



MEDIA RELEASE

UN CSW70 NGO FORUM NEW YORK

Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs, Gender Equality, Sustainable Development Goals

Carol Hanlon, Founder/CEO, Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc. (Belmont BEC | BEC Global), TCF WA Inc. (TCF Global) and BPW Business Incubator, will be presenting in New York at the NGO CSW70 Forum, 'Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs, Gender Equality, and Sustainable Development Goals'.

The forum will be hosted by NGO CSW, which is a coalition of global non-government civil societies and individuals that are working towards the world-wide attainment of women's human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls on an international level. Their mission is to provide an international platform for the voices and leadership of feminists and women's rights advocates across the globe to inform, engage and inspire.

United Nations CSW70 2026 - Priority Theme: will be to ensure and strengthen access to justice for all women and girls, including promotion to inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers. The UNCSW Review Theme: will include women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (agreed conclusions from CSW65)

Ms Carol Hanlon will showcase many inspirational women making a difference globally through social enterprises and NGOs providing insights into their projects and programs and the range of issues affecting the economic empowerment of women, leadership, gender equality, and the sustainable development goals. Presenters will cover global issues affecting peace and solidarity, global trade, migration and micro finance opportunities.

Ms Hanlon will be presenting about empowering women entrepreneurs through small business incubation projects, fashion sustainability, G100 MSMEs, trade and global export opportunities.

Other global speakers on March 10th will include the following:

Irene Natividad, Global Summit of Women, USA - a global overview of women in leadership. Irene is a recognized leader for women in the United States and globally, is Chair of the Globe Women Research and Education Institute, President of the Global Summit of Women, an annual gathering of women leaders from around the world on business/economic issues, and Chair of Corporate Women Directors International (CWDI), which promotes increased participation of women on corporate boards globally.

Seoyeon Lee, Director, Global Region 2, International Women's Peace Group, Republic of Korea - solidarity and education are essential to building world peace and justice. Women's peace education serves as a vital catalyst by fostering the noble capacity for critical thinking, enabling the systematic resolution of problems and conflicts in a rapidly changing era, and ensuring the smooth functioning of all activities. The International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) integrates peace education into its mission to advance women's rights, promote gender equality, nurture institutions, establish an integrated framework, and present strategies. IWPG plays a transformative role and faces challenges to support the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) for global peace and security.

Sara Azimi, Peivande Gole Narges, Iran - supporting women & orphan girls through training, education, social enterprise projects. Peivande Gole Narges has been committed to its ever expanding mission to help empower single mother heads of households by providing them with vocational trainings and facilitating sales platforms for a variety of artifacts and items they produce in a number of cities in Iran.

Nermin Ahmad, President, NFBPWC - NYC; Chair, Women on the Move, NFBPWC-USA; BPW International, UN Representative Migration - women on the move, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, have a disproportionately difficult time re-establishing themselves as entrepreneurs in their destinations as their experience and credentials are often not recognized, and support networks for financing are often inaccessible to them.

Sara Youmans, Kiva, USA - micro finance loans supporting and empowering women and grass roots communities in developing countries around the world. Sara will outline Kiva's current and future initiatives to empower women globally, illustrating Kiva's efforts to expand financial access for underbanked women and outline



successes and challenges of reaching as many underbanked women through crowdfunded microfinance as possible.

Nicole Verdugo, WEF Chile & G100 - insights into WEF New York. Update on ensuring rights and progress for girls and women in Ibero-America. Nicole will explore internationalization as a strategic pathway to expand women’s economic participation, highlighting access to global markets, international networks, and inclusive trade as key drivers of growth and leadership. It will also address purpose-driven innovation, emphasizing the role of women as leaders of change in business, policy, and entrepreneurial ecosystems through technology, collaboration, and new leadership models including sustainability from an economic, social, and global perspective, underscoring women’s leadership in building resilient, inclusive, and future-oriented economies aligned with global

Tiffany Larson, Days for Girls International, USA - unlocking the potential of women through locally led menstrual health programming. Imagine a world with menstrual equity – Since 2008, DfG has been working to achieve global menstrual equity through access to products, education, and advocacy by supporting the life cycle of the menstrual experience at school, work, home, and in times of crisis. Learn how DfG’s work unlocks the potential of women through locally led and market-based approach to menstrual health programming.

Carol Hanlon, TCF Global (TCF WA Inc. & TCF Australia); BPW Business Incubator, Belmont BEC Inc. (G100, BEC Global) Western Australia - empowering women entrepreneurs through small business training & mentoring projects, BPW Business Incubator, fashion sustainability, global export and trade opportunities, G100 MSMEs.

Ms Hanlon said, “I am thrilled to once again be invited to address this important global forum. It is an honour to be the convenor of this group of amazing women who are making a difference in the world today re the economic empowerment of women, promotion of gender equality, and the sustainable development goals. In 2026, this will be our twelfth CSW Forum I have co-ordinated during NGOCSW with a focus on the theme ‘Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs’. I thank our Forum supporters the International Women's Peace Group, Republic of Korea; Global Summit of Women; TCF Global; BPW Business Incubator; Belmont BEC Inc and TCFWA Inc.

LIVE Forum, Tuesday, 10 March, 12.30pm, CCUN 10th Floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York
FREE ENTRY – PRE REGISTRATION TO GET YOUR QR ACCESS CODE AT NGOCSW.ORG

bpwbusinessincubator.com/empoweringwomen

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About:

Belmont BEC Inc. (Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc.) is a nonprofit community-based organisation that was established, in 1994 providing training and mentoring support services to over 36,500+ individuals in Australia & beyond to start or improve their small business and is a specialist in virtual business incubation. belmontbec.com becnational.com/export mybusinessincubator.com.au/1001bpwbusinessincubator.com/empoweringwomen

TCFWA Inc. | TCF Australia | TCF Global is a non-profit community organisation established in 1998, assisting over 8,000+ designers and fashion industry small businesses with fashion business skill development, linkages in the global supply chain, International trade, exporting, linkages in Asia and global industry networks. tcfwa.com tcfaustralia.com/export tcfglobal.com tcfasia.net myfashionincubator.com