



# BPW Europe

Business and Professional Women

*12th Edition, April 2025*



**Leadership & Impact at the Global Stage**



## CSW69 and BPW International Leaders Summit

2025

NEW YORK

In March 2025, over 100 women leaders from 32 countries gathered in New York for the BPW Leaders Summit and CSW69. The two-day summit focused on strengthening leadership skills, adapting to a rapidly changing world, and empowering the next generation. With participation from 18 European member states, the event provided vibrant networking opportunities and meaningful dialogue on innovation, inclusion, and collective growth. As part of its triennial goals, BPW emphasized sustainability, justice, and the power of combined action to shape a better future.

### CSW69 and BPW's forward momentum

Aligned with CSW69's "Beijing 30+" review, BPW reinforced its commitment to women's economic empowerment, digital inclusion, and leadership representation. Through a series of 13 engaging parallel events and a key side event with the Malaysian Mission, BPW amplified its voice at the UN level. The organization also launched strategic initiatives such as the Global Mentorship Network and a Digital Education program to foster intergenerational collaboration. Looking ahead, BPW is actively contributing to the CSW revitalization process and preparing for CSW70, which will spotlight "Access to Justice."

**Empowering Futures: BPW Europe and EIGE Unite in Vilnius**



On March 21–22, 2025, BPW Europe Coordinator Anu Viks visited Vilnius, Lithuania, marking a significant step towards the 2028 BPW Europe Conference preparations. The visit featured a seminar organized by the BPW Vilnius Chamber in collaboration with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), headquartered in Vilnius. The seminar provided BPW members with insights into the organization's strategic directions and EIGE's latest research, including the 2024 Gender Equality Index, which highlights persistent challenges in gender-based violence and underrepresentation of women in leadership roles across the EU. As the official EIGE representative within BPW Europe, the event underscored the commitment to fostering gender equality and empowering women across Europe.

## Unlocking Potential: Equal Pay Day 2025 in Prague



The 16th annual Equal Pay Day conference took place on March 25–26, 2025, gathering over 1,800 participants from across Europe. Organized by Business & Professional Women CR (BPWCR), the event focused on the theme "Potential," addressing the persistent 18% gender pay gap in the Czech Republic. The conference featured more than 30 speakers, including international experts and leaders, who discussed innovations and strategies to fully harness the potential of both women and men for economic transformation. The program included panel discussions, mentoring sessions, and networking opportunities aimed at promoting equal opportunities in society, profession and family.

**55 Years of Dedication: Sylvia Perry Honoured at BPW UK Gala**

## BPW UK NATIONAL CONFERENCE

“BRIDGE TO THE  
FUTURE“



The BPW UK National Conference, themed “Bridge to the Future”, was held on 4–5 April in Newcastle. The dynamic event brought together members for a weekend of inspiration, including the Regional Speaking Contest for Students, the official Conference sessions, and a memorable Gala Dinner.

A highlight of the evening was the tribute to Past BPW International President Sylvia Perry, honoring her passionate contributions and celebrating an extraordinary milestone — her 55th anniversary as a member of BPW International.

Sylvia Perry, along with fellow Past International President Livia Ricci, co-authored the book “A Bus to 42nd Street,” a heartfelt tribute to Ester W. Hymer, the longest-serving BPW International Representative to the United Nations. The book serves as both a living memory of Hymer’s impactful legacy and a historical record of the pivotal role played by Sylvia Perry, then BPW Europe Regional Coordinator, and fellow members at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing — a landmark event that led to the creation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

**Honoring a Legacy: in memory of Sylvia G. Perry**



*In loving memory of*



# Sylvia G. Perry

25 May 1935 - 11 April 2025



BPW International mourns the passing of one of its most esteemed Past Presidents, Sylvia G. Perry, a woman whose visionary leadership and deep dedication left an enduring mark on our global community. Serving as International President from 1996 to 1999, Sylvia championed the empowerment of women with courage, grace, and unwavering resolve.

Her influence continues to resonate through the countless initiatives she led, the lives she touched, and the generations of women she mentored. Today, we come together as a global sisterhood to honor her remarkable legacy, to reflect on her life of service, and to reaffirm our commitment to the values she held dear. Sylvia's light remains with us —as inspiration, as guidance, and as a reminder of the power of purpose-driven leadership.

May she rest in peace, and may her legacy continue to inspire us all.

