



Government
Equalities Office

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

Beijing+20: working towards Gender
Equality

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Welcome to GEO's second CSW59 newsletter. Preparations for CSW are now well underway, since our last newsletter the UK Government has participated in the UNECE Beijing+20 regional review in Geneva; held a series of Beijing+20 engagement activities including our annual pre-CSW National Consultation with Women event; and launched our women's engagement roadshow - a series of events which focus on areas of concern for women and girls identified in the Beijing Platform for Action.

We hope you find these newsletters informative. If you have any feedback on what you might like to see covered please contact us at womensengagement@geo.gsi.gov.uk.

UNECE Beijing+20 Regional Review 6th and 7th Nov

The UNECE Beijing+20 regional review took place in Geneva on 6th and 7th November. Helene Reardon Bond represented the UK, and participated in a panel on sustainable and inclusive societies and the post-2015 development framework.

In the UK statement, Helene reasserted government's continued commitment to working with civil society to accelerate the Beijing Platform for Action and to create a post-2015 development strategy with women and girls firmly at its heart.

The UK called for a development framework that addressed justice, equality and equity, with a strong focus on the empowerment and rights of women and girls, and on preventing and combating violence against women.



This was the first of five regional reviews to take place, and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka called on participants to set the bar high with a strong commitment to accelerating gender equality. Key issues covered in the meeting included eradicating the pandemic of violence against women and girls in all its forms; increasing women's economic participation; implementing UN resolution 1325, and getting more women into leadership and decision making positions.

It was great to meet several representatives of UK Civil Society at the meeting, and to hear some of their powerful panel presentations.



Annual National Consultation with Women

10th Nov

On Nov 10th GEO held its Annual National Consultation with Women, our primary forum for engaging with women across the UK on gender equality. The event was attended by Nicky Morgan and Jo Swinson, Ministers for Women and Equalities, and officially launched our women's engagement roadshow for 2014-15.

Discussions focused on three themes: CSW59, Beijing+20 and the post-2015 development framework. Expert speakers and panel members included government officials, academics and representatives from national and international women's organisations.

Thanks to everyone who attended, we were delighted with the strong turn out from civil society, and will use the valuable feedback you gave us to inform the UK's position at CSW59, and more widely to help shape UK priorities on gender equality.

A special thank you to those who presented, participated in the panel discussion, and led breakout sessions on the day.



Have your say! Complete the gender equality survey!

In advance of CSW59, we have developed a women's engagement roadshow of regional events that enables women and girls to contribute their views on gender equality in the UK. This series of events forms part of Government's longstanding Women's Engagement programme. The events are complimented by an online public survey which is open to all and can be accessed here https://dcms.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_57kvWXZiQIezOpD.

The survey closes on December 31st. If you have not already done so, please complete the survey and circulate it to your colleagues, family and friends to complete.

It is really important that we hear from as many women and girls as possible. Your vital comments will help shape the UK's priorities on gender equality in the years to come.

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