

Q & A

CSW61: What you should know when participating

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM



The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Established in 1946, the Commission meets every year to draft recommendations for strengthening gender equality, development and peace.

What is WILPF's "traditional" strategy around the Commission on the Status of Women?

Traditionally, WILPF International hosts a delegation of WILPF members and partners from all over the world. We work with them on developing the ways to strengthen implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (UNSCR1325) through organising side events and consultations and lobbying governments in order to influence the norm-building processes around women's rights in conflict. This year, WILPF International was planning to bring a delegation of partners from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, hereunder to launch a study on women, peace and security in Yemen and Libya. Moreover, about 40 WILPF members have been accredited to join the CSW.

Is this year's strategy of WILPF different this year?

Yes. WILPF International will not participate in this year's CSW. Subsequently, WILPF Secretary General will not travel to New York, and WILPF will not co-sponsor official events. WILPF staff will also not speak at any panels or events hosted inside or outside the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Some WILPF members, however, will still attend the forum and work with WILPF International to open discussion on meaningful participation and the reforms of the CSW and other UN processes. Our United Nations Office in New York will provide support to our members when they are preparing for the forum and when they are here.

How does this decision affect people who have registered to attend the Commission on the Status of Women prior the decision has been made by WILPF' Executive Committee?

The decision that has been made by WILPF's Executive Committee should not affect WILPFers' ability to come to New York and influence the norm-building processes through networking and advocacy.

Does it mean that WILPF is boycotting the Commission on the Status of Women as well as other UN-led forums?

No. This is not a boycott. Since the Trump Administration has made it impossible for the United Nations-led forums to be as inclusive as possible, to prevent discrimination and to reach outcomes which reflect the diversity of women, WILPF's presence at CSW61 would appear to normalise what is totally illegitimate.

Does the change of strategy will affect WILPF members' ability to attend and/or participate in the Commission on the Status of Women?

No. WILPF's members are encouraged to attend the forum. In particular, we encourage participants to open a discussion on meaningful participation during all events and information sessions that participants will choose to attend. Moreover, WILPF invites everyone to participate in our #MissingVoices Campaign.

Find more information on
www.wilpf.org

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Will WILPF provide funding for WILPF's members who are coming to New York for the Commission on the Status of Women?

No. WILPF is not funding CSW participants this year. However, our Women, Peace and Security Programme, based in New York, will facilitate WILPF coordination among any self-funded or other participants.

What are the services that will be provided to those who are travelling to New York to attend the Commission on the Status of Women?

WILPF International will provide logistical support to all members who will attend the CSW in March 2017. Orientation folders will also be provided for you with the information about WILPF's messaging, the most relevant events and the locations of those events, and the toolkit for #MissingVoices campaign.

What can I do to support WILPF in its action to strengthen women's meaningful participation while I am at the Commission on the Status of Women?

You can:

- a. build solidarity for women's participation by starting a discussion about women's meaningful participation;
- b. demand space for marginalised voices to be heard by bringing the attention of other CSW participants to the #MissingVoices of those were banned from entering the US for a variety of reasons;
- c. report back to your sections and academic networks about the status of meaningful participation you have experienced during the CSW;
- d. use social media to share WILPF message using #MissingVoices hashtag;
- e. explain to your colleagues and friends what do you think meaningful participation entails;
- f. invite your colleagues and friends to join WILPF's movement.

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