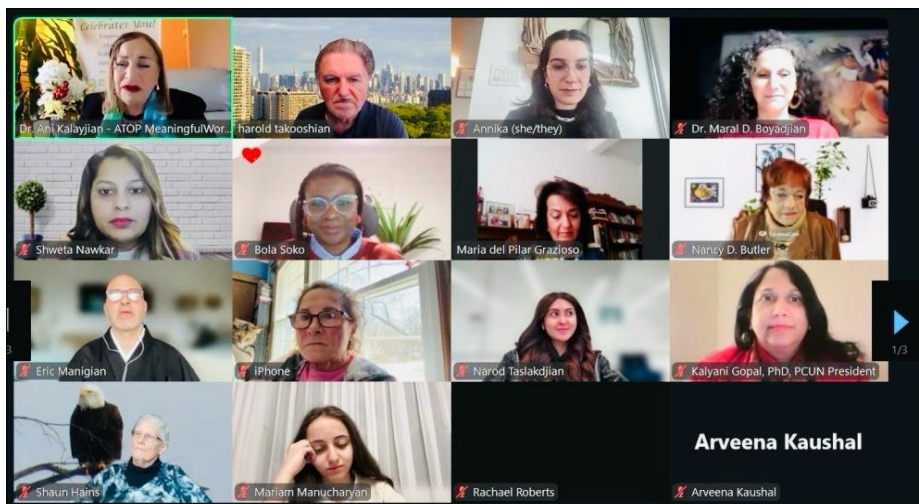




ATOP MeaningfulWorld at United Nations
A parallel Program at 70th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations
On
AI & EI: Challenges for Empowerment of Women & Girls Globally
12 March 2026

In a powerful and inspiring virtual gathering during the *70th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)* at the United Nations, Meaningfulworld brought together thought leaders, practitioners, and advocates from across the globe to explore critical issues affecting women and girls worldwide. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Established on 21 June 1946, the Commission continues to play a central role in shaping global standards and policies that advance women’s rights and opportunities worldwide.

The session began with thoughtful and thought-provoking questions that guided the discussion: *Why has the United States not ratified CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)? What progress have different countries achieved in advancing women’s empowerment and gender equality?* With over 189 participants from 12 countries joining the session, the event created a meaningful space for dialogue, shared learning, and collective commitment to building a more compassionate world for women and girls everywhere.





Eric Shokei Manigian



Dr. Kalyani Gopal

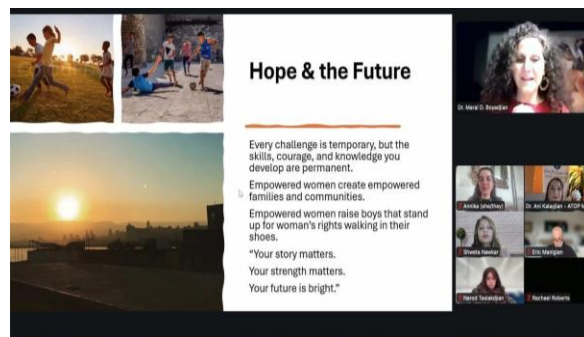
The session opened with a beautiful poem as a gratitude to mother earth by **Dr. Kalayjian**. A few lines from the poem - *“Thank you, Mother Earth, on this 70th Anniversary of the Commission on Status of Women. Just like you, we all possess the power to choose, to Be, to care, and to watch our emotions with detachment and love. You show us how to become whole by Being, and not as Descartes once said by thinking. I am because I am a human-being; I don’t identify with my thoughts, nor do I identify with my emotions. I am because I love unconditionally, and I create joy and peace in me and all around me”*.

Eric Shōkei Manigian, who shared emotional reflections on the current tragic killings of 153 girls by US attacks on Iran and dire realities of women navigating social, political, and economic challenges in the USA and other parts of the world. **Dr. Kalayjian** and Eric reminded participants that discussions about women’s empowerment must move beyond theory and statistics to acknowledge the real experiences of communities impacted by conflict, inequality, and trauma. Throughout the event, speakers shared stories from the field, offering both sobering insights and hopeful examples of resilience and transformation.

