

## UN & CoE Committee 2020 – 2022



LINK



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# Zonta International and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)



... and other news

[www.zonta-district13.org](http://www.zonta-district13.org)

# CSW and NGO CSW Free and Virtual in 2021

Born in 1946, the CSW ([The Commission on the Status of Women](#)) is the largest global annual gathering on women's rights worldwide, and the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Participants meet within the UN Headquarters and need ECOSOC accreditation or a UN ground pass. They are:

- Representatives of [Member States](#)
- UN entities
- [ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

In addition to the CSW, the [NGO CSW Forum](#)

- organizes the civil society side of the CSW
- runs more than 500 parallel events occurring outside the UN Headquarters
- provides civil society the opportunity to engage in the processes and events of CSW without ECOSOC-accreditation or a UN grounds pass.

Find information about the CSW [here](#) and about the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum and how to participate [here](#).

**CSW free registration (events inside the UN, deadline 22 February 2021):** [LINK](#)  
**NGOCSW free registration:** [LINK](#)



# ZONTA, THE UN AND THE CSW

## THE BEGINNING



Mrs. Margaret K. Bruce (left), Chief of the Status of Women Section, Division of Human Rights; conversing with Mrs. Helvi L. Sipilä (Finland), Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations, New York, 23 February 1967

Helvi Sipilä, Zonta Past International President (1968-1970), was the first woman appointed Assistant Secretary-General of UN (1972), at a time where 97% of UN senior management was male.

She headed the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs until 1980 and used her leadership position in the UN effectively to advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

She also served as Secretary-General for the First World Conference on Women held in Mexico City in 1975.

# ZONTA AND THE NGO CSW 15 – 26 MARCH 2021

## VIRTUAL NGO CSW FORUM 65



### Priority 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.

### Review theme

Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development ([agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session](#)).

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- Zonta International's statement: [LINK](#)
  - Information: [LINK](#)
  - Calendar with all events: [LINK](#)
  - Free registration: [LINK](#)
  - Schedule: [LINK](#)
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Commission on the Status of Women

**CSW65**

**WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE - EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING**  
15-26 MARCH 2021 | **END VIOLENCE - ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY** | #CSW65

# ZONTA AND THE **Youth** NGO CSW

NGO CSW/NY Youth Leaders & Young Professionals

## **YOUTH PREPARATION SERIES**

for the

**NGO CSW65 VIRTUAL FORUM**



Join this growing network of young people working for gender equality, get to know one another, learn what is happening around the world and how to navigate the UN system.

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### **Youth Preparation Series Schedule**

#### **Youth Activist Space: Effective Advocacy in International Fora**

4 February, 8-9PM EST – [Register](#)

#### **Presentation Skills Workshop**

11 February, 3-5PM EST – [Register](#)

#### **UN Advocacy Training**

18 February, 12-2PM EST – [Register](#)

#### **Youth Activist Space**

25 February, Time TBD

#### **BIPOC & Intersectionality Training**

4 March, Time TBD

#### **Youth Activist Space: International Women's Day**

11 March, Time TBD

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# NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE CSW



The Danish Ministry of foreign affairs will be active in the virtual Session. The Danish Minister of Equality will give a national contribution and attend roundtables etc. Furthermore Nordisk Ministerråd makes plans for common Nordic activities and expected meeting with UN Women executive director.

Some Zontians will attend the Danish Delegation. For more information, please contact Hanne Friis Olesen: [friis161e@gmail.com](mailto:friis161e@gmail.com)

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The Icelandic delegation has been under the direction of the foreign ministry. It is always led by a minister with delegates from his ministry as well as from the foreign ministry; they offer NGO's to participate in the CSW in New York. Some NGO's host events, sometimes with the ministry and sometimes by themselves. Now, when the meeting is virtual, at least two Icelandic NGO's will host an event together. For more information, please contact **Hildur Helga Gísladóttir**: [hildurg@centrum.is](mailto:hildurg@centrum.is)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Secretary-General appoints Mette Knudsen as his new Deputy Special Representative (Political) for Afghanistan. [LINK](#)

Ms. Knudsen, of Denmark, brings to the position over 28 years of professional experience in diplomacy, international cooperation and economic development. Most recently, she served as Ambassador of Denmark to Afghanistan. She has held several senior positions with Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Ambassador of Denmark to Kenya, Seychelles, Eritrea and Somalia (2015 – 2020), Greece (2012-2015) and Cyprus (2014-2015), Ethiopia (2004-2007), and as the Deputy Head of Mission in Zambia (2002-2004). She also served as the Ministry's Head of Africa Department (2007-2012) and as the Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Nairobi (2015-2020) and to the African Union and ECOWAS (2004-2007). Ms. Knudsen is a member of the Nordic Women Mediators – Denmark.

