



Volume 3| Issue 6
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News in Brief

Please send any information you wish to share in the February NIB by the 20th of January 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

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Notes from the Bureau

Message from the President:

Dear Committee members,

In closing this full and strenuous year, with important achievements along the way, I would like to thank you for your strength and dedication to peace against so many challenges. Our NGO chapters are responding to war, poverty, natural disasters and environmental concerns, injustices, loneliness and inequalities around the world, while not abandoning prevention and reconciliation. I can only marvel at their creativity and courage.

Our continued solidarity around these issues and the multiple opportunities coming up in 2024-25 for us to put our best efforts together in advocacy and impact will be our agenda. Let's do better. With best wishes and blessings to you and your families for the holidays and new year!

Bureau notes

We are pleased to welcome a new member Dianova International. They have had special consultative status with ECOSOC since 2007. The organization supports the development of activities aimed at improving people's lives in 19 countries on four continents. Their main representative is Lucia Goberna. Visit their website here: <https://www.dianova.org/>

NGO CSW President was invited as a speaker at the Panel on "Women's Participation in Development: Promoting Gender Equality, Good Practices, Opportunities and Challenges" for the 8th Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development building upon our consistent presence and engagement in earlier sessions. <https://bit.ly/40VFSDo>

Next Meetings of the NGO CSW Geneva

December 6th, 2023 12:30 pm CET – NGOCSW Holiday Luncheon

December 11th, 2023 2:00 pm CET – NGOCSW Virtual 50th

Anniversary event

January 24th, 2024 1:00 pm CET – NGOCSW Committee meeting

UN News and Events

United Nations:

- **International Human Right Day:** December 10th: 75th anniversary of the universal declaration of Human Rights. Events will be held on December 11th and 12th at the UNOG. This event can be followed online or in person.
 - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2023/human-rights-75-high-level-event>.

- To register:
<https://wtvglobal.6connex.eu/event/HumanRights75/register>
- **Human Rights 75 Pledges** and Vision on the Future of Human Rights: Guidance for Civil Society:
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](#)
To submit a pledge click [here](#)
- **HRC:** 55th session will start from February 26th until April 5th
(<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc55>)
- **CEDAW:**
 - statement on the situation in Gaza/Israel, October 27th, 2023: **The cause of peace is the cause of women** ([the-cause-peace-is-cause-women.docx](#))
 - the 87th session will start from January 19th - February 10th at the UNOG
(https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2705&Lang=en)
- **CRC:** 95th session will start on January 15th - February 2nd, 2024 in the Palais Wilson
(https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2683&Lang=en)
- **UN Women Geneva office:**
Ms. Osnat Lubrani, the Acting Director of UN-Women's Geneva Office and Head of its Humanitarian Section
"Gender equality: the key to unlock the 17 SGGs":
<https://untoday.org/gender-equality-the-key-to-unlock-the-17-sdgs/>
- **FAO :** The State of Food and Agriculture, the true cost of food: FAO's report reveals that the food we eat, from soil to spoil, is laden with hidden costs and documents the need to transform our agri-food systems. Download the report here;
<https://www.fao.org/3/cc7724en/cc7724en.pdf>

Important dates at the UNOG:

- December 1st, World AIDS Day
- December 3rd, International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 10th, Human Rights Day
- January 24th, International Day of Education

CSW68: March 11th – 22nd 2024:

- **Member States:** ([Member States | Commission on the Status of Women | UN Women – Headquarters](#)): 45 Member States serve as members and are elected for 4 years. The Commission consists of one representative from each of the 45 Member States elected by the

EcoSoc on the basis of equitable geographical distribution: (**Current members of the Commission**)

- 13 members (Africa)
- 11 (Asia)
- 9 (Latin America/Caribbean)
- 8 (Western Europe and other States)
- 4 (Eastern Europe)
- Info **parallel events** at CSW68: The official channel for the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York. NGO CSW/NY facilitates a platform for the voices and leadership of feminists and women's rights organizations globally to lobby for their inclusion in the UN deliberations in pursuit of gender equality (<http://www.youtube.com/c/NGOCSWNY>).
- The in-person **Artisan Fair** is a space where artisans from around the globe can sell their goods to thousands of NGO CSW68 Forum participants. Event will take place from Tuesday, 12 March through Thursday, 14 March 2024 at 10am - 5pm each day at the Armenian Convention Center (ACC). Deadline to register January 19th 2024: https://ngocsw.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/ngocsw/event.jsp?event=688&mc_cid=847e14c39a&mc_eid=ef45685271

Member News

FAWCO

FAWCO's UN Liaison Bulletin, with the title Humanity, Persistence and Courage comes at a time of devastating conflicts in Sudan, Ukraine, Gaza-Israel, Armenia-Azerbaijan. Lives lost and displaced. Gender apartheid in Afghanistan where women and girls are denied education and work. Liberties restricted. The bulletin includes valuable information and links to resources on gender, the UDHR, SDGs, migration, CSW68, education and much more. Read the bulletin here; <https://bit.ly/473RiqZ>.

