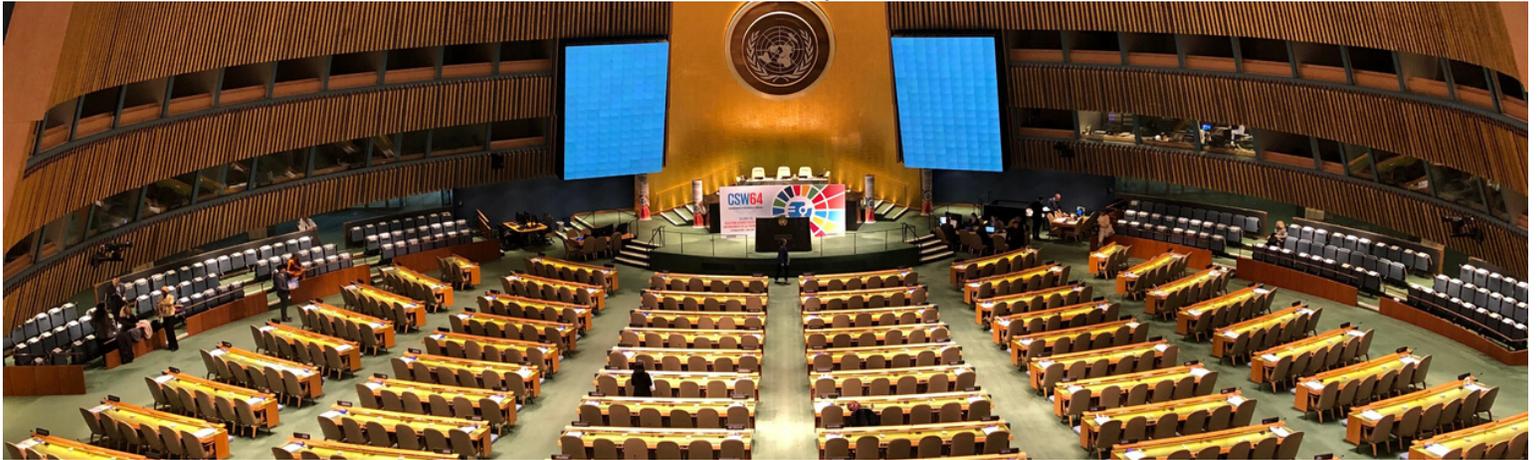




WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE INTERNATIONAL

Women working together to realize one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.



UN HQ in New York CSW64 Goes Virtual

BY TAMARA STARR

In a time when many have to stay inside due to COVID-19 (otherwise known as the Coronavirus), around 600 people signed up to attend the virtual NGO CSW64 Forum Consultation Day on March 16.

"A big huge welcome to our sisterhood," Mallika Dutt said. She welcomed everyone to a virtual meditation session for "Gathering Our Collective Power" to find inner dignity, peace, and to connect with "mother earth" to help open the forum.

During the forum, there was a panel that included

Lopa Banerjee, Director of Civil Society Division & Executive Coordinator, Generation Equality Forum, UN Women; Ambassador Delphine O, Secretary General of the Generation Equality Forum; and Ambassador Yanerit Morgan Soto Mayor, Executive Secretary, Generation Equality Forum, Mexico. The panel was moderated by Xenia Kellner, Co-Founder of Young Feminist Europe.

During the panel, Ms. Banerjee expressed how disappointed she was that the CSW64 Forum had to be canceled. However, she was very inspired to see that 1500 people registered for the call and spoke about what gender equality meant to them, especially since the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995 in Beijing.

Read more on page 3.



Photo courtesy of Exec Secretary of the UNECE, Madam Olga Algayerova

UN in Geneva

UNECE's promise for gender equality: COVID-19 response and Beijing+25 commitments

BY EXEC SECRETARY OF THE UNECE, MADAM
OLGA ALGAYEROVA

2020 was supposed to be the year of gender equality, with the international community celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive and comprehensive agenda for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Read more on page 6.

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VISION

Women working together to realize one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

MISSION

Empowering women as peacebuilders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world. Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, WFWPI aims to create an environment of peace and wellbeing for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.



UN HQ IN NY

Events and programs that took place in and around the UN office in NYC.



CSW64
Commission on the Status of Women

BEIJING+25:
**REALIZING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE
EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**
9-20 March 2020



CSW64 Goes Virtual

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“What Beijing brought in 1995 was that women moved from being the story, to becoming the storytellers,” she said.

“Beijing was about the feminist movement, the gender quality advocate from within government and outside of government, coming together to talk about gender equality.”

Speakers also included Shannon Kowalski of the International Women’s Health Coalition; Melissa Upreti, Krishanti Dharmaraj, and Emilia Reyes.

“Thank you to the almost 600 people who joined our Virtual Consultation Day...,” the organization said in the tweet. “We are so heartened by and proud of the feminist and women activists who are still galvanizing and working toward gender equality during this difficult time.”

NGO CSW NY is the organization that plans the NGO CSW Forum every year through the development of various committees which include the Consultation Day Committee, the Rally Committee, the Reception Committee, the Woman of Distinction Awards Committee, and the Handbook Committee.

This year Alexa Ward, Director of the WFWP Office of UN Relations in NY, was appointed to Co-chair the Handbook Committee along with Yvonne O’Neal.

