

STATEMENT
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Utah Valley University
70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Parallel Event
Raising Justice Awareness of Mountain Women Through Student-Engaged Learning
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Good morning, My name is Grace Jergensen, and I am a political science student at Utah Valley University (UVU). It is my privilege today to speak in support of the mountain women, not only in the State of Utah but globally Mountain women continue to be under-resourced, unacknowledged and their voices continue to be neglected, even at this forum.

Mountain families, women and girls are essential to achieving our global sustainability goals. These regions provide our world with resources and protection while facing the current climate crisis. Still women and girls of these communities carry a heavy burden due to lack of resources, access to adequate health care, education and physical safety, resulting in mountain women's inability to participate in civil and legal arenas. Violence against mountain women is a significant issue that has yet to be addressed due to language barriers and close-minded institutional practices.

Education plays a crucial role in rising justice awareness among mountain women. I can share my experience how the student-engaged learning model at UVU has helped me recognize my important role as a mountain women. As students we have been able to work together on these challenges impacting mountain women through analysis, networking, and UN engagement. Through the SEL model, I have been able to help serve mountain women in the state of Utah, alongside the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club. This initiative has also provided me with the opportunity to host events at UVU serving mountain communities, families and women.

As a part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals course, we study a specific state's policies and initiative to promote mountain women. In my studies of Norway, I have seen their efforts to include mountain women voices in government. Norway also provides financial aid, equal parental leave as well as ensuring safety of their environments.

I am planning to be professional in sustainability and work with intergovernmental organizations, like the United Nations. It is my hope to contribute to the increase of the role of women and mountain women and girls in particular within the international space by relying on educational initiatives, SEL model. . In forums, like these, I want to encourage and invite women to join the conversation. We recognize their value in opinion and leadership.