



2023-2025 NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee Slate

See page 2 for the candidates' biographies

Co-Chairs:

Ivy Koek, *Soka Gakkai International*

Pamela Morgan, *Zonta International*

Vice Chair:

Rosa Lizarde, *Feminist Task Force*

Recording Secretary:

Luisa Kislinger, *United Nations Foundation*

Communications Secretary:

Gillian D'Souza Nazareth, *Red Dot Foundation*

Treasurer:

Rahel Beigel, *Poverty Elimination and Community Education (PEACE)*

Members-at-Large:

Rosemary Barberet, *International Sociological Association*

Saphira Rameshfar, *Baha'i International Community*

Sulekha Frank, *International Alliance of Women*

Ex-Officio:

Houry Geudelekian, *Unchained At Last*

Co-Chairs:

Ivy Koek is a Representative to the UN for Soka Gakkai International (SGI) based in New York. Engaged in SGI's work in the fields of gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainability and climate change, peace, disarmament, and human rights mainly through its nonformal education approach since joining in 2013. She has served on the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee since 2014; currently Vice Chair of the Committee and former Co-chair of the Young Professionals Subcommittee. Ivy's prior work has taken her from her home in the U.S. to Venezuela and Japan in the fields of education, study abroad, editing and translation. Some of her past projects included issues such as women peacebuilders and child labor. Ivy is passionate about young women's leadership, building the culture of peace, bridging divides across various thematic areas, creating inclusive civil society spaces and interfaith collaboration.

Pamela Morgan, chair of Zonta International's United Nations Committee leads teams in NY, Bangkok, Geneva, Paris, and Vienna. A tireless worker, she is an activist dedicated to uplifting the status of women. Pamela serves on the Executive Committees of NGOCSW/NY and the NGO Committee on Migration. A retired instructional technologist, Pamela is also the founder and Executive Director of Woman in Media-Newark, a not-for-profit organization that educates the public about global issues facing women using film, video and new media as its platform.

Vice Chair:

Rosa Lizarde is a Mexican-American feminist advocating for economic, environmental, gender and racial justice. She currently serves as the Global Director of the Feminist Task Force (FTF), a global women's rights coalition calling for gender equality to end poverty, founded under the auspices of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) in 2005. Her advocacy, policy and campaigning experience has been honed at the UN and through global processes focusing on women's economic justice, poverty eradication and women's rights. She is a founding member and the current Co-Convener of the Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (FfD), a network which advocates for financing for gender equality, systemic reform and global governance. Rosa began her international development work in Central America where she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer and trainer in the late 1980's. She later worked at the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) with the feminist movement leader, Bella Abzug, and other members of the board, including Nobel Peace Prize recipient Wangari Maathai. She was the Global Networking Coordinator, fostering global relations with women's organizations and monitoring of UN conferences and other global forums in the late '90s.

Nationally, Rosa is involved in social justice actions at the US/Mexico border and supporting many LGBTQI causes. Rosa is a graduate of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs where she specialized in international human rights and Latin America. She lives with her partner, their teenage twins, their dog and cats in a rural community north of New York City.

Recording Secretary

Luisa Kislinger is a feminist advocate, writer, and international consultant with over 20 years of experience working on gender equality and women's rights issues at the international, regional and grassroots levels.

She holds a bachelor's degree in International Studies and a Master's degree in Communications, both from Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV). She is a former career diplomat from the Venezuelan foreign service and worked at the Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the UN where she was one of the lead negotiators during the Beijing +5 process and facilitated the adoption of several gender-related resolutions.

She has also worked for UNFPA and has been a consultant for different organizations, including UN Women, ICASO, and the European Union, among others. She is currently a Senior Advocacy Officer at Fòs Feminista, based in New York. Before joining her current position, Luisa lead research and advocacy around women's rights violations in Venezuela, particularly in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence and has written about women's representation in Venezuelan media.

In 2016 she founded the "Asociación Civil Mujeres en Línea" from where she has worked jointly with different local and regional NGOs. Luisa is the co-author of the book "Doble Crimen", published in 2021, about the story of Linda Loaiza, a survivor of sexual violence who took her case to the Inter American Court of Human Rights.

