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## A Trade Union Guide to the UNCSW

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Dear Sisters,

We very much welcome your active participation at CSW60! We are pleased to let you know that 160 women unionists from 34 countries are part of the Global Union delegation - International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Education International (EI), Public Services International (PSI), International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) - this year. In preparation, **please read this guide carefully**, as it contains all of the information you will need prior to arriving in New York City and during the time you will be there.

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# PREPARING FOR THE UNCSW

## Get to Know the UNCSW

- Read up on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), what it is and what it does. The [UNCSW web page](#) is a good starting point.
- Annual UNCSW meeting are referred to as “sessions”. The 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UNCSW, or CSW60, is taking place from March 14-24, 2016. Check out the [web page](#) for UNCSW60, the UNCSW60 [brochure](#) and the [Journal of the United Nations](#).

**||** NB Many of the UN documents are only available in English. Links to reports with an asterisk (\*) are ones that are available in French and Spanish in addition to English.

## Get Familiar with the UNCSW60 Priority Theme and Review theme

Each year, the CSW focuses on one **priority theme** and member states negotiate ‘Agreed Conclusions’ on this theme. The priority theme of UNCSW60 is “Women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development”.

Browse through the UN preparatory work on the priority theme. In the months leading up to the UNCSW, preparatory work takes place on the priority theme. The UNCSW60 web page includes documentation from [an Expert Group meeting](#) on “the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for realizing substantive gender equality and women’s rights and empowerment”, held on 2-4 November 2015, [a Multi-Stakeholders Forum](#), held on 21 January 2016, and two regional (Latin America and Caribbean & Africa) preparatory and consultative meetings.

Each CSW also has a **review theme** and an **emerging issue**. The review theme is usually the priority theme of a previous session of the CSW; the review theme for CSW60 is “The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” from CSW57 (2013). At this stage the emerging issue for UNCSW60 is not yet known.

## Look Out for the ‘Draft Agreed Conclusions’ and multi-year programme of work

Each year, UN Women prepares ‘Draft Agreed Conclusions’ (also referred to as the ‘zero draft’) as a starting point for the negotiations between Member States during the UNCSW session. These Draft Agreed Conclusions are typically available online a few weeks prior to the opening of the UNCSW session. The Draft Agreed Conclusions for UNCSW60 are available [here](#). The latest version – with amendments of Member States - is available on request.

**||** NB Once negotiated and agreed, the Agreed Conclusions are the key outcomes of the CSW.

This year the Commission will discuss and adopt [its multi-year programme of work](#) (themes for 2017 and beyond).

## Know which Issues our Delegation is Bringing to the Table

All accredited Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are invited to submit a statement to the UNCSW each year. These statements form part of the official UNCSW documentation. The global union federations – the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Education International (EI), Public Services International (PSI) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) - typically submit a joint statement to the UNCSW, which outlines trade union perspectives on the priority theme. [Read the global union statement "Organising for Women's social and Economic Empowerment by 20130' here.](#)

## Build your Networks

- **Identify your allies in your own country** – unions, women's organisations, NGOs – that might be participating in the UNCSW meetings
- **Make links with like-minded organisations** – ones that are likely to have progressive and inclusive positions on women's rights and gender equality
- **Get in touch with them early on** - find out what priorities they will be advancing and what common ground we can work on together. Get hold of their statement to the UNCSW. Get their contact information so you can get in touch with them during the actual UNCSW meetings in New York.

## Lobby your Government

Governments, or 'Member States' are at the UNCSW to report on the progress made on the priority theme in their countries and to negotiate the Agreed Conclusions. During the first week of the UNCSW meetings, each Member State presents a statement on the priority theme during a plenary session.

- Find out which **government department** in your country has the lead on preparing for the UNCSW
- Find out what **positions** they are taking to the negotiating table
- Ask for a **briefing** from your government during the UNCSW meetings.

