

# News in Brief

Please send any information you wish to share in the Feb. NIB by the 20<sup>th</sup> of January. Submissions should be copy ready and 75 words or less and may include links to further information.

On November 24<sup>th</sup> the EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva, the UN Women office and UNOG participated in photo shoot to say NO to gender-based violence! They were over 100 people from around 70 permanent missions and organizations. The [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

## NGO CSW Geneva Bureau

### *President*

*Carolyn Handschin*

### *Vice Presidents;*

*Carol McConkie*

*Paula Daepfen*

### *Treasurer*

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### *Secretary*

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*Assistant Secretary*

*Srruthi Lekha*

## NGO CSW Appointees

*Ass. treasurer/ advocacy*

*Berthe de Vos*

### *Web Coordinator*

*Rachel Thibodeaux*

### *Bureau Advisor*

*Stacy Lara*



## Notes from the Bureau

- It has been a busy two months with the Human Rights Council, the Social Forum, CEDAW, Geneva Peace week 2021, and COP26, as well as the acceleration of preparations towards the Commission on the Status of Women in March.
- The Bureau wishes to thank you all for your solidarity and support for each other's written statements. Please send links to your final statements, reports or brief information on events that you hosted to Berthe in an email – one subject per mail with the topic clearly noted in the subject field to [secretariat@ngocsw-geneva.ch](mailto:secretariat@ngocsw-geneva.ch)

## On COP26

"I want to send a message to young people, indigenous communities, women leaders, all those leading on climate action. I know you are disappointed. We are in the fight of our lives and this fight must be won. Never give up. Never retreat. Keep pushing forward. I am with you,"

United Nations Secretary-general Antonio Guterres

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- The Global Youth Conference on the Commission on the Status of Women will be from January 15-16, 2022. Organized by the NGO CSW Geneva, the Bureau is excited about this initiative driven by our young assistant secretary Srruthi Lekha. The Bureau voted and approved a non-budgeted grant of 500 Swiss francs for the conference at their November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. If any of our members would like to make a financial contribution to support the work of the young people with additional financial contributions, please contact Srruthi. More information about the conference can be found under [Events](#).
- Bureau members of NGOCSW Geneva and Vienna have had several meetings to plan our first joint CSW66 Consultation Day. We welcome the input of any of our members willing to commit to work on this event.
- We are currently trying to increase our social media presence. A *LinkedIn* page has been set up for the Committee at: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ngo-csw-geneva/>. We hope to use this page to share LinkedIn posts from member organizations and other pertinent information. In addition, our Youth Group has started sharing information on Instagram at; [ngo\\_csw\\_geneva](#).
- Annual Dues notice – you will soon be receiving an invoice for annual membership dues. Please note that dues must be paid within the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 months of the calendar year.
- We had hoped to hold a Holiday Luncheon once again where we would have the opportunity to get together socially. As the COVID situation has worsened in the past week, travel to Geneva will be difficult or impossible for some. The Bureau feels it would be unwise to hold an official social gathering at this time.
- ***The Bureau sends you all our wishes for a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday season with family and friends.***

## Events

### **Global Youth Conference on the Commission on the Status of Women January 15-16, 2022, organized by the NGO CSW Geneva**

The online conference will simulate the UN CSW with youth representatives from around the world while engaging in an intergenerational conversation. Every member organization is invited to send a delegation of young people (ages 16-30 years) to take part in the conference as individuals or as a delegation of your organization – deadline to register a delegation is December 5. We also invite our members to host side events at the conference in alignment with the topics of the UN CSW 66. Please send any questions or proposals for side events to [s.lekha@wfp.org](mailto:s.lekha@wfp.org) by the 10th of December. The link to register is: <https://forms.gle/fFcBtbExJEccUoDz7>.

The promotional video is available here:

<https://share.vidyard.com/watch/yLZKWpWpvnCeCL62gaWtda?autoplay=1&vyetoken=e2be7721-c040-4b56-b104-09a9b2e35331>

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## Meeting Dates

The next meetings of the NGO CSW Geneva will be:

- January 19, 2022, 14:00 - 16:00
- April 6, 2022, 14:00 – 16:00 **Annual General Meeting**
- June 15, 2022, 14:00 - 16:00

## Member News

### Biovision and COP26

Biovision's Policy and Advocacy team travelled to Glasgow to represent Biovision's position at the United Nations Climate Summit (COP26). They brought along the latest insights into agroecology and climate plus the goal of making sustainable, agroecological agriculture part of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. For a full report of their activities at COP26 and information on their agroecology advocacy visit: <https://www.biovision.ch/en/climate-summit-in-glasgow/>

### Soroptimist International

"Orange Days" are an important event for the Soroptimist international. In each country SI strives to be very active promoting awareness about violence against women, by lighting official buildings in orange and working together with UN Women and other like-minded organizations to bring these actions to the media during the 16 days. On Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup> the two clubs of Soroptimist in Geneva put 25 lanterns in the Lac Lemman in remembering the 25 victims of femicide in Switzerland in 2021. Used hashtags: #OrangeGeneva #OrangeTheWorld #16Days.

### Women's Federation for World Peace International

Carolyn Handschin and Srruthi Lekha were speakers at Geneva Peace Week at the event; Korea DMZ Peace Incubator: Seeding the Future. A Space for Women, Peace and Environment in the Korean Demilitarized Zone". The video is available here: <https://eu.eventscLOUD.com/website/3030/korea-dmz-peace-incubator-seeding-the-future-co-designing-a-space-for-women,-peace-and-environment-in-the-korean-dmz-/>

### FAWCO

FAWCO's, *Human Rights in Focus* conference, November 4-6, 2021, was packed with 20 sessions designed to raise awareness on global human rights issues, highlight the impact of FAWCO programs, provide opportunities for networking, and bring participants face to face with speakers from organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the CNN Freedom Project.

## Task Force Updates

### Climate and Health Task Force

Climate and Health Task Force is planning a parallel event for CSW66 addressing how climate change impacts the rights to food and health for women and girls, and how these impacts can be mitigated and addressed to ensure food on all tables. They have drafted a concept note entitled: *Food on all tables: Ensuring women's rights to food and health in the context of Climate Change* to be submitted with the forum application.

**Gender Terminology Task Force**

Held a panel discussion on November 16. The aim of the meeting was to hear from women from different regions and to share their experience relating to language about women and girls primarily in UN official and treaty language. The task force restated that they believe in equality, justice and the protection of human rights for all and strive to ensure a safe space for opinions to be expressed freely.

**UN / Geneva News****Geneva Peace Week**

Geneva Peace week is a flagship initiative of the Geneva Peace Building Platform in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, UNOG and the Platforms 5 partners. Conversations from the 2021 Geneva Peace Week are available as a video series here:

<https://eu.eventscloud.com/website/3030/digital-series-21/>

**UNESCO Vote on challenges and purposes of education**

UNESCO has launched a global debate on the futures of education and a conversation on how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity and the planet.

Your answers will help UNESCO and the International Commission on the Futures of Education identify priorities. The survey is available here:

<https://en.unesco.org/futuresofeducation/get-involved/top-3-challenges-and-purposes-education>.

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**NGO CSW Geneva**

**[www.ngocsw-geneva.ch](http://www.ngocsw-geneva.ch)**