

## My Advocacy For Mountain Women Justice in China at the United Nations



*Screenshot of the Participants of the Parallel Event at the United Nations*

The 70<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), parallel event with The Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), 10:30AM, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, hosted at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, participated at Utah Valley University (UVU)

The priority theme for this conference was: Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, addressing structural barriers, and promoting equitable legal systems. This was the main focus for myself and others' presentations and individual topics. This theme was the overarching direction for everyone's goals in order to best support women in a justice related capacity around the world. However, different organizations and regions had some more specific focuses and relevant topics that they addressed, UVU was no different. Our presentations were narrowed down to the topic of mountain women advocacy in the foreign countries that we chose and researched.



**Jonas Taner Speaks at the Event**

My country I chose was China; I chose this nation because of my personal connection with the country having lived there in the past. I knew this topic of advocacy for justice for mountain women was very relevant to China and its status with women. China has a wide range of quality of life and standard of living for its people, some of the most extreme examples come from its rural mountain communities. The country has worked hard to support its people and provide wealth and prosperity to both urban and rural areas, but there is still a ways to go to achieve greater equality. As with anywhere, this divide is more profound with women.

In specific regards to justice for mountain women in China there has been much progress made throughout the previous decades, but again, with still a lot of room for improvement. China was historically a nation of strict patriarchy and differences of rights and privileges for men and women. However, Chinese culture also places a strong emphasis on families and familial connection and piety. Woman are held in high standard in the roles that they are given within the

family and society, but they were often held within those roles. Modern China was one of the first nations globally to give women more rights than before with the rise of the PRC, but there is still much work to be done.



**Group Photo Taken After the Event**

In my speech I was able to emphasize the importance of justice for mountain women and for the inclusion of their perspectives and advocacy. While they are a relatively smaller demographic and often more isolated group of people, they also deserve their own perspectives and voices to be heard on the global stage. I was able to advocate for engaged learning in global sustainable growth and how that can be applied to specific topics like this one. No group getting left behind is one of the most important views of the UN, which is something else I also emphasized.

The student engaged learning model was something I was happy to learn more about, practice and apply in this event because of how important it is. In order to be able to achieve the ambitious goals set out by us and the UN engaged learning is one of the most important things we can try to achieve. It's something that I found in my own experience with this event to greatly help me in feeling involved in what I'm learning and actually building connections with the issues at hand.

I was unfortunately unable to attend the event in person, but in terms of the preparation and in class time I had a great experience. Being able to be a part of something so important to people around the world was something really special. It was also unique in that this event was directly connected with the actual UN and other global organizations which is great experience for future political science and globally connected jobs. Being able to make these connections with not only organizations but also the people in my class and at UVU will be very valuable for my future ambitions and career.

Other participants: Janessa- Michelle Purcell, Natalia Figueroa, Aemish Brock, Ana Caballero, Matthew Erickson, Abigail Fisher, Alley Holt, Sophie Jackson, Grace Jergensen, Roland Kabongo, Erynn Lammi, Louyoko Nianza, Angie Macias, Joao Petter, Antoine Mwamba, Mike Lutz, Cristina Alves Lyon, Domenic Callor, Matthew Erickson

***Jonas Taner, UVU student***