

CSW69 THROUGH THE LENS OF GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE

*Observations on Advocacy, Policy, and Progress
Toward Gender Equality*





Opening Our Hearts to Justice: A Letter to the Reader

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to engage with this report on our participation in the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69). This milestone year, marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, invited us to reflect, recommit, and reimagine a world where gender equality is not only a vision but a lived reality for all girls and women.

In these pages, you will find highlights of our advocacy, reflections, and shared commitments during CSW69. We raised our voices to call for systemic change that centers the dignity, rights, and agency of girls and women everywhere—especially those most marginalized by unjust structures and social norms.

As you read, we invite you to see this not just as a summary of engagement, but as a call to shared action. The stories, insights, and messages contained here

are rooted in lived experiences and animated by hope. They speak to the transformative power of solidarity, faith, and a deep belief in the possibility of a more just and inclusive world.

We are grateful for your partnership and presence on this journey. May this report serve as a source of inspiration, encouragement, and renewed commitment to building a future where no one is left behind.

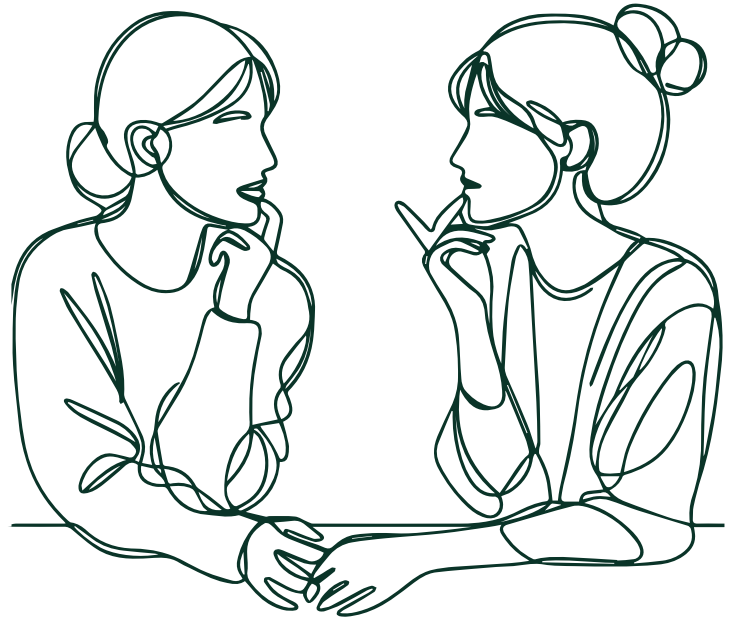
With deep gratitude,

Good Shepherd International
Justice and Peace Team

Table of Contents



Opening Our Hearts to Justice: A Letter to the Reader	02
Table of Contents	03
Introduction	04
Section 1: CSW69 - Then and Now	05
Section 2: The CSW69 Political Declaration	06
Section 3: Country Snapshots	12
Section 4: CSW69 – NGO CSW and Civil Society Engagement	20
Section 5: CSW Revitalization and Future Work for the Next Five Years	21
Conclusion	25
Contact Information	25
Resources	26



Introduction

Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace (GSIJP) is honored to present this report on the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69). This report highlights our observations on the key contributions, advocacy efforts, and initiatives taken during CSW69 to promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women. This document serves as a call to action for continued advocacy in the global pursuit of justice and dignity for all.

GSIJP actively engages in the CSW process each year through a multifaceted approach. We conduct direct mission visits to Member States at the United Nations, both independently and in collaboration with civil society networks such as the Working Group on Girls. These visits are essential opportunities to amplify the voices and lived experiences of girls and women from grassroots communities and ensure that their realities inform global policymaking. We also contribute to the formal proceedings of CSW by preparing and submitting written and oral statements to missions and relevant UN bodies. These communications advocate for systemic change rooted in our commitment to justice, peace, and the protection of human dignity — especially for those who are most marginalized.

In addition, GSIJP actively participates in both official UN events and side events during CSW. We organize and co-sponsor these events independently and in collaboration with other civil society organizations. These spaces allow us to spotlight grassroots perspectives, share best practices, and advocate for transformative, inclusive, and rights-based approaches to gender equality. As part of our broader engagement, GSIJP is also committed to capacity building — both within our own network and across the wider civil society community. We regularly offer educational sessions and informal mentoring on how to engage effectively with the United Nations system, the role and mission of GSIJP, and the purpose and impact of CSW. We are always open to sharing our knowledge, tools, and experiences to strengthen collective advocacy and build a more informed and empowered global movement for gender justice.

At the heart of all our efforts is a clear goal: to create meaningful space for girls and women to have a seat at the table during these critical global discussions. We believe that sustainable and just outcomes can only be achieved when those most affected by inequality are fully included in shaping the solutions.

❖❖ Section 1: CSW69 – Then and Now

The Commission on the Status of Women: A Global Force for Change

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the world's largest and most influential platform dedicated to advancing gender equality and empowering girls and women in all their diversity. Each year, policymakers, advocates, and grassroots leaders from around the world gather to drive meaningful change, shaping policies that uplift the lives of girls and women everywhere. CSW plays a critical role in setting global standards, holding governments accountable, and ensuring that the voices of girls and women are not only heard but acted upon. It is a space where progress is measured, challenges are addressed, and commitments are made to build a more just and equal future.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: A Lasting Legacy

One of the most significant milestones in the global movement for gender equality was the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995. Recognized as the most comprehensive framework for advancing the rights of girls and women, it called for transformative change in areas such as education, economic participation, and the elimination of violence and discrimination.

Five years later, in 2000, the global community reaffirmed its commitment by adopting the Beijing +5 Political Declaration, which assessed progress and reinforced the urgency of achieving gender equality. These landmark agreements continue to inspire action, guiding efforts to create a world where every girl and woman could live with dignity, opportunity, and freedom from discrimination.

CSW69: Marking 30 Years of Progress and Challenges

In 2025, the world marked the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place from March 10 to 21 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Representatives from member states, UN agencies, and civil society organizations came together to assess progress and confront ongoing challenges. This gathering was not only an opportunity to review past achievements but also a moment to reignite momentum, strengthen commitments, and ensure that gender equality remained central to global development efforts.

At the heart of CSW69 was a deep reflection on the progress made since 1995. Discussions focused on the persistent barriers that hindered progress and how gender equality remained essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CSW69 was more than just a conference — it was a call to action. It brought together advocates, young leaders, and organizations to raise their voices and influence the future of global gender equality efforts. Whether someone was just beginning their journey in advocacy or had long been part of this movement, their voice mattered. The fight for equality was not just about policies and promises; it was about ensuring that every girl and woman, in every corner of the world, has the opportunity to thrive.



❖ Section 2: The CSW69 Political Declaration

A Milestone for Gender Equality

The adoption of the CSW69 Political Declaration represents a significant reaffirmation of global commitments to advancing the rights of girls and women. Rooted in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), the declaration underscores the urgency of addressing 12 critical areas of concern, including political participation, economic justice, education, health, gender-based violence, and environmental sustainability. While it serves as a high-level political statement, it remains a non-legally binding document, creating a moral rather than a legal obligation for Member States. Governments are encouraged to implement commitments in alignment with national contexts.

The declaration acknowledges persistent gender inequalities and structural barriers, including discriminatory laws and practices, gender stereotypes, and economic disparities. It highlights the necessity of integrating gender equality into policies and programs while recognizing that no country has fully achieved gender equality. Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of eliminating violence against girls and women, addressing the feminization of poverty, and ensuring equal access to justice and fundamental freedoms.

Despite these affirmations, the declaration has notable omissions, including the lack of explicit references to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), menstrual hygiene

management in schools, and transportation in relation to education. Additionally, while it addresses domestic violence, it does not explicitly mention intimate partner violence. The absence of direct references to rights education for girls further highlights gaps in its approach.

Good Shepherd's Perspective on the CSW69 Political Declaration

Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace (GSIJP) recognizes the CSW69 Political Declaration as an important step in reaffirming gender equality commitments. However, a truly transformative approach is needed to dismantle systemic inequalities and address overlooked areas of concern.



Points of Alignment



01 Reaffirmation of the Beijing Platform for Action & Human Rights Treaties:

The declaration upholds the BPfA as a foundational framework and reaffirms commitments to international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).



02 Recognition of Persistent Inequality & Structural Barriers:

Despite progress, both documents acknowledge that gender inequality remains deeply entrenched due to systemic barriers, discriminatory social norms, and structural violence. The need for bold, transformative action is evident in the ongoing disparities in political participation, economic opportunity, and access to essential services



03 Intersectionality & Inclusivity:

The CSW69 Declaration highlights the challenges faced by diverse groups of girls and women, particularly those experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. This approach aligns with GSIJP's commitment to addressing economic injustice, migration, trafficking, and environmental degradation, which disproportionately affect marginalized communities.

Points of Alignment



04 Commitment to Economic Justice & Women's Empowerment:

Both documents emphasize the importance of financial inclusion, access to economic resources, and poverty eradication as necessary steps toward gender equality. Economic justice is recognized as a key factor in ensuring the empowerment of girls and women worldwide.



05 Girls' Leadership & Participation:

The declaration recognizes girls and young women as agents of change and calls for increased participation in decision-making processes.



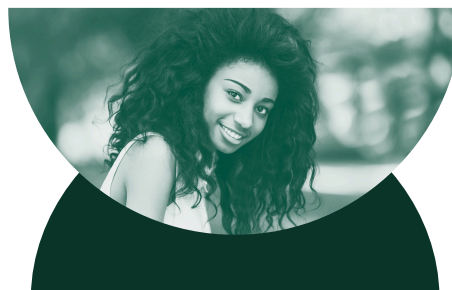
06 Digital Access & Literacy:

It commits to ensuring equal access to digital technology and closing the gender digital divide through expanded digital learning and capacity-building initiatives.

Keys Differences in Approach

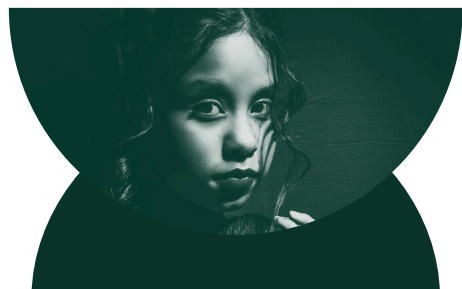
01 Economic Justice & Structural Change

While the CSW69 Declaration acknowledges economic disparities and promotes solutions such as gender-responsive budgeting and public-private partnerships, it does not challenge the fundamental structures that perpetuate economic inequality. GSIJP, in contrast, critiques economic systems that prioritize profit over people and calls for transformative models that prioritize human dignity and social justice.



