



2025 Annual Global Citizen Fellowship **Syllabus**

Course Information

***Global Freedom Group Fellowship Program: 8-Week Outline Focus:
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 Gender Equality Lens***

Class Meetings: Once weekly between Aug 18-Oct 10 2025, 90 minute sessions

*** Important Date: Oct 10 deadline for UPR 52nd session stakeholder report ***

Facilitator Information & Office Hours

Cindy Serrano Roberts, Founder & Executive Director

Email: cindyr@globalfreedom.group

Dr. Savitri Grover, Policy Analyst & UPR Working Group Chair

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Goals / Learning Outcomes

- Understand the United Nations Universal Periodic Review Process and produce a stakeholder paper for submission
- Learn how to effectively advocate before the United Nations Human Rights Council through established processes and advocacy opportunities
- Analyze and evaluate policy through a gender lens; produce a policy paper for submission

Week 1: Orientation & Foundations (Aug 18- 22, 2025)

Theme: Welcome, Context & Overview of Course Objectives and Products

- *GFG Mission Brief: View from the top from Founder, Cindy Serrano Roberts*
- *Icebreakers and fellow introductions*
- *Review of syllabus and schedule (Q&A)*

- *Assignment: Reflective prompt. What does gender equality look like in your context and through a policy-based gender lens?*

Week 2: Understanding the UPR Mechanism (Aug 25-29, 2025)

Theme: *Human Rights Accountability & UPR Deep Dive*

- *Detailed overview of UPR structure, stakeholders, and timelines*
- *UPR submission format & writing best practices*
- *Country review cycles and the role of civil society*
- *Assignment: Analyze 1–2 previous UPR recommendations related to gender and think about potential topics in this area to research and capture on Fellowship stakeholder report.*

Week 3: Gender & Human Rights Intersectionality (Sept 1-5, 2025)

Theme: *SDG 5 through a Systems Lens and identifying areas for the group to work on, continuation from week 2.*

- *Guest speaker or case study discussion (previous paper)*
- *Group and task assignments*
- *Assignment: Issue mapping – identify 1–3 key gender equality concerns in your community*

Week 4: Research & Evidence (Sept 8-12, 2025)

Theme: *Working together*

- *Research methods: combining statistics, reports, and stories*
- *Assignment: Begin drafting a UPR issue summary and potential white paper/policy paper outline*

Week 5: Writing for Impact Sept (15-19, 2025)

Theme: *Advocacy in Written Form and potential guest speaker*

- *UPR submission format & writing best practices*
- *White paper structure (problem, context, evidence, recommendations)*
- *Peer feedback on early drafts*
- *Assignment: Refine draft with a specific focus on recommendations*

Week 6: Review Mechanisms & International Advocacy (Sept 22- 26, 2025)

Theme: *Amplifying Voices*

- *How UPR submissions are reviewed, Policy Paper overview*
- *Introduction to international advocacy platforms and opportunities*
- *Optional collaborative session with another org or mentor*
- *Assignment: Finalize draft for review*

Week 7: Presentation & Feedback (Sept 29- Oct 3, 2025)

Theme: *Sharing Our Work*

- *Fellows present a 5–10 min overview of their project (UPR issue or white/policy paper)*
- *Group feedback and cross-learning*
- *Mentorship check-in and final edits*

Week 8: Wrap-Up & Next Steps (Oct 6- 10, 2025)

Theme: *From Fellowship to Action*

- *Celebration of work and reflections (location to be decided)*
- *Discuss advocacy opportunities beyond the program*
- *Closing circle: What will you carry forward?*

Supplements:

- *Resource hub (guides, templates, past reports)*
- *Office hours for mentorship (TBA)*
- *Guest speakers from advocacy organizations or UN mechanisms*
- *Ongoing to the alum network or follow-up cohort if we want to have anyone connect*