

IFBPW Annual Report 2022

UN New York Representatives

Introduction

The IFBPW New York Representatives have made significant contributions during 2022 towards the fulfillment of the stated priority theme: *Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*, as well as the review theme, *challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*. There are eight UN New York Representatives, professional women in the fields of business, journalism, education, diplomacy, and advocacy for the advancement of women. Despite not having direct access to the U.N. due to Covid restrictions, they worked assiduously through various non-governmental organizations via virtual conferences and meetings, as well as in-person events held outside the U.N. Following are their individual reports. Submitted by **Dr. Helena Kane Finn**, Main UN Representative, IFBPW New York (Annual IFBPW New York UN Representatives 2022 Report January 30th, 2023).

Nermin Ahmad

Report from: Nermin Ahmad, UN Representatives for IFBPW, President of NFBPWC-NYC Affiliate Chapter, Chair of the NFBPWC Women on the Move Initiative.

Areas of primary Concern: Migration and Sustainable Development.

Summary: Without access to a UN pass, I was obliged to limit myself to attending zoom meetings in 2022. It allowed me to continue to press for BPW International priorities with respect to Business and Professional Women in both areas of interest. I continued to be the note-taker for the BPW-International UN Representative meetings.

Within the *Committee on Migration*, I continue to support the Subcommittee on Xenophobia and Social Inclusion and in June was elected to be Treasurer for the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for the Committee on Migration. Additionally, as:

- Co-author of a paper on best practices used in managing migrants arriving during COVID in 2021, entitled Report of a Survey on Migrant and Refugee Victims of Xenophobia, Racism and Intolerance in the Context of the Coronavirus Pandemic, I was asked to undertake an update in 2022.
- BPW UN Representative, I made a presentation to the full UN Committee on Migration on behalf of BPW-International on Achieving Economic Empowerment for Displaced Business and Professional Women, which formed the basis for an associated event at CSW 67.
- Representative of the subcommittee on Xenophobia and Social Inclusion during a zoom mission visit with Moroccan Representative to the UN, H.E. Omar Hillale, to discuss key points for inclusion in the first International Migration Review Forum, I highlighted our key

position elements, lauded Morocco's multi-stakeholder engagement efforts in the Region and at home in terms of policy development, encouraged the government to use its natural leadership role to go beyond policy and establish and implement best practices and protocols that could be replicated by other countries, spanning not only how Moroccans abroad may be perceived, but also how sub-Saharan migrants are in fact received in Morocco.

- Co-author, I drafted our Subcommittee's statement on combatting xenophobia for refugees leaving Ukraine, as a result of the on-going conflict.

For the *Committee on Sustainable Development*, my engagement has been primarily to attend meetings and engage in discussion when possible. Meetings continue to consist more of presentations by a range of guests, and information sharing through specific events with less opportunity for constructive attendee participation.

Francesca Burack

Report from: Francesca Burack, BPW International's Development, Training & Employment Standing Committee (DT&E) Committee Chair

I continue to work with the Vice Chair of the *Educational NGO* on a worldwide education initiative, rather than the Education NGO. This includes attendance at virtual meetings of various NGOs and my commitment to return to the *STOP Trafficking of Persons* NGO Committee. I have contacted the chair of the *BPW Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force* and am discussing an initiative for the USA. My participation in the meeting in the NFBPW Regional Conference in St. Kitts and Nevis provided me with an opportunity to network extensively with others who share my interests.

Judi Kilachand

Report from Judi Kilachand, IFBPW New York UN Representative, business woman and former Asia Society executive

BPW International Committee and CSW Events

I met regularly and worked with the BPW International's Development, Training & Employment Standing Committee (DT&E), headed by Committee Chair Francesca Burack during 2022. We recorded a webinar focused on "Collaboration: The Pathway to Strength, Success and Sisterhood," which is now on the BPW's YouTube Channel and can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9nbzH4H0Lg>. The committee also wrote a blog entitled, "From Strangers to Sisterhood: Our Collaboration Journey," about the creation of the webinar and the collaboration that took place, which was published in the November 2022 BPW International newsletter. DT&E is also working on a centralized Resource Guide listing training, development and employment programs projects and activities in the BPW Worldwide community.

