

INTERNATIONAL HELVI SIPILÄ SEMINAR AT THE CSW SINCE 2006

“The thing is, you talk about democracy and economics, but I have this funny idea that women have something to do with the increase in population.”

A quote from Helvi Sipilä, world's first woman Assistant Secretary-General of the UN, when she protested the sidelining of women from the UN Population Conference in Bucharest in 1974.

Helvi Sipilä (1915 – 2009) was a Finnish lawyer, diplomat, and a pioneer at the UN. Thanks to her, 1975 was declared the International Year of Women, and the first UN World Conference on Women was held under Sipilä's leadership in Mexico.

The International Women's Decade Voluntary Fund started in 1977 on Sipilä's initiative and later became the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Helvi Sipilä thought that every woman should have a profession and a job. Despite society's outcry, she ran her own law firm for 30 years, starting in the 1940's. She also led several associations, including the International Council of Women.

To honor her tireless work for women's rights, the first international Helvi Sipilä Seminar was organized at the CSW50 in 2006 by the Finnish Federation of University Women (FFUW) and other Finnish Women's organizations.

The Helvi Sipilä seminars continue her legacy by addressing challenging issues that affect women and their lives locally and globally.

14 march 2024 9-10.15 am
Permanent Mission of Finland
to the United Nations,
New York

18th international Helvi Sipilä seminar

Gender Responsive Budgeting - the Core Tool for Gender Equal Future

Registrations deadline 7 March 2024

Gender Responsive Budgeting in Raising Women from Poverty – the Core Tool for Gender Equal Future

Permanent Mission of Finland to the United
Nations, 605 Third Avenue, 35 Floor, N.Y.



PROGRAM

Welcoming words

Jutta Hartikainen, Finnish Federation of Graduate Women
/ **Anne Pönni**, Young Women's Christian Association of
Finland YWCA

Opening

Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Social Security, Ministry of
Social Affairs and Health, Finnish Government

Keynote speech

Zohra Khan, Senior Policy Advisor, Governance and National
Planning, UN Women

Discussion

Hanna-Mari Manninen, Chair, UN Women Finland
Inka Hopsu, Chair, the Coalition of Finnish Women
Associations NYTKIS

Zohra Khan, Senior Policy Advisor, Governance and National
Planning, UN Women

Mrs. Nadine Umutoni Gatsinzi, the Chief Gender Monitor,
Gender Monitoring Office, the Government of Rwanda

Closing remarks

Elina Kalkku, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative (PR), Permanent Mission of
Finland to the UN, New York, Finnish Government

Closing words

Jutta Hartikainen, Finnish Federation of Graduate Women
/ **Anne Pönni**, Young Women's Christian Association of
Finland YWCA

CONCEPT NOTE

Gender Responsive Budgeting in Raising Women from Poverty – the Core Tool for Gender Equal Future

CSW68, 18th International Helvi Sipilä Seminar

In the seminar, we will focus on how gender responsive budgeting can act as a powerful tool in improving the status of women. We look at the perspectives of the future and present concrete actions with which we can promote gender equality and raise women from poverty in our society.

The seminar offers an opportunity to delve deeper into researched knowledge about gender equality and presents practical tools and good practices that can be applied to gender-responsive budgeting. In addition, we discuss the commitment of the central government and its role in promoting gender responsive budgeting.

The seminar is organized jointly by the Finnish Federation of Graduate Women, the National Council of Women of Finland, the Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations – NYTKIS, Finland National Committee for UN Women and the Young Women's Christian Association of Finland YWCA.

