



TAKEAWAYS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS CSW63

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DID YOU KNOW...

**The League of Women Voters has
actively worked with the United Nations
since the 1940's!**



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS & THE UNITED NATIONS

- **1920 — First LWV convention**
 - Called for ‘adhesion of the US to the League of Nations with the least possible delay’
- **Early 1940s — LWV worked to generate public support for the United Nations**
 - To establish a ‘post-war organization for peace to include all peoples, regardless of race, religion, or political persuasion’
- **1945 — President Truman invited LWWUS to be a UN Observer group**
 - One of 42 NGOs to serve as consultants to the US delegation to the UN

**LWV continues to have an Observer
Program at the United Nations**

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



- Dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women
- Functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- **45 Member States**
 - 13 from African states
 - 11 from Asia-Pacific states
 - 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states
 - 8 from Western European and other states
 - 4 from Eastern European states
- **First major CSW action: Successfully argued against reference to “men” as a synonym for humanity on the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN in 1948.**
 - From : All men are created equal
 - To: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights

CSW ACTIVITIES

- Promoting women's rights
- Documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world
- Shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women
- Convening annual conferences for progress reporting and agenda-setting



CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

- International treaty adopted in 1979 by UN General Assembly
- “International bill of rights for women”
- Discrimination is “...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.”
- Ratified by 189 countries, but not:
 - United States
 - Palau
 - Iran
 - Somalia
 - Tonga
 - Sudan



BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION

- The ‘gold standard’ for policies to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment
- “The Platform for Action imagines a world where each woman and girl can exercise her freedoms and choices, and realize all her rights, such as to live free from violence, to go to school, to participate in decisions and to earn equal pay for equal work.”
- 12 critical areas for concern, including
 - Access to education and health care
 - Participation and decision-making in political and economic sphere
 - Protection of human rights of the girl child
 - Gender inequalities in management of natural resources and the environment

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CSW 63 OVERVIEW

- 9,000 diplomats, government officials, and representatives from non-governmental and non-profit organizations
- **CSW63 Priorities:**
 - Social protection systems
 - Access to public services
 - Sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls



CSW 63 OVERVIEW

- **Includes:**
 - **Official meetings:** progress reports by Member States, business proceedings, negotiations for Agreed to Conclusions
 - **Side events:** Hosted by Member States and UN Agencies
 - **Parallel events:** Sponsored by NGOs
- **Topics included:**
 - **Women in the media**
 - **Human trafficking**
 - **Threat of violence against female parliamentarians**
 - **Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**



CSW63 INTERESTING TAKEAWAYS

- Global average of women in national parliaments is only 24%
- 44.4% of women in national parliaments have been threatened with violence against them or their families
- Women only made up 2% of mediators, 8% of negotiators, and 5% of witnesses and signatories in all major peace process between 1990 and 2017



LWV AT CSW63

LWV Delegates

- Virginia Alecci (NJ)
- Jennifer Avina (San Diego)
- Keller Barron (SC)
- ErinLeigh Darnley (CT)
- Sheila Denn (NC)
- Leah Edwards (San Fran)
- Allyson Haut (IL)
- Roxanne Hughes-Wheatland (MD)
- Sue Khalaieff (IL)
- Jacquie Lightcap (KAN)
- Savanna Mapelli (PA)
- Liz Milner (NJ)
- Kathleen Montgomery (OC)
- Joanne Moore (CT)
- Nilam Patel (AZ)
- Anu Sahai (VA)
- Susan Sherer (PA)
- Michelle Thorne (IL)
- Jennifer Waggoner (SF)

LWV UN Observer Corp

- Rosalee Keech – Chief Observer (NJ)
- Judy Schachter (NY)
- Chris Sagona (NJ)
- Robin Tokmakian (CA)
- Jill Follows (VA)
- Michelle Dorsey (AZ)

LWV AT CSW63

- Delegates made a video of LWV delegates explaining the SDGs
- LWV co-hosted side event: *“From Critical Mass to Gender Parity—Women in Decision-Making Do Make a Difference!”*



LWV SIDE EVENT TAKEAWAYS



- **Women in parliament focus more on social welfare, child welfare and gender equality.**
- **A critical mass of 30% women in leadership roles has been proven to be the tipping point for women to influence decisions-making BUT...**
- **Transformative and institutional change requires parity (equal #s of men and women in leadership)**
- **Essentially across the board, change does not occur with less than 20% women in leadership roles, no matter whether related to government, military culture, corporate boards, etc.**

LWV SIDE EVENT TAKEAWAYS

Quotas requiring gender critical mass or parity are fairly common around the world today:

- Reserved seats for women in governmental bodies
- Requirement of % of women put forth as candidates

Bolivia and DRC require 50% of political party candidates are women

- 53% of Bolivia's parliament are women, only 9% in DRC
- Difference: seems to be DRC law may be ineffective because of a lack of strong sanctions for noncompliance
- Placement of candidates on ballot, reform measures, etc.

California

- In 2018, Gov. Brown signed SB 826 establishing quotas for gender representation on corporate boards.

LWV SIDE EVENT TAKEAWAYS

- **United Nations System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity**
 - In 1990, set target of parity in UN leadership and decision-making
 - Gave an intermediate goal of 30% women in leadership
 - UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has made parity a keystone of his administration.
 - 17 organizations within UN have achieved parity including the Executive Office of the Secretary General with 57% women.
 - Another 36 are at between 30 and 50%
 - 15 are below 30%



CSW 63 AGREED CONCLUSIONS

- **Concrete measures are needed to bolster the voice, agency, and leadership of women and girls, including:**
 - Invest in social protection, public services, and sustainable infrastructure
 - Ensure that progress is not undermined by austerity measures; strongly condemn lack of accountability
 - Remove barriers to access to services
 - Ensure safe transport and guarantee clean sanitation
 - Promote full and equal participation and leadership of women and women's organizations in policy dialogues and decision-making

CSW 64 - 2020: A BIG YEAR!

- 100th anniversary of League of Women Voters
- 75th anniversary of the United Nations
- 25th anniversary of Beijing Platform for Action
- 10th anniversary of UN Women
- Major focus:
 - How to realize the promise of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+25)
 - Every sector has a role to play
 - United Nations Agencies
 - Member States
 - ECOSOC accredited NGOs
 - Civil society, private sector and academia



**THINK GLOBALLY,
ACT LOCALLY:
WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- **Learn about and get involved in Cities for CEDAW**
- **Support and mentor local female leaders**
- **Create leadership positions for young women in your own League**
- **Encourage your members to apply to become delegates!**