



**Government
Equalities Office**

United Nations Commission on the
Status of Women 59th Session:

Beijing+20: working towards Gender
Equality

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In this issue:

- UK events at CSW59
- Engagement with NGOs pre-CSW and at CSW
- NGO participation (taken from the UN website)
- CSW communications

Welcome to GEO's fourth CSW59 newsletter. With the start of CSW only days away, we are busy finalising plans for our participation and are looking forward to the opportunity to recommit to achieving gender equality for all women and girls.

This will be the 7th CSW that I attend, and while we have made significant progress in addressing gender inequality, it is clear that on its 20th anniversary the Beijing Platform for Action remains as important today as it ever was. At CSW59 the UK government will recommit to ending gender inequality and will work to ensure that women and girls are placed at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.

In this newsletter you will find information on the UK's planned CSW activities including our key side events. You will also find an update on our pre-CSW NGO engagement and our plans for engagement with NGOs at CSW.

We hope you find these newsletters informative. We will also provide short daily summaries during the 1st week of CSW to keep people at CSW and those in the UK updated on our delegation's progress.

If you have any feedback on what you might like to see covered please contact us at womensengagement@geo.gsi.gov.uk.

I look forward to seeing you in New York!

Helene

Key UK events

Monday 10 March

UK and Danish side-event: How Women's and Girls' voices are silenced

Time: 4.45-6pm

Venue: CR11 UN HQ NY

Tuesday 10th March

UK to chair PSVI side event: Empowering Womens' Human Rights Defenders in Iraq and Syria

Time: 1.15-2.45

Venue: UK Mission

UK Ambassador's reception for UK NGOs and VIPs

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue: UK Mission NY

Wednesday 11th March

UK co-hosted event with World Vision and Plan UK "Girls at the Centre"

Time: 4.4.5-6pm

Venue: Dag Hammarskjold Library

Friday 13th March

UK participate in Dove and Girl Guides side event "Body confidence and self-esteem"

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: CCUN building

A calendar of side events organised by Permanent Missions and UN entities can be found [here](#).

You will find a list of NGO side events, including those with UK participation [here](#).

Pre-CSW engagement

Pre-CSW Working Group 16th February

On 16th February GEO held a well-attended pre-CSW working group with representatives from the CSW Alliance, the Gender and Development Network and UN Women, where those in attendance discussed the Political Declaration and the Working Methods Resolution which will be the outcome documents of CSW59.

Our thanks to those who participated in what was a very productive and helpful discussion, your feedback on the documents will help to inform our position at CSW.

IPU Parliamentarian Briefing Meeting 25th February

On 25th February Helene Reardon Bond, Head of the UK Official delegation, and Charles Ramsden attended an IPU meeting where they informed the IPU CSW Parliamentarian delegation of UK government plans and objectives for CSW.

The IPU delegation were also briefed on NGO plans for CSW by representatives from the IPPF, Womankind, Action Aid, Progression, VSO and UN Women UK.

Engagement with UK NGOs at CSW

We commend the pivotal role UK civil society plays in progressing gender equality. As we review the Beijing PFA at CSW59, and push for a strong focus on women and girls in the post-2015 development framework, working together is as important as ever. As in other years the UK Mission and GEO will host evening briefing meetings where we will inform you of the progress of negotiations, and hear from NGOs on their side events and progress they have made with their lobbying activities.

Monday 09 March

Evening briefing meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: UK Mission

Tuesday 10th March

UK Ambassador's reception for UK NGOs and VIPs

Time: 6pm-8pm

Venue: UK Mission NY

NB: Please note that due to high levels of security at the Mission, it is essential that you print off your confirmation of attendance that you received from GEO and bring this along with you to ensure you are granted entry.

While we will do our best to accommodate as many people as possible, we will be limited by capacity and those who have not received confirmation that they can attend will not be granted entry to the reception.

Please do not contact the UK Mission with enquiries about the reception, enquiries must go through Louise Sheridan at GEO.

Wednesday 11 March

Evening briefing meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: UK Mission

Thursday 12 March

Evening briefing meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: UK Mission

Friday 13 March

Evening briefing meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: UK Mission

Outside of the evening briefing meetings, where required, members of the UK Delegation will arrange to meet separately with Jan Grasty (UN Women UK), Jessica Woodroffe and Heather Barclay (Gender and Development Network), Zarin Hainsworth and Annette Lawson (CSW NGO Alliance) to provide brief updates on the progress of negotiations.

Week 2

Please be advised that no official engagement events are planned for week 2. However, Charles Ramsden (GEO) will make arrangements during the first two days of CSW with the aforementioned to provide daily updates. womensengagement@geo.gsi.gov.uk

The Mission is located at:
One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
885 Second Avenue
New York New York 10017
USA

CSW communications

As you know, CSW is the largest international forum for advancing gender equality. As we pledge to accelerate progress in gender equality, we want to raise global awareness of this important campaign. To spread the message that gender equality is everyone's business, we will run a vigorous social media campaign throughout CSW and would ask that you inform us of your social media campaigns and any events you hold to ensure they get international coverage and to raise the profile of CSW in the UK.

We will provide daily updates via our twitter accounts
https://twitter.com/Govt_Equality and https://twitter.com/Govt_women .

We will also be tweeting on #CSW59 and #womensday

If you are running CSW social media campaigns please send page details to Louise Sheridan louise.sheridan@geo.gov.uk and she will add your hashtags to our tweets and retweet your posts to our stakeholders.

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.gov.uk

