

**Imagining an Independent Global Feminist Body: Obstacles & Opportunities**  
**Parallel Event**  
**CSW 66**  
**5 pm Istanbul/ 3 pm CET / 7.30 pm New Delhi**

**Background:**

We have left the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) behind, yet unfortunately, it is impossible to say that the actions outlined in the Platform and the ultimate aim of gender equality has been achieved, in any country of the World. In spite of the numerous international documents<sup>1</sup> that address to support this aim, we are miles away from the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity and gender equality, on global, national and local levels. Beijing+25 Women's Platform Turkey was established in 2019, to highlight the lack of accountability in a government dominated decision making structure of multilateralism which fails to address rights violations against women, girls and LGBTQI+ people, especially in the Global South. The withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention of Turkey by a single man's decision has shown that our rights cannot be left into the hands of governments, in a context in which authoritarian, misogynistic and anti-LGBTQI+ ideologies have become state policies in different corners of the world.

The hierarchal structure of multilateral bodies, professionalism, language, visa and travel barriers and the shrinking space for civil society in these processes has made it even harder to establish accountability and develop progressive standards globally, and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the anti-rights actors', movements' and governments' attacks on these spaces, rights, standards and norms, it is evident that we need to discuss more on how to protect what has been gained so far, while discussing the opportunities and challenges of a new independent feminist body, that will be monitoring the advancements with regards to gender equality which is accessible to all women and girls across the world to ensure accountability.

We are inviting you to discuss with us the possibilities and challenges of a new feminist accountability and solidarity mechanism, to strengthen our feminist struggle and push back the anti-gender and anti-rights attacks on our rights.

**Methodology:**

The speakers (TBC) will make maximum 10 minute long interventions, elaborating on the current situation with regards to rights and accountability, and how the idea of a "Independent Feminist Body" has emerged. The session will be moderated by Sehnaz Kıymaz Bahceci, who will then open the floor to discussion. There will be English-Turkish simultaneous interpretation during the event.

**Speakers:**

Berfu Şeker – Women for Women's Human Rights – New Ways  
Selma Acuner – Women's Coalition Turkey

---

<sup>1</sup> For example, UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820 and 2122, Sustainable Development Goals (especially Goal 5), Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention etc.

**Questions for discussion:**

- What should be the structure of this body?
  - How should it organize?
  - What should be its mandate?
  - How can we fundraise?
- How should we advocate for this feminist body?
  - What are the methods for advocacy and organizing?
  - What are the actions that we can undertake?
  - How can we collaborate? Who are the stakeholders?