



NGO CSW  
FORUM 67

# REPORT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>03</b>	<b>Chair's Reflection</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>About NGO CSW/NY</b>
<b>05</b>	<i>Who we are</i>
<b>07</b>	<i>Youth Leaders &amp; Young Professionals</i>
<b>09</b>	<i>Executive Committee</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Overview of the NGO CSW Forum &amp; UN CSW</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>NGO CSW67 in a Hybrid Space</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Safety at the NGO CSW67 Forum</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Forum Highlights</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Preparation for the Forum</b>
<b>22</b>	<i>Trainings &amp; Tutorials</i>
<b>23</b>	<i>Consultation Day</i>
<b>24</b>	<i>Youth Preparation Series</i>
<b>25</b>	<i>Communications</i>
<b>27</b>	<b>Advocacy for NGO CSW67</b>
<b>28</b>	<i>Member State Engagement</i>
<b>29</b>	<i>Advocacy Toolkit</i>
<b>30</b>	<i>Advocacy Training Sessions</i>
<b>31</b>	<i>Advocacy &amp; Research Group</i>
<b>33</b>	<i>Virtual Vienna Cafe</i>
<b>34</b>	<b>Forum Program</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>Youth Engagement at the NGO CSW67 Forum</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Generation Equality at CSW67</b>
<b>51</b>	<b>NGO CSW67 Forum Testimonials</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>Outcomes of the Forum</b>
<b>53</b>	<i>What did the Forum deliver?</i>
<b>55</b>	<i>Advocacy for Implementation of the CSW67</i>
<b>56</b>	<i>Improving Future Forums</i>



# CHAIR'S REFLECTION

**Houry Geudelekian, NGO CSW/NY Chair**

We did it! We survived our first ever Hybrid Forum. For the past four years, most of my reflections say, "first ever". We survived a pandemic and transitioned into virtual, and now hybrid, advocacy. Thank you to all those who participated, supported and made it all possible. We love hearing the positive feedback and learning lessons from the challenges some of us experienced. I can assure you it was not easy. We certainly asked too much of our small staff and volunteers. In the end I am happy to announce it was our most successful Forum in recent history.

There's still so much work to be done to make sure CSW not only stays relevant, but also learns from its failures and improves on the methodologies. One of the more creative concepts this year came from the CSW Bureau, more specifically the Mission of Argentina, the draft negotiator. They decided early in the negotiations to close some agreed-upon paragraphs in the Zero Draft, in order to facilitate smoother negotiations on new language. Especially because this year's topic was a first on technology.



**My final ask is to not keep your work to only CSW either, we must bring the outcome document to regional and local levels for implementation and accountability"**

*Houry Geudelekian*

At first CSOs were weary, but then realized it was to save time and energy from not-so-progressive Member States who waste time on rehashing agreed-upon language. It did create a precedent: Did it work? Perhaps a bit.

# CHAIR'S REFLECTION (CONT.)

Of course Member States who want to disrupt find ways of doing it in a single word or sentence for days. We are used to rhetoric that is simply distracting and it was important to see that some Member States were thinking of new and improved ways of approaching this mammoth task of CSW.

As I bid farewell to my position as Chair, I implore you to not give up the fight and keep working on breaking silos within the UN system and around the world to build on lessons learned. We must keep sharing our tools and help those who do not have access to the UN Headquarters in New York. My final ask is to not keep your work to only CSW either, we must bring the outcome document to regional and local levels for implementation and accountability. For that, we need our local and regional activists to pick up the ball and run with it. I look forward to seeing you as an ex-officio for the next four years where my priority will be to integrate the Women, Peace and Security agenda into our work.







# ABOUT NGO CSW/NY

## WHO WE ARE

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (or NGO CSW/NY) is a convener of global civil society for the annual UN CSW and global gender equality advocacy. We are a coalition of NGOs, civil society organizations, and individuals concerned with gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women and girls. NGO CSW/NY's main project is organizing the annual NGO CSW Forum in order to bridge the gap between global civil society and grassroots organizations, and the official UN Commission on the Status of Women process in New York.



# WHAT WE DO

1



## NGO CSW FORUM

The NGO CSW Forum is the civil society gathering that runs parallel to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Consisting of hundreds of events throughout two weeks, the Forum provides civil society the opportunity to engage in the processes and CSW sessions without ECOSOC-accreditation or a UN grounds pass.

2



## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Each month, we host a meeting for our community with an expert roundtable about a topic related to gender equality. Each year, all of our Monthly Meetings address the CSW priority theme in some way to align with the CSW process. All Monthly Meetings are virtual via Zoom and open to the public. [Learn more here.](#)

3



## COMMUNITY BUILDING

Creating a supportive, inclusive, and empowered community is very important to us at NGO CSW/NY. Through our NGO CSW Forum, Monthly Meetings, and online presence, we want to bring together women's rights activists, feminists, and gender equality advocates from all walks of life to work toward global equality for women and girls.



**Learn more  
about the NGO  
CSW Forum  
and how to  
participate**



**Learn more  
about the NGO  
CSW NY  
Monthly  
Meetings**



# YOUTH LEADERS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



The NGO CSW/ NY Youth Leaders & Young Professionals (YLYPs) are a community of young people and youth advocates who are passionate about global gender equality and looking to engage in or learn about UN processes, especially the CSW.

## MISSION

To amplify the voices of youth leaders and young professionals, providing a platform for their perspectives on gender equality and channels for their advocacy at the United Nations. To convene young people to consult and contribute to the advancement of the international feminist movement.

## VISION

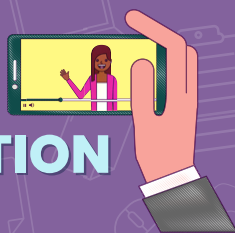
We envision bridging the intergenerational gap in the global feminist movement and empowering young people to flourish as leaders and decision makers across all sectors, for a more gender equitable world.





# WHAT WE DO

## 1 YOUTH PREPARATION SERIES



Each year, the YLYPs host an event series leading up to the CSW and NGO CSW Forum. The series aims to prepare youth to have a meaningful and effective experience at the CSW. The eight events in the series include informational panels, advocacy training, and professional development and networking sessions. Learn more about the Youth Prep Series for NGO CSW67 on page 24.

## 2 YOUTH SPACES AT THE CSW & NGO CSW FORUM

The YLYPs, with global partners, create youth spaces and organize youth-centered events during the CSW and NGO CSW Forum. These spaces include a youth-focused civil society briefing, networking spaces, youth Parallel Events, and more.



## 3 CONNECTING UN YOUTH SPACES

We strongly believe in the necessity of meaningful integration of youth across all relevant UN

Commissions. Rather than working in silos and having separate youth spaces in each UN Commission, it's essential that that these different youth spaces are cohesive and connected for a more powerful and effective global youth movement.



## 4 REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Throughout everything that we do, the YLYPs always make sure to include a global perspective by engaging regional partners and their communities. We recognize that regional cooperation fosters greater collaboration to mobilize a coalition that prioritizes advocacy and action. We're committed to continuing and improving upon our regional engagement.





# NGO CSW/NY

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Houry Geudelekian**

CHAIR

Unchained At Last



**Ivy Koek**

VICE CHAIR

Soka Gakkai International



**Rosa Lizarde**

TREASURER

Feminist Task Force



**Gillian D'Souza Nazareth**

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY

Red Dot Foundation



**Saphira Rameshfar**

RECORDING SECRETARY

Baha'i International Community

## MEMBERS - AT - LARGE



**Pamela Morgan**

Zonta International



**Terry Ince**

African Views



**Margaretha Jones**

International Humanist and Ethical Union



**Luisa Kislinger**

Fos Feminista



**Ani Karapetyan**

Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA)

## PAST CHAIR, EX-OFFICIO



**Susan O'Malley**

International Federation of Business and Professional Women

# OVERVIEW OF THE NGO CSW FORUM & THE UN CSW

---



# WHAT IS THE NGO CSW FORUM?

The NGO CSW Forum is 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.

With over 750 events, the 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.