02 Advocacy on Prostitution & Trafficking

GSIJP takes a strong abolitionist stance on prostitution, recognizing it as a form of gender-based violence that exploits vulnerable girls and women. While the CSW69 Declaration mentions trafficking, it does not take a definitive position on people in prostitution or its connection to systemic gender inequality.



03 Environmental Justice & Integral Ecology

GSIJP's advocacy is deeply rooted in the principles of integral ecology, as outlined in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, which connects environmental justice with social and gender justice. While the CSW69 Declaration acknowledges the need for climate resilience, it does not fully integrate ecological justice into its framework.



Keys Differences in Approach

04 Grassroots Engagement & Civil Society

GSIJP emphasizes the power of grassroots mobilization, direct service, and advocacy as essential to achieving gender equality. While the CSW69 Declaration acknowledges the role of civil society, it remains focused on state-level commitments, often overlooking the transformative work happening at the community level.



05 Comprehensive Health Education & SRHR

The declaration does not explicitly include sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as an educational priority. GSIJP advocates for comprehensive, evidence-based education on health and well-being, including menstrual hygiene management and access to essential healthcare services for girls and women.



06 Emphasis on Ending Violence Against Girls and Women

The CSW69 Declaration calls on governments to implement national action plans to prevent and address gender-based violence. GSIJP takes this commitment further by advocating for the abolition of trafficking and prostitution, recognizing them as systemic forms of violence that exploit and dehumanize girls and women.





Moving Beyond Commitments to Action

The CSW69 Political Declaration reaffirmed global commitments to gender equality but remained largely diplomatic in its approach. While it provided a necessary framework for advocacy, it lacked the depth of justice-oriented transformation needed to dismantle systemic inequalities. GSIJP's

approach, rooted in faith-based advocacy and a commitment to social justice, goes beyond policy commitments to challenge unjust structures and empower girls and women at all levels of society.

The journey toward gender equality requires more than political declarations — it demands sustained action, grassroots engagement, and a willingness to confront the economic and social systems that perpetuate injustice.

❖ Section 3: Country Snapshots

CSW69 featured in-depth discussions on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls worldwide. Below is a summary of key highlights from various regions, showcasing challenges, progress, and policy commitments.

RIMOA (Africa & Middle East)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Introduced free maternity care and improved access to health services across the country.
- Expanded maternal care and efforts to reduce maternal/infant mortality.
- Free and widespread access to ARVs for pregnant women as part of the Zero Infections, Zero Deaths goal.
- Developed specialized services, including family planning and PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission).
- Expanded SRH services for refugee women and those in humanitarian settings.
- Strengthened programs in schools and communities for comprehensive sexuality education.
- Focused on building an inclusive, high-quality system from primary to higher education.
- Tackled educational exclusion of girls, especially ages 12–13 where dropout is highest.
- Built water points, latrines, and promoted harassment-free environments.
- Provided scholarships, menstrual hygiene support, and allowed pregnant girls/mothers to continue schooling.
- Implemented initiatives to increase the number of female teachers.
- Partnered with the Ministry of Gender to raise awareness on girls' rights and legal protections against violence.

Egypt

- Implementing a National Strategy for Women's Empowerment.
- Increasing women's political representation and financial inclusion.
- Strengthening legal frameworks against child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).
- Egypt commended the inclusion of the right to development in the CSW69 Declaration but expressed regret over the absence of recognition for women's role in family and society.

Kenya

- Committed to advancing gender equality through legislative and policy frameworks.
- Addressing gender poverty gaps, disparities in education, and digital access.
- Tackling harmful cultural practices and stereotypes that exacerbate gender-based violence.
- Policare initiative provides critical support for GBV survivors, including psychosocial assistance and access to justice.
- Strengthening the Technical Working Group on GBV and femicide to enhance policy and legislative protections for women and girls.
- Focused on implementing Beijing +30 review outcomes to ensure sustained gender equality efforts.
- Kenya supported the CSW69 Declaration, emphasizing the need for continued collaboration in implementing gender-focused policies.

Lebanon

- Strengthening female representation in government.
- Advocating for reforms to advance women's rights.
- Seeking international support to address economic and social gender disparities.

Mozambique

- Near gender parity in school enrollment (girls now 49.9% of students).
- Distributed bicycles, uniforms, and scholarships to help keep girls in school.
- Maternal deaths dropped; institutional births rose to 93%.
- Women now hold 50% of ministerial positions; 43% of parliament members are women.
- Major increase in women receiving legal help (from 2,077 in 2019 to over 166,000 in 2023).
- New laws protect against gender-based violence and early unions.
- Over 370,000 jobs created in 2022, with growing female participation in youth employment programs.

South Africa

- Reaffirmed commitment to the Beijing Declaration and CSW69 Declaration.
- Increased women's representation in decision-making: 43.5% in Parliament, 43% in the Executive, and 45% of judges are women.
- Surpassed gender parity in higher education, with over 60% of graduates being women, and prioritizing women's participation in STEM and AI.
- Established one of the most extensive social protection systems, providing financial relief to millions of women and girls.
- Passed the National Council Act on GBV and Femicide, strengthening efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women.
- Leading the G20 Ministerial Working Group on Women's Empowerment, promoting financial inclusion and women's access to economic opportunities.
- Recognized the need for continued efforts to fully emancipate women from all forms of oppression.

