

GB's Delegation of Hope at UNCSW64



APPLICATION AND INFO PACK



Do you have a heart for advocacy (bringing God's hope and light into the lives around you)? Do you strive for justice and want to see the brokenness in the world restored? Are you passionate about making a meaningful difference? Do you have good communication and team work skills?

The Girls' Brigade International (GBI) is delighted to announce that it will be appointing a new Delegation of Hope team to represent the mission movement at the United Nation's Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN General Assembly in New York on 5-15 March 2020 (the first week of UNCSW). The opportunity to apply is open to any Girls' Brigade member aged 18-35.

What is the UN Committee on the Status of Women?

Part of UN Women, CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. During the Commission's annual two-week session in March, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. For NGOs (like The Girls' Brigade), it is one of the only areas where there is the opportunity to interact with, and try to influence, global policy making.

What is the goals for GBI's Delegation of Hope team?

The International President's Committee has agreed four strategic goals for the Delegation of Hope team:

1. **Inspire** - The Delegation of Hope will inspire others about GB's 127 years of ministry amongst girls across 50 countries as well as the positive impact of Christian faith on girls' lives.
2. **Connect** - The Delegation of Hope will connect with other influencers and organisations to build foundations for relationships and increase the potential for collaboration particularly in the area of faith and girls' rights.
3. **Influence** - The Delegation of Hope will influence positive decisions to be made at UNCSW which will help girls and women live 'life to the full' and beyond through their example and campaigning.
4. **Transform** - The members of the Delegation of Hope will gain more knowledge, expertise and experience of international advocacy and campaigning which can be their local communities as well as lead GBI's advocacy forward.



What is CSW like and what will team members be involved in?

CSW is an exhausting, inspiring, challenging, frustrating, wonderful and at times, overwhelming experience' – a quote in an NGO CSW handbook.

Being part of GB's Delegation of Hope is a once in a lifetime opportunity for team members to develop their own advocacy, leadership and communication skills as well as help to advocate how Christian faith can make a positive difference to girls' and women's rights at the highest level.

Although there is no typical day at CSW, here are a few things that GBI's Delegation of Hope will be involved in:

- Equipping sessions – GBI will equip you in advocacy and campaigning skills through our own sessions but also in partnership with other like-minded organisations
- Official CSW sessions – an opportunity to attend official sessions in the UN Assembly building and question government ministers
- Parallel and side events – an opportunity to attend numerous info sessions and seminars on girls’ right issues
- Hosting a parallel session – GBI will be hosting our own parallel session on faith and gender justice which members will help to organise and facilitate
- Networking meetings – an opportunity to meet and network with other NGOs
- Ambassador events – possibility of being invited to special meetings organised by your own country.

Who is eligible to apply?

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity, please read this information pack before applying so you can prayerfully judge whether this opportunity is right for you!

Active GB member

Any Girls’ Brigade member who is 18 years old (from 1 September 2019) and 35 years old (by 16 March 2020) is eligible to apply. One person from each Fellowship will be appointed to the team.

As you are representing The Girls’ Brigade International, we are looking for young women who have:

- Been a member/leader of a GB group for at least three years
- Or if involvement in a local group has not been possible, can demonstrate that they have been involved in local or international GB projects over the last three years.

Please read p. 7 to understand why this team will be composed of 18-35s members only.

Skills and characteristics

GBI are looking for team members who have:

- A strong and growing Christian faith with a ‘Good News’ story to share
- Passion for advocacy and social justice
 - Desirable – experience of campaigning on a social justice issues with local or national government
- Fantastic communication skills and who enjoy speaking to new people in variety of different contexts
 - Desirable – experience of leading workshops and giving presentations to different audiences
- Innovative creative skills – GB’s advocacy is creative so we’re looking for people who can write and perform dramas/spoken word pieces/songs
- Team work skills - the ability to work in a multi-cultural team, to listen well and to be flexible and adaptable
- Stamina and resilience – UNCSW is a busy week with early starts and late finishes
- Ability to be an excellent ambassador for The Girls’ Brigade.



What is the commitment?

Being part of the GB's Delegation of Hope team is a nine month commitment involving a commitment of time, resources and finances before and after the event. Please only apply if you are able to fulfil all requirements below.



