



Government  
Equalities Office

## United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 59<sup>th</sup> Session:

### Beijing+20: working towards Gender Equality

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#### In this issue:

- Beijing+20 and the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 59<sup>th</sup> Session
- UK Annual Consultation with Women Event, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>: **Save the Date!**

#### Preparing for CSW59 and the Beijing+20 Review

I am delighted to bring you GEO's first CSW59 newsletter. We launched the CSW newsletter in 2010 to provide information for UK non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) on the Government's preparations for upcoming CSW sessions. I hope you found it informative in the run up to CSW58 last year but if you do have any suggestions for improving it – including subjects that you would like covered – then please do get in touch. This first issue provides some early information on the forthcoming CSW59, including information on our pre-CSW Annual Consultation with Women event, to be held on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

The UN Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Every year, representatives of UN Member States, civil society and agencies gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

This year marks a major milestone in the history of CSW. 2015 signals both the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA), and the creation of a renewed development agenda. This gives us a unique opportunity to put

women's rights firmly at the heart of post-2015 Development goals and we look forward to working with NGOs to further women's rights everywhere.

CSW59 will be held at the United Nations in New York from 9-20 March 2015 (tentative date). The Commission will undertake a review of progress made, and remaining challenges to the implementation of the Beijing PFA and discuss gender equality in the development agenda. - See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015>.

In preparation for CSW59, the UK submitted its national report on Beijing+20 to the UN in July this year. You can find both nationals, and the ECE regional report here <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35329>.

I will be attending the ECE regional review of Beijing+20 on 6/7 November, and will report back on discussions at our NGO meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> November (see below). NGOs will also have the opportunity to update us on their regional review which takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> November.

Save the Date: Monday 10 November 1pm

We are delighted to confirm that our Annual National Consultation with Women event will take place on the afternoon of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November in London, commencing at 1pm. This event is aimed at ensuring that you are well informed about the UK's domestic and international policies as you prepare for CSW59 next year. It is also an opportunity for Government to receive valuable input from our NGOs in addressing priority areas in gender equality. This event is one of a series we will hold in 2014/15 as part of Government's commitment to a women's engagement programme that is direct, accountable, inclusive and transparent, enabling the women's sector to directly speak with ministers and feed into government policy.

We will circulate further details about the event in due course. In the meantime we ask that you register your intention to attend by emailing us at [womensengagement@geo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:womensengagement@geo.gsi.gov.uk).

Please circulate widely amongst your membership and networks. To receive regular updates on our plans for the upcoming CSW session, you can join our mailing list via [womensengagement@geo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:womensengagement@geo.gsi.gov.uk)