



The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



Student Engaged Learning to Advocate for Mountain Women and Targets at UN ECOSOC Forums



The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



Moderator:

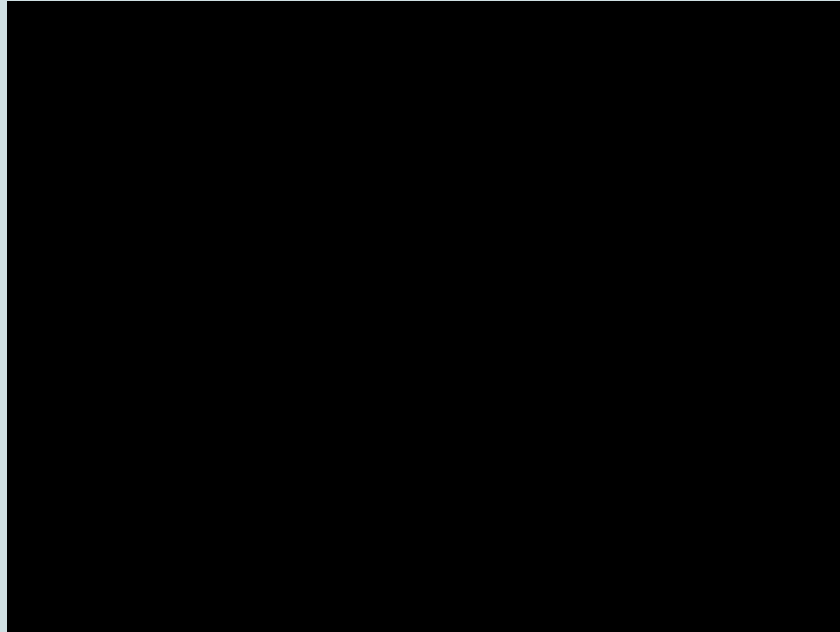
Samuel Elzinga

Student, Utah Valley University (UVU), Political Science Major

President, Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU



The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



UIMF members speaking at the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development, Trusteeship Council Chamber, July 19, 2018



The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



Mr. Kurmanbek Dyikanbaev

Deputy Chief of Staff and Representative of the President to the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic

Mr. Dyikanbaev was a member of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan (2010-2017); an expert on the project “Decentralization” at the UNDP in (1998-2001); Chairman of the National Association of municipalities (2002-2009) and a member of the Constitutional Council in 2005 and 2010. He is the author of 5 books on decentralization.



President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Sooronbai Sharipovich Jeenbekov

Since 24 November 2017



President of the Kyrgyz Republic

Bishkek, 26 August 2019

Dear participants of the Conference!

It is my great pleasure to greet you at the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference. This time you will concentrate your efforts on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities".

For the Kyrgyz Republic, where people live in the cities as well as in the mountainous areas, the issue we consider today is of a key importance. I believe that concerns of the mountain communities, the most vulnerable to the modern challenges like climate change and migration, must be highlighted in the final document of the Conference and remain in the focus of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

Official Delegation and experts from the Kyrgyz Republic with their partners from Utah, as well as other delegations, are intended to contribute to the work of the Conference.

I wish you successes in achieving ambitious goals of the Conference which will lead to significant changes in everyday life of the mountain communities globally and in the Kyrgyz Republic.

With best wishes,

Sooronbai Zheenbekov

SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT



Established since 2006



Utah Valley University delegation hosted in Kyrgyzstan during August 2-12, 2019

SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT



2018 was declared as the “Year of Development of Regions” in Kyrgyzstan



2019 is the “Year of Development and Digitization of Regions” in Kyrgyzstan

As per 2015 FAO-UN study, the rural and mountain communities in particular disproportionately suffer from the food insecurity and modern challenges such as climate change.

They have to be in the focus of the final document of this conference and the United Nations 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development

SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your attention



The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



Dr. Rusty Butler

Dr. Butler is the United Nations ECOSOC main representative for the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences (an NGO in General Consultative status).

He served as the Honorary Consul General of the Russian Federation in Utah (2000-2016) and as Associate Vice President of International Affairs & Diplomacy at Utah Valley University until retiring in 2016.

Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev

Lecturer, History and Political Science, Utah Valley University;

Mentor, Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University;

Alternative focal point at the UN for the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences,

An NGO in general Consultative status with ECOSOC

Focal point for the FAO-UN Mountain Partnership at Utah Valley University

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RANS AND UIMF



Was started in 2016



RANS co-sponsored UIMF visits and statements at:

1. 53rd session of the UN Commission on Social Development in January 18;
2. 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2018;
3. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018;
4. 63rd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2019



STUDENT ENGAGED LEARNING

- The Utah Valley University student-engaged learning is an extracurricular model with the Utah International Mountain Forum, UIMF, a coalition of student clubs serving as its driving force.

- Through UIMF students are able to gain professional skills and experiences as a group by self-implementing practical initiatives, which make a difference in the lives of mountain communities. Importantly, their teachers serve only as advisors.

WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE 2007



(L to R) Governor of the State of Utah Olene Walker (2003-2005), Governor of the State of Montana Judi Martz (2001-2005) and Dr. Danielle Butler, Honorary Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic to the State of Utah during the First International Conference Women of the Mountains at Utah Valley University on March 8, 2007.



Dr. Jane Pratt

WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE 2015

United Nations A/71/256

 **General Assembly**

Distr.: General
29 July 2016
Original: English

Seventy-first session
Item 19 (j) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development

Sustainable mountain development
Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Mountain and upland areas have a universal importance: they provide water and other global goods and services to humanity. However, mountain ecosystems are highly vulnerable to climate change, extreme weather events and land degradation and recover slowly from disasters and shocks. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States pledged to leave no one behind and stressed the importance of reaching those furthest behind first. Mountain communities in developing countries are particularly vulnerable and require special attention, given that one in three people in those areas is at risk of hunger and malnutrition.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets relating to mountains as well as to poverty, hunger, sustainable agriculture, climate change and gender equality, there is a need to prioritize mountain areas by focusing on the specific challenges they face and the opportunities they provide. Mountain-specific policies and the inclusion of mountain communities in decision-making processes and capacity development can improve the livelihoods of communities while also conserving and restoring mountain ecosystems. In particular, efforts should be made to increase scientific knowledge of mountains and collect disaggregated data for sound analysis, policy advice and, ultimately, for change.

39. The Utah International Mountain Forum hosted the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference at Utah Valley University in October 2015 to address the critical issues faced by women and children living in mountainous regions across the globe and provide a forum to discuss gender equality. The outcome document contained the following observations:³

- (a) Goal 5 could be achieved through strong support for improving women's rights and welfare, including women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life;
- (b) Successful implementation of target 6.6 could be achieved by supporting the vital role that women play in the protection of the environment and water sources, particularly as custodians of traditional knowledge that builds resilience and allows for adaptation to climate change;
- (c) With respect to target 15.1, women play a critical role in joint planning as promoters of innovation, development and cooperation for common benefit.

* A/71/150.

³ "The final document of the fourth International Women of the Mountains Conference". Available from: www.womenofthemountains.org/images/2015/16-03-31-WOMC-Finalized.pdf.

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Please recycle 



Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU hosted the Fourth International Conference Women of the Mountains under the umbrella of the United Nations Mountain Partnership on October 7-9, 2015

The UN Secretary Generals Report on SMD A/71/256 on July 29, 2016 highlighted UVU students for hosting UN forum as engaged learning initiative and contributing to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals #5 on Gender and #15 on Life on Land

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RANS AND UIMF



UIMF members speak at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RANS AND UIMF

Thank you for your attention



The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



Dr. Sara Ulloa

Department Chair for the Languages and Cultures Department at Utah Valley University

Women of the Mountains, Andean Region, PERU

Third International Women of the Mountains conference in Puno, Peru

Advisor, Utah International Mountain Forum at Utah Valley University.

UVU Peru Study Abroad Director

UVU co-hosted the Third International Women of the Mountains conference in Puno, Peru and a UVU representative in Brazil for the RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.



