

Dear IAWJ Member attending UN CSW 62,

We are delighted that you will be joining IAWJ members in New York for the events at and surrounding the United Nations CSW 62 sessions. IAWJ President Susana Medina has asked that I head the IAWJ delegation as she is unable to participate this year. I extend a warm welcome to you on her behalf as well as from all of us at IAWJ.

There are many events associated with the CSW 62 session. Some are official and require a pass to enter the UN grounds; IAWJ could select only 20 for the official delegation. However, there are still many important and thought-provoking opportunities for those who do not have a UN grounds pass. Other NGOs are hosting events and discussions that will provide rich and fulfilling experiences and do not require a UN grounds pass.

This year at CSW, IAWJ will be hosting and organizing exciting events, a moderated panel with a group of our member judges discussing the experiences of rural women and girls seeking justice in courts and a visit to the Center for Court Innovation to discuss innovations in human trafficking courts. You will receive detailed information regarding these events from the IAWJ office.

Connection and friendship have always been important parts of being an IAWJ member and a reason why we look forward to IAWJ events. To facilitate informal get-togethers and conversations, we will make arrangements for those who wish to come together for dinner on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night. It is always interesting and fun to talk among ourselves and get to know each other better.

New York City, of course, has many attractions (and distractions) with information easily available online. We hope that in addition to the CSW62 events, you will enjoy the excitement of being in a wonderful city. We hope that your time with us in New York enriches you personally as well as professionally.

I look forward to greeting you in person soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IAWJ Office at office@iawj.org or Johan Marulanda, the Communications Officer at jmarulanda@iawj.org. You can always reach me at vrui@dcappeals.gov.

With warm regards,

Vanessa Ruiz, IAWJ President-Elect

IAWJ Member Delegation to the Annual Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

CSW 62nd Session: “Empowering Rural Women and Girls”

New York, New York

****Note:** The Annual Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women is a two-week meeting that runs from Monday, March 12th – Friday, March 24th. CSW allocated to IAWJ the ability to register twenty of our members for official grounds passes that entitle the bearers to enter UN Headquarters for CSW sessions taking place there. Members of the Delegation who do not have passes can still attend all events arranged by IAWJ except for Wednesday’s UN tour. IAWJ staff will escort Delegation members to get passes on March 13th – if you arrive in New York before then, you can obtain passes for the 12th on your own.

We also encourage any members in NYC on the morning of the 12th to attend an NGO parallel presentation by the International Health Awareness Network entitled “One Village at a Time: Capacity Building, Education and the Right to Health”, 8-10 am at The Gallery II, 4 West 43rd St. IAWJ member Marcy L. Kahn of New York will be speaking on this panel on the topic of “Judicial Collaboration with Indigenous Populations.” This panel, like all other NGO parallel event panels, will be free and open to the public; no pass or ticket is required.

IAWJ Delegation Dates: Tuesday, March 13th - Friday, March 16th, 2018¹

Thank you for agreeing to be a member of the IAWJ’s delegation to the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Those delegation members with ground passes may enter the UN Headquarters to attend official sessions of the CSW at entrance on 45th/46th street and 1st Avenue.

In addition to these official sessions, there will be parallel events run by NGOs throughout the time we are here, and those without access to the official sessions will have a number of options (or can take the time to explore NYC.) IAWJ is organizing three events for the entire IAWJ delegation, whether or not you have official grounds passes:

- a welcome and preparatory session at the law firm of Steptoe and Johnson on Wednesday at 3:00pm,
- the IAWJ public Parallel event on Thursday at 8:30 am at the Salvation Army Auditorium, and
- a meeting with the Center for Court Innovation on Thursday at 2:00pm to discuss special human trafficking courts.

We hope all delegation members will join the group for dinners on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and meet with New York area members who will be joining us; however, these are not official delegation activities (i.e., we understand if you want to take in a Broadway show instead!)

The Schedule of the CSW 62nd session can be found at this link:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018/official-meetings>

In addition, a voluminous listing of the **Official Side Meetings** held on the UN premises can be found at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018/side-events/calendar-of-side-events> Many official side events will be webcast live on UN Web TV's website <http://webtv.un.org/> **Please review the lists in advance and choose the meetings you wish to attend.** We encourage you to arrive early at any event because seating is limited.

For a schedule of NGO Parallel Events held outside the UN premises, NGO CSW will publish a handbook on their website and their mobile app. This handbook will include a map of the parallel event locations, as well as the nearest subway and bus stations.

Agenda

Tuesday, March 13th : Arrival of IAWJ delegation members to New York

IAWJ President-Elect Vanessa Ruiz, Lisa Davis (IAWJ Executive Director), Johan Marulanda, (IAWJ Communications Officer), and Anne Goldstein (IAWJ Human Rights Education Director) will arrive Tuesday afternoon , and will be staying at the Lexington Hotel, 511 Lexington Ave. Jane Charles-Voltaire, IAWJ Senior Program Officer, will be aiding the delegation as well.