Together they produced a handbook to guide CSW64 guests through the two week session. Tamara Starr and Grace Kellett actively participated in the Handbook Committee. Alicia Prasai, former intern and WFWP volunteer, participated in the Reception Committee for the second year in a row. In addition, WFWPI contributed \$1,000 towards the development of the Forum.



Tamara Starr is the Managing Editor for the WFWPI UN Newsletter and is the Director of Communications and Publications for WFWPI.



Amanda Bradley (left) and Grace Kellet (right) attend the CSW64 Opening Session in March 2020./Photo Courtesy of Amanda Bradley

How the Coronavirus Impacted CSW64

BY AMANDA BRADLEY

Through the recommendation of Secretary-General António Guterres, it was decided that the Sixty-Fourth Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) would convene on March 9, but under a more procedural nature. The Commission made an important decision to operate under unprecedented circumstances due to the outbreak of COVID-19, which currently impacts 162 countries around the globe.

For the health and overall safety of the global community, it was agreed that there would be no general discussion during the Session, and that all side events and parallel events would be cancelled.

It was with great appreciation that the Secretary-General, as well as the CSW64 Chair, thanked the delegates for their flexibility and cooperation during these challenging times.

During the Opening Remarks at the UN General Assembly, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director of UN Women, emphasized the extraordinary nature of CSW64. She used her speech to address how it was always going to be a different year for CSW, placing emphasis on the anniversary of crucial resolutions that were adopted 25 years ago in Beijing.

"This is a special year for gender equality. It has been 25 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action," she stated. "The foresight and enlightenment of the member states who adopted such a comprehensive agenda for gender equality." The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in its relation to the human rights of women and girls, is considered to be one of the most significant events of our time.

Secretary-General António Guterres, continuing to further delineate the importance of this crucial year for gender equality, stated, "This Commission is an opportunity to further galvanize the momentum for gender equality and women's rights that has been growing around the world."



Working Towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

BY KIRAN SAPRA

According to the 2019 UN report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the pace to achieving certain goals have slowed down. The SDGs were set out to be achieved by 2030 and although

there has been some positive progress with certain goals, it is however, very skeptical that all goals will be achieved in the set year of 2030.

The 1st goal's progress has slowed down aggressively. It has been predicted that 6% of the world's population will still be living poverty by 2030. Poverty, as of 2019 remains high in low income countries and countries full of conflict and political crisis, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Since 2014, the 2nd goal's progress has also been depreciating. The number of people that are dying and suffering from hunger has been rising. Two-thirds of undernourished people are currently living in two main regions: Sub Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.

With the 3rd goal, there has been a lot of progress. Deaths have dropped from 9.8 Million in 2000 to 5.4 Million in 2017. However, 617 million children and adolescents still lack minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics, and according to the report, 718 adults still remain illiterate- which shows no progress for the 3rd goal.

There's still 18% of women and girls between the age of 15 and 49 that have experienced physical and/or sexual partner violence in 2019. Some good news for the 5th goal is that there has been a decrease in childhood marriage, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

He continued by underlining, "Women's rights are human rights, and gender equality is central to all the sustainable development goals." Every year, the Commission essentially launches a discussion in our global community, which further illuminates the need for concrete action in regards to gender equality.

A statement from the Youth Representative at the Global Network of Women Peace Builders from Afghanistan during the opening of CSW64 further addressed this same goal of world peace in her speech by highlighting, "It is important to remember that to end and prevent our conflict, we must address gender impact. Afghan women, young women and girls, must meaningfully participate in the peace process and political decision making at all levels in order to ensure sustainable and inclusive peace and development."

The Women's Federation for World Peace, International (WFWPI) Office of UN Relations in NY prepares many months in advance every year for its involvement in CSW. WFWPI began its preparations in July 2019 with the development of the CSW64 Parallel Event Organizing Committee, which included Amada Bradley, Isys Onodera Israel, Jung Soo Moon, and Grace Kellett, and was advised by Alexa Ward and Jeanne Carroll.

The Organizing Committee developed the theme for WFWPI's parallel event, "Gender Equality: A forward looking, hopeful perspective," which was to be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. WFWPI aimed to highlight the importance of women and men working together harmoniously for the purpose of building world peace.

WFWPI's week at CSW64 was going to include an Orientation, Young Professionals Evening, and the annual Horizon Summit, co-sponsored by WFWP, USA. To prepare for all of these events, WFWPI was fortunate to work with a team of 10 young professionals: Alicia Prasai, Amanda Bradley, Arezo Hamid, Emiko Corley, Tamara Starr, Grace Kellett, Mako Mori, Monica Weglarz, Kiran Sapra, and Sanjana Bhamhani. In addition, there were two contractors who assisted with the design of the publications along with the planning of the Horizon Summit: Youngshim Gontijo and Simone Doroski.



Amanda Bradley is currently a part-time Women's Federation for World Peace, International intern and has worked with NGOs at the United Nations for the past couple of years.

Water is a necessity for every human; however, 785 million people still remain without even basic drinking water services which doesn't look good for the achievement of the sixth goal.

Electricity is another thing everyone should be able to have, and 9 out of 10 people worldwide have access to it. Energy is becoming much more sustainable and available which shows amazing progress for goal 7.

According to the report, there has been progress for the 8th goal, but not enough. GDP has increased by 4.8% annually in least developed countries. Global unemployment rate as of 2018 is 5% and men are still paid 12% more than women hourly.

The UN SDG is very concerned about the 9th goal because industrialization in least developed countries is too slow to meet the 2030 target date. Although there has been progress in a few countries when it comes to inequality, it is still a persistent cause of concern especially with income inequality rising worldwide.

According to the report, 9 out of 10 humans breathe polluted air and 1 out of 4 urban residents live in slum-like conditions, this is slowing down the success rate of the 11th goal.

In order to support economic activity, the world continues to use high amounts of natural resources to support our economic activity. There has been economic and social progress over the last century, however that resulted in environmental degradation. The twelfth goal has had some progress but is still not on track to achieve the goal by 2030.

Climate change has been a concern for a long time, however it wasn't expected for it occur so fast. This is the greatest challenge of our time and the global mean temperature for 2018 was approximately 1°C above the pre-industrial baseline. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is necessary to avoid catastrophic consequences and in order to achieve the thirteenth goal.

The fourteenth and fifteenth goal are also not looking so good. The ocean acidity has increased by 26% and biodiversity loss is happening at a very alarming rate. Both of these goals require immediate response not only to achieve the goal but also for the betterment of the Earth.

There hasn't been much action put towards the sixteenth goal. 80% of homicide victims are men and women constitute 64% of homicide victims of intimate partner or family related homicide. Human right defenders, journalists and bloggers murder rate has also increased.

The last goal has had some progress, but the major challenges still exist. ODA is declining and the aid to Africa has also fallen by 4%. Global growth has slowed due to ongoing trade tensions. Strong international cooperation is needed now more than ever to ensure that countries have the means to achieve the SDGs.

With the look of this report, the goals are nowhere near to getting achieved. In order to achieve these goals, a lot of action and coordination is needed from every single individual in the world.



Kiran Sapra is currently a junior at the University of Bridgeport studying International Political Economy and Diplomacy. She chose to intern with WFWPI because she one day would like to work with the UN.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



A Conversation with Women Peacebuilders

BY AMANDA BRADLEY

The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security held a virtual discussion on April 24th, 2020 entitled "On the Frontlines of COVID-19: A Conversation with Women Peacebuilders," which detailed the impact COVID-19 has on women and security in areas impacted by conflict around the globe.

Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security welcomed these women peacebuilders from Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine,

and Syria to highlight each of their peacebuilding relief and recovery efforts in hopes to shine a light on this rapidly developing pandemic, especially in vulnerable societies. Each speaker delineated how the pandemic is exacerbating conflict in already fragile communities and what this means for peace processes moving forward.

Moderated by Ambassador Melanne Verwee, Executive Director of Georgetown Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, the webinar started with Rajaa Altalli, co-founder and co-director of the Center for Civil Society.

Ms. Altalli was asked whether she believes the tragedies of COVID-19 will continue to fuel an already conflict infused area, or if it could possibly result in a de-escalation of conflict. Ms. Altalli has been working on the frontlines of Syria and highlights her concern with the COVID-19 epidemic and the harsh realities most are forced endure, especially with Syrian detainees who are already in bad shape.

The World Health Organization suggests for all to practice "social distancing", but for a lot of Syrian men

and women, they consider that a luxury to even think about. Having no other choice but to flee, Syrian refugees are often packed inside camps and do not have the luxury to participate in social distancing, especially in war-torn areas.

Despite all of this, Ms. Altalli highlights how, "CSST has been calling for a further cease-fire to continue. And at the same time pushing for the political process. COVID-19 could be an opportunity for peace in Syria." The extremity of COVID-19 can help to advance these ideals. The possibility of a ceasefire being executed could eventually lead to peace that has been deemed elusive in the region for years.

Wai Wai Nu, Founder and Director of Women's Peace Network in Myanmar delineates the disastrous nature of the country before the virus even came forward and how the onset of the pandemic has impacted her work. She paints a very grim picture by stating, "COVID-19 pandemic added another layer of vulnerability to the most vulnerable population of people. In most cases, WHO COVID-19 prevention guidelines on social distancing, handwashing are simply impossible to practice there.

In Bangladesh, as you said, approximately 1 million from Burma are leaving an overcrowded squalid camp often sharing 10 m² of tent." Women in these camps have already been faced with severe threats to security and are also now faced with an exacerbation of it all due to the epidemic. Chouchou Namegabe, Founder and CEO of ANZAFRIKA in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, highlights similar tragedies in eastern DRC and how they

now have to face the prospect of a new pandemic on top of an already detrimental Ebola outbreak that has been suffocating the region for years. It is imperative for NGOs and all civil societies to bring light to these dangers within our international communities. It is only through the sobering assessments of COVID-19's impact on peace and security within these vulnerable communities that we may begin to mitigate and advocate for concrete change. Oksana Potapova, co-founder of the Theatre for Dialogue NGO in Ukraine, details how her government is in the midst of developing a new action plan on the women, peace and security Resolution 1325. Civil societies in Ukraine are very actively involved in monitoring the implementation of this current plan and are in the midst of designing the approach to writing the new action plan. Theatre for Dialogue NGO have also been mobilizing to sign a petition for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, which would provide them with a systemic response to gender based violence.

In addition to the Theatre for Dialogue NGO and their work in Ukraine, Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security have launched a new initiative called "Stories from the Frontlines: Women Peacebuilders in the Pandemic." Through this new initiative, they hope to continue to learn from the experience of women peacebuilders around the globe and their ongoing efforts in putting a spotlight on the important work all activists are currently, and have been doing, way before the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN AT GENEVA

Events and programs that took place in and around the UN office in Geneva.



