

NGO CSW FORUM 2013 at CSW57



Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Coalition

AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

Invites you to join us

Ending Impunity: Holding the DSKs, Elliot Spitzers and the Berlusconi Accountable

Lead Sponsor:
Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

2:30 PM

Armenian Convention Center*
GUILD HALL

Moderated by Dorchon Leidholdt
Director of Legal Services, Sanctuary for Families

*The Armenian Convention Center
630 2nd Avenue (Between 34th and 35th Street)

Survivors Speak: Prostitution and Sex Trafficking

Lead Sponsor:
Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office

Thursday, March 7, 2013

12:30 PM

Salvation Army*
AUDITORIUM

Moderated by Norma Ramos
Executive Director, CATW

*The Salvation Army
221 East 52nd Street (Between 2nd and 3rd Avenue)

Panelists

Malka Marcovich, CATW, Mediterranean
Network Against Trafficking in Women

Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, Regional Director,
Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Latin
America and the Caribbean (CATW-LAC)

Natacha Henry, Writer, Lecturer and
Broadcaster, Founder of Gender Company

Dorchon Leidholdt, Director of Legal Services,
Sanctuary for Families

Panelists

Vednita Carter, Founder and Executive Director,
Breaking Free

Stella Marr, Author and a Founding Member of
Survivors Connect Network

Rachel Moran, Survivor, Author and Activist;
SPACE International

Speaker from Sex Trade 101

Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

www.catwinternational.org



Working to end human trafficking in our lifetime.

NGO CSW FORUM 2013

HANDBOOK

**NGO CSW/NY
CONSULTATION DAY
3 March 2013**

**UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, CSW 57
4 – 15 March 2013**

**Ending Violence
Against
Women and Girls**

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York

777 United Nations Plaza, 1st Floor
New York, NY 10017

Phone: 212-867-6161

E-mail: info@ngocsw.org

Fax: 212-867-6113

Website: www.ngocsw.org



Contents

Credits	4
Special Thanks to Donors	5
Members of the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee	6
The Planning Committee for CSW Forum 2013	7
Chair's Welcome	8
Introduction	9
Themes and Issues for CSW 57	11

BACKGROUND

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY	13
Present and Former Chairs of NGO CSW/NY	14
Commission on the Status of Women: Constituents and Bureau Membership	15
UN Women	16
The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)	18
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	19
World Conferences on Women	20
Preparatory Meetings and Conferences for CSW 57	22

REFERENCE

Useful Tips	24
Information for Advocacy	25
Frequently Asked Questions	26
Parallel Events Schedule	32
UN Schedule for CSW 57	67

SPONSORS

Messages from Sponsors	70
------------------------	----

Credits

Publisher

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York

Handbook Co-Chairs

Susan O'Malley, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women*

Eva Richter, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women*

Handbook Liaison with NGO CSW Executive Committee

Mary Ann Tarantula, *Zonta International*

Editors

Madeleine Brecher, *International Council of Jewish Women*; Anne Camacho, *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women*; Elaine Congress, *International Federation of Social Workers*; Starry Krueger, *Rural Development Leadership Network*; Iryina Kurowyskyj, *ICW*; Sarah Medina, *Salvation Army*; Susan O'Malley, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women*; Eva Richter, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women*; Mary Ann Tarantula, *Zonta International*; Joan Woods, *World Christian Life Community*

Cover & Layout

Sophia Stewart

Contributors

Bani Dugal, *Baha'i International Community* ("UN Women"); Jacqueline Shapiro
ECPAT

Special Thanks to Donors

- ◆ **The Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations**
- ◆ **The Avon Foundation**
- ◆ **The Baha'i International Community**
- ◆ **The Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations** for their generous support for our reception.
- ◆ **The Pinkerton Foundation**
- ◆ **The Salvation Army**
- ◆ **The Taipei Economic and Cultural Center**
- ◆ **United Methodist Women**, for their generous grants and contributions of space, time, personnel, equipment and their unfailing support of all the NGO/CSW Forum 2013 activities.
- ◆ **Lehigh University** for its support, especially of the NGO CSW Forum 2013 Celebration March.
- ◆ **The Chapel** is a sacred space where those who are most adversely affected by current policies have been heard throughout the years. It is a space which is donated to Forum 2013 through United Methodist Women and the Office of the Chaplain to enable a deep discourse around the too prevalent and pressing issue of violence against women and girls and the ways in which women are creatively addressing those issues.
- ◆ The many supporters who gave generously through the website of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

