

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Important international bodies and agencies are relevant areas for UPSC and other government exams, especially if they are in the news with a focus on India. They form an important part of the [UPSC/Govt. Exams prep](#) for aspirants. In this article, you can read all about the Commission on the Status of Women or CSW for [government exams](#).

What is the Commission on the Status of Women?

The UNCSW or simply CSW is the chief international inter-governmental body dedicated to the promotion of women empowerment and gender equality.

- It functions under the [Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#), one of the principal organs of the United Nations.
- It was established in 1946 by a resolution of the ECOSOC.
- The CSW documents the condition of women's lives the world over and also strives for setting global standards on women empowerment and gender equality.
- In 1996, the ECOSOC expanded the mandate of the Commission to include supervising and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration](#) and Platform for Action.
- The expanded mandate also includes bringing in a gender perspective in all of the [UN's](#) activities.
- The Commission is supported in its work by [UN Women](#), which is its Secretariat.
- CSW is headquartered in New York, USA.

CSW and India

In a recent development, India was elected to the CSW for four years from 2021 to 2025. Along with India, Afghanistan was also elected to the Commission while China failed to win a seat.

CSW Significance

The Commission has played a key role in the advancement of women's social, economic and political rights worldwide.

- The first international law instrument to recognize and protect the political rights of women, the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1953), was drafted by UNCSW.
- A few other landmark conventions drafted by the Commission include the following, among others:
 - Convention on the Nationality of Married Women (1957) - first international agreement on the rights of married women.
 - Convention on Consent to Marriage (1962)
 - Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962)
 - [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) (1979)
- The Commission served as the preparatory body for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, which adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- Over the years, the Commission has brought to light the social taboos and broken stereotypes.
- It has taken a leading role in the discussion around women's rights and advancements.
- It has also talked about discrimination and inequalities faced by women and girls everywhere.
- The annual session of the Commission is the largest congregation of women's rights advocates from all over the globe.

- At the end of the two-week session, the CSW comes up with 'Agreed Conclusions', for governments, national human rights institutions, the UN system, the private sector, civil society, employer organisations, trade unions, media, etc.
-

