



RIGHTS. JUSTICE. ACTION. FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace Analysis

CSW70: What Was Agreed, What's Missing, and What Comes Next

*“Global Commitments
only matter when they
transform local
reality.”*

- Good Shepherd International Justice
and Peace Team



Commission on the Status of Women

Each year, governments come together at the United Nations to agree on actions to advance gender equality.

This document explains what was agreed at CSW70, where progress was made, where gaps remain, and what we can do next.

WHAT CSW70 SET OUT TO DO

The themes for the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women are:

Priority theme: Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers

Review theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-fifth session)

WHAT ARE THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS?

The Agreed Conclusions are the United Nations' annual agreement on what governments commit to do to advance the rights of girls and women.

THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS ARE:

1

A framework that helps guide national laws, policies, and funding

3

Not legally binding, but highly influential

2

Negotiated and agreed upon by UN Member States

4

A way to set global priorities on gender equality

CSW70 AGREED CONCLUSIONS - SUMMARY

The CSW70 Agreed Conclusions focus on strengthening access to justice for girls and women in all contexts throughout their lives.

In practice, this means that governments committed to ensuring access to fair, independent, and inclusive justice systems, while working to eliminate discriminatory laws and harmful practices. The agreement also calls for stronger responses to violence, including trafficking and exploitation, alongside expanded legal aid and survivor-centered support services. It emphasizes increasing the participation and leadership of girls and women within justice systems and addressing systemic barriers such as poverty, discrimination, and unequal access to education and resources. In addition, it recognizes the importance of civil society and community-based approaches, advances digital justice through the governance of artificial intelligence and efforts to address online violence, and calls for improved data collection and accountability to track progress. Overall, the Agreed Conclusions underscore that justice systems must be **accessible**, **affordable**, **inclusive**, and **responsive** to real-life experiences.

CSW70 AGREED CONCLUSIONS - VOTING RESULTS

Voted For:

Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Abstained:

Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Mali, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia

Voted Against:

United States of America





THE GOOD

The CSW70 Agreed Conclusions includes several important strengths.

A stronger focus on justice systems

There is a clear call to make justice systems accessible, inclusive, and centered on the needs of survivors, with an emphasis on accountability and ending impunity

Recognition of systemic barriers

The document acknowledges that poverty, discrimination, and inequality prevent many girls and women from accessing justice, and highlights the need to address these realities.

Attention to trafficking and exploitation

There is a commitment to addressing root causes, strengthening accountability, and improving cooperation across borders.

New and emerging areas

The agreement includes new language on digital justice, artificial intelligence, and technology-related violence, as well as recognition of community justice workers and paralegals.

Recognition of civil society

It highlights the essential role of civil society, especially grassroots and community-based organizations, in advancing justice.





THE GAPS

The CSW70 Agreed Conclusions had a few gaps that GSIJP want addressed

Limited language on key rights

There is weak or missing reference to bodily autonomy, reproductive violence, and explicit recognition of conflict-related sexual violence

Not legally binding

The agreement does not create enforceable obligations and depends on governments to act voluntarily.

A gap between commitments and action

While commitments are strong on paper, there are no clear enforcement mechanisms, and progress depends on political will and available resources.

Limited structural transformation

The agreement does not go far enough in challenging deeper systems of inequality or addressing root causes such as power, profit, and demand, particularly in areas like trafficking.



WHAT CAN YOU DO NEXT?

Turn the CSW70 Agreed Conclusions into action.

Global commitments only matter if they are put into action. This requires holding governments accountable and actively tracking how commitments are implemented at the national level, while advocating for policies that align with these global frameworks. At the same time, strengthening local-to-global advocacy is essential, connecting community realities to international agreements and ensuring that lived experiences inform policy decisions. Direct support for girls and women must remain central, including expanding access to legal aid, education, and leadership opportunities, and investing in survivor-centered, trauma-informed services. Progress also depends on strong collaboration across civil society, building partnerships, sharing good practices, and reinforcing collective advocacy efforts. Finally, raising awareness is critical to make global commitments understandable and accessible, empowering communities to know their rights and the protections available to them.

REMEMBER

Justice for girls and women does not begin or end at the United Nations. **Global commitments only matter when they are implemented, monitored, and translated into real change in people's lives.**



MORE INFO



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