



President's Message

Dear NGO CSW Geneva Members,

Greetings from Geneva. During these sweltering summer days, my thoughts turn to those without shelter—people living on the streets or in the countryside, so vulnerable to extreme conditions like heat. As advocates for the vulnerable, we remember those who are alone, neglected, without a roof, clean water, warm clothing, or access to care, often traumatized by conflict. The United Nations may be the world's hub, but we are the eyes, ears, and voice for those at the margins. When those links are severed, everyone loses.

The so-called UN Liquidity Crisis reforms are about more than infrastructure or support for Special Rapporteurs. When cuts happen, those furthest away become expendable unless there are advocates—those with direct access, insight, and the resolve to defend them. In our recent committee discussions, it became clear: we must claim our role as trustworthy UN partners and insist on being consulted before decisions are made. We understand both

our governments' responsibilities and the struggles of the disenfranchised. We cannot afford to wait for an invitation, but should make ourselves indispensable through our concerted action.

Your ideas, insights and participation are very welcome.



News from the Bureau

In Memoriam: Edith Ballantyne

We are sad to report that Edith Ballantyne passed away in March 2025 at the age of 102. Edith was a constant force throughout the Committee's history, recognizing that disarmament and peace are very much a woman's business and advocating for women as peace makers with an important role to play in conflict resolution. She was a recipient of the NGO CSW Geneva's Circle of Honor, which recognizes distinguished service to the NGO CSW Geneva and dedication to the promotion of human rights and the empowerment of women and girls. We will not forget her lifelong passion and advocacy for social justice, women's rights and all human rights. Her tremendous energy and sharp intellect had a profound impact on lives and on the issues and causes for which she fought. <https://ngocsw-geneva.ch/about-us/circle-of-honor/>

Member News

Biovision Foundation

The Biovision Annual Report offers insights into our work, people and partnerships driving change. One of our impact numbers: 14,188,990 people reached by Biovision in sub-Saharan Africa via our radio, newspapers and web platforms providing them with information on agroecology and health. Read more about our impact here: <https://bit.ly/BiovisionAnnualReport>

Hans Herren, Biovision founder and President has been nominated as a "Top 30 Sustainable Shaper 2025" by the NZZ Switzerland, celebrating pioneers and changemakers driving sustainability.

BPW International

At FfD4 in Seville, Spain, BPW International co-hosted a side event with Bagmati UNESCO Club and UN MGCY's Youth Constituency. Keynote speaker Dr. Jenny Elmaco, BPW's UN Vienna and UNESCO representative, framed women and youth as tomorrow's "mass-income

engine,” urging gender-parity governance, Doughnut Economics safeguards, and clean-powered, youth-led AI. From 30 June to 3 July 2025, BPW participated in panels on gender budgeting, youth engagement, and building gender-just, climate finance alliances beyond Andalusia into global efforts.



4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT
SEVILLA 2025

FFD4 [SIDE EVENT]
[Youths as Architects of Equitable Financing:
Local Innovations, Global Impact]
FIBES 2 | [1st July, 2025] | [8:30-10:00 A.M.]



Er. Nishchal Baniya
Chairman, Board of Directors
Bagmati UNESCO Club



Ms. Savyata Poudel
Co-Chair, Board of Directors
Bagmati UNESCO Club



Dr. Jenny Lind Elmaco
Permanent Rep. to UN Vienna and UNESCO
BPW International

The side event will feature

- Launch of a Digital Archive for Cultural Heritage Protection by Bagmati UNESCO Club
- Panel Discussion on Women in Entrepreneurship and Local Innovation at LDC's
- Story Telling and Product Exhibition: Leaf Plus Private Limited







Chaired by Mr. Nishchal Baniya, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Bagmati UNESCO Club, the session brought together a distinguished panel of experts. Attendees enjoyed inspiring keynote addresses from Dr. Jenny Elmaco, UN Main Representative to UNESCO and UN Vienna for BPW International, and Mr. Adonis Cortes from the Youth Engagement

Platform of UNOPS. They were joined by Mr. Emanuel Ohiri, Development Strategist from the FfD4 Youth Constituency of UN MGCY, for a dynamic panel discussion and engaging presentations. The session was skillfully moderated by Ms. Nakita from the FfD4 Youth Constituency of UN MGCY.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM)

MMM has been rolling out the results of its State of Motherhood in Europe 2024 survey, which gathers insights from 9600 mothers across 12 European countries, to feed our advocacy at the EU. At the UN, MMM actively participated in HRC59, notably arguing at an event that gender equality begins in families, with a more equitable sharing of care. We were also at FfD4 in Seville, as Financing for Development matters for women's rights.



