur et le manque de preuves. Enfin, la lutte contre les normes sociales nuisibles - par l'engagement des jeunes et des modèles positifs - a été identifiée comme la clé de la prévention de la violence et de la réduction de la discrimination.

Dans l'ensemble, les sessions démontrent qu'un accès efficace à la justice nécessite une approche intégrée combinant une gouvernance inclusive, l'innovation juridique, la responsabilité technologique et le changement social. – **Delegate from Association sénégalaise des femmes diplômées des universités (ASFUDU)**, 1-Meeting Townhall avec le secrétaire général et la société civile en marge de la soixante-dixième session de la commission sur la situation des femmes - 10/mars/2026 ; 2-panel on digital safety and gender based online violence - 12/03/2026

Please indicate how the session relates to the local, national, and/or international advocacy work of your NFA.

1. The intersectionality between education and justice is an issue in New Zealand in relation to access to not only knowledge about the justice system and women and girls' access to it in the formal education system, but also publicly available information in the wider society more generally. Recent 10-year planning for the New Zealand court's system, for example, has identified this as an issue for vulnerable people, including women and especially Māori and Pacific women. GWNZ will be looking at this issue as part of our advocacy work during 2026 – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand, CSW70**
2. It goes to the core of the provision of human rights education. Giving women and girls the tools to know how and where to look for their rights and how to insist they are upheld.
My NFA runs a public speaking competition for young girls from areas that are not traditionally represented in third-level education. They see their right to education and its possibilities. – **Delegate from Irish Federation of University Women, A Simple Suggestion To Improve Access To Justice For All Women And Girls Side Event**
3. WG - USA has two major priorities - SDG4 and SDG5 (with an emphasis on violence against women and girls and sexual abuse/trafficking) – **Delegate from**



Women Graduates-USA, WG USA: Education for Justice: Emerging Trends in Women's Access to Justice Through Education; 3/9/26

4. Changes coming to the UN and individual agencies could threaten the gains we have made in gender equality, education for girls and women, and decreased gender-based violence. NFAs as well as GWI need to strategize on next steps. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA, GWI Breakfast Meeting 3/12/26**
5. GWI and WG-USA will continue to advocate for the rights of women and girls in all their diversity. We will further call for the recognition of the essential role that education plays in helping women and girls attain justice, for it is through education that women and girls become aware of their rights, learn how to navigate the legal system, and participate in civic life. Continued advocacy and coordination with other civil society organizations remains a priority. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA, 8th Plenary Meeting - CSW70 High Level Meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls; March 12, 2026**
6. Being part of the CSWUK women's alliance there work and advocacy in the UK align with what the speakers at the Canadian mission this event described. This will give me the impetus to encourage members at the British Federation of Women graduates to be more involved with the opportunity to collaborate. The work will support our mission, raise the profile of our NFA, and encourage new members
EWL event launched its road map to parity, which included advocacy work and a letter template designed for use by member states and policymakers. This initiative is already underway, with responses from various stakeholders beginning to emerge. Sasa Gavric and Chista Schweng stressed the importance of equality in thought processes and reaffirmed the essential role of quotas. They asserted that the road to parity should begin by engaging political parties, as these entities act as gatekeepers. They encouraged the use of gender-sensitive parliamentary terminology and urged attendees to adopt such language when interacting with their local MPs. - **Delegate from the British Federation of Women Graduates**
7. Girls' and young women's rights to education were one of the key areas raised. – **Delegate from the British Federation of Women Graduates, 9/3/2026 Opening Session CSW - Day 1**
8. challenging stereotypes that still confine girls and boys, through the local competition "Les Olympes de la parole" for girls and boys aged 11-15 years old



(local/Geneva), by informing and encouraging women to get informed about their rights, proposing/offering them a free psy-service and/or a mentoring service – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, Acces a la justice pour les femmes (Parallel event)

9. It is important to analyze the impact of AI on (the rights of) women and for women to take part in the development of AI. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Digital Mirrors: AI, Gender Stereotypes, and Global Inequity

10. AI is a major development with much impact on women. It is important to explore the effects of AI and develop a mechanism to cope with the effects. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Invisible Violence Made Visible: AI, Gender and the Fight for Justice, Tuesday 10 March 2026, Parallel Event

11. Age International has published an article, and we will get involved with their campaigning. <https://www.ageinternational.org.uk/policy-research/empowering-older-women/reflecting-on-csw70/>

We recently engaged with the women's budget group around financial matters - another form of elder abuse - and will continue this engagement – **Delegate from Graduate Women Scotland**, VAWG across the life-course

12. We know what is needed; we must figure out how to do it. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**, Knowledge is power: Education is the first step to power; March 11,2026

13. It is important that in politics and other spheres, there is an equal representation of all ages.

It is encouraging for young members to be involved in politics. NFAs should support their young members in this respect. - **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Intergenerational engagement for advancing young women's leadership Side Event 13 March 2025

14. It encourages the participation of women in the digital age, which is essential. - **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Women's Participation in Digital Public Life: From commitments to systems that deliver Side Event 13 March 2026



15. The session officially launched the Women Count Decade of Impact campaign to amplify results and mobilize political and financial support for gender data. It showcased country success stories and innovations that demonstrated what works in transforming gender data systems and using gender data for policy impact. It served as an announcement of renewed commitments and partnerships to Women Count Phase III, including SIDA and other long-term partners, to sustain and scale impact. It demonstrated a collective understanding and affirmation that gender data is essential for future action to tackle pressing global issues, achieve the SDGs, and leave no one behind. It served to strengthen existing partnerships and collaborations among governments, UN entities, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate progress and demonstrated a collective reaffirmation that gender data is essential for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**, A Decade of Making Women Count
16. This session aligns with GAUW advocacy work. Our work with CEGRAD and other women's organisations focuses on strengthening community-led initiatives.
- GAUW will advocate for local solutions like survivor-centred community advocates and legal aid rather than relying solely on the police.
 - It will also help in securing funding for established victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and providing local support systems for organizations that respond to this call.
 - GAUW will help in tackling the root causes of GBV through an education and awareness programme.
 - It will support national lobbying for policy change through the Ministry of Gender and Child Protection.
 - Overall, this session provides a framework for NFAs to move from solely calling for legal penalties to promoting comprehensive, preventative, and survivor-empowering strategies across all levels of society. – **Delegate from Ghana Association of University Women**, Justice Beyond the Courtroom: A Whole of Society Approach to Ending Gender-Based Violence; Monday, 16 March 2026, 16 Mar, 09:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Side event
17. Every NFA should be aware of the problem and promote more participation of women, and also discuss ways the NFA can put the issues on the table and encourage women in politics to put their own experiences they have concerning issues of harassment on the table, and quotas are not enough. Women's quotas in 93 countries for the election of women in parliament are not enough to tackle the issues – **Delegate from Graduate Women International**



