

Report on the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)

A Pragmatic Approach to Developing a Comprehensive Gender Capacity Framework with CSW69

Empowering communities begin with shared commitment to positive change.
Together we can transform lives, ignite hope and create ripple effect of compassion.

BMIT

COMMISSION *on the*
STATUS OF WOMEN



“The true beauty of kindness is that seeks no returns, no validation- it simply moves forward, rippling through time, leaving traces of warmth in places we may never see”

Report on the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)

Introduction

The 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) highlights the need for a robust and structured approach to gender equality and women's empowerment. A gender capacity framework provides a systematic methodology to assess, develop, and sustain gender-responsive policies and programs. This document proposes a pragmatic approach to designing a comprehensive gender capacity framework aligned with CSW69 priorities.

Core Principles

1. Inclusivity: Ensure diverse voices, including marginalized and underrepresented groups, are integrated.
2. Evidence-Based Approach: Utilize data-driven insights to inform policy and capacity-building measures.
3. Sustainability: Build long-term mechanisms for gender-responsive governance.
4. Sector and International bodies.
5. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement: Involve governments & civil society.
6. Private Accountability: Establish measurable indicators to track progress and impact.



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Key Components of the Framework

1. Institutional Strengthening

- Develop gender-responsive policies and integrate them into national action plans.
- Enhance institutional capacity through gender mainstreaming plans.
- Conduct gender audits to assess gaps and areas of improvement.

2. Capacity Development Gender-Sensitive Governance Training

- Integrate gender-focused curricula in academic institutions.
- Strengthen women's leadership and participation in decision-making processes
- Train policymakers, public officials and community leaders in training.

3. Economic Empowerment

- Ensure equal access to financial resources, entrepreneurship support, and employment opportunities.
- Promote gender-responsive budgeting and inclusive economic policies.
- Leverage technology to bridge gender disparities in financial inclusion.

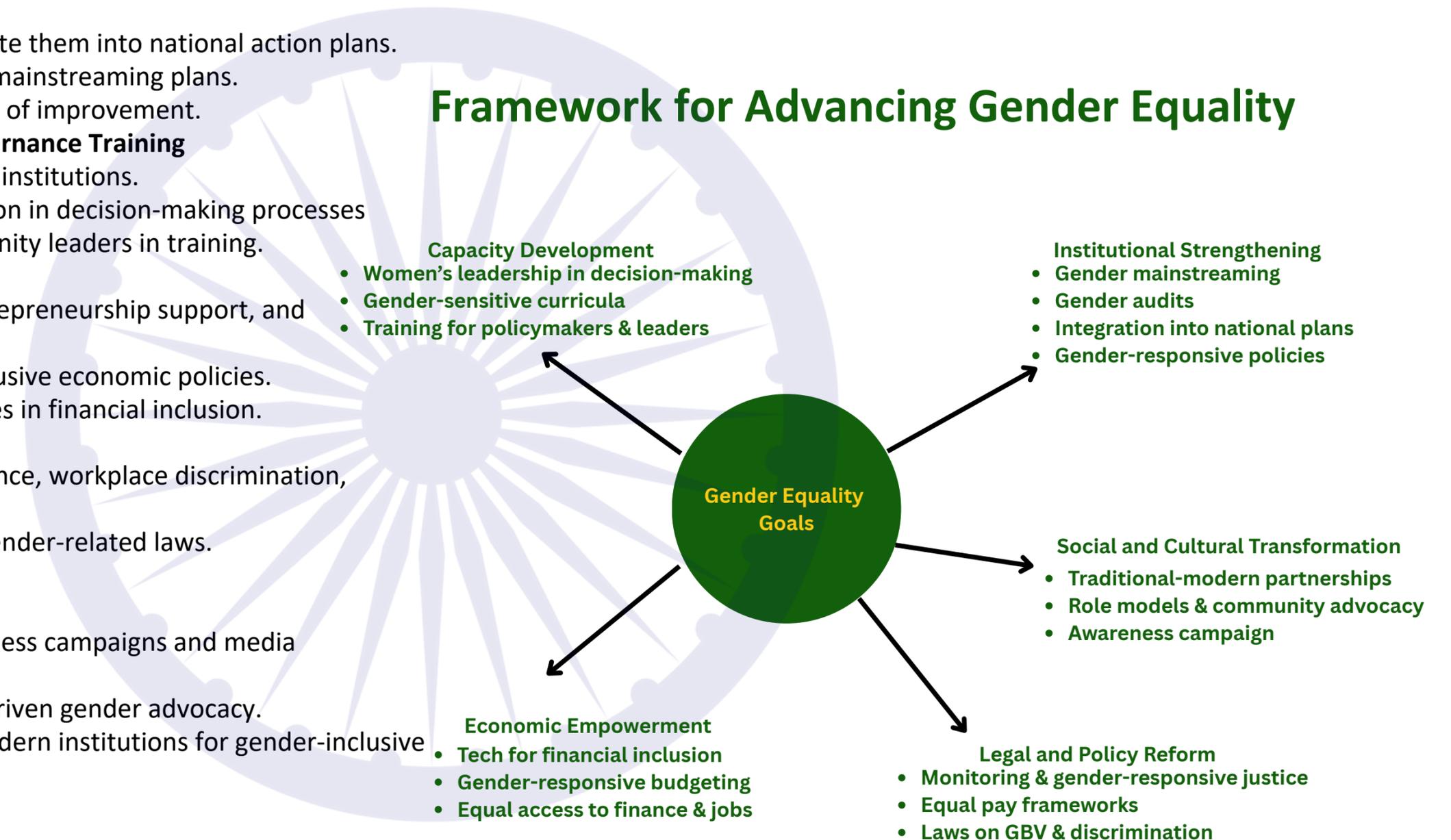
4. Legal and Policy Reform

- Strengthen laws addressing gender-based violence, workplace discrimination, reformed equal pay.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of gender-related laws.
- Establish gender-responsive justice systems.