Members of the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee

Chair

Soon-Young Yoon, *International Alliance of Women*

Vice Chair

Susan O'Malley, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women*

Treasurer

Lois Beilin, *Soroptimist International*

Recording Secretary

Mary Ann Tarantula, *Zonta International*

Communications Secretary

Madeleine Brecher, *International Council of Jewish Women*

Members at Large

Jafar Jawad, *Al-Hakim Foundation*; Padmini Murthy, *Medical Women's International Association*; Angeline Martyn, *Americans for UNFPA*

Past Chair, Ex-Officio

Vivian Pender, *International Psychoanalytic Association*

Advisors

Beth Adamson, *Anglican Women's Empowerment*; Mavic Victoria Cabrera Balleza, *Global Network of Women Peacebuilders*; Charlotte Bunch, *Center for Women's Global Leadership*; Bani Dugal, *Baha'i International Community*; Mallika Dutt, *Breakthrough*; Nancy Eagan, *Berkana Institute and All My Sisters*; Victoria Edmonds, *Salvation Army*; Houri Geudelekian, *Armenian Relief Society*; Eva Richter, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women*.

The Planning Committee for CSW Forum 2013

Co-Chairs

Soon Young Yoon, Victoria Edmonds, Mary Ann Tarantula

Program for Consultation Day and Parallel Events

Co-Chairs: Soon-Young Yoon and Bani Dugal, supported by Charlotte Bunch, Jackie Shapiro and Leslie Wright

Logistics (including rooms and interpretation)

Chair: Victoria Edmonds, supported by Lyna Castillo-Javier

Social Media and Publicity

Co-Chairs: Jafar Jawad and Padmini Murthy, supported by Lyna Castillo-Javier

Handbook

Co-Chairs: Susan O'Malley and Eva Richter, supported by Mary Ann Tarantula

Reception

Co-Chairs: Madeleine Brecher, supported by Vanessa Sayajon

Registration

Co-Chairs: Lois Beilin and Vivian Pender

Packets

Co-Chairs: Patricia Brownell and Katherine Kline

Woman of Distinction Award

Co-Chairs: Soon-Young Yoon and Houri Geudelekian, supported by Vanessa Sayajon and the Young Professionals Subcommittee

VIP meet and greet

Chair: Mavic Victoria Cabrera Balleza

Information Booth and Hospitality

Chair: Carl Murrell

Celebration March

Co-chairs: Lillian Oats and Mary Ann Tarantula

Conversation Circles

Co-chairs: Beth Adamson and Winifred Doherty

We also thank the many volunteers who donated their time and skills on the planning committee.

STAFF

NGO CSW Office Coordinator: Sophia Stewart

Communications Coordinator: Lyna Castillo-Javier

Electronic Media Manager: Maureen Shaw

Volunteer Staff: Vanessa Sayajon

Interns: Morgan Eubank, Daniel Jurado, Danielle Osentoski, Soleida Perez, Vanesa Gutierrez, Valentina Zhang

Chair's Welcome

One of the most powerful and least expensive ways to prevent gender-based violence is for the world's leaders to say, consistently and publicly, that it is wrong and a violation of women's human rights. At CSW 57, we have an opportunity for the world's governments - and the UN as its collective body - to support the social movement for gender equality in a campaign to end violence against women and girls within a generation.

We have come a long way toward recognizing violence against women and girls as a societal pathology, one that takes a variety of malevolent and deadly forms. Not long ago, talk about violence referred to the silent and private agony of battered women in the home. Today, we understand that violence takes other insidious forms - rape during conflicts, female genital mutilation, early marriage, sex trafficking, sexual harassment and femicide. Many groups face multiple discriminations, including indigenous women, women and girls living with disability, the homeless, widows, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, migrant and internally displaced women, refugees, women in the military and incarcerated women.

How shall we move forward? Let us finally unite the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and rely on them together - the Beijing Platform for Action as the policy document, the CEDAW as the legally binding instrument to enforce it.

Let us also strengthen an NGO CSW regional structure under the Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) that can provide open, democratic spaces to participate in the CSW process. To that end, I am happy to announce that NGO CSW committees are being established in Latin America and Caribbean, Asia and Pacific, Africa and the Arab States. These regional NGO committees will be on equal footing with the three existing committees and will contribute regional NGO CSW documents outlining their recommendations for the CSW.

