

Welcome & Introductions!

United Nations UCC Office Monthly Update

Focus: Gender Advocacy at the United Nations

Greetings from Donna and Abigail

Introductions!

Please add your name, location (church and/or conference) in the chat
and... if you want...

*** One thing you'd like to know about CSW or CPD or Gender Advocacy**

AND/OR

*** One thing you want to know about the UN and our UCC Office to the UN**

Gender Advocacy at the United Nations

Gender Advocacy Happens:

- With Member States
- During Commission Meetings
- Through Statements – both written and oral
- In collaboration with NGOs
- Directly with UN Agencies and Officials

Two of the Most Important Commissions for Gender Issues are:

**CPD: Commission on
Population & Development**

April 13-17 2026

**CSW: Commission on Status
of Women**

March 7 – 20, 2026

Commission on Population and Development

CPD:

The [Commission on Population and Development](#) at the UN plays a critical role in sexual and reproductive health (SRH) by setting policy and monitoring progress toward goals including universal access to SRH services. Member States meet to monitor, review, and assess population trends while also providing appropriate recommendations based on how those trends interact with development issues.

April 13-17, 2026 in New York City

Commission on the Status of Women

CSW:

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality.

March 9 – 20, 2026 in New York City

Purpose of the Commission on Status of Women

- Promote gender equality & the empowerment of women & girls.
- Provides a forum for Member States, UN entities, and NGOs to review progress, identify gaps, and negotiate agreed conclusions and resolutions.
- It helps shape global standards, monitor implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), and supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CSW Theme for 2026

- **Priority theme:** Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, and addressing structural barriers.
- **Review theme:** Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

March 9-20, 2026, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Civil Society Participation

Official CSW Engagement from ECOSOC NGOs

- Written Statements
- Official Delegates
- Opportunities to Speak From the Floor
- Attend and/or apply to present Side Events
- Engage with Member States

- **Participate in NGOCs**

NGO CSW

- **AND What is NGOCSW???**

- **Organized by and for global civil society**, non-governmental organizations, and feminists to connect them with the official United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) process.
- **OVER 750 events**
- NGO CSW Forum: **informs, engages, and inspires grassroots efforts and gender equality advocacy around the world**

While the NGO CSW Forum runs parallel to and complements the UN CSW, it is a separate process with separate organizers.

How Do I Sign Up for NGOCSW

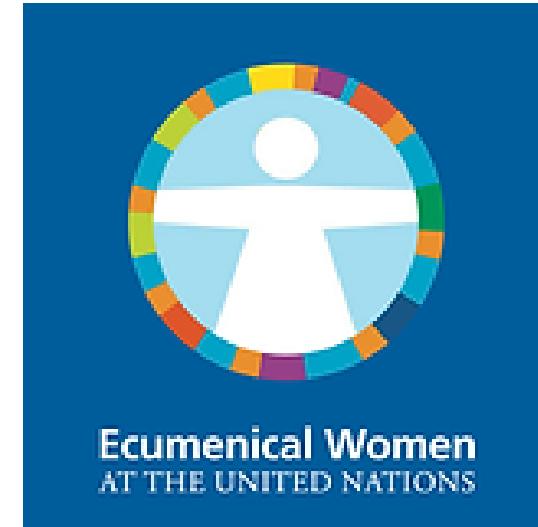
- Who is eligible
- What does it cost
- How do I sign up?
- Abigail Has ALL the Answers!!



<https://ngocsw.org/ngocswforum/>

Ecumenical Women at CSW

- During CSW You Can Join the Following Virtual Events:
- **Attend our annual orientation the Saturday before CSW begins!**
- **Join us each day for Worship during CSW**
- **Attend our virtual “Girls on Fire” events during CSW**
- **Engage in our Advocacy Evening**



Ecumenical Women is an international coalition of church denominations and ecumenical organizations which have status with the Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations.

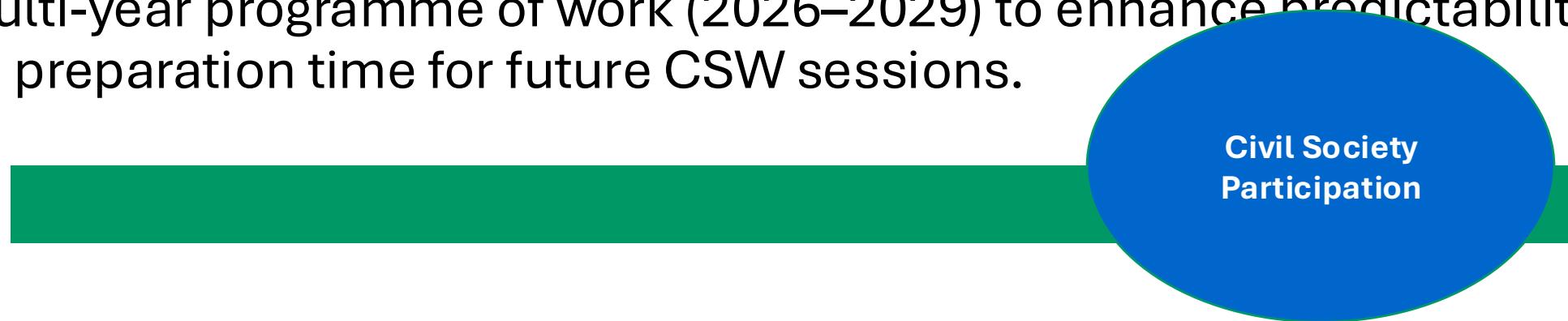
These bodies are committed to a common mission and vision

Palestinian Partners at the UN



Expected Outcomes and Mechanisms

- Negotiated agreed conclusions by Member States with action-oriented recommendations.
- Adoption of resolutions on specific issues, such as violence against women and poverty eradication.
- Civil Society and UN entities engage through parallel and side events
- Multi-year programme of work (2026–2029) to enhance predictability and preparation time for future CSW sessions.



