



Government
Equalities Office

Putting equality at the heart of government

**United Nations Commission on the
Status of Women 58th Session**

No1 August 2013 from Helene Reardon Bond OBE, Head of UK Women's National Machinery

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Introduction – United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

I am delighted to introduce the 1st e-newsletter from the Government Equalities Office (GEO). This provides information for UK non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 58th Session. This first edition provides some early information about the forthcoming session including the date for our Ministerial led UK NGOs pre CSW58 consultation event.

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 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.

We are delighted that CSW57, which focused on eliminating and preventing violence against women and girls, concluded with an agreed set of global standards which will ensure women and girls everywhere are protected from violence and discrimination and this is a testament to the strong collaboration between governments and civil society.

The 58th session of the CSW will be held at the United Nations in New York from **10 - 21 March 2014 (tentative date)**. The thematic focus will be:

Priority theme:

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls; and

Review theme:

Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (agreed conclusions from the fifty-fifth session).

Save the Date: Wednesday 23 October

We have received excellent feedback from civil society for the pre CSW NGO meetings we organise, so we are delighted to confirm that we will be hosting a pre CSW58 UK NGOs consultation event on **Wednesday 23 October** in London. This event is aimed at ensuring that you are well informed about the UK's domestic and international development policies on the priority theme as you begin your preparations for participation at CSW next year.

Further details about this event will be issued in due course, in the meantime, please hold this date in your diaries as we are looking forward to seeing as many as you at the event as possible.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer break!

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