



President's Message

Dear NGO CSW Geneva Members,

Wishing you good fortune, abundant opportunity, and strong vitality as we begin the new year. Thank you, in advance, for the ways we will once again bring our good minds together in 2026. Yes, this is a time of profound insecurity and volatility—but together we can reassure the world, and one another, of our steadfast commitment to peace, human rights principles and to the enduring benefits of collaboration.

Everything we have accomplished provides a firm foundation on which to build. Our remarkable Beijing+30 network and publications; our active working groups and high-level correspondence; our CSW consultation days; our joint panels, statements, and advocacy at the Human Rights Council, CSW, CEDAW, WHO, and beyond—these efforts reflect our collective strength. Our reach is global, and it is grounded in, and justified by, our deep connection to local realities.

Please do not hold back—your insight, energy, and initiative remain essential as we move forward together.

With appreciation and solidarity,



News from the Committee

Task Force on Poverty - 17 October 2025

The Task Force on Poverty held a commemorative event to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October 2025. The event brought together strong participation from experts, civil society representatives, and attendees both in person and online. Participants experiencing poverty in Geneva opened the event with personal testimonies about their challenges and concerns. After the refreshment break, which provided opportunities for interactions and exchanges, four parallel workshops were held: Women and Pensions, Young Women and Girls, Women and Migration, and Mothers Solo. The aim of the workshops was to exchange perspectives, share evaluations on the four topics, work collaboratively on a common statement, and begin identifying concrete actions in 2026. The event was a great success!

This year we will continue our work together as an NGO CSW Geneva Working Group. We have already conducted several meetings this year to prepare for this year's commemorative



event. We welcome all members to join us - please contact either Ana Bonny ana.bonny@churchofjesuschrist.org or Stacy Ciulik stacy.ciulik@soroptimistinternational.org.

Member News

CLAFG

Upcoming Events January -March 2026

<https://www.clafg.ch/newsletter/newsletter-clafg-2025-2026.pdf>

- Registration open for the women's recording studio.
- Launch of a one-stop support desk for administrative, legal, and project guidance.
- New edition of the Feminine Leadership Academy and Coup de Pouce grants for five women.
- Cultural collaboration in Geneva (March 2026) with exhibition and public roundtable.
- Official international peace side-event during the Human Rights Council session.
- Inclusive self-defense workshops for women with special needs.
- Thematic networking cafés and continued development of the digital platform <https://femmes-de-geneve.ch>

FAWCO

FAWCO is co-sponsoring a virtual event at CSocD64 along with the NGO Committee on Migration: Giving Every Child a Chance: Building Just, Resilient and Peaceful Societies Through Social Protection and Early Childhood Care and Education, Thursday, February 5, 2026 from 1:15 to 2:30 pm EST. Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/csocd64>

Graduate Women International (GWI)

Graduate Women International (GWI) marks International Day of Education on 24 January 2026 under the global theme "AI and education: preserving human agency in an automated world." Through its new toolkit, GWI highlights eight major education trends shaping learning systems worldwide, from AI-enabled personalized learning to micro-credentials and work-integrated education. It supports evidence-based advocacy for inclusive and future-ready education to ensure women and girls are not left behind as digital and AI-driven education systems expand.

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/ENGLISH-2026-International-Day-of-Education.pdf>

International Alliance of Women (IAW)

At the 40th Congress of the International Alliance of Women (IAW), elections for the next triennium confirmed the Executive Committee, with Alison Brown continuing as President. Antonia Lavine was newly elected Secretary General and Andrea Carlise Treasurer. Dr. Sibylle

von Heydebrand was reappointed Executive Vice President, alongside newly appointed Iliana Balabanova.

The Congress was held in November 2025 under the theme “*Shaping the World with Feminist Values.*” A high-level panel featured Dina Loghin, Soon-Young Yoon and Dr. Nicole Ameline.



CLIMATE CHANGE: A MATERNAL, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

Climate change is an escalating threat to maternal and newborn health. While extreme heat is already linked to poor health outcomes for both mothers and newborns, a broader set of environmental stressors, including air pollution, natural disasters, food insecurity, resource scarcity and displacement, also pose serious risks. These environmental stressors are increasingly recognised as amplifiers of existing maternal mental health vulnerabilities, exacerbating risks of anxiety, depression (including postpartum depression), and trauma that can compromise both maternal well-being and infant development. Yet, maternal mental health remains largely absent from climate policy. As the crisis deepens, it is critical to embed mental health, maternal care, and heat resilience into national climate adaptation strategies.