For all the activities of the past - worthy as they are - what is missing at the UN is the highly visible, bold and dramatic exercise of the world's moral authority on this issue. It is time for the UN to launch a global campaign to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW. Imagine the possibilities if we join forces. It is said that if everyone jumped on the earth - in the same spot, at the same time - we could knock the earth out of orbit. Let us show unity with diversity. Let us end this global epidemic of gender-based violence within our lifetimes. Thank you.

Soon-Young Yoon
UN Representative, International Alliance of Women
Chair, NGO CSW/NY

Introduction

The 57th meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will discuss the relentless epidemic of violence against women and girls. Not only have one in three women worldwide been subjected to violence in their lifetimes, but many will endure multiple consequences from a long list of violent acts perpetrated against women and girls throughout their lives.

Violence against women and girls is rooted in the social system referred to as patriarchy in which men have the central roles in society and family, and women's and girls' options are restricted and their lives often less valued. This gender inequality is embedded in and reinforced throughout the social, cultural and religious practices of a society.

The United Nations has long been the champion in promoting actions to end violence against women and girls. Many major treaties, conventions, resolutions, protocols and international frameworks resulting from UN activities emphasize the rights of women and girls to live free from violence and discrimination. The 1995 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BPfA), which identifies violence against women as one of the twelve critical areas of concern requiring urgent action if the avowed goals of equality, peace and development are to be achieved, clearly outlines the obligations of Member States. *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) similarly defines the legal obligations of State parties to prevent violence against women and girls.

This year's CSW will discuss the impediments that hinder progress on fulfilling commitments to gender equality and an end to gender violence and will emphasize prevention and services. One transformative approach will be the emphasis on going beyond simple awareness-raising projects to focus on actions that will transform social attitudes, laws and institutions that support discrimination and violence.

Lack of political will on the part of Member States is often cited as a major reason for lack of progress in ending violence and discrimination. Beyond fulfilling the normative obligations of the BPfA and the legal obligations of CEDAW, it is critical that States, by establishing decision-making mechanisms, laws policies and practices that are comprehensive, multi-sectoral and sustained, create an enabling environment in which women and girls in every social stratum have full and equal human rights. Essential to this multi-pronged approach is that resources and programmes extend to local communities and empower all segments of society to transform discriminatory attitudes and behaviors.

In a time when the global financial crisis has created economic pressures that often result in the reduction of government social services and programmes, even more women and girls have been rendered vulnerable to violence. At the same time, it is well-documented that violence against women and girls results in enormous costs in terms of decreased human capital, lowered overall educational levels and exacerbated social inequalities. Governments must commit to funding measures targeting gender equality outcomes.

States can extend and enhance their violence prevention efforts by supporting and enlisting the help of civil society actors including women, girls, men, boys, teachers and youth organizations. Civil society, notably women's organizations, plays an essential role in mobilizing communities to rethink the acceptability of violence and support positive change.

Although men and boys are the perpetrators of most violence against women and girls, their central role in societal transformation for gender equality and a culture of non-violence cannot be overestimated. Early intervention programmes should be encouraged for boys, adolescents and young men to develop skills for non-violent conflict resolution and the building of healthy relationships.

Programmes and measures involving the entire community and all its resources are essential to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to violence and discrimination, to strengthen prevention and to provide services to victims. Communities should involve men, boys and survivors of violence in designing programmes to protect women and girls and provide services to victims. Continued investment in effective response to existing violence, including improving legislative, police and justice services, is essential to both prevention and protection.

Experts in gender-based violence agree that a holistic, comprehensive approach to prevention of violence against women and girls is about building a society whose relationships, communities and institutions are equal, non-violent and respectful of all individuals. Only where women and girls live free from violence and discrimination can they have the opportunity to live fulfilling, productive lives.

Themes and Issues for CSW 57

Priority Theme 2013

Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

The priority theme is based on the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

During the first week of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, Member States will negotiate agreed conclusions (new policy recommendations) to accelerate the implementation of existing commitments, including those listed by the Beijing Platform for Action. In its deliberations, the Commission places great emphasis on implementation and evaluation of progress.

