

**STATEMENT**  
**Cade Bloomer**  
**Utah Valley University**  
**69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women**  
**Parallel Event**  
***Empowering Mountain Women and Girls Through Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning***  
**March 10, 2025**

Honorable delegates, distinguished guests, and esteemed colleagues,

My name is Cade Bloomer, and I am a political science student at Utah Valley University. Addressing the crucial issue of including mountain women and girls in the CSW69 is a privilege. As we strive for gender equality and sustainable development, we must acknowledge and address women's unique challenges in mountain communities worldwide.

Mountain women are vital in their communities, often serving as primary caretakers of natural resources, agricultural producers, and cultural stewards. However, they remain disproportionately affected by poverty, climate change, and limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Their voices and contributions must not be overlooked in global gender policy discussions. The United Nations must recognize the significance of these communities and integrate their concerns into the CSW69's final resolutions to ensure an equitable and sustainable future for all.

My research on Canada has given me valuable insights into women's rights in mountain regions. Women in these areas face systemic barriers to political participation, education, and economic empowerment. Despite these challenges, they demonstrate remarkable resilience and innovation in advancing their communities. By amplifying their voices at forums like CSW69, we reinforce our commitment to gender equality and sustainable development.

At UVU, the Student Engaged Learning Model (SEL) embodies inclusivity by involving traditional and non-traditional students in hands-on, impactful learning experiences. This model fosters leadership and real-world application of sustainable development principles. For instance, our work in sustainable mountain development has connected students across disciplines, empowering them to contribute actively to policy discussions and community-driven initiatives. Through research, advocacy, and on-the-ground service projects, students have directly engaged with mountain communities, highlighting the intersection of gender equality and sustainability.

Thank you.