

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

**IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.org>**

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

**IAW NEWSLETTER December 2010, no. 11**



**Equal Rights**

*Dear members,*

*After attending a wonderful IAW Congress we send you our best wishes for the New Year. A peaceful 2011, less violence against women in the world and happiness, strength and wisdom for us all!*

*In this newsletter Soon-Young from the IAW New York team writes on the result of the Summit on Climate Change, we mail you a reminder of coming activities at the Commission on the Status on Women and bring you tales of the 35th IAW Congress in South Africa.*

*Also (again) news of atrocities against women in Congo and a letter from a young women from Pakistan, written for the International Day of Violence against Women.*

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN**

**The 35th IAW Congress in South Africa**

*We received a warm welcome from Mmabatho Ramagoshi, President of the Mmabatho Foundation for Women's Development, her South African team and all the African participants.*

*To our pleasant surprise our African sisters started our first meeting with singing feminist songs and dancing. How different from the more formal and sometimes even dull meetings we (Europeans) are used to! The Congress was very well organised. We thank our South African sisters cordially for an inspiring, interesting and sometimes 'deeply moving' IAW Congress!*

**Seminars**

There were excellent seminars with interesting introductions from experts and with discussion afterwards. For example: \* On Gender Justice; \* The role of women in Peace building-linked to violence against women and women only seen as victims; \* Women's Health, UNPFA, UNAIDS; \* Women's Economic Empowerment with emphasis on cooperatives and the role of governments in ensuring access to resources.

**On Gender Justice - Thokozani Khupe**

November 24 2010, from *the Zimbabwean*, mailed to us by IAW member Arina Angerman. The MDC Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Hon. Thokozani Khupe, officially opened the 35th World Congress of the International Alliance of Women in Boksburg, Johannesburg in South Africa. In her keynote address on Gender Justice Hon. Khupe said women were an invincible part of society whose roles were being undermined in spite of their leadership prowess. "Women have never walked behind any man. Women have always been in the forefront. This is demonstrated by the work we do as women."

**One woman can make a difference but many women can change the world  
We are workers, organisers, managers, advisors and more importantly,  
we are nation builders**

**International Day of 'No to violence of Women'**

On November 25, the keynote address was given by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr. Paul Mashatile. He started singing and all the South African women joined him. What did they sing? In translation:

"My mother was a kitchen girl, My father was a garden boy, And that 's why I am a communist/activist".

There seems to be another sentence: "And that why I am so poor", but he did not sing that!

Anyhow, when visiting the Apartheid Museum and the Mandela house after Congress, we saw how proud South Africans are of their recent history. And, of course, of Mandela, the world famous activist who was in his time a leader of communists and socialists.

### **Parallel Sessions for non IAW members**

Very interesting also were the Parallel Sessions for non IAW members. It was difficult to make a choice: to attend the IAW Business sections with the IAW agenda, programme, reports etc. or go instead to:

- \* a Workshop on Human Trafficking (very moving);
- \* Gender, Science and Women in Technology (excellent!);
- \* Women's equal access to full employment and decent work, with MS Gertrude of the Domestic Workers Union (remarkable!);
- \* Workshop on Customary Marriage and its impact on women (still lots of action needed);
- \* Workshop on green economy and its benefit to women (there are new jobs here);
- \* Workshop on UN instruments and how women should apply them in their daily work (IAW's speciality).

### **Welcome dinners and keynote addresses**

- \* Nov. 23 - Welcome Gala Dinner - Mmabatho Ramagoshi, chairperson of MFWD and regional vice-president of IAW, introduced the Minister of Public Works, Hon Gwen Mahlangu-Nkabinde who gave us a splendid Welcome address.

- \* Nov. 24 - a Braai Dinner, very enjoyable. We also enjoyed entertainment from groups of dancers and singers.

- \* Nov 25 - the Formal Dinner, with an introduction by Ms Nthabiseng Mogale and a keynote address by the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr. Joe Phaahia.

An international cultural evening followed with dances and music. The entertainment included, to our great pleasure, the Song of the Lion.

- \* Nov. 26 - This Dinner was chaired by Ms Mapula Ncanywa, who later became one of the two vice-presidents of the IAW Board. An address too by Ms Phumelele Nzimande, Chief People Officer: SABC.

- \* Nov. 27 - Closing Ceremony Gala Dinner, chaired by Ms Malebona Matsoso, Director General, Dept of Health and a keynote address by Advocate Thulisile Madonsela on the Public Protector and the end of Congress.

