



Education International



Int. Trade Union Confederation



UNI Global Union



Public Services International

Trade
Union

Guide

for UNCSW

Delegates

Comprehensive list of useful links

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women	http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/index.html
57th session of the UNCSW	http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm
Journal of the United Nations	http://www.un.org/en/documents/journal.asp
UNCSW Facebook	http://www.facebook.com/UNCSW
UNCSW Twitter	https://mobile.twitter.com/UN_CSW
Trade Unions Delegations Blog	http://unioncsw.world-psi.org/
Expert Group meeting on violence against women and girls	http://www.unwomen.org/events/59/expert-group-meeting-prevention-of-violence-against-women-and-girls/
On-line Discussion	http://www.unwomen.org/publications/report-on-the-online-discussion-on-eliminating-violence-against-women-and-girls/
Preparatory expert panel	http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/56sess.htm#preview
Center for Global Women's Leadership	http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)	http://www.wedo.org/
Center for Reproductive Rights	http://reproductiverights.org/
European Women's Lobby (EWL)	http://www.womenlobby.org/
Association pour les droits de la femme et le développement (AWID)	http://www.awid.org/fre/A-Propos-de-l-AWID/Qui-sommes-nous
Asia Pacific on Women Law and Development (APWLD)	http://www.apwld.org/

A Short Guide to Preparing for the UNCSW

A few things labour delegates can do
before the UNCSW meetings begin

Prepared by Sarah Bélanger, PSAC/PSI, December 2012

1. Get to know the UNCSW.

- **Read up on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)**, what it is and what it does. The [UNCSW web page](#) is a good starting point.
- Annual UNCSW meetings are referred to as “sessions”. The 57th session of the UNCSW, or UNCSW57, is taking place from March 4-15, 2013. **Check out the [web page for UNCSW57](#) and the [Journal of the United Nations](#).**

NB: Many of the UN documents are only available in English. Links to reports with an * are ones that are available in French and Spanish as well as in English.

2. Get familiar with the priority theme.

Each year, the UNCSW focuses on one priority theme, and negotiates “Agreed Conclusions” on this theme. The main theme of UNCSW57 is [the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls](#).

- **Browse through the UN preparatory work on the priority theme.** In the months leading up to the UNCSW, preparatory work takes place on the priority theme. The UNCSW57 web page includes documentation from an [Expert Group meeting on violence against women and girls](#), an [on-line discussion*](#), and a [preparatory expert panel](#) held during the previous UNCSW session.

3. Know what issues trade unions are bringing to the table.

All accredited Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are invited to submit a statement to the UNCSW each year. These statements form part of the official UNCSW documentation. The global union federations – the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Public Services International (PSI) and



Education International (EI), typically submit a joint statement to the UNCSW, focused on the trade union perspective on the priority theme.

- **Read the global union statement on the priority theme***. The ITUC-PSI-EI statement for UNCSW57 will be distributed to each participant from the ITUC, EI and PSI. It will also be posted on the official UNCSW57 website early in 2013.

4. Build your networks.

- **Identify your allies in your own country** – unions, women’s organizations, NGOs – that might be participating in the UNCSW meetings.
- **Make links with like-minded organizations** – ones that are likely to have progressive and inclusive positions on women’s equality.
- **Get in touch with them early on.** Find out what priorities they will be advancing, and what common ground we can work on together. Get a hold of their statement to the UNCSW. Get their contact information so you can get in touch with them during the actual UNCSW meetings in NY.

5. Lobby your government.

Governments, or “Member States”, are at the UNCSW to report on the progress made on the main theme, and to negotiate the Agreed Conclusions. During the first week of the UNCSW meetings, each Member State presents a statement on the main theme during a plenary session.

- **Find out which arm of your government has the lead on preparing for the UNCSW.**
- **Ask for a meeting with them. Bring a copy of the joint ITUC-PSI-EI trade union statement.** Find out what positions they are bringing to the negotiating table.
- **Some country delegations include NGO representatives. Find out if your government’s official delegation includes NGOs, and if it is an option for you to be a part of this delegation.**
- **Find out who the NGO delegates are (get names and contact information) so you can get in touch with them before and during the negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions.**
- **Ask for a briefing from your government during the UNCSW meetings.**

6. Watch for the “Draft Agreed Conclusions”.

Each year, UN Women prepares “Draft Agreed Conclusions” as a starting point for the negotiations between Member States during the UNCSW session. These Draft Agreed Conclusions are typically available online a few weeks

prior to the opening of the UNCSW session. (The Agreed Conclusions, once negotiated and agreed on, are the key outcomes of the CSW.).

