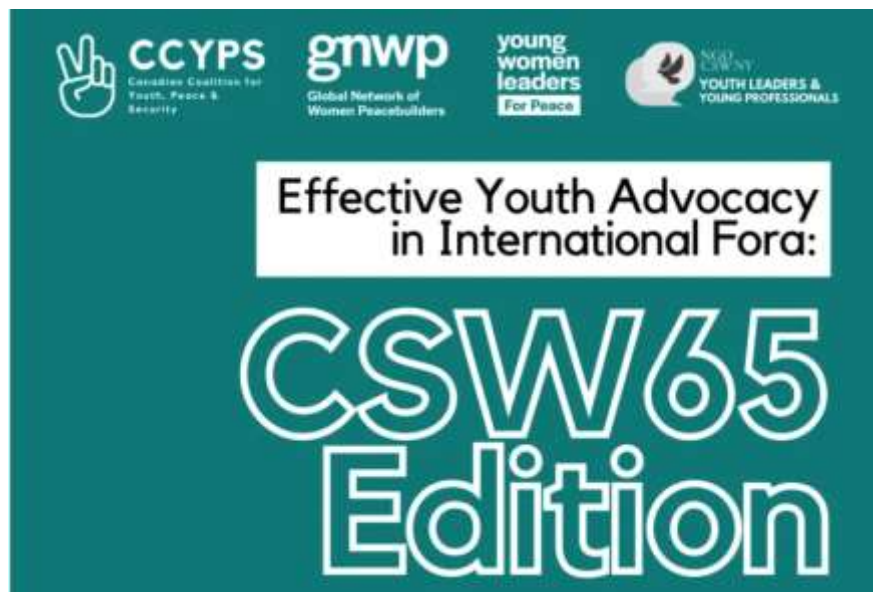


My experience with an Youth Advocacy as a Preparations for CSW65

In preparation for the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65), I attended an online workshop focused on teaching youth about effective advocacy in international fora on February 4th, 2021 hosted by members of Canada Youth for Peace (CYP). I had the opportunity to attend this online event with Yana Anderson, UVU's Rotaract President, who is also [preparing for CSW65](#). The purpose of this event was to gather a group of young people, mostly women, to promote the importance of youth involvement in CSW; keeping peace and security at the forefront of the session's focus. The presenters discussed methods of ensuring that we could use CSW as an effective platform for advocacy despite the logistical and other barriers caused by the pandemic.



The majority of the event was spent in various breakout rooms; I chose the breakout room dedicated to learning how to make an impactful intervention. As someone who has never attended CSW, I was very interested in learning what it meant to make an impactful intervention in the context of CSW and its priority theme. The breakout room focused on a few main points about how to hold an impactful intervention as a young advocate. The presenters stated the importance of setting priorities and advocacy points well in advance to give yourself space and time to focus on areas of interest. Additionally, they highlighted the need to stay organized and prepare research ahead of time. One presenter shared her experience as a youth of color presenting her research and interventions, and emphasized how often people do not take youth

seriously; therefore coming prepared with research and background knowledge is incredibly important.

In addition to teaching about what makes a successful intervention, the presenters tied the information back to the upcoming CSW. Taking part in parallel events by discussing the CSW themes, continuing conversations with the panelists after the events, and strengthening relationships with other attendees is an effective use of CSW events. Advocacy with the United Nations can be difficult, especially now, because of inaccessibility and a lack of understanding. However, youth involvement in international advocacy is crucial. Despite the barriers facing youth in the international community, we need to work diligently, coming prepared with research, and not letting nerves get in our way.

The online workshop was a great learning opportunity that gave me the chance to learn more about what an effective intervention looks like, and how that applies to youth involvement in the CSW. Our delegation is planning to have a parallel event during CSW65, titled "*Mountain Women Empowerment Through the Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Model*" on March 22nd at 8am EST.

I appreciate the perspective that the presenters shared and it will help make my presentation more professional. They were very accomplished young women who were willing to share their personal experiences at past conferences, which gave me a more realistic expectation for what to expect and how to prepare for CSW65.

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