### **The end of the IAW Congress**

Outgoing President Rosy Weiss expressed a Voice of Thanks during the Closing Ceremony, and the new IAW President Lyda Verstegen gave her maiden speech.

*Editor's comment: Thank you, dear Rosy Weiss, for all the excellent work you did for IAW in six, sometimes turbulent years. Our compliments!*

*Welcome, new IAW President Lyda Verstegen, new Vice-Presidents Mapula Ncanywa and Bashra Rafique, new Treasurer Inga Thorbjorg and all other new IAW Board members and representatives. We wish the IAW Board lots of success in the coming three years!*

### **Resolutions at Congress**

*Resolutions on a range of topics were put forward, formulated by the Resolutions Committee, amended and finally approved by Congress. These will be on the IAW website in the New Year.*

### **On the IAW website**

IWA's blog: Rape and Wikileaks. On: <http://www.womenalliance.org/IWA/>

Information of the IAW Congress in South Africa is on its way.

### **IAW Taskforce ... and ning!**

One of the proposals of the IAW Task Force in 2009 was to install an electronic **IAW Social Network**. It is installed - it is PRIVATE - only IAW members can be invited and accepted - and it is on **ning** which is a fully closed network. It is an online place to make IAW announcements - share news and knowledge - collaborate - have discussions and real-time chats - get feedback on your work or thoughts - alert members to events - share photos and videos!

The web address for the IAW's social network ('Ning') is at <http://iawomen.ning.com>

### **Groups**

There are already some groups on ning. On Peace, Violence against Women, Justice, Health, History of IAW, Climate Change etc. If you like, you can also install your own group!

#### **To get an invitation**

You will need to register online on [emailhfkist@gmail.com](mailto:emailhfkist@gmail.com) [\\_<mailto:emailhfkist@gmail.com>](mailto:emailhfkist@gmail.com) [<mailto:hfkist@gmail.com>](mailto:hfkist@gmail.com) to get an invitation.

For your own convenience, make a bookmark of the URL of ning after you get in!

#### **Instructions**

The following link will take you to the document that contains instructions on how to get access and how to use the site:

[http://dl.dropbox.com/u/11362847/IAW\\_social%20network%20instructions\\_membersNov10.pdf](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/11362847/IAW_social%20network%20instructions_membersNov10.pdf)

This document can also be found once you are in the social network, on the top left corner of the site, as shown in the picture.

*Thank you so much for installing ning, IAW member Heleen Kist!*

## **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

For the 55th session in 2011: Women and girls in science and technologies: increasing opportunities in education, research and employment. Review theme: agreed conclusions from the 2007 session on the "Elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against the girl child".

It will take place at UN Headquarters in New York from 22 February to 4 March 2011.

Delegations are being assembled. IAW has requested facilities for two Parallel events.

#### **Oral statements**

Oral statements may be made during the general discussion, as well as during interactive expert panels, by a limited number of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. The number of oral statements to be delivered at the session will depend on the time available. Preference is given to NGOs speaking on behalf of groups of organizations, caucuses, or coalitions. The **deadline** for requesting the opportunity to make an oral statement is **11 February 2011**.

More information in the January newsletter.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

### **The World must prevent Christmas slaughter in Democratic Republic of Congo – a report**

December 16 2010 - Aid agencies are calling for the international community to step up action against Africa's most brutal rebel group amid fears it could stage another Christmas massacre.

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is now the deadliest militia operating in Congo where it has killed or abducted more than 1000 adults and children in the last year alone, according to a report by the aid groups.

The rebels are notorious for their extreme violence – including hacking off body parts, crushing victims' skulls with clubs, abducting children and forcing them to rape and kill.

It is estimated that a fifth of children kidnapped by the rebels are forced to fight, four fifths are used for labour and all the girls are raped.

#### **Both massacres went largely unnoticed**

On Christmas Eve 2008 the LRA launched a three-week killing spree in north-eastern DRC and southern Sudan, beating to death 865 people, including children, and abducting hundreds more. Last year, the rebels slaughtered some 300 people between December 14 and 17.

Both massacres went largely unnoticed by the outside world, said Stoessel, speaking by phone from the remote district of Haut Uele after attending a commemoration for last year's victims.

Although the LRA has recently killed more people in Congo than any other militia, Stoessel said the United Nations mission had only deployed a reported 850 of its 18,000 troops to the area where the rebels operate.

