

UNCSW Delegate Safety Advisory

New York, March 2026

The delegates attending UNCSW70 should be aware of tensions in the United States, notably heightened ICE enforcement activity and broader political-violence risks identified across the country. New York State has raised serious concerns regarding federal immigration overreach, following multiple violent incidents involving ICE in 2025–26. National monitoring groups also report an escalation of violence risks, with aggressive federal actions and high-profile incidents contributing to a more sensitive environment. While New York City itself continues to show declining rates of violent crime, delegates should still exercise caution.

We want to assure you that our intention is not to alarm or suggest that attending UNCSW is unsafe. Rather, given the current context, we simply want to make sure you have the information and awareness needed to stay safe and feel supported throughout your time in New York. Your wellbeing is our priority, and we want you to be able to participate confidently and securely.

In case of emergency, you can reach out to our colleague John Lindenau, Senior associate at AFT, at +1 908-797-5325.

Key Safety Measures

1. Immigration & Identity-Related Safety

- U.S. border officials can search electronic devices: U.S. border officials assert broad authority to search electronic devices, including phones and laptops, sometimes without suspicion (reviewing messages, emails, photos, and documents; Copying or retaining data for inspection)
- Social media and online presence may be reviewed: Officers may ask you to unlock devices or provide passwords. Refusal may lead to delays or device seizure and, for non-citizens, may affect entry decisions. If a device is taken, request a receipt.
- Always carry your ID, but **only present documents when legally required.**
- ICE agents must have a **judicial warrant** to enter private spaces, consistent with recent New York policy proposals aimed at limiting ICE overreach.

- Do **not consent to search** without a properly verified warrant.
- If approached by ICE or federal agents, remain calm, ask if you are free to leave, and contact your delegation's emergency focal point immediately.

2. Movement & Personal Security

- Stay in **well-lit, populated areas**, especially when returning from evening events.
- Avoid evening side events as much as possible.
- Always travel with a sister and avoid being alone in the streets.
- Avoid areas with active **demonstrations, federal operations**, as recent months have seen increased confrontations and federal enforcement flashpoints nationwide.
- Inform your delegation of your movements at all times through the WhatsApp group.

3. Accommodation & Transport

- Use hotels near UN Headquarters or in areas with strong NYPD presence.
- Prefer official public transport, licensed taxis, and reputable ride-share apps.
 - While on the subway, make sure all your belongings are secure and that valuables are not visible. If you have pockets with zippers, make sure they are closed.
- Avoid unregistered drivers near UN venues.

Emergency Contacts

- Emergency (police, fire, ambulance): 911
- NYPD non-emergency: 311
- Delegation Emergency Contact
- Your embassy/consulate: Ensure you are registered before traveling.