5. Social and Cultural Transformation

- Challenge discriminatory norms through awareness campaigns and media engagement.
- Promote positive role models and community-driven gender advocacy.
- Foster partnerships between traditional and modern institutions for gender-inclusive practices.

Framework for Advancing Gender Equality



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Implementation Strategy and Expected Outcomes

Implementation Strategy

- **Stakeholder Mapping:** Identify key actors (govt, NGOs, private sector, UN bodies).
- **Needs Assessment:** Conduct gender audits and consultations to understand gaps.
- **Action Plan Development:** Define short-, medium-, and long-term goals.
- **Resource Allocation:** Mobilize funding from national and international sources.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation:** Use gender-sensitive indicators to assess progress and impact.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Engage policymakers for sustained commitment and reforms.

Expected Outcomes

- **Strengthened gender capacity** at institutional and community levels.
- **Increased female representation** in leadership roles and decision-making.
- **Enhanced economic opportunities** and improved financial inclusion for women..
- **Robust legal frameworks** for protection and empowerment of women.
- **Cultural transformation** promoting gender equality and social inclusion.

1. CSW 69 Overview

UN HQ, New York | March 2025
Theme: Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment
GCC Participation: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain

2. Key Focus Areas

Economic Empowerment
Gender-Based Violence
Education & Leadership
Climate Justice

3. NGO Engagement

Side Events & Workshops
Grassroot Innovation
Best Practices Shared

4. Outcomes & Commitments

SDG 5 & Beijing Declaration
Funding Commitments
Legal Reforms & Monitoring

5. Challenges

Gender Pay Gaps
Underfunded Initiatives
Cultural Barriers

6. Recommendations

Increase Funding
Legal Protection
Youth Engagement
Leadership Development

CSW69 reaffirmed the global commitment to gender equality, highlighting both achievements and areas requiring urgent action. Our NGO remains dedicated to advancing these goals at the grassroots level and beyond.

The 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69), held in March 2025 at the UN Headquarters in New York, saw active participation from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Bahrain.

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO UNITED NATIONS AT CSW69

MINISTERIAL LEVEL ROUND TABLE

Key Takeaways Aligned with Our Mission

- Women-Led Development: Empowers grassroots women as leaders.
- SHGs & Economic Leadership: Digitally empower 100M rural women.
- Education & STEM: Expand access for rural girls through NEP.
- Safety Infrastructure: Utilize Nirbhaya Fund with tech tools.
- Inclusive Services: Track financial and health access digitally.

Strategic Collaboration Opportunities

- AI & digital upskilling at grassroots level.
- Intergenerational leadership programs.
- Tech-based grievance redressal systems.
- Digital identity-enabled service delivery models.

Conclusion

India's CSW69 statement validates our NGO's model and opens doors for multi-stakeholder partnerships to scale gender inclusive digital development across underserved areas.



New York, March 12th 2025, Conference Room 2
United Nations Headquarters

INDIA AT CSW69

WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT & GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Strategic Brief on India's Interventions, Impact and Vision at the United Nations

- 450% increase in Gender Budgeting (USD 51 Billion)
- 250M+ women financially included via JAM Trinity
- 100M+ SHG women transforming rural India
- 1.4M+ elected women in local governance
- Gender parity achieved in education (NEP 2020)
- USD 1.3 Billion Nirbhaya Fund for women's safety

Beijing+30 Progress Indicators:

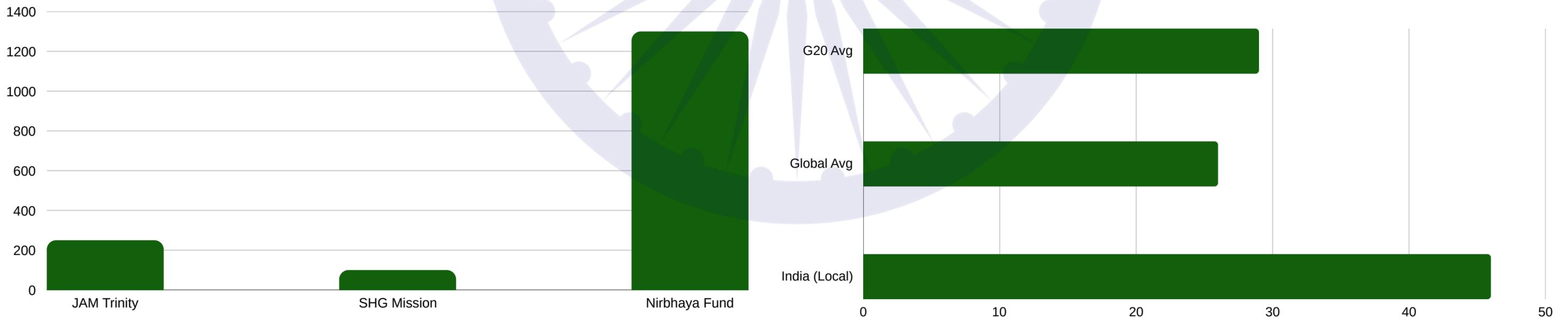
- Political Representation – 33% Reservation legislated in 2023
- Economic Empowerment – 100M+ SHG women entrepreneurs
- Health & Safety – Sanitation, UHC, Clean Fuel access

Global Benchmark:

