

## Last Day on the CSW63, What I Learned & Experienced



*UIMF team in New York by night*

On March 17, 2019 I flew from Salt Lake City, Utah to New York City, New York. I had the absolute pleasure of spending three days at CSW63. These three days were spent networking, exploring, advocating, and most importantly, learning.

What I loved most about the opportunity to attend the United Nations was that my classmates, who have become incredible friends were along side me advocating for language to be added that specifically included mountain women and girls. The 11 students who make up the delegation from UVU that attended the event are all from such different walks of life. From non-traditional students, to different political ideologies, we all had a common goal for CSW63. We were there to not only advocate for mountain women and girls but to advocate for the equal rights of all humans internationally.

On March 20, 2019 I spent the morning attending the NGO Briefing at the U.N. Headquarters. The panelists all shared their vision for CSW63 and why this commission is vital. After speaking they then turned to the audience to ask questions. This was my favorite part of the event because I was able to hear questions and concerns from people in the room from all over the country. From doctors to volunteers to professors to human rights advocates, we heard a variety of well thought out questions and concerns.



*Ezra Pugliano during briefing*

My professor, mentor, and dear friend Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, took the opportunity to speak to the CSW63 committee. He expressed first and foremost how proud he was of the student delegation from UVU that traveled to attend this very important conference.



*Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev speaks during briefing about mountain women*

He expressed the importance of student involvement and highlighted that non-traditional students are the backbone of many university's around the world. In addition, he advocated for sustainable mountain development (SMD), particularly the hardships mountain civilians, and mainly mountain women face daily. These communities are often forgotten, and he highlighted that the final

language of the CSW63 statement should include this important and underprivileged group of people.

Michael Hinatsu, Vice President of the UIMF was also privileged with the opportunity to voice concerns about mountain women and girls. Ms. Helen Swales, the briefing co-chair expressed support of our advocacy for mountain people because she is from New Zealand and understands the struggles her people go through. After the event we spoke with her about our academic goals and exchange ideas of how best to continue to advocate for mountain women and girls.



*UIMF team with a co-chair of the briefing, Ms. Helen Swales from New Zealand (second from the left)*

This trip was an incredible opportunity. I am grateful to be a non-traditional student. I am grateful that even though there are many barriers to attend college, I have overcome them.



*UIMF delegation after the briefing at the UN holding UVU stress-balls*

I believe that the student engaged learning model that UVU advocates for is vital to student success. We are the future, we have a right and obligation to be involved in decisions that will absolutely impact our future.

*Ezra Pugliano, UIMF member*