

Global Unions Guide to UNCSW68

Friday, Feb 2, 2024

This Trade Union Guide provides guidance and tools to help make the most of your participation in the UNCSW and assists you in navigating through the programme and other related activities.



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Introduction

This Trade Union Guide provides guidance and tools to make the most out of your UNCSW participation and assists you with navigating through the programme and other activities.

💡 Scroll down to see the full guide or select a link from the menu on the left column to go straight to a section. You can also **print or download a pdf** of the file, by clicking on the 'print article' button on the menu on the right.

The [68th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) (UNCSW68) takes place on 11-22 March in New York. The UNCSW is the biggest annual gathering of women’s rights organisations and activists in the world. It presents the opportunity to lobby governments around key trade union priorities and network with other delegates from trade unions, women’s and feminist groups. Over 100 trade union delegates from all regions will be present at the UNCSW68.

At the UNCSW68 we aim to:

1. Ensure that the Agreed Conclusions (the UNCSW68 outcome document focused on the UNCSW68 priority theme) are aligned with trade union priorities by lobbying governments.

Author:
UNIONCSW

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2. Strengthen and build alliances with women/ feminist organisations to support trade union priorities on gender equality in the world of work.
3. Cover our key priorities during the UNCSW68 official programme, side events and parallel events and in (social) media.

Trade Union Briefings and Gathering

Mark your agenda for the **UNCSW68 Preparatory meetings for the Trade Union delegation & Information gathering**:

ONLINE Trade union briefings – with interpretation in English, Spanish and French

1. Monday **4 March** 8.00-9.30 EST | 2.00 – 3.30 CET
2. Tuesday **12 March** 08.00 – 09.00 EDT
3. Thursday **14 March** 08.00 – 09.00 EDT

You will receive the **Zoom link via your delegation** or send an email to equality@ituc-csi.org

IN PERSON trade union briefing:

- **Sunday 10 March:** Informal gathering of the trade union delegation
12.30 -14.30 UN Church Centre, 2nd floor (No official interpretation)

Register and get your UNCSW68 badge

See the UNCSW68 website for more information on [registration](#) and [grounds Pass collection](#).

- When you are registered as a delegate for the UNCSW68, you should receive a confirmation via this email: noreply@un.org.
- You need this **confirmation email and a valid passport** to register.
- You can register and collect your pass on 8, 9, 10 March 2024, and 6-10 March and 13-17 March at the UN Pass & ID Office which is located at **320 East 45th street (between First and Second Avenue), outside of UN premises**.

The UNCSW at a glance

The UNCSW is a global policy-making body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It promotes gender equality and women's rights, documents the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shapes global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The work of the UNCSW is grounded in the [Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action](#), the blueprint for achieving gender equality (see [The crucial role of trade unions in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action](#) (ITUC).

Each year, the CSW focuses on one **priority theme**. Member states negotiate '**Agreed Conclusions**,' which are the key outcomes of the UNCSW.

The priority theme of UNCSW68 is:

Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. ”

The [UNCSW68 Global Unions Statement](#) includes our **key points** related to the priority theme and is available [on the UNCSW68 website](#).



BLOG

EN | FR | ES

TAGS (7)

Trade unions fight poverty for a gender-transformative world of work

Mon, Jan 8, 2024

On the [UNCSW68 website](#) you will find documents related to the priority theme:

- [Zero Draft Agreed Conclusions](#) (check with your delegation for the latest version with our trade union inputs)
- [Report of the UN Secretary-General on the priority theme](#) (English) and [check here](#) for other language versions
- Documents of the [UNCSW68 Expert Group meeting](#) including the [report](#) (in English)

Each year the UNCSW reviews a previous year's priority theme. This year's **review theme** is : *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls* (see the UNCSW63 [agreed conclusions](#)).

Programme, parallel and side events

At the UNCSW68 there are **three types of programmes** which take place: 1) The Official Programme 2) Side Events and 3) Parallel events. These are outlined in more detail below.

Trade union events

The agenda contains a list of events either hosted by trade unions or with trade union speakers. You can download or view the agenda here:

- [View the trade union events calendar in full screen](#).
- [Download the trade union events calendar](#) (.ics). Open or import it into your own calendar to view it in your own time zone.

The default setting for this calendar is **EST (New York) time**. [Check your local time](#).