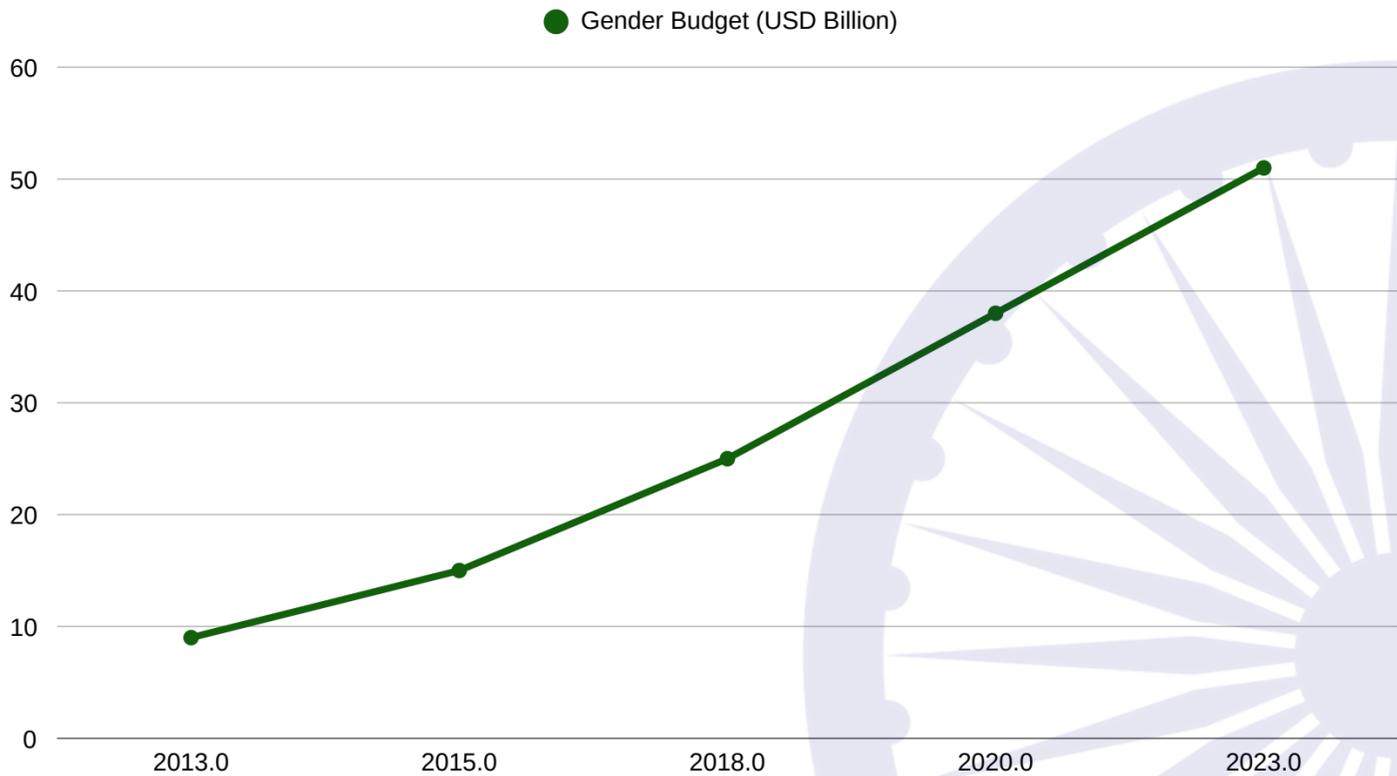
India leads globally in women's local governance (46%)

Vision 2030:

India to champion South-South cooperation in digital equity and gender financing.



Annex: Growth Trends & SDG5 Alignment

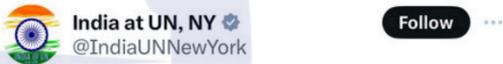


New York, March 12th 2025, Conference Room 2
United Nations Headquarters



SDG 5 Targets & India’s Progress:

- 5.1: End all forms of discrimination – Constitution + CEDAW
- 5.2: Eliminate violence – Nirbhaya Fund + Legal Mechanisms
- 5.5: Political participation – 33% Women’s Reservation Bill (2023)
- 5.a: Access to economic resources – SHG + JAM
- 5.b: Enhance tech for empowerment – UPI, Aadhaar, Digital India
- 5.c: Strengthen policy frameworks – Whole-of-govt approach



#IndiaAtUN

@IndiaUNNewYork and @UN_Women organized a Ministerial-level roundtable on two important topics related to women empowerment on the sidelines of 69th session of CSW:

- ➔ Digital & Financial Inclusion for women’s empowerment
- ➔ Financing for Women empowerment - criticality of core resources.

Hon’ble Minister @Annapurna4BJP addressed a packed hall, outlining India’s women-led development story and highlighted landmark initiatives in India aimed at expanding financial inclusion of women.

In his remarks, @AmbHarishP elaborated on the transformative impact of India’s foundational ID Aadhaar, particularly in the sphere of women’s empowerment.



Hon’ble Ministers from Indonesia, Morocco, Australia, Panama and Qatar took part in the roundtable.

Ministers exchanged best practices and shared their views on how technology can be leveraged to foster the initiative of women-led development.

Executive Director of @UN_Women Ms. Sima Bahous, Deputy Executive Director Ms. Kirsi Madi and G20 Women Task Force Member Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe also spoke on the occasion.

**INDIA AT CSW69
WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT & GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**

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INDIA AT CSW69

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BMIT observed the core session

- Access to Finance & Digital Tools: Empowering women entrepreneurs.
- Formal Employment Pathways: Scalable models for workforce integration.
- Legal & Policy Frameworks: Strengthening commitments to women's rights.
- Brought grassroots perspectives from India into the global conversation.

Key Insights from the Event

- Women's equal participation could add \$28 trillion to global GDP.
- Only 28% of managerial roles are held by women globally.
- Legal frameworks must promote women's economic participation.

Looking Ahead

- Scale collaborative models blending policy, finance, and digital access.
- Secure investments in community-based digital projects in India.
- Ensure women's inclusion at all levels of decision-making.

