



Justice
Coalition of
Religious

69TH SESSION OF THE **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

10-21 MARCH 2025

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly





JUSTICE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 23 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). Congregations of Religious sustain the long-standing tradition of serving people who experience the marginalisation, oppression, and vulnerability resulting from unjust global systems. At the grassroots, Sisters, Brothers, priests, and their mission partners are leaders in the provision of essential services. While these efforts offer vital temporary assistance, our common home cries out for lasting global transformation, a transformation that requires addressing the root causes of human and environmental suffering. We are thereby called to the work of advocacy.

JCoR coordinates the efforts of Religious and their ministry partners - across more than 100 countries - in pursuit of our common mission: ***To facilitate collaboration among members and partners of Catholic Religious congregations working at the grassroots and at the United Nations in order to: (1) strengthen one another's capacity for advocacy and (2) advocate collectively for social, economic, and environmental justice and peace in international, regional, and national fora.***

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching and the Universal Human Rights Framework, JCoR envisions a just and peaceful world where the dignity of every person, particularly the most marginalized, and the sanctity of all creation are upheld. In this world, all people can fully participate in the social, economic, political, and cultural life of society, working together to foster the common good. We strive to realise this future world by coordinating the efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!

The image is a collage of two photographs. The top photograph shows a large group of diverse women, many wearing red, cheering and raising their hands in a celebratory manner. The bottom photograph shows a woman wearing a colorful patterned headscarf and a matching top, speaking into a microphone at a conference. The background of the entire graphic is a solid purple color with white geometric shapes.

WHAT IS THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) is the largest global policy-making body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity. It is instrumental in promoting the rights of women and girls, shaping global standards and policy agendas, and documenting the reality of the lives of women and girls across the globe.

This year, the **69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women** ([CSW69](#)) will gather governments, civil society, and other stakeholders at UN Headquarters in New York to discuss the progress and challenges of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout the world. These discussions will focus on the evaluation of the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) and the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#). This review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action, the achievement of gender equality, and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To learn more about CSW, [click here](#).

KEY TERMINOLOGY

BEIJING DECLARATION & PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Throughout its history, the United Nations organized four world conferences on women. These conferences took place in Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985), and Beijing (1995). During the the **Fourth World Conference on Women** in Beijing, 189 countries unanimously adopted the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), an agenda for women’s empowerment. The adoption of this declaration denoted a significant breakthrough in advancing women’s rights and gender equality. The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) sets strategic objectives and actions for the empowerment of women and girls and the achievement of gender equality across 12 areas of concern, addressing issues ranging from political participation and economic justice to health and education, gender-based violence, and the environment. However, it is not legally binding. This means that it implies a moral obligation for Member States to comply, but governments are free to determine their own methods of implementation.

The CSW is dedicated to the review and progress of the implementation of the BPfA, which is formally reviewed every five years, to help sustain momentum and keep the urgency of gender equality at the forefront. CSW69 will mark the 30-year review, or Beijing+30.

23RD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In 2000, the UN General Assembly decided to hold a [23rd special session](#) to conduct a five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+5), and to consider future actions and initiatives. “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development, and Peace for the Twenty-First Century” took place in New York, and resulted in a political declaration and further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments of the BPfA.



CSW OUTCOME

Throughout CSW, UN Member States negotiate outcome documents, with civil society organizations influencing discussions through member state engagement.

The typical document resulting from this process is referred to as an Agreed Conclusion. An Agreed Conclusion contains an analysis of the CSW theme, adopted resolutions, and a concrete set of recommendations for governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, and relevant stakeholders, to implement at the international, regional, national, and local levels.

However, instead of producing an Agreed Conclusion, CSW69 will culminate in an outcome document referred to as a **Political Declaration**. Unlike Agreed Conclusions, which center on a specific theme, Political Declarations articulate broader commitments made at a head-of-state level. In other words, a Political Declaration is a high-level statement of commitment, providing an overview of an issue and desired outcomes. Whereas, an Agreed Conclusion provides a more detailed set of actions and goals.

It is important to note that neither Agreed Conclusions nor Political Declarations are legally binding documents, but both serve as political commitments that governments are encouraged to implement. In this sense, they provide a framework for advocacy and accountability.

