



Letter from the President

Roman ruins, Renaissance wonders and the new French national committee formed the backdrop for the fall meeting of UN Women's national committees. Given the cautious economic position of the governments in many developed nations, UN Women has been working with its national committees to generate support from individuals, corporations, and foundations. As UN Women's representatives in many of the world's most advanced economies, national committees occupy a unique place for UN Women. Carolyn Hardy, head of UN Women's private sector relations, continued work on this partnership with a detailed report on private sector development, current national committee cooperation, and new initiatives. Mitushi Das, senior partnerships specialists, gave the institutional update and briefed the national committees on UN Women's Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and program results arising from the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan. Programme and grantmaking specialist Yata Mboup-Kande gave a detailed presentation on the Fund for Gender Equality. Aldijana Sisic, chief of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, and Nanette Brown, chief of communications and advocacy, updated the national committees via Skype. Kristin Hetle, director of the strategic partnerships division, also spoke with the national committees via Skype about the new recognition agreement,



Mille grazie to Simone Ovar and the Italian national committee for organizing a successful National Committees meeting!

and both Mitushi and Carolyn reviewed advocacy and government outreach initiatives. The national committees held discussions on board and chapter management and monthly giving programs.

A key takeaway from the meeting was the importance of the national committees in UN Women's strategic plan and the role that they play in fostering support, both private and public, for UN Women. Here in the US, we are world leaders in our generosity, philanthropic nature and willingness to serve. We are therefore in the position to be the game changers for UN Women. As members and supporters of UN Women, we have the passion for gender equality and we believe in the comparative advantages that UN Women, as a multi-lateral grant-making UN agency, holds. As we move toward the holiday season and the time of increased chapter activity, I ask every one of you to consider what you can do and what you can give to support UN Women. Gender equality must be addressed in order to solve the world's most pressing problems. Join us now so that the US can play a pivotal role in supporting UN Women and achieve a world in which women and girls live free from discrimination, poverty and violence.

Best regards,

Maggie Forster-Schmitz

USNC-UN Women Relationship with the United Nations

by Ruth E. Zeller

The history of our relationship with ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations (UN), began 16 years ago when we first applied for consultative status. We were accepted as the United States Committee for UNIFEM in June 1999. Although our name is now changed to the U.S. National Committee for UN Women, we are still known in the UN database as the United States Committee for UNIFEM as an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC we are entitled to certain privileges which are not available for NGOs without consultative status. For example, we are invited to attend the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women and to register our people as attendees. In addition, the fact that we are in consultative status with the UN elevates our posture with the rest of the NGO world and should be noted in our literature.

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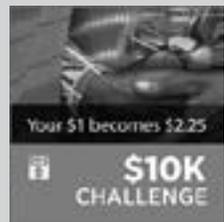
*Chapter Board Representative

**Alternate Chapter Board Representative

USNC-UN Women Office

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Great Success! Walter and Lalita Janke Charitable Foundation Matching Grant



This campaign raised a total of \$24,835. We received many donations, large and small. We want to thank everyone who made this effort successful. We will use these

dollars to help fund our upcoming year-end donation to UN Women and to further support building our capacity to give more to UN Women.

We especially want to thank Walter and Lalita Janke who made this effort possible! At the USNC's 6th Annual National Conference in Sarasota in June, Lalita, a USNC board member and president of the East Florida Chapter, offered a \$10,000 matching grant to help offset UN Women's funding deficit. To help achieve the goal more quickly, she sweetened the offer by 25% for every donation received by October 1, 2013.

This was the first "matching grant" appeal for the USNC and we hope to do many more in the future. If you are interested in funding a matching campaign or know someone who is, please contact Kay Colson at 972.849.9732 or kaycolson@gmail.com.

Your donation counts in the lives of girls and women around the world!

Monthly Memberships

by Terry Brackett

Recently the US National Committee instituted monthly memberships. This means you may join at a higher level without making a large one-time annual contribution. Instead, you could join the Visionary Circle for \$25 a month or the Empowerment Circle for \$50 a month. Using the monthly membership plan benefits the organization in many ways. By joining a monthly membership circle, the US National Committee and UN Women have a steady stream of income throughout the year. This is greatly beneficial in our long term planning and in our support for the projects of UN Women.

We hope that when you renew, you consider joining on a monthly plan at any level you desire. For more information, please contact Susan Cutri at: 202-469-8732.

Because of the privilege accorded to us, it is imperative that we maintain our status and must do so in accordance with the rules established by the United Nations. This administrative work is normally done by the Head Office of an NGO. Because we did not have a full-time Director in our Washington, DC office until 1-2 years ago, that job was handled by me. I have now passed on that work to Susan Cutri, Program Director, who is well prepared to handle it.

All NGOs with ECOSOC and/or DPI (Department of Public Information) status have representatives listed at UN Headquarters. We have both ECOSOC and DPI. Our Representatives receive current information from DPI concerning weekly briefings and other events, and we endeavor to attend as many as is possible. ECOSOC requires us to submit a lengthy quadrennial report and DPI requires a brief annual report on our activities concerning what we have done for the UN. Failure to complete these reports can mean our expulsion from consultative and/or DPI status.

