

WELCOME WORDS JR SIDE EVENT CSW66

Side Event at CSW66 on 16 March 2022 in New York

Thank you Parliamentary State Secretary Deligöz for your warm words of welcome

Dear Ministers and excellencies, dear Commissioner Dali, dear Ambassador Leendertse, dear activists, friends and supporters,

on behalf of today's co-host Deutscher Frauenrat – the National Council of German Women's Organisations, I also, welcome you warmly.

My name is Juliane Rosin and I have the honours and pleasure to chair this year's women7 dialogue.

Women7 or in short W7 is a group of civil society organizations that come together to promote feminist recommendations within each year's G7 process. Building on the principles of intersectionality and inclusion, we want to bring together voices from civil society from all parts of the world to critically reflect on and inform G7 outcomes. We want to ensure that G7 leaders make concrete political and financial commitments that can have transformative impact on the lives of women and girls in all their diversity.

In times of multiple intersecting crisis, we do remind the G7 on their responsibility in the world and ask them to lead by example.

And let me be straight here – yes, we all are exhausted after two years of pandemic – and are suffering the social as well as economic consequences.

We are in pain – seeing the pictures coming from Ukraine and we haven't forgotten the situation in other conflicts areas like Afghanistan.

And, 30 years after Rio, we are angry to see the slow pace in which the very real climate crisis is being addressed.

And still, here we are – the W7 network – as well as Representatives of governments, activists and experts. All gathering on the occasion of the 66th Commission on the status of women to address those challenges. To exchange visions, best practices and to offer support and solidarity.

Because we do know: We do not want to fix a broken system.
We need to fundamentally change it!

And the good news are: women and girls are already agents of change. And they do organize themselves. Building processes around them and with them will enhance the chances enormously to finally come up with sustainable solutions to tackle the current crisis.

I am very much looking forward to today's panel – bringing together some of those energizing agents of change. Together with you, honourable audience, today, we want to discuss how to foster a green and just transformation.

Thank you so much!

Yes, the transformation to a social and ecological economy will fundamentally change the way we live and work, our cities, our housing, our mobility. New industries and jobs will emerge, others will disappear. So yes, there is a crucial window of opportunity.

But, we still need to bridge the existing, fundamental gender gaps. Let me quote the CEDAW Committee here – and its visionary general recommendation 37 on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change:

“While climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes may provide new employment and livelihood opportunities ..., failure to address the structural barriers faced by women in accessing their rights will increase gender-based inequalities and intersectional forms of discrimination.”

In other words:

If we do not consider gender differences - such as women's unequal access to land and other resources, the unequal distribution of care, sexual reproductive health and rights, or labour market segregation - inequalities will foreseeably worsen.

We need to ensure a gender transformative and just transition and therefore end all discrimination against all women. Once and for all!

And to do so we shall add some more colours – I just recently learnt this from the impressive economist Jayati Gosh: let's transform green deals into rainbow deals! Put the needs of women and girls and underrepresented and marginalized groups in the hearts of the attempts to build back better and to tackle the global crisis. We need to mainstream gender equality in all fields of policies to tackle the crisis and challenges.

This year's CSW is an important framework for that.

I want to thank you for taking the time to engage with us and while doing so helping the W7 to formulate concrete recommendations towards the G7, as one of many forums with the power to speed up actions.

Welcome, once again and thank you.