Dr. Kalyani Gopal highlighted the importance of addressing the psychological realities that shape women’s experiences in societies around the world. As the President of PCUM, she emphasized the role of the **Psychological Coalition of NGOs at the United Nations (PCUN)**, a collaborative network of twelve psychological NGOs (including ATOP MeaningfulWorld) working together globally to bring psychological perspectives into policy discussions. Dr. Gopal also discussed the importance of achieving justice and equal opportunities for women and girls in an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving world, including the growing influence of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Her insights underscored the need for informed, psychologically grounded approaches that ensure technological and social advancements contribute to empowerment, fairness, and sustainable progress for women and girls worldwide.

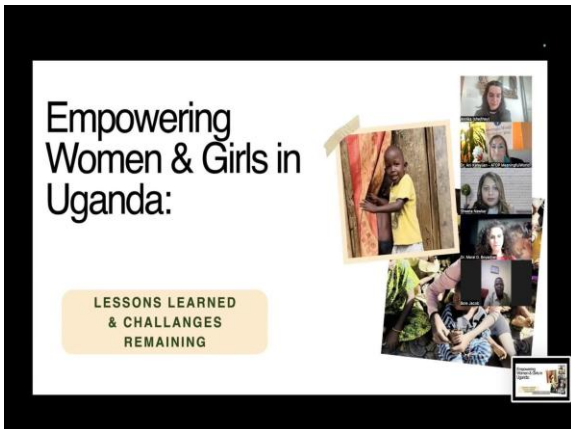


Dr. Grazioso, Guatemala

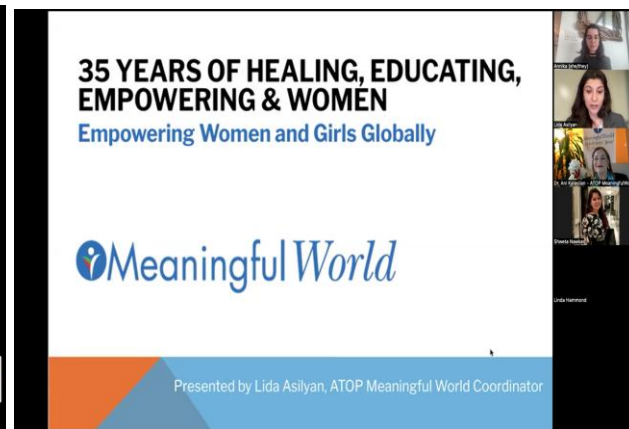


Dr. Maral Boyadjian, Lebanon

Dr. Maria del Pilar Grazioso began the conversation by sharing her experiences working closely with communities in **Guatemala**. She spoke about the lingering impact of historical violence, civil war, and systemic inequality on women, particularly in indigenous communities. Rather than focusing solely on the hardships, she highlighted the power of culturally rooted healing practices and community-based programs that support women in transforming trauma into strength, health, and well-being. Her message emphasized the importance of acknowledging difficult histories while creating pathways for healing and empowerment. MeaningfulWorld had a humanitarian outreach to Guatemala in 2022.



Jacob Bole, Uganda



Lida Asilyan, Harvard University

Dr. Maral Boyadjian shed light on the resilience of women in the Middle East. She shared compelling insights from **Lebanon**, where women continue to play a vital role in sustaining families and communities during periods of conflict, displacement, and economic instability. Her message focused on the extraordinary strength of women who, even in the most difficult circumstances such as the current Israeli attacks, continue to lead, educate, and inspire future generations. She encouraged participants to recognize that when women are empowered through education, community support, and opportunity, they become powerful catalysts for social change.

Jacob Bole added a grassroots perspective and spoke about his work with vulnerable communities in Slums of Namuwonge-Kampala in **Uganda** through the collaboration of Hope Renewed with MeaningfulWorld. He described how community-driven programs are creating tangible improvements in the lives of women and families. From providing education scholarships to organizing community healing workshops, and training Mothers in Transcendental Meditation, these efforts are helping build stronger and more resilient communities. One particularly impactful initiative Meaningfulworld sponsored was installing metal doors in homes to improve the safety of women who had previously faced sexual exploitations and rape. These projects demonstrated how practical solutions, combined with community engagement, can bring meaningful changes to the everyday lives of women & girls.

Lida Asilyan highlighted the broader global mission of Meaningfulworld. Through research, policy advocacy, and direct community engagement, the organization continues to address trauma, inequality, and social injustice across multiple regions. She emphasized that meaningful progress requires collaboration across cultures, sectors, and generations. Addressing gender inequality is not only about responding to immediate challenges but also about building sustainable systems that promote dignity, equality, and opportunity for the long term.