7:00 pm Informal Group Dinner at Spice Symphony *Indian* (182 Lexington Ave New York, NY (212) 545-7742). IAWJ will make reservations based on delegate confirmations. Please meet at the hotel lobby of the Lexington Hotel. Delegates will pay for their own meals.

If you need to reach an IAWJ staffer, please call or WhatsApp (see contact info on last page).

Wednesday, March 14th.

8:30 am Obtain **Official Grounds Passes**

Meet Lisa Davis in the front lobby of the Lexington Hotel, 511 Lexington Avenue (on the corner of Lexington Ave and 48th Street, New York, NY 10017). Lisa will accompany the group to the UN Pass & ID office which is located at 320 East 45th street (between First and Second Avenue), outside of UN premises.

Registration instructions are attached to this note or found at this link:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/ngo-participation/registration>. **Please bring with you the printed grounds pass form and an official photo id.**

**Note: The 20 IAWJ members who are registered and have received official letters may obtain their official grounds passes on their own when they arrive or go as a group with Lisa on Wednesday morning. For those arriving later on Wednesday, please meet Johan Marulanda in the Hotel Lobby no later than 12 pm. He will escort a second group to get grounds passes. Johan Marulanda will also be available in the hotel lobby to advise members on attending the side events and organize our departure to the IAWJ member's workshop and IAWJ Side Event.

10:30 am Orientation/Tour to the UN Headquarters and CSW Official meetings Lisa Davis will provide a short orientation to navigating the CSW official meetings and to the facilities. Meet on the left hand side of the information desk (inside) at the UN entrance on 45th/46th street and 1st Avenue.

10:00- 1:00 pm Delegates may attend the General Discussion of the CSW, an Interactive Dialogue on ‘Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women’ or Official Side Events hosted by States within in the UN Headquarters.

For a listing of Wednesday Official side events, see this link:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018/side-events/calendar-of-side-events#14March>

For a listing of Wednesday NGO Parallel Events. Alternatively, members, including those without grounds passes, can choose to attend Parallel Events organized by NGOs outside the United Nations premises.

12:00 pm. Later Arrivals of IAWJ Members: Obtain Official Grounds Passes

Meet Johan Marulanda in the front lobby of the Lexington Hotel, 511 Lexington Avenue (on the corner of Lexington Ave and 48th Street, New York, NY 10017. Johan will accompany the group to the UN Headquarters to obtain official grounds passes.

1:00- 2:30 pm Lunch on your own

2:30 pm Meet IAWJ Group for Departure from Lobby of the Lexington Hotel, 511 Lexington Avenue (corner of Lexington and 48th Street), to travel

3:00 – 5:30 pm Delegation Welcome and Preparatory Session for Panel and Meeting with Center for Court Innovation

Location: Steptoe & Johnson Law Firm at 1114 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, TEL: +1 212 506 3900

Welcoming remarks from IAWJ President-Elect **Judge Vanessa Ruiz**, and IAWJ Executive Director **Lisa Davis**

Formal welcome to the delegation and a discussion of the delegation's role at CSW. There will also be a preparatory session for IAWJ's Panel Discussion Side event discussing the experiences of rural women and girls seeking justice.

The delegation will also receive background on the IAWJ's work in recent years on human trafficking of women and girls, with special reference to rural areas. This material will prepare the delegation for its meeting Thursday at the Center for Court Innovation.

together to the Steptoe & Johnson Law Firm for a special delegation workshop.

7:00 pm Group Dinner (Da Raffaele Italian 883 1st Ave. New York, NY 10022 (646) 895-9849) The IAWJ has made reservations. Delegates will pay for their own meals.

Thursday, March 15th

7:30 am – 8:00 am: Leave from the lobby of the Lexington Hotel, 511 Lexington Avenue (corner of Lexington Ave and 48th Street), to travel together to the Parallel Event

8:00am: Arrive at Salvation Army Auditorium 221 E 52nd Street for Panel

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Delegates may attend the CSW Interactive Dialogue on the Review Theme or Official Side Events hosted by States within the UN Headquarters.

8:30 – 10:00 am IAWJ Parallel Event, “City Justice/Country Justice”

Location: **Salvation Army Auditorium, 221 E 52nd Street New York, NY 10022.**

Scholars and diplomats draft international laws in elegant, well-guarded buildings in glittering metropolises. National parliaments pass statutes under glistening domes. Where these laws truly live or die, however, is in a rural courthouse far from the capital. Many such courthouses lie far from the nearest domestic violence center or law library, in places where technology’s reach thins to irrelevance. In such places, the role of the judge is critical to the rule of law.

For this hour and a half long program, IAWJ will host a discussion by judges from eight countries on four continents. The judges will discuss the experiences of rural women and girls seeking justice through the courts and compare them to those of their urban counterparts.

