

My First Day at CSW67 and Presentation at the Parallel event.

Today, our delegation attended several diplomatic engagements, and presented our forum at the Church Center for the United Nations. Entering the U.N Grounds for the first time felt incredible. Our first meeting was to present the UVU U.N Why It Matters Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, alongside UVU's Office of Global Engagement, to the U.N library to be among the books, research, and records there. We then met with the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations, Aida Kasymalieva. We presented our speeches along with our faculty, team, and a youth representative, Sophia Zjang.



Group photo of the UVU delegation right before we entering the U.N. headquarters

I greatly enjoyed the presentation of the UVU Why It Matters volumes to the U.N library. I was a presenter at UVU's U.N Why it Matters Conference last fall. I worked to present a Systems Thinking analysis on the issue of homelessness, and the efficacy of housing stability interventions. I was very proud to be among the presenters of the hard work done by UVU students like me, under the mentorship of our teachers and faculty. I was honored to present the research following the remarks of Dr. Baldomero Lago, who was the mind behind UVU's U.N conference. I know that Lauren, Tristan and Alitha worked incredibly hard on their presentations and participation for the Why It Matters Conference. I loved being in the library surrounded by the knowledge of all those who came before me. It was uplifting to add our voices to the voices, research, and life of the library.



Presentation of two volumes of “Why it Matters” conference proceedings to the UN Library. Pictured above (L to R): UN Librarian, Ariel Lauren, Priyanka Prem Kumar, Maren Ostlund, Tristin Juarez-Smith and Alitha Thompson.

Another highlight of the day was doing our presentation. I was immensely impressed with the work of the entire delegation. I learned from the speeches and from the group process of problem solving as we overcame technical difficulties. I was particularly impressed with our group's photographer student, Nikki Smith. Throughout the day she worked above and beyond what many of us did. She was constantly making all of us shine as she photographed us and directed us for the photos. I snapped a photo of her during her presentation because I didn't want her to miss out on the same service she was providing to the rest of us.



Nikki Smith, UVU Student and Photographer.

I learned so much from being on the U.N grounds today. I learned about diplomacy and collaboration. My fellow students taught me about hard work and group problem

solving. I feel more able to address the issues that I see in the world around me, and I have learned a little about the feeling of being heard and getting to hear and recognize others.

Maren Ostlund, UIMF Delegation Member