

STATEMENT ON THE DECISION TO REMOVE 1 PERSON FROM THE PARTICIPANT LIST OF THE BEIJING+25 CSO FORUM, GENEVA

2 November 2019, Geneva - Noting recent events and misinformation, we issue this statement to clarify some of what has happened in the preparation and during the regional ECE CSO Forum on the Beijing + 25 review.

- All participants joining the process were asked to endorse the WMG principles and values, and anyone in violation of them can be asked to leave
- All participants were invited to develop factsheets on themes in relation to the region. These are not public documents. They were used to further facilitate conversations in the break-out rounds to formulate recommendations from all groups which were reported to plenary. A summary of these recommendations can be found in the opening synthesis statement.
- A disagreement arose among participants on one of the factsheets that had to do with difference of opinion on sex work. In order to respect the division of opinion, it was suggested that two separate documents on the same topic. However, this did not resolve the issue and it is regrettable that one of the participants used the fact sheet process to help prepare a petition, publicly accusing organisers and others involved in the process of having ties to the “sex trade lobby”.
- This is a grave accusation and put the safety of several of the participants at risk. It is this that we consider a violation of the WMG principles and not the opinion on the topic, and this is the reason that the co-initiator of the petition, and two others who shared the petition, were asked to leave the listserv and the event.
- Upon discussion with the two others who shared but did not initiate the petition, it was understood that they did not read the petition or its annexes, nor understood the gravity of publicising documents or names of persons with false accusations. These persons were given warnings. However one of these two persons decided to support the co-initiator of the petition and withdrew from the meeting. She was not banned, as she claimed.
- At no time were any of these person’s names publicised by the WMG.
- Focal points to ensure participants safety, able to work in four languages, were appointed for people to address any safety concerns or situations they had or experienced during the forum, to guarantee the forum would be a safe space for everyone. Guidelines for participants security were shared with all.
- We remind all WMG members that differences of opinion can exist so long as we abide by human rights principles and respect each other; and that this is a self-organised space, which will be diminished if we fracture the feminist movement along different lines.

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