



Volume 3| Issue 1
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News in Brief

Please send any information you wish to share in the March NIB by the 20th of February to vicepresidents@ngocsw-geneva.ch. Submissions should be copy ready and 75 words or less and may include links to further information.



Our festive holiday luncheon, NGO CSW, Geneva members with our invited guests; Nathalie Fontanet, State Councilor Department of Finance and Human Resources Geneva; Dalia Leinarte, member and former Chair CEDAW; Adriana Quinones, Head of human Rights and Development at UN Women

NGO CSW Geneva Bureau

President

Carolyn Handschin

Vice Presidents

Carol McConkie

Berthe De Vos-Neven

Treasurer

Donatella Benjamin

Assistant Treasurer

Paula Daeppen

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Zarin Hainsworth

NGO CSW Appointees

Web Coordinators

Rachel Thibodeaux and

Amanda Wigfall

Bureau Advisor

Stacy Lara

Notes from the Bureau

President's Message:

Dear members, friends,

As another challenging, but gainful year comes to a close, the NGO CSW in Geneva would like to thank and appreciate our dedicated members and networks of volunteer organizations around the world. For each new obstacle, there are many, ever-growing, and ever-younger numbers who strive creatively and indefatigably to protect and promote the human rights of those around them and build community cohesion and support for the SDGs in the direst of circumstances. We determine in 2023, in our capacities as liaison to the United Nations, to transmit these real solutions to real problems to governments and hope to encourage greater empowerment for women, girls and all in their communities.

Bureau Notes

The NGO CSW Bureau is pleased to welcome 2 new *Active Member* organizations;

- Regards de femmes, www.regardsdefemmes.fr
- National Board of Catholic Women, <https://www.nbcw.co.uk>

We also welcome a new Associate Member organization

- *Centre de Liaison de Associations Feminines Genevoises*, <https://www.clafg.ch/>

Reminder to pay Annual Dues

Don't forget that member annual dues are payable now. Dues must be paid in full for organizations to vote and participate at the AGM on February 8, 2023. See how to become a member or pay dues [here](#).

Next Meetings of the NGO CSW Geneva

- AGM - February 8, 2023 1:00 pm CET (Location to be determined)
- Consultation Day - February 28, 2023, 4:00pm – 6:00 pm CET (Virtual)

UN News and Events

Human Rights Day 2022

Dec 10th 2022 marked the 22th anniversary of the Human Rights Day. This year's theme has been defined as "Dignity, Freedom and Justice for all and the call to action is "StandUp4HumanRights". The 75th anniversary celebration will be marked throughout 2023 with multi events (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/get-involved/campaign/human-rights-day>)



Stacy Lara, Adrianna Quinones – UN Women, Carolyn Handschin and Donatella Benjamin celebrating in orange at the start of 16 days of activism

Commission on the Status of Women

The upcoming Commission on the Status of Women (**CSW67**) 5 - 17 March in NYC has defined its priority theme for 2023: “*Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*”. To register:

https://whova.com/portal/registration/ngocs1_202303/?mc_cid=ba9af3ccd4&mc_eid=c12a04a2ab

Important dates at the UNOG:

- Jan 10th 2023: WHO Council: Economics of Health for all (hybrid)
- Jan 11th 2023: HRC: Organizational meeting for UPR (UNOG)
- Jan 16 - Feb 3rd 2023: 92nd session CRC (UNOG)
- Jan 19th: 5th intersessional meeting of HRC on HR & 2030 Agenda (UNOG)
- Jan 23rd - Feb 3rd: 42nd UPR Working Group (UNOG)
- Feb 6th - Feb 24th: 84th session CEDAW (UNOG)
- Feb 27th - March 31st: 52th session of the HRC (UNOG)
- March 5th - March 17th: CSW67 (UNONY)
- March 27 - March 31: Pres-sessional Working Group CRPD (UNOG)
- March 28th: UNECE-RCEM: Civil Society engagement(UNOG)
- March 29-30 2023: UNECE (UNOG & hybrid) - Civil Society engagement (UNOG) May 8 - 19: 85th session CEDAW (hybrid & UNOG)
- June 5-16, 2023: 111st session of ILC (hybrid & UNOG)

Calendar UNONY:

- March 5 - 17, 2023: CSW67 (hybrid & UNONY)
- July 10-19, 2023: HLPF 2023 (hybrid & UNONY)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - MARCH 8

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. For over a century, International Women's Day on March 8 has provided an important opportunity to campaign for change. IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not country, group or organization specific.

