

CAMEUS Virtual CSW70 Session: Justice for Women Amid North America's Immigration Policy Shift

Session Overview

CAMEUS will host a virtual CSW70 session entitled ***Justice for Women Amid North America's Immigration Policy Shift***. This event will explore the impact of recent changes in immigration policy across North America, focusing particularly on the effects experienced by women and children. Shifts in border controls, visa regulations, asylum procedures, and deportation policies have significantly affected access to migration, legal protections, and opportunities for migrants, exacerbating challenges for vulnerable groups.

About CAMEUS and Event Details

CAMEUS is a coalition of CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women), FEMU (Federación Mexicana De Universitarias), and WG-USA (Women Graduates USA). Our parallel session is on March 18, 2026, from 2:30–4:30 p.m. ET. Speakers will address key issues arising from these policy changes.

***Register** early via CFUW Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/IAS_yzZHR16rPKGtH_6law

Speakers and Topics

- **Kathleen Bush-Joseph (WG-USA)**: Policy Analyst at MPI, expert in removal proceedings, asylum, and refugee law, with experience at the National Immigrant Justice Center and UN OHCHR. Kathleen will provide background on the session's focus.
- **Dr. Nirshila Chand (WG-USA)**: Public health leader and founder of Smplii, which advocates for health equity. Her topic is **"Impact of 'One Big Beautiful Bill' and Policy Changes on Women's Health,"** discussing how restructuring of Medicaid, ACA subsidies, and safety nets has reduced coverage and eligibility for low-income and immigrant women, thereby increasing health inequities as immigration policies limit available support.
- **Dr. Wendy Cukier (CFUW)**: Professor at Toronto Metropolitan University and Director of the Diversity Institute. Dr. Cukier's topic is **"Understanding and Managing the Backlash: Maintaining Canadian Commitments to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion,"** which examines the misinformation-driven backlash against EDI initiatives and its effects on women and immigration.
- **Dr. Elisa Ortega-Velázquez (FEMU)**: Senior researcher at UNAM, specializing in migration law and human rights. Her topic, **"Administrative Violence Against Migrant Girls in North American Migration Governance,"** analyses how practices such as detention and administrative discretion undermine the rights of migrant girls, highlighting accountability gaps within securitized and externalized migration regimes.

CAMEUS Collaboration and Event Organization

This year, WG-USA is responsible for leading the CSW70 planning committee. Fay Weber is chair, and Kathleen Laurila oversees the NGO CSW/NY Whoava registration. Special thanks are extended to both for their leadership and dedication! On the day of the session, Grace Hollett (CFUW) will deliver the introduction, Dolores Hayes (WG-USA) will act as moderator, FEMU will design the event poster and provide the closing remarks. The friendly collaborative nature of CAMEUS is evident, as the work is truly shared among the three partner organizations.

Barbara DuMoulin, CAMEUS Chair