Trade Union Events

Today

March 2024

Print

Week

Month

Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1 Mar	2
3	4 08:00 Trade uni	5	6	7	8	9
10 12:30 Trade Uni	11 08:30 The Impo +3 more	12 08:00 Trade uni 12:30 Latin Am	13 08:30 The Com +4 more	14 08:00 Trade uni +2 more	15 08:30 Impleme	16
17	18 08:30 Amplifyin 11:30 Beyond c	19 14:30 Centering	20	21 08:15 The Genc +2 more	22 14:30 Revolutio	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 Apr	2	3	4	5	6

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York

Calendar



Parallel event: 12:30-2:00pm - UN Church Center (CCUN), 2nd Floor
Women in Migration Network, co-sponsors include Global Unions

Parallel event: 2:30-4:00pm - UN Church Center (CCUN), 1st Floor
Public Services International (PSI), co-sponsored by IDWP, ESCR-Net and NSOC
Group-organisations

Parallel event: 12:30-2:00pm - UN Church Center (CCUN), 4th Floor
LAC CSW NGO, co-sponsored by Public Services International (PSI)

EVENT EN | FR | ES

TAGS (2)

Trade union calendar

Mon, Mar 11, 2024

PDF

TAGS (2)

Flyer - CSW68 Trade Union events

Sun, Feb 18, 2024

The UNCSW68 [Official programme](#) includes segments covering the UNCSW68 priority theme, including:

1.

The **General discussion**, during which governments make statements (the ITUC or the GUFs might deliver a statement too).
2.

The **Ministerial round tables**. The meetings provide interpretation in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Chinese and some events are livestreamed (in English only).

UNCSW68 [Side Events](#) are hosted by governments. Check if your government is hosting or speaking at a side event. It is an excellent opportunity to share – either during or after the event – our trade union priorities and positions on the priority theme. Most events will be in English, and some will provide interpretation.

UNCSW68 [parallel events](#) are hosted by civil society organisations. These are in-person, virtual, or hybrid events.

Check the **agenda of the parallel events by registering on the NGOCSW Platform**: <https://ngocsw68forum.vfairs.com/>

- Choose your ticket type based on how you will be attending: in-person, virtually, or both.

- Fill out your information and
- Submit your registration!

After you register, you will receive a link to join the [Portal](#). Set up a profile on the Portal and you will be able to access the [Portal](#).

The **NGO Consultation Day is virtual** and takes place on **Date** March from 10.00 to 13.00 EST. Other NGO consultations, regional caucuses are shortlisted in this **agenda**.

Or check with your delegation where to find the event you are looking for.

Map of venues

[Terms](#) [This map was created by a user. Learn how to create your own](#)

Lobbying governments on Agreed Conclusions

The 'Agreed Conclusions,' prepared by the UNCSW68, are negotiated between Member States. Negotiations started in February and will close during the UNCSW68. The negotiations are open to Member States only. This is an opportunity to lobby our own governments, other governments, like-minded NGOs, regional caucuses, and others to influence the outcome of the negotiations of the Agreed Conclusions.

The **Zero Draft of the UNCSW68 Agreed Conclusions** is available in English [here](#).

How to prepare for lobbying your government:

- Please check with your delegation's focal point for the latest version of the Agreed Conclusions and the amendments and views prepared by the **Global Unions drafting group**.
- The Global Unions drafting group is composed of Global Union focal points. It also cooperates closely with the Women's Rights Caucus, a grouping of feminist movements from across the world.
- If you have updates to share about your government position, please inform the drafting group or focal point of your delegation.

- **Updates on the negotiation process will be provided in the Trade Union Briefings sessions** (on 4, 12 and 14 March), via your delegation's focal point of your delegation and by email.

Tips to lobby your governments

💡 Our strength is our diversity: the fact that we have trade union delegates from around the world on the same team!

- Lobby your government: check your focal point for the latest version of the Agreed Conclusions with the trade union amendments, priorities and views.
- Share information with the trade union delegation about your government position.
- Find out who our allies are, who our opponents are and what types of hurdles are developing. Share ideas about lobbying strategies and develop alliances to help influence outcomes.
- Compile a list of policies your government has already adopted related to the priority theme. That way you can hold them to account if they are back-peddalling on positions they have already adopted in the past.
- Every Member State gets to make a statement during the '**General Discussion**' on their progress on the priority theme of the UNCSW68. Find out who is making statements like ours, monitor what they say, and get a copy of their statement.
- Many government delegations offer briefings to NGOs on the status of negotiations. Find out about them and plan to attend, and report back on what you hear! Check if your government is in the list of [Member States at the UNCSW68](#). Find out which of your country's government departments has the lead on preparing for the UNCSW68.
- Share your findings with your trade union delegation.

What we are up against

Regressive governments and organisations are often pro-active at the UNCSW. They tend to influence the negotiations **against** the term 'gender,' reproductive rights and protection against gender-based violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Conservative NGOs are highly organised and connected and have found allies in the Holy See (the Vatican) and a number of Members States across the world. Try to find out which organisations or individuals from your region fit this profile, the positions they are bringing forward and who their allies are.

Networking and alliance building

💡 The UNCSW offers a great opportunity for transnational networking and alliance building with like-minded organisations/NGOs.

There are several ways to connect:

1. Register as an advocate on the [NGOCSW68 Forum](#) to join and connect with other delegates from across the world and when participating in meetings

and events.