There will be:

- An interactive round table for high-level participants that will focus on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data
- Two interactive panels on the priority theme, one on key policy initiatives to accelerate implementation, the second on capacity-building on gender mainstreaming in relation to the priority theme

On the NGO side there will also be:

- Conversation Circles: the purpose of these sessions is to spur “Conversations” among groups around mutual interests, to network to plan for future collaboration, and to work collectively to implement the UN frameworks and agreements that aim to achieve gender equality

Review Theme

The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS (agreed conclusions from the fifty-third session)

Agreed conclusions from the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. An interactive dialogue will evaluate the progress of implementation of these agreed conclusions

Emerging Issue

Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework.

Interactive expert panel focusing on achievements, gaps and challenges through an exchange of national and regional experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data

Future Theme: 58th Session 2014

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

FORUM 2013



CSW 57



NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO CSW/NY), a 501(c)3 charitable corporation in the State of New York, was established in 1972 as a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs in consultative Status with the United Nations (CoNGO). The Committee supports the UN Commission on the Status of Women and works to promote women's rights and empowerment through the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Millennium Development Goals.

Membership in the Committee includes almost 200 national and international non-governmental organizations and individuals who seek to promote the status of women internationally by working at both the national and international levels on those issues addressed by the United Nations. The Committee's mandate is to foster dialogue among NGOs about the current issues being debated at the United Nations and to help build consensus to promote sound government policies for women worldwide through advocacy and in partnership with governments. It does not promote the specific positions of any one organization. The Committee works in cooperation with the NGO Committees on the Status of Women in Geneva and Vienna and also looks forward to working with the newly established regional CSW entities.

In addition to the many events that surround the meetings of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), as listed in this handbook, the Committee also facilitates a variety of activities, all of which are organized and managed by member volunteers. These include:

- Monthly meetings featuring UN and government speakers
- Facilitation of NGO participation at the CSW
- Promotion of a gender perspective at the UN and other international meetings
- An annual "Women Who Make a Difference" Awards Event to honor women ambassadors at the UN
- Maintenance of a website, communication via social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, MailChimp)
- An intern program



Present and Former Chairs of NGO CSW/NY

Esther Hymer 1972 -1982	International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW)
Kay Fraleigh 1982 - 1991	International Alliance of Women (IAW)
Mary Power 1991-1995	Baha'i International Community
Sudha Acharya 1995 - 1999	All India Women's Conference (AIWC)
Eleanor Brown 1999 June-August	International Federation of Women Lawyers (IFWL)
Leslie Wright 1999 – 2003	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)
Bani Dugal 2003-2005	Baha'i International Community
Jackie Shapiro 2005-2007	Zonta International
Vivian Pender 2007-2011	International Psychoanalytical Association (IPA)
Soon-Young Yoon 2011- present	International Alliance of Women (IAW)

Commission on the Status of Women: Constituents and Bureau Membership

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council to prepare recommendations and reports for the Council on promoting women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights. The Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women (Fifty-seventh session) comprises the members listed below.

- **H.E. Ms. Marjon V. Karmara (Liberia), Chair**
- **Ms. Anne Hernando (Philippines), Vice-Chair**
- **Ms. Irina Velichko (Belarus), Vice-Chair**
- **Mr. Carlos Enrique Garcia Gonzales (El Salvador), Vice-Chair**
- **Mr. Flippo Cinti (Italy), Western European and other States Group, Vice-Chair**

The CSW consists of 45 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years. Members, who are appointed by governments, are elected on the following basis: 13 from African states, 11 from Asian states, 4 from Eastern European states, 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states, and 8 from Western European and other states. The commission meets annually for a period of 10 working days.

Term expires 2013

Belarus, Colombia, Germany, Guinea, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Rwanda.

Term expires 2014

Argentina, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Comoros, El Salvador, Gambia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Swaziland, Uruguay.

Term expires 2015

Belgium, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Jamaica, Liberia, The Netherlands, Spain, Thailand, Zimbabwe.

Term expires 2016

Brazil, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Malawi, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, United States of America.