Communications Secretary

Gillian D'Souza Nazareth is an Economics and Sociology graduate, with a Masters in Marketing. In 2015 she transitioned from a career in commercial airline management to Social protection and Development. She is the current Director of Global Partnerships and Principal Representative to the United Nations for the [Red Dot Foundation](#). She was the former vice-chairperson of the NGO Committee

on Social Development, where she worked on expanding advocacy in the virtual space, as a way to educate and energize people to rally the cause of social protections. In addition, Gillian is currently pursuing dual certification in Sustainable Development and Mindfulness. She is an amateur gardener and a trained classical Indian (Bharatnatyam) dancer, last but not the least, Gillian also volunteers at her local church and is PGC (Protecting Gods Children) compliant. Gillian's preferred pronouns are she/her/hers.

Treasurer

Rahel Beigel is the UN Representative and Senior Advocacy Officer for the Women's Refugee Commission, serving in the External Relations Department. Rahel is an advocacy strategist and analyst specializing in humanitarian and human rights law and policy. She has over a decade of experience leading grassroots, bilateral and multilateral initiatives focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equity, and access to justice. Rahel is WRC's focal point for sexual and reproductive health and rights, SOGIESC inclusion, and also serves on the board of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. As an independent consultant, she recently served Outright International's UN Advocacy team working to advance LGBTIQ + human rights within the General Assembly and Security Council. Previously, at the International Rescue Committee, Rahel researched and developed global guidance for INGOs seeking sustainable partnerships with women-led civil society organizations affected by crises. Rahel's work in amplifying the voices of conflict-affected individuals within UN processes also includes serving as strategist for the Generation Equality Forum Civil Society Advisory Groups and Youth Task Force and serving as a member of the NGO CSW Advocacy and Research Group. Rahel holds an MA in International Affairs from The New School, and has post-graduate training in forced migration and refugee studies.

Members-at-Large:

Rosemary Barberet is UN Representative for the [International Sociological Association](#) and [Criminologists without Borders](#). She is professor of sociology and international criminal justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, USA. She has been attending the CSW since 2006 and organizes NGOCSW/NY parallel events on women and girls as victim/survivors, criminal justice professionals, and on women in conflict with the law. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Women, Crime and Criminal Justice: A Global Enquiry* (Routledge, 2014) and was editor in chief of the journal, *Feminist Criminology* from 2014-2018. She has co-edited special issues of academic journals with presentations from the past three NGOCSW fora. She is committed to bringing relevant

research to the fore in UN and civil society venues, and is also dedicated to educating her colleagues and students about the work of the United Nations and NGO CSW. Dr. Barberet is also a frequent attendee of the sessions of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Fluent in English, Spanish and French, and a national of the USA and Spain, she is keen to use her language and cultural skills to enhance the visibility of NGO CSW/NY.

Sulekha Frank is driven by innovative and creative means of social responsibility and has fourteen years of experience in gender justice and seven years of experience in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She finds joy in gender bias policy building and inclusivity matrixes with the intent to build intersectional partnerships.

As a Lead Advisor at The NYC Commission on Human Rights she is dedicated to fostering dialogue and engagement among our cities most diverse communities by building partnerships between community organizations and government. She currently serves as a lead advisor to the NGO Commission on the Status of Women a UNESCO approved civil representation platform for the voices and leadership of feminists and women's rights organizations to have a global lobby for their inclusion in the UN deliberations in pursuit of gender equality. She also serves on the Board of Carroll Gardens Association, a hyper-local organization working to build DEI in low-wage worker industries. Sulekha Frank

Saphira Rameshfar is a Representative of the Baha'i International Community to the United Nations Headquarters in New York. She has served as Co-Chair of the Faith and Feminism Working Group to the United Nations, Co-Chair of the Working Group on Girls to the United Nations, and on the Youth Steering Committee to the United Nations Department of Global Communications. Prior to this, Saphira was at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs headquarters in New York working on capacity development policy and as an Australian, she worked for the Australian Federal Government on national policy in Canberra. Ms. Rameshfar has worked for over a decade on projects aimed at the empowerment of youth in Australia as well as in communities throughout the Asia Pacific region and North and South America. She holds a Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Applied Science and a Masters of International Law (Australian National University).