Why It Matters / Call to Action



Civil Society
Participation

- Align strategies and goals with the 2026 priority theme: enabling access to justice for all women and girls.
- Review and adapt policies to ensure they are inclusive, non-discriminatory, and address structural barriers.
- Strengthen women's participation and decision-making in public life and commit to eliminating gender-based violence.
- Monitor CSW70 outcomes, engage with stakeholders, and support implementation at national and regional levels.

Advocacy During CSW

- **Develop recommended language** and issues that should be included in the outcome document based on priorities.
- **Map and analyze Member States** using public statements from government officials to analyze which Member States might be supportive of the issues you are advocating for.
- **Share and meet with receptive Member States** Share recommendations with supportive Member States & set up meetings to advocate for your recommendations.
- **Work with coalitions or other organizations.** Look for collective spaces to support you in carrying out your advocacy objectives.
- **Share on social media** Share your recommendations on social media & with other organizations & networks to garner support.
- **Continue to meet with Member States** Continue to meet throughout the negotiations process.

Link to the NGOCSW Advocacy Toolkit:

<https://ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CSW69-Advocacy-Toolkit-1-1.pdf>

CSW Delegates

Expectations:

- Send an email indicating interest by January 15
- Attend Virtual Orientation Session in February
- Attend Ecumenical Women Orientation – virtually or in-person
- Complete **BRIEF** form for each session attended
- Participate in Daily check-in during CSW
- Join virtual and in-person meeting post CSW to share information and discuss impact for our work at UCC – your local context or what you see nationally
- Cover costs of participation through self-funding and local resources

Could You Be an In-Person Delegate?

No! You don't need to attend the entire 2-week meeting but should indicate your anticipated attendance dates in the initial email.

Join the UCC Virtual Delegation!

- Join with UCC members across the country...
- AND also with Global Partners.
- Participate in Daily Ecumenical Worship.
- Join Regional Meetings with participants across North America.
- Participate in webinars across time zones and countries!
- Share your experiences and join us in the follow-up session for planning and impact.

**750+ events
hosted by
civil society**

**During the two weeks
of the Forum, global
civil society hosts
over 750 free events
that relate to that
year's CSW theme.**

Questions and Discussion



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We will compile and send this part of the discussion...

If we didn't get to your question, please email Abigail at Reeda@ucc.org

We will respond!!!

United Nations Updates

What Has Happened this past month???

- **Venezuela**
 - Link to the Security Council Emergency Meeting on Venezuela:
<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1k/k1kem3z5nm>
 - <https://webtv.un.org/>
- **CoNGO Africa Committee**
 - New Committee in Formation for ECOSOC members of CoNGO
- **The Voice of Hind Rajab**
- **Global Humanitarian Day**
 - First Sunday in January

Coming Up at the United Nations

GENDER - 2026

- **CSW and NGOCSW**
 - Registration
 - Delegates
 - Parallel Events
- **Commission on Population & Development**
 - Delegates
 - Side Events

Spring – 2026

- **PFPAD : April - Geneva**
 - Virtual Participation
 - Parallel Events
- **PFII – April – NYC**
 - Delegates
 - Participation
- **Financing for Development**
April – NYC

The 17 SDGs

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice, and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

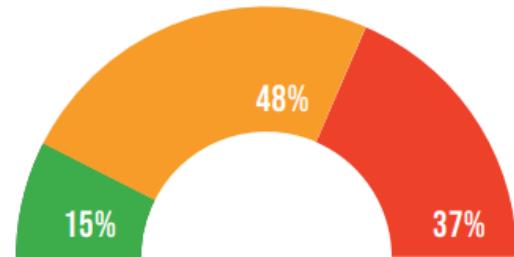


“Motivating the global community to invest in international development always requires advocates to walk the line between demonstrating need and providing hope.”

- SDGCounting

SDG PROGRESS

A CONCERNING PICTURE OF
SDG PROGRESS AT THE MIDPOINT:



ON TRACK

MODERATELY OR SEVERELY OFF TRACK

STAGNATION OR REGRESSION

BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF SDG TARGETS WITH TREND DATA.

Progress on
the Goals

Spotlight on the SDGs – Member of the Month!!!

sustainability
economicdevelopment
spiritualdivinegoals
HLPF
action
climate
research
sustainabledevelopmentgoals

Phyllis

Kenya

SDGs

Name that Goal:

Next Month ...

Join Us for the Update on the

**Permanent Forum on People
of African Descent**

