



The following two items were left out of the Spring Roadrunner. My apologies.
Judy McGuire
editor

Item #1

AAUW NM - INTERNATIONAL INTEREST REPORT
LTM - February 2, 2020
Submitted by Lynn Heffron

In March 2020, I will be attending the 64th session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** at UN headquarters in New York. This year is the 25th anniversary of the landmark framework for gender equality and women' rights, the Beijing Platform for Action. Over 11,000 people have registered to attend.

Now in my fifth year, I will help represent the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH), a non-governmental organization (NGO) which has Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council. 2020 is a pivotal year for the recognition and realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, worldwide. Together with the AWCDH founder, Andrea Ferenczi, we will speak on "The Dignity and Independence of Older Women: Has Beijing+25 Implemented Policies to Ensure That? In this photo at a previous UN CSW meeting at the UN in NY, founder Andrea Ferenczi and I join Judit Polgar, Hungarian chess grandmaster who is generally considered the strongest female chess player of all time. Hearing her speak on the challenges she has faced becoming a world-class champion was riveting.

For those interested, here's some quick background:

The United Nations commitments to the advancement of women began with the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco in 1945. Of the 160 signatories, only four were women - Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic), Virginia Gildersleeve (United States), Bertha Lutz (Brazil) and Wu Yi-Fang (China) – but they succeeded in inscribing women's rights in the founding document of the United Nations, which reaffirms in its preamble "faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of Nations large and small".

During the inaugural meetings of the UN General Assembly in London in February 1946, Eleanor Roosevelt, a United States delegate, read an open letter addressed to "the women of the world":

"To this end, we call on the Governments of the world to encourage women everywhere to take a more active part in national and international affairs, and on women who are conscious of their opportunities to come forward and share in the work of peace and reconstruction as they did in war and resistance."

On 21 June 1946, the Sub-Commission formally became the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a full- fledged Commission dedicated to ensuring women's equality and to promoting women's rights.

During the period 1946-1962, the Commission focused its attention on promoting women's rights and equality by setting standards and formulating international conventions aiming at changing discriminatory legislation and fostering global awareness of women's issues.

Since then, CSW has focused on many issues including:

- Calling for women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace building
- Developing and expanding intersectional approaches to addressing all forms of violence against women (VAWG)
- Tackling stereotypes and sexism in schools and girl's safety in public, also know as

protection the “girl child”

- Providing women universal access to political rights
- Advocating for increasing women's literacy and equality and access to education
- Promoting the participation of women in developing countries and their economic rights
- Focusing on and eliminating the issues of traditional practices harmful to women and girls
- Reminding the international community that discrimination against women, upheld in laws and deeply rooted cultural beliefs, is a persistent problem in much of the world

Our fights for human rights, justice and equalities seems never ending yet needed for the survival of men, women and all genders. Lynn

Item #2:

Nominations for 2020-2022 Board:

Kathie Davis, Nominations Chair will be calling Branch Presidents for suggestions.

The following elected offices for 2020-2022 are open: Co-President, Membership, Secretary, AAUW Funds.

Appointed officers for 2020-22 unfilled are. AAUW-NM Awards chair, College/Univ. Chair, International Interest Chair, Parliamentarian, Website Manager, Media Relations.

Job descriptions are on the AAUW-NM website: <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/files/2019/11/Policies-Procedures-Vol-II.pdf>

If any readers are interested in these positions, please contact Kathie at

kadkathryn@gmail.com or 575-639-0311