

The Importance and Power of Civil Society Discussion



On March 29th, 2019, I attended a round-table discussion on civil society at Utah valley University (UVU) led by the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Ms. Alison Smale. Her visit to UVU was in preparation for the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference. The panel consisted of three youth delegates for the UNCS Conference and Ms. Smale. There was a theme of youth involvement throughout the discussion. UN dignitary repeatedly made the point that the sustainable development goals cannot be sustainable without the youth. She stated

that the youth are the most important voices when it comes to the SDGs. The sustainable development goals are future-oriented in nature and youth are the ones who will be experiencing that future. We cannot sit back and hope change occurs, it is through engagement in civil society that the sustainable development goals can be accomplished. Everyone must take responsibility for the state of the world and realize that it cannot change without them.

Civil society is how the individual citizen can make a difference in public life without having to be a politician. The UNCS conference is all about promoting civil society because without it, the world will stay the same. This discussion inspired me to become more involved in civil society. Sometimes it seems like the kind of changes I want to make in this world are too daunting for one person to take on, and this is true. Civil society is the organizing of many people with the same beliefs and goals for the world. Through civil society, one can be empowered and have the material resources necessary to make the changes they want to see in the world.

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