- South Africa reaffirmed the CSW69 Declaration, highlighting the urgent need for intensified global efforts toward gender equality.

Uganda

- Implemented a strong legal framework ensuring gender equality, outlawing discrimination, and adopting affirmative action.
- Increased female leadership representation: 45% in Cabinet, 34% in Parliament, and 45.7% in Local Government.
- Reformed land and property laws, granting women access to land ownership and inheritance rights.
- Introduced free education from primary to secondary school and affirmative action for women in higher education and STEM.
- Invested in specialized maternal healthcare and adolescent-friendly health services.
- Established GBV courts to fast-track cases, improved survivor protection, and set up GBV shelters.
- Challenges include entrenched cultural norms, weak law enforcement, funding constraints, high GBV prevalence, and the digital divide for women.
- Advocates for systemic reforms, sustainable financing, and inclusive policies to ensure lasting gender equality.
- Uganda welcomed the adoption of the CSW69 Declaration, emphasizing its role in accelerating gender equality efforts.

REAL (Latin America & The Caribbean)

Argentina

- Access to training and the persistent digital divide were highlighted as crucial factors influencing women's ability to capitalize on technological advancement

- Approval of the consensus on the multiannual program at the CSW but clarified its stance on certain terms.
- Argentina views the 2030 Agenda's aspirations as non-binding and subject to national sovereignty
- Argentina finds the term "gender" unclear, interpreting it strictly as "man and a woman" according to the Rome Statute.
- Argentina suggested that the focus on "gender perspective" might overlook other vulnerable groups beyond women.
- Expresses concern that emphasizing a singular "gender perspective" in interpreting rights could create new inequalities and that categorizing discrimination as "multiple and intersecting" is divisive.
- Dissociates itself from paragraphs 7 & 16 and would have preferred the inclusion of maternity assessment in discussions about unpaid care work.
- Explicitly condemns hostage-taking, especially of women and girls, as a breach of humanitarian law and advocates for peaceful resolutions.
- Emphasizes the importance of protecting women's rights and clarifies its understanding of gender equality and gender-based violence in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Bolivia

- Achieved milestones in gender parity and representation in equal opportunities
- Indigenous women have been leaders
- Health and education through inclusive program
- Revamped school curriculum to challenge patriarchy and prevent violence, including comprehensive sex education
- Reiterated sexual and reproductive rights and universal access to health as well as education with an equal society
- Allowed women and girls to access financial services
- Provide protection for women who have been elected to more professional / higher levels so they can perform their job without pressure / threats

Brazil

- Addressing gender and income inequalities.
- Implementing policies for economic empowerment and legal reproductive rights.
- Combating gender-based violence and femicide.
- Expressed disappointment that the CSW69 Declaration did not include references to sexual and reproductive health rights.
- Welcomed the approval of the Declaration.
- Recognized victories in (1) Expanding gender and diversity language, (2) Including a reference to domestic violence, (3) Acknowledging risks and challenges posed by technology.
- Regretted (1) The lack of consensus on a paragraph addressing the rights of afro descendant girls and women and combating racism, (2) The absence of references to sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Commitment to Equality and Inclusion: Emphasized that true equality requires recognizing comprehensive health as a fundamental human right.
- Reaffirmed its commitment to democracy, ensuring no one is left behind.
- Recognized and upheld the rights and diverse needs of (1) Indigenous, afro descendant, and rural girls and women, (2) Those living with disabilities, HIV, or in migration, (3) Young, LGBTQI+, and other marginalized groups.

Chile

- Progress in reproductive rights and gender parity.
- Recognition of motherhood as a choice with supportive policies.
- Collaboration with regional organizations like ECLAC.

Colombia

- Disappointment over the insufficient mention of Afro-descendant individuals
- Reaffirmed its dedication to gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goal 5, emphasizing progress for women, adolescents, girls, trans people, those with disabilities, migrants, and conflict victims
- Key achievements include establishing a Vice Ministry for Women and a Ministry for Equity, implementing a gender-focused budget, and launching a plan of action based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325
- Implemented a special program granting land to women
- Developed a national care system and policy
- Decriminalized abortion in 2022
- Further supporting women through legislative reforms in 2024 and achieving significant female representation in leadership roles

Costa Rica

- Achievements include increased access to education and initiatives recognizing unpaid work
- Passed a law aimed at addressing violence against women in politics, creating safer environments for women to participate in the political sphere.
- Focuses on preventing gender-based violence, promoting women's economic autonomy, and improving care services.
- Recognizes women's role in climate change and disaster management.

- Improved data collection on gender-based violence and unpaid care work.
- Violence against women continues due to deep-seated patriarchal structures, with gaps between laws and real-world application.
- Gender stereotypes and traditional roles persist, hindering progress.
- COVID-19 budget cuts and capacity issues have slowed policy implementation.
- commitment to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls, building upon the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
- emphasizing the need for continued inter-institutional collaboration and financial investment to achieve transformative change

Mexico

- Creation of a dedicated Secretariat for Women's Rights.
- Ongoing projects aimed at legal and social reforms for gender equality.
- Criticized the CSW69 Declaration for failing to fully address evolving women's rights issues.

Panama

- Expanding access to education, employment, and leadership opportunities.
- Increasing labor market participation for women, though still below men's levels.
- Strengthening protections against gender-based violence, with 20,000 recent cases reported.
- Developed national action plans focused on gender equality, women's empowerment & empowerment of girls
- Replaced the Institution of Women with a Ministry of Women to strengthen public gender equality policies
- Launched programs on domestic violence and strengthening access to justice
- Created a strategy for the integration of women in the labor and in policy making spaces.

