



WGG Recommendations on Girls Included in CSW 53 Agreed Conclusions

The 53rd session of the ECOSOC Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) met in New York City on March 2-13, 2009, to address the “equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS.” The following are the WGG recommendations that are in the Agreed Conclusions:

- ➔ Intensify efforts to fully implement the Beijing Platform for Action (15a);
- ➔ Ensure that men and boys are actively involved in policies and programmes to improve the equal sharing of responsibilities with women and girls in order to promote the human rights of women and the girl child (15i);
- ➔ Take measures to protect and address the needs of women and girls in situations of humanitarian emergencies (15m);
- ➔ Implement national development plans, with the full participation of women and girls, that reduce the feminization of poverty and HIV/AIDS and enhance the capacity of women and girls to meet the negative social and economic impacts of globalization (15n);
- ➔ Provide support for girls affected by HIV/AIDS, including young and adolescent mothers, and prevent discrimination against those affected by HIV/AIDS (15gg);
- ➔ Take all necessary measures to address the needs of girls infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS, especially girls heading households (15kk);
- ➔ Expand accessibility of comprehensive public health services, including community-based services, specifically related to the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS to alleviate the burden on women and girls who provide unpaid care services (15mm);
- ➔ Ensure the right of all girls, including migrant girls and domestic workers, to education, training, health service, food, shelter and recreation and prevent and eliminate child labor and the economic exploitation of girls (15y);
- ➔ Strengthen education, health and social services and effectively utilize resources to achieve gender equality and ensure girls’ rights to education at all levels and their enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (15aa);
- ➔ Develop gender sensitive education and training programmes, including for educators aimed at eliminating discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls (15pp);
- ➔ Address gender stereotypes by encouraging media to promote gender equality and the non-stereotypical portrayal of women and girls and men and boys (15rr);
- ➔ Develop strategies to eliminate gender stereotypes and foster the positive portrayal of women and girls as leaders and decision-makers (15ss);
- ➔ Develop a strategy of zero tolerance for violence against women and girls (15tt);
- ➔ Adopt measures to overcome the negative impacts of the economic and financial crisis on women and girls and maintain adequate levels of funding for gender equality (15xx).

Now it is our responsibility to hold our government leaders accountable for the pledges they made to girls.

How the WGG Organized to Influence the Outcome Document of CSW53

Research and Writing

WGG preparations for the CSW began in August 2008 with the development of a discussion paper, endorsed by many of the organisations represented in the WGG and submitted to the CSW Expert Group Meeting in Geneva, October 6-9, 2009. The ideas presented received further support from the WGG co-chair who attended the meeting.

The *WGG Task Force on Research and Writing* prepared a written statement, endorsed by 29 NGOs and submitted to the CSW for consideration. The statement recommended empowering girls through mainstream campaigns to transform attitudes, norms, and gender stereotypes; promoting the competence and resilience of girls; through education and training; providing resources and funding for gender equality and empowerment of girls, and identifying and addressing the needs of girls' heading households and children without parental care.

Advocacy

Those recommendations became the basis for the work of the *WGG Advocacy Task Force*. WGG members met with government representatives chairing each of the regional groups: G77, EU, SADC JUSCANZ, Pacific Islands, ASEAN. Those contacts proved critical to WGG efforts on behalf of girls during the negotiations at the CSW.

WGG Parallel Events

The efforts of the *Events Task Force* helped to guarantee that girls' issues were represented in the scores of parallel events planned for CSW 53. The membership of the WGG sponsored eleven events which treated topics that ranged from sharing best practices about prevention of violence against girls to sharing girl's perspective on caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

Girls' Participation

The *Girls' Participation Task Force* laboured for months to ensure that there would be space for girls at CSW 53 and ample opportunity for them to speak on their behalf. As a result more than 75 girl delegates attended and participated in an orientation and workshop for girls on the priority theme. In addition, girls had the chance to develop and present an oral statement and to develop and chair a number of parallel events.

Caucus on Girls

The WGG organized a *Caucus on Girls* which followed the Commission's negotiations and lobbied intensely on behalf of girls. Caucus members worked to ensure that the final CSW 53 negotiated outcome document treated the needs and concerns of girls in a substantive manner. The caucus suggested important revisions to the draft outcome document and was able to get those suggestions into the hands of more than 30 government delegations.

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