GENEVA: UNECE's promise for gender equality: COVID-19 response and Beijing+25 commitments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed profoundly the way we work, we interact with one another, and many priorities in our lives. As the virus continues to spread around the world, the attention of governments has rightly focused on immediate actions to contain it.

However, the closure of schools, social distancing measures, and restrictions to economic activities and mobility adopted in most countries as a response to the pandemic are impacting women and men differently.

The measures to mitigate its negative effects on society and the economy therefore need to reflect these differences. Hence, the urgent need to adopt gender-sensitive responses. To address for instance:

The economic consequences of COVID-19 are exacerbating existing gender inequalities. The reduction of labour market opportunities for women in many UNECE countries is already in place and is hitting women's earnings, thus increasing poverty, particularly for women on temporary employment, living in rural areas and migrants.

The rapid spread of the COVID-19 in Europe has put entire sectors on hold, including the service sectors such as food, hospitality and tourism, where women are predominantly employed. As providers of services in small-businesses, women remain unemployed or with reduced working hours, facing drastic reduction of earnings. Many single female-headed households in the Western Balkans, Central Asia and the Caucasus that have relied largely on remittances in the past few years are hit strongly by the contraction of activity in the host countries, job losses and mobility restrictions.

The call to accelerate gender-responsive economic policies in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women as a pre-condition and factor for achieving the SDGs, which came unanimously from all UNECE member States and stakeholders at our Regional Beijing+25 Review meeting on 29-30 October 2019, is even more important in times of crisis.

At UNECE, we are committed to helping our member States achieve the SDGs, and of course SDG 5. We are working even harder with all our partners – the UN system at the global, regional and country level, civil society, the private sector and academia – to help countries mitigate the adverse effects of the crisis on society and the economy.

This means addressing the structural barriers to gender inequalities through the design of country specific gender responsive economic policies in our areas of responsibility, which include:

- Gender mainstreaming environmental policies, innovation policies, transport, energy, trade, housing and land management

- Sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics – SDG dashboard and online database
 - Capacity building for women entrepreneurs
 - Gender-responsive standards and standards development
- Let's work together now to prepare for a better, more equal and more inclusive post pandemic world.



Madam Olga Algayerova is currently the Exec Secretary of the UNECE. Before her current role, she was the Slovakian Ambassador at the UN in Vienna. Madam Algayerova also spoke in a WFWPI conference on "Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)" in 2016.



Partnerships for the Goals at UN Geneva: UN Women, governments, civil society

The UN at 75: The Perception Change Project

BY CAROLYN HANDCSHIN

The International Geneva Perception Change Project is one of many exciting, interactive projects focusing on a broader, more innovative engagement for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) in Geneva.

The WFWPI UN Office has contributed to several of its projects.

Originally launched by former UN Geneva Director General, Michael Moeller in 2014, this platform that converts complex information into creative hands-on communication products is now being further developed by the newly appointed UN Geneva's first woman Director General, Ms. Tatiana Valovaya.

Branches of the Project

"Making Information Accessible", was created to share the abundance of innovative efforts and successes of the international community in Geneva (agencies, NGO's, governments, institutions) towards the fulfillment of the SDG's. These include; SDG Mapping (www.sdgmapping.ch), an interactive platform where students, actors, the curious can navigate through 10 areas of expertise for each Goal in digital and printable versions.

There is a 3D map locating all main international organizations in Geneva, going inside to look at their expert work for peace, rights and well-being. There is a one stop portal and data base that promotes collaboration by theme and type of organization and a series of info graphics that show the impact on real people's lives.

The second area is the "Changing the Narrative", which focuses on good news. By collecting and disseminating impactful stories through its newsletter, books and email lists, progress towards the Global Goals can be known to all ages.

Children and youth are informed about global issues in a fun and impressive way, such as the response to the attack on the budding tourism industry in Gambia due to the corona virus.

The EU funded Youth Empowerment Project has provided resources to youth who have been trained in the same sector to come to the rescue -with novel ingenious results. There is also a section called, "The Iceberg: Stories Beneath the Surface", delivering regular stories by email that introduces today's issues and invites readers to contribute to solutions.

"Promoting the Global Goals and Taking Action" uses events and digital campaigns to stoke civil society engagement in Geneva and greater Switzerland. The #YouNeedToKnow campaign boasts 170 actions to date that anyone can participate in toward achieving the SDG's.

This is an exciting football match between the UEFA (Geneva based, European Football governing body) and the University of Geneva was held, donating proceeds to humanitarian projects. Other awareness campaigns have helped students to understand issues and gain skills.

"KidsWannaKnow" is a project providing one-to one interviews between students and representatives of international organizations. "Young Reporters" is a program launched with the UN Information Service where students role-play journalists and participate in press conferences.



New Director General of the UN Office in Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya



Carolyn Handschin is the Editor-in-Chief of the WFWPI UN Newsletter, Director of the WFWPI Offices for UN Relations, and the Vice President of WFWPI Europe.



