



## PW Purpose

Forgiven and freed by  
God in Jesus Christ  
and empowered by  
the Holy Spirit, we  
commit ourselves to

Nurture our faith  
through prayer and  
Bible study

Support the mission  
of the church  
worldwide

Work for justice and  
peace, and

Build and inclusive,  
caring community of  
women that  
strengthens the  
Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.) and  
witnesses to the  
promise of God's  
Kingdom.

## Greetings Presbyterian Women and Siblings!

On behalf of Presbyterian Women, Inc., and PW's Board of Directors—CSW Planning and Advisory Group, I am excited to announce the opening of Presbyterian Women's (PW) application process to the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York!

Women of the PC(USA) have been advocating for justice since our earliest denominational women's organizations. Presbyterian Women's official participation in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) began in 2006 as a part of the PC(USA)'s delegation, mobilizing delegates from our greater church body to participate in our shared work for gender justice. In 2018,

**COMMISSION on the  
STATUS OF WOMEN**



Presbyterian Women received accreditation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). With this accreditation, PW's delegation continues to work in partnership and collaboration with the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN) while enhancing the PC(USA)'s visibility at the United Nations. For decades, Presbyterian Women has carried our advocacy and witness into global spaces, standing with women of faith who seek equity, justice and peace.

**Presbyterian Women's Board of Directors—CSW Planning and Advisory Group will select a delegation to attend the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women to be held in person and online March 9–20, 2026.** The following pages and application provide information about the Commission (and the Forum, organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/NY), how to apply to be part of PW's delegation, PW's emerging space of online participation and Presbyterian Women's expected delegate commitment and participation.

As Presbyterian women, we commit ourselves to the equity and liberation of all women, girls and gender expansive persons to be seen in the Imago Dei. We continue to resist policies and acts of otherism that harm marginalized communities. We have chosen to labor with one another to build spaces of safety through multigenerational movements and reimagined activism. Presbyterian Women's delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women will mobilize our PW Purpose with our voices of diversity into the connectional and intersectional work of the Commission where "advocacy is worship and worship is advocacy."

In Unity and Solidarity,

*Kelsey Law*

Kelsey Law (she/her), Vice Moderator  
Presbyterian Women, Inc., 2024–2027 Board of Directors



## About the United Nations 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, New York, from March 9–20, 2026.

- Priority Theme: Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers
- Review Theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls ([agreed conclusions of the 65th session](#))

For more information on the Commission on the Status of Women follow the links below:

- About the Commission on the Status of Women: [UN CSW](#)
- About UN CSW 70: [UN CSW 70](#)
- UN Women's Snapshot: [About CSW Snapshot](#)

## Presbyterian Women's Participation in CSW and the NGO CSW/NY Forum

Through participation, Presbyterian Women's delegation is inspired and equipped to advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment at the international level. Presbyterian Women delegates return from CSW to advocate at local, state, and national levels. In this way, PW's presence at CSW not only connects us to global movements for justice but also strengthens our grassroots ministry at home, bringing fresh vision, resources, and strategies into congregations, presbyteries, and synods. By engaging in the official CSW sessions and the vibrant NGO CSW/NY Forum, Presbyterian Women join with our ecumenical partners from around the world in learning, witness, and coalition-building. This participation reflects PW's longstanding commitment to live out our Purpose in global siblinghood, ensuring that the voices and experiences of women everywhere shape our common pursuit of justice, peace and equity.

## Presbyterian Women's Grounds Passes and Access

A limited number of grounds passes are provided to each NGO with ECOSOC status. Space is limited so all applicants may not be accommodated. During the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), participants who wish to enter the United Nations Headquarters in New York must have a UN grounds pass. This pass is a temporary identification badge issued by the UN and is required to access official CSW events, side events held within UN premises, and to move through security checkpoints.

- Who Receives PW Grounds Passes: Grounds passes are typically distributed to individuals who are registered as part of an accredited NGO, like Presbyterian Women. PW's CSW Planning and Advisory Group selects PW's delegation.
- How Grounds Passes Are Issued: Accredited organizations, like PW, submit participant names in advance through the UN registration system (Indico). Once approved, participants collect their passes at the UN Pass and ID office with valid government-issued photo identification. PW's Vice Moderator, Kelsey Law, and PW's Executive Director, Susan Jackson-Dowd, approve PW's delegates in the Indico system.
- Why Grounds Passes Matter: The pass ensures security and order within UN headquarters, while also giving Presbyterian Women delegates the ability to attend official sessions, participate in advocacy, and network with global partners during CSW.



## Presbyterian Women's FAQs for Participation

### Delegate Selection

Presbyterian Women values the gifts and voices of all who seek to serve as delegates to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Because space is limited, **not all who apply will be accommodated**, and prior service as a delegate does not guarantee future selection. In keeping with PW's commitment to access and equity, the delegate selection process reflects the breadth of Presbyterian Women's community—across generations, identities, cultures, races, ethnicities, geographic regions, and ministry experiences. Presbyterian Women's CSW Planning and Advisory Group's goal is to shape a delegation that embodies both the diversity and the unity of Presbyterian Women.

### Presbyterian Women's CSW Planning and Advisory Group

Members of PW's CSW Planning and Advisory Group are selected from PW's Board of Directors and external PWs who act as liaisons in other capacities as it relates to the UN CSW forum. Members are delegates to the current CSW and have attended previous CSWs.

