



United Nations Activity Report

The [Commission on the Status of Women](#) parallel event “Approving Social Protection and Social Security as Critical Elements for Achieving Gender Equality” was presented by [Ilitha Lambantu](#) in collaboration with the [African Women’s Independent Forum](#)

This event was held on Monday, 11 March 2019 at the United Nations Church Center.

Report Submitted by Valerie Clary-Muronda, Sigma United Nations Liaison

This topic has an effect on several [Sustainable Development Goals](#). SDG 1-No Poverty, 2-Zero Hunger, 3-Good Health and Well-being, 5-Gender Equality, and 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities. The organization addresses violence against women and children and works to educate and empower South African women. This workshop focused on social protection through social security to ensure that elderly women who may not have had a pension during their working years have a source of income and that they do not become destitute.

Why does this matter to Sigma members? This organization works to address many issues for people who live in South African townships, such as health, mental health, violence, education, etc. This organization offers crucial services to the hardest to reach in South Africa, those living in townships and rural communities. The difference between this and other organizations is that services are available in the local languages, which most women in these areas speak, since many do not speak the English language, although a few services are offered in English. Sigma has members in this geographical region, and our members are in a position to form collaborations with this organization.