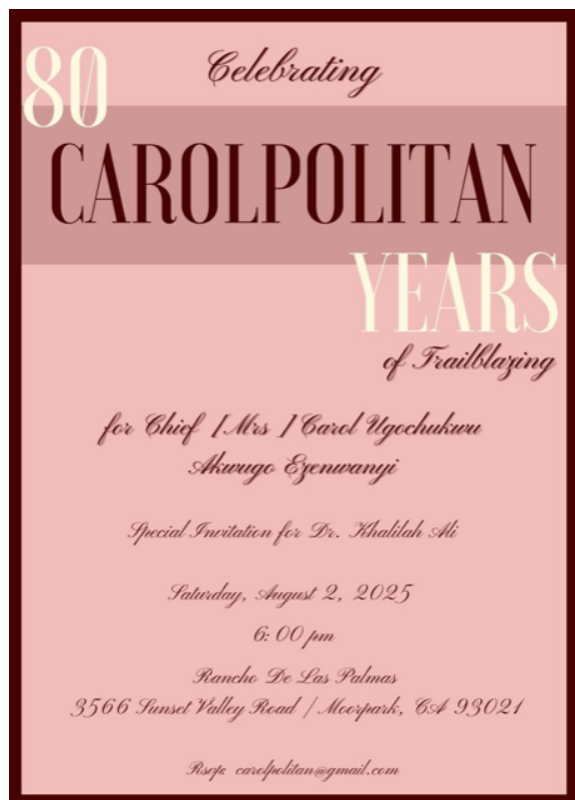
MMM Vice President Valérie Bichelmeier (L) & MMM Projects Manager Angela Garcia (R)

Links:

- State of motherhood in Europe: <https://makemothersmatter.org/mmm-state-of-motherhood-in-europe-2024/>
- MMM actively participated in HRC59: <https://makemothersmatter.org/empowering-mothers-advancing-rights-mmm-at-hrc59/>
- We were also at FfD4: <https://makemothersmatter.org/financing-for-development-time-to-invest-in-care-and-wellbeing/>
- Financing for Development matters for women's rights: <https://makemothersmatter.org/financing-for-development-matters-for-mothers/>

Mothers Legacy Project

The Mothers Legacy Project International Vice President, Afton Beutler Reed, and people from many places in the global community gathered in California, USA to honor Carol Ugochukwu for the many development projects in her rural village in Nigeria. These projects



included building a bridge, sponsoring a vocational school for boys and older women, as well as the ongoing building of a library and cultural center.

Laetitia van Haren, Geneva UN CSW representative, held a meeting of SAHFA where she proposed Vanessa Hildephone Njunwa, a young Tanzanian lawyer, as the next President. Vanessa was approved as president-designate by the General Assembly.

Soroptimist International (SI)

SI has just published their annual report of 2024, including the award projects of the Federations as well as the work of the Representatives in the 7 UN Centers (<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/library/annual-report-2024-2/>).

International Day of Peace: Soroptimist International Europe reaffirms its mission to improve women's and girls' lives, rooted in peace, dignity, and justice. In line with UN Resolution 1325, CEDAW, and humanitarian law, it voices solidarity with civilians suffering from war, calls for protection from gender-based violence, access to essentials, and women's participation in peacebuilding. Honouring humanitarian workers, it urges urgent action, accountability, and global solidarity. Peace means justice, safety, and dignity for all — guiding their continued work with compassion and hope. (<https://www.soroptimisteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/sie-statement-solidarity-for-peace-and-human-dignity-website-en.pdf>)

SI submissions to the UN:

HLPF: local action, human rights, and gender equality, championed and reported by Soroptimist International, align with the 2030 Agenda's pledge to leave no one behind. With

under five years remaining, SDG progress is uneven, demanding evidence-based policies. All women and girls must be empowered to lead. The 2025 HLPF should review progress, confront gaps, and deliver solutions. Strong will, cooperation with major groups, and dismantling structural discrimination are essential to counter conflict, instability, and climate threats while upholding human rights obligations (<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/library/hlpf-report-2025-2/>)

SI contributions to the “Call for submissions for Open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child” of the Working Group on an optional protocol to the CRC (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-submissions-open-ended-intergovernmental-working-group-optional-protocol>) and will participate in the intergovernmental working group in September 2025.

