



Sigma Theta Tau International  
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#### UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

This was the monthly meeting of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#), and discussion centered on the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women agreed conclusion and closing the gender pay gap.

The event was conducted 20 April 2017 at the [Church Center of the United Nations](#), New York City, NY, United States.

#### Report Submitted by Constance Sobon Sensor, STTI United Nations Liaison

The speakers for this meeting were [Winifred Doherty](#) of the [Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepard](#), who led the discussion about the agreed conclusions of the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Panel discussion “Closing the Gender Pay Gap and Economic Empowerment of Women” followed with Grace Protos, Women’s Bureau, US Department of Labor; Letitia James, Office of the Public Advocate NYC Government; and Thorvardur Thorsson, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations. Iceland is enforcing gender equity progress. Iceland’s new law for equal pay requires “public and private businesses to prove they offer equal pay to employees, in what would be the first such requirement in the world.” The law audits companies, requires the closing of wage gaps, and fosters more equal distribution of gender throughout the workforce. Protos discussed the “mommy track” where women are less valued because they are actively parenting, although 70 percent of the female workforce has children under the age of 18. The Office of the Public Advocate in New York City discussed pending legislation that will forbid employers from asking about salary history as a requirement of the job interview. The point is that salary history is irrelevant based on time gaps from work (left the workforce five or ten years ago to raise a family) or relocation from a less expensive part of the country.