

NGO CSW GENEVA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Committee members,

It is only fitting to begin with expressions of appreciation for the previous NGOCSW President, Stacy Dry Lara, and the Bureau that I was honoured to be a part of. Following upon the Beijing +25 Regional PrepCom for which so many of us took on responsibilities as Task Force chairs and collaborators, the decision was made to host a first ever Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) Consultation Day Geneva in March 2021. The title we agreed on was empowering to us, and attractive to our institutions in Geneva, "Women's Rights Advocates in International Geneva: The Heart of Human Rights and Service to Humanity".

This Bureaus new three-year term began in April 2021, just weeks after that exhilarating event and it is now one year later. There is so much to report about what has been done, together with you in this one year. It took a little time to get our Bureau settled, but it is a remarkable team: Vice Presidents, Carol McConkie (LDS Charities) and Paula Daepfen (Biovision & Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas); Secretaries, Mohinder Watson (International Council of Women) and Srruthi Lekha (Women's Federation for World Peace, International); Treasurers, Berthe (Soroptimists International) and Wendi Momen (Widows' Rights International). Our auditor, Sibylle von Hydebrand and Webmaster, Rachel Thibodeaux have also contributed immensely. We have done well in one year.

Thank you for entrusting me with this position. At the time of the elections, I outlined a broad vision and goal for NGOCSW over the next three years in alignment with your answers to the Development Survey that I had sent out. There were three focal areas :

# 1. COLLECTIVE ACTION, PROMOTION AND VISIBILITY



I'd mentioned that we, who have the ears at the grassroots and access to governments have a great responsibility to take advantage of this privileged position to the fullest. Our strength is in our unity, drawing on the combined capacities, experience and the broad reach that each of us and the NGO's we represent have. We have to further improve our committee profile and reputation, to the point that we are automatically called upon by governments and the UN to liaise between them and our constituencies as issues arise.

Quick to act on that, we created several new Task forces: "Development" chaired by Mohinder Watson, "Health" (adding "& Climate" later) co-chaired by Carol McConkie and Ann Lindsay and, "Youth", led by Srruthi Lekha. One year on, each of these subgroups can claim important successes.

One cannot say enough about the importance of visibility. The website has improved this dramatically, with a good structure and regular uploading. A tireless effort, that demands input from all of us to keep up to date. Thank you to Rachel Srruthi and Paula.

A very significant addition to our Committee this year is the News in Brief (NIB). Thank you so much to Paula, the editor, who collects our news with an evolving, ever improving editorial layout. This bi monthly edition is no doubt greatly appreciated by our members, and a boost for our visibility and our morale.





The NGO CSW Geneva Circle of Honour has grown in numbers and popularity. I spoke of this at the election time thinking not just to honour amazing women leaders of the committee over decades after they have passed, but showing our esteem while they can still appreciate it. We've created a tradition to offer a lovely certificate template, received with a small gift. Most heart-warming was the reception of the honorary title by Anne Herdt and Ursula Barter, truly remarkable women who gave so much for the committee. Berhane Ras Work has also been unanimously selected, but still to receive the honour.

The United Nations began to open its doors in December for in-person participation in conferences and events after almost 2 years of restrictions. With the Development Task force, a letter was addressed to the Director General, Tatiana Valovaya requesting several changes for the allotted NGO facilities; better technical support for future hybrid meetings, and access to more appropriate and dignified meeting spaces as the UN partners we are called to be. The Bureau was invited for a discussion with the NGO Liaison Office Director, Lidiya Grigoreva. Most concerns were dispelled during that dialogue in a very convivial exchange. Other positive outcomes surfaced through their mediation with OHCHR for us in the organisation of our CSW66 Consultation Day events several months later.

## **2. COMMUNICATION, ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS BUILDING**

Within weeks of the election, I called a series of informal meetings to extend the range of our activities together and discuss how to be more relevant to the work of the UN, to raise our profile. The NGO Committees on the Status of Women in New York and Vienna were also invited to join us in a virtual discussion. Regular communication continued throughout the year with the Presidents of the NGO CSWs globally. One of the issues was the topic of working methods and partnership with governments at the CSW65. Frustrations among civil society participants about access to their government in preparation for CSW and influence on decisions on the Agreed Conclusions elicited a request for review of the existing methods of work at the CSW. It became a sort of global campaign as so many had similar reflections.