## Know What You are up Against

Conservative organisations, some of which are religious, typically have a strong presence at the UNCSW. They tend to focus on lobbying **against** reproductive rights and protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. They are highly organised and connected, but often attempt to go unnoticed within the NGO community. They have found allies in the Holy See and some Members States, such as Iran.

- Be prepared. Try to find out which organisations or individuals from your part of the world fit this profile. Be strategic. Find out as much as you can about them, what positions they are bringing forward and who their allies are.
- Compile a list of policies your government has already adopted that are related to the priority theme. That way you can hold them to account if and when they appear to be back-peddalling on positions they have already adopted in the past.

## ON THE GROUND AT THE UNCSW

### The Trade Union Delegation Orientation Session

Plan to attend the orientation session organised by our participating Global Unions – ITUC, EI, PSI, and ITF. This session takes place on **Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> from 12.30 - 15.30 at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (or UN Church Center): 777 UN Plaza at the corner of 44th Street and 1st Ave** (see here on [google maps](#)).

- ✓ It will help you get oriented!
- ✓ We'll talk about our collective goals and how we can work together to accomplish them
- ✓ We'll walk you through a typical day at the UNCSW
- ✓ You will identify concrete contributions you can make to the work of the trade union delegation
- ✓ You will get to meet trade union sisters from around the world, with whom you will be working over the course of the UNCSW

### Get your UN Grounds Pass

You should be pre-registered by your labour organisation (ITUC, EI, PSI, ITF or affiliates with ECOSOC status, like the CLC Canada and the CGIL Italy), which will receive a confirmation letter from the UN to this effect.

- To have access to the official UNCSW meetings and side-events, you will need a UN Grounds Pass, which you will receive once you have officially registered for the UNCSW at the UN Headquarters in New York City.
- Registration takes place at the new Pass & ID office which is located at 320 East 45<sup>th</sup> street (between First and Second Avenue) outside of UN premises. **Make sure you have a completed and printed grounds pass form and a photo ID to get your Grounds Pass. You will receive your ground pass form and confirmation letter from your labour organisation by email before you get to New York City.** The registration desk is usually open from the weekend before the official opening of the UNCSW. You will hear more about registering at the **trade union orientation session on Sunday March 13th 2016**. For on-site registration hours, see the timetable below and [here](#).
- **Each accredited Global Union organisation will receive one ticket for the opening ceremony and one ticket for each ministerial roundtable (as long as tickets are available).** A pre-assigned “coordination team” will pick up the tickets and distribute them.

Always remember to carry your Grounds Pass with you at all times to have access to the main Conference rooms, the General Assembly Hall (UNGA), the Conference Building (CB), the ECOSOC Chamber and the side-events.

## On-site registration hours

Prior to the session	
Friday, 11 March	09.00 – 16.00
Saturday, 12 March	10.00 – 18.00
Sunday, 13 March	10.00 – 18.00
First week	
Monday, 14 March	08.00 – 17.00
Tuesday, 15 March	08.00 – 17.00
Wednesday, 16 March	09.00 – 16.00
Thursday, 17 March	09.00 – 16.00
Friday, 18 March	09.00 – 16.00
Second week	
Monday, 21 March	09.00 – 16.00
Tuesday, 22 March	09.00 – 16.00
Wednesday, 23 March	09.00 – 16.00
Thursday, 24 March	09.00 – 16.00

## The Trade Union Delegation Briefings

The trade union delegation will have two morning briefing sessions during the first week of UNCSW60, which is when most of the delegations will be in New York City. The briefings will take place on **Tuesday, March 15, and Thursday, March 17, at 08.00 – 09.00 on both days at the Roger Smith Hotel (501 Lexington Avenue, at 47<sup>th</sup> Street) – see google maps [here](#)**. Plan to be there!