#### **Troop escorts**

Originally from northern Uganda, the LRA has morphed into a larger regional threat. More than 400,000 people have fled their homes since 2008 as rebels rampaged across remote villages in DRC, Sudan and Central African Republic. The LRA's leaders are wanted by the International Criminal Court.

The report also highlights the need for a massive expansion of radio and telecommunications coverage and road access to enable communities to warn one another of impending attack and to call for help.

#### **Devastating consequences**

The report warns that previous military operations against the LRA have had devastating consequences for civilians. In 2008, Operation "Lightning Thunder" failed to capture any senior LRA commanders and only prompted a murderous backlash by the rebels. London (AlertNet) More on: <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/world-must-prevent-lra-christmas-slaughter-in-congo-report/>

### **Why I believe Pakistan is not the Land of Pure!**

Date: 25.11.2010 - *I received quite different opinions about my recent blog. Few agreed to that cruel reality, while few outwardly rejected the notion and some people even called me unpatriotic for writing on such topic. Some even challenged the authenticity of my arguments and called them fallacious. I was also accused for spreading negativity in the environment. Well, everyone is entitled to his/her opinion and I respect everyone else's views, but I do have the right to defend myself.*

#### **Violence against Women**

Today is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women but please answer me, all of you living in your self-made utopian Pakistan, how much time did each of you spare today from your busy lives to think about the miseries of women of Pakistan.

Did you come up with any solution to tackle this problem or this 'terribility' doesn't exist in your Pakistan? How about we all pretend that there is no problem in Pakistan and we all are living as happy as one could be?

What a great way to end the countless tyrannies faced by the women of Pakistan? How easy it is for you to say that Pakistan is The Land of Pure. Go ask those 3500+ women victim of acid burns; go ask the 13-year-old girl who became the victim of abduction and gang rape; go ask the non-Muslim women who were physically harassed or forcibly converted to Muslim in the land of pure; go ask the teenage girl who was flogged publicly in Swat, and go ask those innumerable women who become the victim of domestic violence but choose to remain silent for the sake of their families. Isn't it their Pakistan too?

#### **Don't they have a say in this matter?**

Don't they have a say in this matter? If writing about all the good things out there in Pakistan can make the life of these women better then I would be the first one to start such blog. At least I am acting as their voice and telling the world about their miseries.

If writing about these women and other issues of Pakistan makes me unpatriotic then so be it. Every year we condemn the violence against women and vow to put an end to it but unfortunately these vows never materialize.

#### **Few people**

However there are few people who recognize the problems faced by the women of Pakistan and do something to make a difference. Musarat Misbah, an incredible woman, who brought hope, who inspired many around the world to contribute to her foundation: Depilex Smile Again Foundation. The foundation was set up to help women disfigured by acid burns. It would find them a new life and help pay for expensive reconstructive surgery.

#### **Favourite role model**

Another one of my favourite role models is the living legend, Prof Anita Ghulam Ali. She is the inspiration for all Pakistani women who can get inspiration from her outstanding career and the on going social work which this dedicated lady is doing for educating and saving lives of many. For those of us who are ready to stop playing hide and seek and instead slash the empire of misrepresented notions on the falsehood of distorted definitions, there is an urgent need to address the problem.

There is a need to let go of our silence because understanding comes with acceptance!

*Excepts from an article written by Anam Anwar. She is a 19 year old student, working as an apprentice at Reuters.*

## **WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Report from Soon-Young Yoon, IAW New York team, on Climate Change**

I wanted to share this report from Cancun COP 16 climate change meeting. "I had a crash course on how the business world sees climate change when I attended (by a stroke of luck) the World Climate Summit held at the Ritz Carlton hotel in Cancun, September 4 and 5.

Christiana Figueres and Mary Robinson joined Sir Richard Branson (the Virgin Group), Lord Nicolas Stern (London School of Economics) and Ted Turner (UN Foundation) to inaugurate this World Climate Summit of business, philanthropy and industry leaders.

The official sponsors were familiar - CNN, Siemens, Philips and Scotiabank. They probably paid for the lunch. Other founding partners included the Local Governments for Sustainability and the UNEP Finance Initiative.

### **Women and the Green Economy**

A panel on "Women and the Green Economy" was held which included Marina Gross (Business Council for Sustainable Development in Brazil), Martha Duggan (United Solar Ovonic), Sarah Severn (Nike), and Kathleen Rogers (Day Network).

