

# CSW63

Commission on  
the Status of Women

Social Protection • Public Services • Infrastructure



11-22  
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2019



# Unleashing Women Power

*Sustainable Inclusive Approach to Governance from Below*

**A massive success story!**



## PANELISTS

**Edwin John**, Founder-Director  
Neighbourhood Community Network

**Helen Saldanha**,  
VIVAT International

**Thomas Pallithanam**,  
Salesian Missions, Inc.

**Elsa Muttathu, (Moderator)**  
International Presentation Association

**March 14, 2019 at 2.30 pm to 4:00 pm**  
**Salvation Army Auditorium**  
**221E 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022**

Documentary, “Women Power Unleashed”, followed by an interactive dialogue between participants and an inspirer behind the program as well as practitioners in the field.



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## CONCEPT NOTE

### Neighbourhoodization for Empowerment

Organizing people into neighbourhood-based, small-sized forums and federating them territorially at various governance levels through representative structures empowers people socially, economically and politically. Especially in developing countries, this type of neighbourhoodization gives an added boost to women, as women tend to remain in their neighborhoods more than men and any organization on neighborhood-basis gives them better power of association and scope for governance participation.

The potential of neighbourhoodization has been demonstrated by Kudumbashree with its nearly 286000 small-sized neighbourhood groups (ayalkoottam) and their territorially inclusive federations, in the state of Kerala, India. In the last two elections, more women than men were elected to local governance bodies. It employed 300,000 women. The amount of business transacted can match up to any big corporate entity in the State. It supports nearly 40,000 neighbourhood parliaments of children (Bala Sabha) and a host of other programs like sustainable cooperative farming, care of the destitute and the like. The experiment also has led to the reorganization of each local governance unit into a three-tier structure with neighbourhood parliaments (ayal sabha) at the base.

The workshop is to explore this neighbourhoodization approach and the opportunities it offers in relation to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As it provides a basic structure or system for empowered participation and contribution by people, it has relevance for almost all SDGs.

#### REFERENCES:

<http://www.childrenparliament.in/Documents/bravenewworld.pdf>

[www.kudumbashree.org](http://www.kudumbashree.org)

<https://ncnworld.org>

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