



SUMMARY OF PEACE FOR GENDER EQUALITY



**BRIDGING GENERATION EQUALITY,
WOMEN, YOUTH, PEACE & SECURITY
AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION, AND
THE UN COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN**

WED 12 - 3pm GMT + 2

**19
JULY**

UN Foundation Nest Hub,
Norrskén House Kigali Town Hall
Kigali, Rwanda

During the Women Deliver 2023 Conference



summary

On 19 July in Kigali, Rwanda on the outskirts of the Women Deliver 2023 Conference, NGO CSW/NY hosted an event entitled Peace for Gender Equality: Bridging Generation Equality, Women, Youth, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action, and the Commission on the Status of Women. The event was co-hosted by the United Nations Foundation, Women's Refugee Commission, The Network for Religious & Traditional Peacemakers, Soka Gakkai International, and Red Dot Foundation.

The aim of the event was to develop an advocacy strategy which builds momentum for further integrating and uplifting the Women, Youth, Peace & Security agenda (WYPS) and broader intersectional peace and security efforts into the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) processes in order to bolster support and awareness. The objectives of the event were:

- 1 Identify areas where the advocacy objectives of the CSW and the WPS-HA are mutually reinforcing and can leverage their separate strengths to advance a common advocacy agenda;
- 2 Develop an advocacy strategy and roadmap to actualize and support these identified advocacy areas; and
- 3 Solicit and inspire greater support, awareness and partnerships for advancing the developed advocacy strategy and roadmap.

The event began with presentations and a Fireside Chat. We heard from Maggie Roache, Houry Geudelekian, and Ivy Koek, who helped set the stage for the event and topic. The panel, moderated by Rahel Beigel, featured the experts in the WYPS and CSW spaces: Ruy Haji Naif, Mmonbeydo Nadine Joah, and Caryn Dasah. Speakers shared their experiences related to WYPS and the CSW, as well as the advocacy work they do in the field. We also heard from Lipi Rahman, Maria Krisch, and Anne Kwakenboos about the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF). See the full program with the speakers' biographies [here](#).

Following the Fireside Chat, the organizers and participants spontaneously decided to keep the dialogue going with the whole group and not break out into separate working groups. Although we initially planned to have breakout groups, the question

and answers following the Fireside Chat organically flowed into a group discussion and all participants were freely joining in and contributing their reflections and experiences. We determined it was more effective to continue with the group discussion that was already underway and it proved to be a richer experience that allowed for more creative expression and strategizing.

Below is a recap of the main points raised during the group discussion. These highlight many of the shared concerns among stakeholders and provide the new NGO CSW/NY working group, Peace for Gender Equality, with a list of action points to address in our first kick-off meeting and early stages of preparation for CSW68. Key action points for our advocacy strategy and messaging include finding openings in the CSW priority theme for integrating climate adaptation as a human security issue, integrating thematic priorities of the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions and commitments of signatories to the Generation Equality Forum Women, Peace and Security Humanitarian Action Compact. Additionally, participants emphasized the need to use the stories of women's lived experiences in CSW advocacy to illustrate the real impacts of restrictive laws and policies and inaction on part of Member States and international organizations, and national governments in implementing WPS and CEDAW obligations. Action points for logistics and operations include working more closely with established global and regional networks and coalitions that are comprised of humanitarian crisis responders and peacebuilders; increasing support and mentorship for organizations that are not ECOSOC accredited but that want to participate in the CSW; and increasing hybrid and online events.

workshop notes

- The working group should connect/align with other peacebuilding thematic areas and be more holistic – example connecting with climate movement. Make the approach more intersectional in the mapping.
- Have someone with a peacebuilding background involved in the NGO CSW negotiations to help shape peace-related outcomes – both formally and informally.
- Use more online space opportunities to engage more women/young women peacebuilders.
- Offer regional and country level approach to mapping.
- Offer an intergenerational approach in mapping.
- Coordinate peacebuilding related sponsorship and funding opportunities in these larger synergy moments, i.e. WPHF – as well as coordinate capacity-building opportunities.

- Showcase women/young women peacebuilder profiles and stories throughout the year.
- Have NGO CSW come to different regions instead of a NY approach.
- In the mapping, show how you build momentum towards larger moments.
- Demonstrate how we can connect and synergize the various National Action Plans. **It is important to integrate mention of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in the CSW process wherever it intersects with policy and practices relating to the priority theme.** NAPS are not financed and not measured. We need to have measurement indicators for implementation of NAPs and can potentially use CSW normal proceedings to discuss the impact of NAPs
- **Have an initial working group formation/building session – to create agreed upon shared vision, etc. More focus here on process design.**
- Strengthen/synergize peacebuilding related institutions by **including/inviting more women-led peacebuilding organizations into the CSW process** and planning of civil society events and engagement.
- It is critical to **address sudden onset climate-related disaster** in the CSW dialogues as it is a cross-cutting issue between humanitarian action and CEDAW monitoring. **Climate adaptation is both a human rights and a humanitarian issue and must be part of the dialogue.** Member state fora such as the Convention on Biological Diversity is more open to civil society engagement and critique than the CSW. We should look to this process as an example of how to boost engagement among civil society, particularly those organizations who are more vocal critics of anti-gender movement, and more vocal proponents of reproductive justice, LGBTIQ+ human rights, etc.
- **Generation Equality Forum Action Coalitions:** Important to work with Action Coalitions and Signatories to the GEF Humanitarian Action Compact and consider each priority area as it related to climate adaption
- Logistical considerations for increasing engagement among civil society from conflict and crisis affected countries:
 - Despite negative impacts of COVID, it created more online space for civil society participation. **We should maximize online opportunities and have more hybrid events.**
 - **Activism is currently a privilege but it should not be. Opportunities to engage with CSW should be accessible to all.**
 - Women in low and middle-income countries don't have opportunities to travel, especially those in rural areas. Many don't know or understand how to access opportunities to participate in CSW and the application process can be confusing or lengthy.

- Logistical barriers often take over and leave no room for the actual work. This is especially true for organizations that are not ECOSOC accredited. **For those without ECOSOC consultative status, it is very difficult to participate on an equal footing** and they are unable to engage in formal proceedings and dialogues without sponsorship from other organizations who are ECOSOC accredited and can facilitate their access.
- There is strong interest for **regional convenings leading up to the CSW and/or alongside the CSW**. Is this feasible for the NGO CSW to facilitate? How can we bring the CSW to the regions and expand access this way? **How can we support more regional engagement through networks and coalitions that already exist**, such as the Feminist Humanitarian Network and the Women's Peace and Security Fund's regional groups? Can we work more closely with these networks and coalitions to help increase engagement in the CSW process among humanitarian and peacebuilding women-led organizations?
- **Flexible funding for women's rights organizations is a top priority across all regions**, especially in conflict and crisis affected countries. However, most flexible funding mechanisms do not cover costs for engaging in CSW, so **we need to determine new means of supporting WROs/WLOs in participating**. Discussions on resourcing can be divisive and sensitive, so we need to think about what resourcing needs actually are and how we can have unified messages across NGO CSW's constituents.
- **Additional considerations raised during the group discussion include:**
 - "We need to take our stories outside of CSW so that by the time we get to CSW, we are known." Need to bring first-hand experiences into the space and **develop advocacy messages that reflect how emerging and protracted crises and challenges** that are addressed in each CSW Priority Theme **manifest in the lived experiences of women**.
 - "We need to take our stories outside of CSW so that by the time we get to CSW, we are known; need to think beyond the event and how do we tell these stories as the lived reality of women."
 - Need to have respect for diverse voices and have a clear shared vision
 - There is a widespread need and interest in **intergenerational mentorship**. Many established womens' rights organizations are concerned that there is no one to pass the legacy and institutional memory on to in the next generation. How can we promote and support intergenerational mentorship and learning, especially where the WPS agenda and peacebuilding are concerned. We are privileged to have seasoned advocates and practitioners among our ranks who were part of the framing of UN SCR 1325 and the subsequent 10 resolutions. How can we harness their expertise and pass it along to young leaders and practitioners?

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.

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