- Has worked to implement 2 priorities the DBPA including GBV, education, and health
- Working alongside to orgs to develop programs such as ECLAC & union women

Europe

Austria

- 4th female minister has been sworn in, marking progress in political representation
- Increased budget allocation for women's rights and equality measures, tripled funding
- Strong legal framework in place
- Gender mainstreaming in public admin
- Published a violence protection strategy
- Exhibition called silence portraying victims of DV in Austria

Belgium

- Authorities have increased financial support and involvement of civil society in developing national action plans
- Belgium is actively working to close the digital gender gap through a national strategy called "Women in Digital."
- This initiative aims to increase women's participation in tech by promoting skills, showcasing role models, and challenging STEM stereotypes
- A strong civil society is indispensable in this fight. Civil society orgs are essential in advancing the rights of women and girls and essential policy making yet these orgs along with human rights defenders..."
- Eliminating gender stereotypes and discrimination laws
- Stop Early child marriage and female genital mutilation
- Improved access to contraception

Netherlands

- Increased efforts to address sexual harassment and gender-based violence in public and private spaces.
- More women have entered the workforce, supported by paid parental leave policies.
- A law now requires at least 33% female representation on corporate boards, promoting gender equality in decision-making.
- Many women still face discrimination related to pregnancy, affecting their job opportunities and treatment at work.
- The pandemic has increased poverty levels, especially for single mothers, with women facing more economic hardship.
- The SAMEN project helps migrant women, youth, and LGBTIQ+ individuals combat sexual and domestic violence through counseling, training, and support.
- Through the Integration Act 2021, the Netherlands provides special support to migrant women, including guidance on entering the workforce and child care.
- Projects like 'Choose work?' offer training for women to gain financial independence, helping them become more self-reliant and financially resilient.

Portugal

- Created safe ways to report harassment and discrimination.
- Introduced Codes of Conduct to prevent harassment in military and defense workplaces.
- Involved children and youth in government decisions through the National Council of Children and Young People.
- Launched national campaigns to protect children's rights.
- Launched a national strategy to reduce poverty, helping especially older women.

- Created guides to protect LGBTI+ children and help professionals support them.
- Gave more funding and leadership opportunities to women in agriculture.
- Many women in rural areas still face low income and lack education.
- Elderly women are more likely to live in poverty.
- Domestic violence and abuse cases increased during lockdowns.

Spain

- Adopted a feminist foreign policy placing women's rights at the center of the international agenda
- Noted that 1 of 4 Women suffer from violence from their partners
- Reaffirmed commitment to protecting vulnerable groups, including migrant women and girls
- Has implemented State Pact against GBV, parity law, and joint responsibility plan
- creation of an action-oriented "act for the future" negotiated at a governmental level
- They propose strengthening mechanisms like national voluntary reviews to demonstrate tangible progress, particularly in gender equality, and ensuring wider dissemination and impact of agreed documents.
- Promoting economic empowerment through financial inclusion and gender-sensitive budgeting.
- Tackling unpaid care work disparities.
- Addressing gender-based violence, with 1 in 4 women affected by intimate partner violence.
- Advocating for cultural shifts to support women in leadership.

Asia Pacific

Cambodia

- Prioritizing women's economic participation and gender-based violence prevention.

- Increasing female leadership and decision-making roles.
- Addressing climate change's impact on gender equality.

China-Hong Kong

- Adopted a centralized, multi-level structure to promote gender equality through a national working committee and related bodies
- Integrated gender equality into national development planning with clear goals and strategies
- Uses a monitoring system with multiple indicators and gender mainstreaming tools to assess laws and policies
- Encourages public input through citizen feedback channels and the Women's Federation network's active involvement
- Offers health programs like free cancer screenings, HPV vaccines, and financial support for low-income women
- Promotes female entrepreneurship through financial initiatives and targeted welfare projects for women with disabilities and girls in education

India

- Expanding national resources for women-led development.
- Ensuring constitutional amendments for gender representation.
- Supporting women across sectors such as STEM, military, and law enforcement.

Japan

- Implemented five-year gender equality since 1999, focusing on women's empowerment in economic policies
- Set targets to increase the number of women in executive positions
- Introduced mandatory reporting on gender pay gaps and paternity leave rates
- Engages private sector and civil society through a liaison conference to ensure diverse perspectives inform policy

- Prioritizes the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in its foreign policy, co-chairing the Focal Points Network and hosting key meetings.
- These efforts have led to an increase in female employment and a significant rise in male employees taking childcare leave
- Supports UN Women and advocates for global gender equality, including action against online harassment
- Disappointed that specific mentions of Security Council Resolution 1725 and sexual and reproductive health were absent.

Pakistan

- Establishment of Women Police Stations, 95 specialized courts, Human Rights Cells in Courts, and Women Virtual Police Stations.
- Women's Bank to enhance financial inclusion.
- Commissions on the Status of Women, Women Development Departments, and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.
- Strengthening laws to combat gender-based violence, workplace harassment, and domestic abuse, ensuring the protection of women's rights.
- Focus on social protection, financial inclusion, vocational training, and entrepreneurship opportunities for women, particularly through programs like the Benazir Income Support Program and Prime Minister's Youth Program.

