

My Experiences and Reflection on the CSW 66 Parallel Event

Hosted by the Utah International Mountain Forum



Alexandria Lamb, presenting information on access to women's health education

On Monday, March 21, 2022, students and world leaders met from across the globe to discuss the role of women in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk management. This event was hosted by a coalition of student-led clubs under the umbrella of the Utah International Mountain Forum, from Utah Valley University, Kyrgyzstan and Snow College. All of these students are invested in finding and executing solutions to empower women in mountain areas to create sustainable lives. The event was sponsored by two NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations and made possible by a principle implemented at Utah Valley University known as the Student Engaged Learning Method, or SEL. This is a collective, forward thinking learning model that enables students to work as a group to solve real world problems with a faculty member serving as a mentor. This inclusive learning method empowered me to participate in this virtual parallel event, giving me the opportunity to speak on something close to my heart.

The speech I gave detailed barriers to women's health education in the mountains and how we can help women overcome them.



Presenters and participants of the event

I loved having this opportunity to not only present information on women's access to healthcare in mountain regions but also to draw parallels between my mountain hometown and the mountains of Slovenia, a region I am studying in my Sustainable Mountain Development class. With the gathered results on my research of how mountain communities work in Slovenia, and here in Utah, I found fascinating results that I thought could benefit other countries abroad. These results were presented during my presentation in the parallel event “Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Model to Empower Mountain Women Globally.”

Women, girls and children in the mountains are considered as some of the most neglected and disregarded individuals on the planet. This makes them a very vulnerable population, which is now becoming vastly more difficult as time goes on due to effects of climate change, transition of gender roles, health problems, and more. Having the opportunity to bring these issues into awareness in front of peers and world leaders was an enlightening and exciting experience. It

showed me that through shared experiences, we can continue to grow and learn more to further help the women in the mountains.

Alexandria Lamb, UIMF member