By applying to be part of GBI's, you are committing to:

- Fundraising to attend (please see below for more info about the financial commitment)
- Preparing comprehensively to be part of the team. This will include:
 - Actively participating in a fortnightly online preparation call
 - Answering emails promptly
 - Developing GB's workshop in conjunction with other partners
 - Allocating 40 hours in preparation time (roughly 2 hours a week for four months).
- Attending the UNCSW from 5 – 15 March 2020
 - All team members are expected to have arrive in New York on Thursday 5 March 2020 and depart on Sunday 15 March 2020. There is no flexibility on these dates
 - Team members will be expected to attend briefing, equipping and networking sessions and adhere to the full scheduled itinerary
 - Please be aware that this is not a 'holiday' in NYC although there will be a sightseeing day scheduled at the end.
- Contributing to GBI's advocacy approach moving forwards
 - Contributing to a team debrief and creating a report for IPC.
 - Developing and leading a GB advocacy project in your own country or Fellowship which will use what you've learned at UNCSW to make an impact on the lives of girls.

What is the financial commitment?

An estimate of the cost is below:

Accommodation for 10 nights in shared bedrooms/bathrooms (this will be arranged by GBI)	£400-500
Food	£300
Transport to and from airport and around NYC	£100
NGO CSW Consultation Day event	£50
Total	£8-950

What is not included in the above estimate?

- Flight costs
- Any visa cost
- Travel insurance
- Spending money for gifts or for our optional sightseeing day.

Although GBI does not want cost to be an issue, please realistically assess whether you will be able raise the funds in time for CSW64. To keep your flights costs low, it is recommended that you purchase your flights before early December.

IPC have agreed to award Delegation of Hope members with a £750 GiveAGirlAHope grant towards costs.

What is the application process?

There is a three part application process for GBI's Delegation of Hope:

1. Online application form

[Please apply online here before 11.59pm on 30 September 2019](#). On the application form, you will also have to provide details of two referees (one must be a GB leader who knows you for at least three years). Family members are not acceptable referees. Please note your reference will be sent to your national GB country for it to endorse your application.

2. Submit a short film

In addition to the online written application form, applicants must include a short film (no more than 5 mins) answering the following questions:

- a) Why do you want to be part of the GB Delegation of Hope team?
- b) What is an injustice that God has placed on your heart and that you want to help transform?
- c) How you are currently trying to transform this injustice and raise hope for girls in this area?
- d) What is your vision for how GB can help transform the lives of girls?

Top tip: The assessor team will be analysing the quality and substance of the content of your answers as well as your communication style – but not the quality of the film. This can be done on a web cam or camera phone. (However please do film yourself in a quiet place so your answers can be heard. We must be able to see you in the film).

The film must be submitted via email to girlsbrigadeworldwide@gmail.com before 11.59pm on 30 September 2019. (If the film clip is too large to attach to an email, use www.wetransfer.com).

3. Online interview

Applicants who rank high in the written and online applications will be invited to participate in an online interview in mid-October.

It is anticipated that the team will be appointed by the end of October.

Any further questions?

Please read pp 6-8 carefully. If you still have any questions, please email girlsbrigadeworldwide@gmail.com.

FAQs

What is GB International's advocacy involvement with the United Nations?

After a 15 month application process, The Girls' Brigade International was accredited with special consultative NGO status by the United Nations in 2018. This enables The Girls' Brigade International to have a presence at the annual Commission of the Status of Women (CSW). In March 2019, some members of the International President's Committee attended CSW63 in March 2019.

What was the positive impact and value of GB attending CSW63?

There were five positive outcomes to Girls' Brigade International from attending CSW63 in 2019:

1. Raised GB's platform in the international sphere
 - a. As the world's oldest Christian movement for girls, it was fantastic to get the recognition that we deserved and 'have a seat at the table' during the world's largest gathering of gender equality activists. GB uniform was worn inside the UN building and GB had a front seat at the opening session of CSW63.2. Better connections through effective networking
2. Networking
 - a. During the week, the team gave out hundreds of publicity flyers and contact details to people from across the world. This has resulted in a number of fruitful and divine connections which if nurtured will help to transform the lives of girls across the world
3. Doors of opportunities have opened
 - a. As a result of our effective networking, a number of doors of opportunities have presented themselves to Girls' Brigade:
 - i. Finance – there are a number of grants that GB can apply and be eligible for.
 - ii. Growing GB – as a result of conversations, there is the opportunity to develop GB in new countries
 - iii. Collaborations – a number of Christian organisations are interested in partnering to lead workshops/events at CSW64 and beyond.
4. More comprehensive understanding of the UN and CSW
 - a. GB International has gained a better understanding of how it could influence effectively at UN level and a more comprehensive understanding of CSW
5. GB can make a positive difference to the UN

As a Christian mission movement, it is good to turn the question around and ask: how did GB's participation in CSW benefit UN and Christianity?