In addition to the Political declaration, during CSW69 Member States will also negotiate a **multi-year programme of work** (MYPoW). This document is discussed and agreed upon every five years, during each review period. The MYPoW for CSW details a plan for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment from 2026-2029. It aims to ensure focus and alignment with global commitments such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By setting clear priority themes and review topics, the MYPoW helps guide international discussions, policymaking, and advocacy efforts. It also reinforces CSW's role in monitoring progress, shaping global gender policies, and holding governments accountable for their commitments.

In conclusion, **the outcome documents for CSW69 will include (1) a Political Declaration** on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women **and (2) a multi-year programme of work** of the Commission on the Status of Women. Click on the following link to access both of these [outcome documents](#).



CSW69 DETAILS

When & Where

10-21 March 2025, United Nations Headquarters in New York

Watch

Join online to follow the proceedings of CSW69 at webtv.un.org (streamed in multiple languages)

Official Website

Click on the following link to access the [CSW69 website](#)

Schedule

Click on the following links to view the [official meetings](#) of the Annual Session and a list of official [side events](#)

Current drafts of CSW69 outcome documents

[Click here](#) to access the draft political declaration and multi-year programme of work

NGO CSW Forum

During CSW, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW/NY) hosts the NGO CSW Forum, a program encompassing numerous events that prioritize civil society engagement. Please see the next page for more information.

The CSW schedule is composed of the following three types of events:



Annual Session

The official gathering of the Commission that convenes high-level government representatives and registered civil society actors to discuss and set policies on gender equality and the rights of women and girls



Side Events

Side events coincide with the Annual Session. They are official events organized by UN agencies and Member States, in collaboration with civil society, to raise awareness and influence policy dialogues



Parallel Events

Parallel events take place outside the official United Nations CSW space. They are organized by civil society and provide a space for the public to engage in open dialogues

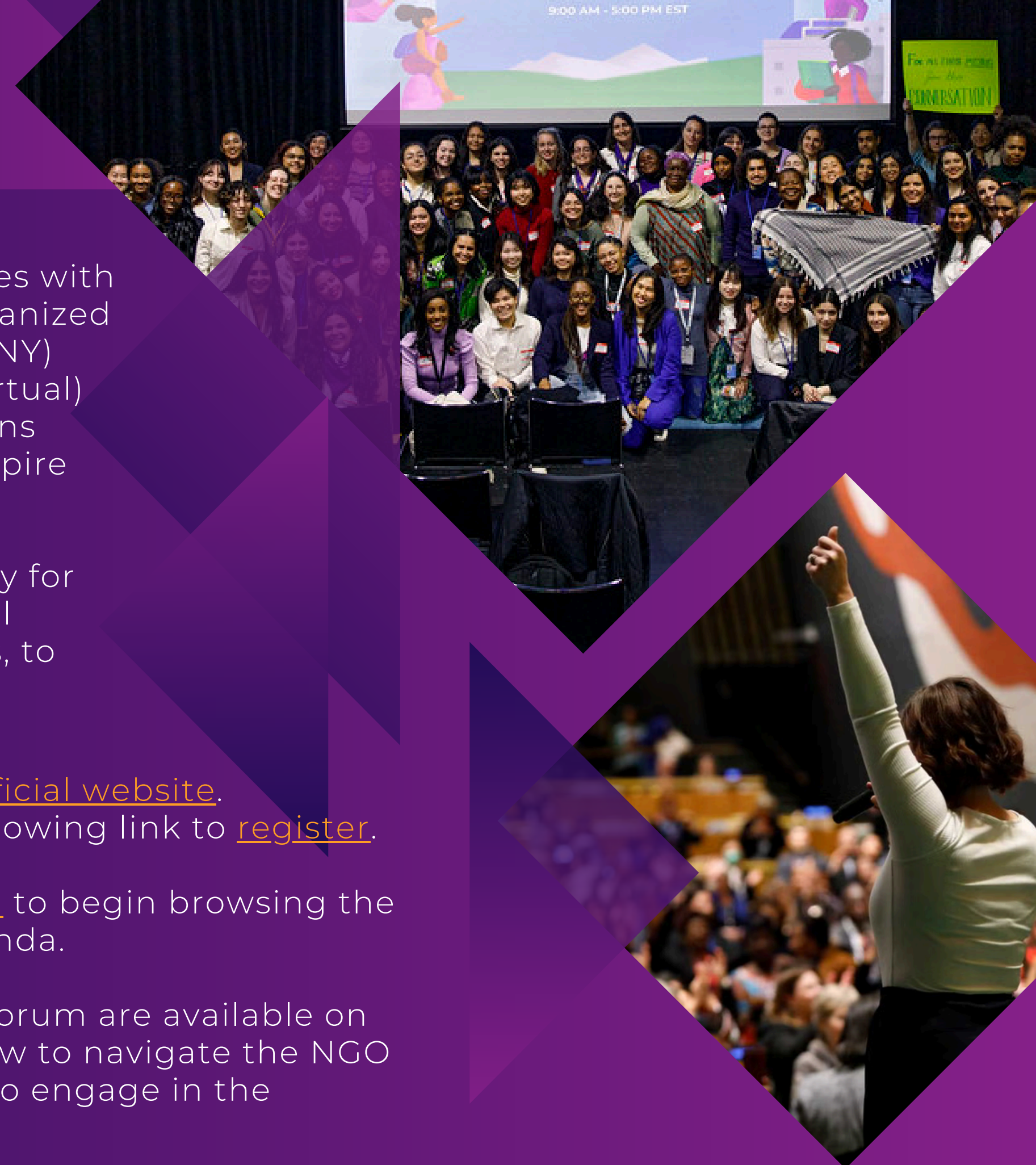
NGO CSW FORUM

The [NGO CSW Forum](#) is a civil society gathering that coincides with the official UN Commission on the Status of Women. It is organized by the [NGO Committee on the Status of Women](#) (NGO CSW/NY) and features more than 750 parallel events (in-person and virtual) facilitated by civil society and non-governmental organizations from around the world. These events inform, engage, and inspire grassroots efforts and advocacy to promote the equality and empowerment of women and girls. The NGO CSW Forum is a particularly important space because provides an opportunity for all members of global civil society, even those without special qualifications such as UN accreditation or a UN grounds pass, to engage in the processes and discussions of the CSW.

For more information on the NGO CSW69 Forum, visit the [official website](#). Registration is free for all participants. Please click on the following link to [register](#).

After submitting your registration, [sign into the virtual portal](#) to begin browsing the extensive list of Forum events and create a personalized agenda.

