

The first day of my participation at CSW63

On the second day of our trip to New York and the first day of official activities, our delegation of Utah Valley University students went to the United Nations ID office at 8:30AM, where all students got their UN passes. Then we went to the UN headquarter where we had a quick tour through the building.



Abdulrahman Alghanmi during the tour at the UN

After that, I attended a side-event, which was about empowering women and providing them more freedom and equality. It also covered the micro economic policies which raised questions about the money that goes to women equality' agenda where they came from and how they spend it. One of the speakers Ms. B Armstrong from New Zealand and she talked about the gender inequality in New Zealand and how they are dealing with it by policies that will protect women in New Zealand. She also talked about the domestic violence in her country since there are one of three women has been a victim of domestic violence. However, the New Zealand Parliament has issued a bill that protect the victims of the domestic violence as well as a treatment for them.

She was followed by S. Olney, who spoke about the violence and harassment among the workers. She explained how the women workers can be victims of sexual harassment. So, her proposal was

to get an access to those workers around the world and find out their problems of violence and harassment.



Side event at the UN Headquarters

The next speaker has talked about the economic equality between men and women. So, she said women got tired since there are no actions has been taken from governments. She also added that women were able to get their political rights but no yet their economic rights and that was the end of the panel.

We then went for a quick tour inside the UN headquarter. However, by 12:30PM we met all the students in the cafeteria in the UN headquarter, where we had our lunch there and then we practiced our statements.

At 2:00pm we went to the parallel event which took place at the Salvation Army Auditorium, located several blocks from the United Nations headquarters and very close to the place of our accommodation. It was about recreating a healthier environment for empowering women and girls. The first speaker was Hsin Chin Shih, head of non-governmental organization and main sponsor of the event. She talked about Taiwan and the key issues that are facing women in Taiwan. She also shared many personal stories about women and girls in Taiwan. The second speaker was Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev who is our professor, and mentor for the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University. Dr. Abdrisaev talked about

the benefits of student engaged learning. He also explained how students are able to handle their tasks as a group and learn jointly when teacher provides them advice when they need it only.



Participants of the panel at the Salvation Army Auditorium

Then, we heard from Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams, who shared her story about growing up as a girl in Jamaica. She also told her experience when she came to the U.S with her family and how she was not accepted even from the African-Americans because she used to wear a scarf. But that didn't stop her, and she continued to tell her story about how she suffered to get her education.



Utah Valley University delegation during the parallel event at Salvation Army Auditorium

By the end of the panel, we took many photos. After that we went to the Church Center for the United Nations to look at the place of our parallel event next morning and we have been asked to come there next morning at 8:00 AM to start out panel. It was a little bit overwhelming physically and emotionally day but overall, I enjoyed it since a got a lot of experience from interacting with other people and visiting the UN headquarter.

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