



NGO CSW/NY September 2023 Monthly Meeting Peace for Gender Equality

Summary

On 19 September, NGO CSW/NY hosted over 350 participants from all over the world at our first Monthly Meeting in preparation for CSW68. September's topic – women, youth, peace and security (WYPS) – prompted an engaging and informative discussion amongst our global constituency and brought forth informative presentations on Our Common Agenda's Policy Brief, [New Agenda for Peace](#) through a gender perspective, updates from the ongoing [SDG Summit](#), CSW68 preparation advice for NGOs from UN Women, and the Cities for CEDAW History & Futures project.

[Watch the recording of the meeting.](#)

NGO CSW/NY Updates

The meeting started with updates from NGO CSW/NY's [new Co-Chairs](#), Ivy Koek and Pamela Morgan.

Pamela Morgan spoke of NGO CSW/NY's efforts to expand the organization's methods of work and the newly formed working groups to guide that process. Members of NGO CSW/NY are encouraged to join the Social Justice Working Group and the Peace for Gender Equality Working Group (which helped organize September's Monthly Meeting).

To join the 2023 **Peace for Gender Equality Working Group**, fill out the signup form [here](#). To join the **Social Justice Working Group**, fill out [this signup form](#). Please note that the Working Groups are only available to paying members of NGO CSW/NY.

Morgan also excitedly announced the hiring of Houry Geudelekian, former Chair of NGO CSW/NY, as a Consultant to aid the work of the NGO CSW68 Forum subcommittees.

Ivy Koek announced that a new virtual platform will be launched for the NGO CSW68 Forum, with more details forthcoming.

In response to a question regarding trauma-informed practices for the NGO CSW68 Forum, NGO CSW/NY Treasurer **Rahel Beigel** announced that NGO CSW/NY would be organizing a

first-of-its-kind healing and community space for Forum participants. During CSW68, Forum participants will have access to mental health and safety resources as well as activities like trauma-informed yoga and meditation sessions to recharge during the Forum.

Beigel also provided an overview of NGO CSW/NY's Peace for Gender Equality event that was hosted in Rwanda during the Women Deliver 2023 Conference, where efforts focused on integrating the women, peace and security (WPS) and youth, peace, and security (YPS) agendas into the formal processes and dialogues at CSW. A full summary of the informative event can be read [here](#).

UN CSW68 Updates | Johannes Lang, Civil Society Division, UN Women

The official UN CSW68 session will be held on 11-22 March 2024 in New York City at the UN Headquarters. CSW68's priority theme is *accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective*. The review theme is *social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*.

Johannes Lang from the Civil Society Division at UN Women provided updates and advice for NGOs in preparation for the UN CSW68, specifically regarding written NGO statements. Submissions for written statements for CSW68 will open on 22 September and close on 13 October.

Written statements by organizations in **general** consultative status with ECOSOC have a 2,000 word limit, while organizations in **special** consultative status with ECOSOC have a 1,500 word limit. However, Lang explained that **joint** statements with at least one organization with general status have a 2,000 word limit on their written submissions.

NGOs in the third status category for ECOSOC – **roster** status – cannot submit written statements, but if they are interested in writing one, Lang encouraged roster status organizations to “submit to us and we will send it on to the Bureau [for potential consideration], or team up with an organization that has general or special status to submit a joint statement.”

Lang advised NGOs to review the instructions for the submission process and templates for statements on the UN Women [website](#). Written statements must be submitted in one of the six official UN languages.

Analysis of the New Agenda for Peace

Multiple speakers discussed the Our Common Agenda's Policy Brief, A [New Agenda for Peace](#) (NAP) from a gender perspective, examining the document released in July 2023 as called for by the UN Secretary-General to guide Member States as they negotiate the Pact of the Future at the Summit of the Future during next year's General Assembly high-level week.

Action 5 – entitled “Transform Gendered Power Dynamics in Peace and Security – of the policy brief contains the bulk of text related to gender issues, along with three key recommendations calling for enhanced women's participation in negotiations, eradication of gender-based violence, and improved financing for gender equality. “I think most of these recommendations were not particularly innovative,” said speaker [Phoebe Donnelly](#), Senior Fellow and Head of Women, Peace, and Security at the International Peace Institute. Donnelly highlighted that the lack of discussion around and consultation from civil society was noted, and that the language of the recommendations could have been stronger, calling, for example, for a “zero tolerance” policy regarding exclusion of women from peace negotiations.

[Eloisa Romani](#) gave a poignant analysis on the document from the perspective of SCRAP Weapons, the Strategic Concept for the Removal or Arms and Proliferation Project. “NAP is a forward-thinking document that visualizes a way for a revitalized UN,” praised Romani. “The Secretary-General incorporated SCRAP Weapons' input on reactivating the disarmament discussion, incorporating language that the General Assembly should exercise its primary role for substantive deliberation in the field of disarmament.”

Donnelly did commend the attempt to include an intersectional lens, pointing to the mention of indigenous women, older women, and disabled women in the document. Donnelly was particularly excited that the document's normative challenge section included language around dismantling “the patriarchy and oppressive power structures that stand in the way of gender equality,” though the lack of an associated recommendation to this anti-patriarchy statement was disappointing. Romani also commented on the failure of NAP to affirm the relationship between peace, disarmament, and the advancement of the status of women, girls, and marginalized communities, given that “adopting disarmament measures is crucial to challenging the patriarchal culture of weapons possession.”

[See Eloisa's accompanying slides here.](#)

From the “Frontlines” of the SDG Summit, Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo

Attendees were empowered by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) President and Cameroonian activist **Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo**, who joined the meeting straight from the ongoing SDG Summit at the UN. World leaders gathered in NYC this week to discuss international progress on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, of which progress has been notably lagging due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other global stressors. "The challenges continue to be exacerbated by growing militarization, conflict, and inequality in many parts of the world," noted Ndongmo. "We have come a long way, but sadly we are not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030. We know that when we look at current trends of the world."

WILFP will be organizing for [International Day of Peace](#), and Ndongmo encouraged attendees to participate through Actions for Peace. "Actions for Peace can range from any act of kindness," Ndongmo encouraged. "To achieve gender equality, we need peace. They are interconnected." Learn more about how to participate in WILFP's International Day of Peace [here](#).

Cities for CEDAW History & Futures Project

Participants also heard from **Soon-Young Yoon**, Founder and co-director of the Cities for CEDAW History and Futures Project, a campaign that started in 2014 that has worked to help pass over 70 resolutions and ordinances across the United States affirming the commitments of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Yoon spoke on the perspective of connecting the local to the global feminist paradigm – the ideas that peace is fostered by a culture of peace in the home, and how human security comes in the form of multidimensional protection, particularly from threats like climate change. [See her accompanying slides here](#).

October's Monthly Meeting: Financing for Development

NGO CSW/NY will be hosting the next Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, 17 October at 11am ET, focusing on financing for development and recapping this month's SDG Summit through the lens of gender equality and poverty. Register for the Zoom information [here](#).

Monthly Meetings occur on the third Tuesday of every month. Each month, these globally-attended meetings address a different topic related to the CSW priority theme. See the full schedule and registration links for our Monthly Meetings [here](#).