Explanations of the types of events offered throughout the Forum are available on the next page of this guide. For additional instructions on how to navigate the NGO CSW69 virtual portal, view the [tutorial video](#) for tips on how to engage in the different spaces and pages of the portal.



10 - 21 March 2025

**NGO CSW
FORUM 69**
BEIJING+30

EVENTS

The schedule for the NGO CSW Forum is composed of more than 750 events, and this multitude of options can seem overwhelming. To navigate the calendar and select events that best fit your interests and expertise, it is helpful to begin with an understanding of the main types of events offered throughout the Forum:



Civil society briefings: UN Women and NGO CSW/NY convene Member States, UN agencies, and civil society to provide updates on the negotiations of the CSW outcome document



Conversation circles: Facilitated discussion spaces pertaining to pre-determined topics related to gender equality. The circles promote the sharing of emerging issues and exchange of ideas among participants



Parallel events: In-person and virtual panels and spaces for dialogue that are organized by civil society and address the themes of CSW



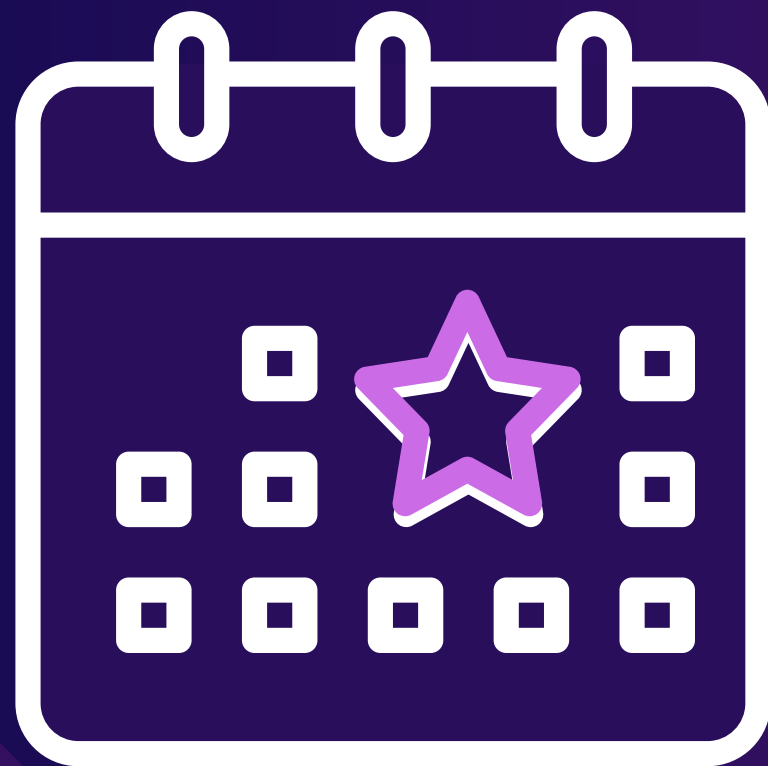
Regional caucuses: Informal, loosely moderated spaces for participants to discuss and reflect upon regional issues and advocacy