- Check out the [UNCSW web page](#) on a regular basis.

7. Know what you're up against.

Conservative organizations, some of whom are religious, typically have a strong presence at the UNCSW. They tend to focus on lobbying against reproductive rights and protections based on sexual orientation. They are highly organized and connected, but often times attempt to go unnoticed within the NGO community. They have found allies in some Members States, for example Iran and the Holy See.

- **Be prepared. Try to find out which organizations or individuals from your part of the world fit this bill. Be strategic.** Find out as much as you can about them, what positions they are bringing forward and who their allies are.
- **Compile a list of policies your government has already adopted** that are related to the main theme. That way you can hold them to account if and when they appear to be back-pedaling on positions they have already adopted in the past.

8. Be social. Get connected.

- You can **follow the UNCSW** on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- **Consult the trade union blog.** In the past few years, the trade union delegation has hosted a [blog](#), highlighting the activities of the trade union delegation at the UNCSW. Complete with pictures and all!
- **Follow the activities of the NGO CSW.** The NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW) plays a lead role in coordinating NGO activities during the UNCSW sessions, including NGO briefings, caucuses and parallel events. They too are on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- **Check out the progressive feminist organizations with a strong presence at past CSW meetings.** Here are a few examples – feel free to add your own favorites.
 - [Center for Global Women's Leadership](#)
 - [Association for Women's Rights in Development](#) (AWID)
 - [Women's Environment and Development Organization](#) (WEDO)
 - [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)
 - [European Women's Lobby](#) (EWL)
 - [Asia Pacific on Women Law and Development](#) (APWLD)



On the Ground at the UNCSW

What trade union delegates can expect during the UNCSW meetings

Prepared by Sarah Bélanger, PSAC/PSI, December 2012

1. Getting your UN Grounds Pass.

You should be pre-registered by your labour organization (ITUC, PSI, or EI, or affiliates with ECOSOC status, like the CLC and the CGIL Italy) and will receive a confirmation letter from the UN to this effect by January.

But to have access to the official UNCSW meetings and side-events, you will need a UN Grounds Pass.

Registration takes place at the NGO registration desk in the lobby of the UN Headquarters building (visitor’s entrance at 1st Avenue and 46th street). Make sure you have a **photo ID** and **your confirmation letter** to get your badge. Opening hours will be posted on the UNCSW57 website. The registration desk is usually open starting the weekend before the two weeks of meetings. Try to avoid registration on the opening Monday; the line-ups tend to be long!

Always remember to carry your badge with you at all times. But to have access to the main Conference room in the North Lawn Building and side-events, you will need a UN Secondary Pass. Each labour organization has access to one Secondary Pass. A pre-assigned “coordination team” will pick up passes and distribute them.

2. The trade union orientation session

You should plan to attend the orientation session put together by our participating Global Union Federations – ITUC, PSI and EI. This session takes place on the Sunday before the UNCSW meetings during the afternoon.

It will help you get oriented!

We’ll talk about our collective goals and how we can work together to accomplish them. We’ll walk you through a typical day at the UNCSW. You will identify concrete contributions you can make to the work of the trade union delegation. You will get to meet trade union sisters from around the world, with whom you will be working over the course of the UNCSW.

3. Daily Briefings

Our trade union delegation typically meets from 8 to 9 at 8 am every day to touch base, report on our activities, adjust our plans and plot out our strategy as the UNCSW meetings unfold. Plan to be there!

4. Amendments to Draft Agreed Conclusions

One of our main goals is to influence the language in the final Agreed Conclusions – the document that will be negotiated during the course of the two weeks session, and (hopefully!) agreed on by Member States prior to the end of the session.

The joint ITUC-PSI-EI statement submitted to the UN describes the substantive goals of the trade union delegation, i.e. what priorities we want to advance. We use this statement as a starting point to draft concrete amendments to the preliminary Draft Agreed Conclusions. Our broad objectives are to strengthen the language on human and labour rights, quality public services and education.

Members of the trade union delegation can choose to be part of the **drafting group** that develops the proposed amendments based on the group's input. This task is done in the first two days of the UNCSW.

After that, it's lobbying time!

5. Lobbying!

Once we have drafted the trade union delegation's proposed amendments to the Draft Agreed Conclusions, we use our document to lobby our governments, other governments, government negotiators, like-minded NGOs, regional caucuses, and whoever we believe can influence the outcome of the negotiations. We get organized, plot out our lobbying targets, and go to it!

Our strength is our diversity – the fact that we have trade union delegates from around the world on the same team! We share information. We gather intelligence from our respective governments and others on the progress of negotiations, who our allies are, who our opponents are, and what hurdles are developing. We stay focused on our issues and develop strategies and alliances to influence the outcomes.