2. Participate in meetings and events which offer opportunities to connect with participants.
3. Identify allies in your own country and/or region e.g. unions, women's organisations, NGOs, either via the list of UNCSW68 attendees on the UNCSW/NGO virtual platform, the regional caucuses or the parallel and side events.
4. **Once connected**, check what their lobby/ advocacy plans are and in which lobby platforms they operate. Share our trade union priorities and invite them to our trade union related events.
5. You can check if their statement is listed on the [UNCSW68 official documents](#) section and scroll down for the NGO statements.

Check out the progressive / feminist organisations with a strong presence at past UNCSW meetings.

They include: ActionAid International - Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD) - Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) - Centre for Global Women's Leadership (CWGL) - Centre for Reproductive Rights - European Women's Lobby (EWL) - HRW (Human Rights Watch) - FEMNET (The African Women's Development and Communication Network) - Global Alliance for Tax Justice Campaign (GATJ) - Solidarity Centre - Women in Migration Network (WIMN) - Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO).

Social media guide

Let's raise our trade union voice! Write, tweet, photograph or video your messages for the [Global Unions UNCSW](#) blog and across social media! The online trade union [Social Media Guide](#) provides you with a compilation of tips and tools to help amplify the voice of women workers at the UNCSW68.

Let's hear your voice! During the two weeks, parallel and side events are sources of rich and poignant stories about women who have championed their rights in their respective countries. Their stories need to be shared to a wider audience - and union delegates can play a valuable role in making that happen.

The [Global Unions UNCSW blog](#), created by Public Services International (PSI), is our central information point. It houses articles, photos, videos and social media shareables related to the UNCSW. You can also follow updates on the UNCSW Global Unions '[Women Power Unions](#)' Facebook page.

Hashtags you can use:

- **General:** #CSW68 #UNCSW68 #GlobalUnions #WomenPowerUnions
- **GBVH:** #RatifyC190 #RatificarC190 #RatifiezC190
- **Care:** #InvestInCare #MakeCarePublic #HumanRightToCare #DefendCareAsAPublicGood #CareForThoseWhoCareForYou
- **#DigitalNewDeal** - #GenderTransformative

💡 Check out the [social media guide](#) for the trade union delegation for all tips and recommendations on how to report on sessions and events and contribute to the Trade Union blog.

Social media guide

Let's raise our trade union voice! Write, tweet, photograph or video your messages for the Global Unions UNCSW Trade Union blog and across social media! T

FIND OUT MORE

Contacts

- **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC):**
 - Paola Simonetti paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org
 - Marieke Koning marieke.koning@ituc-csi.org
 - Equality@ituc-csi.org
- **Education International (EI):**
 - Isma Benboulbahr Isma.Benboulbahr@ei-ie.org
- **Public Services International (PSI):**
 - Verónica Montúfar veronica.montufar@world-psi.org ,
 - Hazel Ripoll hazel.ripoll@world-psi.org
- **International Transport Workers Federation (ITF)**
 - Claire Clarke Clarke_Claire@itf.org.uk
- **International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF):**
 - Zeina Shaaban zeina.shaaban@idwfed.org

Appendix 1: Glossary

Acronym	Full name
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action (2000)
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAW	Division for the Advancement of Women (at UN Women)

EI	Education International
EU	European Union
FGM	Female genital mutilation
FTT	Financial Transactions Tax
GUF	Global Union Federation
IFI	International financial institution
IFJ	International Federation of Journalists
ITF	International Transport Workers' Federation
IUF	International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization and International Labour Office (Geneva)
ILO Convention 87	Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise (1948)
ILO Convention 98	Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (1949)
ILO Convention 100	Equal Remuneration (1951)
ILO Convention 102	Social Security (Minimum Standards (1952)
ILO Convention 111	Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) (1958)
ILO Convention 128	Invalidity, Old-Age and Survivors' Benefits (1967)
ILO Convention 151	Labour Relations (Public Sector) 1978

ILO Convention 182	Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999)
ILO Convention 189	Domestic Workers (2011)
ILO Convention 190	Violence and Harassment Convention (2019)
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
ODA	Overseas development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
PSI	Public Services International
QPS	Quality public services
SC 1325	Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security
TUAC	Trade Union Advisory Committee (at the OECD)
UNCSW	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
UNI	UNI Global Union
UN Women	United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
VAW	Violence against women

WHO	World Health Organization
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Appendix 2: Shortlist of useful links

- The Global Unions Blog: <https://unioncsw.world-psi.org/>
- The online calendar of [trade union related events](#) also available for [download](#) (.ics).
- [Global Unions Statement](#) to the UNCSW68 in multiple languages on the [UNCSW68 website](#).
- UNCSW68 [official website](#), [registration](#) and [Grounds Pass collection](#).
- NGO CSW68 Forum [agenda](#) - (remember to [register](#) first)

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CSW68 (2024)

The UNCSW provides a unique opportunity for coalition-building with other trade unions and progressive organizations, and for influencing global policies on gender equality. In 2024, the UNCSW will consider the priority theme of “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”.

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