

Attending event at United Nations General Assembly



Maren- Machel Ostlund at the UN General Assembly Hall prior to session start

On March 7th, 2023, members of the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University began activities at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women by attending the U.N General Assembly session. Following this my group met up for lunch with another NGO delegate who happens to be a UVU student. It was interesting to her about her experience. Then we attended the session titled Feminist Conundrums of Working on Men and Masculinities: Global Perspectives. All of the activities were incredibly enlightening, and an honor to participate in.

Walking into the general session was somewhat awe-inspiring. I took a moment to enjoy the feeling of being somewhere I never thought I'd be, and an event I felt incredibly

privileged to attend. I was surprised to realize that our speeches, and our SEL activity we participated in was more similar to the proceedings of the General Assembly than I realized. The General Assembly had representatives from various member states give 3 minute presentations addressing the subject matter of the conference, particularly the status of women in the digital age. Each presentation was unique, informative, and inspiring.

The session Feminist Conundrums of Working on Men and Masculinities: Global Perspectives was fascinating. The presenters have done fantastic work in the theory of feminism as it applies to men, women, and gender non-conforming people. One quote I particularly enjoyed was when Martin Luther King Jr was quoted, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice”. I also thought that the sentiment expressed that the deconstruction of patriarchy is tied to the decolonization of our systems was incredibly important. It was also expressed that we should “assume [we] can reach them”, as in assume that change can be made.



Smith Griggs, Winnie Jada, Camila Pendleton, Maren Ostlund (Me), Natalie Williams

I think that one of the main benefits of today was that the proceedings and operations of the U.N became much more human to me. I felt inspired by the efforts of each country that presented to achieve gender equity. While I know that we have a long way to go, I feel hope knowing that we, as a united conglomerate of nations, are moving in the right direction.

Maren Ostlund, UIMF Delegation Member