

CSW62 Advocacy Report

Commission on the Status of Women 2018 CSW Interactive Dialogue on Media, ICTs and Women

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Topic: “Participation in and access of women to media and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women”

The Commission on the Status of Women each year evaluates progress in the implementation of the Agreed Conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme. Reviewed this year was the theme contained in the Agreed Conclusions of the 47th session of CSW 2003: Participation in and access of women to media and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.

Sri Lanka, Kenya, Germany, New Zealand, Belgium, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Bulgaria, Argentina, Sudan, Costa Rica, Slovakia and Nigeria presented.

Following are a series of actions taken by these countries, since 2003, in the use of media and information and communications technologies as instruments to empower women.

1. Broadening women's access to benefits of information and communications technology; increasing women's participation in the media.
2. Increasing women's decision-making roles within print and audio-visual media,
3. Reducing sexist stereotypes
4. Reducing media's role in the perpetuation of pornography and violence against women
5. Developing data on women's presence and influence in media and in the use of ICTs

National studies in these countries have shown the extent to which media and ICTs have marginalized women and have had negative impacts on women's dignity, education, physical and emotional safety, livelihoods, and in general ability to participate fully in society.

Studies also show that with few exceptions women who are in print and audio-visual media have fewer opportunities than their male counter-parts in expressing their views on a range of social, economic and political matters, women take longer than their male-counter? parts in reaching positions of seniority and influence within their companies and there is a lack of pay equity between men and women.

The results of these studies have led to:

1. Sensitizing regulators and legislators to gender disparities created by media and ICTs
2. New legislation that promotes women's and girls' right to technology literacy

3. Legislation that penalizes the sexualization of women in most forms of media as well as the cyber-harassment of women particularly women journalists
4. New national policies on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
5. New funding for the implementation of policies and laws regarding ICT literacy and media guidelines
6. Education of women and girls (including rural women and girls) about cyber safety, effects of indiscriminate postings and their vulnerability to predators in cyberspace
7. Provision of cyber spaces to encourage civil society participation to strengthen the information, articulation and political advocacy capacities of women.
8. Establishment of specialized ministries headed by highly qualified women in Education, Higher Education, IT and communication, and Information ministries
9. Training and capacity building programs organized by government and NGOs in educational and computer literacy, vocational training programs and participation opportunities in local, regional and international media forums
10. New emphasis on IT in school and college curricula
11. Creation of mentoring and fast track programs for women working in all forms of media
12. Providing appropriate ICT tools to rural women entrepreneurs.
13. Rural access to global markets through the use of ICTs
14. Training of rural women in the use of ICTs so that they can access e-health, e-education and e-commerce portals so that they benefit from knowledge and services
15. Teacher training and availability of digital resources in schools
16. Broadband availability and better connectivity in rural areas

GWJ encourages you to review these best practices. Chances are very good that many of these practices have been institutionalized within your country. However, as we know all too well, laws, policies and best practices serve no purpose if they are not being robustly promoted, implemented and monitored. GWJ believes that it is the role of educated.

Sincerely,

Geeta