Netherlands, International Panel on Antidotes to the Virus of Inequality Driving Women from Public Life, 9 March 2026

18. My NFA is GWNZ

They have been advocating against online bullying. This presentation had a connection with this in that some of the literature exposed wrongful public treatment. The book *The Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl was one studied. –

Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand, “Bibliotherapy for Youth: Rewriting the Story of Gender Justice” March 9th

19. The world should speak out and act to support Iranian Women, however feminist around the world do not speak out to support them. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Voices of Iranian Women: Pathways to Justice and Rights, 9 March 2026

20. At a time when Afghan women warn that their very existence is being erased and their voices rendered invisible on the global stage, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has taken an unprecedented step by reviewing Afghanistan’s compliance with its international women’s human rights obligations, without engagement from the existing de facto authorities in the country.

CEDAW remains committed to its mandate and stands with the women and girls of Afghanistan by calling on all stakeholders, including the international community, to uphold their obligations under international law. The Committee will publish its findings, formally known as Concluding Observations, on 7 July 2026. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Listen to Afghan Women: Gender Apartheid, Its Implications and Resistance, 10 March 2026

21. Lobby for gender equality as parity has not yet been achieved – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Achieving fifty-fifty parity in power, how can this gap be tackled concretely? 11 March 2026

22. My NFA advocates for fairness in the school-changing curriculum in NZ. This can be related to this topic.

We also advocate against online bullying, which very much relates to access to justice, and again, education is key in this. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: EDUCATION AS THE FIRST STEP TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



23. Accessing Climate Change Finance is extremely challenging for the Pacific and developing nations. Being a Samoan woman, issues with the Pacific are very close to my heart. Our NFA via Graduate Women Otago has supported GW Fiji via travel funding, and our current advocacy initiative to promote a conference in Fiji is underway. I have to say that I would encourage our advocacy initiatives to address key issues, which are around poverty and the need for financial support for children to attend school, as opposed to hosting an event that promotes education. The awareness of the benefits of education is already strong in the Pacific islands; it is the structural barriers, such as the cost of transportation, the lack of funding for books, etc., that prevent children from attending school. SDG.10 Reduced Inequalities, specifically targeting the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies, and practices based on race, ethnicity, and other factors

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to "leave no one behind." Speaking with our Pacific delegates, the USA government enforced heavy bonds ranging from \$5 - \$15k USD on 75 countries with high overstay rates from January 21, 2026, including Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. A Samoan CSW delegate and Social Justice Activist, Doris Tuifao, along with her Papua New Guinea and Fijian colleagues, spoke out about this injustice on behalf of their absent sisters.

1. "Leave no one behind." These immigration policies resulted in a significant reduction in Pacific Island delegates attending CSW70 compared to CSW68 and CSW69. Therefore, it can be said that Pacific Island women, along with many other disadvantaged nations, are seriously disadvantaged by the USA's immigration policy.

SUGGESTION:

Given the significant discrimination targeting 75 nations, I wonder if the United Nations would be considering relocating future CSW events to countries with less stringent visa entry requirements. I believe this issue of discrimination and the potential relocation of CSW could be an agenda item for GWI Advocacy Representatives to consider. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand, CSW70 Side Event**

24. Ongoing advocacy on each of these areas; unite women's voices between NFAs and other women's organizations in the NFA countries – **Delegate from Canadian Federation of University Women, Enhancing Women's Access to Justice: Scaling Judicial Leadership; side event**



25. International Advocacy for the rights of underprivileged women and girls working in these environments needs to be addressed. It is clear that localised advocacy is at work, but this is not enough to bring about change. Men remain the majority decision makers in these nations. Women need to have land ownership rights to raise their position in society and improve their financial status. This will require a collaborative effort. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand, CSW70 Side Event**

26. In her closing remarks, H.E. Mrs Maimouna Dieye, Minister for Family, Social Action and Solidarity, Senegal, summarised the progress made over the past decade and the need for further work to empower women via technology, particularly in developing nations. She gave the following example:
"There are many voices absent in this room because of the lack of access to technology. For example, the application to attend CSW is online, and the information needed to support the application needs to be provided online. These women do not have cellphones, they do not have a computer or laptop, and without access to technology, how are our women expected to have a voice and engage in these events?' Yes, travel awards are offered, but without technology, they cannot access the awards. Perhaps we can think of things differently; we could consider funding technology instead of travel awards. Thereby empowering a woman, her family, and her community. Perhaps that is something we can all think about."
Following on from here, I believe that this is a statement that GWI may want to consider in terms of funding scholarships and travel awards. While I understand that funding allocated to support international initiatives, the issue of access to technology will continue to grow, with women in developing nations most adversely affected. Something for a GWI discussion, perhaps. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand, Session: A Decade of Making Women Count: Powering Gender Equality Through Data Celebrating 10 Years of the Women Count Programme - Side Event**

27. At the local and national levels, the session highlighted the value of using individual-level, gender-sensitive poverty measures in New Zealand to capture the gendered and intersectional experiences of poverty. It is also related to the promotion of women's economic empowerment by recognising the barriers that women with care responsibilities face in accessing employment, education, and social protections. - **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand, Gendered Poverty: Impacts on Women's Access to Justice and Violence - Friday 13 March**



28. In Switzerland, there has been a slight but noticeable decline in women's representation in parliaments. Also, the "glass ceiling" phenomenon in positions in the economy is not eliminated, and women mid-level faculty (assistants), particularly as regards women between 40 and 60, are not adequately supported. All these phenomena are interrelated with the topic of the side event. – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, PROTECT DEMOCRACY, DEFEND GENDER EQUALITY 11 Mar, 01:15 PM - 02:30 PM

29. This backlash is coordinated. Across Europe, gender equality is increasingly misrepresented as "gender ideology," often targeting the Istanbul Convention. False claims suggest it threatens families or sovereignty. In reality, it exists to prevent violence against women, which still affects one in three women in Europe.
We engage in campaigns against violence against women and support women in ensuring the reconcilability of family and career. – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, COUNTERING BACKLASH AND SAFEGUARDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS 12 Mar, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

30. This session directly aligns with my work in governance, policy, and community engagement, particularly in addressing systemic barriers faced by marginalised communities. It reinforced the importance of integrating education, leadership development, and legal literacy into justice-focused advocacy. At a national level, this connects to efforts to improve access to information and services for underrepresented groups, while at an international level, it aligns with GWI's mission to advance education as a pathway to equality. The session also highlighted the need to bridge global policy commitments with local implementation, ensuring that women are equipped with the tools to access and navigate justice systems effectively. – **Delegate from Irish Federation of University Women**, Knowledge Is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls

31. 1. National Advocacy: Diagnostic and Structural Reform

The session was titled "Diagnostic of the Mexican Federation of University Women," representing the culmination of national research and advocacy. Structural Challenges: By presenting a formal diagnosis on "Access to Justice for Women and Girls in Mexico," FEMU fulfills its role as a national watchdog and advisor, identifying specific failures in the Mexican justice system and proposing institutional responses.