We highly recommend that participants read the [advocacy toolkit](#), a guide to build your capacity to advocate for gender equality at the CSW.



RECOMMENDED EVENTS

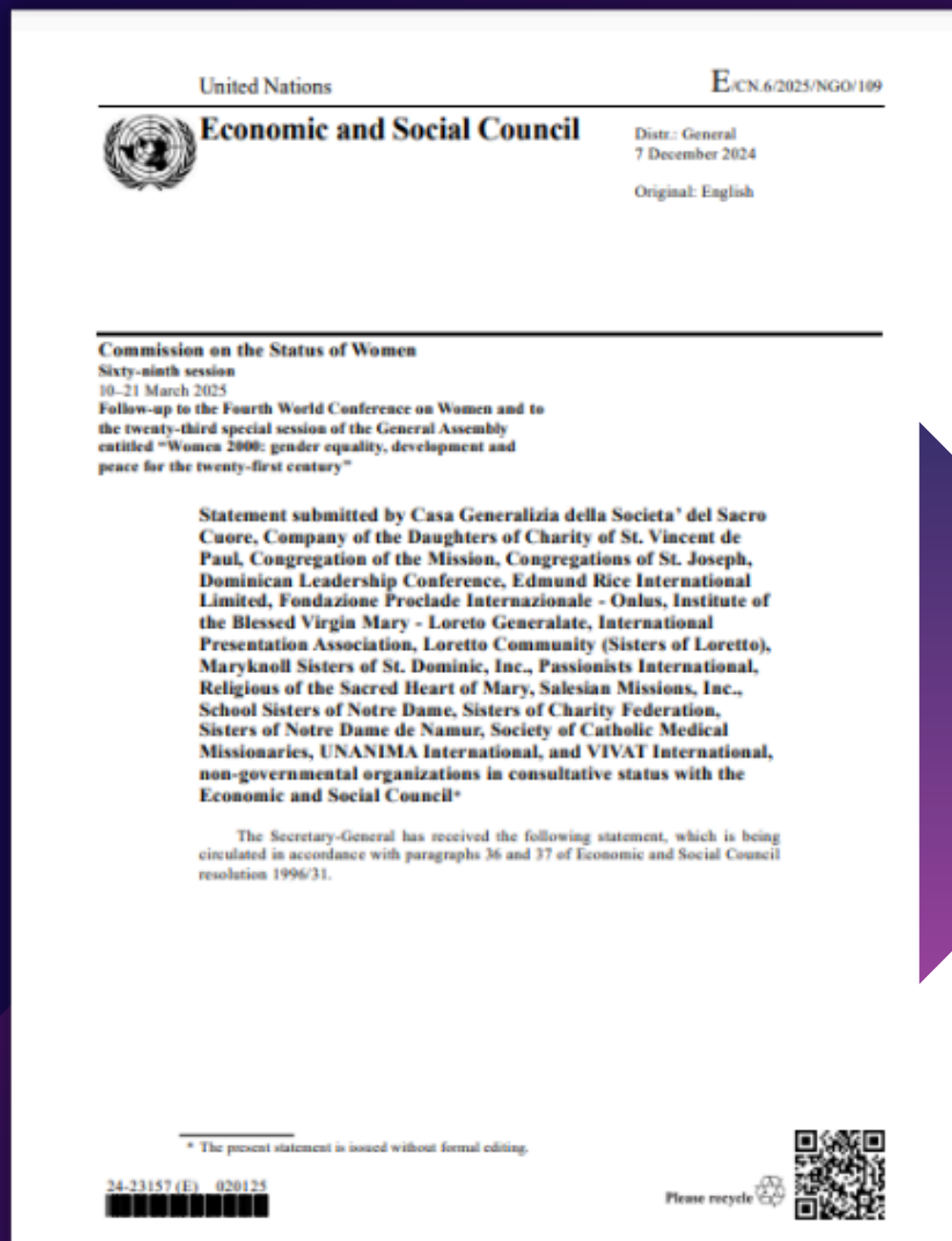


Visit JCoR's Website

Please visit [JCoR's CSW webpage](#) to access a curated list of CSW69 side events and NGO CSW Forum parallel events that are recommended by JCoR and our Religious community at the United Nations in New York.

[Click here for events](#)

JCoR's CSW69 JOINT STATEMENT



JCoR's member organizations submitted a joint statement for CSW69, identifying important issues related to the priority theme for CSW and providing recommendations for inclusion in the outcome document. We encourage you to read our statement and incorporate its messaging into your advocacy efforts throughout CSW.

Click on the following link to access [JCoR's joint statement](#).

JCoR would like to express our gratitude to all of our network members who contributed their ideas and experiences to the composition of this statement, including:

- Sr. Michelle Loisel, Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul
- Sr. Eucharica Okoye, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Sr. Regy Augustine, Medical Mission Sisters
- Sr. Margaret Inyanza, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Sr. Lucie Kima Kayongo, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Sr. Franciska Imakulata, Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (VIVAT International)
- Gale Mohammed-Oxley, Associate of the Order of Preachers (Dominican Leadership Conference)
- Sr. Beatriz Martinez Garcia, School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sr. Sesilia Susana Anak Agung, Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (VIVAT International)
- Sr. Ida Frederika Kuil, Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (VIVAT International)
- Sr. Cynthia Mathew, Congregation of Jesus (IBVM-Loretto Generalate)
- Sr. Ruth Karina Ubilus Agurto, School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sr. Isabel Maria Pinho Gomes, Comboni Missionary Sisters (VIVAT International)
- Sr. Beatrice Chepngeno, School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sr. Maria Elisabete Lourenço Almendra, Comboni Missionary Sisters (VIVAT International)
- Sr. Elena Balatti, Comboni Missionary Sisters (VIVAT International)
- Sr. Tanjo Sarah Unwaunyin, School Sisters of Notre Dame

SOCIAL MEDIA

#CSW69 #NGOCSW69

JCoR would like to help spread the word. Tag us so we can share your social media posts and increase the reach of your advocacy messaging!

Justice Coalition of Religious

Facebook: [@JCoR2030](#) LinkedIn: [JCoR2030](#)

Your Congregation's NGO at the United Nations

Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details [here](#)

NGO Commission on the Status of Women (NGO CSW/NY)

Facebook: [@NGOCSWNY](#) Instagram: [@ngo_csw_ny](#)
LinkedIn: [ngocswny](#) YouTube: [@ngocswny](#)

United Nations Women

Facebook: [@unwomen](#) Instagram: [@unwomen](#)
LinkedIn: [un-women](#) TikTok: [@unwomen](#)

Your government's Permanent Mission to the United Nations



Pause before you share

Mis- and dis-information are causing global harm, hindering our ability to make progress on many of the world's most pressing issues.

Before you share any content online, THINK:

Who made it? What is the source? Where did it come from? Why are you sharing this? When was it published?

#PledgeToPause and #TakeCareBeforeYouShare something online

JOIN US IN

PRAYER

FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Loving God, we gather in prayer with hearts full of hope and ambition.

We pray for a world where all genders are treated with respect. Guide us in the cultivation of a global community that will recognize how all people are created perfectly and equally in Your image.

We pray for the wisdom and strength to construct more just societies, where gender does not serve as a basis for discrimination, violence, or oppression but is honored as an expression of human diversity that enriches our human development and enhances our appreciation for the image of God. May the day come when every person, regardless of their gender, enjoys the same opportunities, rights, and dignity.

Guide us in our efforts to create a future where gender equality is not just a dream but a reality. Imbue us with the perseverance and persuasion to influence policymakers to take urgent action for gender justice.

May love, compassion, and understanding prevail. May we all work together, throughout CSW and beyond, for a more just and equal world.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