Our Development Committee drafted a letter to the new Chair of the CSW66 with a list of recommendations to improve partnership. In response, we were personally invited to a briefing organised by UN Women and the Ambassador of South Africa, the newly elected Chairwoman of CSW66. They had invited several UN agencies who had successfully partnered with civil society, and we discussed possibilities for improvement at the CSW. Independently, the NGO CSW Global Advocacy Research group prepared a list of recommendations, that included some of the same we'd proposed.

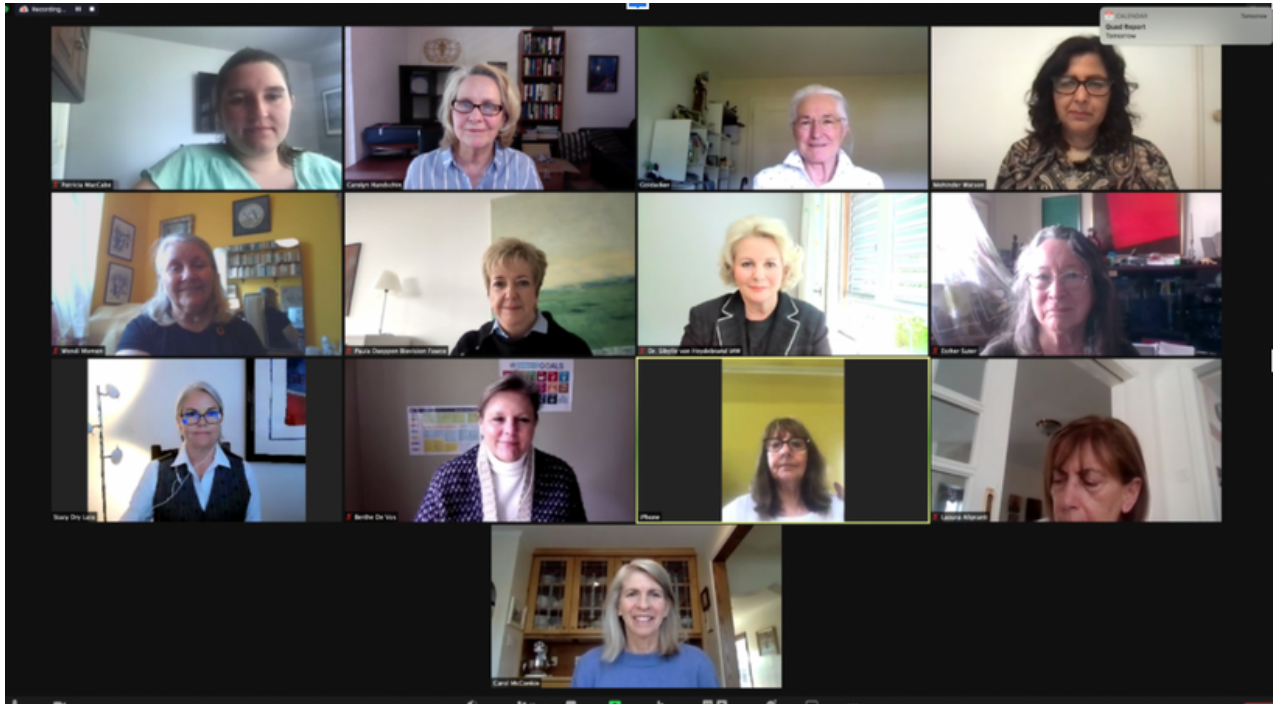
A new position has been recently created in our bureau, an Advocacy and Networking Focal point that helps to gather information about statements, events, panels, programs of the members, sometimes informing about possibilities for joint statements or other shared participation possibilities, or website posting. Thank you to Berthe for accepting the additional and important task. While there has been an increase in statements being co-signed or jointly prepared for the Human Rights Council, CEDAW, CSW etc, including a statement for a Special HRC Session on Afghanistan, the plan is to expand this advocacy network.

### 3. KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND EXPERTISE BUILDING

The Task Force on Youth held several events throughout the year, even while noting that we committee members need to do better to bring in young members from our NGOs to support them. But their crowning achievement of this first year was the Global Youth Conference on the UN Commission on the Status of Women 2022. Reaching out to more than 100 youth mainly from lower income areas, a simulated CSW conference held dialogues, debates and interactive sessions to prepare draft Agreed Conclusions, which were then sent by our NGO CSW to the Chair of the CSW66 as the government debates commenced. Committee members supported intergenerationally, especially through a very heartfelt pre meeting with some of the youth delegates. It was decided to aim to hold such an event each year preceding the CSW intergovernmental meetings.

