

S4HL CSW Talking Points

The following can be used as a quick reference-sheet to support your WLR advocacy in CSW events.

REPRESENTATION

- Grassroots women must be a part of the decision-making processes, informing decision makers and duty bearers on the policies and standards that impact their lives, and have the opportunity to hold those duty-bearers accountable to their commitments to deliver gender equality for women and girls, including secure and gender-equal rights to land, housing, territory, and natural resources.
- Grassroots and local women are leading the movement for gender equality – they must have a home and secure rights to their land and resources to advance the movement for gender equality.
- Recognition of and support for the leadership of grassroots women within S4HL Coalitions is a core aspect of this work. Each Coalition is comprised of multiple stakeholders from civil society, local and grassroots organizations, and other non-governmental stakeholders. S4HL elevates the leadership of grassroots women in Coalition activities and in dialogues at the regional and international levels, ensuring that their crucial voices are heard.
- Representation is a process. It requires transformation of power dynamics (between Global North and Global South actors, between national and grassroots organizations, between men and women); and it requires investment of time and resources to address practical barriers to representation (passports, visas, capacity to advocate in national, regional, and global spaces). **Support and join initiatives like S4HL that advance and promote grassroots women’s leadership in decision-making at all levels of governance.**

RECOGNITION

- *Recognition* of women’s land rights as an issue core to gender equality is crucial. Land rights has often been absent from women’s rights and feminist conversations, and gender has often been absent from land rights conversations. Feminists, gender equality advocates, and women’s land rights advocates must collaborate closely to ensure that land is recognized as and kept central to the journey toward gender equality.
- Land is fundamental to wealth, power, status, and security. Management and governance of land is vital to the survival of humanity, as a means to halt and reverse the triple interlinked crises of climate change, land degradation, and biodiversity loss. Without gender-equal rights to and power over land and land governance, we cannot achieve gender equality or a sustainable relationship with the planet.
- Women’s land rights is the bedrock for gender equality – we will never meet our goals to advance gender equality if we are not engaged in securing policies, practices, and social norms to ensure women’s equal access to land and resources rights.

- Women's land rights is also crucial to food security and to peace and security; women are primary food producers, and sustainable land stewards. When women have stronger land rights, household nutrition and sustainable land management practices improve, and conflict is reduced and avoided.
- Gender discrimination in land and resource rights can marginalize women and girls and leave them susceptible to additional risk factors, including gender-based and sexual violence, early/child/forced marriage, poverty, malnutrition, and displacement.
- Recognize that WLR is core and central to advancing numerous development goals in addition to and linked with gender equality; the SDGs, climate action, and many more - **include WLR in the agenda!**
- **Support and join initiatives like S4HL that have identified the connections between the nexus of challenges for women.**

RESOURCES

- Local and grassroots organizations must be funded to advance gender equality and to secure gender equal land tenure and governance rights.
- Funders and global actors (NGOs, UN entities) should work to identify and dismantle power structures that create barriers to funding for grassroots organizations and leaders and should proactively fund grassroots WLR work in principled and consistent ways. Wherever possible, restrictions that make funding otherwise inaccessible should be changed to ensure that local women can have the resources necessary to do the work.
- In this changing global environment where we are seeing a backlash to gender equality and women's rights, funders, donors and individuals should not only double down on their commitments to fund their work, but should fund directly to organizations (or create pathways for direct funding to) local organizations doing the work to create gender equality and women's rights, in particular, WLR organizations. **Support and directly fund initiatives and national coalitions that are doing the work to promote and create gender equality at local, national and regional levels.**