**Empowering Women for Earth Day: BPW Estonia's  
Virtual Workshops Inspire Action**

# PLEDGES



Eesti Ettevõtlike Naiste Assotsiatsioon  
Estonian Association of Business and Professional Women



To mark Earth Day 2025, BPW Estonia, led by Siiri Tiivits-Puttonen, BPW International Chair of Environment and SDG SCC, organized a series of dynamic online workshops focused on sustainability. Participants explored practical topics like reducing plastic waste, eco-conscious consumer habits, and creating pollinator-friendly spaces. These interactive sessions offered tools and inspiration for integrating green practices into daily life and business. The workshops brought together women from across the globe: entrepreneurs, community leaders, and environmental advocates who pledged to take personal steps toward a greener future. This initiative reflects BPW's ongoing commitment to climate action and empowering women to be drivers of sustainable change.

**Equal Rights, Real Results: BPW Europe Stands Behind EU Roadmap**



**EC aisbl**

An entity of

**THE EUROPEAN REGION OF  
BPW INTERNATIONAL**

International Federation of Business & Professional Women

## **BPW Europe welcomes the EU Roadmap on Women's Rights**

25 March 2025

As an NGO dedicated to advancing women's rights worldwide, member and co-founder of European Women Lobby, BPW Europe is encouraged to see the EU's commitment through the newly launched EU Roadmap on Women's Rights. This is a much needed and positive signal, especially at a time when we are witnessing a troubling global pushback against women's rights and gender equality with a particular resonance in Europe.

BPW International President, Diana Barragan, emphasizes, *"Europe is playing a leading role in the global effort to implement gender equality, setting an example through the introduction of comprehensive policies such as the EU Roadmap on Women's Rights. This roadmap reflects Europe's dedication to creating a more just and equal society for all women."*

*"The EU Roadmap on Women's Rights represents a crucial step in advancing gender equality, but its success depends on strong implementation. BPW International will continue to advocate for concrete actions that turn commitments into real change, ensuring that women's rights are upheld not just in Europe, but globally."*

The roadmap focuses on critical areas such as combating gender-based violence, ensuring access to quality healthcare (including sexual and reproductive health and rights), closing the gender pay gap, promoting work-life balance, and improving women's employment and pensions conditions. It also highlights the importance of inclusive education, gender-balanced political representation, and reinforcing institutional mechanisms that deliver on women's rights to which BPW is a fervent supporter. One of the key activities of BPW Europe is its yearly Equal Pay Day Campaign and report, which we are delighted to share with you.

The roadmap sets an important foundation, but as the European Women's Lobby (EWL) rightly points out, words must now be followed by bold action. It's imperative that we see this commitment translated into concrete, measurable changes that genuinely empower women across Europe and inspire other regions in the world.

Anu Viks, BPW Regional Coordinator for Europe, added, *"The EU Roadmap on Women's Rights is a significant step in the right direction. We will follow and support concrete action that ensures the commitments made by the governments will result in real, tangible change. This roadmap must guide us toward a future where gender equality is not only an aspiration, but a reality for all women in Europe."*

Appropriate funding and dedicated resources are essential to ensure that policies lead to real, lasting improvements in the lives of women. Together, we can ensure that this roadmap is more than just a statement — it must be a catalyst for tangible, positive transformation, especially on time of cutting budget and funding. Women have an active role into the current society's transformation where their rights and acquis must be kept and improved.

Let's hold governments accountable, and push for the action that matches this commitment. Women's rights are human rights, and they must be protected, upheld, and championed.

**Anu Viks, Chair Executive Council BPW Europe**

[regional.coordinator@bpw-europe.org](mailto:regional.coordinator@bpw-europe.org)



**BPW European Coordination aisbl**

Association internationale sans but lucratif – International non-profit organisation  
Moniteur Belge 13/01/2009 n° 0808 805 794 - Rue du Méridien 10, 1210 Bruxelles – Belgium  
**EU Transparency Register: 836392015840-91.**

BPW Europe – [www.bpw-europe.org](http://www.bpw-europe.org)



BPW Europe strongly welcomes the launch of the EU Roadmap on Women's Rights, announced on March 25, 2025, as a timely and vital commitment to advancing gender equality across Europe. As a founding member of the European Women's Lobby and a long-standing advocate for women's rights, BPW Europe views this initiative as a critical step forward—especially in a time when gender equality is facing growing global resistance. The roadmap addresses essential issues such as gender-based violence, the gender pay gap, reproductive rights, inclusive education, and women's political representation.

BPW International President Diana Barragán and BPW Europe Coordinator Anu Viks both emphasized that while the roadmap marks a powerful milestone, it must now be followed by concrete action and sustained investment. "Words must be matched by bold action," they urged. BPW will continue to monitor, advocate, and support the implementation of these commitments, including through its signature campaigns such as the Equal Pay Day. Together, with strong partnerships and accountability, this roadmap has the potential to spark lasting change for all women in Europe and beyond.

