



63RD COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN

REPORT

 *CSW63*

PREPARED BY:

Luciana V.Gomes
Young BPW Concordia Saint Martin
representative



ehalu@hotmail.com
+590 690 42 05 05

CSW63

Commission on
the Status of Women

Social Protection • Public Services • Infrastructure



11-22
March
2019



CSW63

Commission on
the Status of Women

Social Protection • Public Services • Infrastructure



11-22
March
2019



CONTENTS

• Introduction

- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: effective Response for Women and girls
- Unpaid Domestic Work
- On the way to Biarritz: Women's Rights at the heart of the G7 Summit
- Accelerating Women's Economic Growth
- Violence and Torture Against Women & Girls in Prostitution & Trafficking.
- Gender equality
- Equal Pay for Equal Work.
- Female Genital Mutilation: how to make a change.
- Gender-based violence.
- Youth participation & leadership.
- Adolescent pregnancy: Let's talk about it.





Introduction

In 1946 was the birth of the Commission on the Status of Women. United Nations commitments to the advancement of women began with the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco in 1945. Of the 160 signatories, only four were women - Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic), Virginia Gildersleeve (United States), Bertha Lutz (Brazil) and Wu Yi-Fang (China) – but they succeeded in inscribing women’s rights in the founding document of the United Nations, which reaffirms in its preamble “faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of Nations large and small”.

During the inaugural meetings of the UN General Assembly in London in February 1946, Eleanor Roosevelt, a United States delegate, read an open letter addressed to “the women of the world”:

“To this end, we call on the Governments of the world to encourage women everywhere to take a more active part in national and international affairs, and on women who are conscious of their opportunities to come forward and share in the work of peace and reconstruction as they did in war and resistance.”

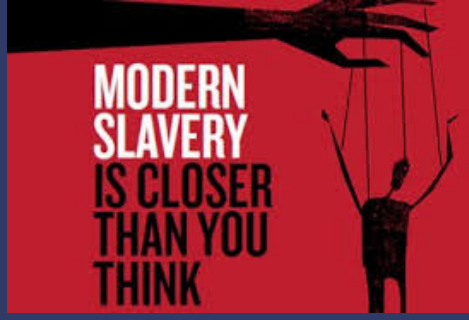
The sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 22 March 2019.

Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
 Review theme: Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 1996, ECOSOC in resolution 1996/6 expanded the Commission’s mandate and decided that it should take a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.





Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: effective Response for Women and girls

After much neglect and indifference, the world is waking up to the reality of a modern form of slavery. Today, there is greater global recognition that many armed groups and terrorist organizations are using sexual violence to advance core strategic and ideological objectives. This includes raising revenue through the sale, trade and trafficking of women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation, including sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced prostitution and forced pregnancy. The promise of ‘wives’ or sex slaves has also become a powerful incentive in the recruitment and retention of young men to their cause.

Indeed, this is a modern manifestation of slavery which is on the rise in numerous conflicts. I have witnessed this first-hand in a number of the situations monitored under the auspices of my mandate:

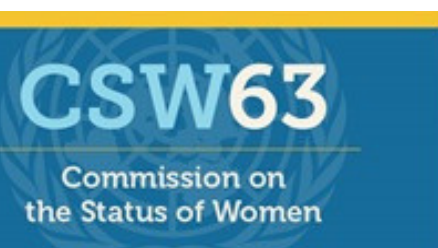
Last year, in Iraq, I met with many survivors of sexual violence, including from the Yezidi community, who were former captives of ISIS. Over the past few years reporting by my Office has put a spotlight on the open slave markets in Raqqa, Syria, and exposed price lists and so-called Fatwas which regulate the sale, transfer and trafficking of sex slaves. Online sales platforms indicated how enslaved women and girls are being traded for cigarettes or sold for up to \$25,000, as an integral part of the political-economy of conflict and violent extremism.

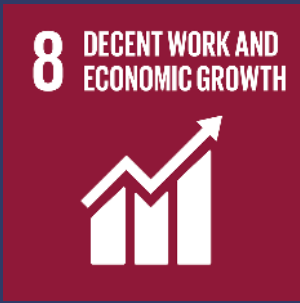
In July 2017, in Nigeria, I met with the Chibok girls as well as other survivors of Boko Haram. These girls were not “abducted” or “kidnapped”. They were enslaved. My meetings with survivors helped me to better understand that Boko Haram’s fighters do not “capture” people: their standard procedure whenever they raid a village is to kill the men and treat women and children as booty of war, to be bargained over and sold for profit.

