



US WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Feminist Advocacy at the UN

Strategic Priorities Final Report

June 12, 2024

The US Women's Caucus held two strategic planning sessions on June 8 and June 28, 2022 that set forth a set of Strategic Priorities for the June 2022-June 2024 timeframe. This report discusses progress towards those Strategic Priorities as of June 2024, the endpoint in the two-year plan.

I. Updated Mission Statement and Narrative Description

Through our collective discussions in June 2022, we devised a new Mission Statement:

"US feminists collaborating to advance human rights and gender equity
for women and girls worldwide"

We deployed this Mission Statement on our website, letterhead, and other communications.

II. Strengthening our alliance to include more US NGOs

A key priority for our alliance is to broaden our base of organizational supporters.

As of June 2022, we had 12 organizational members. As of June 2024, that membership had expanded to 24 members as follows:

ECOSOC organizations (12)

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)

Women's Intercultural Network (WIN)

Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)

Women Graduates-USA

WomenNC

Zonta International

International Women's Anthropology Conference (IWAC)

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Education for Social Justice Foundation (ESJF)

International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW)

International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women (ICUW)

Non-ECOSOC (9)

National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)

Women's Equality Coalition of Greater Kansas City

STEM Institute

Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN)

American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)

Bozeman City for CEDAW Task Force

Grace Initiative Global

Footage Foundation

Global Freedom Group

Affiliated organizations (3)

Beneby Enterprises

Blue Ridge Impact Consulting

Enterchange Group LLC

Individual names on our Google Group listserv as of June 2024: 211

As part of our efforts to strengthen our alliance, the US Women's Caucus applied for ECOSOC consultative status itself as of June 1, 2023. As part of that application, we learned that ECOSOC will not admit organizations with "UN" in their name. After consultation with the UN Office of Legal Affairs, we shortened our name legally to "US Women's Caucus" and adopted the tagline, "Feminist Advocacy at the UN."

III. Developing feminist positions on CSW themes

Another key priority for our Caucus is to develop and disseminate feminist perspectives on the annual CSW themes. We carried out this priority in several ways:

- A. We developed a timeline for CSW activities to keep us on track (attached).
 - B. Our Briefs Committee composed a series of briefs on the CSW 67 (gender and technology) and CSW 68 (gender and poverty) themes and summarized our positions in a two-page advocacy statement. We disseminated these materials as follows:
 1. Posted on our website (<https://www.uswomenscaucus.org/un-csw/csw-67-2023/> and <https://www.uswomenscaucus.org/un-csw/csw-68-2024/>).
 2. Circulated to our members and other NGO caucuses and organizations
 3. Promoted them in online meetings with NGOs, US officials, and UN personnel
 4. Sent them in hard copy to the following US officials:
 - Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US Ambassador to the United Nations
 - Amb. Lisa Carty, US Ambassador to ECOSOC
 - Director Jenn Klein, White House Gender Policy Council
 - Senior Official Katrina Fotovat, State Dept. Office of Global Women's Issues
 - Amb. Melanne Vermeer, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security
 - Senior Human Rights and Health Advisor Sofija Korac, US Mission
 5. Ambassador Lisa Carty responded in Dec 2022 with a letter expressing appreciation for our views (see attached).
 - C. For both CSW 67 (2023) and CSW 68 (2024), we developed a series of Fast Facts flyers, graphic presentations of our data on the CSW theme, and disseminated them via tweets and e-mail, including posting them on our website (<https://www.uswomenscaucus.org/un-csw/csw-67-2023/> and <https://www.uswomenscaucus.org/un-csw/csw-68-2024/>).
 - D. We presented two feminist events at CSW 67 in March 2023 and CSW 68 in March 2024. Our CSW 67 presentations were as follows:
 1. "The US and Civil Society at the UN CSW: The Back Story" March 9, 2023
This event was held in person at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York with speaker Dr. Susan O'Malley, chair of NGO CSW/NY 2015-2019.
 2. "The Gender Digital Divide in the US: Problems, Promises, and Progress" March 14, 2023
This event was held online as part of the NGO Forum with 3 speakers
Kristina Ishmael, Deputy Director, Office of Educational Technology
US Department of Education
Dr. Carmela Roybal, Research Professor and Executive Director,
Native American Budget and Policy Institute,
University of New Mexico
Dr. Bethlehem Gronneberg, Software Engineer, Founder and
CEO, uCodeGirl
- Our CSW 68 presentations also included two presentations:
1. "Strengthening Ties Between the United States and the UN CSW"
Friday March 15 at 4:30 p.m. held in person at the Church Center of the UN with speaker Leslie Wright, past chair of NGO CSW/NY.

