Virtual May Monthly Meeting
21 May 2020 | 8 - 10AM EDT

NGO CSWs Globally

May’s Monthly Meeting will introduce the NGO CSWs in the regions and their work.

Program:

8:00 - 8:15AM: NGO CSW/NY Business Meeting
Updates from the Chair, Houry Geudelekian, with time for Q&A in the chatbox

8:15 - 8:20AM: Introduction: History of the NGO CSWs
By Ivy Koek, Vice-Chair of NGO CSW/NY

8:20 - 9:15AM: NGO CSWs in the Regions Reports
Carole A. Shaw and Bandana Rana, Co-Chairs of NGO CSW Asia/Pacific

Carole A. Shaw, Asia Pacific Women’s Watch, is an Australian political activist and principal sector specialist in gender equality, transforming gender status-quo through policy, international development, peace, conflict and humanitarian settings. She currently coordinates the NGO Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Network – Australia. Carole has played a pivotal part in movement building at both national and regional levels, as well as internationally. She is an instrumental figure in collaborating with key partners in supporting Asia Pacific Women’s Watch (APWW), which developed key strategies to support the participation of women in decision-making in the post-disaster and post conflict sphere. She has extensive field experience in integrated development projects and monitoring and evaluation of key policy areas for presentation annually at CSW. An internationally renowned trainer and presenter, Carole provides Human Rights training on working in a Human Rights Framework and utilizing Conventions and Security Council Resolutions into work plans and field work. Her life philosophy is love, laugh, live.

Ms. Bandana Rana has three decades of experience in promoting women’s rights and gender equality at the grassroots, national, regional and global level. She is one of the founders and currently the Strategic Director of Saathi, a pioneer NGO working on violence against women.
and girls in Nepal. Ms. Rana worked with Nepal Television as editor/anchor for twenty years and founded Sancharika Samuha (Forum of Women in Media) and was its first elected president. She has profound experience in leading advocacy programs for women’s rights with a focus on media interventions and enhancing participatory communication at all levels – community, national and regional. She has led programs and studies related to gender-based violence in conflict situations. Ms. Rana was also the lead consultant for the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction for developing the 1325 & 1820 National Action Plan in 2010-2011 and is presently actively engaged in its Localization, implementation and monitoring. She has conducted training programs on UNSCR 1325 NAP in Afghanistan, North East India and Iraq. She is a coordinating member of the Asia Pacific Women’s Alliance for Peace and Security (APWAPS) and the chair of GNWP as well as member of the High Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. She is also a member of the UN Women Global Civil Society Advisory Group and Advisory Group for Women Peace and Security for UN ESCAP and is a UN CEDAW Committee Member from until 2020.

Lina Abou Habib and Samira Bikarden, Co-Chairs of NGO CSW Arab States
Lina Abou-Habib is Executive Director of the Collective for Research and Training on Development–Action (CRTD-A), which promotes women’s leadership, political participation, and citizenship and economic rights in Lebanon and the MENA region. Abou-Habib is a co-founder and coordinator of the Machreq/Maghreb Gender Linking and Information Project. She has collaborated with a number of regional and international agencies, as well as public institutions, in mainstreaming gender in development policies and practices and in building capacities for gender mainstreaming. She is a former chair of the board of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), and she currently is a MENA advisor for the Global Fund for Women and on the editorial board of Oxfam’s journal, Gender and Development. Her interest areas include action oriented research on the impact of the denial of citizenship rights to women in MENA countries, active citizenship and gendered social entitlements in Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt, and topics related to women and their political participation, invisible care work, economic contribution in rural communities and access to markets, faith based organizations, migrant women, and women in post-war Lebanon.

Samira Bikarden, President of l’Association Démocratique des Femmes Maroc, is Advisor to the Global Fund for Women, a member of UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group in Morocco, and a member of the CSW/NGO Global Coordinating Committee for capacity building and advocacy training in the Arab region. She is a senior WLP facilitator and Coordinator at the Rabat office of L’Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM), the Democratic Association of Moroccan Women. Bikarden also is Inspector in the Orientation of Education at the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training. She is a founding member and former coordinator of the "Spring of Dignity Coalition," which calls for legislation to protect women from violence and prohibit discrimination. Additionally, Bikarden is a member of the regional Equality without Reservation coalition advocating for the withdrawal of reservations relating to CEDAW and to adherence to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW in MENA.

Stacy Dry Lara, President of NGO CSW Geneva and Laurie Richardson, Chair of NGO CSW Vienna
Stacy Dry Lara is the Executive Director of Graduate Women International (GWI) since 2016 with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and a wide-reaching global network of graduate women and young leaders. As Executive Director, Stacy works in conjunction with the Board of Directors to bring forth GWI’s founding mothers’ 1919 vision of world peace through education. In Special Consultative Status to the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council since 1947, GWI’s modern vision is for 100% of girls and women in the world achieving safe access to education beyond primary school. Stacy is also the President of the NGO CSW Geneva. Prior to joining GWI, Stacy served as a UN Representative in Geneva for FAWCO, 2013-2016. Living in Geneva, the global heartbeat for human rights advocacy with the UN, Stacy has participated in Human Rights Councils, with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Universal Periodic Review process and other human rights mechanisms in Geneva since 2013. Prior to relocating to Switzerland in 2010, Stacy served for 10 years as Founder and CEO of Corporate Marketing Solutions in The Woodlands, Texas. Stacy attended the University of Oklahoma and earned her Bachelor of Science undergraduate in Journalism/Communications from Texas State University. She is married with three stepdaughters. She enjoys cycling, hiking, exploring cultures and has a passion for animal rights.

Laurie Richardson is Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna. She also serves as UN Liaison for FAWCO, a global women’s NGO with special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council. She leads a team of representatives engaged in advocacy on gender equality, climate change and migration. Her early career was in international development; she lived and worked in Colombo, Sri Lanka and has worked in India and Pakistan. She has a Masters degree in non-profit management from Yale University and a Bachelor’s in international affairs from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service.

Lana Finikin and Mabel Bianco, Co-Chairs of NGO CSW Latin America/Caribbean
Through a powerful combination of creative arts and advocacy, Lana Louise Finikin has led the Sistren Theatre Collective for over 20 years. Sistren has used street theatre to promote discussion about community safety and grassroots organizing since 1977, highlighting programs on gender-based violence, crime prevention and HIV/AIDS through community mobilizing and organizing around community development, gender based violence analysis of issues and discussion of possible solutions through networking with organizations at all levels, consistently using the creative arts as a tool of social change. Lana has also served as a project coordinator, co-trainer and facilitator for GROOTS Jamaica, emphasizing safety in cities and communities through Local to Local Dialogues and implementing safety audits. Lana has a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and challenges in the implementation of global development policies and commitments such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the SDGs, and the New Urban Agenda and in mainstreaming a gender perspective and women’s empowerment in UN activities through initiatives and programs such as Safe Public Spaces for Women & for All” and “Safe Cities +20: Public Space and Gender.” In 2012, Lana was appointed to the Caribbean Civil Society Organisations and Networks Committee and received the Otto René Castillo Award for Political Theatre from the Castillo Theatre in New York. Lana is a Vice Chair of Huairou Commission Governing Board since 2018.

Mabel Bianco MD, MPH, is a specialist in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics. She is President of Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer since 1989 and co-coordinator of Women
Won’t Wait, a global campaign to eliminate VAW and HIV and Coordinator of the International Women AIDS Caucus. She has also been a board member Latin American and the Caribbean Women Health Network (1991-1999). In 2000/2001, she was Chief of the HIV/AIDS National Program in MOH and Coordinator of WB Project. She was a member of UNAIDS Reference group on HIV and HR member (2002-2011), and representing LAC NGOs in UNAIDS PCB. She was part of the Civil Society Regional Advisory Committee UNWOMEN, member 2012/16, and CoNGO CSW LAC Co Chair since 2012. W20 Argentinian Delegation Chief since 2018. WMG member elected OP for LAC 2019-20. She is author and editor of 10 books and more than 150 papers and articles.

Memory Kachambwa, Co-Chair of NGO CSW Africa
Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director of FEMNET, is an intersectional feminist, a women’s rights activist with over 18 years of experience working on issues of gender and development, women’s empowerment and human rights at national, regional (Africa) and international levels. As a dynamic pan-African feminist, thought-leader and strategist, Memory is passionate about making a difference in the lives of women and girls using diverse approaches grounded in social justice, feminism and gender equality analysis and practice. She holds a Masters of Philosophy in Management, Integrated Water Resources with a focus on women in leadership and is currently pursuing a second Masters degree in Peace, Human Rights, Gender and Development. Memory values deep relations that are empowering and timeless. You can reach Memory on email m.kachambwa@femnet.or.ke and twitter @Kachambwa.

Moderated by Diana Abou Abbas and Cecilia Garcia Ruiz
Diana Abou Abbas is the Executive Director of Marsa – Sexual Health Center – in Beirut, Lebanon. She has grown as a person and as a professional along with Marsa since 2011. She is a people aficionado and an activist for sexual and reproductive rights, LGBTIQ, and women’s rights. She strives for respect in a country where a fundamental right has become a challenge. Diana graduated from the Lebanese American University with a degree in Communication Arts, and has invested her passion for media and communication in Marsa’s awareness campaigns and promotional videos.

Cecilia Garcia Ruiz, is the Regional EM2030 Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Project Coordinator at CLADEM (Latin America and the Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women’s Rights). She is a feminist and human rights advocate with more than 11 years of combined experience working in the civil society sector, the public sector and as an independent consultant to advance gender equality. Board Member of Women Deliver since 2017, leading global advocacy organisation aimed at driving investment – political and financial – in the lives of girls and women worldwide. Advisor to the Global Health 50/50 Initiative (2017-2018); Acting Chair of the Adolescent and Youth Constituency of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH), from 2015 to 2016, and former Social Advisor of the National Institute for Women in Mexico (2012-2015). Cecilia holds a Master’s Degree in Public Policy and Gender, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology.

9:15 - 10:00AM: Q&A