Francesca Burack has asked me to plan a DT&E event on leadership with our IFBPW Representative Shyama Venkateswar, an expert on diversity, equity and inclusion, who will deliver remarks to the group in the first quarter of 2023. The meeting was originally scheduled for Nov 30, 2022 but was postponed because of conflict in schedules. The topic will be Transformative Leadership. Shyama's talk will explore how business leaders can change their perspective from a singular focus on shareholder capitalism to incorporate a wider and more nuanced understanding of stakeholder capitalism. This is a crucial lens that business leaders must buy into so that there is shared consensus in investments in communities, sustainability, climate change, and social well-being of all across lines of difference. The discussions will focus on: 1. How do we build inclusion; 2. What behaviors and actions are required? 3. What is the legacy of leadership that each one of us wants to leave behind? This topic will deal with the specific challenges faced by women.

I attended a virtual NGO CSW NY program on "Women, Life, Freedom: Global Implications of the Women – Led Uprising in Iran," on November 1, 2022.

In November 2022, I joined CSW with Shyama. We are planning a program on women in tech; we are trying to see if we can do a parallel program in March 2023. Please see Shyama's description of the program in mind in her section on CSW.

NFBPW/IFBPW's Partnership with OneShared.World (OSW)

I continue to act as liaison/work with/advise OneShared.World on public programming be it about water issues or women's empowerment. I worked on the 2022 Annual OneShared.World Interdependence Summit with programs on health and food issues, climate change, the interdependence of business, and an intergenerational panel of women nonprofit and government leaders to discuss issues such as climate change, inequality, healthcare, water issues, and the empowerment of women. I contributed to the planning of the 2022 OneShared.World Annual Interdependence Summit scheduled for December 2022. Some details on these summit programs are below.

Eating to Save the World: A discussion on the empowerment of global communities in the areas of food security and health using nutrition/food to reduce hunger and disease in the context of the global food system; how use food as medicine, global food system to alleviate environmental destruction, etc.; and the future of food/health was held for the upcoming OSW 2022 annual summit. The panel was recorded and will be shown on the CSW website. Panelists include: Lianna Levine Reisner, President, Founder and Network Director of Plant Powered Metro New York; Dr. Columbus Batiste, an interventional cardiologist from California; Jason Clay, Senior Vice President, Markets at the World Wildlife Fund; Krishnendu Ray, NYU Professor of Food & Nutrition, author.

#SOLVECLIMATE: a recording on sustainable development/climate change through the lens of The Dhun Project, Rajasthan, India, and an interview with founder, entrepreneur and visionary Manvendra Singh Shekhawat. The moderator is Rita A Araújo, a first-year student at Leiden University College The Hague, pursuing a liberal arts and sciences degree with a focus on global challenges; member of MUN Impact, an organization dedicated to promoting action for the Sustainable Development Goals and active citizenship in the Model United Nations community, where she currently serves as a youth leader and part of the organizing team for the #SolveClimate initiative; young coordinator of OneShared.World.

A New Business Model for an Interdependent World: Jamshyd N. Godrej (WWF India Trustee, Climate, Social Conscious) is a speaker on a business program with an environment focus along with Shagun Sethi, Programs and Operations Manager, Pontoka, a global Environment Social Governance Advisory, based in Denmark and India and a Director for Global Leadership at OneShared.World. And Sean Kilachand, Co - Founder and CEO of EduSynch.

Women and Interdependence: The panel consisted of Anika Rahman, nonprofit leader - Empowering People for a Just Society - Strategic Vision | Change Management | Fundraising | Advocacy; Barrie Lynne Freeman - Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK); Nicola Armacost is the Mayor of Hastings-on-Hudson in New York when she has focused her energy on addressing climate change and on women's empowerment; Yasmine Rejeb is currently pursuing a double degree program in international relations and Political Science. Passionate about promoting positive change and fighting inequalities, Yasmine Rejeb is an active member of OneShared.World as a co-leader of the events team.

NGO Committee Membership:

I had joined the NGO Committee on Financing for Development which supports the goal to “end poverty and hunger and to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions through promoting inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment, and promoting social inclusion.” I have decided this was not the right committee for me and have told the committee chair that I will no longer attend meetings.