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Professor Dalia Leinartė re-elected to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for a third time. [LINK](#)

From 2015 to 2016, she served as the Vice-Chairperson of this Committee. In 2017-2018, Leinartė held the position of the Chairperson. Professor Leinartė has also made a significant contribution to the elaboration by the Committee of a General Recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration.

Prof. Dalia Leinartė is recognized as the international expert in the area of ensuring of gender equality and women rights. In 2018, professor was included to the list of 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy, published annually by the journal "Apolitical" by the Social Network For Civil Servants. Leinartė led a Working Group that has drafted the 2nd National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Zonta International Honorary Member Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir appointed by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres as the new Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). [LINK](#)

Ms. Gísladóttir has held the following leadership roles in numerous organizations: Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and worked as the Head of its Election Observation Mission in Ukraine, served as UN Women's Regional Director in Europe and Central Asia and its Country Representative in Turkey and Afghanistan, was Iceland's Foreign Affairs Minister from 2007 to 2009, member of Parliament for seven years, and Mayor of Reykjavík for nine years.

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Norway has been elected as a member of the UN Security Council for the period 2021-2022. [LINK](#). Mona Juul will be the representative in this period. The Security Council is the only body with responsibility for international peace and security that has a mandate to adopt binding resolutions.

Norway will focus in particular on four thematic areas:

- Peace diplomacy to strengthen the UN's conflict prevention and resolution efforts.
- Gender equality to ensure that women's participation and rights are safeguarded in UN peace and security efforts.
- Protection of civilians to strengthen the protection of civilians, including children, and will use international humanitarian and human rights law as a basis for these efforts. Norway will give special priority to efforts to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence in conflict.
- Climate change and security to ensure that the UN discusses climate-related security threats and the impact of climate change on other issues on the UN's agenda.

# COVID-19 IMPACT ON WOMEN AND ON THE SDGs

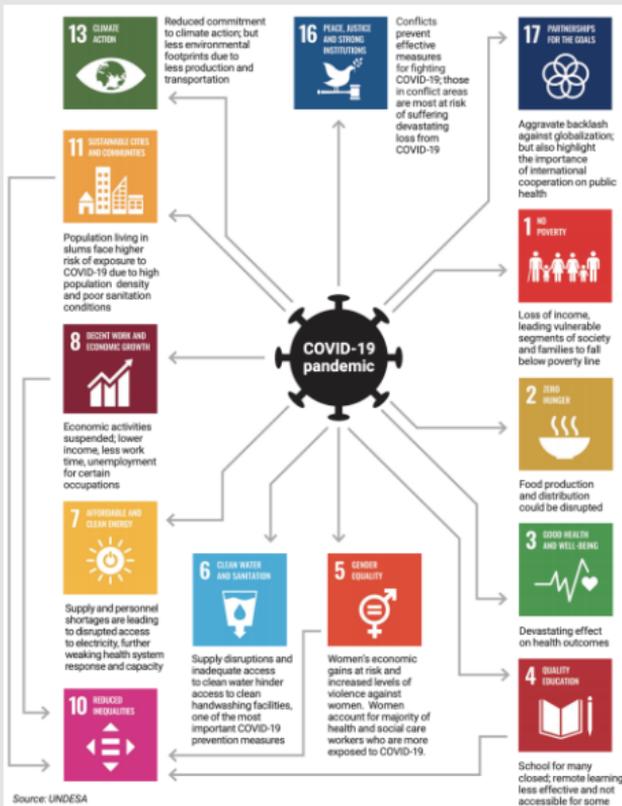
**Gender-based violence** is increasing exponentially because of economic and social stress coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures. Many women are being forced to 'lockdown' at home with their abusers and services to support survivors are being disrupted or made inaccessible.

Compounded **economic** impacts are felt especially by women and girls who are generally earning less, saving less, and holding insecure jobs or living close to poverty.

The general **health** of women is adversely impacted through the reallocation of resources and priorities away from sexual and reproductive health services.

**Unpaid care work** has increased, with children out-of-school, heightened care needs of older persons and overwhelmed health services.

**Victims of trafficking** have a high risk of COVID-19 infection, and many containment measures curtail the identification and protection of victims and puts them at risk of re-exploitation.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Goals D13 2020 – 2022 UN & CoE committee

- ✓ To disseminate knowledge about the UN and the CoE via
  - Easy-to-go newsletters
  - Webinars
- ✓ To provide tools for clubs to
  - Participate in relevant campaigns, such as the 16 days of activism and Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women
  - Collaborate with other organizations
- ✓ To conduct workshops (if virtual via ZOOM and using the free whiteboards from [www.miro.com](http://www.miro.com))

## Watch, follow and share in Social Media Press the icon

Zonta International



UN Women



UN Women Nordic



Kvinderådet (DK)



Fokus (N)

