



NB: this January/February issue is getting to you in March. The Team has been working on CSW—very difficult this year, running the YWLTP! Oh, and recovering from the holidays and still dealing with: covid 19!

CSW65



Functioning as a commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since June 1946, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is instrumental in promoting women’s and girl’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s and girls’ lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Each year the Commission meets for two weeks in March, examining various themes. This year between 15 and 26 March, topics on participation, decision-making, and elimination of violence, empowerment, sustainable development, women & girls, in a world transformed through COVID19 and building back from the virus will be on the table.

CSW-65 will take place in a hybrid format with mostly virtual meetings including side events, parallel events, NGO morning briefings and more. We have an exciting group that accepted to face the challenge of CSW-65 being virtual to be part of our delegation/Grail CSW-65 participants. We have girls from Canada, Mozambique, Portugal, South Africa and US. And young women from Ecuador, Mexico, Mozambique, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, US.

CSW-65 PARALLEL EVENT

Sustaining Progress through Spirituality in Unprecedented Times

Dialogue with women from around the world, to learn about how they are forwarding women's rights and leveraging their own faith to sustain themselves and their communities in this unprecedented time.

Wednesday, March 24th
12:30 — 14:00 EST



Our two ‘parallel events’ **Sustaining Progress through Spirituality in Unprecedented Times** and **Empowered-girls Eliminating Gender-based Violence** will take place on NGOCSW platforms Pathable~Zoom meeting, on 24 and 25 March.

We also will have our girls involved in other events such as: Girls’ statement writing, Local and Global Conversation Circles, Girls Caucus, Girls Virtual Space. (We are connected with some amazing girls!) Some have been asked to join other NGO panels. Preparation is underway via zoom meetings which seemed to be a great success, even though we faced geographic time zones and internet connectivity.

CSW-65 PARALLEL EVENT

EMPOWERED-GIRLS ELIMINATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A session where girls explore and share their stories/work/experience regarding violence/discrimination against girls through the lens of their activism and advocacy.

Thursday, March 25th
10:30 — 12:00 EST



NB: We are asking countries that have girls and young women as part of our delegates, to support them in terms of ensuring participants have access to device, internet, and material/information with their presentation.

The GRAIL and UFER SPONSORED PARALLEL EVENTS

1. Sustaining Progress through Spirituality in Unprecedented Times Wednesday, 24 March, 12:30 pm, EST.

Women and girls are impacted disproportionately by COVID-19, with an upsurge in violence, lack of access to technology, and the urgency for women to be included in decision making. In this uniquely challenging time, how can women find ways to sustain progress and themselves? What role does spirituality and self-care play? This event will host a dialogue with women from Mozambique, The Philippines, Portugal and South Africa as they share how they are leveraging their own faith to sustain themselves and their communities in this unprecedented time.

2. Empowered-girls Eliminating Gender-based Violence Thursday, 25 March, 10:30 am, EST

The panel will be comprised of girls from diverse social, cultural, economic and political contexts, coming from Canada, Mozambique, Portugal, South Africa and USA. They will share their stages of growing in empowerment as they face gender-based violence. Coming from seven countries, each panelist will describe the work she is doing in her community that contributes to the elimination of violence against girls especially stressing advocacy for all girls.

NB: To join the zoom for our parallel events as well as any others, [you have to register](#): <https://ngocsw.org/ngocsw65/> After you register, you have to wait 48 hours to get an approval from NGOCSW to complete your registration. When you do that, go to 24th and 25th and click on our events so they are added to your virtual agenda. Of course, you can attend anything else for the two weeks that attracts you! This is a great opportunity for those who will never get to CSW at the UN to participate. Some events are offered at hours that make zooming possible in all parts of the globe.

YWLTP – stage 3: community work, by Ana Barata

Stage 2 - Community Work 1 was during the three months of December, January and February. This was a time for participants to get to know the Grail better by engaging with Grail members. Youth can bring so much energy and light to the groups and wise women can bring so many experiences to the youth.

During this stage we planned two activities. Activity 1 gave them the opportunity to meet a Grail woman leader and talk about the challenges that she faces by leading transformative and sustainable changes and also to know more about the Grail in their countries. Activity 2 was the continuation of activity 1, but in this case the reflection was open to other Grail women and Grail activities. Some of these meetings were face to face, others on zoom. This task became a challenge for some participants because in many countries, access to internet (good connection) continues to be a privilege and not a right!



So, as you can see, stage 2 was essentially a “fieldwork” in the Grail context but also in their communities. This wouldn’t be possible without the help and support of you as the Grail community, especially the support local teams in each country!

The community work will be continued during stage 4. Between each activities’ deadlines we had two zoom meetings and participants were invited to prepare and facilitate the zoom session. The participants were putting into action what this leadership program is about by taking the lead in facilitating the meetings! Another challenge... and they did great, it was amazing to see them leading!

Our FACEBOOK PAGE, by Maya Gallardo

In 2019, during CSW-63 and the 18th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the plan to re-activate our Facebook Page started. We used to post a few things during specific moments like the CSW (March) and the International Day of the Girl (October) but nothing between those dates.

So, we started to ask ourselves: Should we have a real Facebook Page? Is Social Media a safe place for GLUNN to share its work? How can we jump into the virtual world and keep our spirit? But after so many questions, we realized the answers would only come as we started to work on it.

Since then and for almost two years we have tried to keep up, but there is a lot of work to do! We mostly share UN Women materials; sometimes we share what GLUNN does during the year and as much as we can we create our own designs and bring to the conversation important issues about girls and women.