## Proposing Amendments to Draft Resolutions

The joint ITUC-EI-PSI-ITF statement submitted to the UN describes the substantive goals of the trade union delegation - i.e. the priorities we want to advance. We use this statement as a starting point to draft concrete amendments to the draft resolutions. Our broad objectives are to strengthen the language on human and labour rights, including decent work and social protection, quality education and public services.

Members of the trade union delegation can choose to be part of the **drafting group** that develops the trade union delegation's proposed amendments based on the group's input. This task is done in the first two days of the UNCSW. After that, it's lobbying time!

## Lobbying

Once we have drafted the trade union delegation's proposed amendments, we use our document to lobby our own governments, other governments, government negotiators, like-minded NGOs, regional caucuses, and whoever we believe can influence the outcome of the negotiations. We get organised, plot out our lobbying targets, and get to it!

Our strength is our diversity: the fact that we have trade union delegates from around the world on the same team! We share information. We gather intelligence from our respective governments and others on the

progress of the negotiations, who our allies are, who our opponents are, and what types of hurdles are developing. We stay focused on our issues and develop strategies and alliances to influence the outcomes.

Many government delegations offer briefings to NGOs on the status of negotiations. Find out about them and plan to attend (and report back on what you hear!). Ask around to get the most updated version of the negotiation text.

## **Monitoring our Governments**

Every Member State gets to make a statement in plenary on their progress on the priority theme of the UNCSW. We try to make sure one of our delegates is present during this 'General Discussion' (or listen to the live webcast on the internet), to find out who is making statements similar to ours, monitor what they say, and get a copy of their statement. The information in government statements is often revealing of the positions they will take during negotiations.

## **Side/Parallel events**

The UNCSW is arguably the biggest annual gathering of women's rights organisations and activists in the world. 650 organisations have registered 3,700 individuals to attend the CSW60. Outside of the official session there are hundreds of side or parallel events organised throughout the two weeks. There are two types of events and two separate schedules:

**Official Side Events** are sponsored by UN Permanent Missions and UN Entities. They usually take place at the Conference Building (CB) and General Assembly (GA) Building –a restricted area that can only be accessed by NGO delegates with UN valid passes, unless they are by invitation only. Participants with valid UN grounds passes need not indicate prior interest in attending events unless specified by event sponsors. Side events on UN premises are not ticketed this year unless they are by invitation. The schedule for the Side Events is [here](#).

**NGO Parallel Events** are organised by NGOs and take place off site close to the UN Headquarters. Many parallel events are held in the Church Centre for the United Nations (CCUN) for the UN across the street from the UN Headquarters - the parallel events schedule is published on the [website](#) of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW).

