

News in Brief

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President's Message

Dear Members,

As Heads of State and UN bodies outline their strategies on the global stage at the General Assembly, our Geneva Committee has also launched an informal five-year strategic plan for the next review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Development Agenda.

Waiting to be invited to the table hasn't often worked well for us, so we've created our own table- in preparation, inviting other pertinent stakeholders in. Our 53 year history promoting and defending the human rights of women and girls, our intensive engagement in the Beijing reviews and our linkage between local communities and global governance comes with opportunity, and responsibility. The authority to break through is only ours if we can prove ourselves indispensable to the goals- and bridge the coveted interdependence between government and civil society.

Please join us at the UN on October 12-14 as our Committee hosts a first leg of the marathon to 2030, a rich pooling of critical information, strong personalities and opportunity. <https://ngocsw-geneva.ch/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/NGOCSWGeneva-Moving-Forwards-October-Invitation-Program.pdf>

Committee News

Call for Candidates – NGO CSW Geneva Bureau

At its latest meeting, NGO CSW Geneva elected Brigitte Polonovski, Connie Newman, Manjit Dosanjh, Paula Daepfen and Sibylle von Heydebrand (Chair) to the Nominations Committee for the Bureau elections at the AGM on April 7, 2027.

Members interested in standing for a Bureau position are warmly invited to contact the Chair, Sibylle von Heydebrand, at svh@gmx.ch.

Member News

Biovision Foundation

Seed the Change. Harvest the Future: A vision for food systems that nourish people & planet. Visit the Biovision website to see how we are implementing our vision: <https://www.biovision.ch/en/>

Biovision is one of 40 Swiss NGOs who have signed the “Locally Owned, Globally Backed” Manifesto. We recognise the underlying power imbalances, rooted in colonial and historically oppressive structures, which continue to stand in the way of truly equitable partnerships. Read the Manifesto here: https://www.alliancesud.ch/sites/default/files/2026-02/202602_Manifest_LLA_ENG_2P.pdf

FAWCO

FAWCO will be sending an in-person delegation of 13 members to the 31st Climate Change conference (COP31) in Antalya, Turkey. COP31 will mark an important shift from commitment to implementation, as countries begin putting the newly adopted Belém Gender Action Plan (2026–2034) into practice including gender-responsive climate finance and policies, improving gender-disaggregated data, and ensuring that climate adaptation and a just transition address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls. FAWCO is also a juror in the annual Gender Just Climate Solution competition where the winners will be announced at COP31.

International Council of Women (ICW-CIF)

On 7 July 2026, the International Council of Women organised a WSIS workshop, *“I Thought AI Was Only for Tech Experts: A Practical Introduction to Engaging with AI for Women.”* The workshop called for accessible, locally led, gender-responsive and task-based AI literacy, addressing language, connectivity, device, time and care-related barriers. It emphasized the need to strengthen women’s participation in shaping inclusive AI policies and ensuring AI respects human rights, equity, fairness and responsible use.

Make Mothers Matter (MMM)

The 62nd Human Rights Council saw the presentation of a landmark report on violence against mothers, the first-ever report dedicated to the human rights of mothers. MMM was also invited to contribute to the side-event organised by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, to address economic violence against mothers. Read more [here](#), and a recap article on MMM@HRC62 [here](#). MMM continued its series of HLPF side-events on care, focussing this year on caring cities. Watch the recording and read the event report [here](#).



MMM's Valérie Bichelmeier (2nd from left) with Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (center).

Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)

The MWIA North American Regional Meeting was held in Edmonton, Canada September 17-19 in conjunction with the Federation of Medical Women in Canada Annual Conference. The theme was "Beyond One Identity, Women Physicians Shaping the Future". The program included panels of physician leaders in academia, public health, advocacy, and professional organizations, and discussions of bias in medical care- who gets heard and who gets healed- and influence, storytelling and disinformation.