Thematic Leadership: The presence of the Vice President of National Affairs, Dr. Lorena Medina Bocanegra, highlights the NFA's commitment to addressing



internal issues such as "persistent violence" and "institutional limits" from a grassroots perspective.

2. International Advocacy: Global Platforms and Diplomacy

By hosting this as a Parallel Event within the framework of CSW70 in New York, FEMU elevates local issues to a global stage.

Strategic Alliances: The participation of the Vice President of International Affairs, Dr. Andrea Samaniego Sánchez, and speakers from other regions demonstrates the NFA's role in the international feminist movement.

North American Cooperation: This session took place alongside the signing of the CAMEUS MOU, strengthening FEMU's advocacy within the North American regional bloc (Canada, Mexico, and the US).

3. Specialized Advocacy: STEM and Digital Rights

The session addressed specific modern frontiers of justice that are core to FEMU's mission:

STEM and Economic Autonomy: Dr. Laura Acosta's presentation on the gender gap in science relates to the NFA's advocacy for education as a tool for economic independence.

Digital Justice: By addressing "justice in times of algorithms," the NFA is leading advocacy on emergent violences, ensuring that legal frameworks evolve to protect women in digital spaces. – **Delegate from Mexican Federation of University Women**, "ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MEXICO: STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES, PERSISTENT VIOLENCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES. DIAGNOSIS BY THE MEXICAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN"

32. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is deeply connected to the advocacy work of the participating National Federations and Associations (NFAs)—CFUW, FEMU, and WG-USA—across multiple levels:

International Advocacy: By holding this ceremony as a parallel event within the framework of CSW70 (the UN Commission on the Status of Women), the NFAs align their national goals with global gender equality agendas. The participation of Graduate Women International (GWI) leadership further integrates these NFAs into a worldwide network that advocates for the rights of women and girls at the highest international levels.

National and Regional Advocacy: The MOU formalizes the CAMEUS (Canada, Mexico, and USA) partnership, creating a unified regional voice. This allows the NFAs to coordinate their national advocacy efforts on shared North American issues, such as education and legal equity, while strengthening their influence



with their respective national governments.

Local Impact and Visibility: The event was broadcast on the FEMU YouTube channel, making these high-level diplomatic efforts visible to local members and the public. This transparency helps translate international commitments into local action, encouraging members of each NFA to engage in grassroots advocacy that mirrors the goals of the trilateral agreement. – **Delegate from Mexican Federation of University Women**, Parallel Event: "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING CEREMONY" BETWEEN CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, MEXICAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, GRADUATE WOMEN USA

33. Les sessions ont mis en évidence des voies complémentaires pour améliorer l'accès à la justice en combinant les réformes institutionnelles, les développements juridiques et la transformation sociale et technologique. Ils ont souligné la nécessité de systèmes juridiques plus inclusifs et représentatifs pour s'assurer que les lois reflètent les réalités des femmes et des filles. Le renforcement de la participation de la société civile, en particulier des organisations de femmes, aide à combler le fossé entre les systèmes juridiques et les expériences vécues, permettant une élaboration de politiques plus réactive. Les discussions ont également souligné l'importance d'adapter les cadres juridiques aux formes émergentes de violence, en particulier en ligne, comblant ainsi les lacunes juridiques et assurant des recours efficaces pour les victimes. Dans le même temps, les solutions technologiques (sécurité par conception, détection des abus, mécanismes de signalement) aident à éliminer les obstacles structurels, y compris la peur et le manque de preuves. Enfin, la lutte contre les normes sociales nuisibles - par l'engagement des jeunes et des modèles positifs - a été identifiée comme la clé de la prévention de la violence et de la réduction de la discrimination.
- Dans l'ensemble, les sessions démontrent qu'un accès efficace à la justice nécessite une approche intégrée combinant une gouvernance inclusive, l'innovation juridique, la responsabilité technologique et le changement social. - **Delegate from Association sénégalaise des femmes diplômées des universités (ASF DU)**

Next steps: What needs to be done? Collaboration opportunities?

1. Prior to CSW71, it would be helpful to have regional conversations between GWI and NFAs to do some strategic planning around key parts of the CSW programme on which to focus, and then how to bring back to home countries the information to use in advocacy and interventions with MPs and policymakers. As the CSW



programme is so huge, I think there needs to be a more structured approach to GWI's involvement so as to make the best use of our engagement, especially as many NFAs cannot fully fund their members' travel to attend, and so therefore it's an expensive personal investment of people's time and resources. If we could have these regional conversations beforehand, we could identify more easily the value of attending CSW for our NFAs work in our home countries. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand, CSW70**

2. Provide free local classes on legal rights and how to access them. Educate young men in positive masculinity and cooperative relationships with women. Search for positive role models among women and use them to promote the right to gender equality.
The GWI project TFRE inspires young girls to go on in school by showing them relatable examples of other women who have done so. Adapt this type of work to show the benefits of all kinds of education in enhancing confidence to access your rights. – **Delegate from Irish Federation of University Women**
3. Advocate for civic education and legal literacy at the local, state, regional, and federal levels.
Find ways for girls and women to continue their education if it has been interrupted. Ensure that all nations eliminate child marriage, allowing girls to continue their education.
Fight for equal, quality education for all children regardless of race, gender, socio-economic level, or geographic area.
Advocate for public policies that bring more girls into STEM.
Continue to advocate for regulations preventing cyber violence. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**
4. NFAs need to continue to advocate at all levels of government for SDG4 and SDG5, as well as coordinate with other NGOs to prevent backsliding. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**
5. Review the Agreed Conclusions Document
Reach out to local, state, and national representatives and organizations
Identify steps that can be taken to get civics courses and knowledge of the justice system incorporated into school curricula. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**
6. As Indicated above
Local with our own member of parliament
Nationally, with like-minded women's organisations in the UK, to get our message heard at the government and corporate level. The critical role of data collection and reporting. These efforts support civil society actions and facilitate ongoing collaboration with policymakers, helping to track progress and promote SDG5. The event featured a lively debate, during which attendees received the Gender Parity