## WHAT IS THE CSW?



The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is an official Commission of the United Nations which focuses on the rights and empowerment of women and global gender equality. It's an intergovernmental body consisting of 45 Member State governments of the UN. As the Secretariat of the CSW, UN Women (an official UN agency), supports all aspects of the Commission's work.

Each year, the annual CSW session, which takes place for two weeks in March in New York, focuses on a specific topic related to gender equality known as the "priority theme." At the end of the two weeks, an outcome document is produced on the theme.





# NGO CSW FORUM

- Civil society gathering parallel to the UN CSW & outside of the UNHQ
- Organized by NGO CSW/NY (a civil society organization)
- Hosts Parallel Events and other civil society-led events, activities & spaces
- Recommendations prepared by civil society to include in the CSW outcome document
- Free and open to the public



# UN CSW

- Official UN Commission at the UNHQ
- Coordinated by UN Women (a UN agency)
- Hosts official Side Events organized by UN agencies, Member States & CSOs
- Outcome document negotiated by Member States
- Only ECOSOC-accredited orgs can officially register

vs

# 67TH COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW67)

The 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place from 6 – 17 March 2023. All formal sessions were held in-person at the UN Headquarters in NYC while side events were hosted both in-person and virtually.

## PRIORITY THEME



Innovation and technological change and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

## REVIEW THEME



Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls

## AGREED CONCLUSIONS



The Commission adopted Agreed Conclusions on 17 March 2023 after two weeks of negotiations between Member States. Read the document [here](#).

# NGO CSW67 IN A HYBRID SPACE

The NGO CSW67 Forum was an unprecedented event as it was the first hybrid Forum. We had both in-person and virtual events, as well as some hybrid sessions. We know that the global COVID-19 pandemic has affected the feminist and women's movement and activism in a myriad of ways. It has prevented us from meeting in-person and hosting in-person NGO CSW Forums for the past three years. However, NGO CSW/NY has been committed to fostering virtual engagement with our members which has allowed us to strengthen our global community and continue our work and activism.

With global travel and in-person meetings being safer, we wanted to allow in-person participation for the NGO CSW67 Forum. We know our community has missed the energizing physical space at the CSW in New York City and meeting other advocates from around the world. However, providing virtual spaces and opportunities has considerably expanded our reach and has allowed those without the resources to travel a chance to meaningfully engage in the NGO CSW Forum. We cannot let go of these virtual spaces that have made the Forum accessible to thousands more people around the globe.

With all of this in mind, NGO CSW/NY endeavored to host its first-ever hybrid NGO CSW Forum. While we've learned many lessons from this hybrid experiment, the new format was ultimately a success! It allowed participants to come to New York and join over 300 in-person events, while also providing over 400 virtual sessions and spaces on our virtual portal for those who were not able to participate in-person.



# SAFETY GUIDELINES



**SAFETY FIRST**

Maintaining a safe and respectful environment for our participants continues to be a top priority for NGO CSW/NY. This year, all participants automatically agreed to our [Virtual Safety Guidelines](#) when they registered for the NGO CSW67 Forum. These guidelines emphasize respect, inclusivity, compassion, and transparency to create a safe, welcoming environment for all attendees. If you encounter hateful or unsafe situations on our platform, please email [virtualsafety@ngocsw.org](mailto:virtualsafety@ngocsw.org) and our staff will address the issue immediately.

## SAFETY & SECURITY AT THE NGO CSW FORUM



NGO CSW/NY is committed to providing both a safe and fulfilling experience at the NGO CSW Forum. We provided a resource for both Forum participants and Parallel Event organizers outlining information and tips on how to have a safe and secure experience at the Forum. See the resource on the next three pages. You can also download the resource [here](#).

# HOW TO HAVE A **SAFE & SECURE NGO CSW67 FORUM EXPERIENCE** AS A PARTICIPANT



## 1

**Respect and Inclusivity:** Base all of your interactions at the Forum on a foundation of respect and inclusivity.

## 2

**No Hateful Comments:** NGO CSW/NY does not tolerate hateful, discriminatory, or offensive comments or harassment.

## 3

**Virtual Safety Guidelines:** Follow and uphold our Virtual Safety guidelines. Those who violate these guidelines will be removed from the Forum.

## 4

**Reporting Structure:** If you encounter an unsafe or uncomfortable situation, report it to NGO CSW/NY by emailing [virtualsafety@ngocsw.org](mailto:virtualsafety@ngocsw.org).





# HOW TO HOST A SAFE & SECURE VIRTUAL PARALLEL EVENT



## 1 HOSTING VIRTUAL EVENTS

**Less Interaction is More Secure**

- Disabling the chat and Q&A, using a Zoom Webinar instead of a Zoom Meeting, and keeping participants muted are all effective ways to keep your event secure.

## 3 LIMIT ZOOM- BOMBING

To limit the possibility of “Zoom-bombing” interruptions:

- Require registration for your event instead of publishing the direct link online.
- Disable participants; ability to rename themselves.
- Disable participants’ ability to screen share.
- Disable participants’ ability to unmute themselves during non-interactive parts of the event.

## 2 SAFE PARTICIPATION

Here’s some tips on how to include participants safely.

- Have members of your team monitor and manage chat features.
- Ensure your participants view and understand our Virtual Safety Guidelines.
- Have members of your team prepared to remove disruptors from your event as needed.

## 4 PROTECTING PARTICIPANTS

To provide a safe environment for human rights defenders, activists, or minors:

- Allow participants to keep their video off and use an alias.
- Ensure that all participants are aware if your event is recorded.
- Before taking photos, get consent from your audience.

# HOW TO HOST A **SAFE & SECURE IN-PERSON PARALLEL EVENT**

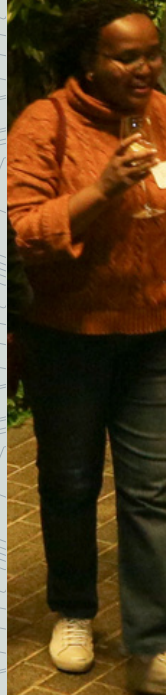


## **1** LOOK FOR STAFF:

- NGO CSW staff and volunteers are always available at Forum venues. At the CCUN, our office is on the 8th floor. At the Salvation Army, we will be stationed in the lobby.
- Forum volunteers are available in between events to help people move in and out of events and set up equipment.

## **2** PROTECTING PARTICIPANTS:

- Ensure that participants are aware if you plan to take photos or record your event.
- At the start of your event, remind participants of our safety guidelines.







NGO CSW  
FORUM

# 67 HIGHLIGHTS

MORE THAN **15,000** PARTICIPANTS



**45% OF PARTICIPANTS WERE YOUTH\***



\*Under 40

**ATTENDEES  
FROM 139  
COUNTRIES**



**NEW**

**67%**

**OF ATTENDEES  
WERE NEW TO  
THE NGO CSW  
FORUM**

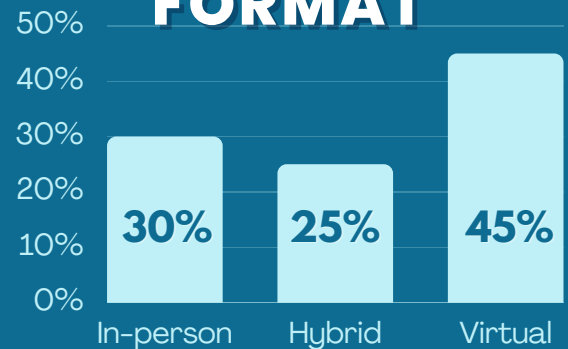


**48%**  
**OF PARTICIPANTS  
WERE FROM THE  
GLOBAL SOUTH**

**70%** PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATIONS WERE ECOSOC-ACCREDITED

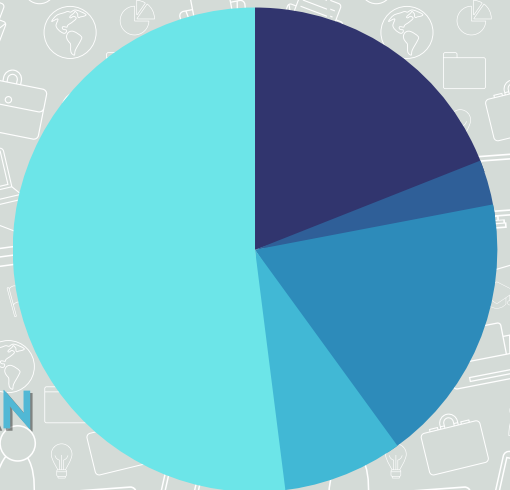
**97%** OF ATTENDEES FOUND THE FORUM PRODUCTIVE

## BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPATION FORMAT



## REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

19% AFRICA  
 3% ARAB STATES/MENA  
 18% ASIA PACIFIC  
 8% LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN  
 52% NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE



## PARTICIPANTS' TOP 3 PARTS OF THE FORUM

PARALLEL EVENTS

**70%**

CIVIL SOCIETY BRIEFINGS

**51%**

NETWORKING

**40%**



# PREPARATION FOR THE FORUM

Organizing a hybrid, two-week Forum with such a small team is a huge undertaking requiring months of preparation and planning. In this section, learn more about how NGO CSW/NY organizes the NGO CSW67 Forum and helps prepare participants for a successful and fulfilling experience.

## PLANNING PROCESS

To organize the numerous aspects that make up the Forum, NGO CSW/NY forms subcommittees made up of Executive Committee members, Global NGO CSW leadership, and

NGO CSW/NY members to tackle the planning of each event, activity, or program. Led by Executive Committee members and supported by the Program Manager and interns, the subcommittees' work came together to form the entire NGO CSW67 Forum experience, including the Parallel Events, NGO CSW/NY events, resources, preparatory training events and tutorials, communications and information sharing, youth engagement, civil society briefings and more!



# TRAININGS AND TUTORIALS

To help participants get the most out of Whova, the Virtual Portal for the NGO CSW67 Forum, we prepared several tutorial videos and held three live training sessions leading up to the Forum. This provided our community with helpful guidance on how to set up their events, exhibit booths, and handbook ad pages on the Virtual Portal, guidance on navigating the portal's different pages and features, as well as a chance to ask us questions in real time during the training events. The tutorial videos provided participants with short step-by-step demonstrations of how to navigate and utilize the Portal. The training recordings and tutorial videos can all be found on our Youtube channel [here](#).

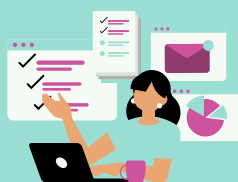
## For Participants

1. NGO CSW67 Forum Participant Training
2. Participant Tutorial



## For Parallel Event Organizers

1. Parallel Event Organizer Training
2. Parallel Event Organizer Tutorial



## For Exhibitors & Sponsors

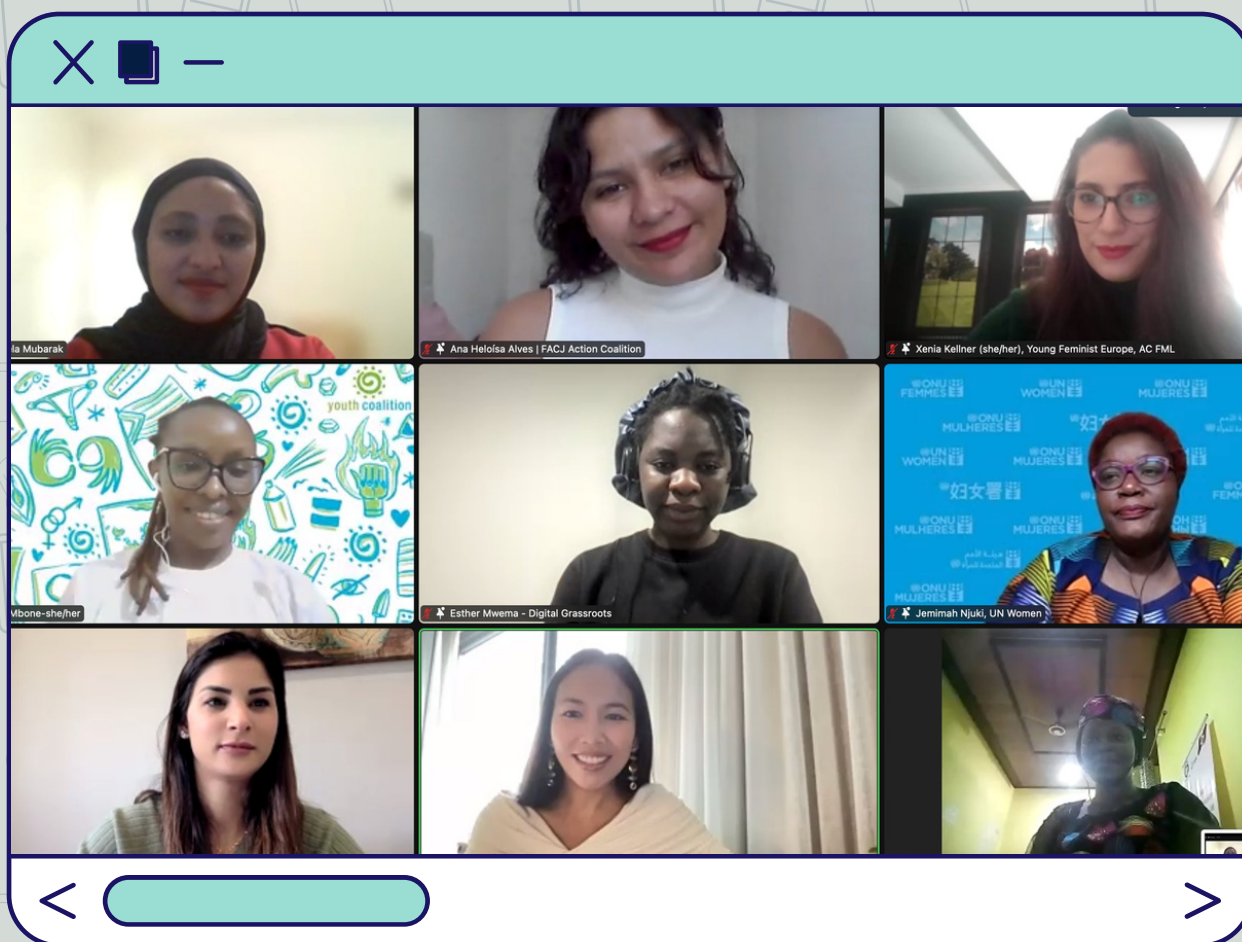
1. Training for Exhibitors & Handbook Ad Sponsors
2. Exhibitor Tutorial
3. Handbook Ad Sponsor Tutorial





