

## Geneve 29-30 October 2019 Regional Review Meeting

INLW board member Ruth Richardson attended the UN Gender Equality conference in Geneva in October. A short up date.

Several Committees from around Europe held an exchange of views focused on parliamentary actions aiming at:

- the promotion and protection of Women's rights around the world,
- equal opportunity policies,
- Women in Leadership as well as
- the implementation and advancement of gender mainstreaming and
- Elimination of Violence against Women.



Violence against women - be it physical, mental or structural - is a fundamental violation of human rights. And it is the result of fundamentally unequal distribution of power and resources in our society. Therefore, there is still a long way to go.

I am convinced that if women are economically independent, it also makes them more independent in their relationships.

Furthermore, several European Commissions delivered the next Gender Action Plan;

- incorporate the gender dimension in all sectors of the EU external action and
- recognize and respond to the global backlash against women's and girls' rights.

It also calls to focus on trafficking in women and human beings, more systemic actions against gender-based violence and provide systemic support to women's rights organizations and women's rights defenders, among others.

Gender equality is a right. Fulfilling this right is the best chance we have in meeting some of the most pressing challenges of our time—from economic crisis and lack of health care, to climate change, violence against women and escalating conflicts.



UN Women calls on everyone woman, girl, youth and man to come to the Commission on the Status of Women, CSW64/Beijing+25 March (9-20) 2020 in New York. The focus of the session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes.