Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our meeting - both virtually and in person! As part of the Beijing+25 thematic clusters, this month’s meeting shed light on a crucial facet of the women’s movement - Violence Against Women and Girls.

November’s monthly meeting focused on raising awareness of the dynamics in violence against specifically women and girls around the globe. It is no surprise that violence disproportionately affects women and young girls, and our speakers focused on unpacking this global issue.

Daniela Philipson Garcia from Women’s Economic Justice Program Assistant; Feminist Task Force; Consultant, Data Civica moderated the event. The four panelists included: Marta Garnelo, Senior Advisor, Behavioral Insights Team, Adra Manasi, Campaign Manager, Global 16 Days Campaign, Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL), Mishka Martin, Policy and Advocacy Specialist, Plan International, and Monica Meltis, Executive Director, Data Civica.

Marta Garnelo, Senior Advisor, Behavioral Insights Team, whose occupation focuses on the nexus between behavioral economics and anthropology, spoke of various factors that can contribute to the behavior and decisions of individuals in a society. Using her work in Australia and Georgia as examples, she emphasized that it matters how we present issues and implement policies within society. Her work combines various academic disciplines to support partners in designing programs and policies for social impact campaigns to generate progress.

Adra Manasi, Campaign Manager, Global 16 Days Campaign, Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL), alluded to the power of social media is shedding light on crucial issues. One example she gave is the 16 Days Campaign, which initially began in 1991 to end Gender-Based Violence as a human rights abuse. Currently, their message reaches up to 300 million individuals around the globe every year. The theme of this year’s 16 Days Campaign is to end Gender-Based Violence in the world of work for women through the ratification of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 190 which has a legally binding aspect. Essentially, ILO 190 would make it a legal obligation of employers to address and prevent violence and harassment in the workplace.

Mishka Matin, Policy and Advocacy Specialist, Plan International focused on unpacking what violence against women and girls constitutes around the globe and what her organization is doing to prevent and eradicate it. She noted that violence against women can range from violence in the domestic sphere to female genital mutilation, early marriage pregnancy, and
honor killings. Ending violence against girls and women will require cooperation with grassroots level organizations as well as cultivating spaces where girls can organize and strategize with support. She also noted the limitations of Human Rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, essentially fail to capture and address the unique experiences faced by young girls, even though adolescent girls are one of the most vulnerable groups in the fight against Gender-Based Violence. And her organization, Plan International focuses on that.

Monica Meltis, Executive Director, Data Civica, focused on the statistical analysis of women and violence in Mexico. Her organization, Data Civica, works to comprehend how domestic violence operates in Mexico, which has 32 varying legal definitions of “femicide.” In her opinion, she believes that this contributes to the use of “femicide” as a political tool in Mexico. Hence, Data Civica focuses on investigating and publishing findings to raise awareness that “femicide” constitutes a unified theme: violence against women. She also touched upon the legal consequences of what violence can entail and explained that it varies significantly based on gender as well as the public and private sphere in Mexico. Her presentation concluded with the note that monitoring these trends is crucial in order to bring justice.

Q&A:

The Q&A portion of the monthly meeting focused on answering questions about what “mistreatment” can constitute and entail, the role of individuals in promoting the eradication of violence as a norm, fact-finding investigations and their conclusions, as well as influencing the behavior of young boys and girls to instill the idea that violence is not acceptable. The panelists, with their own answers to the questions, made a unified conclusion: breaking the violence against women and girls requires data and monitoring as well the awareness of the society, specifically, from a young age. While institutional frameworks can be helpful, they will not always consistently reflect each of the unique experiences women and girls face. And in order to achieve this, international and national efforts (from non-state actors as well as state) need to converge to institute long-lasting impact.