# CONSULTATION DAY

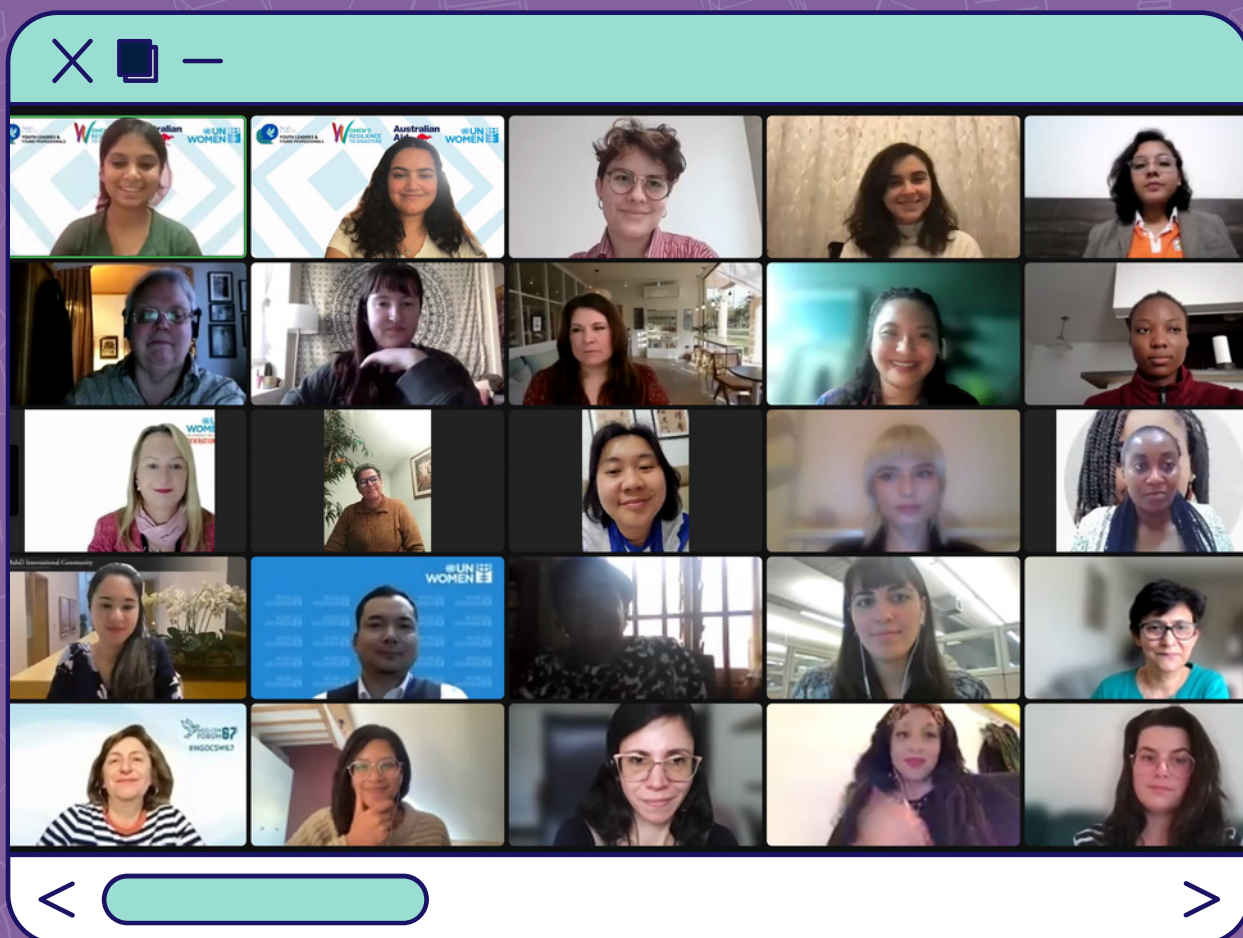
Each year, NGO CSW/NY hosts a Consultation Day event on the Sunday before CSW to kick off the NGO CSW Forum and prepare attendees for the upcoming CSW and Forum. This year, the virtual event focused on the CSW67 priority theme: *digital tech and innovation*. The program included a high-level conversation between UN officials, expert panel discussions, and feminist entertainment! Read [the program](#) and watch [the recording](#).



# YOUTH PREPARATION SERIES for NGO CSW67



Leading up to CSW67, the NGO CSW/NY Youth Leaders and Young Professionals (YLYPs) hosted their third Youth Preparation Series for CSW. The series prepared youth to have a meaningful and effective experience at the CSW. The seven events in the series included informational panels, advocacy training, and professional development and networking sessions. See the [full schedule of events](#) and watch the [available recordings](#).





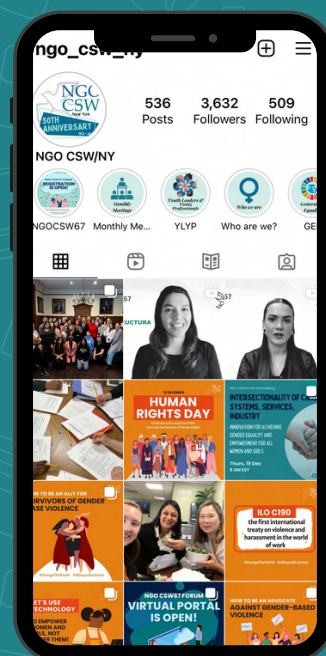
# NGO CSW67 FORUM COMMUNICATIONS

In order to promote the NGO CSW67 Forum and provide our constituency with the information and resources they needed for a successful Forum experience, having a Communications Committee was essential.

The Communications Committee met weekly to discuss and lay out communications plans for the NGO CSW67 Forum. This included:

## 1 SOCIAL MEDIA

The Committee created a campaign to introduce the NGO CSW67 Forum, its main aspects and events, and how it connects to the official UN CSW. We referred the audience to the Forum FAQs, which responded to common questions from participants.



# #NGOCSW67

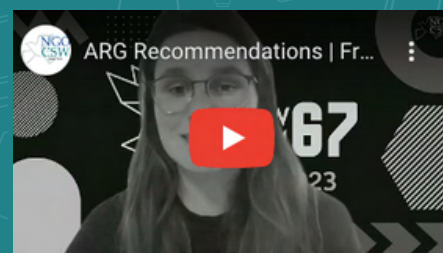
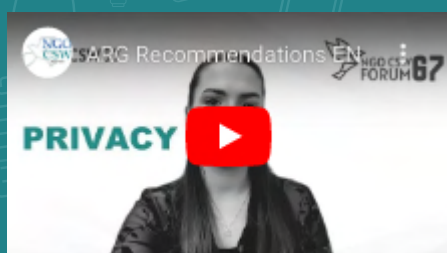
## 2 AUDIOVISUAL CAMPAIGN

Communications campaigns were planned and executed for events and information leading up to the Forum, such as the NGO CSW/NY's Monthly Meetings, Youth Leaders & Young Professional events, and NGO CSW67 Forum training events. Audiovisual materials and quotes from these events were shared on social media, including the hashtag #NGOCSW67 (created as a tag to add to all content related to the Forum).

# 3 ADVOCACY & RESEARCH GROUP'S 5 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

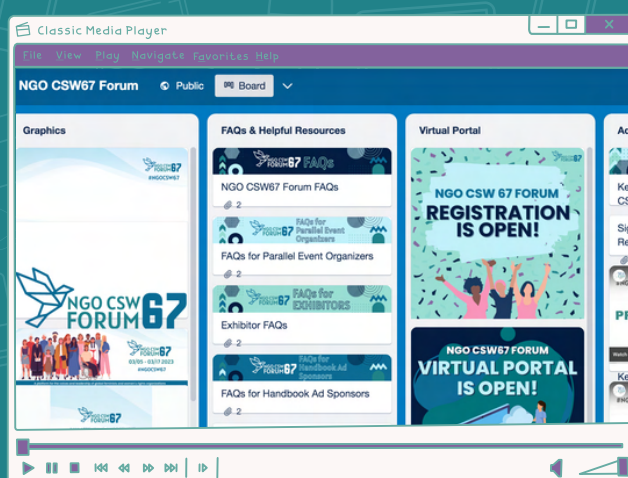
To support the work of our Advocacy & Research Group, we launched a campaign to promote the ARG's 5 Key Recommendations for the CSW67 Zero Draft. These recommendations outlined the priorities to include in the CSW67 outcome document on digital technology and innovation based on the ARG's research and consultation with our global community.

Through a series of videos in English, Spanish and French, we presented the importance of the ARG's Recommendations and their essential inclusion in the CSW67 outcomes. To bolster support for the Recommendations, we launched a sign-on campaign to encourage organizations and individuals to sign on in support of the Recommendations.



# 4 DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR AND DURING THE FORUM

We provided a daily calendar of Forum activities and coverage of civil society meetings at the UN, such as our Civil Society Briefings, highlighting important information that could drive civil society recommendations in the CSW67 outcome document. In addition, we created a social media package in Trello, which was an accessible page for participants, Parallel Event organizers, Exhibitors and Handbook Ad Sponsors to gather branding materials and graphics, training and tutorials, information on hashtags and more.