Toolkit. This toolkit addresses violence against women in politics and is regarded as a cornerstone for achieving gender parity. Key strategies include increasing the number of women in the political sphere — particularly those reaching higher levels — and recognising intersectional cultural differences among participants. —

Delegate from the British Federation of Women Graduates

7. Continue to engage with the UN post CSW70. – **Delegate from the British Federation of Women Graduates**
8. inform about the need for new digital laws, advocate more about these realities (by sharing the % of victims), create legal advice sessions services where specialists (lawyers) could inform women about their rights, create collaborations between our local NFA and other structures that are specialized in helping women who are victims of harassment – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**
9. Need to influence, together with other organizations, to address the negative impact, by, for instance, lawmaking that gives protection against the negative impact.
Need to influence, together with other organizations, to take part in the development of AI and to use it to the advantage of women. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**
10. Engage, together with other women's organizations and universities, in the development of AI and to influence the development in a positive way. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**
11. Age International has published an article, and we will get involved with their campaigning.
We recently engaged with the women's budget group around financial matters - another form of elder abuse - and will continue this engagement. – **Delegate from Graduate Women Scotland**
12. Identify best practices in our own and other education systems and advocate for change where needed. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**
13. Select young members for the WYDE program.
Involvement of young members within the NFA. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**
14. Improve the digital skills of women. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**
15. The session served to highlight success stories, showcase partnerships, and engage in dialogue on the future of gender data as a driver of equality. A strong emphasis was placed on the role of gender statistics in addressing today's complex challenges, from the backlash against gender equality to informing responses in humanitarian settings, climate crisis, and other emerging issues, and on how Women Count and similar initiatives can drive evidence-based action across these issues. By bringing



together key stakeholders to raise awareness, share best practices, foster partnerships, and mobilize resources, the side event served to spotlight how gender data can drive meaningful change and accelerate progress on gender equality. –

Delegate from Women Graduates-USA

16. Moving forward, the focus is on justice beyond the courtroom, encompassing prevention, support, and community-based accountability.
- The GAUW will consider the recommendation report from the CSW70. This will be structured as an action plan for the association. GAUW will collaborate with stakeholders like the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, organisations, institutions, and the private sector.
 - GAUW will also partner with traditional and religious leaders within communities to offer survivor-centred support at the local level.
 - increase advocacy to educate communities about preventive measures and changes in social norms.
 - The association will also engage men and boys as agents of change to address domestic violence. – **Delegate from Ghana Association of University Women**

17. Men should be made aware of the issues and also realise that the reasons that women do not stand as candidates are because of the harassment in whatever form.

And a backlash is also the current issue of anti-gender wording and the very strict meaning of the word gender (just women and men), which does not help to solve the issues.

Quotas are a start; however, women and men should be encouraged to speak to the issue and implement measures to stop the harassment. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**

18. I am keen to bring this to my local branch, Graduate Women Otago(GWO), to see if we can fund and set up a similar learning about justice situation here in Dunedin – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**
19. While there is no internationally recognised legal definition of gender apartheid, it is clear that an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression
- The systematic discrimination by the Taliban against women and girls severely breaches the basic principles of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in international human rights law. Limiting women and girls' rights not only hinders their empowerment and contribution towards society, but it is also antithetical to the overall progress, stability, and sustainable development of Afghanistan.

The CEDAW Committee therefore calls upon the Taliban to urgently address the violations of women and girls' rights and take immediate action to end the deteriorating situation within Afghanistan. It urges the de facto authorities to



reverse all misogynistic edicts and restrictions that institutionalise discrimination against women and girls and their segregation and oppression, and to investigate, and if there is sufficient evidence, to prosecute all allegations of gender-based violence against women and girls. The Committee further urges the de facto authorities to respect, protect and fulfil women's human rights, in due compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and international human rights law. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**

20. Lobby using the campaign PARITY NOW – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**

21. The various groups who presented could collaborate going forward. GWI could also collaborate with schools within their NFAs to educate around legal systems and legal rights and against wrongful and/or patriarchal hierarchies - **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**

22. Learn from the experience of women in these countries in how they achieved changes to having women in positions of leadership to help change policies and the provision of justice for women. – **Delegate from Canadian Federation of University Women**

23. My Action: I have highlighted the need for increased NZ involvement in the Pacific, highlighting challenges these nations are facing regarding Climate Change Funding and the need for NZ to advocate for Pacific Island delegate attendance at future CSWs to the NZ CSW70 delegate and in my NZ NGO report. I have increased my involvement with Pacific Women's Watch NZ, now Aotearoa Women's Watch NZ, and my advocacy with the Asia Pacific Caucus sub-group established at CSW70. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**

24. Unite women's voices across organizations; raise our voices; identify partnerships – **Delegate from Canadian Federation of University Women**

25. One of the presenters, a senior researcher, has been able to influence policy with her data. I have offered my assistance as a researcher on a joint research project to raise awareness of these issues. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**

26. As noted above, this would have to be a GWI discussion or alternatively an initiative at a local level – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**

27. It will be important to advocate for the collection and use of gender-disaggregated data widely to capture gendered experiences of poverty within low-income or socially disadvantaged New Zealand households. This is crucial in informing the



design of social protection systems that respond effectively to the needs of women in all their diversity, and for guiding equitable decision-making. A potential collaboration opportunity could be with the New Zealand Ministry for Women. –

Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand

28. Vigilance of and cooperation in all social, economic, and political processes, particularly regarding security and peace processes - in the latter, women are drastically underrepresented - are necessary. – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**

29. This backlash is coordinated. Across Europe, gender equality is increasingly misrepresented as “gender ideology,” often targeting the Istanbul Convention. False claims suggest it threatens families or sovereignty. In reality, it exists to prevent violence against women, which still affects one in three women in Europe. These narratives have delayed or reversed progress. Rights once gained can be fragile.

But change is still possible. Women’s rights must never be treated as secondary. Equality remains the ultimate test of democracy—and it is something we can still achieve.

This CSW is taking place in one of the most challenging periods of geopolitical instability since the Second World War.

Yet it has shown us that inequality is not inevitable.