HOME ABOUT US 2007 UTAH USA 2011 UTAH USA 2012 PUNO PERÚ 2012 RIO+20 2015 UTAH USA EVENTS CONTACT US

3rd INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE
1ra Conferencia Internacional Mujer de los Andes



UVU Delegation and Some Hosts

Conference Background

Many of the regions addressed in larger conferences have little or no access to funding to attend these conferences (i.e Women of the Mountains 2011) UVU, along with the Mountain Partnership, have embarked on a series of smaller conferences with the goal of Outreach to the very regions in need.

These Outreach Conferences are smaller more localized events tailoring to remote regions that are directly impacted by, but not exclusive to, Global Climate Change, Resource Abuse, and Population Exploitation. These conferences provide a platform for the people of these regions and we at UVU provide a global audience via the Women of the Mountains site.



How Women of the Mountains Conferences Promote SMD-Cooperation Between UVU and Latin America

Getting Involved in the SMD Agenda

Major Activities Related to Latin America during the First International Women of the Mountains Conference:

- UVU Faculty presentations with focus on Latin America
- Dr. Sara Ulloa, Spanish Professor, Languages Department
- Dr. David Knowlton, Associate Professor of Anthropology
- Panel and Scholar presentations with focus on Latin America
- Arma Vilma de los Rios, Vice President of UTAH
- Concepcion Fernandez Marchegay, President, Foundation, Asociacion de Mujeres Andinas
- Dr. Sonia Salas, Mountain Forum-Latin America of the Mt. Board
- Lynn England
- Tim Heaton
- Myra Garcia Benone
- Georgio Reyes Lopez
- Establishment of contacts between scholars from both Universities and Latin America

Strengthening SMD Cooperation with Latin America

Major Activities Related to Latin America during the Second International Women of the Mountains Conference:

- Presentations by numerous professionals in the field of Sustainable Development as well as many UVU students and faculty with focus on SMD in Latin America.
- Creation of special panel on Gender Problems in Latin America.
- Participation at the conference of Miguel Saravia, representative of CONDESAN, a regional hub for the Mountain Partnership in Latin America as a step to expand networking among the regions.
- Creation of a Sustainable Mountain Development student Club at Utah Valley University.

Strengthening Networking and Knowledge-Sharing Between Regions

Major Activities Related to Latin America during the Third International Women of the Mountains Conference:

- This event has been dedicated to the RIO+20 U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development and the 50th Anniversary of the International Year of Mountains.
- Goal of the Third International Women of the Mountains Conference:
 - To discuss cooperation
 - To continue the traditions of 2007 and 2011 International Women of the Mountains
 - To implement Decisions in Open Declaration of Mount Women, in particular:
 - To strengthen alliances to promote gender justice
 - To encourage membership in the Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Forum
 - To facilitate connections between staff and other mountaineers around the world

Government and Other Official Representative Visits

UVU has enjoyed visits from government officials, academic scholars, and other various professionals. Issues discussed are always with the focus of bettering USA (UVU) in particular and Latin America and furthering the SMD agenda.

Latin America Focused Cultural Activities at UVU

As part of the "Community Engaged Learning" approach at UVU, students coordinate and participate in many cultural activities. A majority of these activities are financed by local foundations through student actions on raising funds for humanitarian projects.

UVU Students Engaging in Grass Roots Humanitarian Service

Initiatives in Latin America have been undertaken by UVU students since 2007 when 118 students from a SMD Spanish class embarked in a service learning project and coordinated efforts to help more than 800 children affected by the 2007 tsu earthquake in Peru. Students joined efforts with community members to educate underprivileged children.

2) Since then, students have been able to aid with school supplies and basic necessities to orphanages in Mexico (2008), Dominican Republic (2009), Bolivia (2010) and Peru (2012) among other.

3) Several UVU partnership initiatives have focused on collaborative efforts based on common interests, needs and priorities.

4) UVU partnerships and student activity have coordinated a donation of \$3,000, from local donors, to aid those in a region close to Lake Titicaca.

