

US WOMEN'S CAUCUS AT THE UN

#GlobalGoals

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2021



PREPARED BY

Junemarie Justus & Susan Lee

a year's overview

STARTING OUT

WE ARE US WOMEN AND US ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATING ON THE UN WOMEN'S AGENDA AND ADVOCATING FOR GENDER EQUALITY WITH WOMEN OF EVERY CLASS, RACE, CULTURE, CREED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY

2021 was a momentous year for our Caucus with the formation of our first Board of Directors, adoption of Bylaws, and official incorporation in February. Just in time to prepare for CSW 65 in March when we hosted a virtual panel on **Feminist Foreign Policy**.



WORKING GROUPS



We followed up on that panel by forming Working Groups on:

- **Tigray**
- **Afghanistan**
- **Iran**
- **Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention.**

Our Working Group members researched the challenges facing women in those countries, educated our membership, and sent advocacy letters to US government officials.

The caucus held an open meeting with Tigrayan-American activist, **Eden Hailu**, to learn about conditions on the ground in Ethiopia. We continue to watch those trouble spots for women and girls, especially in Tigray and Afghanistan.

a year's overview

ADVOCACY CSW 65



Despite the challenges of the global pandemic, our advocacy work moved forward. Though we couldn't meet in person, we were fully engaged in the virtual forum.

During the Caucus CSW 65 NGO Forum event, we heard from **Ritu Sharma** and **Aria Grabowski** from the International Center for Research on Women about efforts to promote feminist foreign policy in the US. **Erica Higbie** of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) and the NGO CSW Advocacy Research Group briefed us on the Agreed Conclusions. More than 120 people participated and came away with key policy recommendations for the advancement of women's equality and leadership in national and global arenas. In the context of the CSW 65 theme, we issued both domestic and foreign policy recommendations.

CSW 65 DOMESTIC RECOMMENDATIONS: Build Back Better with Feminist Policies

CSW 65 FOREIGN POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS: Remove Barriers to Women's Leadership



a year's overview

ADVOCACY

We engaged in joint advocacy with our members, member organizations and other gender equity advocates...



THE US WOMEN'S CAUCUS HAS:

- Signed petition on Iran's election to CSW
- Developed Congressional Liaison Action Plan
- Issued Statement of Support for Istanbul Convention
- Sent letter to USAID Administrator Samantha Power on Afghanistan
- Signed Women's Regional Network Statement of Concern, Afghanistan
- Endorsed ICRW Policy Brief on Generation Equality Forum Paris
- Members attended (virtually) Generation Equality Forum Paris
- Letter to Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield on Tigray
- Hosted online event: Why Women Voted for Trump
- Established Issues Committee for Congressional work
- Issued Statement of Concern for Afghan Women
- Signed Women's Funding Network Statement of Solidarity, Afghanistan
- Issued statement on Texas Abortion Ban
- Compiled and sent list of Climate Experts to North America Europe Caucus for UN Women
- Revamped our website, got busy on Twitter
- Established ties with the US Mission to the UN

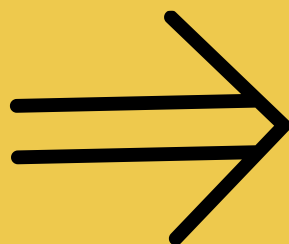
ongoing efforts

GEARING UP FOR CSW 66

The fall months were devoted to learning about the connections between climate change and gender, the theme for CSW 66 in March 2022.



Our diligent **Caucus Climate Task Force** led by **Shaila Mistry** worked to develop a series of briefs on the climate gender nexus with accompanying policy recommendations



THE CAUCUS CLIMATE TASK FORCE HAS COMPILED A SERIES OF BRIEFS ON...

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

MAINSTREAMING GENDER

WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE

WOMEN AND BIODIVERSITY

WOMEN AND MIGRATION

WOMEN AND WATER

WOMEN, GIRLS, AND DISASTERS

WOMEN, TECH AND FINANCING

WOMEN'S HEALTH



ongoing efforts

ENGAGING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

A. Tianna Scozzaro



Climate and Gender Consultant and former Director of The Sierra Club's Gender Equity and the Environment. She has worked on the SDG's, done research on women's environmental stewardship in Congress, and served as a Public Policy Fellow for the US House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

Hwei Mian Lim



Climate change, Gender and Climate Finance Specialist. Her multilateral and international experience is focused on women's health and its interlinkages with the SDG's. She is a contributing analyst to the Women Gender Constituency of the UNFCCC.

OUR CAUCUS HELD TWO BRIEFINGS TO HELP OUR MEMBERS BETTER ADVOCATE FOR STRONG CLIMATE AND GENDER POLICY

CLIMATE CHANGE EXACERBATES EXISTING INEQUALITIES

4.4 million more women than men live in extreme poverty globally.

Women do 2.6 times more unpaid care and domestic work than men do.

Women earn 24% less than men globally.

Women are just 13% of the world's agricultural landholders.

Source: UN Women 2018, Turning Promises Into Action

A big Thank You to A. Tianna Scozzaro and Hwei Mian Lim. With their expertise and guidance we developed a **Position Statement** on the points we hope to see in the CSW 66 Agreed Conclusions. With the release of the Zero Draft in early February 2022, we compiled specific language recommendations and forwarded them to the US Mission to the UN.





NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP

RENEWAL

We are grateful to our membership and hard-working Board of Directors for making this advocacy possible. ▼

Please support the Caucus' ongoing efforts for women and girls in the US and around the globe by joining us or renewing your membership today!



CONTACT US: INFO@USWOMENSCAUCUS.ORG



TIME FOR ACTION

MARCH 22ND 4PM EST

An NGO CSW 66 Parallel Event



FEATURING...



JACQUI PATTERSON

Researcher, policy analyst, organizer, and activist. Senior director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program and cofounder of Women of Color United.

&



SHERRI MITCHELL WEH'NA HA'MU KWASSET, JD

Native American attorney, teacher, activist, and change maker. author of Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change

**THE MEETING WILL BE A PART OF NGO COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN VIRTUAL FORUM. REGISTER AT
[HTTPS://NGOCSW.ORG/](https://ngocsw.org/)**