**Upcoming events 2025**

**Breaking Barriers in Malta – the countdown begins!**



As we approach the upcoming months, preparations are intensifying for the **18th BPW European Regional Conference** and the **12th Young BPW Europe Symposium**, scheduled for May 23–25, 2025, in Valletta, Malta. The conference theme, “Breaking Barriers: Drive Your Own Success,” will be explored through four dynamic pillars: Future Focus, Digitalisation, Globalisation and Celebrate our Superpowers. The comprehensive program includes keynote speeches, panel discussions and interactive workshops, all set against the historic backdrop of the Mediterranean Conference Centre. Notable events include a President’s Reception hosted by **H.E. Myriam Spiteri Debono**, President of Malta, and a Gala Dinner at La Valette Hall.

In addition to the formal proceedings, delegates can look forward to curated cultural experiences, such as guided tours of Valletta, a harbor cruise and an excursion to the island of Gozo. This event promises to be a milestone in advancing gender equality and empowering women across Europe.

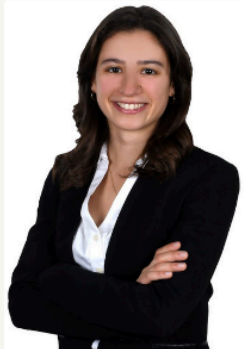
The **12th Young BPW Symposium** will bring together Young BPWs and experienced members from across Europe for an engaging and empowering program. Participants will have the opportunity to attend a special interview with BPW International President **Diana Barragán** and Regional Coordinator **Anu Viks**, join a panel discussion featuring both seasoned and young BPWs, take part in an interactive leadership workshop with **Priscilla Leigh** on speaking and leading with impact, and hear from Young BPW Representative **Izadora Letchacoski** as she shares her vision for the future. The symposium will offer a vibrant space for intergenerational connection, learning and leadership development.

[bpwmalta.com/bpw-european-conference-2025](https://bpwmalta.com/bpw-european-conference-2025)

**Young Leaders Head to Malta with BPW Europe Scholarships**



## BPW Europe Champions Youth



Selin Gücum  
BPW Istanbul



Liis Ingalt  
BPW Estonia



Sarah Catherine Godshalk  
BPW Germany



Selina Zauner  
BPW Austria



Mikaella Melanidou  
BPW Cyprus



We are proud to announce the five outstanding young members who have been awarded scholarships by BPW Europe to attend the upcoming BPW Europe Regional Conference and Young BPW Symposium in Malta. Congratulations to Sarah Cathrin Godshalk (BPW Germany), Mikaella Melanidou (BPW Cyprus), Liis Ingalt (BPW Estonia), Selina Zauner (BPW Austria), and Selin Gücum (BPW Istanbul Club, Turkey). These emerging leaders represent the future of BPW and will actively contribute to the vibrant exchange of ideas and inspiration in Malta.

### Lead with Confidence: Join BPW Europe's Online Leadership Training



**BPW Europe**  
Business and Professional Women

## Leadership Training for Women

*Be a Better Leader*

*Join us and be  
inspired,  
empowered  
and confident*



**10, 17 and 24 October  
2025**

**12:30 h - 17:00 h CEST  
Live Online (ZOOM)**

**Register now**

<https://bpw-lll.weebly.com>

The BPW Europe Learning for Leadership Working Group is set to host its next Leadership Training for Women in October 2025. This online program spans three consecutive Fridays: October 10th, 17th, and 24th, from 12:30 to 17:00 CEST.

Designed for both BPW members and non-members, the training offers a comprehensive exploration of leadership through six key elements: Self-Awareness, Vision, Drive, Control, Communication, and Situational Awareness.

Participants will engage in practical exercises, group work, and networking opportunities, all facilitated by experienced international women trainers. The program aims to empower women to enhance their leadership skills and achieve their professional goals.

[www.bpw-lll.weebly.com/](http://www.bpw-lll.weebly.com/)

## Outlook Calendar 2025



### BPW Europe Activities

- **15 May** – Poznan Club Poland, 35th Anniversary
- **16 May** - BPW Ireland Galway Summer Lunch
- **23-25 May** - BPW Europe 18th Regional Conference and 12th Young BPW Symposium
- **28 June** - Zürich Club Switzerland 80th Anniversary
- **5 July** - Burghausen Club Germany 25th Anniversary
- **24-26 August** - Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Malaysia
- **26 August** – BPW International 95th Anniversary
- **10, 17, 14 October** – Leadership training for Women
- **14-15 November, 2025** - 7th Mediterranean Symposium in Cyprus <https://bpwcyprus.org.cy>

*Your event missing on this overview? Add @BPW.Euorpe as a co-host on your Facebook Event or tag @BPW Europe on your LinkedIn Post*

**Other Useful Links:** [Website of BPW International](#)

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Coordination aisbl  
Association internationale sans but  
lucratif –  
International non-profit organisation  
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