# ADVOCACY FOR THE FORUM

This year, NGO CSW/NY reaffirmed its commitment to advocacy and participation by providing training tools and opportunities to engage with others. Our Advocacy Toolkit and Advocacy Training sessions, including a Youth Advocacy Training, provided vital information on CSW processes and negotiations, as well as how to advocate for your work during sessions. The Advocacy and Research Group consulted with over 700 individuals to create five key recommendations for the CSW67 Zero Draft, which brought our advocacy to the forefront of CSW negotiations. Additionally, our Virtual Vienna Cafe gave activists a seat at the table with Member States to discuss the status of agreed conclusions. Learn more about advocacy for the Forum in this section!

---





# ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBER STATES

Civil society engagement with Member States is a key component of the NGO CSW Forum and NGO CSW67 was no different. Our Virtual Vienna Cafe brought seven different Member States together to discuss negotiations before and during the CSW sessions. These sessions allowed civil society representatives to advocate for their work in a casual, low-pressure environment outside of UN grounds restrictions. NGO CSW/NY also hosted three civil society briefings during CSW on UN grounds, all of which included Member States from the CSW Bureau. The briefings provided yet another opportunity for civil society to get caught up on the status of negotiations and ask questions to UN actors. In collaboration with UN Women, the Youth Leaders & Young Professionals participated in the Youth Forum during CSW67. The Youth Forum invited UN actors and Member States to engage in an interactive space for young activists to discuss their ideas on the CSW67 priority theme and Zero Draft recommendations. These discussions and sessions create vital opportunities for civil society to have a meaningful, open dialogue with Member States.



# ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

NGO CSW/NY developed an Advocacy Toolkit that serves as a comprehensive guide to understanding and engaging in the United Nations system generally, and the CSW particularly. The toolkit is designed to help NGOs, civil society representatives, and feminists build their capacity to advocate for their organization, work, and global gender equality at the CSW.

The Advocacy Toolkit presents essential information about the UN system and CSW process, and provides advocacy resources that can be used during CSW negotiations. Additionally, it offers recommendations for improving social media skills, which can be a valuable tool in advocacy efforts.



Overall, the Advocacy Toolkit is a beneficial resource for anyone looking to navigate the complex world of the UN and CSW processes and advocate effectively for gender equality.

# ADVOCACY TRAINING SESSIONS



On the second day of CSW67, NGO CSW/NY held an Advocacy Training session to provide information about the different ways to advocate for your work and organization at the NGO CSW Forum and the UN CSW. The event included advocacy tips and tricks, info on how to engage in the CSW67 negotiations process, an overview of our Advocacy & Research Group, and an introduction to our NGO CSW67 Advocacy Toolkit.



**Watch the Advocacy Training recording**

A Youth Advocacy Training was also held prior to the Forum, on 18 January, to prepare youth activists with an overview of how to effectively advocate at the UN CSW and NGO CSW Forum. Download the Youth Advocacy Training resource that includes all the information shared during the session. You can rewatch the event here.



# ADVOCACY & RESEARCH GROUP



Each year, the Advocacy & Research Group (ARG) collaborates with global civil society to create representative and researched recommendations for the CSW Outcome Document. This year, the ARG provided Five Key Recommendations regarding the priority theme of innovation and technological change. These recommendations were provided to the CSW Bureau, UN Women, and all Member States in advance of negotiations—with over 850 individuals signed on in support.



# CSW67 FIVE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

**1** Invest in and strengthen gender-responsive programs and policies that **prioritize critical digital literacy and STEM education for girls and women in all their diversity** for meaningful participation in digital society and economy

**2** Implement and reform **laws and policies to address the risks to privacy, autonomy, dignity, and safety faced by women and girls in all their diversity** on digital platforms.

**3** Ensure universal access to essential technological infrastructure and frontier data and AI innovations, with a **special focus on rural areas, women and girls living with disabilities, and older women**



**4** Leverage various financial routes, including **public and development finance and private sector partnerships** to enable universal, affordable, equal, and unfettered digital technology for women and girls in all their diversity.

**5** Develop and invest in policies and programs that prioritize critical digital literacy, STEM education, online safety, and **digital empowerment for girls and young women in all their diversity.**





# VIRTUAL VIENNA CAFE

One of the benefits of past in-person CSWs has been informal meetings between government delegates and NGO representatives, whether in the Delegates Lounge, the corridors of the UN basement or the legendary Vienna Cafe. COVID-19 and other issues continue to impact participation in CSW, which is why NGO CSW/NY has continued our “Virtual Vienna Cafe” program which aims to recreate those informal meetings in a virtual space.

Seven different Member States participated in this year’s program, along with 68 civil society participants. Each session highlighted the importance of civil society’s access to Member State representatives, as well as the inclusion of youth voices in the UN system. The participation of several CSW Bureau members spoke to the value of civil society’s expertise and counseling on gender-focused issues.



NGO CSW 67

# FORUM PROGRAM







# PARALLEL EVENTS

One of the key components and the most popular aspect of the NGO CSW Forum is the Parallel Events. Each year, we invite civil society organizations around the globe to apply to host a Parallel Event, regardless of their ECOSOC status. These events are totally organized by the host organization and address the CSW priority theme in some way.

Parallel Events not only provide a space and voice for CSOs who may not have a voice at or access to the UN, but they also allow for education and galvanizing around different issues and topics within the feminist and women's movement. Parallel Events are totally free and open to the public.

This year, the Forum held in-person, virtual, and hybrid Parallel Events. See the full list of Parallel Events [here](#).

# PARALLEL EVENT STATS

750+  
PARALLEL  
EVENTS

70% OF PARTICIPANTS SAID  
PARALLEL EVENTS WERE  
THEIR FAVORITE PART OF  
THE FORUM



66%

OF PARTICIPANTS SAID  
PARALLEL EVENTS WERE THE  
MOST BENEFICIAL ASPECT OF  
THE FORUM





# CONVERSATION CIRCLES

This year's NGO CSW Forum saw the return of Conversation Circles, a semi-structured space to raise issues and exchange ideas on different topics. Conversation Circles were held in a hybrid format for the first time ever! Participants had the option to join online or at the in-person space at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice. Each session addressed a specific theme related to gender equality and was facilitated by experts on the topic. Facilitators guided attendees through participatory activities to foster conversations about our most pressing issues.

Not all Conversation Circles were recorded, but you can watch the available recordings below.

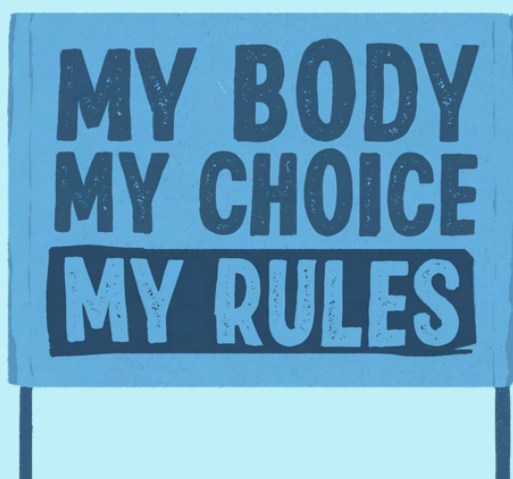
## CONVERSATION CIRCLE RECORDINGS

- Multiple and Intersecting Forms of Oppression
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Future of Education
- Feminist and Youth Movements