Henman went over the lessons learned from the first 4 years, human rights dimension, and HLPF reform recommendations. The recommendations included the following:

HLPF reform recommendations

1. The ambition of the HLPF must be increased
2. The presentation of Voluntary National Reviews must be given more time
3. Ensure that there is a focus on leaving no one behind every year
4. Better alignment and integration of the 2030 Agenda with other frameworks, particularly environmental and human rights mechanisms
5. More opportunities for meaningful follow up, learning and review
6. Major groups and other stakeholders must be able to participate meaningfully in the HLPF

After the presentation, the participants were broken up into groups and discussed the following questions:

Q1: What are the main structural barriers in your country, in terms of Agenda 2030 implementation? What are the issues governments in your country are not reporting on?

Q2: Is the VNR process in your country open to civil society? Is there a structured process? Is there legislation on the national level to ensure participation of CSOs in decision-making processes related to Agenda 2030? Are there good examples of what is working well, or has been achieved?

Q3: What can civil society do to create an inclusive space for work on VNRs to ensure that no one is left behind?

For all of these questions, many of the participants felt that there needed to be changes made on the government level, as well as a paradigm shift within the idea of gender norms and even among those who have a disability.

One group even posted that, "The High-Level Political Forum 2020 needs to include synergies with SDGs and UNGA to agree on a process for the updating of the SDG targets with an end date of 2020."



RCEM Hosts Virtual Civil Society Forum

BY TAMARA STARR

On March 18, over a hundred participants logged on for the Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) hosted a virtual Civil Society Forum.

Oli Henman, Global Coordinator for Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD), presented the National Civil Society Reporting for the HLPF 2020.

Crises and Opportunity: In Solidarity for Best Practices

BY SRRUTHI LEKHA RAAJA ELANGO

Human rights, safety, growth, development, access to basic necessities, health and hygiene of women are at stake around the world. We, from Geneva, are seeing a strong call for solidarity to protect women's rights through togetherness and a system shift towards gender equality and women's empowerment, even as the world shuts down because of the corona virus.

Social activism at younger and younger ages are increasing. Organizations and International bodies adapting to online sessions, propagations and policies on a globalized and local level have stimulated this more than ever. The UN and some of its actions as observed from Geneva, stand as pioneers in preaching and practicing solidarity in innovative best practices.

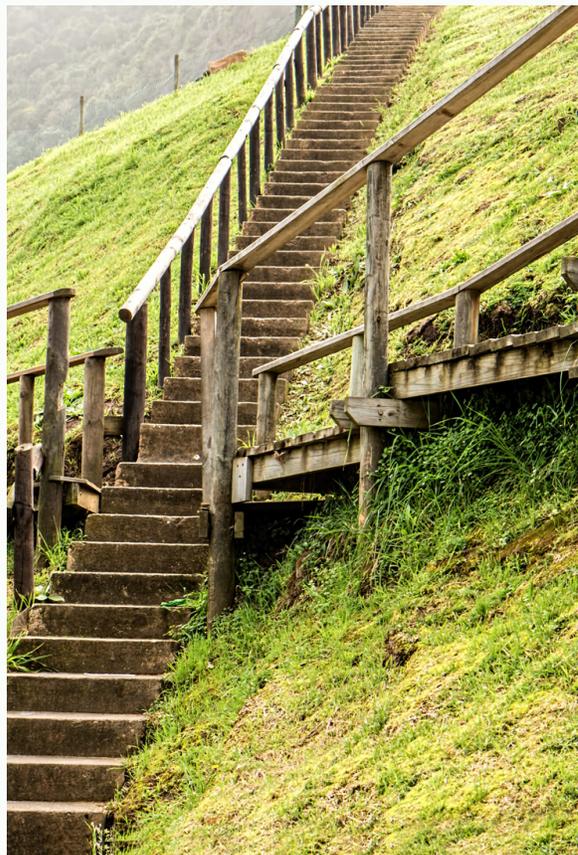
UN Women has been adapting and working with boundless possibilities to address the struggles of women around the world. For example, The entity has shifted its approach of the already existing #HeforShe campaign into #Heforsheathome. In a situation where millions of the world's population are at home, it promotes the need for equal treatment and exercise of basic rights of women at home with the support of men, It addresses domestic violence and discrimination through gender roles and stereotypes -which is comparatively high during world health emergencies and economic breakdowns.

CEDAW according to its statement on the 21st of April 2020, states that "The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) therefore issues this Call for Joint Action.

If COVID-19 teaches us only one lesson, this should be that solidarity is neither optional nor is it an act of charity. COVID-19 has shown that none of us is safe unless we are all safe." Their call for strong action insists on how the world from governments to institutions should stand together and work in solidarity to safeguard women and their rights with shifts in practice in all possible mediums.

The CEDAW's Knowledge Hub Initiative which shall have webinars about women's rights in a path towards new thinking and joint action is their signature contribution.

The UN OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), based in Geneva, one of the most prominent bodies of the UN, is especially called on at difficult times such as these. It has released on the 15th of April 2020 "COVID-19 AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS: GUIDANCE" which acts as a set of guidelines and analysis of the commitment of governments. They have extensively addressed issues from the health of women and girls to the importance of participation of women in the design of COVID 19 responses.



The release also insists on various ways of how states and stakeholders must act on 9 key points with regards to the protection of women's rights. This has seen the shift in approach due to the current world situation, propagating strong solidarity and efficient action for best practices.

Various UN Bodies, treaties, and entities and other international organizations are working with a great focus on adapting and reacting to the current issues of gender inequality during this period. We all have the responsibility to act and influence state and non states actions to answer the cries of women (and men and children) under discrimination, abusive environments, and unjust treatment at home and in communities. From female frontline warriors to household informal workers, women have often born disproportionate workloads and disenfranchisement.

From UN actions and guidelines to local organizational contributions through self-help groups, we see an unexpected opportunity for system change- for equality, safety, and the full empowerment of women. The world is crying for justice, prosperity for all humanity and dignified lives and livelihoods. The time has come, for realization, for redistribution and for responsibility.



Srruthi Lekha Raaja Elango is an intern for the WFPWI UN Office in Geneva.

UN AT VIENNA

Events and programs that took place in and around the UN office in Vienna.



Session 63 of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

BY LALEH ASHRAFI

2-6 March 2020, Vienna International Center hosted the annual session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The 63rd CND session gathered 1500 participants, 137 countries, 370 civil society representatives, colleagues from 17 int'l & regional organizations, 17 IGOs and 99 NGOs according to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/39 to counter and address drug issues around the globe.

This year CND session chaired by Mansoor Ahmed Khan Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in Vienna was started with a virtual message from the World Health Organization addressing the outbreak of the Coronavirus.

Highlighting the significant commitment of the UN in tackling drug problems such as “threats from new psychoactive substances” and encouraging the member states to contribute to this session to achieve this shared objective, Amb. Khan continued the opening statement. “International standards developed by UNODC and WHO help deliver rights-based prevention and treatment of drug use disorders and enable reintegration and rehabilitation to ensure the health and welfare of our societies,” stated Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, the new Executive Director of UNODC in the opening session. The opening session went on with a speech delivered by Mr. Cornelis de Joncheere, the President of International Narcotics Control Board emphasizing the “focus on substance use prevention and treatment for young people”. “The Board expresses its serious concern with the continued reports of great human rights violations perpetrated in the name of drug control. We call for the immediate end to extrajudicial responses to suspected drug criminality and sue” he continued.

CND 2020 provided a platform for the Member states and NGOs to evaluate the implementation of adopted Ministerial Declaration 2019 on strengthening action at national, regional and international levels and bridging the gaps in the implementation of conventions and enhancing efforts to address and tackle the world drug use problems.

At its regular session, the commission adopted 5 resolutions;

- Developing the collection and analysis of data
- Youth drug prevention
- Access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes
- Alternative Development

The Member states also voted on putting 13 substances under international control.

In addition to the formal proceeding, more than 100 side events and 50 exhibitions were organized and co-sponsored by the member states, UN entities, international and regional organizations, and civil society, covering worldwide drug problems. Moreover, on the margins of UNODC’s CND 2020, Youth forum 2020 with 45 participants addressed the policy-makers and expressed their vision of building a society free of substance use and drug use disorders.



One of the significances of the CND 63rd session was the new Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres today announced the appointment of Ghada Fathi Waly of Egypt as the next Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Ms. Waly will also serve as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV). She succeeds Yury Fedotov of the Russian Federation to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his dedicated service to the Organization. (UNODC Webnote)





Equitable Access To Treatment For Indigenous People

BY RENATE AMESBAUER
Edited by LALEH ASHRAFI

As the number of Drug users (Cannabis, Psycho Narcotic Substances) is increasing every year families, societies and Nations are challenged in Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation, and in order to tackle this problem a strong connection between civil society and International Organizations is needed.

UNODC and its drug preventing policies and programs such as **“Strong Families Programme”** which is a family- skills-training, for families living in challenging settings shows that strengthening the communication in the families, especially the parents- child relationship, has a positive effect on children and young people to abstain from drugs and other narcotic substances, helps to reduce teenage pregnancy, violent youth gangs in the neighborhood, violence in the family.

Children and young people become more stable at school and can follow further education. It supports SDG #3,4,5 and16,

In the 63rd session of CND 2020. WFWP delegation could observe strong efforts and side events on the side of prevention and rehabilitation.

One of the most significant side events in this session was **WORKING TOWARDS EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TREATMENT OF PROBLEMATIC SUBSTANCE USE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**. This side event organized by Governments of Canada and New Zealand, the New Zealand Drug Foundation, Te Rau Ora Ltd, and the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation.

The event started with opening notes from Michelle Boudreau, Health Canada, Tracy Potiki, representative of Te Rau Ora tribe and Marie Roberts, Ministry of Health, New Zealand. Having focused on the rights of indigenous people to access equal drug treatment, the event went on with introducing facts about Māori communities’ background in drug treatment and their cooperation with New Zealand Drug Foundation to prevent methamphetamine harms in Māori communities.

"For treatment to work, it must enhance indigenous identity, reduce stigma, and discrimination, and treatment must be holistic and take into account indigenous knowledge. In closing, I ask you to see us the solution, not the problem." said the Rep. of Te Rau Ora tribe.

Further on, Marie Roberts stressed the mandate of the Ministry of Health of New Zealand ‘Achieving equity of health’. She moved on explaining the unclear alignment of treatment access with the level of harm in Māori communities and emphasized that understanding of needed approaches in Māori communities, practices such as co-designing of services, and flexibility for cultural needs are vital in achieving their mandate.

“We cannot have “one design fits all” in treatment. Must occur across prevention, education, workforce development, justice system, etc. Entire government service needs to reduce harms from drugs and be responsive to achieve equity.” said Marie Roberts. Having mentioned an initiative called **the Path to Wellbeing** with the focus of ‘individual well-being’ as an example of the approach letting Māori to access treatment how they want it, she emphasized the importance of the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People in providing equitable access to drug treatment.

