



# XXXI BPW International Congress

17 – 21 November 2024

## Nominations

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**Neelima Basnet**  
Candidate for International Vice President – United Nations

Member of  
Nominated by  
For position of

SEW Southern England and Wales  
Joanna Kinsey, President, BPW UK  
International Vice President – United Nations

### My Vision

Every single second, there is a girl or woman in this world who is facing some kind of violence due to ignorance by the educated people in power who could have made a difference if they had practiced what they preached.

BPW was formed in 1919, right after World War I, and the UN was formed in 1945, after World War II, with the main goal of bringing peace to the world. After more than 100 years of BPW, we are still fighting for equality. And after 79 years of the UN, we are still facing wars, and we have not seen a single female general secretary at the United Nations. This means we need to speed up the BPW global movement to make this world a safer place for everyone by empowering our BPW sisters to advocate at all levels. We need more women in UN policymaking, and if given a chance to serve as Vice President United Nations of International Federation of Business and Professional Women, I will try to achieve the following ten goals within 2024-2027:

1. Request clubs and federations to appoint VP UN to their executive boards to share UN knowledge globally.
2. Request and guide federations to get consultative status at ECOSOC for maximum participation of BPW at the United Nations.
3. Provide easy access to the book written by Sylvia G. Perry and Livia M. Ricci, "A Bus to 42nd Street", about Esther W. Hymer, for our members to understand the role BPW played at the United Nations and continues to play.
4. UN Mentorship Program to educate BPW members about the UN system and help them find their place at the United Nations.
5. SDG mentorship program to implement SDG in our business, profession, and personal lives.
6. Regular webinars to promote the good UN related practices of our BPW members.
7. Support the United Nations initiative #youth2030, "working with and for young people to achieve SDG by 2030".
8. Maximum participation of BPW members at UN events for learning and to encourage them to work towards its implementation.
9. Encourage and inspire our members to understand United Nations Charter and BPW constitutional rights within BPW because human rights need to be practiced everywhere, not just at the United Nations.



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10. Finally, we will promote twinning among countries to work together for global goals.

While serving as Young BPW International Representative for the years 2017-2021, I tried to implement most of the points mentioned above, and if given another opportunity I will work towards the aim and ambition of our founder, Dr. Lena Madasin Philips. In the last three years, I have tried to implement everything I have learned at BPW International by inspiring young girls to start free schools in rural parts of Nepal, practicing and promoting green and sustainable architecture, and presenting the importance of the United Nations SDGs at TEDx. So here I am, ready to serve BPW International with full motivation and passion. Thank you for your consideration.

### BPW Offices held

#### National

I have been a BPW member since 2013. The major BPW office held by me is the BPW International Young BPW Representative from 2017–2021. My major achievements during my term are:

1. I worked towards Young BPW participation in the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at United Nations Headquarters in New York; of BPW's precious allotment of 20 UN grounds passes annually, I was successful in obtaining five specifically for Young BPW members.
2. I've actively promoted young BPW members worldwide for election to their local and national executive boards; many countries now have young members on their club and federation boards.

#### BPW conferences:

- 1st BPW South Asia Sub-Regional Conference, February 2015, Nepal.
- 3rd Young BPW European Symposium, October 2015, Cyprus.
- 1st Young BPW Asia Pacific Symposium, February 2017, Singapore.
- 9th BPW International Leaders' Summit, March 2017, New York.
- 30th BPW International Congress, October 2017, Egypt.
- Official Launch of BPW Damansara, January 2018, Malaysia.
- 5th Young BPW Europe Symposium, April 2018, Austria.
- BPW North America and the Caribbean Regional Conference, July 2018, Florida.
- BPW Canada Convention, August 2018, Ottawa.
- Asia Pacific Regional Conference, November 2018, Bangkok.
- 11th BPW International Leaders' Summit, March 2019, New York.
- 16th BPW European Conference and 6th Young BPW Europe Symposium, 2019, Ireland.
- East Asia subregional conference and 2nd Young BPW Asia Pacific Symposium December 2019, Japan
- 17th BPW European Conference
- 7th Young BPW Europe Symposium, 2022, Iceland.
- 6th BPW Mediterranean Symposium 2023, Cyprus.

#### United Nations conferences:

- Speaker at a talk programme on promoting children's right to education and eliminating child abuse organised by the United Nations Association of Nepal. June 2014, Nepal.



