



“Il n'est nullement question de faire gouverner la société par les femmes mais bien de savoir si elle ne serait pas mieux gouvernée par les hommes et par les femmes.”

John Stuart MILL

Une association pour
ré-agir au féminin

PARTICIPATION DE REGARDS DE FEMMES À LA 66^{ÈME} CSW 13-17 mars 2022 – ONU New York

I am Michèle Vianès, president of regards de femmes, a French association based in Lyon, NGO with ECOSOC and INGO with the Francophonie. I am the representative for Western Europe of the Francophone network for gender equality.

Since 2006, I participate every year to the Commission of Status of Women (CSW) and organize parallel events, one on the theme of the debate, and since 2010 one other on the declaration of births, that women whatever their marital status can declare the birth of their children. Thanks to the exchanges with the stakeholders and women present it has finally become a real matter.

We came this year to say that the CSW in virtual loses all its impact and its strength of advocacy with states and governments.

The objective of the CSW is to bring together the civil society of women from all countries, and together each with our differences, to feed energies, to generate many opportunities to serve the denial of universal human rights of women to put in place a synergy that reverses the obstacles of patriarchy.

In virtual, these face-to-face exchanges do not take place. Only people who know the organizing structures attend webinars. Listening from home, in one's armchair, does not have the same quality as in an in-person meeting, and moments of exchange.

Participation in face-to-face meetings, especially the informal exchanges before and after the parallel events, no longer exists. Neither are the random encounters in the corridors or at the restaurant that make up the richness of the CSW.

Moreover, the presence of thousands of women at the time when States and governments are discussing our future influences their commitments.

This is why if I have only one message to bring today, as a spokesperson for all our member associations and partners in the French-speaking world, it is to demand that the next CSW be held in person, whatever the sanitary or other conditions.

After the harmful effects of the Covid crisis, I don't know if you have an equivalent expression in English the women first of chore, the last ones in head, with the harmful effects of the armed conflicts in the world,

Of course, the Afghan and Ukrainian women, but so many other conflicts use women's bodies as a weapon of war, it is essential that we meet each other in person, that we do not give in to those who want to make women invisible, to prevent them from meetings, allegedly to protect them.

No, women are actresses of their lives and of the development of their country.

They must be at the negotiating table and first of all at the UN in New York for the CSW.