I attended the March 2022 program on ILO 190 – and getting it passed. That meeting had some reports on Haiti, and utilization of funding there. I also attended a meeting on the World Vision International Report which commented that to fight violence against children, there needs to be additional funding. An article on multilateralism mentioned that in the era of pandemic, it is on its death bed and needs to be re-organized to combat inequity. Comments were also made that Bretton Woods organizations no longer reflect the complexities of today’s world. These organizations need updating.

In February 2022, a virtual working breakfast meeting was held "Act Now: Financing for a People and Planet Centered Recovery," with over 8 Member State representatives in attendance and FSDO, IMF, WB and ILO staff provided a briefing. Topics included vaccine inequity and its compounding impacts, lack of universal social protection and social protection floors, rising debt burdens and challenges to sustainable financing for people and planet centered recovery, digital divide and inclusion, climate justice, and unemployment and poverty.

I was in Paris in May 2022 and met with Marie Claude who closely follows IFBPW activities. We have subsequently been exchanging information. At the recommendation of Eva Richter, a former IFBPW Representative, I have taken an interest in the Committee on Migration. I am doing some traveling through February 2023 and will join once I am back.

Tess Mateo

Report from: Tess Mateo, UN Rep NYHQ/ DPI/NGO 2021

Activities on behalf of BPW International and all females today and tomorrow

I continue to focus on UN SG's priority on gender equality in renewable energy, technology, and sustainable food/STEM (science technology engineering math) sectors that are critical for sustainable 2050.

Following UNGA 77, organized with UNCTAD, ITU, ITC, and IFC the Global Green Inclusive Innovation (G2i2) Summit in ECOSOC Chamber to scale women owned businesses in clean energy, sustainable food, infrastructure, and space sectors. Invited members from BPW Germany, Italy, and Iceland as speakers. Panels were all recorded and shared across social media. Some member states joined public private partnerships

Helped organize International Day for Women and Girls in Science with UNCTAD and RASIT to continue building pipeline of females in STEM.

Presented UN SDGs, UNSDN, and UNGC Women Empowerment Principles at the Global Summit of Women in Bangkok, NanoValbruna, as well as various universities -- University of Michigan, University of Santo Tomas, University of Milano, and University of Pravia.

Attended UN Global Compact Leaders' Summit, ITU EQUALS, Science Technology & Innovation Forum, UN DESA and UNCTAD meetings and disseminated renewable energy, STEM and sustainable food information to global networks including but not limited to BPW.

Lastly, crafted SDG & G2i2 aligned targets for the G20 W20 communique which were integrated into G20 Bali outcome documents.

Susan O'Malley

Report from: Susan O'Malley, IFBPW New York UN Representative

1. IFBPW Representative
 - A. Meeting monthly with IFBPW representatives led by Helena Finn to update each other on our work.
 - B. I serve as the UN Representative on the US NFBPWC. Every month (with a few exceptions) I write a short article on the UN and NGO CSW activities. I attend Board Meetings when UN issues are being discussed. I also review their parallel event applications.
2. NGO CSW/NY, Chair ex officio (My term is up 30 June 2023.)
 - A. I attend monthly executive committee meetings and monthly NGO membership meetings. (In January-April 2022 I helped organize membership meetings.)
 - B. For CSW66 I co-chaired the Advocacy Research Group comprised of NGO members in the 5 Regions that decided on the 6 recommendations with advocacy briefs based on the Priority Theme sent to the Secretary General, UN Women, and Member States. Language from several of our recommendations was included in the Outcome Document, including the one on land rights and widows.
 - C. Parallel Events: For CSW66 I organized 2 events co-sponsored by IFBPW 1) The Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians on "Indigenous Women Speak for Mother Earth" and 2) Widows for Peace through Democracy on "Widows as Environmental Leaders".
 - D. Parallel Events: For CSW67 I have organized 2 events co-sponsored by IFBPW and The Canadian Association of Women Parliamentarians on "Digital harassment and violence against women parliamentarians and effective responses" and Widows for Peace Through Democracy on "Rural widowhood: culture, conflicts, COVID, climate crisis".
 - E. Helped revise NGO CSW/NY Bylaws in preparation for the June election.
 - F. Working with a group to write the history of NGO CSW/NY based on the reports of the Chairs.
3. ILO C-190 Coalition of CoNGO Committees working for the passage of C-190 [We have been working on this for several years with some progress.]
 - A. HLPF event, 12 July 2022: "Creating an Enabling Gender-Responsive Work Environment for the Future: The role of the ILO Convention in addressing violence and harassment in the world of work".
4. UN Representative for Widows for Peace Through Democracy, UK NGO.