Philippines

- Implementing a 30-year gender-responsive development plan.
- Addressing online gender-based violence and advancing STEM opportunities for women.
- Prioritizing disadvantaged women in humanitarian interventions.

Sri Lanka

- 22 female parliamentarians elected (10% of the legislative body).
- These women represent diverse social, religious, economic, and professional backgrounds, including historically underrepresented communities.
- Appointment of a female Prime Minister — the third woman to hold this position in post-independence Sri Lanka.
- 2024 Global Gender Gap Report: No gender gap in the health sector.
- 2023: Launched National Policy on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.
- 2024: Enacted Women Empowerment Act, establishing a National Commission on Women.
- Steps taken toward legislation on gender-responsive budgeting.
- Launched a second multisectoral national action plan to address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).
- Introduced national guidelines for managing shelters for SGBV victim-survivors.

North America

Canada

- Implementing policies for gender-based violence prevention and women's economic inclusion.
- Supporting childcare and social protection initiatives.
- Advocating for the inclusion of diverse women in leadership roles.
- Expressed alarm over global pushback against women's rights and emphasized the importance of defending progress.

United States

- Engaged in CSW69 negotiations despite not being a CSW member this year.
- Expressed support for protecting women and girls while maintaining a focus on biological definitions of sex.

- Opposed references to gender ideology, temporary special measures (quotas), and climate change within the Political Declaration.
- Rejected reaffirmation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), citing concerns over U.S. sovereignty.
- Advocated for clear and precise language regarding women's rights and equal pay policies.
- Emphasized concerns about violence against women along migratory routes and the need for border security measures.
- Stressed the importance of free speech protections and opposition to government censorship on digital platforms.
- Declined to support the CSW69 Declaration, citing concerns over language use and references to the right to development.



Key Takeaways

- **Economic empowerment:** Many countries are working toward financial inclusion and reducing gender pay gaps.
- **Leadership & participation:** Legal frameworks and cultural shifts are necessary to enhance women's presence in politics and decision-making.
- **Gender-based violence:** Addressing violence through policy, legal reform, and grassroots initiatives remains a priority worldwide.
- **Education & STEM:** Efforts are being made to bridge gender gaps in education and promote women in STEM careers.
- **Social protection & care work:** Many nations are recognizing and integrating unpaid care work into economic planning.

Section 4: CSW69 – NGO CSW and Civil Society Engagement

On March 13, 2025, a CSW NGO Briefing was held to provide updates on negotiations related to EDVAW and CEDAW. The discussion highlighted the importance of CEDAW as a legally binding international agreement that protects the rights of girls and women. Participants examined how gender stereotypes impact the criminal justice system, particularly in cases of sexual violence, often leading to unfair treatment of young women and those from marginalized communities. Concerns were raised about key issues being overlooked in CSW discussions, emphasizing the need for stronger collaboration between the CEDAW Committee, NGOs, and governments to ensure meaningful participation.

Another key focus was how NGOs can contribute to the work of the CEDAW Committee. This includes providing country-specific information, helping shape General Recommendations such as the upcoming GR41 on gender stereotypes, and using formal processes like inquiries to address systemic human rights violations. The discussion also stressed the importance of strengthening collaboration between CEDAW and CSW to ensure women's rights are not just discussed but effectively implemented. New areas of concern, such as the impact of the digital economy and business on gender equality, were identified as needing more attention. Participants also emphasized the value of civil society organizations in submitting shadow reports and using CEDAW findings to support advocacy and policy changes.

On March 14, 2025, another CSW NGO Briefing focused on making CSW more inclusive and accessible. Participants stressed the need to bring CSW discussions closer to grassroots organizations instead of requiring travel to New York. Expanding digital participation was proposed as a way to involve more people, especially women from grassroots movements who face visa and travel challenges. There was also a recommendation to hold national-level CSW meetings twice a year to encourage discussions at the country level and ensure governments are held accountable.

Improving how CSW monitors progress was another major topic. Suggestions included introducing peer review mechanisms or “report cards” to track how well governments are addressing gender equality issues. Participants encouraged using existing UN tools, such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), to ensure governments report on their engagement with civil society. Strengthening the outcomes of CSW was also discussed, with calls to include legally binding commitments in the final agreements and to improve coordination among UN agencies working on gender issues. Participants also emphasized the need to strengthen regional engagement, where collaboration between governments and civil society might be more practical and effective.

The discussion also explored new ways to improve CSW preparation and participation. One idea was to hold preparatory forums, led by UN Women and ECLAC, in a hybrid format so that more people can participate. Participants suggested using innovative methods to present key issues to ministers, such as visual charts with QR codes linking to detailed documents or short, impactful video presentations. As a next step, a draft “elements paper” summarizing key themes and recommendations for revitalizing CSW was developed by April 2025.

❖ Section 5: CSW Revitalization and Future Work for the Next Five Years

Efforts to revitalize the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are a key priority as civil society, governments, and UN agencies work toward a more inclusive, action-driven, and impactful global platform for gender equality. CSW has long been recognized as the principal intergovernmental body dedicated to advancing the rights of girls and women, but challenges such as limited accessibility, weak accountability mechanisms, and slow policy implementation have underscored the urgent need for reform.