# CONVERSATION CIRCLE STATS

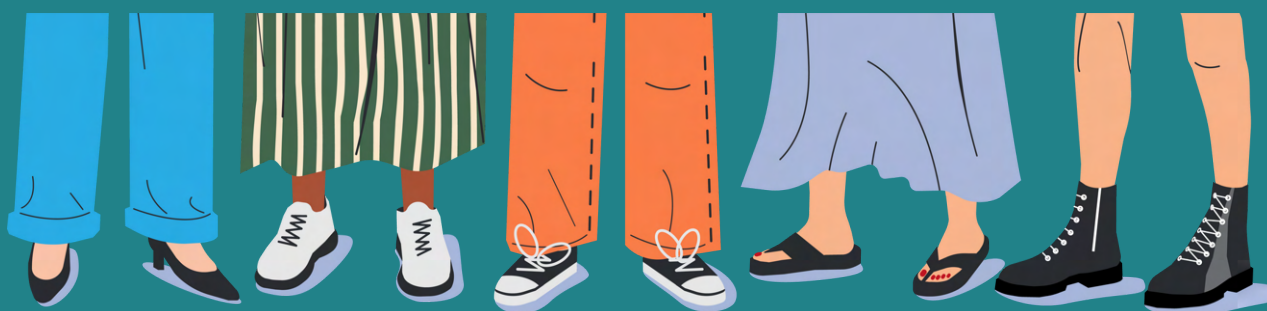
## MOST ATTENDED CONVERSATION CIRCLE



**SEXUAL &  
REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH, RIGHTS,  
AND JUSTICE**

**39%**

**OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS  
ATTENDED AT LEAST ONE  
CONVERSATION CIRCLE**



**96%**

**OF CONVERSATION CIRCLE  
PARTICIPANTS WERE  
SATISFIED WITH THE  
SESSION(S)**



# REGIONAL CAUCUSES

Regional Caucuses were held throughout the NGO CSW67 Forum, hosted by the Global NGO CSWs, the Europe & North America Caucus, and the Women & Girls Descendants of Enslaved Africans Regional Caucus. These sessions were informal, loosely-moderated spaces for participants to discuss and reflect upon regional advocacy and their region's most relevant and pressing issues. Each Regional Caucus had two sessions, one during the first week and one during the second. During the first week, all Caucuses were virtual, but during the second week, the Regional Caucuses were held in a hybrid format with an in-person space at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice.

Most Regional Caucus sessions were not recorded. However, you can watch the available recordings below.

## REGIONAL CAUCUS RECORDINGS

- Latin America & The Caribbean Regional Caucus
  - [Session 1](#)
  - [Session 2](#)
- [Women and Girl Descendants of Enslaved Africans, Americas, and The Caribbean](#)



# REGIONAL CAUCUS STATS

**MOST  
ATTENDED  
REGIONAL  
CAUCUS:**



**AFRICA**

**49%**

**OF FORUM  
PARTICIPANTS  
ATTENDED AT  
LEAST ONE  
REGIONAL  
CAUCUS**



**91%**

**OF CAUCUS ATTENDEES  
FOUND THE SESSION(S)  
PRODUCTIVE**





# CIVIL SOCIETY BRIEFINGS

Throughout the two weeks of the Forum, NGO CSW/NY and UN Women co-hosted three Civil Society Briefings inside the UN Headquarters and live-streamed online. Each briefing addressed the CSW67 outcome document negotiations process with speakers from Member States, UN Women, and civil society. We also took questions and interventions from the floor at each session.

The second session, the Youth Morning Briefing, specifically looked at the CSW67 process from a youth perspective where youth activists shared the CSW67 Global Youth and Adolescent Recommendations.

Watch the recordings of each session below.

## CIVIL SOCIETY BRIEFINGS RECORDINGS

- [Civil Society Briefing, Session One](#)
- [Youth Morning Briefing](#)
- [Civil Society Briefing, Session Two](#)



# CIVIL SOCIETY BRIEFING STATS



## 68%

OF FORUM  
PARTICIPANTS SAID  
THE CIVIL SOCIETY  
BRIEFINGS WERE  
THE MOST  
BENEFICIAL PART  
OF THE FORUM



## 57%



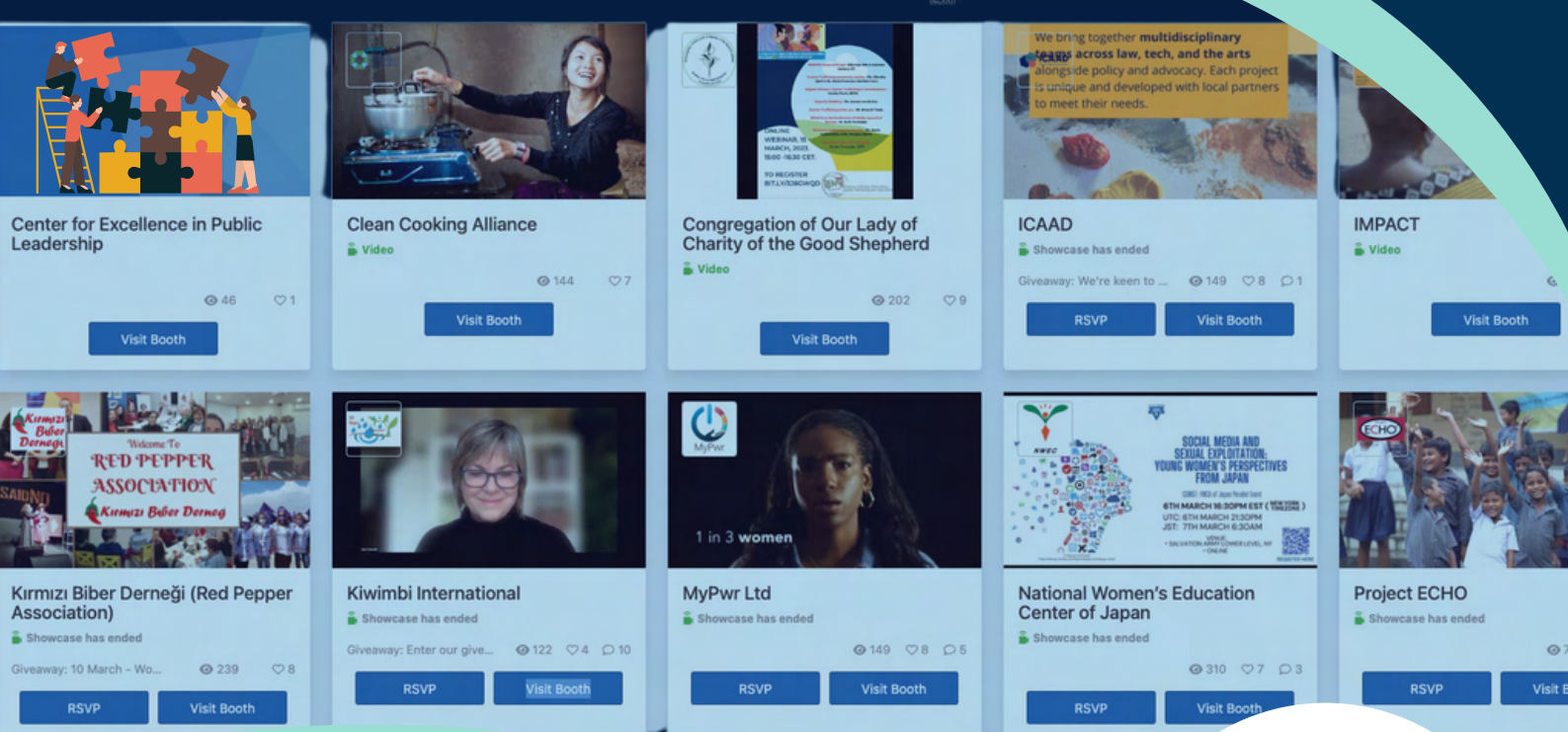
OF FORUM  
PARTICIPANTS  
ATTENDED AT  
LEAST ONE CIVIL  
SOCIETY BRIEFING



## 94%

OF BRIEFING  
ATTENDEES  
WERE  
SATISFIED  
WITH THE  
SESSION(S)





# EXHIBIT BOOTHS



For the third year, we hosted virtual Exhibit Booths on the NGO CSW Forum Virtual Portal. This virtual feature imitates a traditional in-person exhibition hall with different "booths" that participants can visit.

Organizations, groups, and coalitions were invited to purchase a booth, where they could add information about their organization, upload photos, videos, and files, collect contact information from visitors, and host events. During the two weeks of the Forum, participants could visit each of the Exhibit Booths to meet with live representatives and learn about the organization.

**VIEW THE NGO CSW67  
EXHIBITORS**



# HANDBOOK ADS

Every year, organizations and Parallel Event organizers are able to sponsor a Handbook Ad to promote their work and/or Parallel Event. Before COVID-19, Handbook Ads only included a graphic to include in the NGO CSW Forum Handbook and on our website. Since 2021, we have expanded what sponsoring a Handbook Ad includes by allowing Handbook Ad sponsors to also host a unique page on the NGO CSW Forum Virtual Portal.

