



Commission for Women's Chess Report

Q1 of 2025

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Document type	Report
Subject of Report	Activity of the WOM in Q1 2025
Document version	1.0
Date	March 09, 2025



Over the years, the WOM Commission has launched various initiatives and events that have highlighted the position of women's chess and women in chess. The projects and research conducted by the Commission has not only helped provide a better understanding and improvements for women's chess but, also, helped vocalize the broader issues of women's rights and place in society.

The FIDE Commission for Women's Chess held its first meeting in January 2025, setting the stage for an exciting and impactful year ahead. With 14 dedicated members present, the Commission summed up a very successful year 2024 and prepared a plan for this year. This year holds special significance as FIDE has officially declared 2025 the "Year of Social Chess." The WOM Commission is thrilled to align with this theme by focusing on projects that emphasize inclusion, community engagement, and the transformative power of chess in society. We are ready to expand our previous initiatives even further and start new ones. The meeting also featured insightful presentations by team leaders, who provided updates and shared their visions for these key projects.

During preparing this report WOM has been actively engaged on the following projects:

Online seminars for women – The first official event of the FIDE Commission for Women's Chess in 2025 took place from January 10th to 12th. This event was an online Arbiter's Seminar specifically for women, with all participation costs fully covered by the Commission. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to empower and support women from all backgrounds in the chess world, making it possible for every woman to have the opportunity to contribute to and thrive in the chess community. This seminar was organized in partnership with the Polish Chess Federation and the FIDE Arbiter's Commission, under the auspices of FIDE. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our lecturers—IA Panagiotis Nikolopoulos (GRE), FIDE Lecturer; IA Anastasia Sorokina (AUS); and IA Alexander Sokolski (POL)—for sharing their expertise and insights with our participants.

The Tolerance Games – Asian Chess Women's Contest: Empowering Women and Promoting Tolerance Through Chess. On February 5-6, 2025, Abu Dhabi hosted the Tolerance Games – Asian Chess Women's Contest. Co-organized by the UAE Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, the International Chess Federation (FIDE), and the Asian Chess Federation (ACF), this event brought together players and speakers to celebrate how chess promotes inclusivity, empowerment, and coexistence. One of the biggest highlights was the Little Chess Star tournament, a special competition designed to promote young female talent, organised by the Asian Chess Federation, FIDE, the FIDE Trainers Commission (TRG), and our Commission – FIDE Commission for Women in Chess (WOM). We organise Little Star series worldwide to support young talented girls passionate about chess, putting them in the spotlight to inspire and motivate them.

The format included two qualification rounds followed by a final match to determine the winner. Along with cash prizes, the top three players received trophies and certificates, recognizing their talent and dedication to the game. A 9-year-old Asena Golizadeh from Iran emerged as a winner of the competition after beating Vipin Vedhika from India. Beyond the competition, the event focused on empowerment through the workshop Women and Chess – Promoting Tolerance & Women Empowerment. This engaging session featured keynote speakers who explored how chess can be a tool for gender equality and personal growth:



Dana Reizniece – Women’s Chess Grandmaster, politician, and FIDE Deputy Chair of the Management Board, Gulmira Dauletova – Women’s Chess Grandmaster, member of the FIDE Commission for Women in Chess, and Executive Director of the Kazakhstan Chess Federation, Lou Zhou – Founder of Vanquour Wealth Management.

Chess4all & All4Chess – this year Chess4All project started with global marathon in March, dedicated to the Women International Day 8 march. More than 40 countries joined this initiative, clubs, federations, ngo’s organized girls and women event around the world. Main goal of the “Chess Women’s Day Celebration: Community, Strength, Empowerment” marathon was to connect chess community on this special occasion for women and show how many incredible projects happen worldwide. Around the world, female players were competing at each continent, the following events has been supported by WOM: Saint-Tropez, France – a simultaneous exhibition against 24 opponents, led by the Ukrainian quad sisters, the Prochaievs (Alina, Tina, Yelyzaveta and Olha, all aged 15); Nairobi, Kenya, at the 3rd Queens Rapid Chess Tournament; St.Lucia celebrating Women in Chess Across the Americas and Almaty, Kazakhstan, at Qazaq Queens Chess Fest 2025 - a true celebration of chess. The competition followed a nine-round Swiss system to determine the strongest players and was opened to participants of all ages and ratings. More federations contacted WOM sharing its events and celebration, and we were happy to announce everything at WOM social media pages.

Prague Chess Festival - In collaboration with the FIDE Commission for Women’s Chess, the festival invited ten talented girls to compete in the prestigious Futures Tournament—an event running alongside the renowned Super Tournaments, where top grandmasters like Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu, Anish Giri, Vincent Keymer, and David Navara showcase their skills. Beyond the competition, the Prague Chess Festival ensured that the girls received an enriching and educational experience. On their free day, not for another match, but for an opportunity just as valuable—learning from one of the most influential women in chess. A special program was organized, featuring an exclusive lecture and a simultaneous exhibition led by WGM Dana Reizniece, Deputy Chair of the FIDE Management Board and an esteemed ambassador of the Futures Tournament. Dana’s presence added immense value, as she shared her insights, experiences, and guidance with the young participants, reinforcing the message that women in chess have a powerful role to play at all levels of the sport. Following the lecture, the girls were ready for a challenge of a different kind—a simultaneous exhibition against Dana herself. The girls, eager to prove themselves, fought with determination, each hoping to claim a victory against a grandmaster.