UN Women

On 2 July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/64/289, creating a new Gender Entity, UN Women¹. With this momentous move, which was part of the UN reform agenda, member states merged and advanced the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system that focused exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment: the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of Special Advisor on Gender Issues (OSAGI), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

The three primary roles of UN Women are to support intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in their formulation of policies, global norms and standards; to help Member States to implement these standards by developing suitable technical and financial support for those countries that request it and forging effective partnerships with civil society; and to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

In addition to the Under-Secretary-General (USG), and Assistant Secretary-Generals (ASGs), UN Women is governed by an Executive Board that oversees the organization's operational activities based on policy directions set by the UN General Assembly, ECOSOC and the CSW. The Board engages with the executive boards of other UN development agencies to coordinate work on gender equality across the UN system. The UN Women Executive Board is made up of representatives from 41 countries around the world, who are selected and serve on a rotating configuration. By region these are: 10 from Africa, 10 from Asia, 4 from Eastern Europe, 6 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 5 from Western Europe and 6 from contributing countries. The Bureau is composed of five representatives, one from each of the regional groups.

Member States have recognized that UN Women requires at least a \$500 million annual budget to achieve its goals, as well as to provide support to the UN, Member States and civil society in implementing policies and commitments. This budget has yet to be realized, as the contributions have not yet met hopes and expectations.

¹<http://www.unwomen.org>

UN Women *continued...*

Civil society must continue to speak with a strong voice and play a substantial role in setting the priorities, policies and programs of UN Women in order to effect the operational success of this entity. The continued involvement of civil society at the global, regional and national levels is also critical to the effective realization of the goals of UN Women. It is essential that women's voices be heard in all their diversities—especially those of grassroots and marginalized women—and this requires that UN Women devise both formal and informal methods of engagement with civil society in all areas of its thematic and country work.

To this end civil society has welcomed UN Women's appointment of a Global NGO Advisory Group, which met for the first time in October 2012. The main objective of this Group is dialogue and engagement to advance global goals of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Group serves as a consultative forum for UN Women.

According to UN Women, advisory groups will play an important consulting role and provide strategic perspectives on advocacy on gender equality, women's empowerment and on UN Women's thematic priorities. They will also help strengthen UN Women's engagement and partnerships with civil society at all levels.

The current members of the Group are: Marling Haydee Rodriguez, President of the Union of Cooperatives Las Brumas, Nicaragua; Teresa Fernández de la Vega Sanz, Former Vice-President of Spain, Eminent Jurist and Founder, Women for Africa Foundation, Spain; Tarcila Rivera Zea, Founder, Center of Indigenous Cultures of Peru, Peru; Rawwida Baksh, Former Head of the Women's Rights Programme, International Research and Development Centre, Trinidad and Tobago; Patricia Perez, Global Chair of International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), Argentina; Charlotte Bunch, Founder of GEAR Campaign, United States; Todd Minerson, Executive Director, White Ribbon Campaign, Canada; Hibaaq Othman, Strategist for Dignity Fund, the Think Tank for Arab Women and Karama, Somalia; Nehad Abol Komsan, Founder and Chairperson of the Egyptian Center for Women's Rights, Egypt; Rabea Naciri, President of the Democratic Association of Moroccan Women, Morocco; Violet Shivutse, Leader, GROOTS, Kenya; Bineta Diop, Executive Director and Founder, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Senegal; Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director of Greenpeace International, South Africa; Josephine Castillo, Organizer-Trainer, Damayan Ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api (DAMPA), Philippines; Hina Jilani, Founder, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan; Bandana Rana, Executive President of Saathi and Regional Coordinator, South Asian Campaign for Gender Equality, Nepal; Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Founder, FemLINKPACIFIC, Fiji; Drude Dahlerup, Professor of Political Science at Stockholm University, Denmark; Selma Acuner, Professor, Ankara University, Turkey; Cécile Gréboval, Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby, France; and Joanne Sandler, retired Deputy Director, UNIFEM, USA.

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) was adopted as a result of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. It is an agenda for women's empowerment which fosters women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. It envisions a transformed partnership between women and men based on equality at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities as a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and peace.

TWELVE AREAS OF CRITICAL CONCERN

The BPfA outlines twelve Areas of Critical Concern for women, as follows:

1. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
2. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training
3. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services
4. Violence against women
5. The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation
6. Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources
7. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels
8. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women
9. Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women
10. Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media
11. Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment
12. Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and thirty articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. In addition, the committee may issue general recommendations that elaborate on its views of the obligations imposed by CEDAW. Twenty-eight Recommendations on specific issues have been adopted to date.

