

Day 2 at CSW67: Attending Events and a General Assembly Meeting on the Priority Theme

On March 7, UIMF delegation members had the chance to explore the many parallel and side events being held at the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. First, I attended “Improving the Health of Women and Girls Through Digital Innovation, Technology and Education” held by the World Health Organization, the Republic of Chile, and the Republic of Rwanda. Ms. Jessie Schutt-Aine was the moderator of the discussion. Erin Kenney, Acting Director at WHO for Gender, Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights, spoke first on the WHO’s commitment to utilize digital innovation and technology to address the intersecting issues facing women globally. Senator Yasna Provoste Campillay from the Republic of Chile then spoke about her country’s achievements such as a digital hospital, free computers for seventh graders, the expansion of 5G accessibility and quality in rural areas, and more. She later asserted the need for truthful information in expanding communications to break down gender stereotypes and racism.



The side event featuring the WHO and representatives from Chile and Rwanda.

Next, Ms. Rose Rwabuhiri, the Chief of the Gender Monitoring Office in Rwanda, spoke of Rwanda's broken health system after the events that occurred in 1994. Despite challenges, Rwanda's maternal mortality is down by half. Additionally, rapid SMS messages have enhanced communications between health workers, patients, and the wider environment. Rwanda has even been able to use drones to transport blood and medicine to rural mountainous communities which was fascinating and something Utah might learn from.



Natalie stands on the balcony overlooking the UN General Assembly Hall.

Afterwards, I attended the Ministerial Round Tables on the Priority Theme at 10 a.m. I found walking into the General Assembly absolutely surreal. All of the tables were filled by UN member states, and I was able to wear an earpiece that connected to the English audio translation of every countries' speech. I heard updates from South Africa, Slovenia, Serbia, Lichtenstein, France, Morocco, Luxembourg, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Italy, Austria, Armenia, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Jordan, Palestine, Rwanda, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Nepal, the Bahamas, and

Zambia. One assertion that resonated with me came from Mr. Roderic O’Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of Ireland. He argued that comprehensive sex education and full access to reproductive healthcare are necessary prerequisites to many of the advancements other states’ proposed for women and girls.



A crowded room pays rapt attention to a parallel event taking place.

Lastly, I sat in on the parallel event “Feminist Conundrums of Working on Men and Masculinities: Global Perspectives.” I found many key takeaways from this event. First, patriarchy causes poor mental health in men because of conflicting and extreme standards, which positions men to also be stakeholders in patriarchy’s dismantlement. Additionally, referring to masculinity as the singular point of problem for femininity reinforces a harmful binary. We must work together to address the root of the problem and further alleviate the symptoms of patriarchy. Spending the day exploring the events held during CSW67 was exciting and provided

important insights into people's work from around the world to tackle gender inequality and other complex issues.

Natalie Williams, UIMF Delegation Member at CSW67