The findings presented in this summary are derived from recent global research reports, policy publications, and institutional datasets that were published between 2024 and 2026, which were produced by international organizations, financial institutions, and research institutes. In 2026, there is a significant shift in the global economy as women gain unprecedented financial influence.

The state of global gender parity of women in finance, wealth, and earning capacity in 2026 is as follows: Women continue to gain representation in corporate leadership, holding approximately one-third of global senior management positions. Within finance specifically, women account for approximately 39% of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) roles yet remain significantly underrepresented in broader executive leadership across financial institutions (Grant Thornton, 2026; People Matters, 2026). Women now control roughly 30–40% of global wealth, estimated at \$83 trillion over the coming decades as they are expected to become the primary beneficiaries of the largest intergenerational wealth transfer in history (J.P. Morgan, 2026; UBS, 2026). Women’s participation in financial markets is rising rapidly. In recent years, female participation in brokerage and investment accounts has increased significantly faster than men’s, reflecting growing financial independence and increased access to investment platforms (Saxo Bank, 2026; UBS, 2026). Women receive approximately one-third of global labor income, despite representing nearly half of the global workforce. Structural inequalities continue to constrain women’s full economic participation, including unpaid care responsibilities and limited access to leadership positions (Ipsos, 2026; World Inequality Database, 2026).

Closing global gender gaps in economic participation could contribute up to \$28 trillion to global GDP annually. However, with only a small proportion of women worldwide living in economies that provide full legal equality in areas such as employment, pay, and entrepreneurship as legal barriers remain widespread (World Bank, 2026; World Economic Forum, 2026). Women entrepreneurs remain significantly under-funded within the venture capital ecosystem. All-female founding teams receive only around 1–2% of total global venture capital funding, while women hold a limited share of decision-making roles within Venture Capital firms, contributing to persistent funding disparities (Theanna, 2026).

Speakers also reflected on the evolving global landscape, including the role of technology, emerging social challenges, and the need for emotional intelligence in leadership and community building. These discussions reinforced the idea that empowerment is not simply about policy change, but it is also about nurturing empathy, awareness, and collective responsibility for the well-being of others.



The session concluded with a moving ***Heart-to-Heart-Circle of Love and Gratitude*** with peace meditation led by Dr. Kalayjian. Participants from different countries shared their hopes for peace, justice, and equality, symbolically sending their intentions to communities around the

world. This collective circle reminded everyone present that while the challenges women face may differ across regions, the shared commitment to healing, resilience, and empowerment connects people across borders.

Meaningfulworld extends sincere gratitude to the sponsors Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP) MeaningfulWorld, ACRPC, AGBU and Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Educational Services (IMCES) for their generous contribution and support which made this global dialogue possible. Their commitment continues to support initiatives that promote healing, empowerment, and social justice for women and communities around the world.

Through stories of resilience, community leadership, and global collaboration, the event reaffirmed a simple yet powerful truth: *when women are supported, empowered, and heard, they become transformative forces capable of shaping a more equitable and peaceful world for all.*

Dr. Ani urged everyone to continue taking action by sharing information with 3 people in their circles and urging them to share with 3 others. Together, we are united and stand in peace & Equity. ***Our Moto: When one helps another BOTH become stronger!***

Upcoming events: Meaningfulworld invites you to join the next hybrid programs for the month of March and April 2026.

28 March 2026: Workshop on Disaster Relief & meaning making, hybrid.

<https://meaningfulworld.com/our-work/global-humanitarian-ambassador-certification/2026-28-march-disaster-relief-mindfulness>

24 April 2026: 30th Annual Krieger Contest on How to Prevent Genocides & War.

Essay Submission last date 24th April 2026

<https://meaningfulworld.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-Kreiger-Essay-film-Contest-Preventing-Genocide.pdf>

25 April 2026: Genocide prevention Program, upholding United Nations Human Rights Declaration and SDGs. At Fordham University- Hybrid. <https://meaningfulworld.com/our-work/global-humanitarian-ambassador-certification/2026-25-april-genocide-prevention-upholding-united-nations-human-rights-declaration-and-sdgs>

April 4 to April 17, 2026: Humanitarian Mission to Senegal focused on trauma healing, emotional intelligence, empathy, United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, ecology, and peacebuilding.

<https://meaningfulworld.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-4-17-April.-Senegal-MeaningfulWorld-Humanitarian-Mission-pre-press.pdf>

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