

Strategic Plan Committee for The Status of Women and Human Rights



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PURPOSE/MISSION of Ontario Council (and thus CSWHR)

- 1. Advocate for the advancement of the status of women, human rights and the common good.
- 2. Promote cooperation, communication, networking, support and understanding among women.
- Promote high standards of education, lifelong learning and advanced study and research by women.
- 4. Encourage and enable women to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision-making in all aspects of their lives.



Theme and Tagline

Education. Action. Support. Women Helping Women



Purpose of the Committee for The Status of Women and Human Rights

- A forum for Ontario Council members involved with advocacy issues related to the Status of Women and Human Rights (SWHR), in Ontario
- Together with the Advocacy Committee, is responsible for the development and communication of CFUW OC SWHR related policies on behalf of the Board
 - Committee projects/initiatives are expected to be aligned with the biennium theme approved by the OC Board.



Activities of CSWHR

- Acts as a forum for discussions concerning SWHR advocacy on behalf of CFUW Ontario Council
 - Together with the Education, Legislation and Advocacy committees, assists with tracking current and emerging advocacy issues
- Exchanges information concerning advocacy activities and concerns, with the aim of informing multiple levels – Clubs, regions and the Board
 - Represents CFUW OC on SWHR advocacy related matters when requested
- Develops and maintains administrative procedures for advocacy related communication and/or activities for Ontario Council together with the Education, Legislation and Advocacy committees
 - Reviewed annually
- Produces a year-end report on SWHR advocacy activities for the Ontario Council Annual Report for members



Drivers and Barriers for CSWHR Success



Drivers

- Recent COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated areas of weakness in healthcare/longterm care (LTC), especially for women, and human rights violations
- Most CFUW OC Club members are committed to goals of furthering education for themselves and others (latter needs to be better understood)
- Paucity of strong voices challenging the status quo (media presence)
- Upcoming emergency resolutions addressing LTC
- Publication of Vulnerable
- National's status at UN, 100th anniversary, OC's 40th anniversary, formal declaration of CFUW as important to women's issues/furthering women's emancipation
- Number and content of resolutions at National level
- OC constitution
- OC board structure



Barriers

- Geographical distance between Clubs makes it difficult to contact/understand direction wanted
 - Difficult to attend conferences
- Financial burdens after COVID-19 for dues
 - Decline in Club members?
- Emotional/psychological burnout following isolation with COVID-19 (socialisation may be more of an interest)
 - More interest in Interest Groups
- Competition versus collaboration with National
- Technology for Speakers Series
 - Club costs for platforms (if any)
 - · Training needed
- Identification/knowledge of interested Club members for Committee
 - What do we really know about each Club?
 - Emphasis on President of Club
- Resolutions or lack thereof stymie quick response advocacy
- Populist government
- It is not business as usual



SWOT

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats



Strengths

OC

- Long standing, strong and active advocacy
 - Established presence with government
- National's consultative status with UN ECOSOC
 - · Adds to credibility
- Non-partisan
- Successful Speakers Series
- Strong leadership
- Resolutions specific to Ontario and National resolutions define advocacy focus

CSWHR

- Both topics are OC and National focus for advocacy
- Standing committee of OC
- Member of Advocacy committee
- Major organiser/contributor to Speakers Series
- Understands some of Clubs' issues of importance due to 2019 survey

Weaknesses

OC

- Differentiation from National not well established
 - Objectives and activities unknown to many Ontario Clubs
- Speakers Series not convenient for distant member Clubs
- Resolutions (National and OC) define advocacy focus
- Hierarchy (?)
- Most meetings held in Toronto (\$\$ and difficult to access)
- Declining membership in Ontario Clubs
- Unilingual

CSWHR

- Precedents not documented well
- Underdeveloped liaisons with other regions' SWHR committees
- Until this year, a committee of one
- Communications to Club members not breaking through other CFUW communications (SoV diluted)



Opportunities

- COVID-19 has redefined means of participation in conferences/opened new avenues of communication
- COVID-19 has both magnified and brought to citizens' attention the issues related to elder (long term) care, child care, education and equality
- Government has been called to task on the management of Long Term Care homes
- Numerous national and provincial NG organisations exist with like minded purposes (for partnership)
- Women have been disproportionately and negatively affected by COVID-19
- Publication of Vulnerable
- New technologies may allow for greater involvement in Speakers Series (and therefore greater interest in advocacy/SWHR)
- Increase in use of Zoom/new technologies for communication

Threats

- Instability of National wrt GWI
 - Diverts attention of Clubs
- Technology presents unique challenges to some older women (Club members)
- Frequent changes in Ontario political government (vs bureaucratic government) and secrecy make advocacy challenging
- Ontario's populist government is rolling back rights
 - Women's rights are being eroded
- Climate of racism, white male supremacy, populist ideas increasing
- Second wave of COVID-19
- Difficult to commit to focused activities due to overwhelming number of issues



Strategies for CSWHR

- Identify, investigate and prioritise SWHR issues in ON and effectively communicate to OC Board and member Clubs
- Augment image, better understanding of activities, importance and value of CSWHR OC amongst member Clubs
- Collaborate with OC member Clubs to increase membership in CSWHR committee, provide leadership and empower Clubs to advocate on SWHR issues
- Foster collaboration amongst CSWHR regional boards and National



CSWHR Tactical Plan



- Identify, investigate and prioritise SWHR issues in ON and effectively communicate to OC Board and member Clubs
 - Review ON government media releases for activities/changes
 - Monitor lay media for emerging issues
 - Explore