

## BPW United Nations STANDING COMMITTEE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT



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Carole Shaw's Report Human Rights as BPW UN SC Member and Lead of the Working Group on Human Rights



Human Rights recognise the inherent value of each person, regardless of background, where we live, what we look like, what we think or what we believe. Women and men share these rights, however, due to women being women (in all their diversity) they are faced with discrimination, because of their gender which manifests into fewer opportunities for economic, social, political representation. Because of

Gender Inequality women and girls have fewer opportunities, are refused access to education, face greater health and safety risks and are confronted with violence and abuse. Gender justice for all women and girls is a core human right, and indispensable for gender equality, development, poverty reduction and is crucial to achieving human progress.

Over the last 12 months, the Human Rights Team has been learning and sharing information from the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Commission on the Status of Women, the High Level Political Forum and other UN Human Rights offices.

### News from United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)



The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making

recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.

The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

### Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Reporting



The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

The UPR review cycle is a four and a half year period where all UN Member states human rights records are reviewed. We are currently at the end of the Third Cycle of the UPR cycles (2017 – 2022) and just about to enter the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle.

For countries reporting during the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle please see link

[https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR\\_4th\\_cycle.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_4th_cycle.docx)

### UN ECOSOC New York

#### Sustainable Development Goals – Reporting through the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)



The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), through its outcome on "The Future We Want", established the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2012.

The HLPF is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. It is the apex of the architecture for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda established by the 2030 Agenda and General Assembly resolution 70/299<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> <https://hlpf.un.org/> downloaded September, 2022

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) held in July, 2022 saw the end of the Decade for Action for the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also a critical juncture for women as we start the building back from the blows of COVID-19.

The meeting was held from 5 – 15 July 2022 in New York, it was an in person meeting with virtual side events. The Goals focused on this year were Goals 4 (education) 5 (Gender Equality), 14 (Ocean conservation), 15 (Sustainable environment) and 17 (Partnerships) – voluntary National Reports from the Asia and Pacific Region were Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Philippines, Tuvalu and Kazakhstan.

### **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**



The Commission on the Status of Women will take place from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. The Commission which will run in a hybrid model. With State representatives that can attend the United Nations in New York attending in person and others will enter into the discussions around the Agreed Conclusions via the internet.

The themes for next year are:

- Priority Theme : Innovation and technological change and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and
- Review Theme : Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls ([agreed conclusions](#) from the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session)

BPW International will be posting it's Statement to CSW via the website. There will be more on the topic of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 67<sup>th</sup> Session in a separate report.

### **Other Human Rights News**

#### **Youth Advisory Board : Working with and for youth in vulnerable situations**

In 2021, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) joined forces with Education Above All and Silatech to kick off a partnership focusing on human rights of youth: 'Working with and for youth in vulnerable situations including conflict, violence, and insecurity'. Following an open call for a Youth Advisory Board, 10 youths from around the world were chosen to provide feedback and input on direction of the projects.

More information : <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/YAB-bios-2022-03.pdf>