A country becomes a State party by ratifying or acceding to the Convention and thereby accepting a legal obligation to counteract discrimination against women. Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice. They are also committed to submit national reports every four years on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations. At present, the Convention, which entered into force on 3 September 1981, has 187 States parties*.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, an expert body established in 1982, is composed of 23 experts on women's issues from around the world. The Committee watches over the progress for women made in those countries that are the States parties to the 1979 Convention and monitors the implementation of national measures to fulfill this obligation. They hold meetings as needed, currently in Geneva.

Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention

In 1999 the UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention. By ratifying the Optional Protocol a State recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the body that monitors the compliance of states with the Convention, to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction. The CEDAW Optional Protocol was passed and entered into force in December 2000 and currently has 104 States parties.

*Countries that have not ratified CEDAW include Iran, Nauru, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga and the United States of America.

World Conferences on Women

1975 Mexico City

The first UN World Conference on Women coincided with the International Women's Year and served to remind the international community that discrimination against women continued to be a persistent problem in much of the world.

A World Plan of Action was adopted at the 1975 Mexico City Conference. This document offered guidelines for governments and the international community to follow over the next ten years to accomplish the three key objectives set by the General Assembly. The Plan of Action set minimum targets, to be met by 1980, that focused on securing equal access for women to resources including education, employment opportunities, political participation, health services, housing, nutrition and family planning.

1980 Copenhagen

At the second UN World Conference on Women, it was determined that there was a discrepancy between universal legal rights and women's ability to exercise these rights. The barriers were:

- Lack of sufficient involvement of men in improving women's role in society
- Insufficient political will
- Lack of recognition of the value of women's contributions to society
- Lack of attention to the particular needs of women in planning
- Shortage of women in decision-making positions
- Insufficient services such as co-operatives, day-care centers and credit facilities to support the role of women in national life
- Overall lack of necessary financial resources
- Lack of awareness among women about the opportunities available to them

1985 Nairobi

The Third UN World Conference on Women sought to assess the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies (NFLS) to the Year 2000 was a blueprint for improving the condition of women through the end of the century. It broke new ground as it declared all issues to be women's issues. Women's participation in decision making and the handling of all human affairs was recognized not only as their legitimate right but as a social and political necessity that would have to be incorporated in all institutions of society.

World Conferences on Women *continued...*

1995 Beijing

The Beijing Conference unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) which were, in essence, an agenda for women's empowerment. These stand as milestones for the advancement of women in the twenty-first century. The Beijing Platform for Action specified twelve critical areas of concern, the solutions of which were considered to be necessary to women's advancement.

2000 Beijing plus Five (B+5)

The Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly (23rd SSGA) produced an outcome document which listed the achievements in the advancement of women during the previous five years. It identified obstacles and current challenges to the process and strengthened the Beijing Platform for Action by focusing action and addressing new issues.

2005 Beijing plus Ten (B+10)

CSW 49 was a celebratory review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform and the outcome document of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly. It also looked at the current challenges and forward-looking strategies since the SSGA.

2010 Beijing plus Fifteen (B+15)

CSW 54 presented a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly. Emphasis was placed on the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

On 2 March 2010 the Commission on the Status of Women adopted a Declaration reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly, calling for their full and effective implementation, and emphasizing that such implementation is essential to the achievement of the MDGs.

Preparatory Meetings and Conferences for CSW 57

- A preparatory expert panel on the priority theme was held during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on Wednesday, 29 February 2012.
- An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) was convened by UN Women, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), on prevention of violence against women and girls, from 17 to 20 September 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- An online discussion on the priority theme was sponsored by UN Women from 23 July to 3 August 2012. The discussion on eliminating violence against women and girls included gaps, challenges, strategic directions in prevention, and provision of multi-sectoral services and responses.
- The Stakeholders' Forum was convened by UN Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 13 and 14 December 2012 to engage a range of stakeholders. Each of the five panels identified specific expectations for CSW 57. The centerpiece of the Forum was the Survivors Discussion in which women survivors of violence spoke about how they have effected change in their communities and used their experience to promote legislative and policy reform in their particular contexts.
- Reports from the EGM and the Online Discussion and web streaming of some of the talks from the Stakeholders' Forum may be found on the UN Women website, www.unwomen.org [CSW 57].

FORUM 2013

REFERENCE



CSW 57

The background features a word cloud with the text 'violence against women' repeated in various sizes and orientations, creating a textured effect behind the main title.

