

# News in Brief

Volume 6, Issue 2

April 2026



Photo by [Meizhi Lang](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## President's Message

Dear Committee Members,

Greetings to you from Geneva where early spring brings signs of vitality and hope.

As we enter the final trimester of our 2030 Development Agenda, we admittedly face some disappointing statistics, but see many solutions around us. Now is not the time to slow down, but make ourselves indispensable.

We know that much local work remains uncouncted in global data collecting, and that persistent voices raised in unison can reach our governments.

We are also aware that armed conflict ( up to 185 in 2024) increasingly drains resources from those areas that could prevent it: prosperity, education, and health. This cycle that leaves us at the sidelines when our leadership and experience hold the key to conflict prevention, development and peace.

With this in mind, we decided to revive our UN ECE Beijing +30 Working Groups in preparation for Beijing+35, with a last push for the SDGs. You and other colleagues are invited to join the intra-regional working discussions to prepare statements, recommendations and voice our commitment on the critical areas and emerging issues.

Please save the date for the planned NGO CSW Geneva Civil Society Forum which will be held during the Geneva peace week (October 12-16).

In peace and solidarity for this time,



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## UN News

### **Analysis of CSW70:**

Analysis of Eight Proposed Amendments to the Agreed Conclusions – CSW70:

For the first time in seventy years, Member States adopted agreed conclusions by vote, not consensus.

Eight amendments on women's access to justice were tabled on the closing day.

Together, the amendments would have narrowed gender definitions, subordinated human rights to national law, removed protections for marginalized women and girls, eliminated recognition of reparations in conflict, and weakened UN Women's mandate, with real consequences for vulnerable groups globally today now. The resolution was stopped due to a "no action" motion.

### **UN80 Update – April 2026:**

An ECOSOC briefing on UN80 reforms reviewed Workstream 3:

- a potential UNFPA & UN Women merger (WP4),
- ICT consolidation via a Technology Accelerator Platform (WP15), and
- a system-wide Data Commons (WP16).

Member States broadly engaged but demanded stronger evidence, governance detail, and mandate safeguards. Positions ranged from supportive to skeptical, with South Africa questioning methodology and costs. Concerns focused on funding volatility, board structures, field impact, and political risks, alongside support for digital and data initiatives.

