



*REPORT to the CoNGO board*  
*By*  
*The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY*  
*March 2017*  
*CoNGO Board Meeting, New York*

The NGO CSW/NY reporting year is for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. An election for the Executive Committee was held on 15 June 2017. (Cf. Attached for new leadership beginning on 1 July 2017.) The goals established by the new leadership for 2016-2017 were increased membership with attention paid to younger members, financial transparency, greater democratic participation of our membership and positioning our member NGOs to be more effective within the UN, in particular, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), the Major Groups and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As of 1 June 2017 NGO CSW/NY has 402 members including 99 young professionals, an increase of 8% from 1 June 2016. There are currently over 300 member organizations, 107 of which are ECOSOC - accredited NGOs and many are members of CoNGO. Dues (\$50 a year) are paid by members through electronic alerts for renewal on an individual basis. Young Professionals pay \$25 a year. Our membership lists are updated electronically and an update is given each month at the monthly meeting. We also have financial reports each month to the Executive Committee that meets monthly including our Advocacy Grant and a full report at our Annual Membership Meeting in June. (Cf. Attached). Our membership was involved in the planning of our monthly meetings and the CSW61. Each of the CSW61 subcommittees was co-chaired by a member of the executive committee and an NGO CSW/NY member. An NGO CSW/NY intern and many general members also supported each committee. We have also included in our monthly meetings, discussions on the HLPF, Major Groups, and SDG Implementation and the role NGO CSW/NY members and their NGOs could take.

On 12 March 2017 the NGO CSW Forum 2017 was launched with Consultation Day at Hunter College's Kaye Auditorium. The priority theme was "Women's Rights and Gender Equity in the Changing World of Work" with 630 attending. Featured was a conversation with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women, and H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Permanent Representative Mission of Brazil, Chair of the Bureau of the Commission; a Keynote Address by Dr. Mabel Bianco, winner of the NGO CSW/NY Woman of Distinction Award; a panel, moderated by Kevin Cassidy of the ILO, on "Women's Right and Gender Equity in the Changing World of Work," focusing on the private sector (Julianna Richter, Edelman); unpaid care work (Elizabeth Tang, International Domestic Workers Federation); the feminist economy (Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL); and agriculture (Esther Mwaura, GROOTS/Kenya); with a response by Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women. In the afternoon people participated in five break out groups on ending all forms of forced labor; envisioning a feminist internet; creating equalities of work; mitigating heightened instabilities; and tackling gender violence at home and in the workplace. Featured were on-the-ground cross-

cutting projects for implementing SDG 5 on gender equality and economic empowerment of women. The United Nations Singers, poet Rupi Kaur, and Harlem Diva, LeeOlive Tucker, provided entertainment.

During NGO CSW Forum 61 NGO CSW/NY facilitated 430 parallel and other events involving over 8,000 participants in the Church Center, the Salvation Army, the Armenian Convention Center, the Community Church of New York, the CUNY Graduate Center and the UN. Each of the five regions held three Caucus meetings to discuss strategy and the Outcome Document. In addition, Advocacy Trainings were held for all regional caucuses, as well as daily trainings in English, and weekly in French, attracting an estimated total of 1000 persons. NGO CSW/Geneva, NGO CSW/Vienna, NGO CSW/Africa, NGO CSW/Asia Pacific, NGO CSW/Latin America and Caribbean, and NGO CSW/Arab States MENA, all CoNGO committees, met to collaborate on building a global feminist network and improve gender equity in the global economy. NGO CSW/NY continues to be involved in Cities for CEDAW recently participating in a march over the Brooklyn Bridge and a Rally on the steps of City Hall in Manhattan. This year we co-sponsored a parallel event at CSW61 on Cities for CEDAW and co-sponsored a virtual summit of over 700 people from U.S. cities engaged in passing CEDAW locally.

We have also met with people from many UN missions, including the members of the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women, and other member states including Iceland, U.S., China, Ireland, England, U.S., Australia, and Switzerland. Building these relationships is one of our goals for 1917-1918.

In addition, NGO CSW/NY held a 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with a short film on NGO CSW/NY, dancing, and free food for all with over 200 people attending; an Artisans' Fair with grassroots participation, and a rally with speeches, dancing and music. Seven morning briefings chaired by NGO CSW Committees were held in the UN in collaboration with UN Women and the Commission on the Status of Women to give people updates and inform them on the latest developments in the negotiation of the Outcome Document.

An important activity that continues to strengthen the CSW process, as well as improving gender advocacy efforts at the UN and with member states and national governments, has been the Advocacy Training project, involving NGO CSWs in the regions. Collaboration with the UN economic and social commissions in those regions, notably ECLAC, ESCAP and ECA, has been important. The governments of Switzerland and Germany have given grants with Switzerland renewing its grant; Australia also funded the Advocacy Grant this year for the Pacific sub-region. The Advocacy Training Guide, A Guide for NGOs and Women's Human Rights Activists at the UN and CSW, is available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic on the NGO CSW website ([www.ngocsw.org](http://www.ngocsw.org)).

The NGO CSW/NY calendar of events includes monthly meetings that are both educational and participatory. Average attendance at monthly meetings ranges from 45 to 150 persons. Many meetings are co-sponsored with another CoNGO Committee (Committee on Children's Rights, Committee on Aging, Committee on Human Rights) and include involvement of the members such as an analysis of the survey on NGO CSW Forum 62 taken by over 500 participants and a reading together of the Zero Draft Document for CSW61 with member interventions. Among the other topics explored were "Closing the Gender Pay Gap" with Grace Protos from the U.S. Women's Bureau (Department of Labor), a speaker from the NYC Public Advocate's office on the new law that does not allow employers to ask a person's previous salary and the Permanent Mission of Iceland on their new law for Equal Pay and on "Shrinking Spaces for NGOs" with Elenore Openshaw.

The Young Professionals had evening meetings on "A Conversation on Education and SDG4", "A Conversation on Food, Sustainability, and Gender", "Equal Means Equal" Film Screening and Intergenerational Dialogue, a CSW61 Parallel Event on "Young Women in Today's Workforce: Harnessing the Power of Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship", and "50/50" Film Screening and Discussion.

Additionally, NGO CSW/NY deepened its involvement in the NGO Major Group. NGO CSW/NY conducted a three-hour advocacy training at the HLPF. The feedback on this training was positive. NGO CSW/NY expanded its coverage of UN and civil society events, and improved the dissemination of information. This was done through an intern blog, in which interns attended and reported on meetings. The blog is published on the NGO CSW/NY website, the NGO CSW/NY Young Professional's website, and the Soroptimist International Website. We also increased our social media presence, and regularly sent out information and updates through email, Facebook, and twitter. NGO CSW/NY also spent the year improving the internship program, in collaboration with Soroptimist International with interns receiving temporary passes from Soroptimist International and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

\*The NGO CSW Forum is the term used specifically during the CSW for NGO activities organized by the NGO CSW/NY in collaboration with numerous partners in government, civil society and the UN.

Please see appendices below for further documentation.