



WHOSE JUSTICE, WHOSE ACCESS?



8

NUMBER OF EVENTS

26+

MEMBERS PRESENT

2

INTERVENTIONS

The 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on “access to justice” took place in a context shaped by rising anti-rights mobilisation, geopolitical tensions, and increasing pressure on multilateral spaces. Feminist civil society remained present and engaged throughout the session, navigating a more constrained environment while continuing to organise, advocate, and build collective positions.

WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP IN ACTION

Throughout CSW70, the Women’s Major Group (WMG) was present alongside partners and members, engaging in feminist advocacy across the session.

At the same time, access to the space itself remained unequal. Many activists, particularly from the Global Majority, were unable to secure visas or did not feel safe travelling to the United States in the current political context. These constraints shaped who was able to be present and whose voices were heard.

TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS, WE:

- Convened strategic dialogues between Member States and civil society, including a **closed-door working breakfast on UN80 reforms**, co-organised with the Feminist Diplomacy Lab
- Co-organised multiple parallel events centring **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** and access to justice
- Amplified member-led advocacy and interventions across regions
- Supported alignment of messaging and collective positioning during negotiations.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS



AGAINST THE TIDE, TOWARDS THE FUTURE

A working breakfast on strengthening the UN gender equality architecture through UN80 reforms. Organised together with Feminist Diplomacy Lab.



PROTECTING THOSE WHO PROTECT

Addressing political violence against SRHR defenders and pathways to justice. Organised together with Associació pels Drets Sexuals i Reproductius (ADSiR) and Zamara foundation.



UNLOCKING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Strengthening justice systems to advance accountability for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Organised together with ARROW, UN Women and the Regional Commissions New York Office.



SPANISH FEMINIST COOPERATION STRATEGY

Discussing political and economic participation at event hosted by Spain. Women's Major Group Represented by International Center for Research on Women.



KEY ADVOCACY MESSAGES

- 1** Address the **chronic underfunding of gender equality commitments**, including Member States failing to meet their financial obligations.
- 2** Defend and advance **sexual and reproductive health and rights** in increasingly hostile political environments.
- 3** Recognise the interlinkages between **gender justice, climate justice, economic inequality, and conflict**.
- 4** Move beyond narrow “**empowerment**” framings towards addressing structural inequalities and systemic barriers.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS...

In an unusual development, negotiations on the [agreed conclusions](#) were concluded during the **first week** of CSW70. This early finalisation reflected heightened political tensions and a strategic effort by Member States to avoid prolonged and potentially contentious negotiations.

“But here’s where it gets spicy: for the **first time in history, the conclusions weren’t adopted by consensus but by a recorded vote. The final tally? **37 in favour, 1 against (USA), and 6 abstentions.** The win for us is that the text is a feminist victory! It focuses on accelerating legal reforms, strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), tackling GBV, and protecting our sisters on the frontlines—the women human rights defenders.”**

READ More: from our member [FEMNET](#)

While this approach reduced open conflict, it also limited space for deeper deliberation and progressive ambition—highlighting heightened challenges within multilateral processes.

THE FUTURE OF THE UN AND THE GENDER ARCHITECTURE...

Discussions at CSW70 also intersected with ongoing debates around UN reform processes, including the **UN80 reform agenda**.

These reforms could have major implications for the UN’s gender equality architecture, including the mandates, funding, and influence of key gender equality institutions and mechanisms.

For many feminist organisations, this is a critical political moment. As discussions around restructuring and efficiency accelerate, there are growing concerns about shrinking civil society space and the potential weakening of gender equality commitments within the multilateral system.

Feminist engagement will be critical to ensure that institutional reforms:

- Strengthen—not weaken—gender equality commitments
- Protect existing gains

- Remain accountable to civil society and rights holders

... WE ALSO SAW ANTI-GENDER PUSHBACK!

CSW70 also saw a significant escalation in anti-rights organising. The United States introduced a proposal aimed at rolling back internationally agreed language on gender equality—effectively attempting to undermine decades of consensus grounded in the Beijing Platform for Action.

While the proposal was ultimately blocked on procedural grounds, "[no-action motion](#)", this should not be mistaken for a political defeat.

👉 Our joint analysis was reported by outlets such as [Ms. Magazine](#) and [PassBlue](#). Where we warned about how this move signals a broader and ongoing strategy to challenge gender equality norms across UN spaces.

At the same time, participants observed:

- A **stronger and more visible presence of organised anti-gender actors**
- Moments of coordinated disruption and public support for regressive positions
- A noticeable **reduction in progressive and feminist civil society presence**, increasing pressure on those present to remain engaged and coordinated



MOVING FORWARD

As anti-rights actors become increasingly coordinated across international spaces, sustained feminist organising is more critical than ever.

CSW70 was a reminder that progress cannot be taken for granted—and that collective action remains our strongest tool.

In the lead-up to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the Women's Major Group will continue convening feminist voices, supporting collective advocacy, and creating space for strategic exchange and solidarity across movements and regions.

Join us as we prepare for HLPF and future advocacy moments.

Join us

[#FEMINISTSWANTSYSTEMCHANGE](#)

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