### **UN Calendar:**

#### **UNOG:**

WHO 79th session: May 18-23, 2026

ILC 114th session: June 1-12, 2026

CEDAW 93rd session: cancelled to October – Oct 5- 30, 2026

HRC 62th session: June 15-July 10, 2026

AI for Good Summit: July 7-10, 2026

HRC 63th session: Sept 7-Oct 10, 2026

CEDAW 93rd session: Oct 5- 30, 2026

Peace Week: October 12-16, 2026

## UNONY

HLPF: July 7-15, 2026

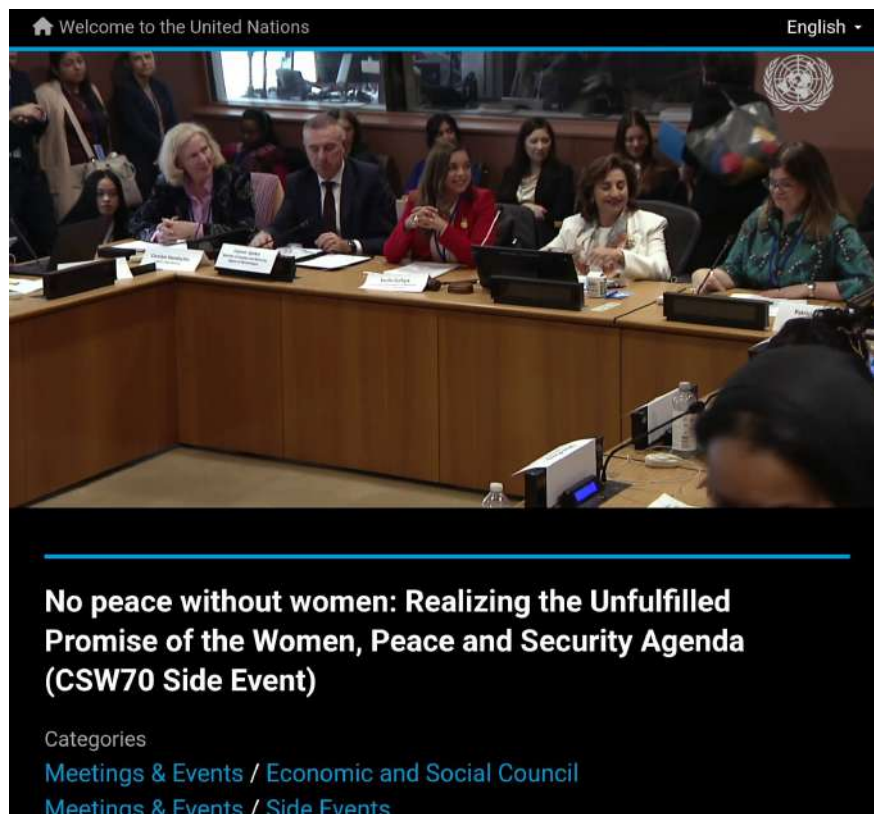
## Others

COP 31-Turkey: November 9-20, 2026

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## Committee News

NGO CSW Geneva was one of the co-organizers of a side event on opening day at CSW70, "No Peace without Women: Realizing the unfulfilled Promise of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda." It was co-hosted by Costa Rica, Montenegro, Finland, Qatar and Gabon and the seven NGO CSW Global Hubs, and largely organized by WFWPI, G100 Women and IAFLP. The Call to Action was read in the presence of Sima Bahous, UN Women Executive Director. The event was recorded and can be viewed through this [link](#).



## Member News

### Biovision Foundation

#### **When conflict and energy crises hit the food system:**

Energy security and food security are closely connected. Rising energy prices increase the costs of cooking energy and food transportation, making access to food more difficult. Current tensions in the Middle East impact oil and energy markets and also the global food system. The Strait of Hormuz is an important trade route for natural gas –a key raw material for global fertilizer production and the Gulf region is an important producer of nitrogen fertilizers. Read why these crises and dependence on imported inputs impact the food security of the poorest households.

<https://www.biovision.ch/en/story/when-energy-crises-hit-the-food-system/>

## **Women feeding the world**

To mark the International Year of Women Farmers, Biovision's latest magazine focuses on women shaping food systems as farmers, entrepreneurs, scientists and facilitators of change. With practical insights on agroecological food systems from smallhold farmers in Africa to policy change in Switzerland, read this issue in French and German:

[https://www.biovision.ch/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/BV\\_Magazin\\_BVM87\\_FR\\_Web.pdf](https://www.biovision.ch/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/BV_Magazin_BVM87_FR_Web.pdf)

[https://www.biovision.ch/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/BV\\_Magazin\\_BVM87\\_DE\\_Web.pdf](https://www.biovision.ch/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/BV_Magazin_BVM87_DE_Web.pdf)

## **Centre de Liaison des Associations Féminine Genevoises (CLAFG)**

Three major highlights will shape the coming months. On April 25, a special day in Geneva will bring together the CLAF National and CLAFG general assemblies, followed by intercantonal networking.

On May 7, a roundtable and book signing will accompany the launch of "Les femmes à l'Université... enfin !", highlighting women's role in academia.

Finally, on June 14, a civic initiative will share short videos to encourage informed participation and amplify women's voices in political debates.

[https://www.clafg.ch/newsletter/newsletter-clafg-avril-juin-2026.pdf?](https://www.clafg.ch/newsletter/newsletter-clafg-avril-juin-2026.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawRK6sNleHRuA2FibQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwzNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAAR7zj6bX-yJxLa2CYSk5o0Y2JgKXvJrkqtQOdxNLlo9ca_82V8vds6QCYxXQWA_aem_OXwatYvScwSJInrilqYdsA)

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## **FAWCO**

At the FAWCO annual meeting in Malta in March, the 2026–2028 Target Project for Human Rights was announced; the chosen project is Power Her Path: Empowering Trafficking Survivors & Vulnerable Migrants to Thrive. This is a project of Pacific Links Foundation. Power Her Path supports women and girls in Vietnam who have survived human trafficking, forced labor, or forced marriage – and those at risk of exploitation. Using a trauma-informed, survivor-centered model, the project delivers immediate safety and wellbeing support, builds long-term economic self-reliance, and strengthens the systems that connect survivors to services.

## **International Council of Women - Conseil International des Femmes (ICW-CIF)**

Il y a dix ans, le 13 avril 2016, la France faisait un choix clair : celui de l'abolition du système prostitutionnel. Elle reconnaissait que la prostitution n'est pas une activité comme une autre, mais un système de violences. Elle affirmait aussi un principe fort : pénaliser l'achat d'actes sexuels, et non les personnes prostituées. Ce système repose sur des rapports de domination. Patriarcat, racisme, inégalités économiques : tout cela s'y croise. L'abolitionnisme est un choix de société. Un choix qui place la liberté, l'égalité et la dignité au centre.

La journée du 13 avril 2026 a rassemblé 800 participants, militantes et militants, parlementaire, associations, syndicats, survivantes etc. venues pour témoigner et écouter, pour marquer les progrès à faire et les réalisations, en France mais aussi dans les autres pays qui ont une loi semblable, d'autres qui militent pour que leur pays adopte le même genre de loi, reconnaissant qu'il ne peut y avoir et qu'on ne peut pas parler d'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes tant que le corps des femmes peut être acheté, utilisé, violenté, torturé.

