



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Participants of Voices of Olympia Canada School Competition will present their projects at the United Nations!

Montreal, January 29, 2024 - Voices of Olympia Canada (VOOC) is proud to announce that for a fourth consecutive year, participants of their School Competition will present their work at the Civil Society Forum NGO-CSW-68, organized during the Sixty-Eighth Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW-68), which will be held in New York March 11 to 22, 2024.

Discussion at VOOC's three round tables will explore youth lead solutions that address intersections of:

Feminization of Poverty with health, education, gender-based violence, and biased economic policies and practices.

Our 13 presenters were selected by each of the 13 VOOC School Competition teams to represent:

- **English Montreal School Board:** Beatrice Agudelo-Restrepo, Sonya-Liboria Bastiaans, Sophia Cantello, Yedda Blanco Caruzzo, Anastazja Rutt Katra, and Sae Ah Park;
- **Ottawa Catholic School Board:** Nagwa Abdelaziz and Jahnavi Thotla;
- **The Bishop Strachan School (Toronto):** Crystal Gillespie;
- **The Study:** Inaara Abuani, Katarina Robinson, and Yuxuan Zheng;
- **Villa Maria:** Ella Knitter.

Ms. Cheryl Hayles, Principal of Irma Coulson Public School, Mary Eva, and Lynne Barrett-Carrier, both Field Supervisors in Education at McGill University will be moderating our round tables with VOOC Ambassadors: Manon Depachtère, Harmonie - Toscane St. Pierre - Delhay, Thais, Derosiaux, and Kélicia, Massala.

“This is a unique opportunity where high school girls in Canada engage in effective dialogue focused on the UN-CSW-Priority theme, and present sustainable solutions to better their local community”, states Mary Eva, Emeritus Board member of the Association of Teachers of English of Quebec.

About Voices of Olympia Canada / Olympes de la Parole Canada

Voices of Olympia Canada (VOOC) is a global citizenship learning - based initiative. Through a yearly school competition offered since 2017, we provide a safe and informed discussion space where high school girls in Canada grow as critical thinkers, reflecting on the central theme of gender inequalities and its impacts on the empowerment of girls and women, using a dual perspective of human rights and social justice.

VOOC is a commitment maker for [Generation Equality](#) Convened by UN Women, and a member of the following organizations: [Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations \(CoNGO\)](#), [NGO CSW/NY](#), and [Afro Youth Summit](#).

About the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW)

The [UN-CSW](#) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This year, the UN-CSW-68 priority theme will focus on: *“Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”*.

Civil Society like VOOC engages in the UN-CSW processes and events through the *Parallel Events Forum* organized by the [NGO-CSW/NY](#).

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