The event moved on to Laurie York from White Earth Nation, Giizhawaaso – Indian Child Welfare talking about the **‘MOM’** voluntary program utilizing Suboxone for pregnant mothers and implement the Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) program assisting fathers. The main focus of her speech was the acknowledgment of the sovereign nations is the key to successful equitable access to drug treatment.

“There are nearly 300 children that remain with their parents who are addressing addictions. Traditional customs, and in particular child rearing, was interrupted by colonialism and crucial that families are not separated during the process of healing.” she said. The last speaker was Carol Hopkins, Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, Canada stressing the undeniable role of cultural-based practices in drug treatment in Canada.

“Family and community are central to our values. We are much more than our deficits. We are about our wellness. Must think about what creates wellness” said Carol Hopkins.

In line with WFWP’s mandate, this event was significantly important as all panelists were women and showed the important role of women in problem-solving.



Renate Amesbauer is a part of the UN team in Vienna and has been a part of the organizing team at UN Vienna for working groups and conferences since 2013.



From 1946 To Future

Its main functions: The Commission on the Status of Women with representatives of 45 Member States (13 from Africa; 11 from Asia; 9 from Latin America and the Caribbean; 8 from Western Europe and other States and 4 from Eastern Europe, elected for 4-year terms.) is one of the nine functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

It was established already in 1946 and held its first session with 15 members. One of the Commission's first tasks was to contribute to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by introducing gender-sensitive language, and throughout the years it drafted several significant Declarations and Conventions, including the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 1967, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993, the 1953 Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the 1957 Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979.

CSW prepared several global conferences. It has also been contributing to the follow-up of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Since 1987 the Commission has been adopting multi-year programs of work to appraise progress and make further recommendations, in particular, to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Convening and strengthening political commitment to 'gender equality', engaging in gender equality-related discussions, evaluating the progress of the implementation of agreed conclusions from previous sessions, reporting on aspects related to gender equality, and discussions of emerging trends and issues are among CSW's methods of work.

World Conferences

Since 1975 the UN has organized four World Conferences on Women. The Outcome of the Mexico World Conference (1975) was a Plan of Action; the outcome of the Copenhagen Conference (1980) was the Program of Action. The outcome of the Nairobi World Conference (1985) were the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (FLS). The outcome of the Beijing World Conference (1995) was the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Among all these conferences, Beijing marked a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality. The different political situation, after the fall of the Berlin wall was very noticeable. In 1995, women from the Eastern Bloc countries had largely cast off the old Soviet anti-capitalist agenda and came to



UN Photo, *Birth of the Commission on the Status of Women, 1946*

Beijing for the first time free from their Governments' control. The Americans were finally able to lay claim to the leadership of the international women's movement. Eastern European women would be re-educated into accepting Western feminist perspectives.

The old Soviet "peace" agenda was reflected in only one area that referred to the effects of armed conflict on women. A host of relatively new issues such as trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual harassment were heavily integrated into the document. The Secretary-General of the Conference was Gertrude Mongella from Tanzania.

Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a keynote address. CSW acted as the preparatory body for the Beijing World Conference. During one of its sessions, an issue arose regarding the term 'gender'.

A contact group was formed to seek agreement on the commonly understood the meaning of the term 'gender' in the context of the Platform for Action and to report directly to the Beijing Conference.

The contact group reaffirmed that the word was used in the Platform for Action, which was intended to be interpreted and understood as it was in ordinary, generally accepted usage; i.e. in the sociological context. The final Conference document reaffirms the fundamental principle set forth at the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, that the human rights of women and girls are part of universal human rights.

CSW after the Beijing World Conference

In 2000, the 23rd special session of the UN General Assembly decided to conduct a five-year review and appraisal; the 4th session of the CSW conducted a 10-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action. In 2010: CSW carried out a 15-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action at its 54th session and adopted a Declaration. In 2015 the Commission held a "Beijing +20" Special Session and encouraged regional commissions to hold reviews and appraisals. This year, CSW was supposed to adopt a political declaration at its 64th session in March of this year. However, due to the Covid-19 situation the session was replaced by a merely half-day procedural meeting that adopted the draft political declaration.



BY MAG. DR. HERTA KASCHITZ -
WUESTENHAGEN FORMER UN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, NOW NGO
REPRESENTATIVE OF AFRICAN ACTION
ON AIDS (AAA)

WFWPI HIGHLIGHTS

News and highlights from the organization.

International Women's Day

Take a look at how some of our chapters were able to celebrate International Women's Day.



International Association of First Ladies for Peace Inaugural Assembly

BY CAROLYN HANDSCHIN

On February 5, The International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) held a successful inaugural world assembly affirming the unique and essential role that women leaders are called to play in bringing about a world of lasting peace. The high-level assembly, “Building a World of Lasting Peace : A First Ladies’ Initiative” was part of the World Summit 2020, and special centenary celebration of the life and work of Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWPI) assisted in the organization of this event, which was held at the KINTEX Centre outside Seoul on February 5, 2020. The IAFLP is an association that is part of the Universal Peace Federation as a project of the International Summit Council for Peace, a prestigious organization bringing together current and former Heads of State and Government, including current and former First Ladies. First Lady Debbie Remengesau had previously convened the Asia Pacific First Ladies Summit in December 2019 in Palau.

