



Committee on the Status of Women, NY

*A Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO)*

777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

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**2 March 2020**

**To Whom it May Concern:**

Following the recommendation by the United Nations Secretary-General on the coronavirus sent on Friday, 28 February and decision taken by the Bureau of the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64), the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY) Executive Committee has decided to cancel all NGO CSW64 Forum events. The cancellation has been made due to the current threat posed by the coronavirus as per recommendations by the UN Secretary-General and the World Health Organization (WHO).

As of 2 March, the CSW64 Bureau decided not to hold its session as scheduled at the UN Headquarters from 9-20 March. Rather, the decision was made to hold a one-day event on 9 March to officially adopt a Political Declaration.

The NGO CSW64 Forum events that must be canceled include: the Consultation Day, Reception, Conversation Circles Space, Artisan Fair, Rally, Advocacy Trainings, Regional Caucuses, and all 550 Parallel Events.

We sincerely regret that we must cancel on such short notice. This decision was made to avoid any potential health risks (or travel quarantines) for our participants.

Although we cannot take responsibility for your travel arrangements, we hope that our letter will help to ease problems obtaining refunds for airline and hotel reservations.

Please also find the UN Secretary-General's letter attached.

Sincerely,

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**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*



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Houry Geudelekian

Chair, NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York

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