Overview

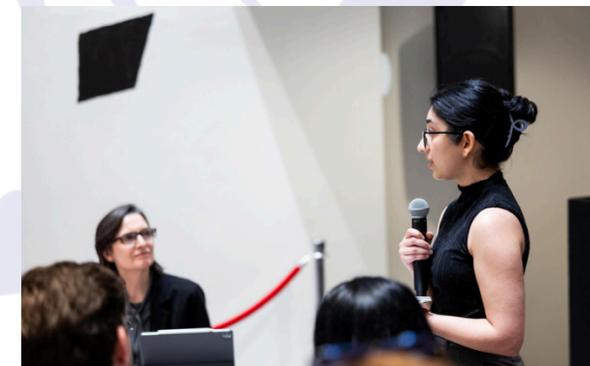
As an active organization at this high-level dialogue, BMIT had the privilege of contributing to a powerful conversation on systemic transformation through women's leadership. The event convened global policymakers, industry leaders, and gender equality champions to deliberate on unlocking the vast economic potential of women by breaking down structural barriers and driving inclusive policy.

Strategic Alignment with Global Agendas

This event aligned with CSW69 and the 2030 Agenda, especially:

- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

KEY POINT: Women cannot be leaders if their safety is consistently threatened.



As international stakeholders, how can we build on the momentum that India has built in Beijing +30 to continue this upwards trajectory for women in leadership positions, and in ensuring their safety?

-Vedanshi Vala (BMIT)

Speakers & Dignitaries

- Amb. P. Harish - PR of India to UN- Kirsi Madi - ASG, UN Women- Smriti Irani - Chairperson, Alliance for Global Good— Prabha Ram - MD, OMERS USA - Dr. Hannah Riley Bowles - Harvard Kennedy School

INDIA AT CSW69 WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT & GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

BMIT AT PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO UNITED NATIONS



Thanks to Ministers, Leaders of delegations to #CSW, fellow PRs, friends from the Indian community and all other distinguished guests who attended today's reception in honor of Hon'ble Minister @Annapurna4BJP.

The warmth of your company added colours to the event, ahead of Holi. #Happyholi2025



Met with an enthusiastic and articulate group of women leaders from Indian NGOs currently taking part in deliberations of the Commission on Status of Women in @UN at New York.



#IndiaAtUN

Alliance for Global Good: Gender Equity and Equality, @UNinIndia and CII Center for Women Leadership organised a Panel Discussion on "Women's Partnership and Leadership: Key Drivers for Economic Growth and Equality" in @IndiaUNNewYork.

PR @AmbHarishP delivered the welcome remarks at the event. He mentioned that empowering women to take their rightful places is the unfinished business of humanity.

Ms. Kirsi Madi, @UN_Women Deputy Executive Director for Resource Management gave various examples of targeted interventions for women - initiatives significantly changing the women empowerment landscape.

Ms. @smritirani moderated the session. She highlighted that achieving gender equality in

economic participation could increase global GDP by 20%.

Ms. Hannah Riley Bowles, Senior Lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School, Ms. Prabha Ram, Managing Director, Global Equities, OMERS, USA and @DanSeymour, Director of Strategic Partnership, UN Women were part of the panel discussion.

Several international NGOs attended the event. The panel discussion was followed by a lively interaction with the audience.



Proud to have moderated a powerful conversation on "Women's Participation and Leadership: Key Drivers for Economic Growth and Equality" in New York, curated by the Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality and graciously hosted by the Permanent Mission of India to the @UN.

The discussion focused on bridging systemic gaps—enhancing access to finance, digital tools, and formal employment while strengthening legal frameworks that uphold women's rights.

Collaboration across sectors isn't just necessary—it's the key to transformative change. Placing women at the center of economic and policy decisions drives global progress.

The momentum is building. The question is—how will we accelerate it?

@FollowCII @alliance30018 @IndiaUNNewYork



Women Empowerment & Peace Empowering

Theme - Women's Lives with Financial Literacy & Awareness of Women Legacy



1. **Empowering Women with Financial Literacy and Social Impact of savings - Ms.Ritika Kumar IIM Kolkata.**
2. **The Vedic Empowered Woman - Mrs.Renuka Goswami. Oxford University.**
3. **a)Women the Unsung Hero with Peace & Power in Abundance.
b)Honouring Mrs.Harsh Sharma "Super Woman Award" by BMIT.**

Speakers -

- 1.**Ms.Ritika Kumar-IIM**
- 2.**Mrs. Renuka Goswami-Oxford University**
- 3.**Mrs.Ratna Joshi-Fergusson,Pune University.**

UN women CSW69 is mobilising efforts to reaffirm commitments,bolster political will and take stock of the progress. Women empowerment is more than a concept note,it's a catalyst for societal transformation. Over the years Global narratives have shifted from seeing women solely as beneficiaries of development to recognising them as active agents of change. Among the key drivers of this Empowerment is financial support,which has proven to unlock opportunities,foster independence and create a ripple effect of positive growth within communities.Investment in education has direct contribution to economic growth. Empowered Women in Vedic age -(1500BC-500BC)Women in Vedic Society had the right to own property,participate in decision making, Choose their paths and choose their partners. Historical references suggest that women were not confined to domestic roles but also engaged in warfare and governance.Today,as the world advocates for women's empowerment,revisiting the Vedic principles of Education,Independence and equality can offer a strong foundation for progress.By fostering an environment where women are respected and given equal opportunities,society can reclaim the wisdom of the past and build a future where both men and women thrive together.

Purpose -

Aims to highlight the role of Peace education in strengthening women's right and bringing about practical changes with awareness,interactions & formal /informal talks with the help of great women participation at CSW69, CSO members & NGOs

Sharing experiences ,encouraging through dialogues,honouring the "Unsung Hero".