Widows Rights International (WRI)

As a result of our seminar on widows in October 2024 in the Palais des Nations, we are now in contact with many more organisations working with widows around the world. WRI continues to develop these partnerships. It is heartening to hear of the tremendous work undertaken around the world. WRI hosted an event in June at the HRC and at CAGI, together with SI and LDSC and NGO CSW Geneva.

Women’s Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI)

WFWPI successfully closed the HRC59 Leadership Advocacy Training (LAT) with 10 young professionals from 7 nations. The LAT is a regular series that includes weekend seminars with invited HR experts and in-person participation at Council and CSW sessions. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T83XB-F_7VLVHNQUYLiqo-VxCOjd73ij/view?usp=drivesdk

Events at the HLPF and UNOV.

HRC59 Side event on June 29 with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women:

<https://www.wfwp.org/latest-un-news/hrc59-side-event-domestic-violence>



HRC 59 Side event: WFWPI supported by NGO CSW Geneva and WRI: Speakers: SR on VaW, UNODC, Amb of Indonesia, Amb of Samoa, Graduate Institute, WRI, WFWPI.

Upcoming events include: Conference at UN Geneva on October 16 on “No Peace without Women / No More War”; LATraining HRC60 program September 7-8.

Silver Lining for the Needy Initiative (SLNI)



On June 23, 2025, during the 59th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC59), SLNI hosted a side event marking International Widows Day at CAGI, Geneva, titled “Advancing Human Rights Through Adult Literacy for Inclusion and Development.” The session highlighted adult literacy as a pathway to dignity, empowerment, and inclusion, particularly for widows. Panelists from diverse sectors emphasized the role of literacy in advancing gender equity, economic empowerment, legal access, and public health. Participants shared personal

stories, affirming that “literacy is dignity—it allows you to be heard and to contribute.” Key outcomes included calls to recognize adult literacy as a human right, expand women-led literacy programs, and foster inclusive, safe learning spaces. The event reaffirmed SLNI’s commitment to grassroots-driven solutions that advance human rights and empower marginalized women. Read more here: <https://slni.org/advancing-human-rights-through-adult-literacy-for-inclusion-and-development/>

UN News

FAO - The State of Food and Agriculture 2024

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd2616en>

This report is a comprehensive annual overview of topics. It lays strong emphasis on emerging development areas, such as agrifood systems and digital technologies in agriculture. Uncovering the true cost of food is the first step in making agrifood systems more inclusive, resilient and sustainable. Strategic action is necessary, and all agrifood systems actors – from producers and agribusinesses to consumers and governments – have a crucial role to play.

UNDP

The Climate Dictionary: An everyday guide to climate change

The UNDP has created an excellent guide as a resource of climate terms and concepts. Climate change is the defining issue of our times. <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/climate-dictionary-everyday-guide-climate-change>

Youth reporting:

International Youth Day, celebrated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on 12 August 2025, Vienna, Austria: This year, the UNODC organised a webinar engaging Youth in UNODC’s work in the UN system. The opening focused on the UNODC missions and their functions. Awareness of how to contribute to Global Peace and Security by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism was raised. Furthermore, small groups of discussions gave feedback about the “Value Add” of Youth at UNODC over the last four years (2021-2025). For instance, meaningful actions such as the Ambassadeur Numérique and WiCE (Women in Cybersecurity Education) programs offer free cybersecurity training to young people—especially young women aged 20 to 25—across multiple African countries. There are some key takeaways to remember from this celebration. UNODC is working across thematic areas with youths and advocating for a safer world for youths.

Also, a report was made concerning the youth empowerment accelerator framework maps. (Report from Naïda Ugan, intern WFWPI).

UNOG Dates:

- CRC, 100th session: cancelled due to liquidity issues – postponed to January 12, 2026
- HRC, 60th session: September 8 – October 3

- International Equal Pay Day: September 18
 - International Day of Peace: September 21
 - International Day of Older Persons: October 1
 - CEDAW, 92nd session: cancelled due to liquidity issues – postponed to February 2, 2026
 - World Mental Health Day: October 10
 - International Day of the Girl Child: October 11
 - Geneva Peace Week: October 13 to 17
 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: October 17
 - UN Day: October 24
 - International Day of Care and Support: October 29
 - Social Forum: “Contribution of education to the respect, promotion and fulfillment of all Human Rights for all”: October 30 – 31
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Thank you for reading!