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As the UN Faces Financial Crisis, Feminists Reject 'Business as Usual' at the 70th Commission on the Status of Women

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Amid escalating border violence for activists travelling to the US, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) [announced](#) today that its staff will not attend the 70th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) in New York. The decision cites security risks for activists from the Global Majority, as well as the need for a structural reform in the UN.

Feminist movements have been raising the alarm about the exacerbating financial crisis at the UN, which has jeopardized the basic functioning of the multilateral system. Coupled with closing civic space, the process is failing to meet its mandate of ensuring that States are held accountable to their commitments to gender equality. "I face impossible barriers to attend CSW: restrictive visa timing requirements and exorbitant bond costs that prevent most African activists from participating. The US claims to be inclusive, yet our fundamental right to participate in global feminist spaces is denied by travel restriction," shared Immaculate Owomugisha, a Ugandan feminist activist and AWID member.

"The multilateral system remains structurally inaccessible to those whose rights it is intended to serve," said Faye Macheke, Co-Executive Director of AWID. "From visa inequities to language barriers and severe defunding of feminist and women's rights groups globally, this is not the time for business as usual. While we are not abandoning CSW, we need new forms of connection, political mobilization and influencing."

AWID will host a virtual 'teach-in' for its community of over 9,000 members, to collectively learn and strategize navigating multilateral spaces like the CSW and the Human Rights Council (HRC). During CSW, 'Global Hubs' led by AWID members Centre for Women Justice Uganda and Domestic Workers Rights Protection Association (ADDAD) Gambia; will make visible feminist organizing that is often marginalized in international policy processes like the CSW - particularly grassroots, rural, and community-based movements.

"We expect and demand the UN to do more to ensure that feminist voices from the Global Majority are heard by the UN Member States at the CSW and beyond," said Macheke. "Feminist movements will continue to organize with power and determination for a UN that is resourced, accessible and relevant for the advancement of rights and justice for all".

**About AWID**

The [Association for Women's Rights in Development \(AWID\)](#) is a global feminist organization dedicated to achieving gender equality, sustainable development, and human rights. With a membership community of 9,600 feminist activists, organizations and collectives, AWID works to strengthen the women's rights movement and challenge the structures that perpetuate inequality.

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