

## **My presentation at UIMF's parallel event at CSW63**

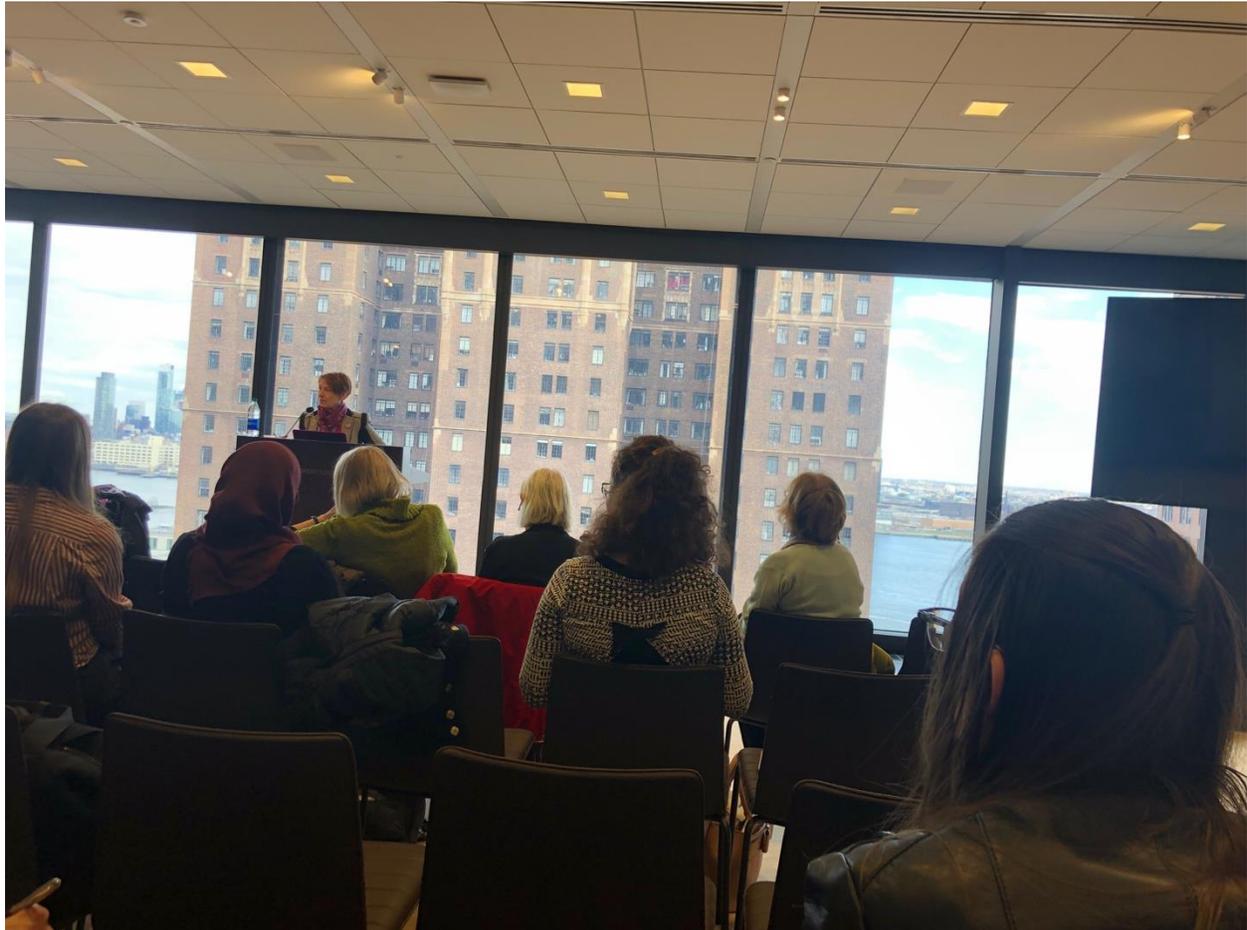


### ***My presentation during UIMF's parallel event.***

On March 9, 2019 the UIMF delegation arrived at the UN Church Center at 8 AM to prepare for our parallel event that started at 8:30 am. We prepared the room by setting up all of our UIMF information papers such as pamphlets, the event program, and also put out copies of the Youth and the Mountains Journal. Since it was so early we weren't necessarily expecting a lot of attendants but by the time our program started there were quite a few people there which was really great to see.

Our parallel event started with welcoming words from Br. Baldomero Lago who is UVU's chief International Officer. Following Dr. Lago our event began and our UIMF members presented each of our topics in alphabetical order, and had to deliver our message within 5 minutes. My presentation was about the Youth and the Mountains Journal. During my part of the presentation I talked about the history of the journal, UIMF contributions to the journal, journal topics in 2018, and how the Youth and the Mountain Journal has advocated for women in past and present publications along with emphasizing the importance of Sustainable Development Goal #5 on gender equality. It was really amazing to see something that we have working towards this whole last year come to fruition. It was a truly extraordinary opportunity to highlight UVU's student engaged learning model, sustainable mountain development, and Utah state. After the presentation was over, we all took a break for lunch and Michael Hinatsu, Viktoriia Bahrii, Abdulrahman

Alghanmi, and I met back up at 3:45 at the Ford Foundation building near the UN for a regional caucus on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor.



*Participants hear announcements from NGO CSW/NY leadership.*

Our next event was at the Ford Foundation which was the CSW Regional Caucus on Europe and North America. All attendees were NGO representatives from North America and Europe and it was a really interesting opportunity to see how NGOs caucus with each other to accomplish goals. Next year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and a major concern for caucusing was how can we get civil society more engaged to lead the women's because every time civil society becomes aware of an issue and coordinated, change will happen. We broke into groups of 7-10 people each randomly from different NGOs to talk about how to engage people. The next conference about women cannot be a government conference such as the 4<sup>th</sup> world conference because the world has changed since the Beijing document and geopolitical issues and language issues wouldn't produce a document as well rounded as the Beijing document. Therefore, because it cannot be an intergovernmental conference, civil society such as NGOs and nongovernmental actors have to lead the next conference on women.

Following the caucus all of groups presented our thought on civil society engagement. Our group recommended reaching out to the youth in our population ages 15-30 by partnering with institutions already in place such as religious organizations or clubs to advocate for women. Other ideas included to develop an infrastructure to disseminate information, using social media platforms to push the agenda, and creating a better communication system to connect NGOs to each other. By the end of caucusing there were a variety of issues and solutions presented. A problem I recognized was that there seems to be a disconnect between civil society, specifically NGOs, and the delegations that change the drafts submitted thereby changing or omitting specific language for women. This issue seemed to come up a lot during the caucusing. Eventually, the caucusing ended at 5:30 and we stuck around to talk to representatives from different NGOs.

I am very happy we attended this event because it really shows the work that needs to be put in to keep forwarding women's advocacy. The diversity of the women present was really incredible, and though all these people were diverse, they are all fighting for the same cause which is women's advocacy and empowerment.

*Rebecca Bindraban, UIMF member, Editor-in-Chief, Youth and the Mountains Journal*