

# NGOCSW Geneva Project Proposal for Beijing + 25

## “Women’s Mosaic of Lived Experience” Project

Many women’s lives and their communities have been dramatically and constructively influenced by their engagement with the extensive networks of the United Nations; the World Conferences on Women and Beijing Platform for Action, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Development Goals’s, Security Council Resolution 1325 and others. While policy makers increasingly understand the value of local knowledge about- and mobilization for- the goals, most of civil society remains out of reach.

Members of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Geneva have decided to launch a multifaceted project within the framework of the Beijing + 25 Review process to:

1. Understand and improve local awareness
2. Give voice to the local needs
3. Facilitate partnership with UN bodies and instruments to fulfill those needs.
4. Highlight successful projects and partnerships
5. Prepare a simple educational toolkit for distribution through NGOCSW members’ networks.

The “Women’s Mosaic of Lived Experience” would begin in the form of personal written narratives and video clips from women active in the field. In a few sentences, they describe or show how they are engaged to improve their lives and their communities in spite of all the odds. A look at the basics; Do you have a job, a voice, feel your value?

Testimonies, **photos and video clips** will be collected, edited, and prepared for display at various venues during the Beijing +25 events. There should be a broad geographic coverage. Issues will reconnect to the 1995 Beijing 12 Critical Areas of Concern:

Four suggested areas:

- I. **Women and well being:** Some practices are dangerous to women and girls mental, physical and spiritual well being and must be replaced with stronger commitments to healthy, safe, empowering health services and opportunities.
- II. **Digital women:** Media can condone discrimination or violence or showcase strong women leaders. Once in positions of influence, women can bring significant change
- III. **Following the money:** due to gender discrimination, women may remain in insecure, undignified, low-paying jobs With support, they can fully benefit from the economy, secure decent jobs, accumulate assets and go on raise responsible children, families and influence institutions.
- IV. **Peace through reconciliation and education:** Violence (from domestic to protracted conflict) damages victims and perpetrators. By engaging survivors and addressing roots causes, laws and policies can be guided toward prevention and reconciliation. Early childhood education and family cohesion through trauma is critical for resilience- often assumed by mothers . Educated and stable women benefit entire societies.

Some questions to be asked of women for the video recording:

- What are the issues you face in your everyday life?
- What would you need to meet those needs?
- How do you think the UN could support?

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