WWW.MAKEMOTHERSMATTER.ORG

Make Mothers Matter (MMM)

Ahead of COP30, MMM coauthored a [*Policy Brief on a critical yet neglected issue in Climate discussions: maternal health*](#), including maternal mental health, which is completely overlooked. It is an urgent **call to integrate maternal and newborn health into climate policy and adaptation strategies and financing**. Looking ahead, MMM is gearing up for the **Commission on Social Development: [read our written statement](#) and [register for our virtual side-event: Unlocking the Power of Care: Skills, Equity, and Social Transformation](#).**

Soroptimist International (SI)

SI submitted a statement for the 64th Commission for Social Development (CSocD64), which will take place from 2 to 10 Feb at the UNONY. The priority theme: Advancing Social Development and Social Justice through Coordinated, Equitable and inclusive Policies.

<https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.5/2026/NGO/15>

Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI)

WFWPI concluded 2025 with active engagement at the Human Rights Council, Social Forum, and Minority Forum, supported by young law students and professionals. <<https://www.wfwp.org/un-relations>> In 2026, WFWPI will welcome an international delegation of 70+ to New York for its Advocacy Weekend during CSW70, hosting or co-hosting four parallel events and one side event. The organization will also participate in HRC60 with two written statements and engage at the April CCPCJ in Abu Dhabi with a delegation of fifteen.

UN News

UNOG Dates: (<https://www.geneve-int.ch/calendar>)

- HRC 61st session: Feb 23rd - April 4th
- CEDAW 92nd session: Feb 2nd – 20th
- Intergovernmental WG on older Persons: Feb 18th – 20th
- UNICEF: Group of Experts on Statistics on Children: March 4th - 6th
- CED, 30th session: March 9th – 27th
- CRPD, 34th session: March 9th – 27th
- UNHCR, 95th meeting of Standing Committee: March 24th – 26th

CSW70

News from CSW70 – NY: March 9th – 20th (<https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw70-2026>)

From UN Women:

We are pleased to share the proposed organization of work for the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women has now been published on the UN Women website. The proposed organization of work may be found here. More information pertaining to the session will be communicated closer to session commencement.

Request for side events:

Permanent Missions, intergovernmental organizations, and United Nations entities hold side events on UN premises during the CSW session, space permitting. Permanent Missions and UN entities interested in organizing a CSW70 side event are asked to contact UN-Women via email to csw.sideevents@unwomen.org. The deadline for Permanent Missions,

intergovernmental organizations and United Nations entities to register CSW side events is 31 January 2026.

Parallel events of the NGO CSW Forum:

The NGO CSW Forum connects civil society and grassroots efforts to the official UN Commission on the Status of Women. All requested events are approved, and confirmation follows in the next weeks.

The Whova platform will open mid-February and we encourage you to enroll for participation online and in person.

Member Events:

Our member organizations have organized or are co-sponsoring a number of events at CSW70. The following is only a partial listing, based on the information we have received to date.

FAWCO is organizing a panel on AI and Image Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) On-line (speakers to be confirmed)
Thursday, 12 March
10:30am - 12:00 pm
CCUN
2nd Floor

ICW-CIF is proud to actively contribute to CSW70 by organizing the following Parallel Event, in close partnership with committed allies:

March 12, 2026 | 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM | CCUN, 2nd floor

Women's Leadership: Breaking Barriers to Equal Access to Justice

Organized by ICW-CIF in partnership with KIWP (Korean Institute for Women in Politics) and CNFF (National Council of Women of France).

This event is not only a space for dialogue and advocacy—it is a collective statement of resilience, leadership, and determination at a pivotal moment for the global women's movement.

SI is preparing 4 side events and 5 parallel events for CSW70 around their 5 pillars: Education, Elimination of VAWG, Empowerment, Environment and Health

Environment: March 11 at 8h30 (CC – 10th floor – submitted by WfWP and SI): Theme: Water & Women: life giving focus.

Education: March 11 at 12h30 (CC – 10th floor – submitted by SI and The Steve Sinnott Foundation): Theme: Access to Education in the Digital Era

Violence: March 12 at 10h30 (CC – 10th floor – submitted by TCAV and SI): Theme: From Silence to Justice - Best Practices against Gender Based Violence

Empowerment: March 12 at 14h30 (CC – 10th floor – submitted by SIE and SI): Theme: Pensions across generations"

Health: March 13 at 14h30 (CC – 10th floor – submitted by SIGBI, SI and MWIA): Title:
Mental health across generations.

Next News in Brief

The next issue of the News in Brief will appear in April. Please send your BRIEF (75 words maximum) news items to secretary.ngocsw.geneva@gmail.com by April 15th.

NGO CSW Geneva Executive Bureau

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Thank you for reading!