These Handbook Ad pages include a logo, description, photos, handouts, and more!

**SEE THE NGO CSW67  
FORUM HANDBOOK AD  
SPONSORS**



**NGO CSW67**

# **INTERACTIVE DIGITAL HANDBOOK**

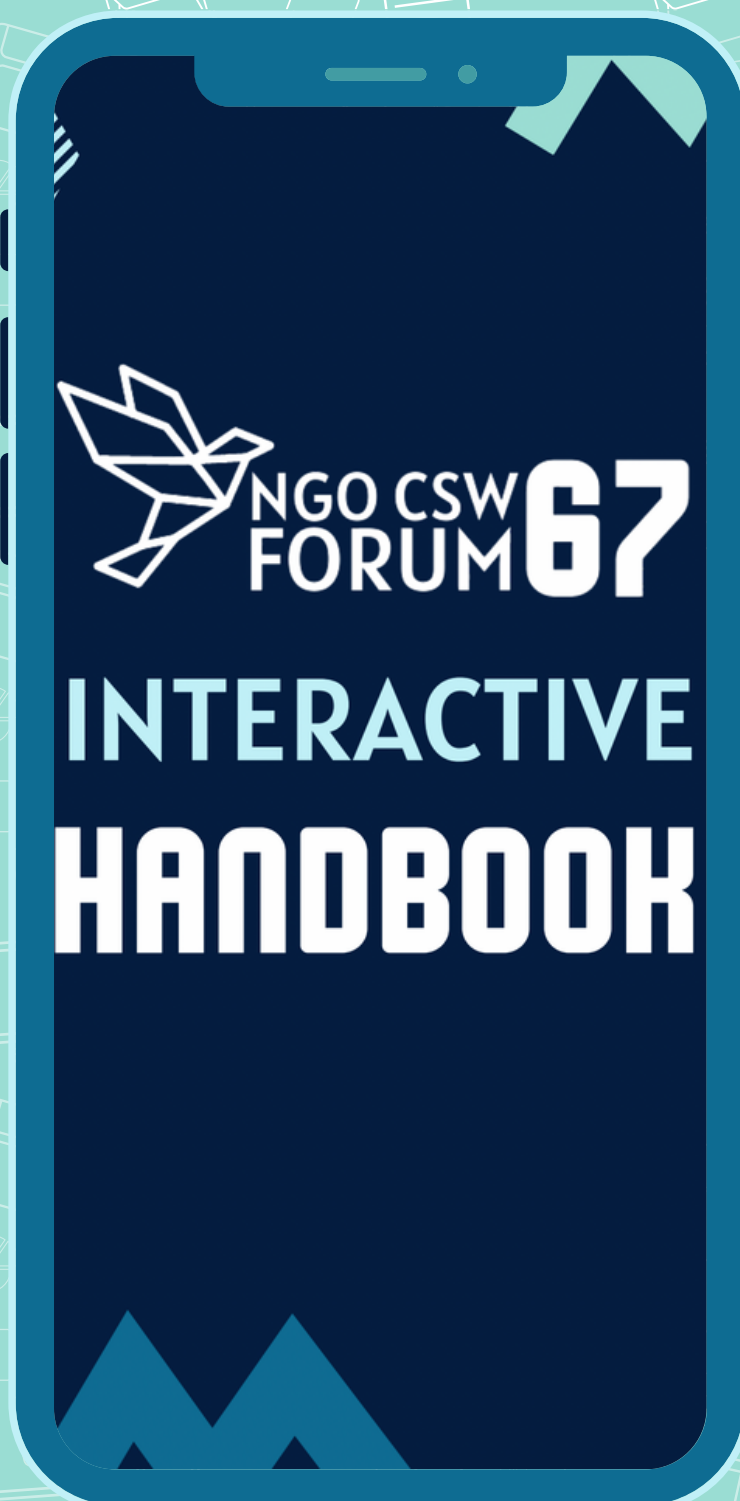
The NGO CSW67 Forum Interactive Digital Handbook provided Forum attendees a guide on everything happening during the two weeks.

The Handbook includes exclusive statements by the Chair of CSW, UN Women's Executive Director, the NGO CSW/NY Chair, and other high-level VIPs.

It also includes information about all of NGO CSW/NY's events and the full schedule of Parallel Events, as well as advertisements from our Handbook Ad Sponsors.



**Download the NGO  
CSW67 Forum  
Interactive Handbook**





# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

*at the*

## NGO CSW67 FORUM



# YLYP DELEGATE CHAMPIONS FOR CSW67

Through collaboration with Women Have Wings, the YLYPs were able to honor five youth advocates as YLYP Delegate Champions for CSW67.



**SRRUTHI LEKHA  
RAAJA ELANGO**

Co-Founder & Director of  
Polity Link International and  
Youth Focal Point for NGO  
CSW Geneva

**JOSE ALBERTO  
HERNÁNDEZ  
CHANONA**

Program Coordinator, Latin  
America RE!NSTITUTE  
Advocate, HEFORSHE  
CAMPAIGN



**NJILI IRELINE  
MERCY MBINOH**

MEMBER, MIFALI  
NGO CSW Africa Youth  
Leader



# YLYP DELEGATE CHAMPIONS FOR CSW67



## FERNANDA VÁZQUEZ ROJAS

Advocacy Officer  
Elige Red de Jóvenes por los  
Derechos Sexuales y  
Reproductivos  
Youth leader  
NGO CSW Latin America &  
the Caribbean

## CARLOS INFANTE

Founder & Executive Director  
Movimiento Creando  
Ciudadanos (MOCRECI)  
Founder & president  
Generation Change  
International Partnership  
Platform (GCIPP)



Three awardees – Fernanda, Jose, and Srruthi – were able to travel to NYC for the NGO CSW67 Forum. Jose hosted a HeForShe Solutions Lab to discuss how male allyship is key to achieve gender equality, while Fernanda's event, *Educación Sexual Integral en el espacio digital: experiencias desde América Latina*, focused on the online challenges Latin America faces in realizing the right to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). Carlos and Njili, who could not travel to NYC, hosted watch parties and local events in their communities. Learn more about each YLYP Delegate Champion, their impressive work, and dedication to youth, feminist, and women's rights movements [here](#).



# YLYP REFLECTIONS ON THE CSW67

There was more youth participation during this CSW than ever before! Some of the highlights were the first-ever Youth Interactive Dialogue, the Youth Forum, and the Youth Morning Briefing where young people and youth movement allies gathered to learn about, advocate for, and activate around youth engagement at the CSW67 and NGO CSW67 Forum. Read our reflections about the youth engagement at CSW below.

## YOUTH ARE ALSO TECHNICAL EXPERTS!

Youth are experts in their own lived experience and can share perspectives on young people's innovation and interaction with digital technology. Yet, some young people are also thematic experts on digital technology, education, and innovation. They have experience that moves beyond simply a young person's perspective. Youth are able to show their concern and offer contributions to those older than them and also those younger than them. This is leadership. This is expertise. And this is something the youth are learning about: that they can share their technical expertise as it applies to the topic at large and as it applies to all people.



## PROFESSIONALISM OF YOUNG PEOPLE

There are skill sets that young people wield very easily – social media, online presence and digital diplomacy are some examples. Young people who show up in CSW spaces are professionals, well-read and well-versed on the issues, experiences at the grassroots, knowledgeable in the geopolitical intricacies and skilled in showing diplomatic respect and wisdom. We especially saw these skills being put into practice during our Virtual Vienna Cafe sessions, where young people very effectively joined discussions with Member States about their priorities and recommendations related to the CSW67 priority theme.



## APPROPRIATE ADVOCACY CULTURE AT THE CSW

Skill sets around protest and disruption may work in grassroots, community, and local spaces, but they actually don't serve us, especially youth, within UN meetings. It can actually damage relationships with Member States and UN agencies, and risks closing spaces to civil society, not only for the youth, but for all civil society actors. We must do better in galvanizing youth and civil society for meaningful change within these UN spaces in a way that is respectful, diplomatic, and effective.



