



# FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

## IASSW Team Continues Work in Hybrid Mode

The IASSW Team of Representatives to United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York has continued its work throughout the pandemic. In late spring 2022, the UN began to open to some in-person meetings. Our full team was able to secure their passes by mid-summer. Many NGO committees continue to hold virtual meetings, while others have moved to hybrid mode. Our representatives are: Lynne Healy, Main Representative (University of Connecticut, retired); Martha Bragin, Hunter College; Rebecca Davis, Rutgers University; Shirley Gatenio-Gabel, Fordham University; Sharon Milligan, Case Western Reserve University; Marciana Popescu, Fordham University; Rebecca Thomas, University of Connecticut. This year we are also pleased to have a graduate student intern, Eunices Pineda, as part of the team.

## Introducing IASSW Intern- Eunices Pineda



IASSW is pleased to have Eunices Pineda as a graduate student intern with the IASSW Team of Representatives at the United Nations for the academic year 2022-23. Eunices graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2020

with a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Sciences with a concentration in Public Health and Health Promotion. She is

currently a third-year graduate student in the Public Health program and the Master of Social Work program at the University of Connecticut. As a social work student, she is concentrating on Community Organizing.

She started her professional experience as a case manager in the Fatherhood Engagement Program in 2021 which allowed her to work with a diverse group of fathers, including Spanish-speaking fathers. Inspired by these interactions, Eunices decided to pursue a career in community organizing to make an impact in her community, using a systems change approach. As an IASSW intern, she is interested in building upon her leadership skills and using her knowledge in serving underrepresented communities. Making Spanish-speaking services more accessible to Spanish-speaking individuals is just one of Eunices' many goals for her career.

## The Working Group on Girls- 11 Days of Action 2022

The Working Group on Girls (WGG) promotes a Social Media campaign called 11 Days of Action to build momentum prior to the



International Day of the Girl. The WGG is an NGO group at the United Nations that promotes the rights of girls. This year, the campaign took place from Saturday, October 1st to Monday, October 10th. The theme for this year's event was "IDG+10: Minding the Girls' Rights Gap—Active, Accountable Participants of IDG". Each day the Working Group on Girls and their sponsors focused

on a specific area affecting girls, promoting the human rights of the girl child, and the efforts to advance inclusion and the status of girls. The areas of focus for this year included Pandemic Recovery, Racial Equity, Girls' Mental Health, Gender Based Violence, Menstrual Health, Quality Education for Girls, Climate Justice, Migrant and Refugee girls, Girl's Leadership, Indigenous Girls, and Girls' Advocate Honor Roll Recognition. IASSW took part in the 11 days of action as a sponsor for Day 3 "Girls' Mental Health". Dr. Rebecca Davis and Intern Eunices Pineda worked together in collaboration with WGG, UNANIMA, Saint Ursula Academy, and Academy of Mount St. Ursula, creating social media content and sharing resources for girls. Intern Eunices Pineda designed social media posts on how girls can build self-confidence; these were on the event's Instagram page. This campaign took place on several social media platforms including Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, calling for global conversation and participation of individuals all over the world!

For more information about the 11 Days of Action 2022 campaign and the work they are doing for #GirlsRightsNow please visit: <https://dayofthegirlsummit.org/11-days-of-action-2022/>

### **Celebrating The International Day of The Girl at The UN Headquarters**



This year marked the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl. In recognition of the International Day of the Girl, October 11, The Working Group on Girls (WGG) in partnership with the Member States Canada, Peru, and

Turkey facilitated the coordination of the

"Girls Speak Out" event in collaboration with Girl Advocates. The advocates led the speak out event and presented stories of many girls around the world. The theme for this year's event was "IDG+10: Minding the Girls' Rights Gap—Active, Accountable Participants of IDG". The event approached the existing and growing gaps in girl's rights from different points: the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on girls, child marriage, gender inequality, and the violence against girls worldwide. The Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Bob Rae, explained that the women's movement around the world has made enormous differences in the rights, freedoms and the future of young women and girls. It is important to include young girls and women in grassroots and equality movements to continue making these differences around the world. He emphasized that society needs to continue making investments in women and girls' futures to guarantee equality for all in society.