Many government delegations offer briefings to NGOs on the status of negotiations. Find out about them and plan to attend (and report back on what you hear!). Ask around to get the most updated version of the negotiation text.



6. Monitoring our Governments

Every Member State gets to make a statement in plenary on their progress on the main theme. We find out when our government is scheduled to speak in the “General Session”, try and be in the room (or listen to the live webcast on the internet), find out who is making statements similar to ours, monitor what they say, and get a copy of their statement. You can also try to meet with negotiators to convince them of a certain policy position.

The information in government statements is often revealing of the positions they will take during negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions.

7. Side events

The UNCSW is arguably the biggest gathering of women in the world. Outside of the official session there are hundreds of parallel events are organized throughout the two weeks session. There are two types and two separate schedules:

Official Side Events: These events are sponsored by UN Permanent Missions and UN Entities. They usually take place at the North Lawn Building –a restricted area for which NGO delegates require Special Event Tags. Before you arrive, try to get information on the side events you want to go and get register in advance. They require a grounds pass AND an event pass. The schedule for the Side Events will be posted on the UNCSW website and it will be updated regularly. .

You can also learn more about what is happening at the CSW and everything else is happening at the UN that day in the daily UN Journal, [available online](#) (in pdf format).

NGO Parallel Events: These events are organized by NGOs, and take place off site close to the United Nations Headquarters. Many of them are held in the Church Centre across the street from the UN. The schedule is put out by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW). It will be available on line. Try and get a hold of the book put out by NGO CSW, which lists all the parallel events.

8. Blog, Blog, Blog

The trade union delegation maintains a blog of our activities throughout the UNCSW. Check out the [CSW56 blog](#).

Be prepared to write stories and reports for this blog. And bring your cameras, so you can post pictures of what we are up to.

You can also post comments, news and pictures on the [trade union Facebook Page](#)

9. Liaising with NGOs

As we navigate the halls of the UN, the Church Centre and the Salvation Army building, and the cafeteria, we'll have the opportunity to speak with and liaise with NGOs and civil society organizations from around the world.

You can read through some of the NGO submissions to get an idea NGOs you may want to network with at CSW prior your trip to New York.

We'll need to find the schedule of the regional caucuses, which are generally organized by NGO CSW, and ensure that we have a trade union presence at each of these caucuses.

We will need to find and build relationships with progressive and like-minded organizations that are dedicated to advancing women's equality. And we'll need to identify those who are not – the conservative organizations that are also have a strong presence at the UNCSW – and develop strategies so that we can prevail.

10. Holding governments accountable

Prior the CSW, try to meet with members of your governmental delegation to communicate your concerns and offer suggestions on what you would like to see in the Agreed Conclusions.

Once they are adopted, the Agreed Conclusions are a tool we can all use to ensure that our governments are held accountable for the commitments they made.

Throughout the UNCSW, trade union delegates can identify and share opportunities and strategies to ensure that we make strides on the prevention of violence against women. Women's equality demands no less!

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)



A glossary of some abbreviations for UNCSW participants

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action (2000)
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAW	Division for the Advancement of Women (at UN Women)
EI	Education International
EU	European Union
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FTT	Financial Transactions Tax
GUF	Global Union Federation
IFI	International Financial Institution
ITF	International Transport Workers' Federation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization and International Labour Office (Geneva)
ILO Convention 87	Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (1948)
ILO Convention 98	Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (1949)
ILO Convention 100	Equal Remuneration (1951)
ILO Convention 102	Social Security (Minimum Standards) (1952)
ILO Convention 111	Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) (1958)
ILO Convention 128	Invalidity, Old-Age and Survivors' Benefits (1967)
ILO Convention 151	Labour Relations (Public Sector) 1978

ILO Convention 182	Worst forms of Child Labour (1999)
ILO Convention 189	Domestic Workers (2011)
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Post 2015	Millenium Development Goals beyond 2015
PSI	Public Services International
QPS	Quality Public Services
SC 1325	Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security
TUAC	Trade Union Advisory Committee (at the OECD)
UNCSW	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
UNI	UNI Global Union
UN Women	United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organisation



Education International

Email:

equality@ei-ie.org

Web:

<http://www.ei-ie.org>



Int. Trade Union Confederation

Email:

equality@ituc-csi.org

Web:

www.ituc-csi.org



Email:

contact@uniglobalunion.org

Web:

www.uniglobalunion.org



Public Services International

Email:

equality@world-psi.org

Web:

www.world-psi.org