#### **CSW 70 Planning and Advisory Group**

Kelsey Law, Vice Moderator, PW BOD—[kelseylaw.pw@gmail.com](mailto:kelseylaw.pw@gmail.com)

Kristen Campbell, Synod Representative, PW BOD—[kristencampbell.pw@gmail.com](mailto:kristencampbell.pw@gmail.com)

Magdalene Lewis, UN/CSW Advocate, PW BOD—[maggielewis2@verizon.net](mailto:maggielewis2@verizon.net)

Susan Jackson-Dowd, PW Executive Director—[susan.jackson-dowd@pcusa.org](mailto:susan.jackson-dowd@pcusa.org)

### Delegate Funding Responsibility and Support

Participation as a CSW delegate is **fully self-funded**, and each delegate holds responsibility for the costs of Ecumenical Women orientation registration, travel, housing, and meals. While there is no registration fee to attend the Commission or Presbyterian and Presbyterian Women orientation and events, Presbyterian Women encourages delegates to explore PW's national leadership development grants (LDGs), seek support from their local PW congregational, presbytery and synod groups, and engage local networks for encouragement and partnership. PW's Leadership Development Grant Program supports women in full participation and growth in the life and mission of Presbyterian Women and the church, which in turn strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

- [Presbyterian Women's Leadership Development Grant Program Information](#)
- [PW's Leadership Development Grant Application for All Women](#)
- [PW's Leadership Development Grant Application for Young Women](#)

### Learn More from Presbyterian Women's Delegate Experiences

Presbyterian Women delegates from past years have shared powerful testimonies of worshiping with sisters from across the globe, hearing firsthand accounts of injustice and resilience, and finding new courage to advocate in their own communities. These reflections remind us that CSW is more than an event; it is a transformative experience that shapes our faith, deepens our sense of global sisterhood, and equips us to bring hope and action back to our congregations, presbyteries, and daily lives. To explore stories and reflections from Presbyterian Women's delegates at CSW 69, visit Presbyterian Women's website: [CSW Digi-Stories](#)



## PW's Delegation and In-Person Delegate Participation

### Goals of Participation as a PW Delegate

- To advocate within the Commission, guided by PC(USA) General Assembly policy and the PW Purpose, with the goal of affecting the agreed conclusions of the Commission
- To learn and use advocacy processes and skills within the UN context
- To work in partnership with people of all ages on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development and the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls
- To inspire, equip and connect Presbyterian women to demonstrate and proclaim God's justice, peace and love at the Commission and in their local contexts
- To expand the inclusive and caring community of women and their supporters
- To build and nurture networks with global partners

Members of Presbyterian Women's delegation represent the PC(USA) and Presbyterian Women. In light of these considerations, the following is strongly encouraged and anticipated from those selected to be a part of Presbyterian Women's delegation.

### Expectations of Delegates

**Attendance and participation.** Delegates are expected to make the Commission their top priority during the event and to work together to enhance PW's advocacy efforts. Delegates are expected to attend as many short training sessions as possible, the Presbyterian Women's delegation orientation and the Ecumenical Women orientation, both held before the Commission starts, and to participate in at least one week of the Commission, a combination of in person and online. The Presbyterian Women's event to be announced is mandatory for all members of the PW delegation. Attendance through the second week of the Commission is ideal for the full advocacy experience.

**Preparation.** Delegates are expected to have knowledge of issues related to "accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective. Knowledge of the PC(USA) policies on eradicating systemic poverty and of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals are key for full participation. Delegates are expected to read preparatory materials and to participate in preparatory conference calls, videoconferences and/or webinars. Delegates must have reliable access to email because most communication will occur via email.

**Advocacy, worship, education and communication.** Throughout the Commission there will be opportunities to engage in advocacy efforts, to plan and participate in worship services, to attend and lead educational events and to share these experiences using social media and other communication tools. Delegates are expected to participate in some manner in all four of these—advocacy, worship, education and communication—while participating in the Commission and the Forum.

**Reporting while participating in the Commission.** Delegates are expected to report to the Presbyterian Women's delegation on the events in which they participated each day. Delegates are encouraged to use social media to share their experiences with a wider audience; assistance will be provided.



**Reporting after the Commission.** Delegates may be asked to write articles for various PW communication channels after the Commission. All are encouraged to share their experiences at the Commission with the wider church—including, but not limited to, PW groups, their congregation, other congregations and their mid-council.

**Use of contact information and photographs.** Members of the Presbyterian delegation give permission to the programs and ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc., to use their contact information and photographs within the church.

The 70th Session of Commission on the Status of Women—minimum PW participation is Monday, March 9–Friday, March 13, 2026; full CSW participation is Monday, March 9–Friday, March 20, 2026. Delegates are encouraged to attend as many events in person as possible. Attending some events online is also an option.

## Anticipated Delegate Events

### Orientations

#### Zoom

1. PC(USA) and PW Delegations Virtual Orientation
2. PW Delegation Virtual Orientation—For all PW delegates

#### In-Person (New York)

1. Presbyterian Orientation
2. Ecumenical Women (EW) Orientation

### Worship and Program

Ecumenical Women (EW) Morning Worship Services

Presbyterian Led Worship Service

Presbyterian Women Program and Dinner

Presbyterian Parallel Event

### Other Delegate Events

NGO CSW/NY Consultation Day

PW Delegate Meet-Ups

More detailed information on programming and scheduling for all events will follow as it becomes available. All Presbyterian and Presbyterian Women sponsored events are mandatory for PW delegates.

## Helpful UN CSW Quicklinks and Information

[Presbyterian Women's Website](#)

[Presbyterian Women's CSW Participation General Information](#)

[Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations](#)

[United Nations Website](#)

[UN Women Website](#)

[UN Women Commission on the Status of Women General Information](#)

[A Brief History of the Commission on the Status of Women](#)

[UN Women Resources and Publications](#)