For Peace and Development of women & Girls in all fields.

Building networks and strengthening sustainable collaboration. Establishing lasting Partnership among NGOs,CSOs and activists globally.

Peace education goes beyond knowledge acquisition—it is a transformative process that equips women with the skills for conflict resolution, non-violent communication, advocacy of their rights, and active peacebuilding. Peace education for women is crucial in empowering women as agents of peace in both social and political spheres. This NGO Parallel Event will provide a platform for women who have undergone peace education to share their experiences and discuss their role in peace processes. It will explore how peace education fosters women's empowerment and active participation and identify practical strategies for expanding access to peace education globally.

Women's peace education serves as a catalyst for advancing the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Empowering women, who make up half of the global population, to lead the movement for peace beyond discrimination and violence accelerates the realization of gender equality and sustainable peace.

This event aims to highlight the role of peace education in strengthening women's rights and driving practical change. It will bring together NGOs, civil society organization(CSO)s, activists, and policy experts to exchange experiences and explore collaborative solutions. The discussions will include examples of how peace education has transformed women's lives and explore ways to integrate peace education into national policies and educational programs.

1) Sharing Experiences and Best Practices.

- Showcasing the real-life transformation made by women who have received peace education in their lives and communities, highlighting its impact on women's empowerment and peacebuilding.
- Exploring how peace education can be effectively implemented across different cultural and regional contexts.

2) Advocating for Action

- Discussing strategies to expand access to women's peace education at all levels.
- Advocating for peace education as a key tool for advancing women's rights and the right to peace.

3) Building Networks and Strengthening Sustainable Collaboration

- Establishing lasting partnerships among NGOs, CSOs, educators and activists, and laying the groundwork for joint initiatives.

Keynote speech: Significance of promoting womens peace education to empower women's rights

Ms. Gyuseon Lee,

Director General of Peace Education, IWPG HQ

Presentation of National

Peace Education Program Implementation

Ms. Nina Buresova,

Naivalu Coach and Founder of Seals Swim Club

Women Empowerment & Peace Empowering

Theme - Women's Lives with Financial Literacy & Awareness of Women Legacy



Ratna Joshi
Founder & Chairperson BMIT



Ritika Kumar
Member - BMIT



Renuka Goswami
Founder- Nimai Pathshala



L to R-Harsh Sharma, Ratna Joshi, Varun Upadhyay

BMIT AT CSW 69

Organizers: Inter-Parliamentary Union, UN Women, International IDEA, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Title / description: WYDE Women's Leadership - Transforming norms: Advancing women's leadership

Location: ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

Key points: This session explored how mass media and campaigns can shift social norms around women in leadership. Representation isn't just about visibility, but power—media must portray women leaders in ways that are relatable and not gendered. Media can reinforce harmful stereotypes, but it can also reshape narratives if used thoughtfully. Diverse voices and allyship are essential in driving change. In regions like South Asia, cultural resistance and tech-facilitated gender-based violence remain barriers. Ultimately, we need creative, context-specific strategies, invest in networks, and focus on which women we uplift and how.

Organizers: Saudi Arabia

Title / description: From Vision to Reality: Saudi Arabia's Journey Towards Women Empowerment

Location: Delegates Dining Room, UNHQ

Key points: This session highlighted the Kingdom's strides in women's economic participation, surpassing its 30% labor market goal and expanding into non-traditional sectors like tech and cybersecurity. Vision 2030 has driven cultural and legislative shifts—introducing flexible work, legal reforms, and increased representation in leadership and sports. Panelists emphasized that women's leadership must be impactful, not symbolic, and backed by political will, partnerships, and inclusive frameworks. Initiatives such as pro bono legal access, driver training programs, and education in cutting-edge fields are helping ensure women contribute meaningfully to economic growth and innovation across sectors.

Organizers: Parliament of Canada

Title / description: A Beijing+30 Report Card

Location: Church Center for the UN

Key points: This session emphasized the importance of being physically present at CSW to claim space, influence decision-making, and center marginalized voices—especially those of Indigenous women. Speakers highlighted that true equity means recognizing rights, sovereignty, and leadership—not assimilation. From calls for Indigenous-led crisis response to critiques of tokenism in policymaking, the discussion underscored the need for shared leadership and structural change. Civil society's role in holding governments accountable—through parallel reports and persistent advocacy—was also emphasized, along with the importance of removing barriers, not just amplifying voices, in allyship and international solidarity.

Presented by BMIT – ECOSOC Member

Organizers: Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General and UN Women

Title / description: Townhall Meeting with the Secretary General and Civil Society in the margins of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Location: General Assembly Hall, UNHQ

Key points: UN Secretary-General António Guterres addressed the urgency of combating rising misogyny, which threatens to reverse hard-won progress on gender equality. Reflecting on the legacy of the Beijing Platform, he honored those on the frontlines and acknowledged the violence faced by women's and human rights defenders. Guterres emphasized that inequality stems from imbalanced power—and that power must be challenged, not passively received. He encouraged using tools like social media to hold leaders accountable and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing women's decision-making power within the UN and beyond.

Organizers: Bharatiya Stree Shakti

Title / description: Shifting Gears: From Women's Empowerment to Educating for Change

Location: Virtual

Key points: This session, grounded in the context of Indian cultural shifts pertaining to gender equity, explored shifting gender dynamics within families, where increasing individualism is impacting traditional support systems. Financial decision-making still largely rests with men, reinforcing gendered power imbalances. However, panelists emphasized that gender equity isn't just a women's issue—it benefits sons as much as daughters by modeling healthier, more respectful relationships. Breaking cycles of dominance begins at home, with families that embrace shared responsibility and emotional openness, including allowing men to express vulnerability without judgment. These cultural shifts are essential to building more equitable communities from the ground up.

