



The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Established in 1946, the Commission meets every year to draft recommendations for strengthening gender equality, development and peace.

What is WILPF's "traditional" strategy around the Commission on the Status of Women?

Traditionally, WILPF International hosts a delegation of WILPF members and partners from all over the world. We work with them on developing the ways to strengthen implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (UNSCR1325) through organising side events and consultations and lobbying governments in order to influence the norm-building processes around women's rights in conflict. This year, WILPF International was planning to bring a delegation of partners from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, hereunder to launch a study on women, peace and security in Yemen and Libya. Moreover, about 40 WILPF members have been accredited to join the CSW.

Is this year's strategy of WILPF different this year?

Yes. WILPF International will not participate in this year's CSW. Subsequently, WILPF Secretary General will not travel to New York, and WILPF will not co-sponsor official events. WILPF staff will also not speak at any panels or events hosted inside or outside the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Some WILPF members, however, will still attend the forum and work with WILPF International to open discussion on meaningful participation and the reforms of the CSW and other UN processes. Our United Nations Office in New York will provide support to our members when they are preparing for the forum and when they are here.

Does it mean that WILPF is boycotting the Commission on the Status of Women as well as other UN-led forums?

No. This is not a boycott. Since the Trump Administration has made it impossible for the United

Nations-led forums to be as inclusive as possible, to prevent discrimination and to reach outcomes which reflect the diversity of women, WILPF's presence at CSW61 would appear to normalise what is totally illegitimate.

How is WILPF International planning on making the voices of women who were unable to attend the CSW heard on the international arena?

We are instead moving our focus and planned activities to the Human Rights Council in Geneva and other spaces that allow all women irrespective of nationality, race, language or religion to speak from their experience. We will work with NGOs, Member States, and the UN to convene a major event in Geneva to address the issue of women's meaningful participation, possibly as early as April.

What can I do to support WILPF in its action to strengthen women's meaningful participation?

You can:

- Translate WILPF statement into your own language and disseminate it among your network, colleagues and friends;
- Lobby your government to call on the US government, in public and in private, to overturn the ban and ensure women's full and meaningful participation in all UN processes;
- Demand space for marginalised voices to be heard by bringing the attention of others to the #MissingVoices of those banned from entering the US for the CSW;
- Use social media to share WILPF message using #MissingVoices hashtag;
- Invite your colleagues and friends to join WILPF on www.wilpf.org/membership