



**ASSOCIATION
FOR WOMEN'S
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
IN HUNGARY**

<https://www.youtube.com/@AWCDH>

PRESS RELEASE

Update - March 31, 2026

The Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary organized a side event at the United Nations for the fifth time within the framework of the CSW NGO Forum:

“Raising the Volume on Silent Voices: Research / Violence / Older Women / Career Together for a Better World for All Generations”

A Joint Parallel Event of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH) at the CSW70 NGO FORUM

Date: Wednesday, 11 March 2026, 4:30 pm–6:00 pm EDT / New York

Venue: Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), 11th Floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

Background and Rationale

The event examined the issue of ageing through a complex and multidimensional approach, with particular attention to the situation of older women, their social visibility, and the various, often hidden forms of abuse and neglect that may affect them.

The program aimed to draw attention to the structural and cultural factors that increase the vulnerability of older women, while also highlighting good practices and policy directions that support active and dignified ageing.

Research findings and everyday experience alike demonstrate that older women worldwide represent one of the largest and fastest-growing demographic groups, while at the same time remaining among the most vulnerable.

Ageism, whether expressed openly or in more subtle forms, and whether mild or severe, affects women over the age of 60 in many societies around the world. These phenomena cannot be regarded as natural or acceptable, nor can they be ignored.

Cooperation between the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH) and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)

The more than 15 years of joint work have focused on policy, social, and human rights issues affecting older women. This joint event also reflected our shared mission to seek international solutions aimed at ensuring that women, as they grow older, are less exposed to any form of abuse, neglect, or discrimination.

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) is celebrating more than two decades, 27 years of advocacy, education, and research dedicated to protecting and promoting the human rights of older persons.



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Under the leadership of Susan B. Somers, JD, President of INPEA, the organization focuses on advancing the human rights of older persons and working toward the elimination of abuse, neglect, and violence against older people worldwide. This work includes advocacy with UN Member States and international NGOs, as well as efforts to address harmful cultural and traditional practices and to raise awareness about supporting older persons' capacity to remain autonomous and independent.

The professional contribution of the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH) lies in linking the topic of ageing with active women's participation in society, lifelong learning, the extension of women's participation in the labor market, and the importance of intergenerational cooperation.

According to Andrea Ferenczi, President of AWCDH, a conscious approach to active ageing as a life perspective contributes to maintaining financial stability, self-confidence, and personal autonomy. In this way, it can reduce the vulnerability of older women and strengthen their social, family, and workplace positions.

The cooperation between INPEA and AWCDH within the framework of the United Nations takes place primarily in connection with the programs of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in New York, Geneva, and other international and Hungarian venues.

The main forms of this cooperation include:

- the preparation of joint written statements for CSW conferences;
- joint professional and advocacy activities at UN forums;
- mutual invitations as expert speakers at international and national events (nearly 20 occasions to date);
- presentations at Hungarian and international conferences;
- scientific and research cooperation.

For AWCDH, it is a particular honor that INPEA has appointed Andrea Ferenczi as its representative in Hungary.

The Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH)

The Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH) was founded in 2003 by Andrea Ferenczi. Today, the organization has grown to over 70 members, becoming a leading Hungarian civil society organization that bridges the governmental, business, academic, and civil sectors, through domestic, cross-border, and international partnerships.

Since 2009, AWCDH has held a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the first Hungarian civil organization to do so, and has actively participated in international policy dialogues.

"Women's Career for a Lifetime – Generations Hand in Hand"

Building on experiences from professional collaborations within the United Nations, AWCDH launched the "*Women's Career for a Lifetime*" awareness raising program in 2009. This initiative later evolved into "*Women's Career for a Lifetime - Generations Hand in Hand*", a program that strengthens dialogue, mutual understanding, and collaboration between generations.

We are convinced that intergenerational cooperation is one of the most effective tools to counter ageism. Through collaboration with the Hungarian UN Youth Delegate Program, AWCDH's work today integrates the knowledge and experience of five generations, creating a uniquely intergenerational perspective on women's career development and active participation in society.



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Program of the AWCDH in the Joint Parallel Event

The parallel event consisted of two parts.

Following the opening remarks, the program of the two organizing organizations was presented in two separate thematic sessions.

In the second session, the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary presented its program starting with President Andrea Ferenczi's presentation on "*Bridging Ageing, Women's Leadership, and Intergenerational Cooperation*".

The speakers in the second session presented solutions and good practices, focusing on active ageing, lifelong learning, intergenerational cooperation, and expanding women's participation in the labour market.

The speakers of the parallel event were experts from governmental, business, academic, and civil sectors, representing five generations. Our shared goal was to contribute to improving the situation of women of all ages at local, regional, and global levels, thereby supporting the objectives of the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the realization of gender equality.

Program highlights:

Opening Remarks: Pamela Teaster, PhD, Clerk, INPEA

PART ONE – INPEA Roundtable

- Moderator: Pamela Teaster, PhD
- Discussants: Gabriela Ramos Bonilla, PhD Candidate; Karen A. Roberto, PhD; Sutton King, MPH

PART TWO – AWCDH Speaker Presentations

Ms. Andrea Ferenczi – President, AWCDH, Chair

"Bridging Ageing, Women's Leadership, and Intergenerational Cooperation"

<https://youtu.be/BeyaOkmRVqw>

Ms. Kitti Dobi – Chief Human Resources Officer, MBH Bank

"Career for All Generations – Awarded Employer Practice in the Finance Sector"

Ms. Kata Adonicsné Püski – Director General for Strategic Organizational Development, Semmelweis University

"From Family-Friendly to Life-Course-Friendly Workplaces: Supporting Women Across the Ageing Process"

<https://youtu.be/324tiXYLAxc>

Ms. Kincső Kovács – Youth Advisor, AWCDH; Law Student, Eötvös Loránd University; Youth Expert, United Nations Youth Delegate Program of Hungary (2024–2025); Ludovika Collegium Scholar

"Generations Hand in Hand"

<https://youtu.be/qqWvr9m97fQ>

Invited Discussant:

Márton Moravec, Youth Advisor, AWCDH

Law Student, Eötvös Loránd University

Youth Expert, United Nations Youth Delegate Program of Hungary (2024–2025)

<https://youtu.be/GaLYFgy5S2o>



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At the conclusion of the event, Andrea Ferenczi expressed her sincere appreciation to Ms. Susan Somers for over 15 years of professional cooperation within INPEA. Unfortunately, Ms. Somers was unable to attend the event in person to receive the Women's Career Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary.

Further information:

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