

# SI CSW69

## Advocacy Resource Pack



# Soroptimist International Advocacy Resource Pack CSW69

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## Welcome

"I am delighted to welcome you to CSW69, whether you are attending in person or joining virtually. Your participation reflects our shared commitment to advancing the rights of women and girls worldwide.

CSW is one of the most significant platforms where Soroptimist International raises its Global Voice, ensuring that the issues we care about are heard by policymakers and decision-makers. By coming together, well-prepared with our key messages, we strengthen our influence and push for real, lasting change.

As an organisation with General Consultative Status at the UN, we play a critical role in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals and advocating for policies that leave no one behind. Our voices matter, our actions matter, and together, we can make a powerful impact at CSW69 and beyond!

I look forward to our meeting and the opportunity to connect. Thank you for your time and dedication in joining us, united in our commitment to SI's mission to Educate, Empower, and Enable women and girls worldwide for a better future."

Siew Yong Gnanalingam

SI President 2024 - 2025

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## UN CSW69 / Beijing+30 & NGO CSW69

These two Meetings run concurrently, please see details below:

### What is the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, (UN CSW)?

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established in 1946, is an official United Nations Commission dedicated to promoting gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women. It is the largest global policy-making body focused exclusively on these issues, comprising 45 Member States. UN Women, as the Secretariat of CSW, supports all aspects of the Commission's work.

For more information, visit the [official UN CSW website](#).

For over 70 years, the Commission has:

- **Led Discussions** on inequalities and discrimination that women & girls face.

- **Generated Public Attention** on social taboos and broken stereotypes.
- **Driven Action** to advance the rights of women and girls everywhere.

The Annual Session is the **largest gathering of gender equality advocates in the world**, the annual session of CSW convenes ministers, high-level government officials and civil society representatives at the UN in New York for two weeks each March to:

- Discuss & identify process
- Set policies
- Set global standards on gender equality and the rights of women and girls.

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## Beijing+30 and CSW69

The year 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (BPfA), known as Beijing+30, and coincides with the 69th session of CSW. The session will focus on reviewing and appraising the implementation of the BPfA and the outcomes of the [23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly](#). The review will also assess current challenges affecting gender equality, women's empowerment, the implementation of the BPfA and progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The session will conclude with an agreed *Political Declaration* on the 30-year review.

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## Side Events at UN CSW

Alongside the Annual Session, Member States and UN Agencies collaborate with Civil Society organisations to host hundreds of 'side events' on the UN's premises. These events provide an opportunity to share information, advocate for gender equality, challenge perceptions, and influence policy dialogues.

### **Important Note:**

To attend the side events held inside the UN Headquarters, you must be a representative of an ECOSOC-accredited organisation, such as Soroptimist International. You must show your UN pass at Security before entering the UN building.

The UN does not charge fees for participation of NGO representatives in CSW Sessions, nor does it cover any expenses for their participation during CSW. Such arrangements and costs are the exclusive responsibility of participants themselves.

## What is the NGO CSW Forum?

The [NGO CSW Forum](#) is organised by and for global civil society, NGOs, and feminists to connect them with official United Nations CSW processes.

With over 750 events, the NGO CSW Forum runs parallel to and complements the UN CSW, it is a separate session with separate organisers.

- Organised by and for NGOs, global civil society and feminists from all walks of life.
- Provides a platform to connect civil society and grassroots efforts to UN CSW proceedings.
- Facilitates advocacy at the UN, enabling civil society to engage with Member States, UN Agencies, and other CSOs.
- Offers Parallel Events, Civil Society Briefings, Networking Sessions, Conversation Circles, Regional Caucuses, and Advocacy Training.

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## NGO CSW Consultation Day

NGO CSW Consultation CSW69 Day 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025 10AM-1PM EST Zoom Meeting

The NGO CSW69 Consultation Day serves as the pivotal kick-off event for the NGO CSW Forum. We are excited to bring together a distinguished lineup of speakers. This includes Member States and representatives from UN Entities for a high-level panel, as well as individuals who were integral to the 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women and were instrumental in drafting the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). Joining them will be new activists paving the way for the next 30 years of gender equality advocacy. This intergenerational and intersectional group will include feminist advocates and Civil Society, experts, and UN representatives. For 2025, the event will be hosted virtually, ensuring global accessibility, with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and French to maximize participation.