## Calendar of events @ the UNCSW60

<b>Sunday, 13 March</b> 12.30 – 15.30 UN Church Centre CCUN, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	<i>Trade union orientation session</i>	<b>Trade union orientation session at the CSW60</b>
<b>Sunday, 13 March</b> 17.30 - 19.00 Calico Jack's Cantina, 42 St at 800 2nd Avenue	<i>Trade union social event</i>	<b>Trade union social event at the CSW60</b>
<b>Sunday, 13 March</b> 09.00 – 15.00 92 <sup>nd</sup> Street Y, New York	<i>NGO CSW briefing session</i>	<b>NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day</b> Organised by: NGO CSW Committee NY <a href="#">Online</a> registration by 7 March
<b>Monday, 14 March</b> 10.00 - 13.00 UN Building	<i>UNCSW programme</i>	<b>CSW60 Opening Ceremony. General discussion (item 3) opens.</b> See the full programme <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Monday, 14 March</b> 15.00 – 18.00 UN Building, Conference Room 1 & 4	<i>UNCSW programme</i>	<b>CSW60 Ministerial segment - roundtables on the priority theme: women's empowerment and link to sustainable development</b> Roundtable (a) & (b) – Room 4 Roundtable (c) & (d) – Room 1 See the full programme <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Monday, 14 March</b> 16.45 – 18.00 UN Building, Conference room 11	<i>Trade union Side Event</i>	<b>Domestic violence at the workplace</b> Co-hosted by: Canadian Mission, CLC Canada, ACTU Australia
<b>Tuesday, 15 March</b> 08.00 – 09.00 Roger Smith Hotel 501 Lexington Avenue, at 47th Street	<i>Trade union briefing session</i>	<b>Trade union briefing session</b>
<b>Tuesday, 15 March</b> 10.00 – 13.00 UN Building	<i>UNCSW programme</i>	<b>CSW60 General discussion (item 3)</b> <b>Review theme: the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.</b> See the full programme <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Tuesday, 15 March</b> 10.00 – 14.45 UN Building	<i>United Nations</i>	<b>Inaugural meeting of the High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment</b>
<b>Tuesday, 15 March</b> 12.30-14.00 UN Church Centre CCUN, 10 <sup>th</sup> floor	<i>Trade union Parallel Event</i>	<b>Empowerment Through Organizing: Worker Activism for Economic Justice</b> Organised by: AFL-CIO, Rutgers Centre for Women's Global Leadership and the Solidarity Center
<b>Tuesday, 15 March</b> 13.15 - 14.30 UN General Assembly Building, Ex-Press Bar, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	<i>Trade union Side Event</i>	<b>Realising women's access to full, productive employment and decent work, through social dialogue and collective bargaining</b> Co-hosted by: ILO, ITUC, ITF, EI, PSI and AWID
<b>Tuesday, 15 March</b> 15.00-18.00 UN Building	<i>UNCSW programme</i>	<b>CSW60 General discussion (item 3)</b> <b>Review theme: the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.</b> See the full programme <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 08.30-09.30 UN Building, Conference Room	<i>NGO CSW briefing session</i>	<b>NGO CSW Briefing session</b>
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 10.30 UN Church Centre CCUN, 10 <sup>th</sup> floor	<i>NGO CSW Caucus</i>	<b>NGO CSW Committee – Latin America and the Caribbean regional Caucus</b>
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 10.30	<i>NGO CSW Caucus</i>	<b>NGO CSW Committee – Arab and MENA regional Caucus</b>