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- International conference on implications of the UN's sustainable development goals for community development practice. July 2016, Minnesota.
- 18th Summer Youth Assembly, August 2016, New York.
- 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) 2017, New York. 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) 2018, New York. Women designing the future, March 2018, New Jersey.
- International Human Rights Summit for Youth, July 2018, New York.
- United Nations High Level Political Forum, July 2018, New York.
- 22nd Summer Youth Assembly, August 2019, New York.
- 63rd session on the commission on the status of women (CSW63) 2019, New York. Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review, November 2019, Thailand Asia Pacific Regional Conference of UNESCO Federations, 2023, Kazakhstan
- International Congress of UNESCO Federations, 2023, Korea

## Positions in other International and National Organisations

- The First women president of ACAS (Academic Council of Architecture Students) Nepal Engineering College for 1 year.
- Member of United Nations Association of Nepal (UNAN) for 6 years.
- Vice President of Sarva Asraya UNESCO center (SAUC) for 3 years.
- Member of the International Association for community development (IACD) for 1 year. Vice President of Takashi Miyahara Development organisation (TOMO) for 1 year. Member of Society of Nepalese Architect (SONA), served for Green Architecture and women in Architecture committee.
- Executive board member of Group for Rural Infrastructure Development (GRID) Nepal since 2017 Executive member of National Federation of UNESCO clubs, Centers and Association of Nepal Since 2022.

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Education

- Completed schooling at Saint Mary's High School in Nepal in the year 2000.
- Attended high school at Xavier Academy.
- Completed a Bachelor's in Architecture from Nepal Engineering College and pursued a Masters in Construction Management from the same institution.
- Volunteered to learn various eco-friendly building construction technologies from architects and promoted their implementation at different platforms.
- I believe BPW is a university itself where we learn how to be socially responsible global citizens. Since joining BPW, I have gained knowledge about the history of the women's movement for gender equality and the role of BPW from the United Nations to the local grassroots level. This has helped me understand the power of each member in creating a safe world for everyone. I have learned about the Sustainable Development Goals from BPW and how to implement them in my business, professional, and personal life. The most important lesson I have learned from BPW is to use my voice for humanity.



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### Professional Experience

- Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (2007): I worked as a trainee architect under the department of urban development and building construction.
- Pumari Engineering Service Pty. Ltd. (2009): I worked as a site architect.
- Orient Engineering Consultancy (2010): I worked as a senior architect for a year.
- Design case Pvt. Ltd. (2012-till date): I started this company with friends and have been working as an architect and supervising the construction of various projects.
- I participated in earth bag building training conducted by GoodEarth Nepal under the guidance of Dr. Owen Geiger. Promoting and practicing sustainable earthbag construction technology since 2016. I volunteered for the construction of a carpet factory for earthquake victims using local materials and COB technology.
- I volunteered as a project coordinator to build bamboo houses for earthquake victims under the guidance of Portuguese architect Joao Boto Caeiro.
- I represented Nepal at the 8th ACGSA round table on green and sustainable architecture organised by the Sri Lanka Institute of Architecture (SLIA), Colombo. (2016)
- Professionally, as an architect, I used my knowledge to promote green and sustainable architecture and imagined building a BPW where every single member is equally respected and supported to flourish to their full potential.

### Additional Information

Besides working as an architect for my engineering company and engaging in different voluntary organisations, I have been inspiring youth in rural parts of Nepal to start preschool in villages where they don't have one, and so far there are three preschools under my supervision.

I am also an advisor to one mayor of a rural part of Nepal to design communities by incorporating sustainable development goals, mainly promoting consumption of local organic products within the community. I am trying to implement everything I have learned from BPW while serving as a young international representative from 2017 to 2021.

### SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR

**NEELIMA BASNET**

**BY Joanne Kinsey, President, BPW UK**

BPW UK is honoured to nominate Neelima Basnet for the position of Vice-President (UN) for the 2024-2027 term.

Neelima is a member of BPW UK, and has shared her knowledge of being a successful and knowledgeable Young BPW member. Her contribution to BPW International during her term of office as the International Young BPW Representative has brought a wonderful period of learning, and she has been sharing this at webinars for our members. Her untiring dedication to bring young BPW members interested in BPW and UN matters is something we all witnessed during her term. During the pandemic lockdown, she co-facilitated both the Intergenerational Dialogue project and the BPW Goes Digital webinar series to maximize the engagement of BPW members virtually. Her participation at the UN and her advocacy for the



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UN Sustainable Development Goals played a huge role among BPW members of all ages. We witnessed many SDG-related projects initiated by young members during her term. Her passion for the implementation of BPW aims and ambitions represents a great contribution to the sustainability of BPW. We know that she will do justice to the Vice-President (UN) position if given the opportunity to serve again on the International Executive Board.



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