Women’s Chess Festival – Radzikowska Memorial - The WOM is delighted to announce its official collaboration with the 14th edition of one of the strongest festivals focused on women’s chess. This remarkable event, held annually in Wroclaw, Poland, gathers top female players as well as amateur and junior players, and offers a wide range of activities, making it a true celebration of women’s chess. The festival features a variety of tournaments, including blitz and rapid events, as well as its main highlight—the highly anticipated Match between Poland’s strongest women grandmasters and the Rest of the World Team. The festival also focuses on promoting the game of chess as a whole – for example by organizing a friendly Match against sponsors.



The organizers have been doing an incredible work throughout the years to create this event for women and girls in chess. It is our hope that our cooperation with help in promoting it even further.

Queens' Online Chess Festival 2025 - The 5th edition of the Queens' Online Chess Festival, a series of continental women's online blitz tournaments, announced place from March 01-28, 2025, on Tornelo online platform. The festival is comprised of two competitions: Queens' Women Open Tournament (open to all female participants with FIDE ID). Continental qualifying events running from the 1st till 9th of March and Semi-Final and Final scheduled on March 16th and 28th, respectively; Unrated Princesses' tournaments (female players with no FIDE rating) Qualifiers for "East" and "West" with Finals in groups U9, U11, U13, U15 & U17 (for U17 – born on 1.1.2008 or later). The qualification stage is scheduled for March 15th with more than 1000 girls registered from 121 countries worldwide, and Finals will be held on March 28th. The winner of The Queen Festival Chess Tournament will be invited to the 46th World Chess Olympiad 2026 in Uzbekistan. The Queen Festival Chess Tournament offers a prize fund of 1000 euros.

FIDE WOM expresses sincerest gratitude for amazing contribution to the working group of the Queens' Chess Festival project: Ozgur Solakoglu, Ulkar Umudova and Yilmaz Kartal. Special thanks to Gulmira Dauletova, our Asian Ambassador of QF 2025 and Kazakhstan Chess federation for the great promotion of the event and help with FIDE WOM brandbook. On behalf of WOM I also want to thank Continental Ambassadors of the QF 2025 Aga Milewska (Europe), Thepiso Lopang (Africa) and Martha Fierro (America) and the Arbiters team ruling by CA Tania Karali.

Girls Chess Club in Kakuma (Chess for Protection Project) – A groundbreaking initiative in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Female students attend online lessons by WGM Anastasiya Karlovich (UKR) and IM Salome Melia (GEO), including educational activities and playing chess with a local tutor. The club operates in three girls' boarding schools and has seen significant participation, with 250 schoolgirls attending chess classes twice a week. The program not only teaches chess but also incorporates lessons on the social benefits of the game, helping the students to build skills which are useful both on and off the chess board. The coaches already started the classes in the 2025 season and will have on-line lessons with the girls weekly on Saturdays. The focus was chess of course, but not only the studying itself, but also learning about the chess world – girls heard about the recent chess events, like the spectacular FIDE World Blitz and Rapid Championships.

For the following months WOM planning to start implementation of the following initiatives:

Queen's Gambit Challenge 2025-2026 – is an online initiative designed to empower female players and help national federations build competitive women's chess teams, led by FIDE and FIDE Commission for Women's Chess. Running from April 2025 to April 2026, this program will support federations with limited female participation in chess by providing a structured curriculum for players at beginner to intermediate levels. This program is a continuation of the National Female Team Initiative, which successfully introduced eight new teams to the Chess Olympiad. Target Audience: Female players in federations with low or no female representation in chess. Objective: Equip participants with essential chess skills, advanced strategies, and mental preparation for tournament play, with the aim of developing Women's National Teams for the Chess Olympiad. Event Structure:



The program spans three periods: Period 1 (April-May 2025) – For beginners; Period 2 (Sept-Oct 2025) – For intermediates and potential team players; Period 3 (April-May 2026) – Focused on national team preparations for the Olympiad. The training lasts for seven weeks per period, and there is no age limit to participate.

ChessMom pilot project for the 2026 Olympiad – It aims to provide support for professional chess players who are mothers of infants under one year old. Specifically, through this initiative, all expenses related to an accompanying or caregiver person for six female players traveling with their infants to the 46th Chess Olympiad will be covered by FIDE. The WOM working group Francisco Cruz Arce (Puerto Rico), Sanchez Castillo, Sarai Carolina (Venezuela) and Chen, Mei Fang Dina (Chinese Taipei) will elaborate for nominations worldwide and chosen participants to travel to Uzbekistan. I thank FIDE management and all the national federations for their support, and hope this initiative evolves into consistent support for chess-playing mothers. The Confederation of Chess for America announced that they will replicate the FIDE ChessMom Pilot Program to the American continent. We are excited to see this initiative growing and making a difference worldwide. Many talented women have had to step back from their professional careers due to the costs of traveling with their children. The expanded support in 2025 offers renewed hope and opportunities for these remarkable chess players.

We will continue our main project Chess4All at all continents, same as organizing more seminars for women.

Detailed information about all WOM activities are published at official web-sources:

Official web-site: wom.fide.com

Official Twitter account: twitter.com/fidewomen

Official Facebook account: facebook.com/FIDEwomen

Official Instagram account: instagram.com/fidewomen

The abovementioned initiatives collectively reflect WOM's commitment to empowering women across the globe and improving the prospects for women's chess. The FIDE Commission for Women's Chess extends its gratitude to all members for their hard work, dedication, and thoughtful preparation. WOM contributions ensure to continue to make meaningful strides in promoting women's chess – truly making a difference for girls and women around the world through chess. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the FIDE President and FIDE Council and FIDE Management Board for the extensive support of women's chess, for allocating resources on our initiatives.

Anastasia Sorokina
FIDE WOM Chairperson