Useful Tips

Venue for CSW Forum 2013

The official UN meetings of CSW 57 will take place in the temporary building on the North Lawn of UN Headquarters (NLB). Access to the building is through the visitor's entrance on 1st Avenue. Only those with a valid pass for the conference will be admitted.

Information about UN meetings and events

Information about UN meetings and other events is available on the UN website at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>, the message boards on the walls of the UN buildings and the Church Center and at the daily NGO Morning Briefings on the 2nd Floor of the Church Center. Useful information about the UN is also available to NGOs in the Department of Public Information (DPI) Resource Center, DCI - 554, UN Plaza, corner of 44th Street and 1st Avenue. You will need a pass to access the building.

UN meetings of governmental delegates

Seats in the meeting rooms are assigned to delegates of the various countries. To observe these meetings, NGO delegates are asked to sit in designated chairs in the back and on the sides of the room. Mobile phones and other electronic devices should be turned off. Wifi access for computers is available in conference rooms. Meetings listed as "closed" or "informal" are not open to the public or NGO delegates to the CSW. These designations are made in the UN Journal, on the message boards or on the door of the assigned meeting room.

Rooms and equipment

The following are not available to NGO delegates: rooms assigned for the use of government representatives and their assistants; computers on the ground floor level; documents from the meeting room documents window.

Parallel events

Most parallel events are held in the Armenian Convention Center, the Church Center, the Salvation Army, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center. The schedule, as well as advertisements about these events, is included in this handbook. Flyers advertising these events may be placed during morning briefings on the Second floor of the Church Center.

Food

Food and drinks are available in the small coffee shop on the ground floor of the main building and in the Austria Cafe on the second floor of the North Lawn building in which the CSW meetings will be held. There is a UNICEF cafeteria on 44th St., near the Church Center, and another cafeteria on the 3rd floor of the DC1 building next to the Chase Manhattan Bank at the corner of 44th Street and 1st Avenue. All these venues require a grounds pass for entry. In addition, there are many restaurants in the neighborhood.

Except for bottled water, neither food nor drink is allowed in the conference rooms in the UN building or in the Church Center. NGOs are not permitted to provide refreshments for attendees at parallel events in the Church Center.

Information for Advocacy

One of the main responsibilities of participants of the NGO/CSW Forum 2013 is advocacy. Through the efforts of NGOs, the voice of civil society provides an alternative and/or complement to the views of governments. Outlined here are examples of how NGO delegates to the CSW, who are accredited to and in good standing with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), can engage in advocacy at Forum 2013. Advocacy, however, should be an ongoing project with one's government.

NGO Caucuses

Advocacy centers mostly on the draft outcome document. NGOs can work on this document through caucuses, as individual NGOs or in self-organized informal groups. Regional caucuses will focus on the official CSW outcome document, their own regional outcome document and follow-up plans for the future.

Organized by geographic region, caucuses are important for putting collective strength behind a particular issue in the outcome document, for setting up meetings with government delegates and for formulating implementation strategies. They also serve as a training ground for the learning of lobbying techniques and advocacy skills. Caucuses will be scheduled at CCUN. Please check the schedule in this Handbook.

Conversation Circles

The NGO/CSW Forum will organize thematic Conversation Circles during CSW. These are free and open to all delegates attending CSW 57. The purpose of these Circles is to spur conversations among groups around mutual interests, to network to plan for future collaboration and to work collectively to implement the UN frameworks and agreements that aim to achieve gender equality. These are not primarily lobbying caucuses.

Participants interested in similar themes will be able to share stories and best practices from their organizations, discuss experience and vision and find a place to build trust and alliances. Opportunities will be provided to network and to plan collective strategies to implement UN agreements and dialogue with governments. We would encourage these groups to work together during and after the CSW and possibly co-sponsor events at CSW58.

Working with the Draft Outcome Document

Governments will agree on a final outcome document of the CSW which will serve as the main policy guide for the UN. If you are interested in working on the Agreed Conclusions of the CSW, join the regional caucuses. At these sessions, NGOs will be briefed on the progress of negotiations and updates to the Agreed Conclusions text. The schedule is included in this handbook.

