

CSW62 NOTES SUMMARY (2): MAR. 13-14, 2018

Sessions attended by Suzanne Hanchett

1. Side Event on "Confronting Barriers to Rural Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (Mar. 13)

Session hosted by: Finland and ESCR-Net, International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

2. Delivering As One: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Mar. 13)

UN Women, World Food Programme, FAO, IFAD

3. TOWN HALL MEETING with Secretary General Guterres (Mar. 13)

4. Sami Women's Stories (Mar. 14)

5. Rural and Indigenous Women's Leadership in Community Development (Mar. 14)

Coady International Institute

6. Participation of Rural Women in Governance (Mar. 14)

Hosted by Switzerland

7. A Climate justice Dialogue: Enabling Grassroots and Indigenous Women's Participation in Gender Responsive Climate Action

Hosted by Ireland and the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice

Topics discussed:

Land ownership rights of women, Confiscation of indigenous people's lands, Livestock rustling, Violence and other types of abuse of marginalized people, Legal recognition of indigenous groups is not always given (European Roma, N. American First Nations, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact), Ways to seek redress violations of marginalized people's rights, Violence against human rights defenders, Ways to combat sexual and economic violence, Indigenous women in World War II (Sami), Engaging traditional leaders, Corruption

Personal issues, trauma and sorrow experienced by marginalized women: need to improve self-respect, Documenting our own history, Climate change, Potential of indigenous knowledge (botany) to help solve problems, The daily water collection burden, Cooperatives, food security, Remote area people's inadequate access to transportation, Domestic violence, Importance of learning and mentorship

Indigenous people's need for solidarity and recognition from other countries, Women's need for information about laws and rights, Value of building alliances . Women' reluctance to enter politics, Media and women's access to it, Changes at the UN itself to improve gender equity and control sexual harassment,

Memorable Quotes:

RECOGNIZING AND RESPECTING MARGINALIZED WOMEN, AND ALL WOMEN

Women's history has been a kind of ""stepchild history." In Norway women got the right to vote in 1913. But men still dominated politics. Women were the first to tame reindeer. (Aili Keskitalo, Sami Parliament President, Mar. 14)

Women actors should be at the center, not just regarded as program ""beneficiaries" or "victims." Their rights and their contributions must be recognized. (Joan Carling, Mar. 14)

I don't want people to look at me and pity me. I want people to know that my indigenous values and knowledge can do much for the world. ... We need to recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples, not just shed tears over their problems. (Joline, Mar. 14)

We must rush now to document indigenous women's experience of the World War II period while they are still alive;. (Liv Inger Somby, Mar. 14)

OVERCOMING PAIN AND BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM

There is a culture of silence, a reluctance to discuss internal conflicts with outsiders. Victims face "shame and blame." (Hanne Bjurstrom (Mar. 14)

One girl decided at age 16 never to speak the Sami language again. She and her people were called "dirty Sami." (Liv Inger Somby, Mar.14)

I am a survivor. I am resilient. Two generations ago we lost our language because of boarding schools. My dad's mother was brutally murdered. I am grandmother of nine. These grandchildren are my legacy, "the seeds I want to plant."/(Patricia Thompson, Mar. 14)

REACHING THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) & WORKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The SDGs cannot be achieved without empowerment of women. It's a precondition. Women who are "the farthest away in the queue" need special attention. Rural women are at high risk of being left behind. (Phumzile Mlambo-Ngkuca, Mar. 13)

We need mechanisms to ensure women's participation in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. (Joan Carling, Mar. 14)

Efforts to monitor efficacy of laws are important. (Naela Gabr, Mar. 14)

The writings on climate change are predominantly technical, not social. And they are mostly by authors from the global north. (A man from OXFAM)

There must be coherence between SDGs and climate change related actions. We need data on the different impacts of climate change on women and men. Our policies must be informed by data. (Ms. Fleur ____, Mar. 14)

"Climate action" usually means mega-projects, such as huge wind farms. But some of these hurt local people and do not benefit them at all. (Mary Robinson, Mar. 14)

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ARE THREATENED/KILLED

Human rights defenders deserve better protection. (Panel Moderator, Mar. 13)

The Philippine government is attacking and threatening human rights defenders, calling them ""terrorists." (Three speakers mentioned this.)

MOBILIZING WOMEN'S POWER

We have talked enough. It's time to act. Key actions are: land rights, gender responsive climate action ("Say nothing without consulting us"), and "Free, prior, and informed consent." (Agnes, a woman from Kenya, Mar. 14)

We build alliances among indigenous women: at local, regional, even global levels. "Their diversity should be recognized." They are "under-represented in the public domain." ... "We need solidarity and recognition from other countries. P(Chanda Thapa, Mar. 13)

Romas' basic human rights are questioned and ignored by governments on a daily basis. We appreciate the UN's and other international bodies' efforts to make laws effective and to create frameworks and standards. (Judit Geller, Mar. 13)

Indigenous women are getting strength from women's movements and entering the political forum (Pilar A. Alcala, Mar.13)

We need to invest in movement-building and organizing, which enable women to join forces. They change their own lives and their communities. (Violet Shivutse, Mar. 14)

We must get out of our silos and recognize interdependence. Every kind of man and woman should become involved... Local and indigenous knowledge can benefit us all, help lead to improved environmental outcomes. (Mary Robinson, Mar. 14)