As part of this revitalization process, CSW has adopted a multi-year Priority Theme framework that will guide its work through 2029: (Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women - Draft presented by the CSW69 Bureau 24 January 2025)

Seventieth session (2026):

Transforming care systems: towards achieving sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Seventy-second session (2028):

Advancing gender equality, women's leadership and empowerment in humanitarian emergencies: a call for global action

Seventy-first session (2027):

Gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and their human rights across the Sustainable Development Goals: assessing progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Seventy-third session (2029):

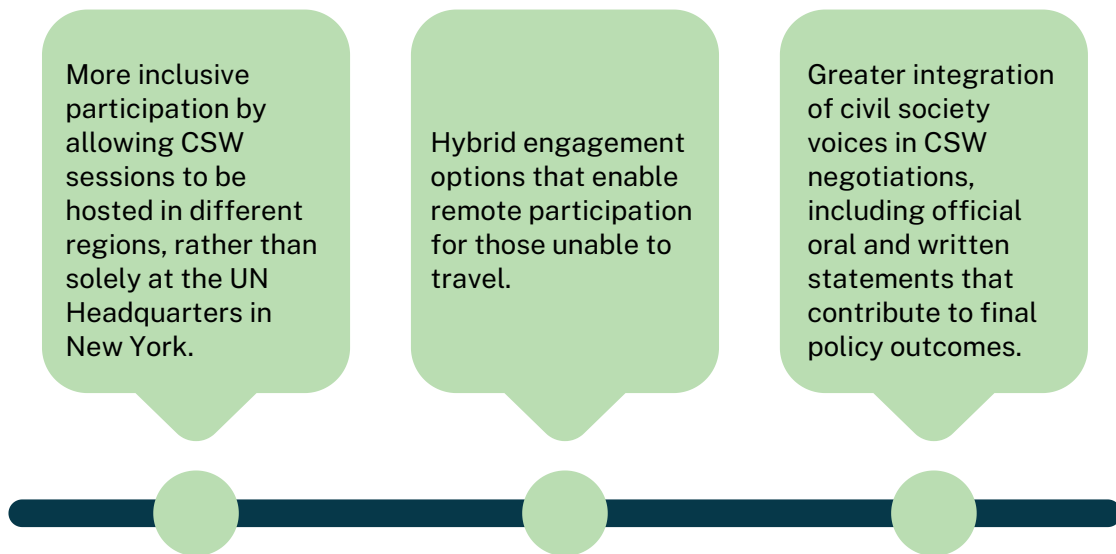
Strengthening women's access to justice and eliminating discriminatory laws

In addition to shaping CSW's thematic focus, revitalization efforts aim to enhance civil society engagement, ensuring that grassroots voices — particularly those of girls, women, and marginalized communities — can actively shape global gender policies. The NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW) plays a central role in advocating for these reforms, working to expand participation, improve accessibility, and strengthen accountability mechanisms within CSW.

The Importance of Civil Society Participation

Civil society organizations (CSOs), including grassroots movements, advocacy networks, and NGOs, provide essential on-the-ground perspectives and expertise that inform CSW's policy discussions. Their involvement helps ensure that international commitments translate into meaningful action at the local and national levels. However, many challenges — such as visa restrictions, financial barriers, and digital accessibility issues — prevent full participation in CSW, particularly for organizations from the Global South.

To address these barriers, NGO CSW and other advocacy groups have called for:



CSOs also play a critical watchdog role in holding governments accountable for the commitments they make at CSW. Through the submission of shadow reports, direct advocacy, and public pressure, civil society ensures that promises made at the UN translate into real, measurable progress on the ground.

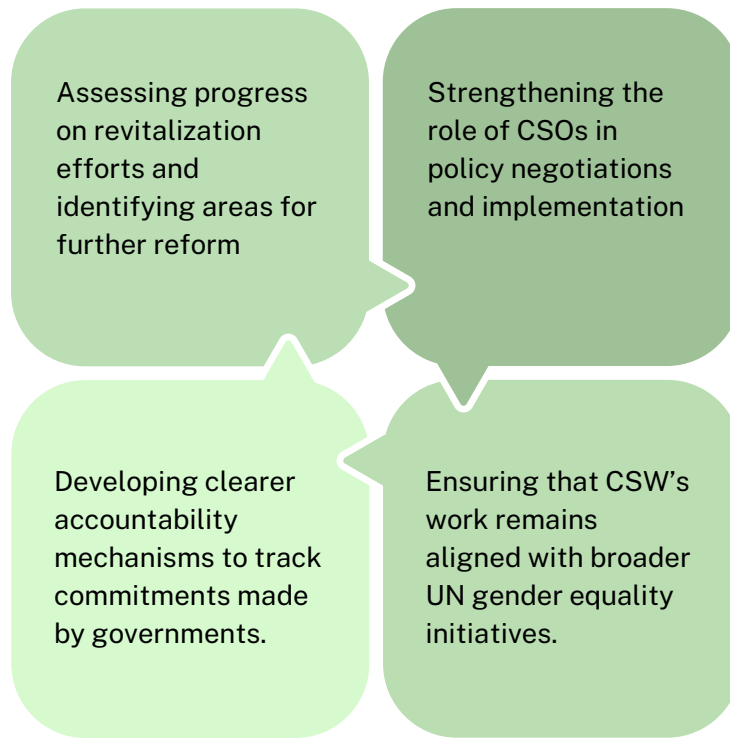
CSW's Role in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

CSW's revitalization is also deeply connected to the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on gender equality. The Commission plays an essential role in reviewing progress on gender-related SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), making it a crucial space for ensuring that gender equality remains a global priority.

