

CSW63 – presentation by Eiza Marot

Hello my name is Eiza Marot of JERA International and Triggered, today I'll be outlining the priority theme of the CSW63.

For those of you who are unclear on what the CSW is- The CSW is a key global intergovernmental body that is exclusively devoted to furthering gender equality and empowering women. The priority theme pertaining to the 63rd session of the CSW is framed around social protection systems. In the name of austerity, many social protection measures are becoming increasingly redundant in the context of escalating corporate power, as the global elite operate seemingly unchecked and unbalanced. We are witnessing a time in which the rise of right wing ideologies and increasing income, wealth disparities seem to marry hand in hand. Gender equality progression is facing ideological and intergovernmental roadblocks. Now, more than ever, the most vulnerable need social protection from the afflictions of rampant free-market capitalism.

Now, there are two very important questions I'd like to address in this presentation. The first one being, how can we define social protection systems and the second being why social protection systems matter for gender equality?

So first of all, social protection is a human right and can be defined as a set of policies and programs designed to reduce or prevent poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion throughout the life course. And the reason why social protection is so important in matters of gender equality is because women in particular face specific gendered risks throughout their own life course. And that is why it is so important for us to begin addressing women's core burdens in lower income settings in particular. "Invisible work" or unpaid care work is mostly conducted by women. It is difficult for policy makers and researchers to determine the risks associated with "invisible work" as it is not conducted in formal work settings.

The three key focus areas of the CSW63 include social protection, infrastructure, and public services. All of these areas must be reformed to reflect the actual realities of how women live and actually work. We urge states to recognize more gender responsive spending and coordination of these three key measures to stimulate economic recovery and social protection.

Essentially, we must design social protection systems that promote more equally distributed unpaid care work amongst men and women by introducing initiatives that include paid paternity leave for example, to encourage men to partake in child rearing activities, or affordable childcare services. Let's start putting mechanisms in place to ensure that women are comfortable in both the formal and informal sectors, so they can be free of harassment and violence. This will undoubtedly require cross-sector cooperation in both the Global North and the Global South.

Therefore, it is essential that we begin reimagining the current dominant economic paradigm by introducing protective measures such as universal healthcare, and addressing unpaid care work to which women are the primary subjects.

