

## | Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

It is our absolute pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) at NMMUN'25. We, Ayushi and Gayathri, will be serving as your chairs for this committee. We are excited to guide you through what promises to be a very productive and engaging experience.

This year, our agendas are:

1. Valuing Unpaid Domestic Labour
2. Women in Peacebuilding

Both topics lie at the heart of the global gender equality discourse. They challenge us to think critically about the invisible labour that sustains economies and families, as well as the role women play in building and sustaining peace in conflict-affected societies.

As delegates, you are encouraged not only to represent your assigned country's stance but also to participate constructively with one another in finding common ground. Successful councils are not only defined by the resolution passed, but the depth of analysis, creativity and diplomacy shown throughout debate.

We urge you to research thoroughly, approach this conference with an open mind, and balance national interests with the broader goals of the international community. Remember that MUN is not only about the policies, but also about dialogue, cooperation and understanding.

We look forward to hearing your stances, watching your negotiations unfold, and most importantly, seeing how you bring these agendas to life with your designated perspectives.

Wishing you the very best in your endeavours. See you in council!

Warm regards,  
Ayushi Chakraborty  
Gayathri Sangiseti  
Chairs, UNCSW  
NMMUN'25

## | History of the committee

UNCSW was established in 1946 as a mechanism to promote, report on and monitor issues relating to the political, economic, civil, social and educational rights of women. It was a unique official structure for drawing attention to women's concerns and leadership within the UN. UNCSW first met at Lake Success, New York, in February 1947. All 15 government representatives were women, which distinguished UNCSW from other UN movements, and UNCSW has continued to maintain a majority of women delegates. During its first session, the Commission declared as one of its guiding principles: to raise the status of women, irrespective of nationality, race, language or religion, to equality with men in all fields of human enterprise, and to eliminate all discrimination against women in the provisions of statutory law, in legal maxims or rules, or in interpretation of customary law. One of the main UN bodies, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), has a functional committee called the committee on the Status of Women (CSW or UNCSW). According to some, CSW is the UN agency that supports women's empowerment and gender equality. Each year, delegates from member nations convene at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to assess gender equality progress, pinpoint obstacles, establish global norms, and develop tangible measures to advance women globally. Thirteen new members were chosen to CSW by ECOSOC in April 2017 for a four-year tenure spanning 2018–2022.

UN organisations actively carried out their missions to include women in development-related conferences, initiatives, and methods. In addition to attending prepcoms, women also create strategies, attend caucus meetings, network regarding the different agenda items being negotiated in committees, and serve as knowledgeable lobbyists at conferences. One of the UN commissions that does not restrict participation to nations alone is the CSW.

For instance, through the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY), NGOs are permitted to join caucuses and panels and host their own concurrent activities during CSW sessions. For disputed areas like Taiwan, which is not a UN member, this is especially crucial. NGOs from Taiwan, like the National Alliance of Taiwan Women's Associations, have been able to attend the CSW sessions in recent years.

## | 1: Recognising and Valuing Unpaid Domestic Labour

## I. Introduction

Unpaid Domestic and Care Work (UDCW) encompasses all non-market activities performed in homes for private use, such as cooking, cleaning, getting fuel or water, and caring for children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities. This work is essential to economies, communities, and families. However, this labour is still largely underappreciated, unrecognised, and excluded from national economic statistics like GDP on a global scale. The burden of UDCW, which limits their access to paid employment, political participation, education, and leisure, falls disproportionately on women and girls. This significantly hinders a number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5.4, which calls for gender equality and the recognition and appreciation of unpaid care and domestic work. By developing policies and strategies that adhere to the "5R framework" (Recognise, Reduce, Redistribute, Reward, and Represent), this council aims to address systemic inequality.

## II. Relevant Information

Around the world, women perform the vast majority of unpaid caregiving and domestic work. In 2018, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated that 2 billion full-time unpaid workers, or 16.4 billion hours per day, were engaged in UDCW worldwide. If this work had a monetary value, it would be worth approximately \$11 trillion (USD), or 9% of the global gross domestic product. Women perform an average of 4 hours and 25 minutes of unpaid care work per day, compared to 1 hour and 23 minutes for men. Women account for about 76.2% of all unpaid care work. This disparity in gender is obvious. An estimated 708 million women worldwide remain unemployed due to unpaid caregiving responsibilities, which significantly hinders their ability to achieve economic empowerment. The underlying cause of the persistent inequality is gender stereotypes and deeply ingrained social norms that assign caregiving as primarily a female role. Lack of public services and infrastructure, such as easily accessible childcare facilities, eldercare services, and easily accessible energy and water, further increases the time and physical demands of UDCW, especially for women in rural and low-income areas. For instance, in low-income economies, women spend up to six times as much time as men on simple household tasks like fetching water or firewood. In order to recognise and value UDCW, a comprehensive strategy is needed, one that includes implementing care-friendly employment policies like paid parental leave, encouraging shared family responsibility, investing in social infrastructure, and collecting solid data through time-use surveys. Policy discussions must progress from acknowledgement to practical measures that equitably lessen and redistribute this burden.

### III. Timeline

Year	Event	Significance
1995	Beijing Declaration and Action Plan	Called for data collection and policies to address the unequal distribution of unpaid labour, which was identified as a barrier to gender equality (Strategic Objective H.3).
2008	"Recognize-Reduce-Redistribute" Framework	The "3Rs" framework, put forth by economist Diane Elson, gained traction in UN and policy debates regarding UDCW.
2015	Sustainable Development Goal 5.4	"Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate" has been adopted as a key global target.
2018	ILO Global Estimate on Unpaid Care Work	released important figures, such as the \$11 trillion monetary value, which greatly increased awareness of UDCW's economic contribution.
2019	CSW 63rd Session Agreed Conclusions	addressed the ways to cut and redistribute UDCW by concentrating on social protection programs, public service accessibility, and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.
2023	UN General Assembly Resolution 78/150	Reaffirmed the need to adopt measures to reduce, redistribute, and value unpaid care and domestic work and promote the equal sharing of responsibilities.

