



NCOSS WOMEN CSW61 PRIORITIES

KEY PRINCIPLES

NCOSS Women is supportive of actions by the Commission to:

- **Implement** economic, social policies and infrastructure to facilitate women's economic empowerment. Such as expanding accessible and quality early childhood education, access to maternity or parental leave and flexible working arrangements.
- **Eliminate** occupational segregation by addressing structural gender bias and social norms.
- **Strengthen** women's collective voice, leadership and decision making.
- **Affirm** the private sector's role in advancing gender equality.
- **Address** sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.
- **Support** the capacity, resources and ability of gender equality mechanisms to report, monitor and implement these actions.
- **Address** these actions for **all** women and girls, in **all their diversity**, throughout their life cycle.

NCOSS Women will be advocating for states to demonstrate commitment to:

1. **Intersections of Disadvantage:** It is imperative that further emphasis be placed on solutions to address the multiple and interconnecting forms of inequality, discrimination and disadvantage faced by many women.
2. **Human Right's Institutions:** The active, meaningful and clearly defined role of civil society organisations (women's, human rights and feminist organisations), National Human Rights Institutions and academic institutions, at CSW. These organisations are central to the achievement of economic security for women, and have a critical role in driving change, ensuring accountability for gender equality and the implementation of actions from the Commission.
3. **Gendered responsive education:** Promoting gendered responsive education is essential to women's and young girls' economic growth and human development. This includes access to lifelong and non-formal learning, gendered financial literacy education programs, leaderships and career programs, and education about sexual and reproductive rights.
4. **Culturally responsive training and women's services:** Ensuring that women have access to specialist and culturally responsive women's services, including health, housing and legal services; as well as access to quality, relevant and affordable work-related and vocational education and training. Including women with disabilities, and women from migrant and indigenous backgrounds.
5. **Access to safe, accessible and affordable housing:** Ensuring all women and girls have access to safe, accessible and affordable housing.

A New Year for Women is a national and international movement for change, which brings together key thinkers and stakeholders from civil society, business and government. Under the auspices of NCOSS Women, we are committed to addressing gendered poverty and ensuring the economic empowerment of all women and girls throughout their life cycle, with a focus on **financial literacy, employment, housing and retirement income**.

Underpinning this movement is the knowledge of different women's experiences and the barriers they face. As an international community we need to **recognise the intersecting and compounding forms of disadvantage faced by many women**, namely: Indigenous women, women from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with disability, young and older women, LGBTIQ communities and women in regional, rural and remote communities. We need to develop targeted solutions and support these communities to make real change for gender equity.

EMERGING ISSUES/ FOCUS AREA: THE EMPOWERMENT OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Globally, Indigenous women experience significant levels of interconnecting forms of inequality, disadvantage and discrimination. Indigenous women are the most likely to be victims of violence, and experience unemployment, financial and housing stress. We know Indigenous communities are strong and resilient, with a wealth of knowledge to lead and shape solutions for a sustainable and inclusive future.

Seven Sisters – Indigenous Women’s Advisory Panel reaffirms the need for states to:

1. Demonstrate commitment of the **Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**.
2. Adopt measures to ensure the **full and effective participation** of Indigenous women in all aspects of society; as well as measures aimed at promoting the economic empowerment of Indigenous women and the realisation of their rights.
3. **Acknowledge, respect and learn** from the knowledge and experience of Indigenous women. Governments need to support local and community women’s services and groups, where Indigenous women are involved and lead the creation, design and delivery of programs for their communities. Solutions need to come from communities and local leaders.
4. Acknowledge the role of Indigenous women as the **stewards of their ancestral lands** and that their traditional knowledge is essential to all efforts to address climate change.
5. Enhance **data collection** and the development of global, national and local indicators to measure progress in the empowerment of indigenous women, and the lives and cultures of indigenous peoples more broadly.
6. Develop and implement **culturally responsive training and women’s services**: Ensuring indigenous women have access to specialist and culturally responsive women’s services, including health, housing and legal services; as well as access to quality, relevant and affordable education and training.
7. Implement measures to address **racism, stereotyping and stigma**, particularly how it relates to and impacts Indigenous communities.

NCOSS YOUNG WOMEN’S ADVISORY PANEL

NCOSS Young Women’s Advisory Panel reaffirms the need for states to:

1. Recognise the important **voice** of all young women and girls in all their **diversity** and as **decision makers**.
2. Tap into the expertise and experience of young women and girls as a foundation of **innovation and creative solutions**.
3. Acknowledge the importance of the full engagement and active role of **men and boys** of all ages, in all their diversity, for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
4. Advocate for the importance of improving **education** programs and their access, and ensuring gendered responsive education in key areas of financial literacy, leader and career programs, work rights, housing and sexual and reproductive rights.
5. Recognise the significant role **families and communities** play in advancing gender equality for young women, and their contribution to young women’s economic empowerment and decision making.
6. Address **stereotypes, unconscious bias, and the ingrained expectations on the roles and capabilities of men and women from a young age**, to address gender segregation, the gender pay gap, and the dialogue on caring responsibilities.