

# CSW70 debriefing

Reflections on content



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# Historic CSW

- Negotiations happened in advance, limiting civil society (CSO) participation
- Short and Beijing focused Agreed Conclusions: Zero Draft 4 pages, Agreed Conclusions (AC) 10 pages
- AC not adopted by consensus, but by vote
- Protracted and difficult negotiations, ongoing debates over previously agreed language (even Beijing language!)
- Political shifts and aggressive and coordinated opposition
- Limited access for and participation of civil society organisations
- US resolution on “Protection of women and girls through Appropriate terminology”

# Key gains and losses in the Agreed Conclusions

## 'Gains'

- Strong recommendations to improve **access to justice**.
- Recognition that women and girls are disproportionately criminalised and incarcerated due to **discriminatory laws and policies**.
- Recognition of **women and girls in detention**, the disproportionate impact of conflicts and humanitarian crises on women and girls, and the feminisation of poverty.
- Quite strong para affirming women's **right to work and rights at work** and equal pay for work of equal value
- Measures to combat **gender-based violence**, including by ensuring accessible and survivor-centred support services.
- Held the ground on reference to: ICPD, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (MIFD) (1x), SGBV (1x), CSO engagement (WHRD, feminist groups), disability, adolescent girls, older women

# Key gains and losses in the Agreed Conclusions

## Losses

- Numerous **sovereignty caveats** and **diluted formulations** that reduce the level of responsibility of Member States.
- No reference to **bodily integrity and self-determination**.
- No explicit mention of **sexual and reproductive health and rights** (only in weakened or implicit terms).
- No explicit reference to **(gender) diversity, sexual orientation, or intersectionality**.
- **Conflict related sexual violence** deleted
- A worrisome paragraph promoting **family-oriented policies**.
- Absence of a dedicated paragraph on **funding and participation of civil society organisations**, feminist groups, youth, and human rights defenders.
- Significant loss around meaningful **adolescent engagement**.

# US resolution

- “Protection of women and girls through Appropriate terminology”
- Falsely stating that the Beijing Declaration defined “gender” as “men and women”
- The US resolution did not get considered thanks to a “no action motion” but this initiative will come back.

## Commission on the Status of Women

Seventieth session

New York, 09 – 19 March 2026

Agenda item 3(c):

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters**

United States of America

### **Protection of Women and Girls Through Appropriate Terminology**

PP1. *Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

PP2. *Noting* the work of the contact group tasked with addressing the meaning of the word “gender” in the context of the preparations of the Platform for Action of the Conference and the decision that its final statement would be part of the final report of the Conference, as described in Annex IV of the Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

PP3. *Noting* the many meanings or connotations of the term “gender” that have become common in recent years and that are different from accepted prior usage;

*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

OP1. *Reaffirms* that the word “gender” as used in the Declaration and Platform for Action Annex IV and its subsequent reviews and follow-ups is intended to be interpreted and understood as it was according to its ordinary, generally accepted usage, as referring to men and women, and there is no indication of any new meaning or connotation of the term, different from accepted prior usage;

OP2. *Urges* member states and the United Nations system to protect women and girls by adhering to Annex IV terminology and definitions.

# Recommendations for implementation



1. Make legal assistance accessible to everyone, including all women and girls.
2. Ensure that the justice system functions more effectively for survivors of gender-based violence.
3. Guarantee that all women and girls have access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.
4. Actively involve civil society organisations in all policies related to gender equality.
5. As Dutch government, speak out proactively in support of gender equality, women's rights and lgbtiq+ rights, and take action against the anti-gender and anti-rights movement.



# What we wrote on the CSW70

- Atria:
  - [Slotverklaring VN-Vrouwentop aangenomen na stemming – atria](#)
- WO=MEN:
  - <https://www.wo-men.nl/nieuwsbericht/vn-vrouwentop-stemt-voor-het-eerst-in-70-jaar-over-slotdocument>
- Blogs onder andere:
  - <https://womeninnewyork.blogspot.com/2026/03/the-vatican-about-surrogacy-as-violence.html>
  - <https://womeninnewyork.blogspot.com/2026/03/behind-scenes-worldwide-network-of.html>
  - <https://womeninnewyork.blogspot.com/2026/03/lege-stoelen-bij-de-jaarlijkse-vn.html>