



Volume 3| Issue 5
October, 2023

News in Brief

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

NGO CSW Geneva Bureau

President

Carolyn Handschin

Vice Presidents

Carol McConkie

Berthe De Vos-Neven

Treasurer

Donatella Benjamin

Assistant Treasurer

Paula Daeppen

Secretary

Zarin Hainsworth

NGO CSW Appointees

Web Coordinators

Rachel Thibodeaux and

Amanda Wigfall

Bureau Advisor

Stacy Lara



Béatrice Ferrari, Berthe De Vos, Alfonso Gomez, Carolyn Handschin, Sibylle Von Heydebrand.(left to right) Photos Michel Matthey de l'Etang, Muttenz (Switzerland).

Notes from the Bureau

Message from the President:

Dear Committee members,

As many of you witnessed, our long-planned, historic 50-year anniversary was celebrated in splendor at the Palais Eynard, hosted by the City and Canton of Geneva on International Day of Peace, and surrounded by almost 100 international and local dignitaries, and friends. Ceremonial messages were received from the UN Director General, and other key partnering UN and government entities. **Please visit our website for more information.**

Yet, for me, the highlight of the day was listening to our own remarkable members, ranging from 21 to 100 years. Together we relived our history and explored sometimes brilliant solutions to both time-worn and emerging issues, side-by-side, with government and the United Nations partners- as we should be doing.

A special “thank you” to our outstanding event Coordinator, Dr. Sibylle Von Heydebrand!

Bureau notes

New Members

We are pleased to welcome 3 new members:

- MARTA Centrs, Latvia. They have had Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC since 2022. Their Geneva representatives are Iluta Lace and Beata Jonite. Visit their website at <http://marta.lv>.
- Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)". They have had special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947. Their representative is Nick Newland. Visit their website; <https://acww.org.uk/>.
- International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers - IFS. They have had General Consultative status with ECOSOC since 1998 and are represented by Annika Svensson and Junias Kanyinda. Visit their website at <https://ifsnetwork.org/>

The NGO CSW Geneva Circle of Honor: Recognizes distinguished service to the NGO CSW Geneva and dedication to the promotion of human rights and the empowerment of women and girls. At the August 30 Committee meeting, it was voted to present this award to Edith Ballantyne (WILPF). As we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2023, we are pleased to have the continued involvement of a founding member of the NGO CSW Geneva, who is as inspiring today as she was 50 years ago. Read about Edith and our other Circle of Honor recipients on our website; <https://ngocsw-geneva.ch/about-us/circle-of-honor/>

Next Meetings of the NGO CSW Geneva

- October 18, 2023 1:00 pm CET

UN News and Events



'All of Us' by Saype

Near UN in Geneva, giant fresco advocates for world without weapons

Just across the street from the **United Nations Office at Geneva**, SAYPE has created a giant new fresco, called "All of Us", intended to draw attention to the plight of civilians in armed conflicts.

Working with **Handicap International Suisse - Schweiz**, the artist painted a gigantic hand on a grass canvas using chalk and coal that can be seen repairing the iconic Broken Chair. "The idea was to paint a hand that comes to fix the broken leg, caused by landmines," explains SAYPE.

UN Women - Executive Director Sima Bahous: [Statement on Afghanistan by UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

August 15, 2023 - It is now two years since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, during which time it has imposed the most comprehensive, systematic, and unparalleled assault on the rights of women and girls. Through more than 50 edicts, orders, and restrictions, the Taliban have left no aspect of women's lives untouched, no freedom spared. They have created a system founded on the mass oppression of women that is rightly and widely considered gender apartheid.

HR 75th anniversary: Human Rights 75 Pledges and Vision on the Future of Human - Rights Guidance for Civil Society

Organisations:

Human Rights 75 pledges are commitments to take a specific action, with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights. All pledges will be made public in December 2023. To read more about the pledges initiative click [here](#) and to submit a pledge click [here](#)

Activities during HRC 54 (11 September – 13 October 2023)

- **Statements:**

- GWI: "[Harness Sport's Potential and Positive Impact on Women and Girls Education](#)" - Co-sponsoring: ICW, SI, Zonta, WFWPI, Australian Graduate Women Inc, FAWCO, Latter-day Saints, Mother's Legacy Project, Women Graduates-USA, WRI, and WUNRN.
- WFWPI: "[Trafficking in Men and Boys, Detrimental Impacts and Rebuilding Lives](#)" & "[Role of Youth in Peace](#)" - both co-signed by the NGO CSW Geneva
- INPEA: "Violence, abuse and neglect against older persons" Written Statement by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder abuse.

- **Events:**

- Parallel event organized by WFWPI: "An interactive Dialogue on Reforms in International Development Cooperation through a Right to Development Perspective" on Sept 11th, 2023
- Parallel events organized by the NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva and co-sponsored by Soroptimist International: "Climate change induced disasters: Older persons' preparedness and response to build forward better" on Sept 28th, 2023 (on the occasion of the International Day on Older Persons IDOP)

Important dates at the UNOG:

- 1 October International Day of Older Persons
- 11 October International Day of the Girl
- 10 October World Mental Health Day
- 24 October United Nations Day
- 29 October International Day of Care & Support
- 25 November International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women

Member News

Graduate Women International (GWI)

Graduate Women International (GWI) submitted a written statement to the Human Rights Council 54th session calling on states to harness the positive impact of sport on women and girls when integrated without bias into education systems. The statement calls attention to the intersectionality

between various United Nations resolutions, mechanisms, and treaties that exemplify sport's positive impact on education. GWI aims to motivate States to increase support and funding for women and girls in sports by highlighting examples of remarkable role models.

FAWCO

75 Years of the UDHR Wednesday, October 4 at 6 pm CET

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a global blueprint for international, national and local laws and policies as well as the bedrock of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. You are invited to join our webinar as we discuss FAWCO's past and present involvement with the UDHR and our continued push for gender equality through the SDGs. To join contact Paula Daeppen

WFWPI

WFWPI UN Office Geneva hosted a side event at the HRC54 on "Reforming International Development Cooperation with a Right to Development Perspective-co sponsored by NGO CSW-GE. Ambassador, Head of NAM, OHCHR, South Center, WFWPI were speakers. UN Office Director invited by OHCHR to return for another speaking slot at their R2Dev event days later. Srruthi Elango attended/intervened at the WTO Public Forum 2023.



Group in front of Palais Eynard taken during the 50th Anniversary celebration event of NGOCSW Geneva