

CSW68 Agreed Conclusions

Each CSW conference starts with a *Zero Draft* document, which is then discussed throughout the two weeks. At the end, an *Agreed Conclusions* document, which represents the outcome of the session, is published.

Our joint written submission with the Anglican Communion to CSW68 highlighted that “poverty has a woman’s face”. We were therefore pleased that the Agreed Conclusions text recognised the strong link between gender and poverty, and the challenge of the feminisation of poverty. The text also acknowledged the intersecting forms of discrimination that marginalised women face.

Our submission focussed on the importance of adult literacy for women, and pointed to the success of Mothers’ Union’s long-running literacy and financial education programmes. We were delighted to see that this year’s Agreed Conclusions included for the first time an explicit recognition that increasing investment in adult literacy programmes is essential to help women and girls overcome poverty.

Additionally, the specific wording in the text around the right to education was strengthened from that in previous years: the call to “promote and respect” the “right to education” was upgraded to “promote, respect, *protect and fulfil*” the right to “*quality* education”. Unfortunately, however, a call to “eliminate female illiteracy”, which has been present in the Agreed Conclusions for many years and which was in the Zero draft for this CSW, was omitted in this year’s Agreed Conclusions; it is not clear why it was deleted.

Overall, the text of the Agreed Conclusions contained much that is positive; the challenge now is to ensure that the implementation matches these commitments.

See [here](#) for the full text of the CSW68 Agreed Conclusions.