Monthly Zoom meetings on how to make widows more visible at the UN - without attending to widows the SDGs will never be fulfilled. This year we improved the website, attempted to make our Dossier on Widows better known, presented at various events, fundraised. In October I met with WPD in London. (Margaret Owen, OBE, is the founder of this group.) I help them navigate the UN.
5. UN Representative for Global Fund for Widows (GFW)

Heather Ibrahim-Leathers is the head of this group. I help them navigate the UN

system when asked. This year GFW was instrumental in working with the African Union to pass Res. 76/252 in the 2022 General Assembly on “Addressing the Situation of Widows” that calls for the registration of all marriages, the inclusion of widows in National Action Plans, condemnation of harmful practices against widows, and disaggregated data. GFW also held an ARRIA Formula meeting with the Security Council on “Closing the Protection Gap for Widows in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings.

Alison Smale

Report from: Alison Smale, Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

It is so hard to fathom how much our world has changed in the past 2-3 years. We have stuck to our goals and used the clarity they can bring to support the UN in crucial matters such as the delivery of grain and other vital supplies. In all our deliberations I think we have been well served by Helena’s leadership and the importance for all of us of human rights. Exposing atrocities wherever they occur is vital, just as is uniting to lend heft to our actions is one of the most important things to preserve. It is a truism, but we can only overcome the fears and fright of recent times if we do so together!! I look forward to lending whatever force I can to our work going forward.

Shyama Venkateswar

Report from: Shyama Venkateswar, IFPBW UN Representative

1. BPW International Committee event

Judi Kilachand and I have planned a Development, Training and Employment Standing Committee (DT&E) event headed by Francesca Burack which I will deliver. The meeting was originally scheduled for Nov 30, 2022 but was postponed to 2023 because of a conflict in schedules. The topic will be on Transformative Leadership. My talk will explore how business leaders can change their perspective from a singular focus on shareholder capitalism to incorporate a wider and more nuanced understanding of stakeholder capitalism. This is a crucial lens that business leaders must buy into so that there is shared consensus in investments in communities, sustainability, climate change, and social well-being of all across lines of difference. The discussions will focus on: 1. How do we build inclusion; 2. What behaviors and actions are required? 3. What is the legacy of leadership that each one of us wants to leave behind?

2. CSW

I joined CSW in November 2022 and hope to participate in upcoming activities. One possible plan is to explore a side event in March 2023 on Women in Tech. There is a great deal of need in more intentional DE&I efforts in the tech space so that women and equity-deserving groups can advance. Judi and I have been discussing the possibility of convening women leaders in tech

to talk about challenges, some of the initiatives that they are implementing to make a difference, and how they can mobilize allies in this work. Here is a recent article on the current challenges in the tech sector on DEI-related

issues: <https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/hr-topics/behavioral-competencies/global-and-cultural-effectiveness/pages/tech-layoffs-are-already-deteriorating-dei-efforts.aspx>

3. Permanent Representative of India to the UN - Podcast Event with Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj

A podcast with Ambassador Kamboj who is the incoming president of the UNSC for December 2022. Discussions were on UNSC reform, COP-27, the Ukraine crisis, energy crisis, and also addressing India's role in addressing violence against women. The Podcast link has been made available.