What concerned me was the slim showing of gender equality advocates from the UN COP 16 process. If we are thinking about how to improve financing for gender equality and climate change, we probably need to get more involved with the second summit to be held 3-4 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

For information see [http://www.wclimate.com/World\\_Climate\\_Summit/HOME](http://www.wclimate.com/World_Climate_Summit/HOME)

*From Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative of the International Alliance of Women and Vice-Chair, NGO/CSW/NY*

### **A New Industrial Revolution at the World Climate Summit?**

\* President Calderon said, "It is possible to tackle climate change and poverty with business, finance and governments"

\* "We are headed to catastrophe and if it was up to all the people at the World Climate Summit, the problems will be solved." Ted Turner, Chairman, UN Foundation

\* "The new industrial revolution has begun, and the business world is leading this challenge." Lord Stern

\* ***"There is a need at the World Climate Summit to understand the connections between business, finance and governments."*** Mary Robinson

\* "Climate change is the challenge of our generation and we have to tackle it with business and financiers." Sir Richard Branson

\* Jose Maria Figueres said, "The war on climate change is too big to be left in the hands of government."

\* "Media companies have the responsibility of including information and messages on climate change in all their content, not only newscasts." Emilio Azcarraga

More on: [http://www.wclimate.com/World\\_Climate\\_Summit/HOME](http://www.wclimate.com/World_Climate_Summit/HOME)

### **Agreements on Cancun**

Agreement was reached on anchoring climate change mitigation commitments of all countries into the formal process of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)).

A deal was struck on deforestation and land use, a development that is expected to "unlock capital" for forest conservation efforts because close to a one-fifth of the accumulation of harmful greenhouse gases has been blamed on deforestation.

On climate change financing, progress was made on the "fast-track financing" which will require developed countries to raise \$30 billion over a three-year period to help poor countries cope with the consequences of climate change.

### **Green climate fund**

Delegates also reached agreement on the proposed longer-term "green climate fund" and endorsed the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing, which concluded that while challenging, the goal of raising \$100 billion annually by 2020 is feasible.

Details on the fund's set-up have still to be worked out.

More on: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/sgsm13312.doc.htm>

### **Women's Rights and Gender Equality**

The Cancun Agreements recognize women and gender equality as integral to effective actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. They include eight references to women and gender across seven sections of text. On the website of WEDO, Women's Environment and Development

Organisation: <http://www.wedo.org/>

## **AROUND THE WORLD**

### **Population issues - gender must figure high in sustainable development talks**

UN - New York, Dec 16 - The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is stepping up its efforts to ensure that gender, reproductive health and other population dynamics figure high on the agendas of upcoming global environmental and sustainable development discussions.

Agency officials met with representatives from 20 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to build partnerships to advocate for the inclusion of these issues, with a special focus on the agenda of the "Rio+20" conference in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 14-16 May 2012.

More on: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/news/pid/7073> and at <http://www.un.org/news> and <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/news/pid/7073>

### **An Indian initiative**

India - An initiative called 'Room to Read' is making a difference to children's education needs and helping to nurture the pleasure of reading books.

Room to Read India works with local writers and illustrators to develop children's books in English and in local languages. Topics include gender equality, the environment, health, art, basic vocabulary and family life. Some stories are adapted from folktales and some come out of writing competitions and writers' workshops sponsored and facilitated by Room to Read. Winners are trained to write or illustrate for kids of different age groups.

#### **Illiteracy**

Literacy is one of the primary concerns of Room to Read, especially in India, which has the highest number of illiterate people in the world, according to the United Nations Population Fund. "Young girls face some of the highest barriers. Not only are they less likely than boys to be in school, but those who are out of school are far more likely than boys never to enter," according to UNESCO's Education For All—Global Monitoring Report 2010.

#### **Girls Education Programmes**

Room to Read India started its Girls' Education programme in 2004 and aims to add 700 more students this year. It covers the costs of school fees, textbooks and uniforms.

"In India, while there are several initiatives that the government has started to ensure girls come to school, there is still much to be done to keep girls at school, support them through their schooling and help them develop capacities such that they can make key life decisions," says Ahuja. "Room to Read is focusing on ensuring that we will have gender equality in education."

By Deepanjali Kakati. More on: <http://www.newkerala.com/news/world/fullnews-88937.html>

*Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu*

### **Note**

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in Word 97. Please be so kind to advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address, so we can mail them this Newsletter too.

IAW Newsletter / News Flash : Joke Sebus

International Women's News : Priscilla Todd (English)  
: Mathilde Duval (French)

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