- a. As one of maybe a handful of Christian faith-based organisations attending CSW63, Girls' Brigade had a huge capacity to speak well of faith and the positive difference that it makes in the lives of girls and communities. We were able to provide positive examples from GB countries around the world.
- b. CSW was an opportunity to work together with other faith actors to champion the role of faith and traditional leaders in achieving gender justice. Eighty-four per cent of the world's population self-identify as members of a faith and religious groups. Faith actors, include Girls' Brigade, play an important role in the formation of people's values, norms of acceptable behaviour and life roles. They have access and authority within their communities in ways which governments may not. Consequently, faith actors occupy a unique position to make transformational and sustained progress towards gender equality. While it must be acknowledged that faith actors can be part of the problem of gender injustice, underpinning discriminatory practices, they are increasingly becoming, and seen as, part of the solution. Firstly, faith actors can contribute to building a value basis, which includes an inclusive approach based on human rights and equal access to social protection. Secondly, faith actors are also advocating for governments' responsibility to provide

effective, and inclusive, social protection. It is important that Christian faith is advocated well in the corridors of power.

It was also evident that many GB members around the world were inspired by GBI's engagement at UN level and commitment to turn up the volume amongst girls. The social media posts during CSW63 were the highest viewed and interacted with in 2019 so far.

What are the opportunities for GB to influence CSW and make an impact?

In terms of maximising GBI's influence at CSW in the future, there are a number of ways that we can do this as a mission movement at international and national level:

- GBI can submit a written statement to CSW
- GBI can submit an oral statement to CSW
- Attending youth events at CSW
- Hosting a workshop/seminar event at CSW – a way of increasing GBI's advocacy platform, amplifying the voice of young people, speaking well for Christian faith and developing the skills and experience of our younger GB members. This would be best done through collaboration with other faith-based movements
- GB members becoming part of country delegation teams or meet national delegation team (please see below for more info).

Why is GB International attending CSW64 in 2020?

IPC recognises that it is not sustainable for GBI to attend CSW every year but it was agreed that as 2020 is a special year for women's rights, it is important for GB International to be present.

In 2020, the global community will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). This is considered the key global policy document on gender equality. An unprecedented 17,000 participants and 30,000 activists streamed into Beijing for the opening of the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995. By the time the conference closed, it had produced the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was the first time a UN world conference had identified such

practical and measurable actions (rather than just policy statements) and had governments commit to doing them. You can read more here: www.beijing20.unwomen.org/en/about



A five-year milestone will be reached towards achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 is therefore a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere.

Why are 18-35s only eligible for the Delegation of Hope team?

In terms of how could GB uniquely contribute to future CSWs, it is definitely amplifying the voices of Christian young women on social justice issues. Last year, IPC went to a number of events run by Christian NGOs and very few had Christian young women sharing their stories or contributing to it. As the world's largest Christian movement for girls, this is a situation that we can rectify. As it is our first year facilitating a team, it is also important to keep the team small and manageable. Unfortunately we cannot accept applications from under 18s due to child protection guidelines.

I am over 35. How can I be involved?

Although you are not eligible to be part of GBI's Delegation of Hope team this year, there are still a number of ways which you can be involved (possibly in conjunction with your own GB country).

GB members becoming part of country delegation teams

Each country has an official UN country delegation team which includes mainly government officials. However depending on the theme of CSW, delegations can also invite NGOs members to participate. There is a higher chance of GB members being invited to participate in official government delegations of smaller countries like Caribbean islands and Pacific islands. This would involve you doing your own research and contacting government officials. If you would be interested in some assistance, please email girlsbrigadeworldwide@gmail.com.

GB teams meeting national delegations

All UN member states are entitled to send an official delegation to the CSW, and most do. Other NGOs and groups can request to meet with members of the country delegation before CSW in order to share their views on proposed themes and documents. This would involve you doing your own research and contacting government officials. GBI can provide you with a briefing document to help your discussion. If you would be interested in some assistance, please email girlsbrigadeworldwide@gmail.com.

Pray

Please continue to support the Delegation of Hope through prayer.