Frequently Asked Questions

NGO CSW Forum Parallel Events

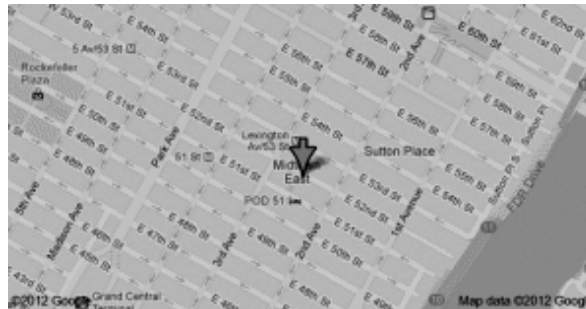
*What is the **Church Center** address?*

777 UN Plaza (at the corner of 44th Street and 1st Ave)



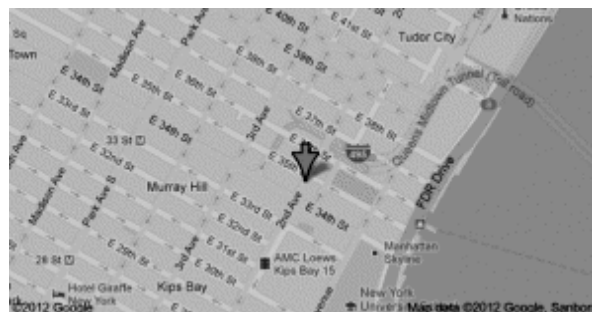
*Where are the **Salvation Army** events located?*

221 East 52nd Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenues), New York, NY 10017



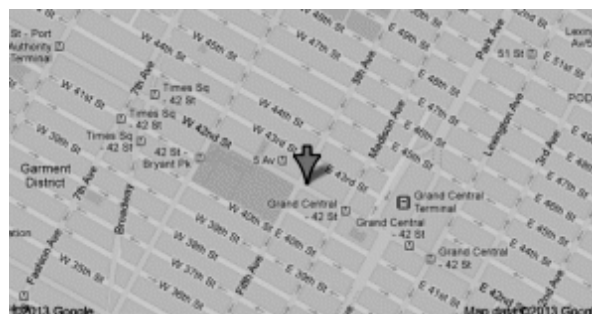
*Where are the **Armenian Convention Center** events located?*

630 2nd Avenue (at 35th street), New York, NY 10017



*Where are the **Taipei Economic and Cultural Office** events held?*

1 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017 (In the Auditorium)



What equipment is available in each room in the venues?

Each room is furnished with chairs, one table, one podium, one microphone and one projector screen. Projectors are available for a non-refundable US\$150 fee and a refundable US\$400.

Where can I find the most up-to-date schedule each day?

On the NGO CSW website, on the message boards at the Church Center and within the UN building.

Do I have to pay to attend NGO CSW Forum Parallel Events?

No, NGO CSW Forum Parallel Events are free.

Are we allowed to serve food and drink during our NGO CSW Forum Parallel Event?

Food is not allowed. Exceptions may be made in special rooms for events held in the evening or on Saturdays. A fee of US\$300 is required to cover costs if food is approved.

Is Wi-Fi available in the rooms?

Yes.

Projectors

Do you provide projectors and if so, what is the process?

Yes, projectors can be rented for a **nonrefundable** fee of US\$150 and a refundable US\$400 deposit. You will need to bring your own adapter with a VGA connection.

Can I bring my own projector?

Yes, we encourage event organizers to bring their own projectors and adapters with VGA connections.

Do you provide laptops for use with projectors?

No, you will need to bring your own laptop and adapter with VGA connection.

NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day

What is the date of NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day? **Sunday, 3 March 2013**

Where will NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day be held?

Armenian Convention Center Ballroom, 630 Second Ave. (corner of 35th and 2nd), New York, NY, 10016.

***Can I register on site when I arrive?***

No.

NGO CSW Forum Reception

When and where will the NGO CSW Forum Reception be held?

The reception will be held on **5 March 2013** at the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the UN (305 East 47th street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues, on the 3rd floor).



NGO CSW Forum Artisan Fair

When and where is the NGO CSW Forum Artisan Fair?

The NGO CSW Forum Artisan Fair will be on **8 March 2013** at the Church Center from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on the 8th floor.

Payments and Refunds

Can we pay in cash upon arrival due to foreign bank issues?

Yes. However, approval is required for money orders and checks.

Do you give refunds for the NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day or the NGO CSW Forum Reception?

No. Unfortunately, we cannot refund fees.

FORUM 2013