BIOVISION FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

On November 18, over 600 guests attended the annual Biovision Symposium to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our foundation and discuss the greatest challenges and opportunities for a sustainable future. The invited guests were able to listen to exciting presentations that showed how and where Biovision is working to change our food systems around the world. If you missed the event you can view the recording here:

<https://www.biovision.ch/en/story/symposium2023-rewind/>

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL (SI)

Our latest Quadrennial Brochure:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/frwvm/npmp/#p=1>

Annually we support 16 Days of Activism against GBV, 25 November - 10 December. We are developing a campaign for all five Federations: "**Wired for Change: Tech's Impact on Gender-Based Abuse**". As part of the SI annual campaign against violence "Read the Signs", the SI Europe hosts the webinar "Girls on the Internet & Mental Health" Dec 10th at 4:00pm CET. Guest speaker, Caroline Engvall, author & founder of Safe Selfie Academy. Info and registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtd--tqz4jEtwEhfrmemt8K_1zCEC6dRsL#/

WIDOWS RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL (WRI)

WRI continues advocacy for widows globally hosting two virtual events during 16 days of activism. WRI partners shared their work for widows and their families: their achievements, gaps and challenges. On 25th November we heard from organizations working in India, Kenya, Tanzania and across the Commonwealth and on 11 December from Algeria, Kenya and organizations working globally.

LATTER-DAY SAINT CHARITIES (LDSC)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and [Water for People](#) are working with the government of Rwanda to install water systems for tens of thousands of people in Gicumbi District.

<https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/having-water-is-like-a-dream-in-rwanda>

We are launching a global effort to improve the health and development of children under 5 and their mothers, to improve access to nutrition, immunizations, and maternal and newborn care

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/serve/caring/child-nutrition?lang=eng&cid=rdb_v_childnutrition

WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH (WFMH)

WFMH celebrated 75 years with an event “75 Years Of Mental Health Advocacy : Achievements, Challenges And The Future” on 17 November 2023 at the Centre Ecumenique, generously hosted by the World Council of Churches. WHO and other UN staff joined the 100 delegates, local and international, present in person and 400 online. Reports from the global regions noted the increasing challenges to mental health and well-being because of climate and environmental change and ageing populations. Preliminary commitments were made to tackle these issues through the strengthening of existing partnerships. <https://wmhdoofficial.com/>



WOMEN'S FEDERATION FOR WORLD PEACE, INTL

October and November were busy months: the annual Youth Peace conference was held ([YPC 2023](#)) where a Peace Accord was agreed. HRC annual Social Forum was an opportunity to bring 14 participants to Geneva, offer our UN Advocacy Training program, and work with them to prepare oral statements on crosscutting issues from their regions. Engagement at the 8th

Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development offered many opportunities to intervene from the floor and meet with OHCHR and experts. Reports soon at: <https://www.wfwp.org/geneva>,

GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL marks 16 Days of Activism with poster campaign

To mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Graduate Women International (GWI) published the "UNITE: Educate to End Violence against Women and Girls" social media campaign comprised of posters from GWI membership worldwide as inspiration and reflection related to GBV, gender equality, and education. It's never too late to raise awareness about GBV, its root causes and to advocate against it. The GWI "UNITE: Educate to End Violence against Women and Girls" campaign can be downloaded https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Graduate-Women-International-2023-16-Days-of-Activism-against-GBV-poster-campaing_FINAL-HR_compressed.pdf.

Advocacy Statements

- CSW68:
 - **SI:** [CSW68-Soroptimist-International-Written-Statement-Submitted-13-Oct-2023.pdf \(soroptimistinternational.org\)](#)
 - **WRI:** <https://ngocsw-geneva.ch/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/WRI-CSW68-Statement.pdf>
 - **WRI:** https://www.widowsrights.net/_files/ugd/f3f376_8ce0c8d9ad584700bc258df3ebc74b06.pdf
- ScoDoc62:
 - **SI:** written statement: [CSocD62-Soroptimist-International-Written-Statement-Submitted-6-November-2023.pdf \(soroptimistinternational.org\)](#)
- Others:
 - **WRI:**
 - Theory of change: https://www.widowsrights.net/_files/ugd/f3f376_78c88477b94041a7894a7857af3f7535.pdf
 - Statement on situation in Gaza https://www.widowsrights.net/_files/ugd/f3f376_62ea94881ff340d8994a06cb537cfdd0.pdf
 - Widows in the UK https://www.widowsrights.net/_files/ugd/f3f376_62ea94881ff340d8994a06cb537cfdd0.pdf
 - Pension poverty https://www.widowsrights.net/_files/ugd/f3f376_6413dbda7fa446e08c3e8d0e595f140b.pdf