



Volume 1 | Issue 3  
**September 27,**  
**2021**

## News in Brief

A coalition of ECOSOC accredited NGOs  
Promoting human rights and the empowerment of women and girls

The next NIB will be sent out the end of November. Please send any information you wish to share by the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. Submissions should be copy ready and **brief** - 75 words or less and may include links to further information.

### NGO CSW Geneva Bureau

*President*

*Carolyn Handschin*

*Vice Presidents;*

*Carol McConkie*

*Paula Daepfen*

*Treasurer*

*Wendi Momen*

*Secretary*

*Mohinder Watson*

*Assistant Secretary*

*Srruthi Lekha*

### NGO CSW Appointees

*Assistant treasurer/ advocacy*

*Coordinator*

*Berthe de Vos*

*Web Coordinator*

*Rachel Thibodeaux*

*Bureau Advisor*

*Stacy Lara*

## Notes from the Bureau

- Global Planning Committee for CSW66 Forum  
According to the guidelines set down by NGO CSW NY our participation in the Global Planning Committee is limited to 3 members. Representing our Committee will be Bureau members; Carolyn Handschin, Carol McConkie and Mohinder Watson.
- The NGO CSW Bureau is pleased to announce that Rachel Thibodeaux, a newly appointed UN Rep for FAWCO, has agreed to take on the position of Web Coordinator and Technical Advisor. Rachel is based in Zurich and will be starting the process of migrating the NGO CSW website from the previous hosting company in South Africa to a local Swiss provider. She will gradually update and reorganize our website and would also like to build up a webteam within our Committee. We are ever so grateful to Rachel for offering to take on this huge and important task!
- Assistant Secretary Srruthi Lekha has agreed to set up and monitor a social media presence for our Committee. The links will be on the home page of our website as soon as the accounts are active.
- The minutes of the September 1, 2021 Committee meeting were sent on September 20. Please send any corrections to the minutes, in writing, by October 10 to Mohinder.

## Meeting Dates

The next meetings of the NGO CSW Committee will be:

- November 3, 14:00 – 16:00
- January 19, 14:00 - 16:00
- Annual General Meeting, April 6, 14:00 – 16:00
- June 15, 14:00 – 16:00

## Task Force Updates

### Youth Task Force

The Youth Task Force is looking for more young people to join them. They should be members of our NGO CSW Geneva's member organizations. However, it does not matter where they are from and we welcome both young men and women to join the task force. The members of the task force will have to meet once every two weeks and shall work on advocacy projects promoting youth engagement for gender equality. For any concerns or questions please write to Ms. Srruthi Lekha at [s.lekha@wfwf.org](mailto:s.lekha@wfwf.org).

### Gender Terminology Task Force

We are in the process of completing the document, *Human Rights and Gender Terminology in UN Documents* with examples showing the impact of translation on gender terms in the UN languages.

Please join a gender terminology event Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> with speakers from several global regions as we seek to expand a supportive coalition <https://forms.gle/5Tq31KdkDR7bDtoR7>.

We invite all CSW committee members to share experience and/or research on the impact of gender terminology usage on gender equality.

## Member News

### International Alliance of Women (IAW)

Cheryl Hayles, IAW's President, and Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand, IAW's main representative at UN in Geneva, informed the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Dr. Michelle Bachelet, about the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): school children are abducted, abused, raped and killed (August 10, 2021).

At the High Commissioner's request, authorities in the DRC have arrested suspects. The High Commissioner will continue to work to bring perpetrators of human rights violations to justice in the DRC, as she assured the IAW (August 23, 2021).

### International Council of women (ICW)

*Question to the UN Security Council President on women and girls in Afghanistan*

On 1<sup>st</sup> September Mohinder Watson, ICW asked H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason, President of the UN Security Council "What action is the UN SC taking to protect all Afghans, including women and girls and ethnic and religious minorities?" The Ambassador said Afghanistan was a top priority and Council members would work multi-laterally to hold the Taliban to account for their commitments to women and girls.

### Women's World summit Foundation (WWSF)

WWSF annual announced the 10 laureates of their annual award; *WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life 2021*. [https://www.woman.ch/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021-PrizeBrochure.En\\_.FI-Li.14.09.Hu\\_.pdf](https://www.woman.ch/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021-PrizeBrochure.En_.FI-Li.14.09.Hu_.pdf)

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

Three young masters students who participated in a two month "Human Rights Internship Program" of WFWPI presented their research to an audience of 55 on Sept 24. Topics included, CEDAW ratification globally, Gender-based violence in Africa, and Women Peace and Security in Latin America". Following their 10 minute thoughtful and well researched presentations, with a focus on advocacy, experts commented . This was first in a continuing series that will run in parallel with the HRC sessions.

## **UN Updates**

### **UN Women**

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, following consultations with Member States and the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), announced the appointment of Sima Sami Bahous of Jordan as Executive Director of UN Women.

*“UN Food Systems Summit marginalizes human rights and disappoints, say experts”*

Read the report from Michael Fakhri, Special Rapporteur on Right to Food, Dr. David Boyd, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment and Mr Olivier de Schutter, Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27505&LangID=E>

## **Upcoming Events**

### **The COP26 Summit**

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021. The summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Be sure to share information on any side events planned by your organization.

### **World Food Day - October 16**

Our Actions are our Future:

The food you choose and the way you consume it affect our health and that of our planet.

<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/about/en>