



Dear CWI Members,

CWI held its election of Officers and Board Members for two-year terms from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020 at our June 19, 2018 meeting. Five members of the CWI Board of Directors are continuing their 2017-2019 terms. They are Co-Presidents, Harriett Stonehill and Sue Klein; Membership Vice-President, Linda Fihelly; Vice President Technology, Sherry Klein; and Vice-President Organizational Management, Anne Martin.

The following CWI Board members were re-elected to renew their two-year 2018—2020 terms. Holly Joseph CWI Treasurer; Jeanette Lim (Esbrook) Vice President, Legal Affairs; Loretto Gubernatis, Vice President, Media Relations; and Connie Cordovilla, Vice President, Strategic Planning. To learn more about

current CWI Board Members and Officers, visit the CWI Leadership page <https://womensclearinghouse.org/leadership/>. New CWI Board members elected for the 2018-20 term are Barbara Janey West, CWI Board Secretary and Megan Corrado, Advocacy Manager, Women for Afghan Women, a new CWI organizational member. Megan will also serve as Vice President, Global Issues. *(Photo top row, left to right Jeanette, Linda, Megan, Anne, Sherry, and Loretto. Front row: Harriett and Sue. Missing: Connie, Holly, and Barbara.)*

We urge everyone to contribute to CWI by paying their modest CWI individual or organizational membership dues for 2018-June 30, 2019 or longer. They can also show their support for CWI by attending meetings, suggesting speakers, and getting their favorite organizations to join CWI. See the CWI membership form at the end of this newsletter or on our website, www.womensclearinghouse.org. Since we are especially interested in serving a wider feminist community we encourage people to join CWI as **organizational members** and distribute information to their co-members. With permission from your organization, you can give them a CWI organizational membership and serve as one of their two organizational member representatives to CWI. That way, you will receive newsletters and announcements, which you are encouraged to share with colleagues in your organization. If you are not sure whether you have paid your 2018-19 dues, please contact our Treasurer, Holly Joseph at joseph.holly@gmail.com or VP for Membership, Linda Fihelly at lfihelly@hotmail.com.

The CWI Board of Directors selected these potential Tuesday, Noon CWI meeting topics for 2018-19:

September 25, 2018. Strategies for Supporting Progressive Women Running for Office. Organizers: Connie Cordovilla and Loretto Gubernatis.

October. 23, 2018. Understanding Procedures for Safe and Fair Elections. Organizers: Megan Corrado and Harriett Stonehill.

November 27, 2018. Outcomes of the November Elections: New Leaders for a New Era: Organizers: Jeanette Lim Esbrook, Holly Joseph, and Harriett Stonehill

January 22, 2019. Using Media Safely, Expeditiously, and Effectively to Empower our Feminist Organizations. Organizers: Loretto Gubernatis and Sherry Klein.

February 26, 2019. Ensuring that the 2020 Census Does Not Discriminate against Immigrants and Others. Organizers: Jeanette Lim Esbrook and Megan Corrado.

March 26, 2019. Potential Collaboration between the National Women's History Museum and the Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative. Organizers: Sue Klein and Holly Joseph

April 23, 2019. Financial Literacy Organizers: Connie Cordovilla and Anne Martin

May 21, 2019. A Feminist Approach to U.S. Foreign Policy. Organizer: Megan Corrado

June 18, 2019. Collaboration Among Women's Organizations. Organizers: TBD.

Harriett Stonehill, CWI Co-President and Sue Klein, CWI Co-President

CWI Meeting Summary, June 19, 2018

Sustainable Energy: Key for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Sustainable energy is a critical component for lifting women and their families in the developing world out of poverty. Time spent collecting fuel for cooking and the lack of electricity contributes to poverty and can put women at risk as they search far from their homes to gather fuelwood. Additionally, the smoke fumes from wood cookstoves and kerosene lamps sickens children and their families and leads to chronic and acute health problems like pneumonia, burns, and heart disease. Fortunately, clean technologies for cooking and lighting, such as clean cookstoves and solar lanterns, are bringing life-changing and life-saving improvements to families in the developing world. Presentations by representatives from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, and Solar Cookers International outlined practical strategies on how to improve the lives of millions of women across the globe.



Photo of Presenters. Left to Right: Leslie Black Cordes, Caitlyn Hughes, Corinne Hart.

Leslie Black Cordes, Vice President of Programs and Operations at the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), opened the discussion with remarks on the importance of the outlined topic, specifically emphasizing its relationship to CWI's Mission statement. Before joining AFJ, Leslie was the Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships at the UN Foundation's Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. Here are some background highlights from Leslie and important links to websites with information she displayed.

Caitlyn Hughes, Program Director at Solar Cookers International (SCI) from Sacramento, CA, gave an informative presentation on the intersectionality of environmental damage and women's empowerment across the developing world. The discussion centered around the problems of open fuel cooking, which has become an increasingly prevalent issue in post-conflict countries and disproportionately endangers women and girls. Hughes outlined the main dilemmas women and children face, before demonstrating the innovative solutions of Solar Cookers International, which targets the environmental, health, and social risks involved with food production. Here are links to key points from her presentation on the variety of solar cookers available, ranging from those made with cardboard and aluminum foil to more expensive and long-lasting solar cookers using parabolic dishes which have even been used by rooftop restaurants to save energy costs in Nepal. She also described how SCI works with local alliances that manufacture and train users of solar cookers. For more information and great photos of solar cookers visit www.solarcookers.org. One of the DC area SCI Associates also told us how she used solar cookers in her back yard.



Corinne Hart, Senior Advisor for Gender and Environment in the Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at USAID, shared insights on governmental policies to assist gender integration into environmental programming. Specifically, Hart promoted the importance of female entrepreneurship and professional opportunities for women in STEM, outlining two core projects that she manages: Advancing Gender in the Environment (AGENT) & Engendering Utilities--a program developed by The George Washington University that helps utility companies hire and advance women into high paying technical and management positions. Both programs have shown remarkable success. For example, the companies are now using gender disaggregated information on employee status and satisfaction to guide their policies and procedures. Check out the program's website www.usaid.gov/energy/gender for more information and to access a tool kit on

energy and infrastructure. In addition to empowering and improving the health of women and families, these projects in developing industries help the countries scale up their electrification and discourage people from illegal hookups to electricity sources. The discussion reinforced the importance of defining energy, a nontraditional sector, as a gender

equality issue. This requires adjustments at both the industrial and household levels to ensure long-term prosperity. She also described how the important gender analysis and gender advisor framework continues to be used successfully at USAID.

Presentations by the speakers were followed with an informative Q&A session, which included comments on governmental receptiveness, long term sustainability and policy recommendations for future action. Some of the audience questions also asked if some of these improvements such as solar cookstoves and deliberate attention to decreasing gender discrimination in the utilities industries would be beneficial in the US. The clear expertise of Cordes, Hughes, and Hart was extremely beneficial to enhancing understanding of these critical issues among our members and meeting attendees. The CWI both thanks and supports their efforts to bring increased gender equity to the field of environmental policy.

CWI Joins Others in Objecting to the 2020 Census - Citizenship Question **By Jeanette Lim Esbrook, CWI VP for Legal Affairs**

In March 2018 the U.S. Department of Commerce announced their intention to include a citizenship question in the 2020 Census and on June 6, 2018 published in the Federal Register an Information Collection for the 2020 Census that included the citizenship question. Proponents of including the question claim it is necessary to gather an accurate statistical count, while opponents claim it might suppress responses and therefore lead to an inaccurate count.

As of August 2018, there were six federal lawsuits challenging the inclusion of the citizenship question. Opposing the citizenship question is a coalition of groups, including the Brennan Center for Justice; National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, et al; Asian Americans Advancing Justice; Muslim Advocates; and Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, whose president is Vanita Gupta, formerly the acting head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

In July, CWI signed onto this coalition's amicus brief for *New York v. U.S. Commerce Department of Commerce, et al*, (Case #18-CV-2921, So. District of NY), a case filed by the New York Attorney General's Office, and joined by 16 additional states' attorneys general, the District of Columbia, several cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, to stop the Commerce Department from adding this harmful citizenship question. The lawsuit alleges that the inclusion of this citizenship question in the short census form violates the Constitution, which requires an actual count of every person. Furthermore, the suit asserts that the question violates the Administrative Procedure Act, in that it is arbitrary and capricious and reverses seven decades of precedent without a factual basis. All groups, particularly young children, women, immigrants, low-income communities, and communities of color should continue to enjoy the recognition, freedom, and economic and political power to which they are entitled under the Constitution.

In response, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a [motion to dismiss](#) the lawsuit. Amicus briefs have been filed in support of the Justice Department's motion to dismiss by the [American Center for Law and Justice](#), the [State of Oklahoma](#), the [Project on Fair Representation](#), and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). (Note the misleading names of these groups.)