BMIT AT CSW 69

Organizers: Slovenia

Title / description: Event -30 Years of Women's Political Participation: Towards Full Parity

Location: Conference Room 2

Key points: The speakers noted that substantial strides have been made but there are persistent barriers in attaining meaningful participation in political offices. Some of the major obstacles that were discussed , societal resistance to women leadership, media bias, targeted harassment , lack of political funding for women candidates .Chilean President Michelle Bachelet - shared her personal experience when she was told that a women's appointment would lead to replacement of a male politician ,which showed resistance to include women in political offices. Leader Ana Redondo brought out the point of lack of political funding for contesting election for women candidates. The Panel highlighted that implementing mentorship programs to encourage and guide female aspirants ,implementing laws to create a more equitable political environment , support women political empowerment by global collaboration & establishing funds to help support women political aspirants.

Organizers: Botswana, Namibia, South Africa

Title / description: Accelerating Women Owned Micro-Entrepreneurs

Location: Conference Room 2

Key points: This event hosted by Botswana ,Namibia, South Africa in collaboration with the De Beers Group highlighted the EntreprenHer program capacity – building initiative aimed at Empowering women owned micro enterprises .The program was launched in 2017 and is now in its 3rd phase . The program provides business management training to women entrepreneurs focusing on areas of record keeping , marketing , pricing, management and funds and other resources needed to foster the Micro- enterprise . It recognizes the funding challenges , and has provided grants , zero-interest loans , to help them invest in staffing and premises .The future goal is to support micro-Entrepreneurs ,incorporating digital Literacy and support for women in traditionally male –dominated sectors.

Organizers: Luxembourg and Council of Europe

Title / description: Threats and Opportunities of Digital Technologies: Women in the Public Eye

Location: ECOSOC Chamber

Key points: The role of national authorities, law makers, civil societies ,private sectors is crucial in ensuring women's safety online and preventing digital violence .The session called for alignment of all stake holders and advocated the necessity to draw a global framework to combat digital violence .

The event served as a platform to explore initiatives and measures to prevent ,digital violence against women, aiming to ensure that the voices of women in the public eye are heard and protected .

Organizers: World Bank

Title / description: The Future of Care: Investing in Women Entrepreneurs to deliver care solutions at scale

Location: Japan Society

Key points: The session centered on the critical role investing in women entrepreneurs to develop scalable solutions within care economy .Discussion highlighted how such investments can address care deficits, generate employment and contribute to broader economic development goals.The existing barriers faced by women in care sector include limited access to financing , market knowledge ,lack of access to network to build and scale the care solutions .

The speakers of member nations of Australia spoke about the creation of large community housing were life is built on the concept of IKIGAI . She also advised to issue 'CARE BONDS' as a debt instrument that Can help solve the issue of funding . Saudi Arabian representative spoke how they are working in Private – Public Partnership to create care centres for children and elders to help solve the problem of delivering caresolutions at sale . The session called for concrete acctions from donors, corporations, development organisations to invest in Care economy .This includes creating policies that help care economy , fostering partnerships , providing financial resources . The Investment in women-led enterprises within the care economy ,highlighting their potential to drive economic growth and address critical social needs.

BMIT AT CSW 69

<p>Organizers: UN Women and the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations</p> <p>Title / description: Beijing+30 Stamps Reveal Event</p> <p>Location: UN Lobby, UNHQ</p> <p>Key points: This commemorative event marked the launch of a special UN stamp series celebrating milestones in the global fight for gender equality. More than symbolic, the stamps represent decades of advocacy and progress—honoring the Beijing Declaration’s 30th anniversary, 50 years of International Women’s Day at the UN, and 15 years of UN Women. Leaders including Sima Bahous, Michelle Bachelet, and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka emphasized that these stamps are not just collectibles, but powerful emblems of the ongoing struggle for women’s rights, equality, and empowerment worldwide.</p>	<p>Organizers: Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (Hivos)</p> <p>Title / description: Hivos' Gallery of Hope: Dreams and Inspiration for a Feminist Future</p> <p>Location: The Blue Gallery</p> <p>Key points: This session highlighted the launch of Hivos’ Feminist 30 Under 30, recognizing young leaders driving change in crisis-affected regions. Panelists emphasized the essential role feminists play in emergency response, particularly in conflicts like Lebanon and Nigeria, where vulnerable groups—women and girls with disabilities, those living with HIV, and LGBTQ communities—face compounded risks. The discussion stressed the importance of "walking the talk" by supporting grassroots efforts and inclusive feminist movements, especially ahead of an upcoming global feminist convening in Madrid this May.</p>	<p>Organizers: CSW Youth Forum, UN Women and UN Youth Office</p> <p>Title / description: Aligning the Beijing Platform for Action and the Pact for the Future – Closing the Gap Between Aspiration and Action</p> <p>Location: Conference Room 2, UNHQ</p> <p>Key points: This powerful session centered youth voices and demands for gender equality, inclusion, and accountability. Through spoken word and personal testimonies, speakers challenged empty promises and called for intergenerational collaboration to create lasting change. Examples from Lebanon showed youth stepping up where governments failed, supporting education access and building diaspora solidarity. Participants emphasized the need to rethink outdated systems, invest in young people meaningfully, and ensure technology bridges participation gaps. With a discussion on topics including disability rights, underfunding, and political exclusion—especially in conflict zones like Afghanistan—the session underscored that progress must be rooted in lived realities, not just declarations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Presented by BMIT – ECOSOC Member</p>	<p>Organizers: Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations</p> <p>Title / description: A reception in honor of the visit of Mrs. Annapurna Devi, Hon. Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India</p> <p>Location: Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations</p> <p>Key points: This reception provided a valuable opportunity to connect with key leadership within the Indian government and diaspora. This event highlighted India’s ongoing progress in fulfilling its commitments to women-led development since the Beijing+30 agenda, fostering meaningful dialogue on advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment on both national and global platforms.</p>	<p>Organizers: United Nations India, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, Alliance for Global Good – Gender Equity and Equality, CII Centre for Women Leadership</p> <p>Title / description: Women’s Participation and Leadership: Key Drivers for Economic Growth and Equality</p> <p>Location: Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations</p> <p>Key points: This session spotlighted India’s leadership in women-led development, notably emphasized during its G20 presidency, as true development cannot be achieved without the full participation of women, who are essential architects of economic growth. The discussion also highlighted global statistics showing that nations prioritizing gender equity see significant GDP growth, yet women-led teams receive disproportionately low funding—just 2% of VC investments, despite generating a 35% ROI. Examples like Kenya’s EMPESA, which helps women scale their businesses, were shared as successful models for closing the digital gap. The conversation also addressed the need for better negotiation skills in women’s rights and highlighted how shifting mindsets, particularly among younger men, is crucial for overcoming barriers to women’s economic and political participation. With 50% of men and boys still believing that men are better political leaders than women, quotas in government positions are seen as a necessary tool for immediate change in democratic systems.</p>
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BMIT AT CSW 69

