



# **Commission for Women's Chess Report**

## *Q1 of 2024*

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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.

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

**Chess Seminars for Ladies** – a series of seminars providing educational opportunities for women, with the addition of building additional skills through lectures and promoting greater interaction between participants. WOM and Polish Chess federation hold an online Arbiters seminar on 12-14 January 2024. The Seminar will award norms and titles of FIDE Arbiter according to the Regulations for the titles of Arbiters.

**Queens' Online Chess Festival**, a series of continental women's online blitz tournaments that took place from March 09-30, 2024, on the Tornado online platform. WOM has held Continental events and will hold a final on March 30, 2024.

**Girls Chess Club in Kakuma (Chess for Protection Project)** – A groundbreaking initiative in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, providing chess lessons to three girls' boarding schools with 250 attendees. We started next stage of the project in Feb 2024. Now girls are preparing for the qualification stage of the tournament for the Olympiad 2024.

**Chess4Peace: Refugee Women's Training Program** – Another project for refugees, focusing on women in early adulthood (18-23 years), and teaching them chess. This is a pilot project in Ukraine and Poland, supported by the International Olympic Committee. We are at the stage of holding online lessons and activities/next offline stage will be in Warsaw, Poland in May 10-14, 2024.

**ChessMom pilot project for the 2024 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 ten female players traveling with their infants to the 45th Chess Olympiad will be covered. The leader of working group, WOM member Francisco J Cruz Arce elaborates for nominations.

**Supporting the creation of female teams in federations without one** – the initiative aims to help recruit, train and finance women's chess teams for the countries that did not have them in the previous Olympiad. More broadly, the aim is to take a step further in promoting chess among women and girls. We are currently holding the online trainings in 8 federations with professional coaches: Nauru, Guernsey, Cayman Island, Grenada, Mauritania, Saint Lucia, Liechtenstein, St. Kitts and Nevis, US Virgin Islands, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Trainers of women's national teams in those countries were already appointed. On weekends, they are having meetings with their teams to prepare for the Chess Olympiad 2024. Remarkably, 80% of the trainers are females too.



**Chess Ladies Art Film Milestone** – Conceptualized by the chess artist Juga, this project showcases an all-female chess artistic performance from 160 countries, set to become a chess music video for Juga’s upcoming song “Queen Trap.” This event will take place in an epic setting, a Budapest landmark, during the Olympiad 2024. The production team is honored to be already counting on Judit Polgar, Tania Sachdev, Elisabeth Paehtz, and Alexandra Kosteniuk’s appearance in the music video. The project is at preparational stage to be launched soon.

**Chess4all & All4Chess** – encouraging global participation of girls and women in chess. This year Chess4All project started in Africa. The numerous events for women (like The Princess tournaments and simultaneous exhibitions) and meetings with local officials have been organized in African Continent: Ghana, Botswana, Côte D'Ivoire and South Africa.

These initiatives collectively reflect WOM’s commitment to empowering women across the globe and improving the prospects for women’s chess.

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

Official web-site: [wom.fide.com](http://wom.fide.com)

Official Twitter account: [twitter.com/fidewomen](https://twitter.com/fidewomen)

Official Facebook account: [facebook.com/FIDEwomen](https://facebook.com/FIDEwomen)

Official Instagram account: [instagram.com/fidewomen](https://instagram.com/fidewomen)

Expanded report will be ready for the upcoming Congress in September 2024.

Anastasia Sorokina

FIDE WOM Chairperson