Discussants:

Hon. Sheri Ann Donegan (Canada)

Hon. Maribel Concepción Méndez de Lara (Mexico)

Hon. Ivana Hrdličková (Special Tribunal for Lebanon)

Hon. Naa Adoley Azu (Ghana)

Hon. Mary Atieno Ang’awa (Kenya)

Hon. Rowena Nieves A. Tan (Philippines)

Hon. Stella Maris Amabilis (Uganda)

Hon. Ellen Sue Levy (USA)

Facilitator:

Hon. Vanessa Ruiz (Pres-Elect)

For a listing of Thursday’s Official side events, see this link:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018/side-events/calendar-of-side-events#15March>

For a listing of Thursday’s NGO Parallel Events. Alternatively, members, including those without grounds passes, can choose to attend Parallel Events organized by NGOs outside the United Nations premises.

12:00 - 13:00 pm Lunch on your own.

1:15 pm. Meet in Hotel Lobby (Lexington Hotel) to share taxis to the Center for Court Innovation. Or travel on your own and meet at the Center at 1:45 m

2:00 – 4:00 pm Visit to the Center for Court Innovation

Location: 520 8th Avenue 18th Floor New York, NY 10018.

We will meet with Hon. Toko Serita, Presiding Judge of Human Trafficking Court, and Danielle Malangone, Technical Advisor and Trainer, to discuss new trafficking diversion courts and other innovations in the US

6:00 pm Group Dinner at Sinigual (contemporary Mexican restaurant, a few blocks from the UN Church Center) 640 3rd Avenue.

<http://www.sinigualrestaurants.com/> The IAWJ has made reservations. Delegates will pay for their own meals.

Friday, March 16th

10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Delegates may attend the CSW Interactive Expert Panel on the Priority theme: “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls: The role of rural women’s land rights and land tenure security in reaching the SDGs” or participate in the Parallel session, which is an informal discussion on the “Agreed Conclusions”

For a listing of Friday’s Official Side events, see this link:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017/side-events/calendar-of-side-events#17March>

For a listing of Friday’s NGO Parallel Events. Alternatively, members, including those without grounds passes, can choose to attend Parallel Events organized by NGOs outside the United Nations premises.

3:00 m – 6:00 pm. Delegates may attend the CSW General Discussion, the interactive expert panel on ‘Innovative data approaches for measuring progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment’ Official Side Events and NGO Parallel events.

4:00- 8:00 pm: Delegates still in NYC may wish to take advantage of the Museum of Modern Arts’ Free Friday hours ([11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019](http://www.moma.org)).

All Day

Delegates depart.

IAWJ THANKS YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR DELEGATION!

Contact Information:

IAWJ Staff (you can call or WhatsApp):

Lisa Davis, Executive Director, Mobile Tel. 202-352-0261, ldavis@iawj.org

Johan Marulanda, Communications Officer, Tel. 860-558-6848
jmarulanda@iawj.org. (Speaks English, Spanish, and French.)

Jane Charles-Voltaire, Senior Program Officer, jcharles-voltaire@iawj.org, Tel. 718/249-9187 (Speaks English, Spanish, and French.)

Anne Goldstein, Human Rights Education Director, Tel. 301-351-5859
agoldstein@iawj.org (Speaks English, Spanish, and French)

Hotel Information:

The Lexington Hotel, 511 Lexington Avenue on 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.
Telephone: +1 212 755 4400

Weather and Suggestions regarding Dress:

The weather will be unpredictable. This time of year in New York City, it could be cold or warm, rainy or dry; so please come prepared with attire and shoes for different temperatures and weather. We also suggest that you wear comfortable shoes and clothing. There will be a lot of walking to and from the UN and hotel (about 5 city blocks) and standing.

Before Leaving Home:

Let your Government Ministries know that you are attending the CSW. Government delegations will be holding official events as well as receptions in which you may need an official invitation or to request an invitation for other IAWJ members.

Bring with you the official invitation letter and confirmation you have received from the UN. Bring an official photo id with you to the UN.

RSVP Form

Please send the following information to IAWJ at office@iawj.org:

1. Your arrival date and time to NYC: _____
2. Where you are staying: _____
3. Confirmation of your attendance at any of the following events:

	Will Attend	Will Not Attend
Tuesday 7 pm Informal Dinner w/ other delegates	_____	_____
Meet Lisa at 8:30 am Wednesday		
To Walk to Get Official Grounds Pass	_____	_____
Meet Johan at 12:00 m Wednesday to		
Walk to get Official Grounds Pass	_____	_____
Orientation Tour: UN CSW 10:30am Wednesday	_____	_____
IAWJ Workshop Wednesday at 3 pm	_____	_____
Dinner on Wednesday Night, 7 pm	_____	_____
Meet at Lexington to go to IAWJ Parallel Event		
7:30 am Thursday	_____	_____
IAWJ Parallel Event, Thursday 8:30 am	_____	_____
Dinner on Thursday Night, 6 pm	_____	_____