To enhance its effectiveness, CSW has requested a report from the UN Secretary-General outlining recommendations for strengthening its impact. This aligns with broader UN reforms aimed at making global gender mechanisms more effective, accountable, and action oriented.

Next Steps: Preparing for CSW70 and Beyond

Discussions on CSW70 preparations will continue the momentum toward making CSW a stronger, more effective forum for gender equality. These efforts will include:



Our Commitment to CSW Revitalization

Recognizing the urgency of this effort, GSIJP has submitted a formal statement endorsing CSW revitalization and calling for stronger civil society engagement. The following is our statement:

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd supports the revitalization of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

We recognize and endorse the recommendations submitted by The Working Group on Girls coalition, the NGO CSW, and the Global Youth and Adolescent Recommendations.

Our global network, spanning over 68 countries, is deeply committed to collaborating with and supporting girls and women, along with their communities. Through programs in education, mentoring, and economic, political, and social capacity building, we empower girls and women to self-advocate and claim their human rights. In alignment with our advocacy priorities, we offer the following recommendations:

Breaking Barriers to Participation

Ensuring Girls' and Women's Voices are Heard: Geopolitical instability and restrictive immigration policies continue to prevent meaningful participation in CSW, particularly for voices from the Global South. Many girls and women are denied visas, excluding them from critical conversations at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

- To ensure fair representation, we call for CSW sessions to be held on a rotational basis in different Member States, similar to the Conference of Parties on Climate Change and previous World Conferences on Women.
- CSW must expand accessibility for grassroots organizations, including those without ECOSOC accreditation, so that the lived experiences of girls and women directly inform policy recommendations.
- Structural barriers such as language accessibility, technology gaps, and unsafe environments must be addressed to allow girls and women to fully participate. This includes hybrid engagement options and flexible scheduling outside of school hours.

Rethinking Economic Systems for Justice


Current economic structures prioritize profit over people, disproportionately harming girls and women, especially those in poverty. Economic policies must move beyond mitigating disparities and instead center human dignity, social protection, and just wages.

- CSW must take a rights-based approach to economic justice, ensuring that gender-responsive budgeting goes beyond corporate partnerships and instead strengthens public policies that prioritize social welfare and labor rights.
- Prostitution and human trafficking must be recognized as forms of gender-based violence, driven by economic inequalities that disproportionately impact vulnerable girls and women. A strong abolitionist approach is necessary to dismantle systemic exploitation.
- Comprehensive health education, including sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), should be prioritized to ensure that all girls and women have access to essential healthcare, menstrual hygiene management, and evidence-based education.

Strengthening Accountability for Real Change

CSW commitments must translate into real progress at the national level, with clear accountability mechanisms for governments and institutions.

- A formal review process should be established to track progress on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, aligning with the reporting frameworks of CEDAW and the SDGs.
- Civil society organizations must have a structured role in holding governments accountable through shadow reports and direct engagement in UN mechanisms.
- Governments and institutions must meaningfully integrate girls' perspectives into national and international policies, creating direct avenues for youth-led advocacy, including town halls, digital consultations, and engagement with grassroots organizations.



To conclude, we support the revitalization of the CSW that includes the diverse voices of girls and women, we must remove barriers to participation, rethink economic justice, and strengthen accountability mechanisms. The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd reaffirms our commitment to a CSW that upholds the dignity and rights of all girls and women, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Conclusion

As CSW69 convenes to advance gender equality, Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advocating for the dignity, rights, and empowerment of girls and women. While progress has been made, persistent barriers demand urgent and collective action. This report underscores the necessity of inclusive policies, sustainable investments, and international solidarity to create a just and equitable world. As we move forward, GSIJP remains dedicated to advocating for transformative change, fostering collaboration, and building a just world where all girls and women can thrive.

Contact Information



Email

Kimberly.HM@gsijp.org
Margaret.L@gsijp.org
Taskila.N@gsijp.org



Website

www.olcgs.gsiip.org

GSIJP Information



GSIJP Twitter



GSIJP Facebook



[GSIJP_BPIJP](#)



[GSIJP_BPIJP YouTube](#)

RESOURCES

CORE INFORMATION

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Overview

Explore the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women>

CSW Snapshot

Get a concise overview of the CSW's role, functions, and impact.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw-snapshot>

Member States of the CSW

View the list of the 45 Member States elected by the Economic and Social Council to serve on the CSW.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/member-states>

UPCOMING SESSIONS & EVENTS

CSW69 / Beijing+30 (2025)

Learn about the sixty-ninth session of the CSW, taking place at UN Headquarters from 10 to 21 March 2025.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw69-2025>

CSW69 Side Events

Discover side events organized during CSW69, offering additional spaces for advocacy and collaboration.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw69-2025/side-events>

CSW69 Official Documentation

Access official documents and reports related to the sixty-ninth session of the CSW.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw69-2025/official-documents>

KEY FRAMEWORKS & PUBLICATIONS

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)

Review the foundational global policy document on gender equality and women's rights.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/01/beijing-declaration>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

UN Women Transparency Portal

Explore detailed data about UN Women's funding, programs, and regional activities.

<https://open.unwomen.org/>

Facts and Figures: Women, Peace, and Security

Access key data at the intersection of gender, conflict, and peacebuilding.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-women-peace-and-security>



CSW69 THROUGH THE LENS OF GOOD SHEPHERD INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE

*Observations on Advocacy, Policy, and Progress
Toward Gender Equality*