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com>

CEDAW's upcoming half-day of general discussion on “Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems”,

scheduled for 20 February 2023. Written submissions are due **14 February 2023**.

CRC is currently drafting a general comment on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change. The **states' submissions on the concept note**, the **findings of consultations with 7,416 children from 103 countries**, and an **analysis of feedback from the general public and from thematic workshops**.

The Committee now invites **all interested stakeholders** to comment on its draft general comment before **February 15th, 2023**.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/call-comments-draft-general-comment-childrens-rights-and-environment-special>.

CRPD's day of general discussion with a regional focus on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies, scheduled for 16, 17, and 20 March 2023. Written submissions are due **15 February 2023**.

Member News

International Alliance of Women (IAW)

39th Congress in November 2022: the IAW elected Alison Brown of the United States as its new president. Miranda Ruzario, South Africa, was elected Secretary General, and Antonia Lavine, USA, was re-elected Treasurer.

The IAW is represented at the United Nations in Geneva by its previous members, Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand (Switzerland, Main Representative), Derya Akinci Briand (Turkey), Dr. Laoura Alipranti (Greece), Sanja Jeraj (Germany) and newly Dr. Ernestine Ngo Melha (Cameroon/France).

<https://www.womenalliance.org/>

Soroptimist International (SI)

The Rights of Women & Girls - statement: As the protests across Iran continue, Soroptimist International is concerned that this is just one example of the human rights of women and girls being suppressed in many countries. SI opposes such violations of human rights and calls on all Governments to cease state-controlled violence against unarmed women and girls immediately, and to comply with international laws protecting the right to freedom of expression and elimination of gender discrimination.

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/soroptimist-international-statement-the-rights-of-women-and-girls/>

Women's Federation for World Peace International

Hosted a Youth Advocacy Training during the Human Rights Council Social Forum in November with 11 international participants, all of whom could engage with experts and prepare statements.

- WFWPI Office for **United Nations Relations Winter Quarterly Newsletter**.
- Six Graduates of the 3rd WFWPI Human Rights Internship program presented their academic papers publicly on November 25.

FAWCO

Many of the factors that make women vulnerable to Gender Based Violence

are similar to the root causes of human trafficking and serve as a driver and a tool to manipulate and control women and children. The FAWCO website provides an insight on the role of GBV in victim vulnerability with recommendations for informative reading.

- [Eleven books](#) to create awareness to eliminate violence against women
- [Five human trafficking books everyone should read](#)

Biovision Foundation – Nutrition Policy for Switzerland

Creating a more sustainable food system is an urgent task for all of society. A citizens' council, randomly composed to represent the views of the Swiss public, was carried out supported by Biovision, the Sustainable Development Solution Network Switzerland and Landwirtschaft mit Zukunft.

- [The detailed recommendations of the Swiss Citizens' Council for Food Policy are available in German, French and Italian on the website of the Citizens' Council.](#)

Resources

[Earth, oceans and skies: insights from selected, outstanding African women scientists](#)

A book by the UN Economic Commission for Africa available for download. The scientists featured in Earth, Oceans and Skies include pathbreakers and torchbearers, the rebels and the daring, the down-to-earth and the sky-reachers, the prominent and the gems under the radar, the risk-takers and the judicious.

[Gender-related killings of women and girls \(femicide/feminicide\)](#)

UN Women recently released a report on gender-related killings of women and girls, or “**femicide**.” In 2021, it says that an estimated 45,000 women and girls were murdered by “intimate partners or other family members,” meaning that more than five women and girls die every hour worldwide by someone they know.