

NGO Committee on the Status of Women-Geneva

*Women's Rights Advocates in International Geneva,
The Heart of Human Rights and Service to Humanity*

CSW68 Consultation Day – Geneva

“Nourishing Equality and Peace: Addressing Poverty and Food Insecurity”

A Call to Action

Preamble

Building on the debates and recommendations around the 68th Commission on the Status of Women Priority theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all woman and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective,

Aware that decades of effort and decisions by governments, institutions and civil society to resolve impediments to development and peace have not solved the issues, Convinced that, although woman and girls suffer most from any shortfall in food and services, they are also key resources in turning the situation around,

Deciding to focus on four critical aspects of this theme: access to education, healthy nutrition, health and well-being and a clean and peaceful environment,

Determined to find common ground and innovative solutions through collaboration for joint and synergetic actions to bring us closer to the realization of our goal, ending poverty and ensuring food security for all,

Therefore: All stakeholders must do their part, individually and collectively, locally, nationally, regionally, and globally, to ensure that the way poverty is addressed benefits women and girls. Their access to nutrition, health, safe environment, and education must be brought on a par with all others to nourish a climate of justice and fairness conducive to peace.

Call to Action

To achieve this goal,

As civil society stakeholders, we commit to:

- Work locally, nationally, regionally and globally, in partnership with each other, with UN entities, and Member States to fulfill the mandate of the Human Rights Council and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- Promote a human rights-based approach *that corrects inequality* towards fair access for women and girls to education, healthy food, health and well-being and a peaceful and clean environment;
- Share good practices, expertise and information to facilitate the fulfillment of human rights obligations of the State and local, national, regional and international entities that improve women and girls' enjoyment of a safe, healthy, nature and culture friendly environment;

Secretariat, NGO CSW Geneva / co WFWPI

Rue Anne Torcapel 10, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

+41 (0)21 7288812

+41 (0)79 250 3477

www.ngocsw-geneva.ch

secretariat@ngocsw-geneva.ch

c.handschin@wfwpi.org

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- To use the CEDAW listed rights of women and girls as a guideline and diplomatic tool to strengthen partnerships between civil society and government and advance a women's and girls' rights-based approach to poverty reduction and food security policies to ensure the existing extra burden on women and girls is lifted.

We call upon member states to:

- Increase the number of women in leadership and management roles at all levels, including formal public professional positions, to give them a formal say in policies on access to education, health, a safe and clean environment and adequate nutrition for their wellbeing and for peace and security for all;
- Fulfill their human rights obligations and commitments towards women and girls through strategic collaboration based on trust of and respect for civil society and ensuring women receive fair compensation for all forms of work.
- Recognize the need for collaborative partnerships, creating an enabling environment that builds, maintains, strengthens, and nurtures alliances and fosters constructive collaboration between men and women in solidarity and respect.
- Commit to the human rights education for men and boys on gender equality and that gender-based violence against women and girls is a criminal offense in all circumstances;
- Protect the rights of those who are most vulnerable to poverty and hunger, with limited or no access to education, adequate nutrition, and well-being, *living in an environment that challenges mental and physical health*, such as women and girls of indigenous and voiceless communities, older women, displaced and migrant women, and those with disabilities and provide abundant assistance that goes beyond mere survival in inhumane conditions.
- Prioritize diplomatic, negotiated solutions over militarisation of conflicts.
- Enhance poverty reduction and food security measures that are sensitive to the special needs of women and girls to build a sustainable foundation for lasting peace.
- Encourage women to take active responsibility in the modern food producing sector.

We, as Women's Rights Advocates in International Geneva, support and will do all we can for women and girls' equal access to education, healthy nutrition, health and wellbeing, and a clean and safe environment, so that all human beings may live with food security and peace, the fundamental rights of all human beings, the true vocation of humanity.

NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva
Switzerland
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