

REPORT: IFBPW NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVES 2017-2020

The New York Representatives endeavored to fulfill the goals established by the IFBPW leadership even after March 2020 when the United Nations was forced due to the pandemic to transfer meetings to the world of virtual communications. Since that time, the use of Zoom allowed a wider access to information and events at the UN, with more opportunities to press for IFBPW priorities to be acknowledged. Within the Committee on Migration, **Nermin Ahmad** continued her support for the Subcommittee on Xenophobia and Social Inclusion. With respect to the Sustainable Development Committee, her focus has been on awareness-building around climate change, human rights and cities. **Francesca Burack** pursued her interest in Education, Learning and Literacy by promoting the International Day of the Girl Child. Among the topics she pursued were the lack of access to education by 130 million girls worldwide, ways to improve opportunities for the current generation of girls, and ways to close the economic gap between developing and developed countries. **Judi Kilachand** opted to work with Francesca on Education, Learning and Literacy. In addition, she facilitated IFBPW's introduction and collaboration with the global nonprofit citizen movement called OneShared.World to bring together people from across the globe and inspire a movement for collectively solving our greatest common challenges. At the 2019 UN General Assembly (UNGA 74), and at the Climate Action Summit, UN SG Guterres shared the Club of Rome's findings that there remains only one path left to a sustainable 2050 and called for a Decade of Action. Of the five transformational priorities, **Tess Mateo** focused on the acceleration of renewable energy growth, productivity in food chains and the drive for women's economic empowerment. Representing IFBPW to the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) she joined several briefings and disseminated information shared by UNDGC to thousands of BPW International members around the world. She organized two virtual global events and spoke at several others. **Susan O'Malley** co-chaired the CSW64 Study Group. Recommendations included among other priorities, women's full and effective participation in decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. She also supported Widows for Peace Through Democracy (WPD) and the Global Fund for Widows (GFW). With UN Women, she worked on a project to hold discussions with girls around the world on questions as to what gender equality would look like in their countries. **Alison Smale**, a former Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications at the UN, contributed to our efforts to heighten recognition of the IFBPW at the UN by developing a brief, recognizable statement of our mission within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. She has also proposed that we create a mechanism for mentoring young women. **Sheila Stamps** joined the NGO Committee on Financing for Development with a focus on three priority areas: Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Finance. **Helena Finn** participated in numerous conferences on human rights issues: most notably, with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, and her interview with the New York City Commissioner for Human Rights Carmelyn Malalis. She continues to coordinate regular meetings of the New York IFBPW UN Representatives. HKF: February 14, 2021