4. NYC Commission on Gender Equity

I have been recently reappointed to NYC Mayor's Commission on Gender Equity. I have been in meetings with the other commissioners to chart out an agenda for this Mayor, and to serve as advisors to key pieces of potential legislation. We have constructed a plan to include: Policy and Programs focusing on economic mobility and opportunity; health and reproductive justice; and safety. I am a part of a working group that will focus on Strategic Learning and Capacity Building. Some of the discussions in the UN space on global women and challenges will help to inform some of my own thinking and strategic recommendations. The press release of my reappointment is here:

[https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/861-22/mayor-adams-appoints-nine-new-commissioners-reappoints-15-commissioners-commission-gender#:~:text=NEW%20YORK%20%E2%80%93%20New%20York%20City,on%20Gender%20Equity%20\(CGE\)](https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/861-22/mayor-adams-appoints-nine-new-commissioners-reappoints-15-commissioners-commission-gender#:~:text=NEW%20YORK%20%E2%80%93%20New%20York%20City,on%20Gender%20Equity%20(CGE))

5. Learning & Development, Seramount

I continue to head up Learning and Development at Seramount focusing on advancing and deepening DEI in the workplace. I have been busy conducting in-person trainings and doing presentations to all-staff and senior leaders across industries on strategies to build greater inclusion, create a culture of belonging, and implement focused opportunities for career advancement for underrepresented groups in order to disrupt widespread and systemic bias. My own knowledge development in this area has grown since I started this position and helps to inform other work that I do outside the office.

Helena Finn

It has been a great honor to serve as the Main Representative for the IFBPW at the United Nations in New York. Our talented and dedicated group of eight New York Reps have endeavored to fulfill the goals set forth by our organization. They have brought to bear their varied experience in business, academia, journalism, foundation management and advocacy. I have held monthly meetings of our group so that they can exchange information and find ways to cooperate on projects of mutual interest. For example, Judi Kilachand has coordinated with Francesca Burack on Development, Training and Employment. She has also provided mentorship for our newest member, Shyama Venkateswar, whose expertise in the areas of diversity and tech are invaluable assets to our group going forward. Susan O'Malley has shared her vast experience with our entire group, providing them with guidance, particularly about the upcoming CSW. Susan's work on widows has helped to highlight an aspect of potential empowerment that is frequently overlooked. Alison Smale, an accomplished journalist who has formerly held a very senior post at the UN, has briefed our group on the impact of the current crisis in Europe on local communities. Tess Mateo has been an inspiration to us all through her energetic participation in multi-faceted endeavors designed to promote the cause of equality for women and girls. Nermin Ahmad has utilized her considerable bureaucratic skills in running the NFBPWC-NYC. Her work on immigration and women on the move has improved the lives of women in transition. Francesca Burack has heightened awareness of trafficking of women and girls through her work with the task force. Overall, our meetings have promoted harmonious and productive exchanges amongst our members.

We are very lucky to have among us several members with long experience in the IFBPW. Francesca Burack, Tess Mateo and Susan O'Malley have provided useful guidance at our meetings to the newer members, Nermin Ahmad, Judi Kilachand, Alison Smale and Shyama Venkateswar. Nermin has a stellar record of ngo activities beneficial to the members of BPW New York. Judi Kilachand has worked decades in the Asia Foundation and is very knowledgeable about the condition of women in India and other Asian countries. Alison Smale has served as the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications at the UN and earlier as the Berlin Bureau Chief of *The New York Times*. Each new member of our group has been encouraged to explore the UN committees in order to find the right fit. The diversity of professional backgrounds meant that the interests of each of our members would be different. It has been my responsibility to make sure that we all find ways to promote the overall Mission. First and foremost, we wanted to make sure all of us, working in different channels, were seeking to help women to realize the Sustainable Development Goals.

This has been a very challenging year for those of us who are dedicated to the field of human rights. The Ukraine War has wrought indescribable devastation upon the people of that country. The obscurantist blindness of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan has prevented not only the education of women, but also humanitarian assistance that can only be provided by women in a gender segregated society. Globally, climate change has caused indiscriminate

damage in countries wealthy and poor. The floods in Pakistan are only one example of a disaster in a part of the world ill-equipped to deal with the destruction of homes and agricultural produce, to say nothing of the loss of life and livelihood among some of the earth's most needy citizens. Although there have been many significant virtual meetings on these topics, now that the UN passes have been issued, we IFBPW New York UN Reps are very much looking forward to person-to-person meetings.

As we look forward to 2023, our January meeting will focus on prioritizing the issues of greatest significance and urgency in a world increasingly threatened by international tensions. Our group is optimistic however, that each of us can make a contribution to the improvement of the status, education and well-being of women and girls, and ultimately to the universal goal of world peace and security.

HKF 30 January 2023