Co-sponsors of the Partnership



Contact Information: Dr. Sara Ulloa - ulloa@uvu.edu or suloa@gmail.com

UVU STUDENT INITIATIVES

- Students have engaged in humanitarian projects and organizations to aid children in orphanages because educating society with a real context, provides sufficient information to engage community partners to support a variety of initiatives that can benefit all stakeholders.
- Students have been able to engage in different academic and cultural activities, and gather information for a broader and deep-rooted research about the Andean areas.
- I have been deeply captivated by the reality of some remote areas where even though women and children suffer rustic conditions, they have learned to use limited resources the best they can to stay alive and still be happy. Thus, we still strive to motivate children and women to be educated so that they can have more opportunities in their future.







The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



Dr. Alexander Stecker

Since 2007 contributed to the student engaged learning model as Political Science coordinator at UVU;
The Honorary Professor of the International University of Kyrgyzstan

WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE 2007



- The First International Women of the Mountains Conference was hosted at UVU on March 8-10, 2007.
- It promoted the gender and SMD agendas of the UN by representatives from all states in the Rocky Mountains region.
- It was co-hosted by the International University of Kyrgyzstan.
- I would like to greet here among the presenters of this workshop Mr. Kurmanbek Diykanbaev, official representative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Parliament of the country.
- This is an example of a partnership between our two academic institutions who jointly advocate for the cause of the mountain people

WOMEN OF THE MOUNTAINS CONFERENCE 2007



(L to R) Governor of the State of Utah Olene Walker (2003-2005), Governor of the State of Montana Judi Martz (2001-2005) and Dr. Danielle Butler, Honorary Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic to the State of Utah during the First International Conference Women of the Mountains at Utah Valley University on March 8, 2007.



Dr. Jane Pratt



UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM

- The UIMF, a coalition of student clubs at UVU serves as a core of the student-engaged learning extracurricular model.

- Dr. Keith Snedegar, Dr. Kathren Brown, Dr. David Connelly, Dr. Jay DeSart, Ms. Kimberly Williamson and many others from the History and Political Science Department provided funds, knowledge, experiences and passion for UIMF members to be successful in SMD agenda advocacy

UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN FORUM

Congratulations to UIMF members with being successful in raising awareness about the importance for the mountain communities to be in the focus of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development agenda.



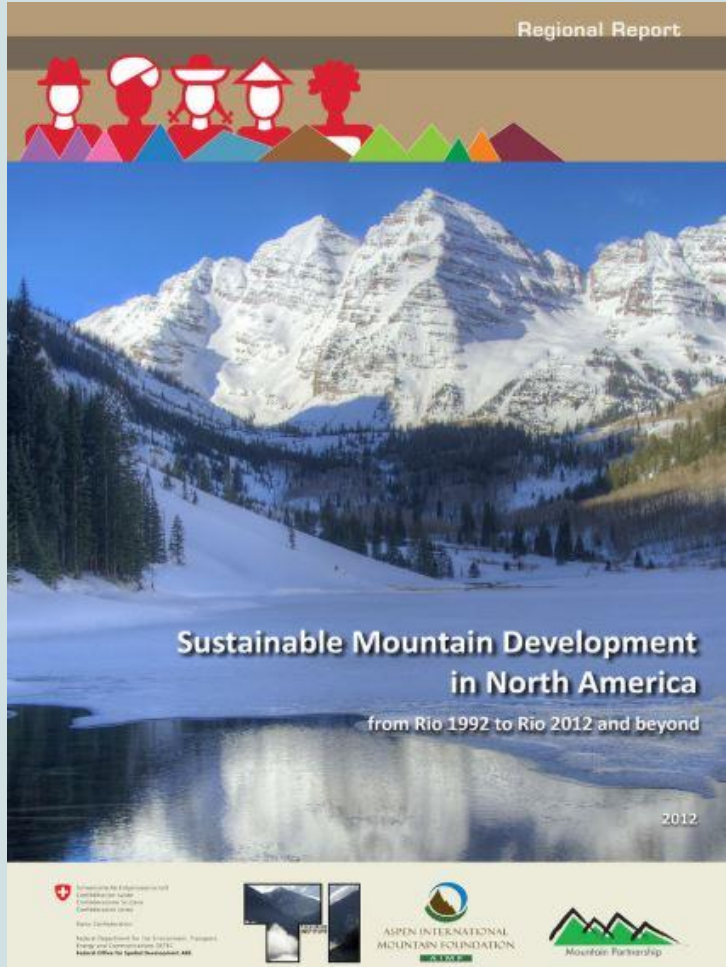
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Jesler Molina

