

## Delegate criteria and expectations

To be considered for inclusion on the official government delegation, the proposed NGO delegate should meet the following criteria and expectations:

- evidence of specialist expertise in the CSW priority and review themes
- ability to provide advice to the delegation on opportunities and challenges relating to the review theme
- experience in international or high profile domestic forums (preferred)
- demonstrated excellence in networking
- credibility within New Zealand NGO communities
- willingness to sign a confidentiality and expectations agreement with the understanding that they will be bound by the same rules as government officials:  
<https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/co-00-14-procedures-including-non-official-representatives-official-delegations>
- willingness to actively contribute to the performance and capacity of the delegation, including attending briefings, side-events, forums, and other events and acting as a conduit between the delegation and independent NGO attendees
- be available for as long as the government delegation is in attendance at CSW
- working hours at CSW are often long and intensive, as such, it is important that the representative does not have any health conditions which might preclude them from participating fully in the delegation's work programme and the negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions.
- commitment to disseminate information about CSW on return to New Zealand, including drafting a written report.
- ability to obtain a G2 visa.

### Responsibility for accommodation and flight bookings

The selected delegate will be responsible for booking flights, hotels and obtaining a G2 visa. The application for the G2 visa will be supported by a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), however, it is the representative's responsibility to complete all forms in relation to obtaining the G2 visa. Ministry for Women and MFAT will provide assistance where appropriate.

Taxi fares, meals, and reasonable incidentals incurred in relation to duties performed as part of the government delegation will be included in the total reimbursement sum. Costs of up to NZ\$5,000 will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts, following the conclusion of CSW. No pre-payments will be available.

## Pre-CSW expectations

In preparation for CSW, the delegate will be required to provide the delegation with advice on opportunities and challenges for New Zealand women in relation to the priority theme.

## During CSW, the delegate will:

- provide advice to the delegation on areas of relevance or concern and actively contribute to the performance and capacity of the New Zealand CSW delegation. This will include attending briefings, side-events, forums, and other events, providing daily briefings to the government delegation on events attended, and performing additional tasks as requested
- provide timely advice on opportunities and challenges for New Zealand women in relation to the priority theme to the head of the delegation, and other members of the delegation during CSW
- act as a conduit between the New Zealand delegation and New Zealand NGO's attending CSW independently, where required to keep them informed of the Government's work programme and the negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions.

## Post CSW expectations

Post CSW the delegate will be expected to share their experience with the New Zealand NGO community both through networking opportunities as well as a written summary report. You can view a previous report on the following pages of this file (appendix 1).

This is very important and we need to be sure our selected delegate has wide and effective networks and the time and capability to spread the messages about CSW, as well as the Agreed Conclusions, widely amongst women's groups.

All applications and enquiries regarding the application process must be submitted to:

Vanisa Dhiru [vanisa.dhiru@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:vanisa.dhiru@ncwnz.org.nz) and

Penny Mudford [pennymudford@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pennymudford@xtra.co.nz)

Report to: Renee Graham  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ministry for Women

From: Penny Mudford  
Civil Society Representative to CSW62

Copy to: International Women's Caucus

Date: 31 May 2018

**Civil Society Representative on the New Zealand Government Delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's 62<sup>nd</sup> Session held in New York on 12-23 March 2018**

In February 2018 the International Women's Caucus responded to the Ministry for Women's invitation to nominate a civil society representative on the Government delegation to CSW62. The caucus ran a short selection process from potential candidates who met the Ministry's criteria and who had expertise in the area of the 2018 CSW priority and review themes.

The priority theme for CSW62 was: ***Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.***

The review theme was: ***Participation in and access to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact in and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women*** (from the agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session).

***Appointment***

Confirmation of my appointment to the Government delegation was made on 27 February and application was then made to the Consulate General of the United States of America for a G2 Visa. Participation on the delegation required certain terms and conditions to be agreed to, including confidentiality, which I willingly signed.

***Delegation programme***

The delegation was headed by the Hon Julie Ann Genter and included representatives from the Ministry for Women, New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, and me as civil society representative.