**Sunday, 9 March 2025**

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Virtual on Zoom –

**Register:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/EcrLYkgzQbWlfbKvrgSIAw#/registration>

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## How to Register for NGO CSW69

### **Important!**

NGO CSW can be attended in person or virtually via the **Whova** platform and app. Registration ends 22 March 2025 for NGO CSW69.

[Download the Whova App](#)

[Whova registration for the NGO CSW69 Forum](#)



## What are the NGO CSW Youth Leaders & Young Professionals?

The [Youth Leaders & Young Professionals](#) are a community of young people and youth advocates who are passionate about global gender equality.

## General Information

### How do I get my UN pass?

If you have been approved as part of the SI Delegation, follow these steps:

1. Bring the **security form** received from **UN Women**.
2. Bring a **valid government-issued photo ID** (passport or driver's licence).
3. Visit the **UN Pass and ID Office**:
  - **Address:** 320 East 45th Street, New York, NY, 10017 (Ground Floor).
  - **Hours:** Monday to Friday, **9:00 am - 4:00 pm** (CSW-specific weekend hours may also apply).
4. **Important:** Passes **WILL NOT** be issued without both the printed **security form** and **photo ID**.
5. **Expect long queues** up to several hours long during peak times.

Each representative is responsible for collecting their own grounds pass.

### There are three ways to attend CSW:

1. **In-person** – Register as a representative of an ECOSOC accredited organisation to gain access to the UN Building. You will require a UN pass.
2. **UN Web TV: Home** – Watch live and on-demand United Nations meetings and events on [UN Web TV](#).
3. **NGO CSW Forum In-Person & Virtual parallel events** – held in venues outside the UN Building. You must register separately for this Forum.

[Download the Whova App](#) for the agenda of events.

**Be Involved, Take Action and Be a Catalyst for Change!**

## CSW69 Preparations

### How can you prepare for CSW?

- Review the official documents for CSW69 which can be found on the [UN Women website](#).
  - Familiarise yourself with the [Secretary-General's Report](#) (January 2025) as this will form the basis for the Zero Draft prepared by UN Women.
  - SI and other NGOs will suggest additions and changes to the draft documents. These proposed changes are shared with Member States.
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### Country Delegations

If you are connected to a country's negotiating team or delegation, contact [leigh.ellwoodbrown@soroptimistinternational.org](mailto:leigh.ellwoodbrown@soroptimistinternational.org). We can then provide you with the information you need and answer your questions.

### Who Speaks for Soroptimist International?

The official spokesperson for SI is the International President. SI representatives to the UN, the Director of Advocacy and others may make statements that are aligned to our official policy. Individual Soroptimists who wish to speak during parallel events or side events should identify themselves as a member of their club.

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### CSW69 Advocacy Priorities: The 12 Critical Areas of Concern

The following 12 Critical Areas of Concern affecting Women and Girls have been identified from the BPfA, please familiarise yourself with these priorities:

1. Women and Poverty
2. Education and Training of Women.
3. Women and Health
4. Violence Against Women
5. Women and Armed Conflict
6. Women and the economy
7. Women in Power and Decision-making
8. Institutional Mechanisms
9. Human Rights of Women
10. Women and the Media
11. Women and the Environment
12. The Girl Child



For further details, refer to the [NGO CSW Advocacy & Research Group for CSW69](#).

[Read the NGO CSW Statement for CSW69](#).

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## **Soroptimist International CSW69 Written Statement**

The [SI CSW69 Written Statement](#) will form the basis of your advocacy at CSW69, addressing key priorities and critical areas from the BPfA such as education, economic empowerment, and health for women and girls. It calls for urgent investment in women's rights and accelerated action to achieve gender equality and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Key priorities addressed in SI's CSW69 Written Statement**

- Education and Training of Women
- Women and the Economy
- Women and Health
- Investing in Women's Rights
- The Urgency to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The Urgency to achieve Gender Equality.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

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## **RESOURCES:**

### **Soroptimist International Website**

Don't forget to check the Soroptimist International website and follow us on social media for the most up to date information.

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org>

You can also visit the dedicated [CSW69 Webpage](#) on the SI website by using the QR code below:



Please visit this page regularly for the latest updates.

