

Commission on the Status of Women New York 2015

Background to CSW

CSW was established 21 June 1944 to monitor and promote females rights and to develop global standards for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

There are two active parts to the CSW :

Ministerial Parties representing their respective Governments. These parties meet on the UN Campus in New York

Non Governmental Parties: Of the more than 4,000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with consultative status at the United Nations, only 146 have achieved General Consultative Status, the highest status an NGO can have at the UN. **Zonta International** was granted General Consultative Status in 1969.

As an NGO with General Consultative Status, Zonta International is invited to participate in the annual Commission on the Status of Women in New York. The Commission on the Status of Women is:

- A functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- The principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Established by resolution on 21 June 1946 to monitor and promote women's rights and develop global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women; mandate expanded in 1996 to include monitoring and reviewing progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The CSW is divided into 2 parts the first week is a training session and the second week Caucus Discussions with a final statement on the current Status of Women.

CSW 2015

Zonta was very active in this year's CSW 60 Zontians attended the conference in New York , our International President Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard represented Zonta on both the NGO platform and as a representative of the Danish Governmental Mission .

President Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard made 2 presentations

Empowering Women through Education
Prevention of Violence against Women.

Both of these presentations can be viewed at <http://www.zonta.org/ZontaEvents/CSW59.aspx>

Zonta also hosted several events which can also be viewed on the same web page:

- Zonta International CSW Orientation/Training for members:
- US Fund for UNICEF
- NGO CSW Consultation Day:
- March for Gender Equality and Women's Rights
- Zonta Parallel Event with US Fund for UNICEF:
- Voices against Violence: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls Through Education A joint event with Zonta International, UN Women, WAGGGS and the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York
- The Zonta International Presidents Dinner held by the Zonta Club of New York for 80 people and over 1,000 women wished to attend.

Recorded webcast sessions from CSW59

Elimination of Harmful Practices against Women and Girls by 2030 - CSW59 Side Event

What are the linkages, dynamics and drivers of son preference and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage? Zonta International President-Elect Sonja Honing Schough joins the panel of this CSW59 side event co-hosted by the governments of Norway, Niger and UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. It was agreed that not enough progress is being made on the 12 points of action

Voices against Violence: Preventing Violence against Women and Girls through Education".

Zonta International and the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York joined UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri and WAGGGS delegates for an interactive discussion and demonstration of the Voices Against Violence curriculum. Zonta International President Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard joined the panel of this CSW59 side event.

Zonta certainly punched above our weight at this CSW session and provided kits for women to take back to their missions to raise the visibility of Zonta and are pleased to report that Zonta influence is increasing as is our visibility and activity. Zonta hopes that this increase will result in an increase in our membership