



NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY
A Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO)
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For Immediate Release

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Celebrating Women and the Arts: Struggles and Triumphs

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women celebrates the United Nations review of progress of the world's women with events in the afternoon of March 5, 2005, which are scheduled in the Village, mid-town and uptown in Harlem.

This year commemorates 30 years since the first UN Women's Conference was held in Mexico City, 10 years since the creation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and its adoption by UN Member States at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and 5 years since Resolution 1325, assuring women's participation in peace-making and peace-building, was approved by the UN Security Council. These events reaffirm that women are a critical part of society.

While the UN Commission on the Status of Women meets February 28 to March 11, the NGO community from around the world will host parallel events across the street in the Church Center at 777 UN Plaza, and celebratory events for women artists as follows on **March 5th** :

Women, Film and Video: Short presentations of women's films and videos at the *NYU Tisch School of the Arts, 721 Broadway, Room 651 for viewing. Near 8th Street. From 1:00 to 4:00 PM.*

Women and Performances: Dramatic readings of new plays, dance and music in a historic building recently renovated in the Murray Hill section of mid-town at the *Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airman's Club, 283 Lexington Ave. (at 37th St.). From 12:30 to 7:00 pm.*

Women's Writings: Book launches, poetry readings and discussions of women's writing. At the *Hue-Man Bookstore and Café, located at 2319 Frederick Douglass Blvd between 124th and 125th Streets in historic Harlem. From 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.*

Women's Art: An exhibition will be mounted at the *Armenian Mission*. Please call for specific times and dates when the exhibit will be available to the public: 212 692 0725. The Mission is located at 119 E. 36th Street.

Piano Concert: A special concert has been arranged for February 27th at the International House, Columbia University. Further information will be available shortly. Please call 212 692 0725.

These programs, while planned for delegates and representatives of NGO attending the 49th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, are free and open to the public.

Chair: Bani Dugal, *Bahá'i International Community*

Vice Chair: Denise Scotto, *International Federation of Women Lawyers* · **Secretary:** Eva Richter, *International Federation of Business and Professional Women* · **Communications Secretary:** Judy Lear, *Gray Panthers* · **Treasurer:** Jackie Shapiro, *Zonta International* · **Members-at-Large:** Joan J. Fyfe, *Rotary International* · Nancy Lewis, *AARP* · Diane Paravazian, *Armenian Assembly of America, Inc.* · **Past Chair:** Leslie E. Wright, *World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts*

About the NGO Committee on the Status of Women:

In February 1947, fifteen international women's organizations came to New York from around the world to attend the first meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Since that time, NGOs have formed committees to discuss various issues, and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women brings like-minded NGOs together to enhance the status of women. Working with delegates from governments throughout the world, these NGOs have garnered the reputation of producing effective, well-researched information for delegates to take into consideration when making decisions about issues affecting women.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY was created in 1972 as a Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO). It became a support for non-governmental organizations organizing for the First World Conference on Women, held in Mexico City in 1975 and for the subsequent women's conferences held thereafter. Representatives of member organizations of the Committee formed the nucleus of the organizing group of the Tribune -- the parallel NGO event in Mexico City, and the Equipo, organizing NGO events in Beijing.

Following that first conference, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY held its first workshop, "Words into Action" which devised strategies for implementing some of the conclusions and directions set at the Mexico Conference. Since then, the Committee has been in the forefront, supporting NGOs associated with UN Conferences on Women and other events to assure NGO participation and input into decisions affecting the status of women worldwide.

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