In May 2018, in Southern Unity South Sudan, 132 women and girls were abducted and sexually enslaved. In another incident in October in Western Equatoria, 505 women and 63 girls were abducted for the purpose of sexual slavery.

Therefore, I wish to offer five recommendations to inform our collective response:

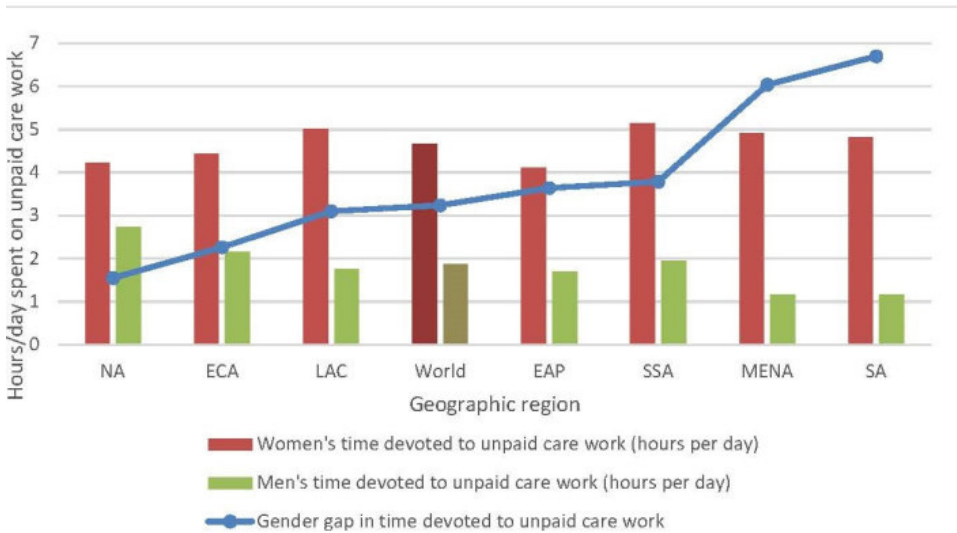
- We must ensure that the root causes of trafficking in women and girls are addressed in all trafficking prevention efforts and responses, including structural gender-based discrimination as one of the main drivers;
- Although most countries have criminalized human trafficking, the rate of convictions remains far too low, and victims are not always receiving the protection and services countries are obligated to provide. Therefore, prosecution is required as an integral aspect of prevention. This will be the only way to convert cultures of impunity into cultures of accountability and deterrence.
- We must ensure comprehensive and multi-dimensional services for survivors, including medical and psychosocial care, as well as family tracing and reunification, reparations and financial and livelihood assistance;
- We must strengthen international cooperation and information exchange among Member States, including through bilateral and regional agreements informed by civil society and victims associations, in order to identify victims; judicial cooperation for accountability; and stemming financial flows from human trafficking networks;
- And finally, in the context of the work of the UN Security Council, we encourage the inclusion of the issue of trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual slavery and exploitation as a criterion for sanctions, building on the recent designation of 6 traffickers under the Libya sanctions regime.





Unpaid Domestic Work

The way we currently measure our economies ignores a large portion of work that affects all of us. Most of this work is done by women and girls for free, every day. Around the world, they are responsible for 75% of unpaid care and domestic work in our homes and communities (see Figure 1). So these issues are not just hypothetical, but critical to achieving inclusive economic growth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

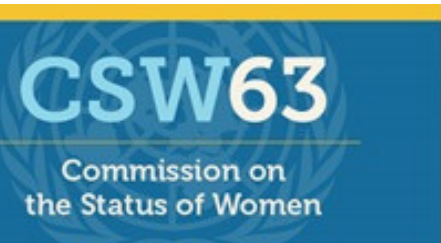


Note: NA stands for North America, ECA for Europe and Central Asia, LAC for Latin America and the Caribbean, EAP for East Asia and the Pacific, SSA for Sub-Saharan Africa, MENA for Middle East and North Africa, SA for South Africa.

Source: OECD Gender Institutions and Development Database (GID-DB), 2019, oecd.stat.org.