There are several additional cases challenging the Commerce Department proposal to include the citizenship question in the 2020 census. CWI also agreed to sign onto these three challenges in: 1) *California v. Ross* (N.D. Cal); 2) *City of San Jose v. Ross* (N. D. Cal); and 3) *La Union del Pueblo Etero v. Ross* (D. MD).

Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution mandates that the U.S. House of Representatives be reapportioned every 10 years once a national census of all residents is completed. In addition to the reapportionment of the U.S. Congress, Census data are used to draw state and other legislative district boundaries. Census data also are used to determine funding allocations for the distribution of an estimated \$675 billion of federal funds each year. The resulting census count is then apportioned among the states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state. A fair and accurate 2020 census is a critical civil rights issue. The principle of who is counted is based on the concept of usual residence established by the Census Act of 1790 and is defined as the place a person lives and sleeps most of the time. The census requires a count of citizens, non-citizens legal residents, non-citizen long-term

visitors and illegal residents. Given its importance to American government and society, the census must be above partisan politics.

The current suits assert that the Trump administration proposal to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census is unconstitutional and will intimidate immigrants from completing the census survey, resulting in inaccurate data on minority communities, and will undermine the purpose of the Constitutionally-mandated census. In the *NY v. Commerce* case the U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman ruled that the plaintiffs “plausibly allege that [Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross’] decision to reinstate the citizenship question was motivated at least in part by discriminatory animus and will result in a discriminatory effect.”

On August 17, 2018, the U.S. District Judge Richard Seeborg of the Northern District of California issued an order allowing the two Californian cases to continue with a trial expected to begin in late October. The Judge wrote that the plaintiffs “make a sufficient showing” that the new citizenship question “will undermine” the accuracy of the head count and “violate the Constitution’s actual enumeration command.”

The Commerce (and Justice Departments’) response to the lawsuits objecting to the citizenship question is to claim that the plaintiffs’ lack standing because the inclusion of the citizenship question will not suppress response rates or lead to an undercount and that the deleterious effects plaintiffs allege are all speculative and contingent.

The last census to have asked all respondents to indicate their citizenship was in 1950, prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act and the Supreme Court decisions confirming core constitutional protections for equal voting rights and political representation. From 1960 until 2010, most census respondents received a short-form census questionnaire that did not include any question about citizenship. A small portion of respondents - approximately one-in-six households - received a long-form questionnaire, which included a citizenship question with a battery of other personal questions, ranging from mode of entry into the house and the extent of its kitchen facilities. In 2005, the long-form was displaced by the American Community Survey, a monthly data-gathering Census Bureau exercise to collect continuous, consistent nationwide demographic data. The 2010 census was a “short form only” census, and the same is expected for the 2020 census.

The misguided decision to reverse 70 years of consistent census practice and insert an untested citizenship question damages our communities, undermines the integrity of the count, and violates the purpose of the census. Citizenship has not been included on the long form since 1950, but it was part of the short form starting in 1910 until its removal in 2010. The Census count serves as the basis for states to redraw their district lines every decade. Under the Constitution, those districts must be equally sized. In the 2016 case, [Evenwel v. Abbott](#), the Supreme Court rejected the claim by a group of Texas voters that only eligible voters would be counted toward equalizing districts. The justices unanimously rejected that assertion and ruled that states may draw districts based on the total number of people in those boundaries, not just cities eligible voters.

What can people do? Respond to opportunities to voice opposition and comment on any additional Federal Notices on the design and content of the 2020 Census which are expected. The final design will be made during the summer of 2019. It is also important to influence Congress to: 1) hold hearings that expose the harmful purpose of the citizenship question and discourage it; 2) enact legislation prohibiting the citizenship question in the census and; (3) prohibit the use of funds for this purpose through the appropriations process.

Amplifying Afghan Women’s Voices: The Key to Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan

By Megan Corrado and Manizha Naderi

CWI thanks Megan Corrado, our new VP for Global Issues for this article, which was published in [The Hill](#) on August 16, 2018. Megan is the Advocacy Manager, [Women for Afghan Women](#), as well as a member of the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on women, Peace, and Security, which advises the government on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

For years, the United States (U.S.) has engaged in [backchannel talks](#) with the Taliban to little avail. However, [news](#) that Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Alice Wells, met with the militant group in Doha last month represents the latest wave of diplomatic efforts to address America's longest running war. In this endeavor, the U.S. empowered one of its most experienced diplomats—at once forcing the Taliban to confer with a woman as a condition for dealing with the U.S. directly, while simultaneously demonstrating leadership in the implementation of [United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325](#), which calls for incorporating women into all facets of peacebuilding processes.