In a recent exchange of messages with the NGO Liaison Office of the Director General, they referred to the committee's "amazing engagement with the United Nations". No doubt the Consultation Day of 2021 and our most recent CSW66 Consultation Day 2022 on, "The Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment: Building Global Partnerships and Solidarity" event on March 12 2022, which we decided to co-organise with NGO CSW Vienna further demonstrated our loyalty to our institutions here in Geneva.

The exceptional two-hour virtual event, with a strong and encouraging message from Dr. David Boyd the UN Special Rapporteur on "Human Rights and the Environment" and an illuminating panel on Rural Women and the Environment that gave credit to our global and local concerns with thought provoking academics and impressive practitioners, and Carol as facilitator. But it was not an event that ends when the Zoom is disengaged, the core of the event was a "Declaration and Call to Action" on the theme, drafted with some members in Geneva and Vienna (Laurie Richardson, Carolyn ) and a youth team as well coordinated by Srruthi assisting in so many ways. A petition is available online to encourage global impact and solidarity, and a package of advocacy resources was thoughtfully collected to provide tools to aid in creating local projects for nature and the environment.



In closing, thank you. I / we the Bureau, hope that everyone can find their place to contribute; bringing greater value to our committee, strength to the United Nations, and hopefully gratification to our members. There have been ideas floated for a Task Force on the Economic Commission in Europe (UNECE), a new Task Force on Peace, and other innovations. We'd be please to work with you to develop these or any ideas you might have to improve our work, and be ever more attractive for new and young members.

*C. Handschin*

**The 2021 President's Annual Report to the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva Annual General Assembly  
6 April 2022 Submitted by  
Carolyn Handschin, President**

# AUDITOR'S REPORT

On the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of April 21, 2021, Wendi Momen was elected as treasurer and Paula Daepfen as alternate financial auditor. At the meeting of September 1, 2021, Berthe de Vos was elected as assistant treasurer. On June 16, 2021, Paula Daepfen was elected to the board respectively executive bureau as second vice president. In connection with the specification of the independence of the financial auditor, Paula Daepfen stepped down from her position as alternate financial auditor.

Later it was decided that the position of treasurer should be held by Berthe de Vos and the position of assistant treasurer by Wendi Momen as the latter could not travel to Switzerland due to the Covid-19 situation. - It turned out that due to the Covid-19 situation, the asset accounts could not be transferred to the new holders of the position. For this reason, the former treasurer kindly agreed to prepare the financial report 2021. The budget 2022, on the other hand, is to be prepared by the newly elected treasurer and her assistant. It is not part of this audit. From this follows:

Based on the documents submitted to me (bank statements, original invoices, receipts) by NGO Committee on the Status of Women former Treasurer Anne Riz, Bern, Switzerland, I carried out the audit on March 2, 2022, using various random checks and documented evidence to the best of my ability.

## **Assets**

### **Bank Balances**

The bank balances for the following accounts are consistent with the bank statements as at 31.12.2021. The inspected documents could be matched with the bank statements up to the accounts:

UBS	CHF 36'661.90
Paypal	CHF 1'653.68

### **Cash**

The Cash amount of CHF 650.78 is plausible.



## Income and Expenses

The statement of income and expenses was checked through analyzing random samples. All the checked positions could be proven by Ms. Anne Riz. The annual accounts closed with expenses of CHF 3'445.30 and an income of CHF 1'864.00 and a loss of CHF 1'581.30.

## Regularity

I confirm that the accounting for 2021 was carried out properly. The balance sheet and the statement of income and expenses correspond with the provided documents as mentioned above. The reported assets exist. Ms. Anne Riz keeps her accounts correctly, with supporting documents. The executive board is responsible for the annual financial statements. My task is to audit them. I confirm that I meet the requirements for competence and independence.

