



## Peace Offerings: April 2025

### UN DAYS OF ACTION

24<sup>th</sup> April 2025: International  
Girls in ICT Day

15<sup>th</sup> May 2025: International  
Day of Families

5<sup>th</sup> June 2025: World  
Environment Day

19<sup>th</sup> June 2025: International  
Day for the Elimination of  
Sexual Violence in Conflict

20<sup>th</sup> June 2025: World Refugee  
Day

### The 69<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The session took place at the UN headquarters in New York from 10<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This year marks 30 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the plan agreed in 1995 by 189 governments to achieve equal rights for all women and girls. The 69<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW therefore focused on a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration. It is perhaps not surprising to learn that progress in implementing the commitments of the Declaration has been slow and uneven, and that no country has achieved full gender equity and empowerment of women and girls. Poverty and global economic inequality continue to be fundamental challenges. The review recognized the need to make more progress and identified five recommendations to make this happen:

1. Strengthen institutions to lead and coordinate policy action on gender equality, putting gender at the centre of all policies and programmes.
2. Elevate women's voices through equal participation and influence in decision making.
3. Close the financial gap by aligning budgets with gender equality.
4. Harness technology by closing the digital gender divide in access and benefits
5. Establish gender-inclusive crisis prevention and response to avoid sudden rollbacks on the rights of women and girls, prioritizing gender equality in humanitarian action.

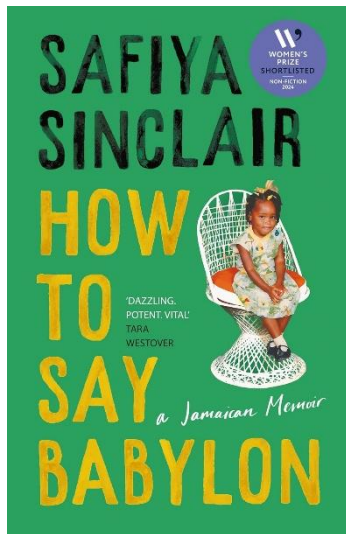
**This may seem daunting but great things happen when a series of small things come together. Our programme action makes a difference in our communities, as it does in clubs across the world. By carrying out this grass roots action and raising awareness of issues, together we are creating a climate in which the aims of the Beijing Declaration can be achieved.**

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# Sisters' stories

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## How to Say Babylon by Safiya Sinclair



Safiya Sinclair was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and grew up under the influence of her strict Rastafarian father. Keeping the women in the household pure was very important to her father, so during Safiya's childhood, almost everything was forbidden to her. She found her voice through poetry and supported by her mother and aunts, Safiya was able to break free from her restrictive, and sometimes violent, home and find her own life. As Safiya reflects on her childhood from the perspective of independence, she begins to move towards a reconciliation with her father – but very much on her terms. This is a story of strong women resisting an oppressive existence, and testament to the power of creativity.

## Cancer charity says a knowledge gap around cervical screenings is costing lives.

The latest data from NHS England shows that more than five million women who are eligible for routine cervical screening have not taken the opportunity to have the test. The lowest uptake is among women aged 25-29. A cervical screening can be uncomfortable, even painful for some women and this might discourage them from making an appointment. Research carried out by the cancer charity, The Eve Appeal (<https://eveappeal.org.uk/>) has found that most women do not know that they can make the test easier by asking for adjustments. Women can ask for longer appointments, a smaller speculum or try out a more comfortable position, and they can take a friend or family member with them for support.

Cervical screening is thought to save about 5,000 lives every year in the UK. We need to raise awareness not just of the availability of the testing but also of the fact that women can take control of their appointments and make it work for them.

Find out more at:

<https://eveappeal.org.uk/news/what-adjustments-can-you-ask-for-at-your-cervical-screening/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg44pr28ywo>

## More information about the CWS review of the Beijing Declaration

- <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/womens-rights-in-review-30-years-after-beijing-en.pdf>

A very readable document summarising the key outcomes of the review

- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/the-beijing-declaration-and-platform-for-action-at-30-and-why-that-matters-for-gender-equality>

A reminder of why the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action matters for gender equality

- <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/news/2025/03/for-all-women-and-girls-csw69-event-announces-action-agenda-to-accelerate-progress-on-womens-rights>

A summary of the action agenda announced by the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW to accelerate progress on women's rights