Welcome to the sixth issue of UNHQ in Review. We are delighted to continue this quarterly newsletter to provide the latest updates on recent and upcoming events and activities at UNHQ in New York, as well as the work of the UNODC New York Liaison Office (UNODC NYLO).

UNHQ in Review is intended to be a public document - please feel free to share it widely with your counterparts.

The first quarter of 2023 marks the beginning of another busy year for UNODC NYLO. Already this year, NYLO has supported multiple side-events at the 67th session of the Committee on the Status of Women and also facilitated the visit by UNODC Executive Director Ms. Ghada Waly to UNHQ, which included the 2023 UN Senior Women Leaders Retreat, signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Women, and an address at the high-level presentation of the 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons organized by UNODC NYLO (pictured above).

We hope you enjoy this issue of the UNHQ in Review and we look forward to your continued partnership and engagement with our work in the year ahead.

UNODC New York Liaison Office Team
During her visit to UN Headquarters, on 21 March UNODC Executive Director Ms. Ghada Waly signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Women Executive Director Ms. Sima Bahous, committing to greater collaboration to ensure a gender-conscious approach to criminal justice and crime prevention (pictured above left). Several high-level bilateral meetings were also organized, including with Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) Ms. Natalia Gherman (pictured above right) who took on her position earlier in March; this meeting was an opportunity to underline the close partnership between UNODC and CTED.

The event opened with Ms. Waly’s remarks expressing concern at the overlapping crises facing the world which are increasing the number of people vulnerable to trafficking, which was echoed by Mr. Vitorino who pledged to prioritize climate change and conflict as co-chair of the Inter-agency Co-ordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). Deputy SG Ms. Mohammed cited the report’s data indicating growing disparity in states’ anti-trafficking capacities, calling for wider development efforts. The Permanent Representatives of Zambia, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippines then expressed their commitment to continue their efforts in the anti-trafficking field, before UNODC’s Angela Me introduced the report itself and outlined key findings, including the decline in victim-detection during the pandemic. This was followed by interventions from the floor: states expressed gratitude to UNODC for the report and for its technical assistance and called for greater attention and efforts to enhance law enforcement’s technological capacities in this area.
THE 67TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

CSW67 took place from 6-17 March in New York, the first fully in-person CSW since 2019. During the session, NYLO organized and took part in several side events relating to the UNODC’s mandate.

**Technological challenges and solutions to trafficking, with OSCE, UN Women, EqualityNow & CATW**

NYLO supported the high-level event on technological challenges and solutions in combatting the trafficking of women and girls in overlapping emergencies, which was co-organized with OSCE, UN Women, Equality Now and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. The event took place on March 8th, International Women’s Day.

Keynote speaker Lady Theresa May remarked that ‘there are fewer practices more depriving of universal rights than human trafficking’, and reiterated her 2017 Call to Action made to the General Assembly to eradicate modern slavery, noting the endorsement of over 90 countries. She was joined by the other panelists in recognizing technology to be a facilitator and a potential tool to combat trafficking. In particular, Ms. Jeanne Celestine Lakin, a survivor and advocate, outlined how technology can not only help to identify victims, but can also be used to help survivors in overcoming trauma and reintegration into society.

Lastly, the panelists responded to questions from the 300-strong audience, who were joined by many more following this high-level event online.

**Breaking the silence on Femicide with UN Women, permanent missions of Malta and Cyprus**

An event discussing femicide was held on the margins of CSW on March 9, in collaboration with UN Women and the Permanent Missions of Cyprus and Malta. Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Reforms and Equality the Hon. Rebecca Buttigieg MP and Cypriot Commissioner for Gender Equality Ms. Josie Christodoulou shared recent efforts by their respective governments to pass stronger legislation to protect and prevent more victims of domestic violence.