Unpaid care and domestic work refers to all non-market, unpaid activities carried out in households – including both direct care of persons, such as children or elderly, and indirect care, such as cooking, cleaning or fetching water. These tasks vary in physical effort and time-intensity, depending on location, socio-economic status, as well as age, marital status and number of children. At the country level, unpaid care work is estimated to represent 14% of GDP (gross domestic product) in South Africa and Canada (Ferrant and Thim, 2019), but the magnitude of all this work is not counted when a country sizes up its economy.

Both paid and unpaid care and domestic work are critical for the well-being of individuals and society as a whole. While certain tasks may be more enjoyable than others, like spending quality time with your children or cooking dinner, they all contribute to a functioning and healthy society. However, women’s disproportionate share has a direct negative impact on their ability to participate in the paid economy leading to gender gaps in employment outcomes, wages and pensions: the ILO (2018) estimates that 606 million women, or 41% of those currently inactive, are outside the labour market because of their unpaid care responsibilities.





Marlene Schiappa

"Be feminist is to find intolerable for the girls of others what we would not tolerate for our own daughters. "

On the way to Biarritz: Women’s Rights at the heart of the G7 Summit Organised by the NGOs CARE France and Equipop. Sponsored by France and Canada.

Speaker: **Marlene Schiappa**

Governments are doing everything in their power to promote equality between men and women.

3 Priorities of President Emmanuel Macron at Elisé:

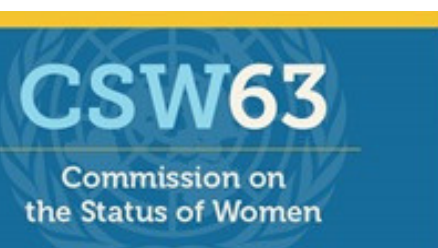
Fight against gender-based and sexual violence which is the first priority and the highest priority on all other subjects. There will be no equality between women and men as long as women have to fear for their physical integrity, to fear for their safety and those around the world even if it is to different degrees. But there is currently no country in the world where we have managed to completely eradicate gender-based and sexual violence against us. In France by example, there is 1 woman killed every 3 days by her husband or ex-husband, this figure increases and soon every 2 days, 90 thousand rape per year, hundreds of thousands of sexual assault, violence like the street harassment against which we have put in place a determined law to fight against this, more than 350 almonds in three months that have been established against this kind of harassment. This both encourage because it means that our law against street harassment is effective and bears these fruits beyond the social norm. But from another perspective it means that the police found more than 300 cases of harassment in such a short time out there on the streets. The cyber bullying which is also a problem not only in France but worldwide, and one of the main topics of the G7 with a commitment from all governments. We are the facing companies like Twitter who consider that their general conditions of use are more important than the laws of the republic or that of human rights. Because when we denounce to Twitter that this message violates the laws of the republic and the respect of the woman, this company answers us that YES but that does not infringe our general condition of use. And this is unbearable because this can lead to significant sequel in some victims.

Second priority is to ensure that access to education is equal for both boys and girls around the world. Increasing our annoyance at the fact that girls are deprived of schools in some countries because they are girls. But also on the education of girls and boys. We teach girls how to defend themselves against violence and sexual assault, how to say no or how to enforce their rights. But it is also time to teach boys to respect women's rights and not to abuse, rape or harass a woman or girl. We are convinced that this can be learned through education from an early age.

Third priority is the situation of women in Africa, particularly in the Sahel region, which is a subject that is dear to our government. There is in this region and incredible dynamism of women who needs to be even more supported. The President of the Republic wants to create a bank support form to the entrepreneurial project of African women.

These three priorities will materialize in the form of a legislative package and can be presented to G7 leaders so that they can commit to implementing at least one of these laws in their countries.

Equality between men and women is one of the priorities of the five-year term of President Emmanuel Macron and he calls for a great global cause for all states to commit to this subject.





Accelerating Women's Economic Growth

Providing equal access to financial services, helping give women more power over income and assets like land and technology, and professionalizing the care-giving sector can help accelerate progress in women's economic empowerment, especially in developing countries.

Despite some progress, the differences in labor force participation between men and women remain considerable. To give just one example, no advanced or middle-income country has reduced this gap to less than 7 percentage points.

This inequality of opportunity between women and men entails a huge economic cost, because it restricts productivity and weighs on growth. Barriers to women entering the labor market (tax distortions, discrimination, socio-cultural factors) cost more than all the estimates made previously, and the benefits of eliminating inequalities between women and men. The sexes are even more important than previously estimated. It is therefore incumbent on policy makers to do everything to urgently remove these obstacles.

Dr. Amany Asfour, International President, BPW International moderate this conference. 3 Others womens leaders share their thoughts on that question.

Gertrude Mongella, Former UN Undersecretary for Women and President, Pan-African Parliament (2004-2009).

Tanzanian educator, politician, diplomat, and activist who headed the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. She gave us a sneak peak on how we will be celebrating 25 Years since Beijing. She also highlight the importance to train women and girls on technology.

Irene Natividad, President of GlobeWomen Research and Education Institute. She has long been instrumental in increasing the representation of women in politics and business and was elected to chair the National Women's Political Caucus in 1985.

Mrs. Natividad share with us statistics of Women in the labor force participation where in Africa is 63% comparing to the European Union 51% or the World 49%.

She also spoke about equal pay. The world average is 20.5%, hig-income countries are 25.6%, uper-middle income countries are 19.2% and lower-middle income countries are only 15.8%.

Some countries like Iceland have the strongest gender pay gap, where public and private companies with 25 or more employees are required to show proof that women and men in their companies are paid equally. (What a dream)

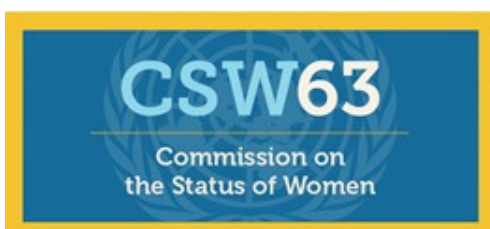
Comparing to France, companies publicly report gender pay gap and must submit action plan to reduce gap. Possible fines.

According to her presentation, the pourcentage od women CEOs in US and Europe on 2019 are: US 24 women CEOs of 500 largest UN compagnies (4.8%) and Europe have 39 women CEOs of 597 EU Blue-chip compagnies (6.5%).

Umran Beba, Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity and Engagement Officer, PepsiCo, spoke on PepsiCo's programs for empowering women in Agriculture for social protection to have health education housing. Inspiring woman and award winner, Gold Stevie Award – female Executive of the Year, 2014; Women International Network, the Global Inspiring Women Worldwide Award, 2013; PepsiCo Steve Reinemund Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Legacy Award, 2012; The International Alliance for Women (TIAW), 2011

Ms. Beba has been in Fortune magazine's global list of the Most Powerful Women in Business for the period of 2011-2013.

In April 2012, Fortune Turkey, listed Ms. Beba the #2 Most Powerful Turkish Business Woman.



Mrs. Gertrude Mongella

"Women will change the world when they lead it, but they will change it with men as their partners."



Violence and Torture Against Women & Girls in Prostitution & Trafficking

Human trafficking constitutes the denial of the person's rights to liberty, integrity, security and freedom of movement. It's a violation of human rights. This is often combined with violence, torture and degrading treatment. There is little or no consensus among researchers on a consistent theoretical framework for understanding human trafficking. Human trafficking can be studied in the context of migration, labor, prostitution, crime, human rights, health, child abuse or violence against women. Disagreements in defining human trafficking are also apparent.

According to statistics, every 30 seconds a woman or young girl is a victim of human trafficking. Approximately 800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually and, of these, 80% are women or girls and 50% are minors.

In this panel the survivors inform the need of a specific Social Protection System. They also remind us the fact that human trafficking is not only based on prostitution and violence but mostly TORTURE.

Canada was among the first countries to ratify the UN protocol to prevent, suppress and punish human trafficking, especially women and children. The country's efforts are guided by this protocol and are aimed at preventing human trafficking, protecting victims, taking its perpetrators to justice and establishing partnerships at the national and international levels.

1 September 2010 - The United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted by the General Assembly on 30 July to urge Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to try to defeat the scourge.

The Plan calls for integrating the fight against human trafficking into the United Nations' broader programmed to boost development and strengthen security around the world.





Gender Equality

Gender equality is a human right. Women are entitled to live with dignity and with freedom from want and from fear. Gender equality is also a precondition for advancing development and reducing poverty: Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities, and they improve prospects for the next generation.