## Proposal to the General Assembly

I therefore propose the General Assembly that the financial statement for 2020 be approved and that the executive board be discharged,

Yours sincerely



Dr. iur. Sibylle von Heydebrand



## **NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva**

Comité ONG de la Condition de la Femme, Genève

# **Annual Report/Annual Financial Statement**

## **2021**

Contact: [treasurer@ngo-geneva.ch](mailto:treasurer@ngo-geneva.ch)  
[www.ngocsw-geneva.ch](http://www.ngocsw-geneva.ch)

# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

NGO CSW Geneva  
Statement of Accounts on **31.12.2021**  
In CHF

<b><u>Assets</u></b>	<b>31.12.2020</b>	<b>31.12.2021</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash	650.78	650.78
NGO CSW Current Account UBS <sup>1</sup>	38'337.08	36'661.90
Paypal Account	991.30	1'653.68
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>39'979.16</b>	<b>38'966.36</b>
 <b><u>Liabilities &amp; Own Capital</u></b>		
<b>Foreign Capital</b>		
US Mission Grant for Flashmob	1'550.53	1'550.53
<b>Total Foreign Capital</b>	<b>1'550.53</b>	<b>1'550.53</b>
<b>Own Capital</b>		
Retained Earnings (Loss)	1732.47	(1'581.30)
General Reserves	36'696.16	38'997.13
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Capital</b>	<b>39'979.16</b>	<b>38'966.36</b>

**Statement of Income and Expenses**  
**01.01.2021 – 31.12.2021**  
in Swiss Francs

	<u>Budget 2021</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Income from Regular Activities</b>		
Membership Dues <sup>2</sup>	2'500.00	1'864.00
Sublet Office Varembe	00.00	00.00
<b>Total Regular Income</b>	<b>2'500.00</b>	<b>1'864.00</b>
Fundraising	500.00	00.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3'000.00</b>	<b>1'864.00</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
<b>Expenses attributable to Regular Activities</b>		
International Advocacy <sup>3</sup>	1'800.00	2'000.00
Membership Development:		1'020.00
-Website- Consultation Day	00.00	00.00
Membership Appreciation, Holiday Gathering	500.00	00.00
Rental Meeting Rms (WCC, Varembe)	00.00	00.00
Insurance	190.00	182.70
Website <sup>4</sup>	145.00	118.80
Accounting Software	00.00	00.00
Postal costs & misc. admin.	20.00	00.00
Bank Fees	125.00	104.00
Paypal Fees	20.00	19.80
Misc.	200.00	00.00
<b>Total Regular Operating Expense</b>	<b>3'000.00</b>	<b>3'445.30</b>
<b>Total Expense_</b>	<b>3'000.00</b>	<b>3'445.30</b>
<b>Net Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>00.00</b>	<b>(1'581.30)</b>

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<sup>3</sup> Donation Les Vernets D'Arves



## Financial Report for the Year 1.1.2021 to 31.12.2021

The NGO CSW Geneva the financial year 2021 with a loss of CHF 1'581.30.

The causes were the membership numbers being off the budget target and only bringing in income of CHF 1'864. This was coupled with two extraordinary expenses - a large donation to Les Verne D'Arves of CHF 2'000 and a payment for the tech services for consultation day of CHF 1'000.

Other expenses were within the normal range and the NGO CSW Geneva ended the Financial Year 2021 with a Net Worth of CHF 38'966.36

**Anne Riz (former NGO CSW Treasurer)**

### **Addendum**

Covid-19 continued to impact the work of NGO CSW Geneva in 2021, as it did in 2020. A major impact was the inability of the treasurer elected at the AGM on 21 April 2020 to travel to Geneva from the United Kingdom owing to Covid restrictions. This meant that she could not access the accounts, as she was required to appear at the bank in person to effect the change of treasurer. The former treasurer, Anne Riz, therefore generously continued to manage the accounts during the year. To ease the situation, it was suggested at the meeting of the Bureau that Berthe De Vos and Wendi Momen switch roles, making Berthe De Vos treasurer and Wendi Momen assistant treasurer. This was reported by Carolyn Handschin to the meeting of the Committee on 9 January 2022. Anne Riz helped to transfer the NGOCSW Geneva bank account from the UN in Geneva to a bank in Gland.

Another effect of the pandemic was that no face to face meetings were held during the year, with all work being conducted on Zoom. Thus there were no expenses for room rental or holiday gatherings. At the same time International Advocacy and Membership Development were over budget and account for the major portion of expenditures for the year, as well as the main activity.

We wish to thank Anne Riz for her work throughout the year and her continued support, as well as for the Bureau and the Committee for its patience and understanding during an unusual and difficult year.

### **Wendi Momen**

NGO CSW Geneva Assistant Treasurer