

My presentation at a parallel event at CSW67.

To summarize the entire day of March 6th, 2023 in two words I would say that it was “organized chaos.” The group I was a part of arrived at the United Nations headquarters a few minutes before the planned time for the UVU delegation. When the entire delegation arrived we took group pictures, and then three women from Indonesia asked me to take a picture of them. I took their picture, they then gave me a headband from Bali and asked me to take a picture with them and my classmate Chandler.



Left to Right: Me, Women from Indonesia, Chandler Davis.

After entering the UN General Assembly building we took more pictures and I was able to briefly act as a translator for and on behalf of a classmate and two Ukrainian women who spoke very broken English. They spoke Ukrainian while I was speaking Slovak, but there are enough

similarities between the languages that we were able to hold a brief conversation. Our delegation had to go to the UN library where we presented two volumes of research papers from the conference "Why it Matters" which were written by professors and delegates from UVU. Later we as the UVU delegation learned about diplomacy through an actual meeting with the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN, Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva. During this meeting gifts were presented by the students to the Ambassador Kasymalieva and the students engaged in sharing about UVU's implementation of the student engaged learning model.



UVU Delegation with Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva.

Early in the afternoon we held our parallel event at the Church Center of the United Nations where the delegates from UVU were able to present their research on and experiences with the student engaged learning model. I focused my remarks on the importance of the family and how the parents stand as mentors to their children in helping establish behaviors that lead to equality. During my presentation I was able to implement public speaking skills that I have learned over the years. This made it so my remarks could be heard by all present and be spoken with power. I learned to a greater degree from this experience that courage, confidence, and accurate research are necessary in order to speak on important "controversial" issues with accuracy and power. After our event was over, NGO officials from Big Ocean came over to talk to me.



Handen Torsak speaks at the parallel event during CSW67.

They invited me to their presentation on the family and shared how there were people nodding their heads while I was speaking while others were shaking their heads in disagreement. Nevertheless, our event went reasonably well as we the students actively worked together to achieve our common goal of presenting our speeches and following the schedule we made for the event.

Handen Torsak, Utah Valley University Rotaractor