Still, despite solid evidence demonstrating the centrality of women's empowerment to realizing human rights, reducing poverty, promoting development and addressing the world's most urgent challenges, gender equality remains an unfulfilled promise.

Despite many international agreements affirming their human rights, women and girls are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. They have less access to property ownership, credit, training and employment. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic abuse and other forms of violence.

Gender equality will be achieved only when women and men enjoy the same opportunities, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. This means sharing equally in the distribution of power and influence, and having equal opportunities for financial independence, education and realizing their personal ambitions.

Gender equality demands the empowerment of women, with a focus on identifying and redressing power imbalances and giving women more autonomy to manage their own lives. When women are empowered, whole families benefit, and these benefits often have a ripple effect on future generations.

Effectively promoting gender equality also requires recognizing that women are diverse in the roles they play, as well as in age, social status, ability, geographic location and educational attainment. The fabric of their lives and the choices available to them vary widely.



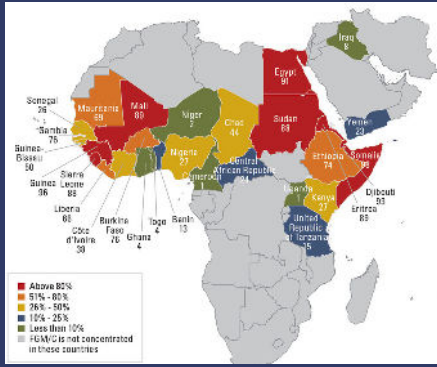
Equal Pay for Equal Work

The Equal Pay Act requires that men and women in the same workplace be given equal pay for equal work. The jobs need not be identical, but they must be substantially equal. Job content (not job titles) determines whether jobs are substantially equal. All forms of pay are covered by this law, including salary, overtime pay, bonuses, stock options, profit sharing and bonus plans, life insurance, vacation and holiday pay, cleaning or gasoline allowances, hotel accommodations, reimbursement for travel expenses, and benefits. If there is an inequality in wages between men and women, employers may not reduce the wages of either sex to equalize their pay.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 (EPA), which amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, is a federal law that prohibits pay discrimination on the basis of sex. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is the federal agency charged with enforcing the EPA and other employment discrimination laws. The EPA requires that employers pay similarly situated employees in the same establishment the same wage, regardless of sex, if they perform jobs that require substantially equal skill, effort, and responsibility under similar working conditions. The law covers all types of payments made to employees, including salary, overtime pay, bonuses, stock options, life insurance, vacation and holiday pay, allowances, reimbursements, expenses, and benefits.

Despite the passage of the EPA 55 years ago, women still do not take home wages equal to those of their male peers. If you're concerned that you may be a victim of sex-based pay discrimination, or if you just want to know more about how the EPA works, this resource covers the basic information to get you started.

Some countries now in the EU, including France, Germany, and Poland, had already enshrined the principle of equal pay for equal work in their constitutions before the foundation of the EU (see table below). When the European Economic Community, later the European Union (EU), was founded in 1957, the principle of equal pay for equal work was named as a key principle.



Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a practice that involves altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons, and it is internationally recognized as a human rights violation. Globally, it is estimated that 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM. Although FGM is declining in the majority of countries where it is prevalent, most of these are also experiencing a high rate of population growth – meaning that the number of girls who undergo FGM will continue to grow if efforts are not significantly scaled up.

More than 200 million girls and women in life today have undergone female genital mutilation. In 2015, it is estimated that 3.9 million girls were excised

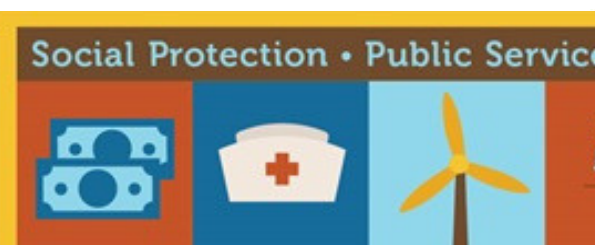
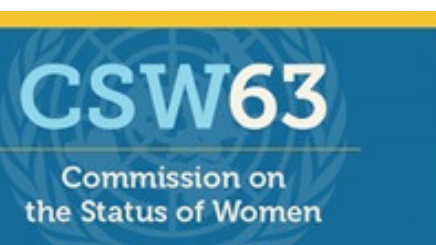
To promote the abandonment of FGM, coordinated and systematic efforts are needed, and they must engage whole communities and focus on human rights and gender equality. They must also address the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences.

