

Learn the Outcomes of CSW68 to Advocate Nationally

Wednesday 22 May 2024



Moderator

Leigh Ellwood-Brown
SI Director of Advocacy



Speakers

Berthe De Vos

SI UN Representative, Geneva

Linda Witong

SI Advocacy Advisor

Ulla Elisabeth Madsen

SI Member of Danish Delegation to CSW68



Opening Remarks

**SI President
Siew Yong Gnanalingam**





Purpose of the webinar



- Agreed Conclusions that have come out of CSW68
- Focus on: climate justice, universal healthcare and education
- Women and girls impacted
- Months to create Zero Draft
- Local/National Advocacy

CSW68 Themes

Leigh Ellwood-Brown
SI Director of Advocacy

2024 Themes



- **Priority theme:** Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective
- **Review theme:** Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-third session)

Climate Justice

Ulla Elisabeth Madsen

The United Nations definition of Climate Justice

"Climate justice advocates for equitable solutions that prioritise the needs of those who are most affected by climate change, strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure that the burdens and benefits of climate action are distributed fairly, taking into account historical and systemic inequalities."



Climate Justice



- **Recalls** the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
- **Urgently** address the challenges posed by the impacts of climate change
- **Respect, protect, and fulfill** the rights of all Indigenous women and girls
- **Cooperation** with the Danish Government on CSW
- **Action** as Soroptimists
- **A newly important judgment** made by the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg

Climate Change



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Education

Linda Witong



"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world"

Malala Yousafzai

"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance..."

Ann Landers, 1975



Focus #1 Accessible

All women and girls must have equal access quality education

Living in a family, community or nation where there are **gender norms and bias** intersecting with the failure to allow women or girls to have a quality education

Living in a country, region or community where there are **insufficient budget allocations** to provide everyone with a quality education or **gender norms and bias intersect** with **allowing a budget** that includes **gender equality** issues in education

Belongs to a marginalised group: poverty, rural, remote, indigenous, humanitarian and fragile contexts, national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities women and girls with disabilities, older women, LGBTQ+



Focus #2 Availability

Education must be available on a **lifelong** basis via infrastructures which are available, safe and healthy and of good quality

Shortage of schools: Needed to ensure that educational infrastructures were either rebuilt or created which were safe and provided a healthy environment for female students and teachers to attend and travel to and from

Shortage of teachers: Female teachers are fundamental to ensuring every aspect of quality education. At present there is a shortage of female teachers. The higher one goes in the educational system the higher the shortage of teachers including in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)

Must provide **training** and employment of appropriately qualified teachers for quality inclusive education and training which includes digital technology at all levels.

The feminised nature of the education and training is preventing female teachers from creating curricula or career counseling which provides digital and climate literacy as they are **not being provided** with continual training and skills in these areas or in the area of critical thinking or technology or new and relevant tools (internet, electronic devices and connections e.g.) which would support such a goal.

The female imbalance or **occupation segregation** in teachers' professions or female student's choice of employment in STEM or emerging fields.

Other obstacles which still exist in providing quality education and training under certain circumstances:

- How to provide a quality and culturally diverse education to women or girls including during and after **conflicts famine or natural disasters, humanitarian events, displacement migration, pandemics** or to those who are **disabled** or live in **remote** or **rural** areas
- How to provide for need of **multilingual language**

Focus #3 Education must be available on a lifelong basis

In the age of digital technology, we must focus on providing lifelong education which is relevant and deals with emerging subjects and careers all of which will enable all women and girls to get the necessary education and training needed to be employed in decent work

And for them to be able to be among those who control technology and their choices of decent work rather than be controlled by technology and the choice of what employment - if any- is available to them



- Continue to **raise awareness** nationally and locally of the importance of the role of lifelong education and training for women and girls including technology
- Advocate for **funding** for gender-responsive, quality, equitable and inclusive education, lifelong learning, re-skilling, vocational training and studies, and ensure that women and girls are able to **diversify their educational and occupational choices**
- Advocate for **improved access to electronic devices and connections** for women and girls especially for healthcare
- Support **grassroots education & training** programmes especially for **digital literacy and finance literacy**
- Promote the **training and employment of appropriately qualified teachers** for quality inclusive education and training including **digital** technology at all levels, especially for continuing and non-formal education
- Advocate for Member States to raise awareness regarding the barriers in employment such as lack of access to **progressive training** programmes and harassment (Sign up to ILO 190)
- Encourage national Governments to provide through life, women and girls with equal access and support to quality learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (**STEM**) subjects which are traditionally taken up by boys and men.

Education

Access to Education & Training



Access to Life Long Learning
Continuing Education



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Universal Health

Berthe De Vos

Right to Health includes:

- Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation
- Safe food
- Adequate nutrition and housing
- Healthy working and environmental conditions
- Health-related education and information
- Gender equality



Universal Health



CSW 68: Interdependence with poverty

- Access to basic quality healthcare, hygiene, sanitation, and safe water
- Availability of critical health services and education must be made available to all women and girls
- Adopt inclusive, universal healthcare via increased investments in quality healthcare provisions, staffing, training, and community education programmes
- Promotion of healthy ageing across the life course for all women and girls
- Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Human rights-based approach to all policies, legislation, discussions, and decisions related to all aspects of health for all women and girls

Universal Health



Action

- Gather, request, receive and exchange right-to-health information from all relevant sources
- Maintain dialogue and discuss possible cooperation with all relevant actors, including local and national Governments, United Nations bodies, specialised agencies as well as NGOs
- Report on the status throughout the world of the right to health, including laws, policies, good practices and obstacles
- Recommend appropriate measures that promote and protect the right to health
- Promote education programs about health care including sexual and reproductive health
- Advocate for gender related financing for all health care programs
- Be involved in draft of the next CSW session on national level (this will be CSW69 in 2025)

Universal Health

Maternal health



Sexual and reproductive health



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Closing Remarks

Leigh Ellwood-Brown
SI Director of Advocacy



- What Government Department/agency - implementation of CSW Agreed Conclusions?
- Office for Women, Foreign Affairs, Attorney General?
- The importance of national and local advocacy
- The importance of advocating the 2030 Agenda nationally - the SDGs!
- When does your UN Region hold their meetings to build on CSW69?
- Do you know how to register for these meetings?
- Suggested action for Climate Justice
- Suggested action for Education
- Suggested action for Universal Health

THANK YOU!

This presentation will shortly be uploaded to our website: soroptimistinternational.org

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