Dr Seema Marwaha was inaugurated as the President of FMWC. Dr Eliza Chin (MWIA Treasurer and Executive Director AMWA) presented the film "1001 Cuts" (about gender bias in the surgical profession); Dr Rummy Dosanjh (VP North America MWIA) moderated several sessions, Dr Bev Johnson (MWIA UN representative) presented a poster on postpartum depression, and Dr Connie Newman (MWIA UN representative and delegate to NGO CSW Geneva) discussed Clinical Pearls: Sex and gender differences in cardiovascular disease.

Soroptimist International (SI)

SI (in partnership with The Commonwealth): "Women's Health in the AI Era: From Innovation to Impact" Friday, Oct 9, 2026 - Delegates Room, Marlborough House, London - on invitation only
SI is co-sponsoring the "Youth Global Leadership Camp 2026": "Sustainable Development: People and the Planet", Oct 27-31 Geneva (In-person/Virtual).

Widows' Rights International (WRI)

Widows' Rights International is continuing its aim to raise awareness about the situation of widows globally though its third seminar at UNOG on the 15 and 16 October 2026. Participants are attending from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, seeking to highlight gaps, challenges and opportunities for widows of all ages.

Women's Federation for World Peace International (WFWPI)

HRC63 WFWPI has three representatives in active attendance.

15th Crime Congress in Abu Dhabi September 27, 2:30 pm WFWPI hybrid “Educational Initiatives for Crime Prevention and Lasting Peace”.

UNGA 81; WFWPI representatives in attendance, with oral interventions.

Associate Member:

Centre de Liaison des Associations Féminines Genevoises (CLAFG)

CLAFG enters Autumn 2026 with a dynamic programme focused on women’s empowerment, youth leadership, peacebuilding and community engagement.

September–December | Junior Leadership Academy — A multi-session programme empowering young people through leadership, confidence-building, communication and inclusion.

September–December | Women’s Leadership Academy — A dedicated leadership journey supporting women in strengthening their skills, networks and capacity to lead.

14 October | Geneva Peace Week — CICG — Screening of Women of Rope, highlighting women’s experiences and perspectives within peace and conflict.

15 October | Women’s Mediation & Negotiation — CLAFG — Dialogue Beyond Enemy Borders, a workshop exploring women’s role in mediation, negotiation and dialogue across divides.

30 November | CLAFG Annual Gala — Four Seasons — A flagship evening held during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, bringing together partners, members and supporters around CLAFG’s mission.

A season to connect, lead, empower and create impact.

UN News

1. Events/meetings:

- CRC, 101st session, GVA: Sept 1st - 28th
- HRC, 63rd session, GVA: Sept 7th - Oct 7th
- Opening of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (OPGA, UNHQ NY), Sept 8th
- UNGA High-Level General Debate (UNHQ NY), Sept 22nd
- CEDAW, 93rd session, GVA: Oct 5th - 30th
- Geneva Health Forum Conference, GVA, 10-12 Nov
- [UN Climate Change Conference](#) (COP31) (UNFCCC, Antalya, Türkiye), 9–20 Nov 2026

2. International dates:

- [International Day of the Girl Child](#) (UNFPA), 11 Oct
- World Teachers’ Day (UNESCO), 5 Oct
- [World Food Day](#) (FAO / IFAD / WFP), 16 Oct
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 Oct
- [UN Day](#), 24 Oct
- [World Cities Day](#) (UN-Habitat), 31 Oct

The NGO Ageing Committee Geneva will organise a side event of the 63rd session of the HRC (Room V) for the International Day of Older Persons 2026. The event can be followed in person in Geneva or online: 1

Oct 13:00–14:00 CEST - Join online: <https://lnkd.in/gx44cPp2>. The Concept Note and Programme are available at: <https://lnkd.in/gdsGfYuQ>

NGO CSW Geneva Executive Bureau

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Thank you for reading!