Watch the recording of [NGO CSW/NY's April Monthly Meeting](#) where the YLYP co-chairs hosted a conversation around youth engagement at the CSW67 and some of these reflections.



Photo: UN Women

# GENERATION EQUALITY

Generation Equality (GEF) is the world's leading initiative to accelerate investment and implementation on gender equality. Convened by UN Women, the initiative aims to ensure that the bold ambitions of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) on women's rights are fully implemented and that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved. It also aims to expand public support for gender equality.

As the global civil society convener for the Generation Equality Forum, NGO CSW/NY recognizes the necessity of connecting the CSW and GEF processes as two essential gender equality mechanisms. As one of the largest gatherings of global feminist civil society and gender equality advocates, it is essential that CSW and NGO CSW Forum participants are aware of, enthusiastic about, and engaged in the GEF process as a significant gender equality movement. The connection between the two can create a powerful effort to move the needle. This is why we are committed to fostering a stronger connection between the two by ensuring that Generation Equality is included in and highlighted leading up to and during the NGO CSW Forum.

For the NGO CSW67 Forum, NGO CSW/NY, supported by the UN Foundation, highlighted GEF in two main ways: in our Consultation Day program and through virtual Exhibit Booths. During Consultation Day, a section of the program featured representatives of each Action Coalition, the Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) Compact, and the Global Alliance for Care. [Watch the recording.](#)

The NGO CSW67 Forum Virtual Portal also hosted Generation Equality Exhibit Booths for each Action Coalition, the Compact, and the Care Alliance. These booths were a great way for Forum participants to learn more about Generation Equality and get more involved.



# NGO CSW67 FORUM

# TESTIMONIALS



"I am so impressed with the level of energy, passion and commitment of CSW67 participants, which is clearly enabled and enhanced by the incredible design, organization and implementation efforts of event organizers. Thank you for your contribution to improving the world in which we live, work and play!!"

"I really enjoyed the conversation. Hope to see more conversations around LGBTQI+ Rights."

"We attended in-person with delegates and also participated virtually from home cities. Great that both possibilities were offered, both were important and useful."

It was fantastic to be in person again with women and change makers from around the globe. I have returned home inspired and grateful."

"We need this everyday."

"You navigated us through very difficult waters during Covid-19 and I thank you for that."

"Excellent conversation circles...inclusive dialogue...thank you to all!"

"NGO CSW/NY has achieved something phenomenal to create the annual worldwide outreach to civil society actors to have a SAY on the many challenging issues we are confronted with and address the annual themes of the CSW sessions."







Photo: UN Women

# OUTCOMES OF THE FORUM

REFLECTING ON THE NGO CSW67 FORUM  
AND NEXT STEPS



# WHAT DID THE FORUM DELIVER?

## IN-PERSON SPACE AGAIN!



Most notably, the NGO CSW67 Forum provided an in-person space again for the first time since 2019! While there is a lot we can improve upon to enhance the in-person experience, it was a milestone feat in itself to host a hybrid Forum with both in-person and virtual components. We are so excited that we were able to provide in-person events and activities again to over 8,000 people who participated in-person in NYC. We've received tons of feedback about how great it was to be able to gather in-person again and the energizing buzz that the space created.

## ADVOCACY



Our advocacy efforts continued to expand and improve leading up to and during the NGO CSW67 Forum. We committed to providing our community with advocacy resources and training to ensure that they were prepared to advocate for their organization or work. We held two advocacy trainings—one specifically geared toward youth—and developed an Advocacy Toolkit to help NGOs, civil society representatives and feminists build their capacity to advocate at the UN and CSW.

We also did our own advocacy for the CSW67 outcome document through the work of our Advocacy & Research Group and several meetings with Member States throughout the year. We built excellent relationships with the CSW Bureau: South Africa, Latvia, Argentina, Germany, and Mongolia. These relationships helped us effectively advocate for the inclusion of the ARG's Zero Draft Recommendations in the CSW67 Agreed Conclusion, as well as the meaningful inclusion of civil society at the CSW.

# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

There was more youth engagement than ever before at the NGO CSW67 Forum! Almost 50% of Forum participants were youth! We're so proud to have such a strong intergenerational community with meaningful participation of all ages.



There is no doubt that the steady increase of youth participation has been fostered in part by our Youth Leaders & Young Professionals whose community is now over 5,000 strong! The YLYPs have been doing work throughout the year to engage, inform, and prepare young people for the CSW67 and NGO CSW67 Forum.



We've collaborated with UN Women, youth organizations and other youth-related processes at the UN to connect these spaces and work toward a more cohesive and connected UN system for a more powerful and effective global youth movement.



# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

## ADVOCACY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSW67 AGREED CONCLUSIONS

*The CSW67 is over, but our work is not done!*



After the conclusion of the Forum and CSW, we shift our efforts to analyzing the CSW outcome document and advocating for its implementation. Our April, May, and June Monthly Meetings focus on this post-CSW work. Throughout the three meetings, we hear from civil society experts, CSW Bureau members, UN Women, and other stakeholders debriefing the CSW negotiations process and the resulting outcome document. We also hear from participants about their reflections and recommendations on the CSW and how to implement the outcome document on a regional and local level. [Learn more about our Monthly Meetings.](#)

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

# IMPROVING FUTURE NGO CSW FORUMS

Each year, NGO CSW/NY looks for ways to improve future NGO CSW Forums based on participant feedback, our own experiences, and our ambitions for the future. With our first hybrid Forum in the rearview mirror, we want to ensure that future NGO CSW Forums prioritize digital inclusion and virtual accessibility, while also enhancing the in-person experience. We hope to do this by making various improvements such as better mitigating technical difficulties, hosting more in-person networking events, and improving scheduling.



We also want to provide more advocacy resources for NGO CSW Forum participants and those wanting to engage more in the UN spaces. Each year, more and more people are introduced to NGO CSW/NY and attend the NGO CSW Forum for the first time. (67% of NGO CSW67 Forum participants were new-timers!) We know how complex and overwhelming the UN system and CSW process can be, especially for those new to the space. To help our community better understand the UN system, the CSW process, and other gender equality processes at the UN, we hope to make materials readily available throughout the year leading up to the CSW.

For our own CSW advocacy with Member States, NGO CSW/NY will continue to conduct meaningful consultations with our community. Our work and the Forum are made strong by our community's diversity, and we want to continue to learn from their lived experiences to ensure that we are representing the priorities of our global grassroots constituency.

Because our community and NGO CSW Forum are so global, NGO CSW/NY is committed to strengthening regional connections. By working with the global NGO CSWs and other partners around the world, we hope to increase the regional diversity and representation both at the official UN CSW and throughout the NGO CSW Forum. We will especially continue to advocate for the implementation and accountability of the CSW outcome document at the regional and local levels.

NGO CSW/NY is a fierce advocate for intersectionality and inclusion, and we will continue to embrace Global South advocates, grassroots organizations, and individuals in all their diversity. We will continue to make inclusion a priority by focusing on accessibility, intersectionality, and regional diversity.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

NGO CSW/NY facilitates a platform for the voices and leadership of feminists and women's rights organizations globally who lobby for their inclusion in the UN deliberations in pursuit of gender equality.

Authored by Carla Cordova, Ali Foote, Micaela Tompkins, Devan Zingler  
Edited by Devan Zingler  
Designed by Carla Cordova

**NGO CSW/NY thanks everyone who helped to make the NGO CSW67 Forum and this report possible, namely the Executive Committee, global NGO CSWs, interns, and our partners.**

## Contact

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY  
777 United Nations Plaza, 6C  
New York, NY 10017  
646.922.8800  
[www.ngocsw.org](http://www.ngocsw.org)  
[info@ngocsw.org](mailto:info@ngocsw.org)

## Follow us on social media



Twitter: @ngo\_csw\_ny



Instagram: @ngo\_csw\_ny



Facebook: NGO CSW/NY



LinkedIn: NGO CSW/NY



Youtube: NGO CSW/NY

