



Permanent Mission of Sweden
to the United Nations, New York



Nurturing future human capital through equality between girls and boys

04:45pm - 06:00pm

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

New York, 11 March 2019

The Permanent Missions of Georgia and Sweden to the United Nations, in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) are organizing a side-event on how fairy tales are powerful tool in promoting Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality and a country's future human capital. The side-event will be held on the side-lines of the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Fairy tales can have an enormous influence over the formation of a child's value system and shape future social norms. Fairy tales serve as an important introduction to the outside world, teaching children how to distinguish kindness from malice, recognize justice from injustice, generate empathy and encourage bravery. Fairy tales are child's world of imagination and pleasure, but they also provide a source of inspiration and role models. They were mostly circulated among women and children to teach gender-appropriate behaviours and social norms. Children learn their respective gender roles through various agents of society such as family, education, peer group, and mass media. When children are exposed to the agents of socialization such as family and mass media, they do not just observe the physical difference between men and women, but also the roles they play in a certain context. They notice the characteristics of each gender and how they treat each other. Therefore, when they read and see female and male characters acting in a certain way in fairy tales, they create a schema about how man and woman should behave. This influences their thinking process and how they perceive the world.

The fairy tale collection, which will be presented, was published at the initiative of the UN Women Georgia in 2018 as part of the UN Joint Programme for Gender Equality in Georgia and was funded by the Government of Sweden.

Authored by twelve Georgian writers, the collection of 21 fairy tales “There Once Was a Girl” features female protagonists throughout, something that up until now, was in short supply among children’s literature, including fiction and school textbooks in Georgia. The book deftly helps to address gender inequality, which is one of the biggest hurdles the country is facing. The book is aimed at children aged 7-15 years, nurturing equality of women and men, girls and boys from an early age.

Draft Programme

04:45pm – 04:50pm	Moderator ▪ H.E. Mr. Kaha Imnadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations
04:50pm – 05:10pm	Opening Remarks ▪ H.E. Ms. Khatuna Totladze, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia ▪ H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations ▪ Ms. Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia ▪ Representative of the President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly (TBC)
05:10pm – 05:25pm	Speakers ▪ Ms. Erika Kvapilova, UN Women Representative in Georgia ▪ Ms. Nestan Nene Kvinikadze, author of the fairy tale “Blancmange Bridge”
05:25pm – 05:40pm	Reading extracts from fairy tales
05:40pm – 06:00pm	Q&A and Closing Remarks