The practice can cause short- and long-term health complications, including chronic pain, infections, increased risk of HIV transmission, anxiety and depression, birth complications, infertility and, in the worst cases, death. It is internationally recognized as an extreme violation of the rights of women and girls.

In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the first-ever resolution against female genital mutilation, calling for intensified global efforts to eliminate the practice. In 2015, FGM was included in the Sustainable Development Goals under Target 5.3, which calls for the elimination of all harmful practices.

Yet FGM remains widespread. In 2015, an estimated 3.9 million girls were cut. And because of population growth, this number is projected to rise to 4.6 million girls in the year 2030, unless efforts to end FGM are intensified. If FGM continues at the current rates, an estimated 68 million girls will be cut between 2015 and 2030 in 25 countries where FGM is routinely practiced and relevant data are available.

FGM violates human rights principles and standards – including the principles of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, the right to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the rights of the child, and the right to physical and mental integrity, and even the right to life.





Gender-based violence

Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. It knows no social, economic or national boundaries. Worldwide, an estimated one in three women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime.

Gender-based violence undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence. Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death.

The issue of gender-based violence reaches every corner of the world. The numbers of women and girls affected by this problem are staggering. According to World Health Organization (WHO) data from 2013, one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in some other way – most often by someone she knows. One in five women is sexually abused as a child, according to a 2014 report.

WHO's data also indicates that women who have been physically or sexually abused are 16 per cent more likely to have a low-birth-weight baby, and they are twice as likely to have an abortion. In some regions, they are 50 per cent more likely to acquire HIV, according to a 2013 report from UNAIDS.

Gender-based violence is not only a violation of individual women's and girls' rights. The impunity enjoyed by perpetrators, and the fear generated by their actions, has an effect on all women and girls. It also takes a toll on a global level, stunting the contributions women and girls can make to international development, peace and progress.





Youth participation & leadership

Today's generation of young people is absolutely massive: Some 1.8 billion people are between ages 10 and 24. Most of them live in developing countries, often comprising a huge proportion of the population. How well they navigate adolescence will determine not only the course of their own lives, but that of the world.

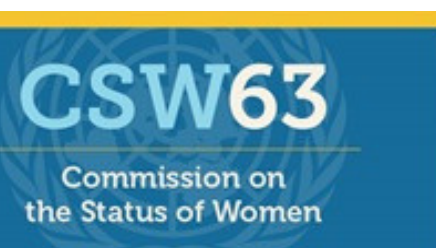
Yet too many youth are unable to participate fully in society. Around 175 million young people in low-income countries cannot read a full sentence. Among those aged 15-24, some 500 million live on less than \$2 a day, and over 73 million are unemployed. For girls, the barriers to participation are even higher.

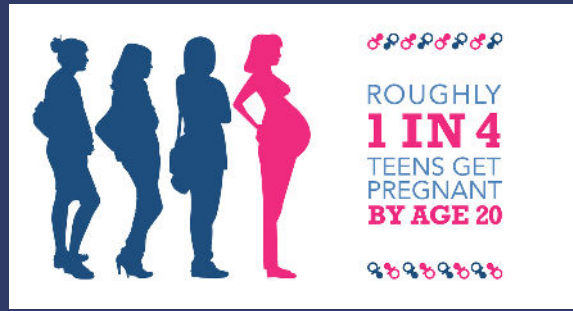
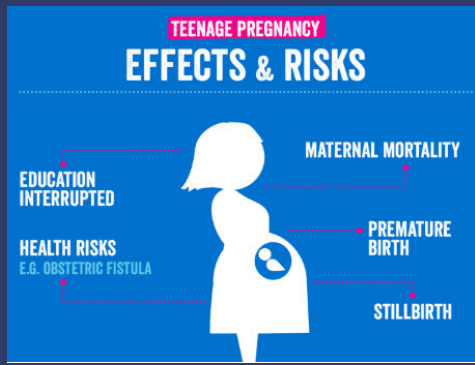
But when empowered and given the right opportunities, youth are effective drivers of change. UNFPA partners with young people, helping them participate in decisions affecting them, and strengthening their ability to advance human rights and development issues such as health, education and employment.

Young people are too often excluded by decision-makers – to the detriment of youth themselves and future generations.

To empower young people and to enable them to become drivers of change, UNFPA aims to:

- Understand the conditions facing vulnerable, marginalized adolescents, using data from censuses, demographic and health surveys, and other sources;
- Bring together governments, civil society, donors, the private sector and youth-led organizations to advocate for more investment in young people as a development priority;
- Build the skills of young leaders and involve young people and youth-led organizations in policymaking and programming;
- Support independent, effective and sustainable organizations led by young people, especially marginalized adolescents, to advocate for their human rights and development priorities.





Adolescent pregnancy: Let's talk about it

Every day in developing countries, 20,000 girls under age 18 give birth. This amounts to 7.3 million births a year. And if all pregnancies are included, not just births, the number of adolescent pregnancies is much higher.

When a girl becomes pregnant, her life can change radically. Her education may end and her job prospects diminish. She becomes more vulnerable to poverty and exclusion, and her health often suffers. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among adolescent girls.

Early pregnancy and motherhood are closely linked to issues of human rights. A pregnant girl who is pressured or forced to leave school, for example, is denied her right to an education. A girl who is prevented from accessing contraception or reproductive health information is denied her right to health.

At the same time, girls who are vulnerable are more likely to become pregnant. In every region of the world – including high-income countries – girls who are poor, poorly educated or living in rural areas are at greater risk of becoming pregnant than those who are wealthier, well-educated or urban. This is true on a global level, as well: 95 per cent of the world's births to adolescents (girls aged 15-19) take place in low- and middle-income countries. Every year, some 3 million girls in this age bracket resort to unsafe abortions, risking their lives and health.

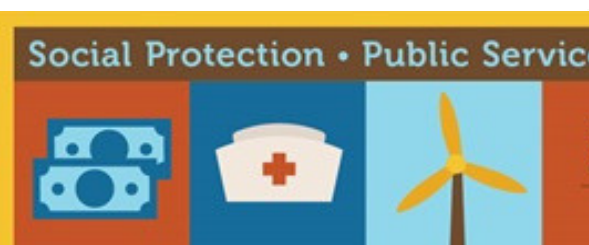
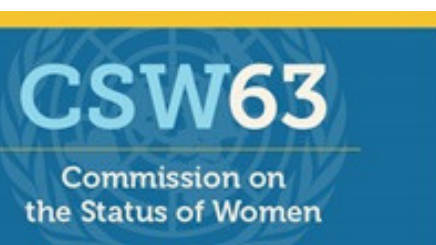
Pregnancy can lead to devastating health consequences for girls. Many adolescents are not yet physically ready for pregnancy or childbirth, and are therefore more vulnerable to complications. Additionally, adolescents who become pregnant tend to be from lower-income households, and many are nutritionally depleted, increasing the risks associated with pregnancy and childbearing.

Tens of thousands of adolescents die annually of causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. In fact, these are the leading cause of death among adolescent girls, aged 15-19, globally.

Health problems are even more likely if a girl becomes pregnant too soon after reaching puberty. In low- and middle-income countries, the risk of maternal death for girls under age 15 is higher than for women in their twenties. These girls also face health risks such as obstetric fistula, and their babies face greater risks as well.

Unfortunately in the Caribbean we have a lack of discussion on our houses. It's like taboo to talk about sex or early pregnancy. If our youth could be more advised about health issues that comes with early pregnancy, or the difficulties that they will have by being mom at young ages, we could probably decrease that number.

Many campaigns have been done in our high schools and even middle schools, and we need to continue that movement to prevent that issue. We are the adults and they are the kids, it's our job to save them.





I Feel blessed and honored to have been part of CSW63. Learning from all those incredible women's shows me the importance that each one of us have on the society. We need to keep fighting and standing for our rights, we can change the world. Change their vision that some have of women, show them that we are not trying to be stronger than men but we are looking for respect and equal rights.

"It seems impossible until it's done"
Nelson Mandella

THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thanks to BPW Concordia Saint Martin Board and members for having trust and send me as a delegate to the 63rd Commission of the Status of Women (CSW63) at the United Nations in New York.

To the amazing PR/Marketing team who did an incredible job promoting this trip.

To Young BPW members.

And also to Mr Tai GHZALALE general manager from Ecofip who sponsor the trip.