It is made. And it can be unmade. – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**

30. Building on this session, I will support advocacy efforts that strengthen legal literacy, expand access to education, and promote inclusive participation in decision-making processes. There is significant scope for collaboration between GWI, civil society, and policymakers to advance education as a core component of justice systems. Future work should focus on integrating education and justice frameworks, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that policy commitments translate into tangible outcomes for women and girls, particularly those facing multiple and intersecting forms of disadvantage. – **Delegate from Irish Federation of University Women**

31. Updating Regulatory Frameworks for the Digital Era: It is imperative to work on the creation and reform of legal frameworks that address digital violence, considering current limitations regarding the use of algorithms and ensuring justice with a gender perspective in technological environments.

Boosting Economic Autonomy through STEM: Funded policies and binding measures must be implemented to close the gender gap in science and technology,



recognizing access to these areas as a fundamental human right for women's autonomy.

Strengthening Victim Support: It is necessary to institutionalize feminist responses and support systems that overcome the current limits of the justice system, avoiding re-victimization and addressing the structural challenges within Mexican institutions.

Collaboration Opportunities

Consolidating the CAMEUS Alliance: Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), there is a strategic opportunity to conduct joint research and advocacy projects between the federations of Canada, Mexico, and the United States on issues of justice and higher education.

Academic and Student Engagement: Continue collaborating with universities, such as UNAM, and international student groups to disseminate diagnostic research on critical issues like human trafficking and the digital divide. – **Delegate from Mexican Federation of University Women**

32. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) serves as a foundation for future action and a catalyst for new partnerships across North America.

What needs to be done?

Operationalizing the Agreement: Now that the formal signing has taken place between CFUW, FEMU, and WG-USA, the organizations must move from formal commitment to the implementation of joint strategic plans.

Continued Alignment with Global Goals: As a parallel event in the framework of CSW70, the next step involves ensuring that the regional actions taken by CAMEUS (Canada, Mexico, and the USA) directly support the international outcomes and resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Communication and Monitoring: The leadership, including the CAMEUS session chair and the presidents of the respective federations, will need to establish regular reporting mechanisms to track the progress of their shared objectives in promoting legal equity and justice.

Collaboration opportunities?

Trilateral Policy Initiatives: There is a significant opportunity for the three federations to co-author policy briefs or research papers that address shared regional barriers to justice, leveraging their collective academic expertise.



Joint Educational Outreach: Utilizing platforms like the FEMU YouTube channel, the federations can collaborate on educational webinars and workshops that reach a broader, multilingual audience across the three countries.

Unified Global Advocacy: By working closely with Graduate Women International (GWI) leadership, these NFAs (National Federations and Associations) can act as a powerful regional block to influence global gender equality standards.

Cross-Border Mentorship: This MOU facilitates the creation of networking and mentorship opportunities where members from all three countries can share best practices in advocacy and professional development. – **Delegate from Mexican Federation of University Women**

33. Développer les partenariats internationaux entre les femmes Pour surmonter les limites nationales, la collaboration mondiale est essentielle : Construire des alliances entre les organisations de femmes dans toutes les régions. Permettre le transfert de connaissances, l'accès financier et l'innovation partagée. Développer des programmes de mentorat internationaux pour les filles. Partagez des données, des recherches et des meilleures pratiques. Positionner les femmes comme des acteurs clés de la gouvernance mondiale Soutenir leur participation aux espaces décisionnels internationaux. Reconnaître et amplifier leur expertise en matière de technologie et de politique. Favoriser un leadership féminin fort pour influencer les normes mondiales.

Globalement, Construire un écosystème où les femmes, soutenues par de solides réseaux locaux et internationaux, deviennent : Créateurs de connaissances et de technologies, influenceurs politiques actifs, et les moteurs d'une transformation sociale inclusive. - **Delegate from Association sénégalaise des femmes diplômées des universités (ASFUDU)**

Session Summary

1. An excellent, thought-provoking session. It was well presented and very balanced. – **Delegate from Irish Federation of University Women, A Simple Suggestion To Improve Access To Justice For All Women And Girls Side Event**
2. Girls and women will not have access to justice unless they know their rights, are taught how to work within the justice system, and learn how to fight discrimination and injustice. Education is the foundation on which these skills are built. – **Delegate**



from **Women Graduates-USA**, Education for Justice: Emerging Trends in Women's Access to Justice Through Education; 3/9/26

3. Significant changes will be coming to the UN as well as agencies within it, such as UN Women and UNICEF. Our attention and our voices are needed now more than ever. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**, GWI Breakfast Meeting 3/12/26
4. While an Agreed Conclusions Document was reached, how it is implemented or even if it is implemented remains a question in some countries. Nevertheless, the undermining of UN norms appeared to be rejected by the majority of Member States. – **Delegate from Women Graduates-USA**, 8th Plenary Meeting - CSW70 High Level Meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls; March 12, 2026
5. Several recommendations to advance political parity. These included the adoption of quotas for women, accompanied by sanctions for non-compliance; measures to reduce sexual harassment; the need to lead by example; and the establishment of clearly defined spaces in parliament for women across all parties. These proposals resonated strongly with me, particularly as I have had previous engagement with similar discussions at the Houses of Parliament 50:50 Parliament event. - **Delegate from the British Federation of Women Graduates**
6. Very interesting session informing about the reality of cyber harassment and self-censorship of women themselves (in %) – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, Acces a la justice pour les femmes (Parallel event)
7. This session explores how AI can illuminate systems that perpetuate disparities affecting women and girls. AI can sift through information from many sources and translate it into clear visuals that reveal inequities often hidden within social, economic, and political structures. This session exposes discriminatory practises, but also demonstrates how AI enhances women's participation in decision-making and provides evidence for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
The focus is on how AI can help to support women. AI can reveal patterns in learning systems. There are 5 mirror checks when you use AI: who is your audience, who do they represent, are there any cultural cues you are missing, watch out for stereotypes, and look at safety and consent issues.
It is important for women to develop AI literacy so that informed decisions can be made. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Digital Mirrors: AI, Gender Stereotypes, and Global Inequity



8. Prasad Singh, a UNICEF Youth Advocate, is part of Generation AI. The first generation to grow up with AI. Especially young girls are already involved. They are building AI. AI has huge ethical dilemmas. It builds on old data, which reflects gender bias. AI definitely democratized knowledge. Young people in rural areas now also have access. It is also young people who have to create solutions.

Jean Franco, who teaches at the University of the Philippines, refers to the violence against women in politics when AI is used to produce deep fake videos. This led to the 6-year detention of a female politician in the Philippines.

Aprajita Pahtak, who works for Google, says that it is necessary to reduce risk, build trust, and ensure safety. Google is there to protect, she says. We need to learn how to regulate. Google hires more females now, and there is always a range of people at the table while developing a product.