Next, UN Women’s Ms. Kalliopi Mingeirou drew attention to the media’s role in shaping stereotypes and consequently gendered violence, to be considered in policy discussions. A full conference room then heard from panelist and tech entrepreneur Ms. Sara Wahedi who spoke about her app Ehtesab, which provides real-time security updates to ordinary Afghans. Ms. Wahedi noted the importance of having a 50% female team to ensure that the app considers security concerns from a woman’s perspective. After the panelists’ positive exchange of ideas and calls to action, UNODC’s Ms. Delphine Schantz called for another event to continue discussions and build on this event’s impact.

**Breaking barriers: innovative approaches for advancing gender equality in Sahel security and justice**

On Monday 13 March, a CSW side-event was held to celebrate and discuss the promotion of women taking on careers in security and justice in the Sahel region. Organized by NYLO in partnership with UN Women, the African Union, and the Permanent Missions of Mauritania and Niger, this was a high-level event featuring four female government ministers from the region: H.E. Ms. Allahouri Aminata Zourkaleini, Minister for Women Promotion and Children Protection in Niger; H.E. Ms. Savia Mint N’Tahah, Minister of Social Action, Childhood and Family in Mauritania; H.E. Ms. Nandy Somé/Diallo, Minister of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and Family in Burkina Faso; and H.E. Ms. Amina Priscille Longoh, Minister of Gender and National Solidarity in Chad. They were joined by African Union Ambassador to the UN H.E. Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed in praising progress on gender equality in justice and committing to continue this effort. Next, all attendees enjoyed watching the ‘Pourquoi pas moi’ advert produced by UNODC in 2021 highlighting women in justice. This was followed by the winners of the G5 Sahel Gender Awards, who shared their personal experiences of forging their own careers as women in security and justice, and promoting policies to allow more women to follow in their footsteps. NYLO was pleased to be joined by colleagues from the Regional Office for Central and West Africa; more overleaf.
NYLO: What are your reflections on CSW discussions so far?

It's been rewarding but busy! I feel a responsibility to try to use my position as one of the youngest people in the room to complement what is being done on a grassroots level. Intersectionality is vital in our work and I particularly enjoyed two dialogues held by the UAE discussing the key intersections between gender and climate change, recognized in the Agreed Conclusions at CSW66 last year. The climate crisis is a priority for my generation; it is a huge concern in terms of leaving more people vulnerable to trafficking and modern slavery, but I also think that anti-trafficking groups can learn from the climate movement in terms of increasing our resonance to drive concrete action against human trafficking.

NYLO: What do you feel are the barriers to and the benefits of youth engagement in these discussions?

We need to address the lack of awareness. In school in the UK, we're taught that slavery ended in 1833, this simply isn't true – today in every country around the world, people are experiencing modern slavery and trafficking, rooted in centuries-old socio-economic and political systems of power. I also think that sometimes young people's contributions are overlooked, due to false assumptions that we are uninformed and disengaged. If policymaking processes featured greater co-creation and co-ownership with youth and grassroots, so much insight and expertise could be leveraged. The theme of this CSW has been technology and gender, and in terms of technology and trafficking-related risks, my generation is both affected and informed on this. Young people are ready and able to work with the UN, Member States, and all relevant stakeholders to tackle these issues.

NYLO: Please introduce yourself:

I'm Ishaan, I'm 19 and the co-founder of Stolen Dreams and the Youth for Freedom Collective, two youth-led anti-modern slavery advocacy projects. I'm a UK Youth Representative at CSW, a UN Women National Youth Representative, and I was a youth delegate for UNODC's Stakeholder Engagement for the Review of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). I'm also studying for a BA in international relations.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- FIFTH SESSION OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO ELABORATE A COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON COUNTERING THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES (11-21 APRIL 2023, VIENNA)
- 'AT THE INTERSECTION OF DRUG POLICY, HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS': A BRIEFING ON ACCESS TO HEALTH FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS INCLUDING IN PRISONS (12 APRIL 2023 DATE TBC, NEW YORK & ONLINE)
- COUNTER-TERRORISM CONFERENCE (20-21 JUNE 2023, NEW YORK) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING THE EIGHTH REVIEW OF THE GLOBAL COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY (22-23 JUNE 2023, NEW YORK)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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