Organizers: Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW), Cities for CEDAW, Southeast Asia Women's Watch (SEAWWatch) in partnership with UN Women

Title / description: 30 Years of the Beijing Platform for Action: Looking Back, Pushing Forward

Location: Harvard Club

Key points: This session, featuring veterans who shaped the Beijing Declaration, reflected on the monumental achievement of the 1995 conference and its lasting impact. One panelist recalled the final approval of the platform at 4:15 AM, noting the exhaustion of those involved—many working in shifts and even sleeping on the floor. Despite initial hesitations around gender as a social construct and human rights issues, the declaration emerged as a beacon for global women's rights, marking a pivotal moment in multilateral diplomacy. The session also highlighted the ongoing struggle to uphold these rights, as subsequent follow-up meetings have often watered down the agenda. Notably, the panelists reminded the audience of the challenges faced today, including the growing backlash against women's rights, with well-funded efforts threatening progress. Despite setbacks, they celebrated milestones such as the inauguration of Namibia's first female president, and encouraged a glass-half-full perspective to stay motivated in the fight for equality. The session ended with a powerful reminder: the struggle for women's rights must be global, but it starts at home, and there is no such thing as individual destiny.

Organizers: Permanent Mission of Thailand, Permanent Mission of Colombia, Thailand Institute of Justice, Penal Reform International, Women Beyond Walls

Title / description: Promising Practices to Reduce the Harmful Impact of Imprisonment on Women – A Key Step Forward in Implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Location: Conference Room 9, UNHQ

Key points: This session highlighted the intersection of gender inequality, poverty, and the criminal justice system, marking the 15th anniversary of the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules for women in prison. Despite their established standards, the treatment of incarcerated women remains an overlooked issue. Many women, particularly those imprisoned for minor or non-violent drug-related offenses, face extreme challenges, including health issues, separation from children, and difficulty reintegrating into society post-incarceration. Testimonies emphasized how women's crimes are often survival mechanisms in the face of violence. The session called attention to the need for gender-disaggregated data and community-based solutions, highlighting the criminalization of behaviors related to poverty, survival, or identity, such as sex work or attempting to escape abusive relationships. The session also celebrated positive reforms, like the decriminalization of begging in India and sex work in Belgium, urging a shift from punitive approaches to a health-centered model for addressing issues like drug consumption. Ultimately, it stressed the importance of grassroots-led change and a more holistic approach to justice that includes women, children, and marginalized communities.

Presented by BMIT – ECOSOC Member

Organizers: Conveners: UN Women, Permanent Missions of Chile and NGO/CSW Committee; Co-sponsors: UNOSSC, Common Threads Project, Malala Fund

Title / description: Screening Festival - La Vida de Nosotras (Our lives)

Location: Church Center for the UN

Key points: Directed by Chilean filmmaker Hernán Caffiero, is a powerful series that brings to life the real stories of women from diverse ages and social backgrounds. The series illuminates the pervasive patriarchal violence that shapes their experiences, shedding light on the systemic inequities and injustices that persist in society. Following the screening, the discussion will focus on the multi-dimensional impact of patriarchal violence, exploring its intersection with age, class, and social context. Participants will consider strategies to challenge these structures, empower survivors, and foster a culture of gender equality and respect." (Description obtained from event materials)

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Organizers: Sahiyo, Asian Women's Shelter, Silence Speaks

Title / description: Storytelling as a tool for FGM/C survivor-centered change

Location: Church Center for the UN

Key points: This session focused on the power of storytelling from survivors of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), emphasizing the importance of sharing personal narratives to foster healing, raise awareness, and drive change. Storytelling can increase self-esteem, inspire action, and influence policy, especially when survivors control the narrative. Best practices include creating safe spaces for storytelling through scriptwriting, audio recordings, and imagery, while maintaining anonymity if necessary. A key insight was the struggle survivors face between challenging harmful practices and remaining part of their community. For some, questioning these traditions leads to fears of exclusion or shame, particularly when family members who continue the cycle are also survivors, and they recognize that they can both love the individuals who are part of their families and communities while also disagreeing with their decisions and views in relation to this form of violence. The session highlighted the complexity of FGM, including the emotional and physical trauma, as well as the need for culturally sensitive advocacy that avoids sensationalism. Survivors shared their experiences of psychological pain, as well as the importance of offering agency to survivors instead of positioning them as victims. A panelist shared how their experiences at the intersectionality of being both a survivor of FGM and a nonbinary individual further complicates these issues, underscoring the need for nuanced support and care. Ultimately, the session reinforced the importance of giving survivors the platform to share their stories on their own terms.