UVU MBA Graduate

Former President UIMF & Model United Nations
Participated in the 2013 UN Open Working Group
on Sustainable Development Goals



Model United Nations Team

UIMF Essay Contests






2014
International Year of
Family Farming



Utah and Family Farming Tradition



FARMING ON THE EDGE
Sustainable Development
Has Endangered
Our Foodways

The Fourth Annual Utah High School Essay Contest

(see: [www.http://uimf.org/annual-hosts-utah-high-school-essay-contest-on-family-farming](http://uimf.org/annual-hosts-utah-high-school-essay-contest-on-family-farming))

The General Assembly

Affirming that family farming and smallholder farming are an important basis for sustainable food production aimed at increasing food security.

Recognizing the important contribution that family farming and smallholder farming can play in eradicating food insecurity and ending poverty in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

1. Decides to declare 2014 the International Year of Family Farming.

Evolution of the U.N. A/66/222 International Year of Family Farming, 2014



Children and a volunteer at Utah State Library



Children and a volunteer at Utah State Library

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Presented to
Brayton Torask
First Place Winner
Provo High School

For research, effort and contribution in theme research and pursuit of family farming in research, essays, and in Utah and Provo as part of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming.

Presented to the author by all present at the award ceremony. Honors the family farming spirit and other appropriate values associated with the world.

Utah State Library, Utah, Utah
OREM LIBRARY
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

The Family Farming Utah High School Essay Contest will take place at **Utah Public Library** on **March 28, 2014**.

Event was hosted by the Utah International Mountain Partnership (UIMP) in conjunction of Mountain Food at UVU.

Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee: Joseph McChain, President UIMP and Utah Foreign Relations History and Political Science Department, UVU.





Utah State Library, Utah, Utah



Utah State Library, Utah, Utah



Utah Public Library on March 28, 2014

CONTEST WINNERS

1st place - Brayton Torask, Provo High School
2nd place - Maranda Fisher, Copper Hills High School
3rd place - Melody Harter, Solons Hills High School



Utah State Library, Utah, Utah

Host:



UTAH INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP
A COMMITMENT TO RURAL UTAH BY
UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Co-sponsors:





For more information contact: Joseph McChain, President, UIMP; phone: 801-636-3348 or e-mail: uimf@uvu.edu



2013 UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals





The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



Michael Hinatsu

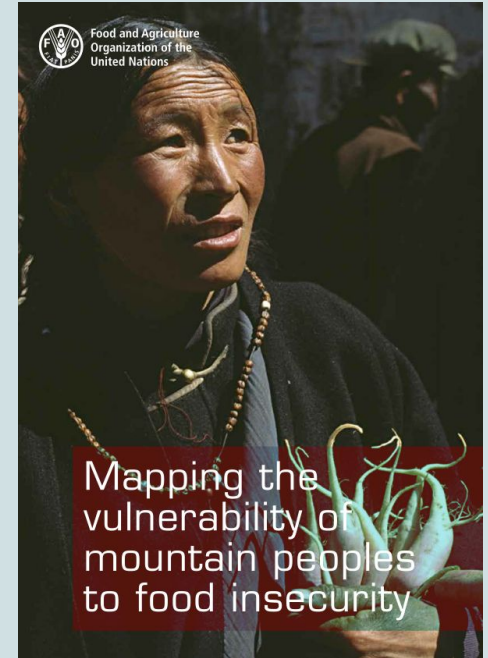
UVU student

Vice President, UIMF

Participated at the 63rd Session of the UN Commission
on the Status of Women, March 2019

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND THE UN 2030 AGENDA

- **39%** of mountain people are vulnerable to food insecurity – a 30% increase since 200, despite only a 16% increase in population
- Worldwide, **1 out of every 3** mountain people in developing countries is vulnerable to food insecurity
- **Half** of all people living in rural mountain communities are living in conditions of severe poverty and food insecurity
- UVU's student-engaged learning (SEL) model empowers students to address issues of sustainable mountain development within their own communities
- The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF) is a coalition of UVU student clubs that uses SEL to advocate for mountain women at all levels



MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND THE UN 2030 AGENDA



For more info, please visit
www.utahimf.org

How UIMF implements SEL:

- Students have the problem of finding out how to most effectively advocate for mountain women at all levels
- Students work together under UIMF to learn from one another
- Students create their own goals and have the primary responsibility to solve their learning objectives on their own
- Faculty serve as mentors to the process

MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND THE UN 2030 AGENDA



UIMF under SEL advocated at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2019 by:

- Making a written statement published as the ECOSOC official document E/CN.6/2019/NGO/64;
- Including language about mountain women to the CSW63 Zero Draft Document;
- Lobbying for adoption of that language from the UNSG, ECOSOC President, 46 UN Member States;
- Hosting a parallel event to advocate for mountain women at the Church Center of the UN on March 19, 2019



The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



D. William Gum-Causey

UVU nontraditional student

Member of the UIMF

Participated at the 63rd Session of the UN Commission
on the Status of Women, March 2019

Non-traditional student and engaged learning

- Married.
- Interned House Representatives in the Utah State Legislature.
- Conducted research for a House Representative of the US Congress
- Conducted research on County Government Structure which was compiled into a report
- I am hosting The currently the Senior Manager for Social Sustainability with UN Global Compact during this Conference.
- I have contributed to the UIMF efforts to advocate for the UN sustainable mountain development agenda in the state of Utah. All of this has been done through engaged learning which allows students to gain professional skills through hands-on activities as a group, with faculty serving them as a mentor.

UN Sustainability Goal Number 5

- “1 in 5 women and girls, including 19% of women and girls aged 15 - 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner with the last 12 months” (#5).

The National Institute of Justice in the United States

- Reports “84% of American Indian and Alaskan women have experienced sexual assault, this is 1.2x’s more likely than non-Hispanic white women.
- Reports that in most cases the abusers are non-Indian, or non-tribal members.



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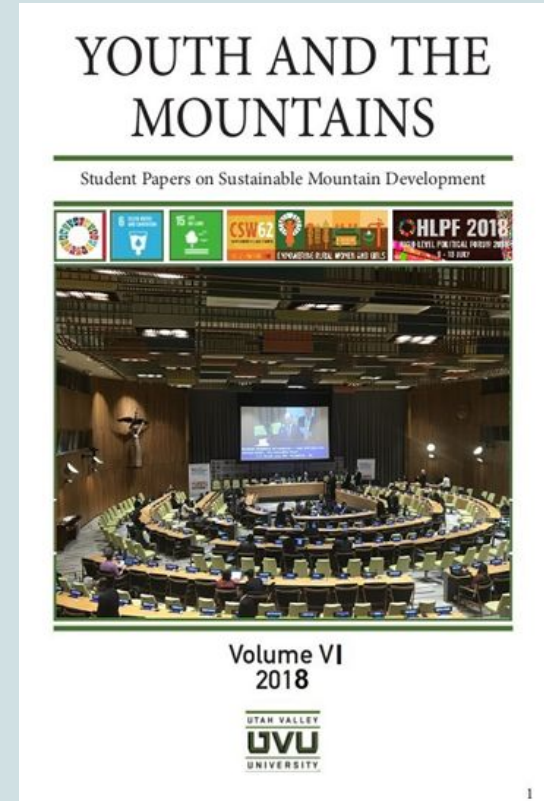
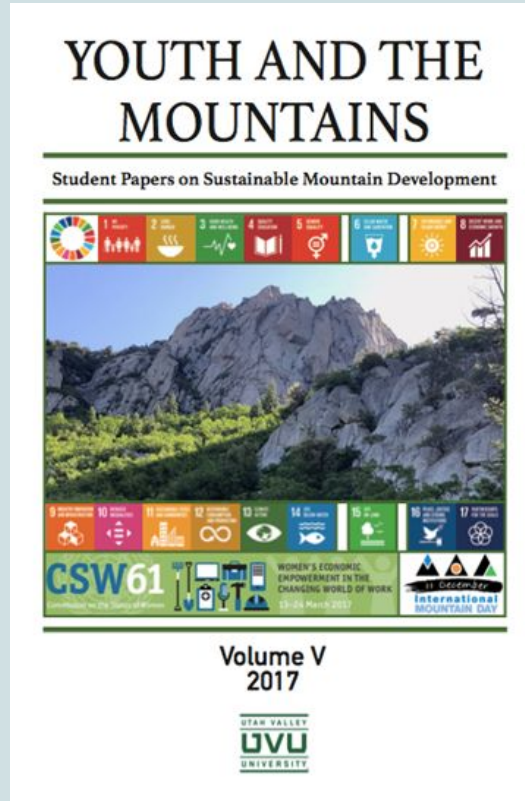
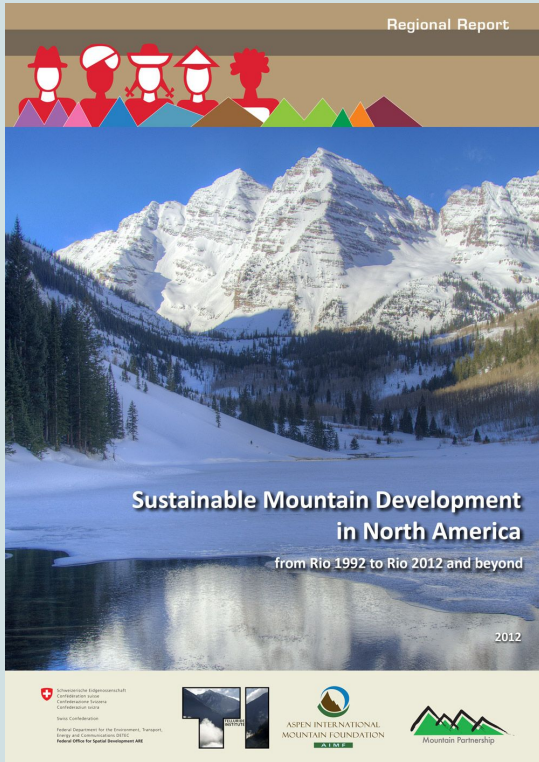