Haroon Syes works as a legal counsel for the Software Freedom Law Centre in India. According to him, most of the laws that are coming out do not know how to address the actual problem. Maybe the European AI Act functions better. It is very proactive and prescribes risk-based assessments. Unacceptable risks are banned immediately. Independent oversight is necessary. – **Delegate from Graduate Women**

International Netherlands, Invisible Violence Made Visible: AI, Gender and the Fight for Justice, Tuesday 10 March 2026, Parallel Event

9. Violence against women and girls is lifelong. Older women's experiences remain some of the least heard, least understood, and least resourced. Speakers highlighted that older women face unique forms of violence, often intensified by dependency, health needs, isolation, and unequal power dynamics. Yet, despite this, their voices are frequently dismissed or absent from policy discussions, research, and justice processes.

The messaging from the panel was clear:

1. Stigma remains a powerful silencer.

Older women experiencing abuse often face deep social stigma, particularly around sexual violence. Harmful assumptions such as "who would target older women?" make it even harder for survivors to come forward, and easier for communities to look away.

2. Community inclusion is essential.

When communities do not validate or explicitly acknowledge older women's experiences, they contribute to revictimisation. Meaningful support must start with believing older survivors and ensuring their stories are heard and respected. –

Delegate from Graduate Women Scotland, VAWG across the life-course

10. Without inclusive, equal, accessible education, girls and women will continue to find their political, economic, and social rights undermined. – **Delegate from Women**



Graduates-USA, Knowledge is power: Education is the first step to power; March 11, 2026

11. Sarah Hendriks, Director of the Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division of UN Women, says that young women are only at the margins of political spaces and that there is a severe underrepresentation in parliament. It is important to have role models in politics to engage young women.

The principle should be to involve young people: nothing about them without them. Issues like, for instance, femicide shouldn't be discussed in politics without the involvement of younger women. Otherwise, younger women will say that politics is not working for them.

Youth advisory bodies should be set up in all kinds of organizations.

Political participation should be supported as a right, like equal access to education.

Particular attention should also be paid to youth in conflict areas. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Intergenerational engagement for advancing young women's leadership Side Event 13 March 2025

12. Access, skills, and leadership are important to close the digital divide by 2030 and realize SDG 5.

We have to ensure that girls can participate and shape the digital future. Promoting STEM, for instance, by the organisation of digital bootcamps, is important.

Gender Based Violence is a major threat. Women and girls need to be in a position where they can participate without fear.

The UK and Australia have recently implemented an Online Safety Act, which hopefully will reduce GBV. A global framework on online abuse is needed.

Safety by design is an important principle. Platforms must be held accountable.

More inclusion in the tech sector is needed. Inclusion must be embedded from the start.

A (global) framework on AI ethics and a human rights-based approach are essential.

– **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**, Women's Participation in Digital Public Life: From commitments to systems that deliver Side Event 13 March 2026

13. This side event, co-organized by the Government of Sweden (SIDA) and UN Women, served to highlight how Women Count has transformed gender data across all levels and has charted a path to accelerate action on gender quality globally. More information can be found at <https://data.unwomen.org/women-count>.

Women Count is supported by the Governments of Australia, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States; and Alwaleed Philanthropies, Alibaba Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Elizabeth Arden. –



Delegate from Women Graduates-USA, A Decade of Making Women Count: (See Below)

14. Two hybrid panel discussions conducted on March 16, 2026, focused on a holistic, cross-sectoral approach to ending gender-based violence (GBV), emphasising multi-stakeholder engagement and systemic reforms. The speakers advocated for expanding justice to include economic aspects and addressing the interconnected nature of GBV with health, housing, climate change, and education, highlighting the crucial role of civil society in devising solutions.

Key points from the discussions included the necessity of a comprehensive strategy that integrates economic, social, and environmental dimensions alongside traditional justice systems. Notable contributions included Amy Sánchez advocating for survivor-centered policies, Rosie Hidalgo promoting survivor voices in policy reforms, and Caroline Bettinger-López discussing U.S. initiatives like the National Plan to End GBV. Other insights included arts-based community efforts presented by Lana Finikin and Margarita Guzman's focus on legal support for marginalized groups. Brisa De Angulo shared her movement against child sexual violence, while Magdalena Bautista Ramírez emphasised efforts to enhance justice access in Mexico. Remy Sietchiping highlighted urbanisation's link to gender equality, and Isabella Mwangi concentrated on legal advocacy in Africa. The conclusion underscored that achieving justice requires a holistic approach that integrates legal reforms, economic justice, and community participation, urging collaboration among governments, civil society, and international organisations to create inclusive strategies that address systemic inequalities and foster safety and equality for women and girls globally. – **Delegate from Ghana Association of University Women**, Justice Beyond the Courtroom: A Whole of Society Approach to Ending Gender-Based Violence; Monday, 16 March 2026, 16 Mar, 09:30 AM - 11:00 AM, Side event

15. Books, e.g., biographies about people incarcerated (some innocent and eventually freed), were studied as a group. The session explored how collective reading, storytelling, and dialogue can serve as transformative tools for gender equality, psychosocial healing, and youth empowerment. It brought together young participants (ages 16–23), educators, and gender experts to reflect on themes of discrimination, resilience, and solidarity through the lens of literature. By integrating bibliotherapy with feminist pedagogy, the discussion showed how youth can deal with normalized gender-based violence, reclaim voice, and cultivate empathy across gender lines. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, “Bibliotherapy for Youth: Rewriting the Story of Gender Justice” March 9th



16. Women in Iran are legally half the worth of men. One of the speakers lost sight in one eye when in 2022 she was shot during a protest of women.

Women have no rights; they often have to marry from the age of 13 years old.

Not all inhabitants of Iran are Persians; there are several other ethnicities.

Mental health issues are a big problem, and even if the current regime disappears, the mentality and legal rights towards women and girls will not change overnight.

This session was ofcourse was during the first days of the bombardment of Iran by the USA and Israel. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**,
Voices of Iranian Women: Pathways to Justice and Rights, 9 March 2026

17. Afghan women are back to their position in 1978. Girls cannot go to school. When the Taliban took power in 2021, schools for girls were closed, as well as public baths. Women are not allowed to work outside their home, only in the health sector, but accompanied by a man. Women are not allowed to look out of the window.

