



## United Nations Activity Report

The [Commission on the Status of Women](#) parallel event “Making it Stick: Impact Through Innovation and Social Protection Systems” was presented by [Zonta International](#) in collaboration with [United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund](#) (UNICEFUSA).

This event was held on Tuesday, 12 March 2019 at the United Nations Church Center.

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

The focus of the presentation was to discuss the importance of ensuring that all children everywhere have the right to survive and thrive and to ensure that effective interventions toward these goals are sustainable. Current interventions were presented by a panel of presenters from various non-governmental organizations.

Partnerships are extremely important, with all kinds of organizations, and with children themselves. Partnerships help sustain gains and help everything achieved become institutionalized. UNICEF imbeds gender equality across all of its works to make sure all have the same opportunities. Some main areas of impact of UNICEF through its partnerships with non-governmental organizations are:

- Ending child marriage
- Extending girls' education
- Promoting the health of girls
- Supporting menstrual health
- Preventing gender-based violence
- Working together to sustain the rights of girls
- Gaining gender equality

Words from Caryl M. Stern, President and CEO of UNICEF USA

- 131 million girls around the world are out of school
- Gender inequality is persistent
- 12 million girls are married every single year
- This work is important because healthier, educated, and protected girls will grow up to have families that are the same

Susan Cummings Spindle, from South Korea, grew up in an orphanage and at the age of eight had an American family sponsor her. She asked them to adopt her and they adopted her. At the age of 12 she arrived in Michigan and received the best education that could be provided. Her thoughts:

- Life is about “showing up”
- Let Us Learn project
- Discussed Girls Access to Education (GATE), a non-formal education program for girls which she proposed to UNICEF in 2010
- Goal is to meet to reach the hardest-to-reach children in countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Madagascar
- Why? Children do not choose the country they grow up in, their parents, or religion, and every child deserves to grow up and thrive.

How are the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) having an impact on women and girls?

- The adoption of the SDGs represented a turning point for the empowerment of women
- Goal 5 (Gender Equality) is a strong focus
- There is a notable reduction of child marriage rates
- 25 million child marriages have been averted
- The reduction in adolescent pregnancies and girls with [HIV](#) and dying from [AIDS](#)
- An increase in girls educated and access to menstrual supplies

The organizations that presented lead a lot of initiatives that focus on improving the lives of girls and women.