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**To:** [Lotimer, Kelly](#); [Norio, Ann-Marie](#); [Trennum, Matthew](#); [Evely, Mark](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Online Form - Request to Speak at a Standing Committee  
**Date:** Thursday, September 12, 2019 6:55:17 PM

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**From:** Niagara Region Website  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 September 2019 18:55:11 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Clerks  
**Subject:** Online Form - Request to Speak at a Standing Committee

## Request to Speak at a Standing Committee

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Name

Rashmi Biswas

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St. Catharines

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Organization

standing committee  
Regional Council

Presentation Topic

Equity and Inclusion

Presentation includes slides

Yes

Previously presented topic

No

#### Presentation Details

**Agenda Topic:** UNESCO Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, to be discussed on September 19. **Reason for Request:** In support of the UNESCO initiative the Gender Equity Task Force Niagara welcomes the opportunity to make Council aware of our community-based group, and to demonstrate how our commitment to action is in alignment with the UNESCO goals. **Gender Equity Definition:** “Provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities between women and men.” **Source:** European Institute for Gender Equality **The Work of the Gender Equity Task Force Niagara:** A grass roots group formed in spring 2019 seeking the application of a gender lens to the development and implementation of policy at the municipal level. The goal is to promote the social and economic independence of women. Global research consistently shows the social and economic benefits to communities, at the local and national levels, including improvements in GDP, when gender equity is achieved. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has published The Global Gender Gap Report since 2006. The 2018 report provides global rankings in terms of gender equity, Canada is currently 16th in the world. The WEF uses four key measures to assess progress. We include brief highlights of this data in our presentation and establish the key role municipalities can take, and the positive impact they can have when addressing these measures. **Request/Direction to Council:** We encourage Council to join the UNESCO Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities and wish to offer our support. By addressing inclusion from multiple perspectives Council’s leadership in this pursuit greatly increases the likelihood of success. Niagara has substantial social and economic challenges including child poverty. The results of inclusion and gender equity can benefit all Niagara residents and we promote working together on this critical issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Video Consent

Yes