Rebecca Bindraban

Editor-in-Chief, *Youth and the Mountains* Journal

UVU student, Political Science major

Youth and the Mountains Journal



Youth and the Mountains Journal predecessor



The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference



Carlos Alarco

Associate Director - Global Academic Programming at
UVU

Web Administrator - womenofthemountains.org
Global/Cultural Events -CGIE

Women of the Mountains



HOME ABOUT US CONFERENCES CELEBRATIONS MEDIA NEWS ARCHIVE

International Women of the Mountains Conferences

Celebrating 10 years of Promoting Sustainable Mountain Development

Utah Valley University (UVU) and the Kyrgyz National Centre for Development of Mountain Regions have established, with the support from the Mountain Partnership in Rome Italy, a conference Women of the Mountains to address issues critical to women and children of the mountainous nations. These nations are often impoverished and underdeveloped; their women and children suffer disproportionately from the existing conditions.

In addition to providing forum to promote gender agenda both in the Rocky Mountains and globally, three Women of the Mountains conferences, hosted since 2007, helped to advocate sustainable mountain agenda in general and raise awareness about urgent needs and challenges faced by mountain communities both in the region and globally.

The **Orem Declaration of Mountain Women**, final document of the first Women of the Mountains conference hosted in Orem, UT in 2007 serves for us as a vehicle for implementations different aspects of SMD and gender agenda both in the region and globally (see: [LINK](#)).

Links

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News and Events

- [68th UN Civil Society Conference](#)
- [UIMF at CSW63](#)
- [Elementary School Students promote SGD's at DLI](#)
- [International Women's Day 2019](#)
- [International Mountain Day 2018](#)
- [UN NGO Conference - Oct 27, 2018, Photos](#)
- [United Nations Day 2018](#)
- [Sustainability Day 2018](#)

Past Events

Information on:

- International Women of the Mountains Conferences: 2007, 2011, 2012, 2015
- 10 years of UVU International Mountain Day Celebrations
- Other activities related to UIMF and the United Nations.