

Soka Gakkai International-Statement Transcript  
CSW67 General Discussion Oral Statement

I am speaking on behalf of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York, representing hundreds of ECOSOC NGOs, civil society organizations and individuals. Our committee consists of diverse views, but is united in our shared wish to support the UN and advance women and girls' rights. Founded in 1972, one of our mandates is to create an inclusive and collaborative space for civil society during the official CSW session through our NGO Forum.

This year, our Forum is in a hybrid format, with nearly 14,000 participants on our virtual platform. This platform is open and free for anyone to access. Organizations globally are holding virtual and in person parallel events totalling nearly 800.

From personal experience we can attest to the positive contributions of technology. Our constituencies grew four-fold. Three years ago, when doors seemed to have closed for civil society to engage at the UN, we opened doors through zoom meetings.

Our Advocacy and Research Group submitted 5 Key Recommendations for the Zero Draft and Briefs to Member States and the Secretariat, informed by over 700 global consultations and surveys. The recommendations have been signed on by over 800 individuals and organizations.

We appreciated our meetings with Member States in preparation for CSW. We thank the Bureau members, and especially the Chair's spirit of collaboration with civil society. We hope this will continue next year and into the future.

We welcome the Interactive Dialogue among youth delegates. Aiming towards the next review of the Methods of Work, we look forward to continued innovative approaches and further engagement of civil society. It encourages us to know that the ECOSOC continues to accredit more NGOs, which now number 5,451.

Your Excellencies, the NGO CSW/NY has three asks, pertaining to every CSW, regardless of the priority theme. First, we ask to maintain a human rights framework in the agreed conclusions. Second, we ask for accountability mechanisms. Third, we ask that violence against women and girls, and gender-based violence be a standing agenda item at the CSW.

The Committee works in solidarity with other coalitions and networks since we function in a transparent, collaborative and shared leadership. We have seen how effective it has been to maintain such an approach.

Lastly, returning to the UN Charter as our anchor and guide, which first outlines international peace and security as its purpose. At a time when the multilateral system is being questioned, we are here with you, to, together, steer our world towards the UN's ideals and Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Thank you.