*Ten years ago, on April 13, 2016, France made a clear choice to abolish the system of prostitution. It recognized that prostitution is not an activity like any other but a system of violence. It affirmed a strong*

*principle: to penalize the purchase of sexual acts and not prostituted persons. This system rests on relations of domination. Patriarchy, racism, economic inequalities — these all intersect. Abolitionism is a choice by society which places liberty, equality and dignity at its center.*

*April 13, 2026 assembled 800 participants to bear witness and to listen, to note progress still to be made and what has been accomplished, both in France and in other countries which have a similar law, as well as those advocating for their country to adopt the same type of law, acknowledging that there cannot be, and one cannot speak of equality between women and men as long as women's bodies can be bought, used, abused and tortured.*



### **Make Mothers Matter (MMM)**

At the event MMM organized on the margins of CSW70, experts and policymakers from the World Bank, Equipundo, Colombia University, New York City and Uruguay's Government converged to argue that parental leave is far more than a workplace benefit—it is a critical investment in public health, economic stability, and social justice - A full report is available [here](#).



Read also [here](#) MMM's submission to the call for input by the Special Rapporteur on Violence against mothers, which is based on input from our grassroots members.

### **Medical Women's International Association**

Postnatal (postpartum) depression is estimated to affect 15-20% of pregnant women. The Medical Women's International Association partnered with Soroptimist International on a program about postnatal depression which was presented on March 13, 2026 as a parallel event for UN CSW 70. The program included a film highlighting the personal experiences of two mothers in India, and presentations about the clinical manifestations and prevalence of postpartum depression, and barriers to diagnosis. The organizers concluded the program with a call to action:

- Integration of maternal mental health screening into routine antenatal and postnatal care
- Investment in community-based and culturally appropriate mental health services
- Strengthening maternity protection policies, including paid leave
- Addressing gender-based violence as a key risk factor
- Inclusion of maternal mental health in national gender equality and development strategies

A website containing information on postnatal depression for patients and healthcare professionals has been developed: <https://postnataldepression.lovable.app/>.

For more information, please contact Connie Newman, [cnewman@drcnewman.com](mailto:cnewman@drcnewman.com).

### **Mothers Legacy Project**

SAHFA Update

Our Nigerian App for pregnant women built by a Nigerian programmer who is also an artist with strong empathy for women's needs and feelings is on Google Testing domain for the last internal testing phase. Women will love it so if you'd like to test it in the next round to check its suitability for your needs please contact Laetitia van Haren at [laetitiavanharen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:laetitiavanharen@yahoo.co.uk). Like its mother, the JamboMama! application, the SafeMama! Nigeria app is about empowerment, about giving back to women their childbearing, their pregnancy journey, their choice of where and how to give birth, their control over getting quality care with dignity and respect, about exercising their absolutely fundamental rights as a human being born a woman.

### **Soroptimist International**

SI marked a strong presence at CSW70, uniting over 135 members in New York and many more online worldwide. Through key events and discussions, SI championed improved access to justice for all women and girls, highlighting the need for closer alignment between justice systems and gender equality. Insights gained during the session will continue to shape SI's advocacy and actions at both national and international levels.

SI recently issued a statement on "[Defunding of Women's Rights at the United Nations](#)".

SI, as an Accredited Organisation (AO) of the Commonwealth, is pleased to announce that its representative to the Commonwealth, Pat Dale, has been elected to the Commonwealth Steering Committee of IFCO for 2026.

### **Widows Rights International**

WRI co-sponsored an event with Silver Lining at CSW70. It was a well-attended event even though on Monday at 8.30am.

The report of another WRI can be found here:

<https://www.widowsrights.net/event-details/collective-care-2026>

We also co-sponsored an event with EBBF and ADVANCE, one report can be found here:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7437455618447290368>

Both were chaired by UK Parliamentarians and were well attended with very engaged participants.

WRI was active in trying to influence the language of the Agreed Conclusions to ensure that the word "widows" was included.

WRI is holding a virtual event in May and an in-person event during the upcoming session of the Human Rights Council in June.

### **Women's Federation for World Peace International**

WFWPI hosted/ cohosted a series of Advocacy Trainings, Side and Parallel Events at the CSW70.

(<https://www.wfwp.org/latest-un-news/experts-tell-wfwp-hold-power-to-account-have-a-sound-plan-and-a-fund-pool-for-sustainability>)

Four representatives following the HRC61, submitting a statement on racism: (<https://share.google/Z4PpUCW05VQhnFDYI>), organized a briefing with submissions that contributed to the work of four Special Rapporteurs/ Independent Expert and supported the special sessions on Right to Development

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### NGO CSW Geneva Executive Bureau

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*Thank you for reading!*