2. "Who's Minding the Kids? US Childcare as Vital Infrastructure"
 Tuesday March 19 at 2:30 p.m., held virtually with 3 speakers:
 Linda K. Smith, director, Early Childhood Initiative at the Bipartisan Policy Center, former deputy assistant secretary for early childhood dev't at US Health and Human Services (HHS)
 Dr. Taryn Morrissey, professor at School of Public Affairs, American University, formerly at US Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Child Care.
 Dr. Alissa Mwenelupembe, managing director, Early Learning at Nat'l Assoc of Educ of Young Children (NAEYC) and an early educator and director of several childcare centers.
3. US Women's Caucus members invited to speak at CSW 68
 - a. Shaila Rao Mistry at Interactive Dialogue speaking for Graduate Women Int'l on AI
 - b. Pam Perraud at Briefing with UN Women Lopa Banerjee and NGO CSW Pamela Morgan

IV. Influencing US executive branch on CSW themes

An important priority for the US Women's Caucus is to convey our feminist views to the US administration, especially on the CSW themes. To that end, we undertook the following activities:

- A. We strengthened our relationship with US Mission personnel, especially Sofija Korac, the US gender negotiator at the CSW.
- B. We researched who's who at the US State Department, especially in the Office of Global Women's Issues and the Bureau of International Organization Affairs.
- C. We contacted the US Dep't of Education and recruited a CSW 67 speaker from the Office of Educational Technology.
- D. We created a Caucus advocacy team to engage with the Agreed Conclusions negotiations.
 1. The team reviewed the CSW Zero Draft and subsequent revisions and communicated our suggested language to US personnel and to the chair and vice-chairs of the UN CSW Bureau.
 2. US Women's Caucus officers were invited to participate in three Virtual Vienna Cafés at CSW 67 with the UN CSW Bureau and other CSW ambassadors.
 3. The advocacy team met with a former US Mission staffer in Jan 2023 to learn about effective CSW advocacy.
- E. We met virtually with the State Department Office of Global Women's Issues in January 2024
 Varina Winder, chief of staff, Ashley MacPherson, Caroline Cooney
 Lauren Platukis, Office of International Organizations
- F. We met virtually with with the ECOSOC Office at US Mission to the UN in February 2024
 Ambassador Lisa Carty, Senior Advisor Sofija Korac
- G. We were invited to a CSW 68 Lunch at the US Mission and met US staff and delegation members including:
 White House Gender Policy Council director Jennifer Klein
 Ambs. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Lisa Carty, Jonathan Shrier
 Senior Advisor Sofija Korac, GWI Chief of Staff Varina Winder
 Public delegates Yana Watson Kakar, Elise Young, Karina Burgess

V. Identifying Congressional allies

Another strategic priority for the US Women's Caucus is to develop our relationship with members of the US Congress in order to educate them about the CSW and influence US decision-making.

- A. We advocated for the Senate confirmation of Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, the Biden-Harris Administration nominee for US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. We contacted US Senators, including a phone call with the staff of Senator Jeanne Shaheen, the only female member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to encourage them to vote for Dr. Gupta's confirmation. After being passed over in 2021 and 2022, Dr. Gupta was finally confirmed on May 10, 2023 in a party-line vote with two Republicans voting in favor (Sen. Collins and Sen. Murkowski).
- B. We sent letters in April 2023 to members of the Congressional ERA Caucus thanking them for forming the ERA Caucus and asking them to support prompt affirmation of the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. We sent letters to the following members:
 - Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO), co-chair
 - Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), co-chair
 - Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA)
 - Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)
 - Rep. Summer Lee (D-PA)
 - Rep. Jennifer McClellan (D-VA)
 - Rep. Delia Ramirez (D-IL)
 - Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD)
 - Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)

VI. Collaborating with feminist groups at home and abroad

We joined with other feminist activists to promote the human rights of women and girls around the world.