The word women is criminalized in the legal system, no more training for women outside their homes. – **Delegate from Graduate Women International Netherlands**,
Listen to Afghan Women: Gender Apartheid, Its Implications and Resistance, 10 March 2026

18. The EWL has launched PARITY NOW, a new campaign calling for the institutionalisation of fifty-fifty parity between women and men in all spheres of decision-making at national, European, and international levels.
Women and girls represent half of the population, yet they remain systematically underrepresented in political, economic, social, and sporting decision-making bodies. Despite progress in recent decades, parity is still far from being achieved. In the EU in 2024, women represented only 35% of Ministers, 33% of Members of National parliaments, 32% of members of regional local assemblies, 35% of Board members in the largest listed companies, and just 23 % of members of the highest decision-making bodies in the ten most popular national Olympic sports organisations.(Gender Equality Index. 2025)

Introduction to the General Recommendation NO. 40:

First to speak was Nicole Ameline. According to Ameline, Europe has a responsibility to achieve gender equality, especially now that there are very serious headwinds. Together with 48 member states, France announced in New York on March 9, 2026, that it intends to accelerate the implementation of General Recommendation 40 (GR40) – concerning gender parity (50/50) in political and public decision-making – of the CEDAW Committee.

The other speakers, including Petra Bayr and Anne Negre, also emphasized that it is high time for a new universal standard, a constitutional law.



50/50 representation is not an ambition, but a prerequisite for true equality. And that is what we strive for every day! – **Delegate from Graduate Women**

International Netherlands, Achieving fifty-fifty parity in power, how can this gap be tackled concretely? 11 March 2026h

19. This event explored the relationship between education and access to justice, looking at CEDAW as a leading and exposing barriers and obstacles to attaining equal justice with men and others. This included a wide scope for education, such as vocational training, skills-based training, and formal and post-school education. It also looked at policies that could be implemented to help with this, suggesting collaboration with governments, civil societies, and private spheres. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: EDUCATION AS THE FIRST STEP TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS
20. 'Tuvalu is Drowning,' and the discriminatory policies prohibiting Pacific Island women from attending CSW70 need to be addressed. While the Australian, German, and Portuguese High Commissioners have taken the effects of Climate Change in the Pacific seriously, access to Climate Change Finance is extremely challenging. As mentioned previously, 'Pacific Island women are the forefront of these crises,' and while structural and political barriers exist, drinking water continues to be contaminated, the health of Pacific Island people continues to deteriorate, and the physical and psychological effects of Climate Change endure. Now is the time for action. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, CSW70 Side Event
21. This session was highly informative and engaging, with excellent presenters and passionate advocates for the rights of women and girls. The key to improving the conditions of women and girls living in these regions is access to financial aid. With financial resources, more children will be able to attend school, because 'food will be on the table.' This is not a situation of 'not wanting to attend school', it is about meeting basic human needs, housing, food, clean water, safety, and security – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, Social Justice for Women and Girls in Mining, Through Transformational Leadership Side Event
22. Technology drives our lives; those without access to technology are unfairly disadvantaged. Women and girls lack the opportunity to engage with the wider world; they are unable to access funding, they are unable to access online educational programs, and they will remain disadvantaged until this is addressed. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, Session: A Decade of Making



Women Count: Powering Gender Equality Through Data Celebrating 10 Years of the Women Count Programme - Side Event

23. The session highlighted how poverty is gendered, despite often being treated as gender-neutral in research and policy. Women's poverty is often closely linked to patriarchal structures, especially through unpaid and invisible care responsibilities that limit workforce participation and economic independence. Limited financial support for childcare, inadequate housing access, and family-based welfare systems can make it very difficult for women to leave violent relationships.

The presentation emphasised that poverty is multidimensional. However, current approaches to poverty measurement rely largely on household-level data, which conceal inequalities within households and fail to capture gendered experiences of poverty. Household-level poverty measures may miss up to one-third of global inequality. The lack of disaggregated, gender-sensitive data limits policymakers' ability to develop effective social protection systems, which is highly concerning in the current context of rising anti-gender movements.

Joanne Crawford, an Advisor at the International Women's Development Agency, presented 'Equality Insights' - an individual-level measure of multidimensional poverty designed to better capture differences across gender, age, disability, and other intersecting factors. She shared examples of how the tool has been applied in Tonga and the Solomon Islands. – **Delegate from Graduate Women New Zealand**, Gendered Poverty: Impacts on Women's Access to Justice and Violence - Friday 13 March

24. Gender equality is a cornerstone in a democratic society. Any democracy must defend gender equality and human rights to ensure democratic resilience and social cohesion.

Karen Ellemann, Secretary General to the Nordic Council of Ministers, chaired the event, which featured a number of high-level speakers:

Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister, Soc. Sec., Finland

Alain Berset, SG, Council of Europe

Lauma Paegļkalna, Vice-Minister of Justice, Latvia

Neil Datta, Dir., Europ. Parliam. Forum on Sexual and Reproductive Rights

Marta Royo, Dir. Profamilia Colombia

Iluta Lāce, Dir. and Founder, MARTA Centre, Latvia,

all of whom, with great expertise, left no doubt about the reality of the threat of coordinated counter-movements using disinformation to polarize societies and undermine democratic institutions and international commitments to gender equality and women's rights. Many countries report that backlash against gender equality has undermined implementation nationally, slowing progress that could



unlock equality, rights, and protection for all women and girls.

However, the event also highlighted how regional and international cooperation can strengthen democratic resilience, counter disinformation, and uphold gender equality and human rights.

This is a summary of some of the most impressive interventions, which Karen Ellemann moderated in an expert way, introducing this highly complex theme as follows:

Needless to say, but important to say that gender equality is a cornerstone in a democratic society. Any democracy must defend gender equality and human rights to ensure democratic resilience, social cohesion, trust in institutions, and equal participation. However, what we are seeing globally is a coordinated counter-movement

that use disinformation about issues related to gender equality to actually polarize our societies and undermine our democratic institutions and our international commitments to gender equality and women's rights. We've heard it a lot, we've seen it a lot, that many countries are reporting that backlash against gender equality has undermined development nationally and is actually slowing the progress that could unlock equality, that could unlock the rights and the protection of all women and girls. We are here today, and hopefully, all of you here today are present to discuss this and also to discuss how regional and international cooperation can strengthen democratic resilience, counter disinformation, and uphold gender equality and human rights. – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, PROTECT DEMOCRACY, DEFEND GENDER EQUALITY 11 Mar, 01:15 PM - 02:30 PM

25. This side-event examined how backlash and anti-rights narratives undermine women's participation in public life, drawing on the work on anti-gender movements of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Istanbul Convention, and violence against women in politics. Participants exchanged experiences and strategies on recognising backlash sources, developing counter-narratives, implementing policy measures to counter online hate speech, and building democratic resilience so that women's voices are heard, respected, and protected in public and political life.

