



## INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN STATEMENT FOR THE UN CIVIL SOCIETY TOWN HALL, JANUARY 2026

### Distinguished Dignitaries and Respected Civil Society Colleagues:

\*Inspired by the late chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt, in the past 80 years civil society has risen to her challenge to **DO THE THING YOU THINK YOU CANNOT DO**.

\*The International Alliance of Women respects the work of the United Nations and calls on it to rise to challenges that may seem insurmountable. We believe the United Nations' pillars of peace and security, human rights, and development are achievable with perseverance and even with limited budgets **IF** reforms engage women and girls always and everywhere in the reform process.

\*We commend civil society organizations as engines of progress. They pursue reform through times of hardship and drive grassroots initiatives toward equality in our homes, our schools, our communities and our nations. They localize the principles, conventions and practices of the United Nations.

\*We, the members of the International Alliance of Women, dream with our eyes wide open and seek consideration of actions that are poised to reform the UN for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

\*The world watches as the United Nations elects its next Secretary General this year in what we want to be a fair, open, inclusive process that ensures the successful candidate sets forth a strong vision for the United Nations that upholds and respects the dignity and power of women and elects a feminist woman United Nations Secretary General.

\*The International Alliance of Women also supports:

- Elimination of the Veto Power in the United Nations Security Council.
- Engagement of at least 50% women, civil society, indigenous peoples, minorities and communities affected by conflict, in its essential work in shaping global peace and security governance.
- Upholding the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.
- UN Charter principles committed to structural change and consensus building to safeguard civilians, prevent or resolve conflicts, and address emerging threats like climate change and digital divide.
- CSW Revitalization reform initiatives that will accord Observer Status for NGO's during the negotiation on the Agreed Conclusion during the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women.

\*The International Alliance of Women drives progress consistently toward these goals with actions rooted in the unwavering principles that human rights begin at home. We are emboldened by our success in localizing the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Girls through programs such as the Cities for CEDAW campaigns. These grassroots campaigns bring awareness of and action toward attainment of UN sustainable development goals and human rights for women and girls.

\*With great respect and warm regards, Alison Brown, (President), Jill Follows, Soon-Young Yoon, Jessica Pierson, Thalia Brown, (Representatives of International Alliance of Women to the UNHQ)

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USA

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