My role was primarily as advisor to the delegation to provide expert knowledge of the priority theme, particularly in regard to issues relating to rural women and girls in New Zealand.

I participated on the Government delegation in the Ministerial segment during the attendance by Hon Julie Anne Genter at the opening session, at roundtable events, at delegation briefings, and at other side events.

On the opening Monday NZ hosted the side event *Challenges and opportunities exist for the empowerment of rural women and girls*. The session was chaired by NZ Human Rights Commission Dr Jackie Blue and the panel included Hon Julie Ann Genter, Ministry for Women

Renee Graham, Rural Women New Zealand Fiona Gower, Fonterra Jo Finer, a speaker from Australia and a speaker from Argentina. The session was very well attended and with standing room only.

Other events I attended were a function celebrating Suffrage 125 which was held at the New Zealand Permanent Mission and a breakfast for New Zealand NGO representatives and hosted by the Ministry for Women.

From Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> onwards I participated in the UN negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions. I also provided daily briefings on the Government delegation's activities to the New Zealand NGO groups who were attending CSW.

### ***Priority theme***

The priority theme relating to rural women and girls highlighted many challenges and difficulties faced by women and girls. For example, women and girls who live in rural areas in undeveloped countries where they are the carriers of household water and the growers and gatherers of food for their families. The hardships these women and girls experience on a daily basis was highlighted. Working with the UN to ensure fundamental human rights exist for all women and girls are an important part of the solution but ensuring their human rights are upheld is a much bigger and complicated challenge.

Despite New Zealand being more advanced in its journey of empowering women there is still some way to go to ensure women have equal recognition and opportunities to men. The traditional roles and societal expectations of women was greatly discussed at CSW and it was apparent to me that there are vast differences in societal expectations around the world. I expect, for example, that in societies where women do not have rights to land, assets, or inheritance there is no likelihood that they will achieve economic empowerment to be able to earn an independent living or have free choice about their life or their family unless there is fundamental change in the human rights for women and girls. The importance of the United Nations and the work of the various commissions and committees that work within the UN was very clear to me when I attended CSW. Without such work many women would have no voice or advocates to advance their cause for human rights.

### ***Negotiations and agreed outcomes***

The negotiations went on until the last available day and concluded with agreements being reached on all paragraphs of the outcome document.

I thought many of the 2018 CSW62 agreed outcomes are very relevant and pertinent to New Zealand and our own women and girls living in rural areas. Access to education, internet, health services, and work opportunities are real issues for many women in New Zealand who, either by their own choice or by consequence of their family members working on farms in rural and isolated areas, do not have the same level of services or opportunities that are available to their urban and city sisters.

### ***Conclusions***

From my experience on the Government delegation at CSW62 I think there is great value in having civil society representation on the delegation. One key contribution was being able to bring a different perspective to the delegation, especially during the negotiations. My rural and farming background and experience in rural based businesses and NGOs ensured that the delegation was current and relevant in the matters of the priority theme. There were also occasions during the negotiations when it was important to consider whether the language being

proposed fitted into the New Zealand context of agriculture and rural communities. The considerations of the NZ Government delegation on these points was assisted greatly by having a civil society representative who was familiar with, in this case, the primary industry sector and rural communities.

It is also worth commenting that the value of the relationship between Government and NGOs was reinforced during the time attending CSW in New York. The daily briefings held by the Government delegation for the NGO representatives were well supported and, I believe, gave both the Government delegation and the NGO representatives a greater depth of understanding of their respective interests and roles.

I was well supported by the other members of the delegation who I worked closely with (Sarah, Bindu, Helen, Renee, and Emma). I was welcomed and enabled to participate fully in the delegation's work at the UN and I think the open and welcoming culture that is apparent and already established with the Government representatives on the delegation to CSW is very conducive to ensuring that civil society representatives will quickly and easily fit into the delegation and be able to fully contribute.

One final comment I have is that I am aware that the Ministry intends a longer lead in time for selection of any future civil society representatives. This would greatly help future representatives to plan and prepare for their trip.

**Penny Mudford** ONZM

CSW62 Civil Society Representative

National Chair, Rural Women New Zealand