All our representatives are long-term members of the Metropolitan New York Chapter and live in or near New York City. We all receive annual grounds passes for the UN. In addition, the President is automatically eligible for a pass as is the Director of our Head Office. Because we represent an actual UN agency, i.e. UN Women, with its President located at UN Headquarters, our jobs are different from most other NGOs in that the Head of UN Women is an Under-Secretary General and can submit directives to the UN hierarchy directly without intermediaries. However, our representatives attend regular meetings of NGOs in order to relate with them and to gather information which might be helpful to us and to support them in major changes to be made at the UN, e.g. the effort to form one agency out of the four which were separate prior to the formation of UN Women.

The faces of our representatives are well known to most of the other NGO representatives. We are listed at the UN as Ruth Zeller, Main Representative, with Cheryl Benton, Sybil Evans and Margaret Howard, as Alternates.

Should you wish further information, please look at www.csonet.org (Although there are some sections which require access via a security login, you will see a lot of additional information which do not require you to login.) The UN has advised us that the security is intended to be used by designated individuals only and not to be advertised.

Speaking Personally About Rape

by Annie Clark

As a first year college student in 2007 I was raped, and when I reported my assault to The University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill I was blamed. Six years later, and after realizing my situation was not unique, four women and I filed a federal Title IX and Clery Act complaints (<http://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2013/01/5-submit-complaint-against-unc-over-sexual-assault>) against an institution we all loved and had vowed to improve.

Since becoming so public about my own rape, I have heard from hundreds of women across the country experiences similar to my own, who are now finding the courage to speak out. As evidenced by their stories, the silence, shame, and stigma associated publicly talking about rape is real, but there are groups working to change this.

In US higher education, we have created IX Network, a group of survivors and activists dedicated to helping each other speak-out, heal, and change the culture. We hope to educate all students about their rights under Title IX (www.knowyourix.org) and to help students when they want to hold their schools accountable (www.EndRapeOnCampus.org) when they break the law.

But it's not just the US that's focusing more on rape. The award winning documentary, Brave Miss World (www.bravemissworld.com) is also helping to empower survivors—and they're doing it on an international scale. Linor Abargil, an Israeli woman and activist, was raped six weeks prior to winning Miss World Crown in 1998. Now, she is using her platform to share her story in hopes that others will do the same. Using the idea of shattering silence and the hashtag #IAmBrave, we will soon see this film's campaign help women work to dismantle the shame and stigma associated with being a sexual assault survivor.

As a current member of USNC UN Women and former state board member, I know this is an issue that many of us passionately care about, and I know we can do more. I urge you to educate yourself, particularly about what's going on in US higher education (<http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/06/01/2932161/unc-ch-women-wage-national-campaign.html>), and to take a New Year's pledge to stand alongside those who are fighting back in 2014.

Miami Chapter On Campus Campaign Reaches Hundreds of Students

Attorney and Miami Chapter's First Vice President, Deborah Mayo is leading a very successful campaign to raise awareness among South Florida's college students about the challenges that women and girls face around the world. As part of these efforts, the Miami Chapter is assisting the USNC with the launch of student clubs at various colleges and universities. During the months of October and November, the Chapter's founding president, Marisa

Feito, along with USNC Board Member Luz VanMeek, delivered an informative and inspirational presentation at Florida International University's Biscayne Bay Campus, which generated significant interest in the activities of the UN Women USNC/Miami Chapter.

The Chapter also participated in screenings of the critically acclaimed film, *Girl Rising*, on various South Florida campuses -- the University of Miami, Barry University, and two campuses of Florida International University. These screenings highlighted for students and faculty the dire needs of women and girls in lesser-developed countries, the hope that education can bring to them, and the impact that students and faculty can have on the lives of these women and girls by becoming active members of the Miami Chapter of the USNC/UN Women or a future club being organized on their campus. Numerous students have come forward to express interest in leading such efforts. These students and certain faculty are now working directly with Luz VanMeek to explore the possibilities of organizing these clubs.

"The work that Deborah and Luz are doing to reach out and educate the next generation of leaders is essential to the long-term success of our Chapter and the entire USNC & UN Women organization and for that, we are very thankful to them" said Marisa Feito.

The Miami Chapter is assisting Luz as needed, and welcomes the involvement of these students and faculty in all chapter meetings and events.

Sold-out Audience at the Miami Chapter's Girl Rising Screening Commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child *by Marisa Feito*

The Miami Chapter hosted a sold out special screening of the film, *Girl Rising*, at Miami Dade College's Art Cinema. Over 200 attendees enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres under the stars as they toured the Center and learned about the focus of USNC-UN Women. Event chair and board member, Maria Mas Blet, kicked off the evening with details about the power of the movie's message and the connection to the important work of our organization.