Maka Chikowero, a moderator in the event and founder of the MTC Educated Girl Foundation, shared the voices of hundreds of girls from rural communities in Zimbabwe who aspire to access education and end child marriage. There are more than 62 million girls who do not have access to school while millions more continue to fight to stay in school. Ms. Chikowero underscored the fact that girls in Zimbabwe do not have access to education unless their families are willing to support and pay tuition for them to attend school. She stated, "Covid-19 and Cyclone Idai made it hard to track down and keep these girls in school and out of child marriages". Globally, 12 million girls a year are involved in child marriages. Child marriage leads to a life time of suffering in girls and lack of opportunities. Ms. Chikowero ended her talk by sharing a question from the girls in her

organization: “How do we assure accountability in exciting commitments? We need education, protection and security”.

The Permanent Representative of Turkey, Ambassador Feridun Hadi Sinirlioğlu, responded to the call for access to education and accountability for girl rights. He explained the importance of including girl rights as part of the discussion in any aspect in society. He emphasized the importance to respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the nonnegotiable rights of children. He encouraged the use of these girls’ stories as a way to mobilize resources and partnerships to create a more equitable world for girls. He finished by encouraging girl empowerment and providing tools so girls can take their rightful place in society.

The panelists concluded by stressing the importance of creating collaborative initiatives to end gender inequality, gender violence and provide more opportunities to girls.



### **The NGO CSW/ NY: Women, Life, Freedom: Global Implications of the Women-Led Uprising in Iran**

What is happening in Iran? On September 16th, 2022 Mahsa Amini, an Iranian woman, died under government custody. She was taken into police custody due to committing the crime of wearing her hijab incorrectly and pants that were too tight. Millions of women went to the street and started to call the Iranian government for reforms in their restrictive policies against women. The Iranian regime has limited the coverage of the protest and arrested over 40 journalists in the first week of November. These protests led by women’s resistance have

evolved into a cross-sectoral movement calling for a structural change in Iran.

“We are witnessing an interesting moment in history. We are witnessing many women from many corners of the world playing a visible and central role in the uprising, demanding better conditions for ourselves as women and for our communities, societies, and nations” says Azadeh Khalili, Senior Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at The New York Women’s Foundation. The New York Women’s Foundation and the Iranian American Women’s Foundation along with UN Women sponsored an Iranian women’s panel presented by the NGO CSWs (Commission on the Status of Women) in the regions. One of the panelists read the thoughts of an anonymous Iranian woman who had participated in the protests. She shared this woman’s story and the struggles of trying to make a change in Iran including getting beaten up in the street and police intervention. The panel analyzed the current events in Iran and how the women’s movement is impacting social change not only in Iran but the world.

If you would like to listen to this panel, please watch the recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk33q7cqfOo>

### **COP27: 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference**

The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) took place from November 6th to November 20th in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The conference covered important topics related to climate change including climate finance, decarbonisation, climate change adaptation, agriculture, and more. The International Labor Organization (ILO) held a side event, focusing on a Just Transition. At the end of the Conference, a

loss and damage fund was established in an effort to combat climate change. The conference hosted more than 100 Heads of State and Governments and over 35,000 participants.

For more information on COP27 visit:  
<https://cop27.eg/#/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS SECTION

The UN Commission for Social Development will meet in February 2023. This annual event also includes a Civil Society Forum organized by the NGO Committee for Social Development. IASSW almost always co-sponsors a side event at the Commission and expects to do so this year. The theme this year is “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

For more information, see:  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/csod61.html>

## The Water Conference will meet in March 2023



This year, the UN-Water Conference will take place from Wednesday, March 22th to Friday, March 24th. The conference is expected to be in person at the UN Headquarters in New York. The theme for this year is The Midterm Comprehensive

Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028. The key objective is to support the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There will be 6 plenary meetings and 5 interactive dialogues.

For more information on the Water Conference please visit:  
<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>

## Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be in March 2023

This year, CSW67 will take place from Sunday, March 5th through Friday, March 17th. The meeting will take place in a hybrid format for the first time. It is expected to have both in-person and virtual events throughout the NGO Forum. The priority theme for this year is “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.” The review theme is Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and empowering rural women and girls. There will be several events that NGO/CSW67 will host in preparation for the NGO CSW Forum.

For more information on the CSW and registration please visit:  
[https://ngocsw.org/ngocsw67/?mc\\_cid=3ec6379012&mc\\_eid=b74d2b782](https://ngocsw.org/ngocsw67/?mc_cid=3ec6379012&mc_eid=b74d2b782)

IASSW Members are reminded that all major United Nations events are available on UNTV. Most events are archived and can be used as teaching resources.