Dear Global Activists,

We are living in unprecedented times dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope this April 2020 newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

As feminists and women’s rights activists we know the burden is usually on us to push for a better world for all. This is exactly why we at NGO CSW/NY have not slowed down since the cancellation of our CSW64 Forum. As heartbroken as we were, we saw it as an opportunity to take a deep breath, assess the situation we are in and then bring together our sisterhood and the men who stand up for equal rights to find new ways of gathering, claiming our space and advocating for gender equality.

We were already gathering many voices virtually with fwMAP and Thematic Group meetings. As conveners of the Civil Society Advisory Group for the Generation Equality Forum, we’ve been hosting bi-monthly Advisory Working Group meetings on Zoom. We were also broadcasting our monthly meetings on Facebook Live and utilizing Zoom for our Study Group for Beijing+25 recommendations to include our global community. With all of this in place, we have simply shifted our focus to continue organizing, planning and sharing whatever is possible virtually.

Our commitment is to persist in our efforts throughout this pandemic while we also learn from this unfortunate development to reenergize our advocacy to make sure the rights of women and girls are not forgotten. We can only do this with your help.

Thank you to all those who chose to donate their fees for different events we were organizing, it means the world to us. We also thank all the supporters of our commemorative Handbook who purchased ads. The list is on our website, which can be found here. You can be sure that all your donations are helping us fulfill our mandate. In the meantime, we are also working diligently to refund all those who booked a parallel event or purchased tickets for our events.

Finally, we are looking forward to engaging with you in the upcoming months through our virtual monthly meetings and all the other opportunities listed above. Sharing with you all our deepest gratitude and healing light and love.

In Solidarity,

Houry Geudelekian, Chair

Chair: Houry Geudelekian, Unchained at Last
Vice Chair: Ivy Koek, Soka Gakkai International
Treasurer: Margaretha Jones, International Humanist and Ethical Union
Recording Secretary: Saphira Rameshfar, Baha’i International Community
Communications Secretary: Azadeh Khalili, International Alliance of Women
Members-at-Large: Rosa Lizarde, Feminist Task Force; Pamela Morgan, Zonta International; Yvonne O’Neal, Africa Development Interchange Network; Saeeda Rizvi, Women Deliver; Jourdan Williams, International Health Awareness Network
Past chair, ex-officio: Susan O’Malley, International Federation of Business and Professional Women
Principal Investigator: Soon-Young Yoon, International Alliance of Women