Founding Chapter president, Marisa Feito, shared inspiring words to ignite the audience's passion and encourage involvement and membership. No surprise that 10 individuals became members and thousands of dollars were raised that evening. "We owe the success of this event to the leadership, dedication and hard work

of volunteers like Maria Mas Blet, Lourdes Alvarez, Alex Rider, Iliana Rodriguez, Vivian Greer, Sandy Gonzalez-Levy, Desiree Rodriguez, Sandra Rishmague, Cristina Blanco, Kirsty Barany, Rosana Brown and Lianne Naon who took on the challenge to organize the screening of this film and delivered great results," said Marisa Feito. The event was sponsored by Architectural Design Collaborative, the Rishmague Family, Apollo Bank, Gibraltar Bank and Miami Dade MDCulture and its Koubek Center.

The young chapter has a busy calendar of events planned for its second year including a pre-holiday fundraiser and its 2nd Annual Walk to Stop Violence Against Women and Girls on March 8th, 2014 coinciding with International Women's Day during Women's History Month.

Fall Film Series Fall Film Festival

The Southern California chapter hosted a fall film series, entitled *Through Women's Eyes* on Saturday, October 26th. The event included a private screening of the 17 minute award-winning short, *Silk: The Movie*, which was written and directed by their special guest, television and screen actress Catherine Dent.

After the film, Ms. Dent discussed the subject matter of the film, what drew her to the project, what obstacles she faced and what the process taught her as an actor. She also discussed her continued commitment to offering audiences better female characters that real women can relate to. As an added bonus, the sold-out event included a screening of this year's LUNAFEST - composed of nine short films created by, for and about women.



Charitable Giving

When you are doing your year-end charitable giving, don't forget to include the US National Committee for UN Women! With your help, there is nothing women can't do! Help us change the words "women can't" to "women can" worldwide. Donations are tax deductible. If your employer matches gifts, you can double your impact with a matching gift from your employer.

<https://www.unwomen-usnc.org/civcrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3v>

Raising Funds for USNC

by Younghee Overly

USNC recently formed the private sector committee, co-chaired by Cheryl Benton and Younghee Overly. This committee will grow USNC's partnerships with businesses and corporations. The primary and initial goal is to raise funds for USNC at the national and chapter levels through business/corporate sponsorships of our programs and events.

Cheryl leads the NY Metropolitan Chapter's private sector committee. Younghee, along with Alyssa Rakovich and Jean Jewell, support the rest of the chapters. The committee has information and material on UN Women and USNC private sector strategy, programs, messages and templates you can use. The Committee can also walk you through the step by step actions you will want to take to "ask" for sponsorships for one of your chapter's events or for sponsorships at the national level. Please contact your chapter president and Younghee Overly (yoverly@gmail.com) if you want to raise funds through business/

Will You Help Shape the Future Lives of Women Worldwide?

Help support our work to improve women's lives worldwide in the future by including the US National Committee for UN Women in your will. Our tax ID number is 54-1244401 and gifts are tax deductible to your estate. Please consult a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of your gift. Questions? Email:

plannedgiving@unwomen-usnc.org

Welcome to the Newest Chapter!

Metro Detroit launched their chapter in November with a meeting of local business leaders. Chapter President, Lori Blaker, welcomed local business leaders to her company headquarters in Rochester Hills, Michigan for the announcement of the new chapter, its goals and the role of USNC and UN Women. The meeting kicked off what promises to be an exciting year for the growing chapter. The officers have planned another meeting for December 4 during the 16 days campaign.

Atlanta Chapter

UN Women Representatives met with the USNC Georgia Chapter Board members. The UN Women contingents were in Atlanta to discuss further collaboration with Coca-Cola.



1st row: GA Chapter:
Linda Poteat-Brown, Kay Colson,
Laura Dieppa-Cline, Sharon Reid &
Diane Fulton

2nd row: UN Women:
Carolyn Hardy, Kristen Hetle & Gulden
Turkoz-Cosslett

The Gulf Coast Chapter Rocks!

by Terry Brackett

The Gulf Coast Chapter began its fall/winter season with a bang. The first event, a brunch, was sold out. And no wonder - the food was delicious, the venue beautiful and the entertainment spectacular.

The event began with the classical piano music of Julia Schwartz. Ms. Schwartz is only in high school, but she performed with the skill and maturity of a seasoned musician.

Ms. Schwartz's music was followed by a performance by Ms. Barbara Apoian. Ms. Apoian was born in London and began her writing career in France. She has traveled all over the world and now makes her winter home in Bradenton. A talented actress and mimic, we were entertained with her vivid storytelling about her grandmothers, her childhood during the Blitz, Paris in the Fifties and much, much more. These stories were poignant, humorous and totally engaging. We could have listened to her stories all day had time permitted. Ms. Apoian teaches Memoir at the Life Long Learning Academy

at USF. Barbara is also an active participant in the Gulf Coast Chapter's Book Club.

The day was a financial success as well, with a raffle, sales at the International Arts & Crafts market and the donations to the Learners to Leaders Program. Additionally, we signed up new members!



Barbara Apoian

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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES

