

United Nations Activity Report

The <u>63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women</u> (CSW) is an opportunity for representatives from <u>United Nations</u> Member States, other United Nations entities, and civil society to review progress toward gender equality. Participants meet annually for 10 days in New York (United States) to identify challenges and barriers to gender equality and to forge alliances to overcome these challenges.

On Sunday, 10 March 2019, one day prior to the start of the forum, the <u>Committee on the Status of</u> <u>Women</u> hosted a Consultation Day. The day featured a broad overview of the themes of the forum and allowed for networking opportunities.

Report Submitted by Connie Sobon Sensor, Sigma United Nations Liaison

By participating in these meetings, Sigma expands its reputation and presence at prestigious United Nations events. I especially enjoyed the presentation to the recipient of the <u>2019 Woman of Distinction</u> <u>Awardee Gharsanay IbnulAmeen</u>, a 22-year-old woman from Afghanistan who contributes to education and promotion of girls' and women's leadership in her country, and her inspirational keynote/acceptance. Pennie Sessler Branden and I had an opportunity to continue to engage with her throughout the conference, including the networking event on 12 March, and to make introductions to Sigma's other United Nations youth representatives and liaisons. I found the presentation of Sean Southey from PCI Media about stopping child brides in Bangladesh using media messages and positive deviance to be exceptional, and I have shared this example many times with others since attending this event.

We need to continue to seek and accept opportunities for deeper engagement with United Nations activities relevant to the Sigma mission.

UN Women UN Commission on the Status of Women Press Release

Webcast of CSW 63 14th Session - <u>http://webtv.un.org/live-now/watch/14th-plenary-meeting-</u> commission-on-the-status-of-women-csw63-2019-action-on-draft-proposals-action-on-draftagreed-conclusions-action-on-any-other-outstanding-issues/6017175833001/?term=