



**REPORT**  
**CSW62 Advocacy Template**  
UN Reps and CSW62

Submitted by Sophie Turner Zaretsky

Currently there are 4 UN representatives in New York: Maureen Byrne, Mick Minard, Maryella Hannum and Sophie Turner Zaretsky.

Polly Woodard retired and moved to Ohio for a well-deserved rest. She was a long-time member of WG and GWI and contributed a great deal to both. She was a fierce activist and advocate for our agenda. She is doing very well engaging in local advocacy in her community. Once an activist always an activist!

UN reps activities:

Networking to promote GWI agenda, especially quality education, academic and skill based, particularly secondary and tertiary education and STEAM.

Reporting to HQ about significant activities and meetings especially around CSW.

Very active with the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY). This is a coalition of hundreds of organizations and individuals working within the United Nations community to advance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls across the globe, and to ensure that “no one is left behind” Specifically it works with the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UN Women, member states and other UN agencies. This is a very important group for networking and ensuring that education of women and girls is given attention.

We participate as members of the planning committee for annual NGO/CSW program. The planning committee analyzes comments and suggestions submitted by attendees from the previous year’s CSW, and this helps to improve the experience. The committee is responsible for events off the UN campus. It is divided into subgroups which include: consultation day, handbook updating, rally, artisan fair, parallel events, logistics (Maryella), and review of the Zero Draft document (Maureen). All are very labor intensive). Planning meetings begin in September of the preceding year, and are held at least 3x per month with much of the work done in between.

CSW56 in 2012: Primary theme was “The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty eradication, development and current challenges”.

Sad to say, there were no agreed conclusions, and therefore, although progress has been made in the interim made by rural women organizing themselves, it is not enough. This was evidenced by appalling experiences described by women representing rural areas in S. Africa (Zulu), Trinidad and Tobago, Pacific

Islands and New York State on Consultation Day and it has been on multiple presentations from different regions during CSW.

Girls in rural areas are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and human rights abuses.

Other ongoing committees: NGO for UNICEF-Maureen

CEDAW: Cities for CEDAW advocacy.

In conclusion, we must ensure that there is an outcome document and the agreed conclusions agreed by member states include our input. We must ensure that these conclusions are implemented.

The year 2020 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing platform for action and women's groups must speak with a strong united voice to make sure there is no backtracking by member states, and that we move our agenda to finally achieve equality, and realization of our human rights and potential. We must not forget to work with men and boys as they are crucial to our success. Finally, UN reps are volunteers and are self-funded. We generate reports during the year, and an annual report, which are all forwarded to the GWI office.