Alain Berset (summary), SG Council of Europe

The backlash against women's rights is not accidental—it is organised, political, and growing.

Women in public life are increasingly targeted with intimidation, abuse, and threats. Many are leaving politics, journalism, and public roles because the personal cost is too high. What unites these cases is not ideology, but misogyny. It rarely starts with physical violence—it begins with words, fear, and lies. Women leaders face



disinformation, insults, and threats against themselves and their families. Those who speak out, especially on violence against women, are met with waves of abuse, including severe threats.

These are not isolated incidents. Studies show that 80–85% of women parliamentarians experience psychological violence during their mandate, while 70% of women activists, journalists, and human rights defenders report online abuse.

The pattern is clear: dehumanise, divide, destroy. This cycle must be broken—especially online, where outrage is amplified, and extreme voices are rewarded. We cannot stand still. The Council of Europe has adopted a recommendation on accountability for technology-facilitated violence against women and girls. Its message is clear: online violence is real violence. Justice must apply in the digital sphere, with proper evidence, cross-border cooperation, and greater responsibility from tech companies to ensure safety and transparency.

This backlash is coordinated. Across Europe, gender equality is increasingly misrepresented as “gender ideology,” often targeting the Istanbul Convention. False claims suggest it threatens families or sovereignty. In reality, it exists to prevent violence against women, which still affects one in three women in Europe.

These narratives have slowed or reversed progress. Ri – **Delegate from Swiss Association of University Women**, COUNTERING BACKLASH AND SAFEGUARDING WOMEN’S RIGHTS 12 Mar, 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

26. This session, hosted at the Permanent Mission of Ireland, highlighted the central role of education in enabling access to justice for women and girls. It brought together international partners to explore how education, knowledge, and institutional access empower women to claim their rights and participate fully in society. The discussion emphasised the importance of removing structural barriers and strengthening systems that support inclusive and equitable access to justice. –

Delegate from Irish Federation of University Women, Knowledge Is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls

27. Systemic Responses Panel: The delegation participated in a panel at the Mexican Cultural Institute focused on justice system responses to emergent violence, including discussions by Dr. Laura Acosta on STEM education, Dr. Andrea Samaniego on digital violence, and Lic. Tzazil Valencia on support for victims.

In summary, this session allowed FEMU to act as a bridge, bringing national evidence regarding the lack of justice in Mexico to the international arena of the United Nations, while simultaneously engaging in high-level diplomacy to advocate for systemic change. – **Delegate from Mexican Federation of University Women**, Parallel Event: "ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MEXICO:



STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES, PERSISTENT VIOLENCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES. DIAGNOSIS BY THE MEXICAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN"

28. Event Overview On March 11, 2026, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signing Ceremony took place as a parallel event in the framework of CSW70 (the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women)

. This session marked a significant milestone in regional collaboration among the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU), and Graduate Women USA (WG-USA).

Session Objectives: The primary goal of the session was to formalize the CAMEUS partnership between the three North American federations. By signing this MOU, the organizations are committed to working together to advocate for the rights of women and girls, particularly through promoting inclusive legal systems and addressing structural barriers to justice.

Key Participants and Speakers

Chair: The session was led by Barbara DuMoulin, who chaired the meeting on behalf of CAMEUS.

Signatories:

CFUW: Represented by President Linda Sestock and Vice President for International Relations Grace Hollet.

FEMU: Represented by Secretary General Gloria Luz Alejandre Ramírez and Vice President for International Affairs Andrea Samaniego Sánchez.

WG-USA: Represented by President Susan Nensteil and Collaboration Representative Fay Weber.

Outcome and Visibility: The ceremony concluded with the official signing of the MOU, creating a unified trilateral voice for advocacy in North America. To ensure broad access and engagement, the session was broadcast live on the FEMU YouTube channel, allowing members and the public to witness this historic commitment to gender equality and legal equity. – **Delegate from Mexican Federation of University Women**, Parallel Event: "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING CEREMONY" BETWEEN CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, MEXICAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, GRADUATE WOMEN USA

29. Les deux sessions mettent en lumière les défis majeurs liés à la gouvernance mondiale et à la sécurité numérique, avec des implications directes sur les droits, la sécurité et l'accès à la justice, notamment pour les femmes et les jeunes.

1. Gouvernance mondiale et inclusion. Le Secrétaire général a souligné le rôle clé des équipes nationales dans l'accompagnement des États, tout en pointant les limites structurelles du Conseil de sécurité, dont la composition est obsolète et le



manque de représentativité affectent son efficacité et la légitimité de l'ONU. Il a plaidé pour une réforme urgente, malgré les contraintes politiques. Il a également insisté sur la nécessité d'intégrer pleinement la société civile dans les processus décisionnels. Sa participation permet de mieux refléter les réalités du terrain et de renforcer la pertinence des politiques publiques, notamment dans le cadre des initiatives comme le Pacte pour l'avenir.

2. Sécurité numérique et violences en ligne Le panel a mis en évidence l'ampleur croissante des violences numériques, alimentées par les algorithmes et les dynamiques sociales. Une partie importante des jeunes est exposée aux contenus misogynes et aux pratiques abusives, que le partage d'images intimes sans consentement. Face à ces enjeux, plusieurs réponses ont été proposées : intégration de la sécurité dès la conception des plateformes, renforcement des cadres réglementaires, développement d'outils technologiques de détection et de prévention, Adoption de lois spécifiques pour sanctionner les violences numériques. Ces actions visent à mieux protéger les victimes, prévenir les abus et adapter les systèmes juridiques aux réalités numériques. 3. Vers une réponse intégrée Les discussions convergentes vers une approche globale combinante : gouvernance inclusive, Cadres juridiques adaptés, Technologies responsables, Et transformation des normes sociales. Conclusion Ces sessions soulignent l'urgence de réformer les systèmes de gouvernance et de réguler les espaces numériques, tout en renforçant la participation de la société civile.

Une approche coordonnée est essentielle pour construire des sociétés plus justes, inclusives et sécurisées, répondant aux besoins des femmes et des jeunes. -

Delegate from Association sénégalaise des femmes diplômées des universités

(ASFUDU), 1-Meeting Townhall avec le secrétaire général et la société civile en marge de la soixante-dixième session de la commission sur la situation des femmes - 10/mars/2026 ; 2-panel on digital safety and gender based online violence - 12/03/2026