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# BEIJING+30 REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING

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"Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the ECE Region"

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21-22 October 2024, Palais des Nations, Geneva

## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE TEMPLATE

Please submit this form to [ece-beijing30@un.org](mailto:ece-beijing30@un.org) and [eca.partnerships@unwomen.org](mailto:eca.partnerships@unwomen.org) by the **1st of October**. If needed the information can be updated after the deadline. Please also feel free to create your own concept note; **however, ensure that all the information requested in this template is included.**

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Event title

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Please provide a title that is concise, catchy, and reflects the core issues addressed in your side event.

**Holding the Line: Feminist Action for Freedom and Rights**

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## Background and Rationale

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*Please provide a brief background on the topic under discussion (max. 250 words). Outline the relevance of the topic to the region and draw connections to the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 12 key areas of concern of the Beijing Declaration. Discuss the theme of this year's Regional Review Meeting: "Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the ECE Region."*

### **Background and Rationale:**

This side event,  *Holding the Line: Feminist Action for Freedom and Rights*, responds to the urgent challenges facing gender equality advocacy in the UNECE region, including shrinking civic spaces, the rise of anti-rights movements, and severe funding cuts to feminist movements and organisations. These dynamics threaten the progress made since the Fourth World Conference and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration (1995). As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, the session reflects on how far we have come and how we must confront new and persisting challenges to accelerate gender equality.

The event focuses on three critical areas of concern from the Beijing Declaration: *Violence against Women, Human Rights of Women, and Women in Power and Decision-making*. These issues remain at the forefront of gender equality struggles in the region, especially as anti-gender movements increasingly target these fundamental rights. This year's Regional Review Meeting theme, "Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the ECE Region," highlights the need to assess our achievements and, crucially, to identify strategies to safeguard gender equality.

By amplifying marginalised voices and fostering intergenerational dialogue, the event aims to generate innovative approaches to advance gender equality and women's rights and protect civic spaces, ensuring that feminist movements continue to thrive in the times of the polycrisis. This collective action is essential for building feminist movements and multi stakeholder partnerships that can hold the line and advance gender equality in the years to come.

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## Session objectives and expected outcomes

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*Please outline the objective and expected outcomes of the side event, and whether the results will serve as an input for another event (max. 200 words).*

**Objective:**

The side event aims to foster a collective response to counter rising anti-rights movements, shrinking civic spaces, and feminist funding cuts across the UNECE region. By promoting intergenerational dialogue and strategic co-creation, the event will amplify marginalized voices, including young feminists, LGBTQIA+ communities, Indigenous women, and women with disabilities. The session seeks to Advocate for the protection and expansion of civic space for feminist organizing, with a particular focus on countering anti-rights movements. This objective aligns with the goals of the Generation Equality GEF Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership (AC6), reinforcing collective efforts to sustain the civic space required for transformative feminist action and to strengthen Intergenerational Solidarity: Encourage cross-generational feminist dialogue and co-creation of strategies to resist growing threats.

**Expected Outcomes:****Outcomes:**

- 1. Strategic Recommendations:**  
Development of actionable recommendations for advancing gender equality in the areas of Violence against Women, Women in Power and Decision-making, and Human Rights of Women. These will be shared at the Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting and other relevant forums.
- 2. Leadership Amplification:**  
Clear amplification of leadership from marginalised groups, empowering them to take central roles in feminist organising and decision-making, ensuring an inclusive approach to advancing gender equality.
- 3. Innovative Tactics:**  
Documentation of creative and resilient approaches to protect and expand civic space,

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providing feminist groups with tools and strategies to continue their work despite increasing challenges, ensuring sustained feminist leadership and action in the region.

4. **Strengthened Collaboration:**

Reinforced multi-stakeholder collaboration, including civil society, governments, and international organisations, ensuring sustained feminist efforts and structural change for gender equality and feed into the implementation of the pact for the future

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**Organisers**

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*Please list the lead organisers and contributing agencies of your side event.*

**Lead organisers:** EL\*C (EuroCentralAsian Lesbian\* Community) - Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership and Young Feminist Europe

**Contributors:**

- Government of Canada
- Generation Equality GEF Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership (AC6)
- Women Engage for a Common Future
- WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform
- Youth Coalition
- Stolen Dreams

**Focal points:** Aïda Yancy and Bruna Martinez

**Email:** [aida.yancy@lesbiangenius.org](mailto:aida.yancy@lesbiangenius.org)

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**Agenda and Structure**

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*Please provide the agenda for the side event.*

The event will feature a dynamic format that encourages active participation and reflection. Instead of a traditional panel discussion, we will organise short two-minute pitches from diverse

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speakers—grassroots organisers, civil society representatives, parliamentarians, young feminists, and government officials—on three critical areas of concern from the Beijing+30 agenda:

- **Human Rights of Women**
- **Violence Against Women**
- **Women in Power and Decision-Making**

Participants will then have an opportunity to respond, engage in discussions, and contribute their own reflections. This interactive format ensures that the conversation remains open, fluid, and grounded in the lived experiences of participants.