## IV. Guiding Questions

1. How can time-use surveys and other techniques be used by Member States to precisely quantify and value UDCW, and how should this information be used to guide national budgetary decisions and economic policies?
2. Which particular infrastructure and public service investments—such as reasonably priced childcare, elder care, water, sanitation, and energy—are most successful in lowering the burden of UDCW on women and girls across a range of national contexts?
3. Which social campaigns, incentives, and policy initiatives have been effective in encouraging men and women in households to share caregiving responsibilities equally, and how can these be expanded internationally?
4. How might labour market policies (such as paid parental leave, flexible work schedules, and minimum wage requirements for domestic workers) be changed to reward and represent paid care workers while also lessening the burden of UDCW on women?
5. How can the international community—which includes International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and UN agencies—better assist developing countries in funding and creating all-encompassing national care policies?
6. How can the Commission best make sure that the needs and voices of women who perform the majority of UDCW are prioritised in the creation and application of policies, especially those who belong to marginalised communities (such as rural, indigenous, or disabled communities)?

### | 2: Women's political participation in peacebuilding processes

#### I. Introduction

Women's political participation in peacebuilding is essential to achieving inclusive, sustainable peace. Despite evidence showing that peace processes are more durable and effective when women are involved, they continue to be underrepresented in negotiations, post-conflict governance, and peace implementation mechanisms. This guide explores the historical context, key frameworks, barriers, and progress related to women in peacebuilding.

#### II. Historical and Conceptual Context

Peacebuilding refers to efforts to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation, and recurrence of conflict. It includes conflict resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, reconciliation, governance reform, and institution-building.

#### The Gender Dimension

Historically, peacebuilding has been male-dominated, with women relegated to supporting or informal roles. However, gendered impacts of conflict mean women and girls often experience war differently—and bring unique perspectives to its resolution.

### III. International Legal and Policy Frameworks → UNSCR 1325 and Subsequent Resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889, etc.)

- ◆ Emphasize the role of women in conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict recovery.
- ◆ Demand protection of women's rights in conflict and increased participation in decision-making.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- ◆ Mandates state parties to eliminate discrimination against women in public and political life.
- Sustainable Development Goal 5 & 16
- ◆ Goal 5: Gender Equality.
- ◆ Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.
- National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS
- ◆ Many countries have developed NAPs to implement the WPS agenda at national levels.

### IV. Why does women's participation matter?

Women's participation in peacebuilding matters because their inclusion leads to more sustainable and successful peace agreements, addresses unique community needs, and promotes social justice and equality. Women bring diverse perspectives and skills, foster more comprehensive policies, and help build resilient societies. Their presence is not only a fundamental right but also a strategic necessity for achieving lasting peace and security for all.

#### Substantive Contributions

- Unique Priorities Brought by Women
- ◆ Women often emphasize critical social dimensions in peace negotiations, such as healthcare, education, justice, and reconciliation.
- ◆ These issues are essential for long-term stability and are frequently underrepresented when women are excluded from peace processes.
- Greater Focus on Social Cohesion and Community Rebuilding
- ◆ Women tend to prioritize the reconstruction of communities, including the reintegration of displaced people and former combatants.
- ◆ Their focus often includes addressing trauma, rebuilding trust among communities, and restoring essential public services.

#### Peace Outcomes

- Improved Durability of Peace Agreements
- ◆ According to UN Women, peace agreements are 35% more likely to last at least 15 years when women are meaningfully involved in their creation.
- ◆ This reflects the inclusive, holistic, and community-oriented approach women bring to conflict resolution.
- Increased Legitimacy and Inclusivity
- ◆ Inclusion of women fosters broader public support for peace processes, enhancing the legitimacy of outcomes.
- ◆ Their participation ensures that agreements are more representative of diverse societal needs, which leads to more comprehensive and sustainable solutions.

#### Democratic Representation

- Affirmation of Equal Rights and Democratic Values

◆ Women's political participation, especially in peacebuilding, affirms their equal right to shape the future of their societies.

◆ It also reinforces democratic principles, promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance.

→ Empowerment and Gender Equality

◆ Active roles in peacebuilding empower women and help challenge deeply rooted gender norms.

◆ This can lead to greater gender equality in post-conflict societies, benefiting overall development and stability.

## V. Challenges and Barriers

Despite international recognition, women still face significant barriers to full participation in peacebuilding:

- Cultural and social norms that limit women's roles in public and political spaces.
- Lack of access to education and resources, which restricts leadership opportunities.
- Security risks and gender-based violence that deter or exclude women from formal negotiations.
- Tokenistic participation, where women are present in name but excluded from decision-making power.
- Limited funding and institutional support for women-led peace initiatives.

To ensure meaningful participation, systemic changes are needed to dismantle these obstacles and provide safe, equal and supported spaces for women to lead.

## VI. Guiding Questions

1. How can Member States ensure women's participation in peace negotiations moves beyond tokenism to genuine decision-making power?
2. What best practices can be adopted from existing National Action Plans (NAPs) under the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda?
3. How can local women's organisations and movements be better integrated into national peacebuilding processes?
4. What mechanisms can ensure protection and accountability for women participating in post-conflict reconstruction and political life?
5. How can international bodies like UN Women, the AU and regional organisations enhance funding, capacity-building and networking for women peacebuilders?
6. In what ways can women's inclusion in peacebuilding contribute to achieving both SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)?

## | Bibliography

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