This complemented the recent [unofficial efforts](#) of Ambassador Robin Raphel and Lt. Col. Christopher Kolenda (ret.). These successive waves of women's leadership in dialogue with the Taliban—and the latter's acquiescence to participation—may signal a relaxation of their hardline positions towards women and obviates a tacit recognition that women's involvement creates [more durable, inclusive peace agreements](#).

Indeed, some herald this high-level, female-led engagement on the heels of the [Eid-al-Fitr ceasefire](#) as a [potential opening](#) towards ending the long-running conflict. Those three days—[the first peace in 17 years](#)—demonstrated that regardless of internal ideological schisms, the Taliban's [central leadership maintains the ability to enforce commands](#) throughout its ranks. Nevertheless, skepticism that momentum towards peace truly exists should abound. Most evidently, the Taliban [rejected the ceasefire's extension](#), killed [30 Afghan soldiers](#) immediately after its conclusion, and since orchestrated a spate of attacks.

Moreover, the Taliban consistently repudiate [reconciliation overtures](#) by Afghanistan's President Ghani and insist they will only participate in a peace process with the U.S. Despite reports Ambassador Wells undertook "[talks, not negotiations](#)," any exclusive engagement between the U.S. and Taliban undermines the [embattled](#) Ghani government's legitimacy, capitulates to the militants' demands, and belies American avowals that negotiations be "[Afghan-led and Afghan-owned](#)." In light of this concession, it is [worth reflecting](#) as to whether the Eid ceasefire was merely a means to garner American favor and get the conversation—devoid of the Afghan government—for which they have long angled.

It is unclear as to why the Taliban would pursue diplomacy now. After years of gains, they [maintain substantial territorial and population control](#) and have effectively created a military stalemate; yet, the Taliban remains capable of [conducting a sustained insurgency](#). With no tactical urgency, they likewise have failed to advance political priorities—they [rejected multiple invitations](#) to become a political party, called on Afghans to [boycott](#) the October elections, and continually [attack voter registration centers](#). Indeed, the Taliban stands to gain by disrupting the elections and may use talks with the U.S. as a ploy to sow popular distrust in the government.

The [peace marches](#) across Afghanistan and the [Eid ceasefire celebrations](#) illustrated the people's war-weariness. However, are the Afghan people ready to accept the outcome of a negotiated peace with the Taliban, as well as a government and security forces filled with former combatants? Many Afghan women, who were [disproportionately affected](#) by Taliban tactics, see talks between the Taliban and government as a non-starter and dialogue between the militants and U.S. as a betrayal—particularly because the [U.S. partially predicated its invasion](#) on the empowerment of women. Women and girls have made [phenomenal strides](#) in exercising their rights since 2001 and any efforts to subvert that progress cannot be tolerated. The U.S. has an obligation to the Afghan government it supports and the Afghan people—specifically, its women and girls—to promote stability and prevent the country from descending back into bloody Taliban rule.

While the only solution in Afghanistan may be political, the Afghan and U.S. governments must first ensure that the political will exists amongst the Afghan people to include the Taliban in peacebuilding efforts. This can be achieved through a national dialogue—one that is inclusive of women in both its facilitation and conversation.

While American women are leading current diplomatic efforts with the Taliban, Afghan women must be able to elucidate their concerns about the peace process and give voice to their [traumatic experiences](#) after bearing the brunt of the Taliban's brutality. Women's involvement [must occur at the most nascent stage](#) of peacebuilding to determine who should participate, reify gender inclusion in the process, [establish their role](#) in the state's future, safeguard their

rights, help shift entrenched cultural norms, and ensure their empowerment will be preserved and expanded before the peace for which they so desperately yearn can be attained.

Coming 2018 DC Area and National Feminist Events and Resources

In 2018 we will send selected events to CWI members on our e-mailing list. Please share your upcoming feminist events to post in 2018 CWI newsletters to president@womensclearinghouse.org. Check out CWI's Facebook www.facebook.com/womensclearinghouse and Twitter www.twitter.com/CWINews pages! LIKE and FOLLOW us, as well as SUBSCRIBE and LIKE our Video sponsor and provider <https://www.youtube.com/user/Hanburycross>. **Times below are for EDT.**

Note the Woman's National Democratic Club is sponsoring Winning Wednesdays from Sept. 12 to Oct. 31

From 6-9 PM. Share information on hot races, voter registration and more. Cash bar and snacks. Whittemore House, 1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW, DC 20036. Free: For more information see www.democraticwoman.org

September

Thursday, September 13, 2018, 7-9 PM. Reception featuring Wendy Davis former Texas State Senator and others to discuss women, harassment and inclusion in the workplace with an emphasis on challenges by an increasingly conservative Court. Sponsored by the Alliance for Justice. Location: National Resources Defense Council, 1152 15th St., NW Suite 300. RSVP to Alisha Dingus at alisha@afj.org or 202-464-7383.