## **Agenda**

The session plan is as follows:

### **Introduction & Session Overview**

**Opening remarks:** Emilia Saiz (Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG/ GEF Action Coalition Feminist Movements and Leadership co-chair)

**Moderator:** Bruna Martinez (Young Feminist Europe/ GEF Action Coalition Feminist Movements and Leadership leader)

- Key Focus: Setting the context for the session, highlighting the significance of the Beijing+30 agenda and the role of multilateral leadership in promoting gender equality.
- Introduction of the session’s objectives, structure, and thematic focus on defending freedoms and rights in the context of the Beijing+30 agenda.

### **Thematic Areas & Pitch Sessions**

Each theme will be introduced by speakers, delivering two-minute case study pitches based on their lived experiences and advocacy work that highlight their work in defending freedoms and

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rights within these areas. Following the presentations, participants will be invited to react, share insights, and discuss the topics presented, fostering an interactive and collective exchange of ideas.

### **Area 1: Human Rights of Women and Girls in all their diversity**

#### **Speakers:**

1. Vera Rodriguez (European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance)
2. İlayda Eskitaşcioğlu (Young Leader for the SDGs and Ex Generation Equality Youth task-force member / Human rights lawyer/ Cofounder ,Konuşmamız Gerek / We Need to Talk Türkiye)

Focus: Highlighting innovative approaches to advancing women's rights and protecting marginalised communities.

### **Area 2: Violence against Women and Girls in all their diversity**

#### **Speakers:**

1. Aida Yancy (EL\*C/ Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership leader)
2. Joweri Namulondo (Youth Coalition/ GEF Action Coalition on SRHR leader)

Focus: Addressing gender-based violence with attention to the experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community and survivors of gender-based violence.

### **Area 3: All women and girls in Power and Decision-Making**

#### **Speakers:**

1. Véronique Riotton (Member of Parliament from France, Member of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians)
2. Ana Muradashvili (WECF, Women Engage for a Common Future - Georgia)

Focus: Strategies for increasing women's participation in governance and decision-making roles.

### **Interactive Discussion**

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Participants are encouraged to share their reactions, offer insights, and engage in an open dialogue on the issues presented after each pitch. This segment is designed to foster an inclusive and participatory environment where everyone's voice is heard, and diverse perspectives are valued. The aim is to collectively brainstorm solutions, identify challenges, and highlight opportunities for advancing the Beijing+30 agenda. This will lead to consolidation of recommendations on Holding the line.

### **Closing Remarks**

We will wrap up the session by summarising the key takeaways from the discussions, emphasising the importance of collective action and collaboration in holding the line on women's rights and sustaining feminist leadership amidst rising anti-rights forces.

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### List of Panelists

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*Please list the names and organizations of the panelists participating in the side event. The moderator should also be included in the list.*

- **Moderator:** Bruna Martinez (Young Feminist Europe, YFE/ GEF Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership leader)
- **Opening Remarks:** Emilia Saiz (Secretary General, UCLG/GEF Action Coalition Feminist Movements and Leadership co-chair)
- **Panellists:**
  - **Area 1: Human Rights of Women and Girls in all their diversity**
    1. Vera Rodriguez (European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance)
    2. İlayda Eskitaşcioğlu (Young Leader for the SDGs and Ex Generation Equality Youth task-force member/ Human rights lawyer/ Cofounder ,KONUŞMAMIZ GEREK/ We Need to Talk Türkiye)
  - **Area 2: Violence against Women and Girls in all their diversity**
    1. Aida Yancy (EL\*C/ Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership leader)

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2. Joweri Namulondo (Youth Coalition/ GEF Action Coalition on SRHR leader)
- **Area 3: All women and girls in Power and Decision-Making**
    1. Véronique Riotton (Member of Parliament from France, Member of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians)
    2. Ana Muradashvili (WECF, Women Engage for a Common Future - Georgia)
  - **Overall:** GEF Generation Equality Action Coalition leaders, commitment makers and partners

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#### Picture & Promotional Materials

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*Please provide a background picture to be uploaded to the side event page, along with any promotional materials. Please find below the Banner for the Beijing+30 Regional Review Meeting for your use.*

We will send this to you in the email separately.



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Canada



An event coorganized by the Generation Equality Forum Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership

# HOLDING THE LINE

## Feminist Action for Freedom and Rights

Online  
21 OCTOBER 2024 8:45am

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Sign-up / Registration Link

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*Please provide us with the link for people to sign up / register for your event.*

*Link for registration*

<https://unwomen.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqfuGgqjloGdWV5QVO1z7qp1NciXPMqjlv>

Kindly indicate your event time slot (please highlight in yellow):

- Monday, 21 October, 8:45 – 9:45