TCC room 2		
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 10.00-13.00 UN Building	<i>UNCSW programme</i>	<b>CSW60 Interactive session with Ministers - followed by General discussion (item 3)</b> See the full programme <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 11.00-14.00 UNICEF House – Danny Kaye Visitors' Centre 3 UN Plaza 44th Street between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenues	<i>Trade union Side Event</i>	<b>Financing for Education: a key to empowering women and girls</b> Co-hosted: Government of Norway, Education International, UN Girls' Education Initiative, Commission on Financing for Education
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 10.30 – 12.00 The Salvation Army, Auditorium	<i>Trade union Parallel Event</i>	<b>Achieving decent work for women: the SDGs and beyond</b> Organised by: ITUC, ITF, PSI, APWLD
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 12.30 UN Church Centre CCUN, Hardin room 11 <sup>th</sup> Floor	<i>Trade union Parallel Event</i>	<b>Gendering the Equality debate</b> Organised by: ActionAid, APWLD, AWID, ITUC, Oxfam
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 14.30 UN Church Centre CCUN, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	<i>NGO CSW Caucus</i>	<b>NGO CSW Committee – Africa regional Caucus</b>
<b>Wednesday, 16 March</b> 15.00-18.00 UN Building	<i>UNCSW programme</i>	<b>CSW60 Interactive expert panel discussion</b> <b>Priority theme: women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development</b> See the full programme <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Thursday, 17 March</b> 08.00 – 09.00 Roger Smith Hotel 501 Lexington Avenue, at 47th Street	<i>Trade union briefing session</i>	<b>Trade union briefing session</b>
<b>Thursday, 17 March</b> 10.30 – 12.00 UN Church Centre CCUN, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	<i>Trade union Parallel Event</i>	<b>It's about Power! Women in Migration, Development Justice and Government Accountability for SDGs</b> Organised by: Women & Global Migration Group WGMWG, ITUC, EI, PSI
<b>Thursday, 17 March</b> 10.00 – 13.00 UN Building	<i>UNCSW programme</i>	<b>CSW60 Interactive expert panel. Priority theme: women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development</b> <b>Interactive expert panel discussion</b> See the full programme <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Thursday, 17 March</b> 10.00 – 13.00 UN Building	<i>UNCSW programme</i>	<b>CSW60 Expert panel. Review theme: the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls: data, gaps and methodology.</b> See the full programme <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Thursday, 17 March</b> 14.30 UN Church Centre CCUN, Chapel	<i>NGO CSW Caucus</i>	<b>NGO CSW Committee – Africa regional Caucus</b>
<b>Thursday, 17 March</b> 16.30 UN Church Centre CCUN, Chapel	<i>NGO CSW Caucus</i>	<b>NGO CSW Committee – North America and Europe regional Caucus</b>
<b>Friday, 18 March</b> 08.30 – 09.30 UN Building, Conference room 1	<i>NGO CSW briefing session</i>	<b>NGO CSW Committee – Informal NGO Briefing session</b>
<b>Friday, 18 March</b> 12.30 – 14.00 UN Church Centre CCUN, the Chapel ground floor	<i>Trade union Parallel Event</i>	<b>Arab Women and the human right to peace</b> Organised by: WILF/MADRE/AEDIDH and PSI and ITUC
<b>For the full list of side events, click <a href="#">here</a>.</b>		
<b>For the full list of parallel events, click <a href="#">here</a>.</b>		



## Networking and alliance building

The UNCSW offers a great opportunity for cross-border networking and alliance building with like-minded organisations/NGOs.

Check out the progressive feminist organisations with a strong presence at past UNCSW meetings. Here are a few examples:

- [ActionAid International](#)
- [Asia Pacific on Women Law and Development](#) (APWLD)
- [Association for Women's Rights in Development](#) (AWID)
- [Center for Global Women's Leadership](#) (CWGL)
- [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)
- [European Women's Lobby](#) (EWL)
- [FEMNET](#) (The African Women's Development and Communication Network)
- [Women's Environment and Development Organisation](#) (WEDO)

## Be Social/Get Connected

The trade union delegation maintains a [blog](#) of our activities throughout the UNCSW. Be prepared to write stories and reports for this blog, and bring your cameras, so you can post pictures and videos of what we are up to. You can also post comments, news and pictures on the trade union [Facebook Page](#) and [tweet](#) about what's happening at UNCSW60 when you're there.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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## A GLOSSARY OF SOME ABBREVIATIONS FOR UNCSW PARTICIPANTS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action (2000)
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAW	Division for the Advancement of Women (at UN Women)
EI	Education International
EU	European Union
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FTT	Financial Transactions Tax
GUF	Global Union Federation
IFI	International Financial Institution
ITF	International Transport Workers' Federation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ILO	International Labour Organisation and International Labour Office (Geneva)
ILO Convention 87	Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (1948)
ILO Convention 98	Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (1949)
ILO Convention 100	Equal Remuneration (1951)
ILO Convention 102	Social Security (Minimum Standards) (1952)
ILO Convention 111	Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) (1958)
ILO Convention 128	Invalidity, Old-Age and Survivors' Benefits (1967)
ILO Convention 151	Labour Relations (Public Sector) 1978
ILO Convention 182	Worst forms of Child Labour (1999)
ILO Convention 189	Domestic Workers (2011)
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
PSI	Public Services International
QPS	Quality Public Services
SC 1325	Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security
TUAC	Trade Union Advisory Committee (at the OECD)
UNCSW	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
UNI	UNI Global Union
UN Women	United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organisation