Organizers: IWPG, BMIT, AIWC

Title / description: Women's Empowerment & Peace Education

Location: Church Center for the UN

Key points: IWPG advocates for a peaceful world through education, empowering women to become peace educators. The organization emphasizes that achieving peace is not solely dependent on policies but requires a cultural shift toward non-violence and conflict resolution. It stresses that in war, protecting human rights and sustainable development becomes nearly impossible. Key strategies include tackling issues like child marriage, which can be reduced by 30% through primary education and 60% with secondary or higher education. Global challenges such as cyberbullying in Fiji, stalking and femicide in Mexico, and violence at home call for peacebuilding and the recognition of violence as a human rights issue. Panelists also spoke about India's progress, highlighting the country's female leadership and the vital role of women in civilization-building. While India promotes the empowerment of women through initiatives like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child), the country still faces challenges related to safety and financial constraints for women. The message resonates with the idea that peace is a right for all, not a privilege, and underscores the importance of sharing knowledge, breaking down borders, and empowering women globally.

Presented by BMIT – ECOSOC Member

Organizers: Conveners: UN Women, Permanent Missions of Chile and NGO/CSW Committee; Co-sponsors: UNOSSC, Common Threads Project, Malala Fund

Title / description: Film Screening Festival - Unconditional

Location: Church Center for the UN

Key points: Directed by American Journalist Richard Lui. Seven years in the making, a first of its kind film from award-winning filmmaker Richard Lui, on the topic that affects 100 million Americans – mental health. Watch three families bravely turn the corner, showing us the power of relearning how to love. Description obtained from event materials.

BMIT AT CSW 69

Organizers: Malwai & PKN Consortium

Title / description: What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls at Scale: Leveraging Local Leadership

Conference Room A, UNHQ

Key points: Malawi has developed a comprehensive national plan of action to combat gender-based violence (GBV), focusing on prevention, response, and accountability mechanisms through strengthened partnerships with civil society, global partners, and traditional leaders. The country aims to adopt a preventative approach rather than responding only after violence occurs. Key interventions include a national GBV hotline providing counseling, legal, medical support, and shelter referrals, alongside 20 one-stop centers offering psychosocial, medical, and legal assistance. Despite these efforts, approximately 42% of married women in Malawi have experienced violence, and the system faces challenges such as the reluctance of some women to go through legal processes due to fear or stigma. The Malawi Human Rights Commission notes that some women prefer to remain in abusive or violent situations rather than seek help, and additional resources are needed to strengthen these services and make them accessible. Local leaders, including religious figures and traditional authorities, play a crucial role in community-based interventions, and efforts to update legal frameworks are ongoing. As one speaker stated, “We can meet at the UN, but without grassroot implementation, it’s useless.”

Organizers: World Bank Group, WHO, UNICEF, Sexual Violence Research Initiative

Title / description: Evidence from the Violence Against Women Field: Achievements and Lessons from Three Decades Post-Beijing

Location: Conference Room 9, UNHQ

Key points: Sweden collaborates with organizations using an intersectional approach to address violence against women (VAW), recognizing that factors like identity and socioeconomic status increase vulnerability. VAW is preventable through multi sectoral strategies, including investments in feminist NGOs and the use of public health data to prioritize VAW on the global health agenda. Key lessons since Beijing 1995 emphasize the importance of engaging survivors in research, addressing the link between violence against women and children, and leveraging technology for data collection and digital innovations. While progress has been made, challenges remain in securing political will, addressing data gaps, and tackling new issues like online violence. Effective prevention requires a comprehensive, multi-dimensional approach and a focus on both perpetrators and prevention, especially in resource-poor settings.

Presented by BMIT – ECOSOC Member

Organizers: Eswatini

Title / description: Title / description: Male Involvement in Ending Gender-Based Violence and HIV

Location: Conference Room A, UNHQ

Key points: The focus on family issues, particularly at home, is central to addressing gender-based violence (GBV), HIV/AIDS, and teen pregnancies, with a recognition that these challenges often intersect. Men must be engaged as allies in the fight against toxic masculinity, acting as agents of change within their communities. Programs emphasize the importance of positive role models, especially for young men, and encourage men to step up as responsible fathers, with initiatives like the Fatherhood Project promoting parenting skills. Men’s involvement is crucial for reducing GBV, HIV, and teen pregnancies, as these issues cannot be solved without both men and women at the table. Mental health, socialization, and cultural norms play key roles, with interventions addressing perpetrators and encouraging healthier views on consent, masculinity, and emotional well-being. Safe spaces for men are necessary to foster open discussions, as well as community-driven campaigns targeting social media and cultural spaces to reshape narratives around masculinity and violence.

BMIT AT CSW 69



BMIT AT CSW 69 - Closing Ceremony

CSW69- Suggestion by BMIT - Ratna Joshi.

Thank you for your continual effort for having all the women folks around the world together. It's a highly difficult task bringing in women from different countries, having different backgrounds and different thought processes together.

**My request/A suggestion -
We can have a global syllabus to walk on - like a path.**

We must have global grades - 1, 2 & 3

This will help women and the organisations to come together and process their thoughts collectively in the right direction that has discussed.

So, we can have a Global Syllabus but segregated -

-certain grassroot level programs for domestic violence against women

- certain programs for education for women, hygiene, higher education, aspirations that need guidance

So we need an app that will guide us, surveys that will decide our capacity and credentials to move ahead.

We must also have a report card as, women relate to “ Report Cards” - being mothers and teachers as associating with this concept comes naturally to them. This will help women globally to move ahead together in the same direction with the same goal.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity on this great platform at the CSW69 event.

Namaste from India.