Saturday, September 15, 2018, 11AM-1PM. The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote. The League of Women Voters of Baltimore City. Book talk and Light Lunch with Baltimore author Elaine Weiss on the fight to ratify the 19th Amendment. Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles St. 21210. \$20. Pay and register [here](#).

Monday, September 17, 2018, 2-3PM, *Building Safe, Engaging & Equitable Schools*. American Institutes for Research, National Press Club, 4th Estate Room, 529 14th St. NW, DC 20045. Register: [JOIN IN PERSON OR ONLINE](#).

Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 9-11 AM, Maternal Health Initiative, critical quality gaps in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) in low-and middle-income countries. Wilson Center, 6th Floor Auditorium, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20004. Please [RSVP](#).

Saturday, September 22, 2018, 11AM-1:30 PM. The Power of the Women's Vote, Maryland Women's Heritage Center. The Meeting House, Oakland Mills Interfaith Inc, 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia MD. Light Brunch, Tickets \$30 or \$10 for Students. [Register](#).

Saturday, September 22, 2018, 10AM-3 PM. Emerge Maryland Training, Baltimore, \$35. [Register](#).

Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Noon CWI meeting. Strategies for Supporting Progressive Women Running for Office. See page 1 of this newsletter.

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 4-5:30 PM. A Gender Audit: What is It? How to do it? Why is it essential? The SID-Washington Gender & Inclusive Development Workgroup. 1129 20th St. NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC. [RSVP](#).

October

Tuesday, October 2, 2018, 7-9 PM. Secure the Vote: Safeguarding our Elections: A Panel Discussion. League of women Voters-Arlington. SPACES The Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209. [Register](#).

Wednesday, October 10, 2018. Women for Afghan Women to celebrate the October 11, International Day of the Girl. Details TBD.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Noon CWI meeting. Understanding Procedures for Safe and Fair Elections.

CWI's newsletter is endowed by friends in loving memory of our longtime editor Roslyn Kaiser.

Photos by Sherry Klein. Meeting summary Elle Winfield, FMF Intern. Newsletter edited by Sue Klein

CWI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, JULY 2018 – JUNE 2020

OFFICERS: Co-Presidents, Sue Klein and Harriett Stonehill; VP Membership, Linda Fihelly; Treasurer, Holly Taggart Joseph; Secretary, Barbara Janey West; VP Media, Loretto Gubernatis; VP Legal Affairs, Jeanette Lim Esbrook; VP Technology, Sherry Klein; VP Global Issues, Megan Corrado; VP Strategic Planning, Connie Cordovilla; and VP Organizational Management, Anne Martin.

DIRECTOR EMERITA: Elaine Newman, **EX OFFICIO:** Barbara J. Ratner

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Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

Membership Form

womensclearinghouse.org

1. Bring a check, payable to CWI, along with this form to a CWI Meeting or mail to:
Holly Taggart Joseph, CWI Treasurer
8504 Rosewood Drive, Bethesda MD 20814-1434
joseph.holly@gmail.com
2. Or you may also join online using PayPal by going to the membership section of womensclearinghouse.org

For membership questions: Contact VP Membership, Linda Fihelly, lfihelly@hotmail.com or 301-599-1942

NAME of Individual or Organization _____
For Organizations also Provide Name and emails of two PRIMARY REPRESENTATIVES
NAME/Title _____
NAME (Org. Representative 2) _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ CELL _____
EMAIL (Org. representative 1) _____
EMAIL (Org. representative 2) _____
WEBSITE ADDRESS: (URL)* _____

Enclosed is a check for CWI membership. Membership year is: **July 1-June 30** (Please fill in beginning and end date). If you pay before July 1 your membership year will start early but still end June 30 of the next year.

_____ **Individual** _____ \$25 for one year _____ \$45 for two years _____ \$65 for three years

_____ **Individual under 30 years old** (\$15/one year)

_____ **Virtual** (\$20/one year) (Email newsletter only for members outside Washington, DC area)

_____ **Organization** (\$40/one year or \$100/three years)

_____ Additional tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*If organizational member, indicate if you would like a link to your organization to be listed on CWI's website. (Listing subject to CWI approval) Circle One: ___YES ___NO

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.