Now, as our community grows and the pandemic life brings the virtual world to “another level” we are trying to be more active and have a solid Social Media project to keep in touch with the GLUNN members, past participants from our programs, other organizations we collaborate with and with girls and women from all around the world!

Therefore, we are creating a team to maintain active our Facebook Page. So far this is a team of two (Sharon Joslyn and Maya Gallardo). To date we managed to post some materials about UN International Days: Education Day, Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. But this is a project which needs more girls and women getting involved. If interested, contact Maya at maya.gallardo93@gmail.com.



JOIN OUR SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM!

We are looking for girls and women who could share their ideas on:

- UN Events
- Girls and Women Issues

 The Grail at the UN
@grailgirls2030

A JOURNEY OF GIRL POWER, by Kimy Chadreque

At the beginning of this year, I was nominated to be part of the Girls Consultation of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) led by UN Women. We are a group of 11 girls, between 15 and 18 years old, from Chile, Lebanon, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, USA, Zimbabwe, representing different global regions.

Generation Equality Forum is more than a forum—it is a place where we can constantly review the Beijing Platform for Action, find the gaps showed by the COVID-19 crises about equity and equality around the world. Generation Equality Forum is a intergenerational, intergovernmental, inclusive space where we can really rebuild a equality world for girls and women.

We are already engaging in a different “truck load” of the agenda, starting from the 6 action coalition themes, where I focused on Gender-based Violence and Feminist movement and leadership and preparing for CSW-65.

We are having a lot of exciting activities since January, like, a girls’ global consultation where we talked about the GEF and our challenge as girls to ensure greater equality and opportunities for girls tackled on the Beijing Platform for Action. We met with UN Women Executive Director and the representatives of action coalition. In this meeting, I did my intervention, bringing up the issues of child marriage, a situation that is very alarming in my country, but also in other African countries and South Asian countries.

We are engaging in the preparations for CSW-65: hearing girls’ voices on the priority theme; getting their proposal on how to engage during CSW-65 and preparing them for different events. From my side, I am involved with creating a video that will be shown during CSW. This video involves girls from five regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, ECA (Eastern, South-Eastern, South Caucasus Europe), Latin America & Caribbean (LAC). Also, I’m preparing an exposition to TikTok video where we explain about CSW and how girl’s voices are important to be heard during CSW.





Being part of this consultation group, gives us opportunity to bring up the challenges, barriers, gaps faced in our communities or countries, and also sometimes bring best practices and solutions that bring change or improve the situation. Also, we contribute with the decision-making process by legislators and governments on the 6 action coalitions.

For now, I am having the opportunity to learn and listen to those who are involved in the gender equality movement. I give my voice for me and for other girls. Also, I am having the opportunity to meet other girls and to know other girls' realities directly from their stories.

One challenges that I faced in this journey is the inclusion of girls who speak Portuguese at the meetings. There are so many girls who are interested to participate in those meetings/consultation, but because of the language barrier, they can't participate. So, I will do my best to change this scenario because: **We can't leave anyone behind.**

Being part of Girls' Consultation of GEF, I am always looking and fighting to provide worthy solution for girls' development. And that opportunity showed to me how the Grail mission is important to bring human rights and dignity. I look always to equity and social justice.

CSocD59, by Ana Barata

A narrative of an experience during CSocD59

During CSocD59 I had the opportunity to participate in the event: *Emerging issues: social policy to promote a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery.*

The idea was to identify challenges, opportunities and good practices of social policy to recovery from the covid19 pandemic.

The pandemic situation and its impacts are worse for women and children but also for young people, vulnerable communities, homeless and the list continues... Essentially it is worse for marginalized people so the pandemic worsened their situation (Pedro Conceição and Jordi Currel)... Could social policy have a central role in this recovery? Yes, but social policy needs to be re-thought. Welfare policies are not enough. We need to "reduce the risk by promoting social policies that make people more resilient" (Migime). There is a call for a paradigm shift (Cristina Durate). This paradigm shift can happen in some ways, and Jeremy Millard gave some ideas and examples, such as: circular cities and local jobs (city circular food systems, local decentralized energy systems); local (complementary) currencies/tokens (money that is re-spent locally, example: Sarafu - Credit, Kenya); Basic income schemes (universal basic income, example: Bolsa Familia, Brazil and Dauphin, Canada); employee-owned enterprises (worker cooperatives, mutual and employee-owned business, example: Cyril Ramaphosa, Fenix international). The conference ends with David Smith saying that education improves people's resilience and that is where we, as a society, need to invest.

UFER update, by Sharon Joslyn

As we've shared before, The Grail is an integral part of UFER-United Against Racism and for Equality. One aspect of being part of UFER is that it is present in many countries where the Grail is not so in a way that makes us present! Last month I shared about a book study we're doing: Grandmother's Hands. UFER is co-sponsoring one of the CSW events. And the following comes from two of the members.

Ethiopia from Berhane Raswork

Despite the peaceful co-existence of Muslims and Christians that Ethiopia has experienced over time, in the current geo-political and global situation Muslim fundamentalism has become strong. At the same time the ethnic divide created by the previous regime has resulted in ethnic conflict. As a result, thousands are being murdered or forcefully displaced. We need your prayers for peace to reign in Ethiopia and the rest of the world.

Haiti from Dr. Rodnie Delva-Senat

The change of Administration of Haiti has caused a great protest from the people. In Port au Prince crowds are burning cars and making barricades in the streets. There is much brutality and unrest. People are afraid to leave their homes to go shopping or to go to work.