## How to be an Influencer, be familiar with, Attend & Participate

### Links for Reference:

- [Official Meetings for CSW69](#) – UN Women
- [UN Women Expert Background Papers](#) – The review of Beijing+30
- [CSW69 Side Events](#)
- [SI Where We Stand Position Papers](#)
- [Advocacy Training Resources](#) – Negotiations and Women's Human Rights
- [NGO CSW App \(IOS\)](#) – Download the Whova App
- [NGO CSW App \(Google\)](#) – Download the Whova App
- [Gender Snapshot 2024](#) – UN Women Progress report on the SDG's – latest data
- [Directory of NATIONAL MECHANISMS for GENDER EQUALITY](#) – UN Women January 2025
- [Find your Nations Statement](#) for Beijing+30 here
- [The UN Blue Book](#) – Details of Permanent Missions for advocacy contacts

## Soroptimist International relevant 'Where We Stand' Position Statements:

See more: <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/members-area/si-statements/>

- [Access to Education and training](#)
- [Economic Empowerment](#)
- [Social Protection Systems](#)
- [Women in the Urban Environment](#)
- [Violence Against Women and Girls](#)
- [Widows](#)
- [Human Trafficking](#)
- [Climate Change](#)

## SI Social Media Toolkit for your use to promote SI

**Tag us on social media using the handles below:**

**LinkedIn:** Soroptimist International HQ

**Facebook:** Soroptimist International Global

**Instagram:** @soroptimistglobal

**X (formally Twitter):** @SoroptiTweet

**YouTube:** @SoroptimistGlobal

**Bluesky:** @soroptimistglobal.bsky.social

**Use HASHTAGS to promote your posts:**

**#CSW69**

**#Beijing30**

### Gender Terminology: UN Women Resources on the use of gender-inclusive language

As the global champion for women and girls, UN Women recognises the importance of language in fighting gender bias and promotes the use of gender-inclusive language in all contexts and at all times.

Gender-inclusive language refers to language that places both women and men at the same level, and which does not convey gender stereotypes. Learn more here:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/genderterm>

### What is gender-responsive budgeting?

A **gender-responsive budget (GRB)** is a budget that works for everyone (women and men, girls and boys) by ensuring gender-equitable distribution of resources and by contributing to equal opportunities for all. Gender-responsive budgeting is essential both for gender justice and for fiscal justice. GRB is a tool that governments can use to identify and fund measures that close gender gaps.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2023/11/what-is-gender-responsive-budgeting>

### Creating safe digital spaces free of trolls, doxing, and hate speech:

Stay vigilant when engaging with online spaces; protect your personal information and report harmful content. Learn more about staying safe online in [UN Women's explainer](#).

## Comment from Leigh Ellwood-Brown on CSW69:

We welcome you to CSW69 as a member of the SI delegation, we are 100+ strong, being one of the larger non-government organisation (NGO), delegations attending the Commission of the Status of Women session in New York. Together we can make a tremendous IMPACT!

We have put together this SI Advocacy Resource Pack and a separate SI Delegation Handbook for logistics in New York. We greatly value your constructive feedback as we continuously refine these resources to ensure they are effective tools that truly support you during this delegation.

From the latest 'UN Women Gender Snapshot Annual Report 2024' this resounding message is written - "Gender Equality is good for people, planet and peace, and investing in women and gender equality is urgent. If we don't it will cost us." "As the world gears up to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the visionary Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - the blueprint for women's and girls' rights adopted by 189 governments in 1995, here are some key takeaways from the Gender Snapshot report -

1. The economic Cost of gender inequality: The world is missing out on \$10 trillion every year by not investing in women's rights
2. With the right policies and investments, achieving equality is within reach, and there is evidence that it makes for a better world and healthier economies.
3. Progress on gender equality globally is too slow to achieve SDG5 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. Six investment priorities to unlock change, read more details below:

[Progress on women's rights and the Sustainable Development Goals - Takeaways from UN Women's Gender Snapshot 2024 | UN Women - Headquarters](#)

Share and make your voice count: Investing in Gender Equality is about achieving a world where all women and girls are empowered and can enjoy their human rights. This latest gender data suggests that investing in women's rights can unlock immense economic gains for societies. Become part of our global voice. Utilise the resources within this document; be familiar and become **a catalyst for change - a Soroptimist CHANGE Maker!!**

**Where is gender equality after three decades? Are you impatient for this to happen like I am! - Advocate your own Nation for Change and implementation!**

Leigh Ellwood-Brown  
Soroptimist International Director of Advocacy 2022-2025.