

# Recommendations To Be Implemented Based on the Six Thematic Groups

Developed by the NGO CSW/NY Beijing + 25 Study Group that met twice monthly from Oct. 2019 - Feb. 2020 in person and on ZOOM. The Study Group, led by Jourdan Williams, Winifred Doherty and Susan O'Malley and staffed by Intern Gallant Zhuangli, reviewed the 12 Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action, CSW64 Expert Group Papers, CEDAW, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, Paris Climate Agreement, Global Compact for Migration (Climate-Induced Displacement), and the Global Compact for Refugees.

The Six Recommendations To Be Implemented are framed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, and the Beijing Platform for Action. They are to be implemented by the Beijing + 25 Action Coalitions comprised of NGOs, Champion Member States, UN Women and the Private Sector, including Foundations. Measurement and accountability will be required and assessed at future CSWs. Because data drives policy, countries need to use data disaggregated for gender, age, rural v. urban, indigenous, grassroots, disability, marital status, widows of all ages including wives of missing husbands (half widows), women and girls of African descent, LGBTQTI, refugees, migrants, stateless women, IDPs. Because women are not a homogenous group, and, for example, women's participation, the elimination of violence against women and girls, the climate crisis and migration are essential to the implementation of all six recommendations, we offer these recommendations respecting the diversity of all women and girls and emphasizing the intersectionality of the Recommendations.

## Recommendation One: Participation. Accountability and Gender-Responsive Institutions:

In order to achieve gender equality, women must make up at least 50% of all decision-making bodies including legislatures, governmental cabinets, corporate boards, city and town governments, religious institutions, conflict resolution bodies (peace treaties), the UN, the court system, academic governing boards, and faith-based institutions. Member States need to report progress on this annually and consider holding an annual Accountability Forum.

## Recommendation Two: Climate Crisis (Environmental Conservation, Protection and Rehabilitation)

The Climate Crisis is the most serious concern of our time. We must recognize the scientific data describing and predicting the escalating climate change, understanding that women and

girls and the poor are adversely impacted, and realize that the responsibility for climate change lies with the developed countries that must contribute greatly to the survival of countries most harmed by climate change, including island nations. Fossil fuels must be eliminated by 2030. Climate Finance must be aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement, allocating 50% for adaptation. Because women are directly involved in community-based adaptation, capacity building and addressing resilience and disaster-risk management, surviving the climate crisis must be controlled by communities including at least 50% participation by women and not by for-profit developers. The impact of climate change on migration must be understood. Children in primary and secondary school must study climate change through scientific inquiry but should also become aware of traditional and experiential learning methods. They must be given the opportunity to incorporate these into the design of creative solutions that alleviate stresses on Earth and be given recognition for successfully carrying out projects that mitigate Climate Change.

We must understand the consequences of the climate crisis on the overall health and well-being of women and girls. Women in rural, mountainous areas and small island states are natural leaders in the conservation and protection of ecosystems. They must lead in implementing Nature-based solutions as a holistic approach to address impacts of climate change on food and water security. The majority of smallholders farmers are women, and they feed over half of the world's population; therefore, they must be helped to withstand/adapt to the impacts of climate change on food production.

## Recommendation Three: Freedom From Violence, Stigma and Stereotypes

The murder of and violence against women and girls (Femicide, Human Rights Defenders, Indigenous Women, Domestic Violence, Sexual Harassment, LGBTI, the Use of Women as Weapons of War, Human Trafficking and Sex Slavery) must end. The best means of ending these outrages is by prevention, through the education of men and boys, through holding perpetrators accountable to the full extent of the law, and through protecting women, including providing them with safe housing. All women need to know their rights and feel safe in reporting violence. There must be zero tolerance of all forms of traditional harmful practices including female genital mutilation and widows' mourning and burial rites (stoning of widows as witches, cleansing by forced sex). Measures need to be developed for girls and women to address sexual harassment online without creating increased violence against them, and media should avoid creating stereotypes and stigmatizing women and girls for violence committed against them. Comprehensive mental health care to address the trauma experienced due to violence, stigma and stereotyping must be available to women and girls. In addition, the elimination of judicial stereotypes in justice systems is essential to ensure equality and justice for victims and survivors.

## Recommendation Four: Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Social Services

To eradicate poverty, women (including LGBTI) and families need affordable housing and universal healthcare including not only access to reproductive healthcare, which would decrease maternal mortality, but also access to mental health care. Girls, including migrants, need education through secondary school with support for higher learning, and women need a universal minimum income. Universal child benefits need to be included as part of social protection systems and programs. The marriage age of 18 for girls as mandated by the UN should be enforced. All children, including girls, should have valid birth certificates that guarantee them citizenship and social protection services. All women, including widows, need documentation: birth certificates, marriage and death certificates, land titles, among others. Immigrants and widows need to be included in social protection schemes.

## Recommendation Five: Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

To build peaceful and inclusive societies, human rights, peace studies, cooperation, anger reduction and conflict resolution need to be taught in schools beginning in early childhood and continuing throughout the lifecycle. Money from military budgets needs to be diverted to social protection budgets, peacebuilding and dealing with the climate crisis. Women must represent at least 50% of negotiators at the peace table, and families involved in conflict need to be consulted in building peace. Values of cooperation and community need to be reinforced and valued above individual wealth. The rights of migrants, particularly of women and girls, need to be protected in conflict situations.

Peacebuilding should begin with the individual, and women's roles as peace educators in the home can be amplified throughout the community. Peaceful homes contribute to peaceful societies and a peaceful world. Peacebuilding should be a continuous process, not merely an event.

## Recommendation Six: Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity and Decent Work

Women need access to job training, internships and mentoring and must constitute at least 50% of management and corporate boards. The ILO Convention on Eliminating Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (No.190) and Recommendation 206 must be ratified by Member States and implemented in the workplace. The gender pay gap needs to be finally eliminated, and gender budgeting implemented. Debt reduction is essential for shared prosperity; in addition, the tax structure in many countries needs to be reconceived to fund social protection and stop the rich from becoming richer and the poor poorer. Decent work, as defined by the ILO and SDG 8, is being eroded through Climate Change. The care economy

and industry must be given priority in the decent work platform so that women's caregiving work is fully compensated and regulated, as well as ensuring that women receive social protection and retirement in old age. Globally, a rapid increase in the ageing population is projected; if not properly addressed, caregiving for this population will become an even greater unpaid care burden for women.

Finally, the NGO CSW/NY Beijing + 25 Study Group asks for the political will of Member States, the UN, the private sector and NGOs to make our recommendations/asks/demands a reality. We intend to organize, educate and make enough noise to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW.