It was an honour to receive an invitation to attend the CSW62. Commission on the Status of Women. My main objectives for attending the Conference were to:

- Understand the UN process and how civil society can influence the processes to affect the outcome document produced by the United Nation
- To seek the opportunity to seek out funding opportunities for Wellsprings for Women
- To highlight the inadequacy of the funding situation for small grass roots organisations of the length of terms. Grants should be awarded for at least five years to have a meaningful outcome for the women we work with, rather than the annual grant writing cycle that is costly to small organisations.
- Explore network opportunities that will benefit Wellsprings
- Establish a closer link with IPA to have input into issues that will benefit the women Wellsprings work with.

The workshops I attended have met these objective.

**What’s my take out from this?**

Having known very little about the UN processes and where to engage and have some influence both as a civil society member and a IPA member it would seem to me that having some formal link to the IPA through a reporting mechanism would be a good thing. A template with four questions for the SDGs relevant for the country would make it easier,

Understanding the SDGs and the 2020 platform would also be advantageous for reporting against.

CEDAW and the Beijing Platform should inform the work going forward,

The Australian government takes its SDG responsibility seriously but only for other countries. It makes a great contribution to the region to maintain stability as it has very vested interest in doing so. The Asia/Pacific Advocacy training session highlighted the
relationship between Australia and its neighbours as being a very supportive and encouraging one.

It would seem to me that in the areas of migration and climate change Australia has to be held more to account. In the area of gender equality and gender parity it also needs to do more to monitor and have targets and implementations plans.

I didn’t quite achieve highlighting the inadequacy of funding for small non for profits. It became apparent that it was not quite the right forum to raise this issue.

**Action for going home**

Bringing the role of the UN to the forefront in Understanding the influence it has and the avenues in which we as civil society and as NGO/NFP can also have some input is essential.

For Wellsprings to convene women’s groups to look at dgs and how e are tracking against them with the women we work with.

To go to the Deaneries and see how they participate in an evaluation of sdgs

Talk to DFAT and other departments that are responsible for delivery of the goals and how we can have input. Inquire how Catholic Social services an umbrella organisation for social and community services be involved and input into SDGs NVR

Seek to have input in the the VNRs on the SDGs through the Presentation Justice network

Look up the global world fund and see if we can get some funding.

Develop funding submissions that deliver the goals of the SDG

**Sessions that have been of benefit to Wellsprings:**

- Rural Network Australia: develop training leadership via internet for women of other languages: they will explore with us on return
- The Refugee Centre in Houston will liaise to mentor Wellsprings to develop a Mentoring program for young Refugee Women through education

**Areas of interest to follow through**

1. Do some more research into supporting the Women Peace keeping Team fostering Non violent solutions

2. Develop a network of supporters for women in Syria who feel the world has forgotten them. Make links with the women’s group that are supporting the women on the ground Facebook page: Females for Freedom, etc
Janet Cribbes
Chair
Wellsprings for Women
Participant in CSW62
23rd March 2018