



# 2017 UNGA #InTheRoom

ENGAGEMENT KIT  
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## BACKGROUND

In July 2017, Women Thrive launched our #InTheRoom campaign at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). #InTheRoom was born from the results of our [2017 National SDG Scorecard](#), which revealed that grassroots women's rights groups and gender equality advocates, for the most part, are consistently left out of SDG-related decision-making spaces.

Our HLPF campaign invited groups, advocates and decision-makers working to ensure grassroots women's participation in national, regional and global-level SDG-era implementation processes and accountability mechanisms to show their support to make this issue a priority.

Our members chose the hashtag #InTheRoom to raise visibility on when and where they are actually included in vital SDG-related decision-making spaces. Within five days, our campaign reached over 6 million people on social media and garnered an endorsement from U.N. Women.

## 2017 UNGA CAMPAIGN

For this year's U.N. General Assembly, we are elevating and amplifying our #InTheRoom campaign following communications from U.N. DESA that:

- Annual grounds passes for the U.N. will not grant attendees access to U.N. campus for the duration of UNGA.
- Moreover, no temporary passes will be issued and attendees are required to obtain additional event-specific passes to attend meetings and side-events on U.N. grounds.

These additional passes are being offered on a first come, first serve basis and will be limited. It is made explicit that only Member State delegations and U.N. employees will have grounds access.

This move on the part of the U.N. contributes to the growing, global trend to limit, restrict and close civic space, especially for women's rights and gender equality advocates - this is simply unacceptable. While UNGA is a high-level series of meetings held in the General Assembly chamber, vital conversations are had in the numerous side-events, other conference rooms and chambers, the hallways, and cafeterias, even. This decision sends a clear message to civil society organizations worldwide that they and their experience, expertise and role in their

communities and countries, are not considered equal to the work of governments themselves, and are unwelcomed by the U.N.

As such, our #InTheRoom campaign is more relevant and important than ever - to communicate to U.N. as a whole and Member States specifically that civil society has a right to be #InTheRoom when issues of human rights, democracy, peace and security, and development are being discussed.

## JOIN US

#InTheRoom is one initiative to galvanize civil society, in particular, women's rights organizations from around the world around the importance of civil society's place and participation in U.N. mechanisms and processes.

*Your support and participation in this campaign are vital to making it a success.*

**Participate in the following ways:**

### **Join your voice on social media**

1. Post a selfie with this #InTheRoom placard and share on Facebook and Twitter and answer the question **“Why is it important to me and/or my organization for civil society, especially gender equality organizations, to have access to and be #InTheRoom at the U.N.?”**

# #InTheRoom



2. Use these click-to-tweets and Facebook posts to inspire your contributions:

### TWEETS:

1. [Civil society organizations deserve to be #InTheRoom at #UNGA72 to engage w/ #UNMemberStates & raise important diplomatic issues](#)
2. [Women's rights orgs deserve to be #InTheRoom @ #UNGA72 to ensure govts talk abt issues of gender eq. in peace & security, diplo., & dev.](#)
3. [#CSOs need event-specific passes to attend #UNGA72- unacceptable! Closes vital #civicspace for dialogue & discourse. We MUST be #InTheRoom](#)

4. [Women's rights & gender equality orgs r disproportionately affected by UN pass restrictions. #CSO + #WROs must be #InTheRoom at #UNGA72!](#)
5. [CSOs are the third-pillar of the @UN; we r in the #UNCharter. Restricting our #ECOSOC status' access to #UNGA is unacceptable.](#)
6. [@antonioguterres, restricting pass access is not how to encourage #CSO collab & inclusion in @UN processes. We must be #InTheRoom at UNGA72](#)
7. [Dear @thomsonfiji: Civil society orgs \(#CSOs\) deserve to be #InTheRoom during #UNGA72, not left outside waiting in lines 4 special passes!](#)
8. [Dear @thomsonfiji: #CSOs are the third pillar of the @UN - we deserve to be #InTheRoom at #UNGA72 to ensure that our voices are heard!](#)

ii. **FACEBOOK:**

1. The United Nations has limited civil society access and participation at this year's General Assembly (UNGA). This is a worrying contribution to the growing global trend to limit and control civil society space and participation in vital decision-making processes. Those of us with the needed accreditation to access U.N. grounds, have the right to be #InTheRoom to engage in multilateral diplomacy and ensure our issues and priorities are heard by Member States.
2. By restricting our access to U.N. grounds during #UNGA72, the United Nations is sending a clear message to civil society organizations: that we are not seen as equals in the eyes of the U.N. and our participation can be sacrificed under the guise of security. We deserve to be #InTheRoom, as we are in fact the third pillar of the U.N.!