WFWP International President, Julia Moon, gave the opening remarks for the event.

“The goal is to go beyond the home and use the characteristics of maternal love and work together to become a world of reconciliation and peace,” she said. “We can gain hope by listening to each other, and together, build a more bright and clear vision for a sustainable culture of peace.”

Senior Vice-president, WFWP International, Dr. Sun Jin Moon took to the stage to inspire the IAFLP delegation with her vision and call to action. She outlined many of the critical issues facing humanity, but most fundamentally, “At the deepest level, there is a crisis of the human heart and conscience. There is a crisis rooted in a failure to understand our true identity.”

In its founding Resolution, the IAFLP declared it brings together “women leaders from all national, racial and religious backgrounds and all sectors of society, together with those who have lived the responsibility of First Ladies in their nations, uniting in solidarity to respond to today’s challenges. The loving and sacrificial leadership of women working together to empower our youth for goodness, to build cohesive communities and, with men, establish models of ethical and balanced leadership to guide them has never been more critical.”

Unanimously passed at the conclusion of the assembly, the IAFLP Resolution stands up for the central role that women and mothers have played throughout human history and as “decisive contributors to reconciliation, peacebuilding, reconstruction and development in the wider society and world.”



The International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) was held on February 5 in South Korea.



In the opening remarks, WFWP International President Julia Moon spoke about the goals for the event and the association





WFWP Senior Vice President, Dr. Sun Jin Moon, took the stage to inspire the delegation and those who attended.



In the opening remarks, WFWP International President Julia Moon spoke about the goals for the event and the association



First Lady of Palau, Debbie Remengesau and WFWPI International President Julia Moon greeting guests.



First Lady of Palau, Debbie Remengesau was also in attendance and spoke about how, "we need to work with women's values and work together to find solutions to all problems that threaten our homes and nations."



YOUNG VOICES

Personal stories and testimonies from our interns and young adult leaders.

New Internship- New Family

BY LALEH ASHRAFI

Having followed WFWP- Vienna office closely since October 2019 and attending events organized by this NGO, I had the chance to meet Ms. Renate Amesbauer during the 63rd Session of Commission on Narcotics Drugs held in Vienna International Center in March 2020.

Sharing our insights and goals, I was given the position of an intern and the representative of this NGO to the UN. Working with WFWP is exceptionally interesting for me as the mandate and perspective of it is essential for having a peaceful world and also different from my previous experiences I am privileged to attend different conferences and events organized by two UN headquarters in Vienna; UNIDO and UNODC and meet inspiring people working on different projects related to WFWP principles. It is also a great opportunity for me to promote my project evaluating the role of NGOs in the implementation of the UN conventions.

Sharing the same city with different UN head-quarters I find the WFWP Vienna office as an important and privileged NGO as we can follow the UN projects closely and bridge them to our activities and count on the support receiving from the UN staffs in terms of planning and advocacy.



Laleh Ashrafi is an International Relations graduate student at Webster Private University of Vienna. Having a rich involvement in humanitarian activities in different countries including Afghanistan lends her a wide perspective on conflict resolution and post-war development which are her main research interests. She has newly joined WFWP-Vienna, where she works on the role of women in the peacebuilding process.

Moreover, cultural and religious diversity in Vienna makes our office even more important and inclusive and the right place to expand the mandate of WFWP by providing platforms for women with different backgrounds.

I hope the WFWP-Vienna office grows bigger and bigger and walks hand in hand with other WFWP around the world towards enhancing the role of women in making peace.

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Interning Under Quarantine

BY MAKO MORI

Less than two months ago, I was ready to pack my bags and fly off to New York for an opportunity of a lifetime. I was ecstatic to begin interning for Women's Federation and volunteering at the annual UN Women's CSW conference. Little did any of the world expect COVID-19 to become a widespread global pandemic.

Although I was originally disappointed in the missed opportunity to network and learn from hundreds of women who are experts in their fields, I now see the valuable skill in learning to adapt. I believe this pandemic has exposed the limitations to traditional structures, such as the UN, who have not utilized the technology available to make communication and participation more widely accessible to a greater audience.

In response to the limitations posed, organizations, businesses, and people, have been adapting by shifting their platforms from solely in-person to virtual. I was genuinely surprised at how many resources were available online and can be accessed remotely.

Not only do I have access to reading resources for my research paper, but I can also access a UN meeting, or a global panel of women peacemakers from home.

Although I am not able to attend UN meetings in person and network with organizations who are experts in their fields, I am learning to take advantage of the vast resources and events which are beneficial to my research on Yemeni women's efforts in peacemaking.

Recently, I attended my first virtual event on "How COVID-19 is Affecting Women" hosted by the Georgetown Institute of Women, Peace, and Security. I was astounded at the wide-array of issues women faced in their countries such as disproportionate unemployment rates between men and women, and an increase in domestic violence, which displays a pattern of restrained or restricted rights for women during this pandemic.



Mako Mori just graduated from the University of California-Los Angeles with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. She is interning with WFWP, International because she believes that women play a pivotal role in bringing about peace among nations, families, and the world at large.

In addition to research, I also have bi-weekly calls with Grace, which have been so helpful in discussing the research I've come across and receiving guidance on navigating through my research topic. It's amazing how I can still connect with someone who is across the country from me with just a smartphone! I am looking forward to continuing my research remotely and gaining the skills useful for an ever-changing world.