- A. We sent tweets in support of Afghan women protestors, the expulsion of Iran from the CSW, abortion rights, the ERA, and CEDAW. Follow us on Twitter (@uswomenscaucus)
- B. We nominated Caucus Board member Shaila Rao Mistry to the Core Group of the Europe-North America Caucus and she was elected.
- C. President Susan Lee presented a talk in Dec 2022 at Women's Intercultural Network's Women's Equality Day celebration on religious perspectives on abortion rights.
- D. We signed a petition by the Iranian Women Life Freedom movement on removing Iran from the CSW.
- E. We invited NGO CSW/NY chair Houry Geudelekian to speak to us in Feb 2023 on NGO relationships with the United Nations.

US Women's Caucus at the UN CSW Timeline

June

Board President appoints CSW **Briefs Committee** co-chairs by June 5
Briefs Committee co-chairs meet to sketch out plan of action
Briefs Committee reviews resources, identifies subtopics

Board President asks general membership for volunteers and suggestions of knowledgeable people to serve on Briefs Committee
Briefs Committee members recruited by June 15
First meeting of full Briefs Committee, brainstorming of subtopics
Resources identified such as UN reports, expert NGOs, etc.

Briefs Committee members commit to produce subtopic briefs
Standard format developed for briefs, i.e.

1. Write up short 2-3 paragraph summary of the topic
2. Select 3 of the most important statistics about it
3. Select 3-5 key resources and links on the topic
4. Write up 3 key recommendations on the topic

Length: 2 pages max

July

Deadline for briefs first draft -July 20
Briefs Committee reviews briefs, harmonizes formats

August

Deadline for second draft of briefs - Aug 4
Co-chairs finalize briefs
Briefs completed, posted on website Aug 30, sent to membership

September

Briefs sent to relevant US Mission, State Dep't, NGOs
Summary 2-page recommendations drafted
Briefs Committee co-chairs finalize recommendations
Recommendations posted on website, circulated to membership
Recommendations sent to relevant US Mission, State Dep't personnel
"Fast Fact" bulletins sent out to NGOs, members

Board meeting discusses CSW events plans, **Events Committee** formed
Events Committee recruits speakers
Events Committee looks into physical meeting site if needed

October

Events Committee continues to recruit speakers
Events Committee contacts NGO CSW NY on reservations

November	<p>Events Committee follows up with NGO CSW NY on reservations</p> <p>Board President appoints CSW Advocacy Committee co-chairs</p> <p>Advocacy Committee networks with other NGOs on priorities</p> <p>Advocacy Committee contacts US Mission to discuss priorities</p> <p>Events Committee continues to recruit speakers</p> <p>Events Committee finalizes physical meeting space</p>
December	<p>Advocacy Committee identifies member state allies on priorities</p> <p>Events Committee finalizes speakers</p>
January	<p>Events Committee develops flyer for Caucus event(s)</p> <p>Caucus flyer circulated to membership, US Mission, NGOs</p> <p>Advocacy Committee follows up with US Mission on priorities</p>
February	<p>Events Committee finalizes event plans</p> <p>Advocacy Committee engages in Zero Draft revision process</p> <p>Caucus event flyer sent to membership, others again</p>
March	<p>Advocacy Committee continues with Zero Draft revision process</p> <p>Caucus event flyer sent to membership, others for final time</p> <p>Caucus event(s) held at CSW</p>
April	<p>Board reviews CSW event(s) and process for feedback, suggestions</p> <p>Implementation Committee formed</p>
May	<p>Implementation Committee holds initial meeting, forms plan</p>



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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

December 8, 2022

Hello Susan,

Thank you very much for your letter and sharing your briefs and policy recommendations to address gender inequality. We share many of the concerns you raise, from technology to health to violence against women. We must stand up for women and girls in every walk of life to advance their economic prosperity, health, human rights, and overall livelihood.

Achieving gender equality around the world is a priority for both Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield and myself. From the Commission on the Status of Women to numerous General Assembly resolutions on this issue, the United States has been adamant about putting women's rights at the forefront of the conversation. In reviewing your caucus's CSW 67 statement and series of briefs, it is clear we are both committed to fighting for the advancement of rights of women and girls in all their diversity.

We look forward to welcoming you to our annual consultation ahead of the Commission on the Status of Women in the early part of 2023.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Carty", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Carty

The Rev. Susan H. Lee, Ph.D.
President of the U.S. Women's Caucus at the UN
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