

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

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

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

IAW NEWSLETTER July 2010, no. 6



Equal Rights

Dear members,

After years of lobbying and negotiating by the women's movement, the new entity, UN Women, has at last been born. In this newsletter several links to the statements put in by experts and NGOs during ECOSOC, including the statement of IAW President Rosy Weiss. Her concern about the increasing restrictions on NGO access during CSW will certainly be discussed at CoNGO.

Will the momentum for the Millennium Development Goals be endangered, now several donor countries are facing economic difficulties? See also the IAW motion in the European Women's Lobby. The women's movement has to be alert, in particular for Goals 3 and 5, during the Summit, 20-22 September.

This newsletter also includes: a reflection on changing the mindset on crimes against women, born out of traditions; concerns about stoning in Iran; the first woman PM for Australia; lead poisoning in Nigeria; the expansion of NGO IANSA, arms disarmament, the Arms Trade Treaty, etc.

UNITED NATIONS

UN Women: A new era in the UN's work for women

On 2 July, in a historic moment, the UN General Assembly voted unanimously for the establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment, to be known as "UN Women." The resolution that establishes the new entity is part of a larger resolution on System-wide Coherence (A/64/L.56, paragraphs 49-90 relate to the establishment of UN Women) and is the result of years of negotiations between UN Member States and active advocacy of women's groups and civil society. The Economic and Social Council, concluding its [High-level Segment](#) on 2 July, adopted a [Ministerial Declaration](#) that welcomed the establishment of UN Women. In it, leaders pledged their full support to get the new agency up and running, which would strengthen the ability of the United Nations to support the attainment of women's rights and empowerment worldwide.

The new entity, which will be operational by January 2011, will consolidate the four existing gender entities – the [Division for the Advancement of Women](#) (DAW); the International [Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women](#) (INSTRAW); the [Office of the Special Adviser for Gender Issues and Advancement of Women](#) (OSAGI); and the [United Nations Development Fund for Women](#) (UNIFEM) – into one in order to ensure stronger coherence and coordination at all levels and to bring together resources and mandates for greater impact. A transition period started upon adoption of the resolution and will continue until 31 December 2010. The new gender equality entity is to be headed by an Under-Secretary General. On <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article2709>

UN Women, the budget

"The new body is expected to have an annual budget of about 500 million dollars: 125 million dollars for basic support capacity at the country, regional and headquarters level, and 375 million dollars for country-specific U.N. programmatic support. In contrast, the 2008 funding available to the four existing gender entities was 6.2 million dollars from the regular budget of the United Nations and 218.5 million dollars from voluntary contributions," Inter Press Services reports, on:

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52040>

The good news on UN Women has been sent to us by several IAW members, among them: Rosy Weiss, Lene Pind and Irini Sarlis. A webcast showing Irini presenting the IAW statement, is to be found on:

<http://www.un.org/webcast/ecosoc/hls/archive.asp>

Questions about the new Entity remain

Please read what IAW President Rosy Weiss writes on the IAW website on questions around the new Entity. On: <http://www.womenalliance.org/>

CoNGO 1

The Conference of Non Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) is an international membership association that facilitates the participation of NGOs in United Nations debates and decisions.

Founded in 1948, CoNGO's major objective is to ensure the presence of NGOs in exchanges among the world's governments and United Nations agencies on issues of global concern.

CoNGO, the NGO Working Group on UN Access was created to address ongoing concerns about increasing restrictions on NGO access – physical and political – to the UN.

Your concrete examples of access issues are imperative to the success of the work of the Working Group. You are thus invited to submit such to access@ngocongo.org

CoNGO 2

CoNGO held the New York Component of its Civil Society Development Forum (CSDF) 2010 on 4 and 5 May 2010. This year, the theme of CSDF is “Women’s Human Rights and Development: Inclusion, Participation, and Equality. The Outcome Document CSDF is now available on:

www.ngocongo.org/congo/files/csdf_2010_nyc_outcome_document.pdf

Sent to us by IAW member Irini Sarliss.

UN allocates \$41 million to boost aid operations in nine under-funded crises

ECOSOC – 28 June – 23 July 2010. On July 16 \$41 million in emergency funding was allocated to boost humanitarian operations in nine countries where people are suffering the effects of hunger, malnutrition, disease, and conflict.

The money from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund ([CERF](#)) will help cover funding gaps in key humanitarian projects in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Yemen, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Central African Republic (CAR), Djibouti, Eritrea, Republic of Congo and Nepal.

Humanitarian actors in Chad and the DRC received the largest individual portions of some \$8 million apiece. More on <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/news/>

The MDG Summit

The discussions of the Hearings in June and various inputs and policy recommendations received for the MDG summit, the results are analyzed and summarized into a [compilation report](#).

Click [here](#) (http://www.un-ngls.org/docs/un-ngls/towards_a_global_mdg_breakthrough_plan.pdf

for an executive summary of this report. More civil society views are also available on the following website: <http://www.un-ngls.org/mdg2010> (You will find the IAW input in the compilation report).

The Summit, officially called the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, on 20-22 September 2010, will comprise six plenary meetings and six closed roundtable sessions over the course of three days. See also: <http://www.undp.org/mdg/summit.shtml>

The Secretary General’s Report is to be found on:
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/665

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

IAW Congress, South-Africa

IAW Secretary Lene Pind reminds those of us who will be attending
to book the hotel before July 31!

ECOSOC – statement by IAW President Rosy Weiss

On July the 2nd IAW Member Irini Sarlis presented in a statement from IAW President Rosy Weiss and distributed it afterwards. The statement can be found on:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/ecosoc6435.doc.htm>

Please read also the statements of India, Zambia, Philippines, Nigeria, where IAW has members. Or the statements of the FAO, IPU, ILO. (It is great what can be found on the internet!) The Substantive Session of ECOSOC continues to July 23.

IRINI SARLIS, **International Alliance of Women**, said peace was inextricably linked to women's development, adding that recognizing their knowledge, skills and experience had already been identified as a requirement for peace.

Denying women the right to participate in social, economic and cultural life was discriminatory, she said, emphasizing that the advancement of women could not take place amid civil unrest or where women's rights were not respected.

She urged Governments and intergovernmental organizations to develop national rosters of potential women candidates, and to ensure that women were fully informed about, and worked in, senior management posts in post-conflict recovery programmes.

It was necessary to implement Government policies and protection in terms of the voluntary return, resettlement and repatriation of refugees in a situation of safety and dignity.

It was also important to provide health care for women in post-conflict situations in order to guarantee that the reconciliation process protected women's rights.

Also necessary was the establishment of accessible and transparent early warning systems, and the financing and empowerment of women's organizations to help build sustainable peace.

Reinforcing social rights in order to exit the economic crisis

Soula Panaretou, President of the Greek League for Women's Rights writes:

The 2010 High-Level Segment has included sessions on the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) and the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), on 28 June-2 July at UN Headquarters in New York. The theme for the DCF is "Development Cooperation in Times of Crises: New Commitments to Reach the MDGs".

*I am forwarding a Declaration titled "**Reinforcing social rights in order to exit the economic crisis**", adopted by the Association of Women of Southern Europe, of which the Greek League for Women's Rights is a member.*

Knowing how sensitive you in the IAW are on the subject of social rights and how conscious you are of the need for Europe to continue supporting social policies, I am certain you will support this appeal, and do everything in your power to disseminate it in any way you deem appropriate.

EU – IAW motion on women and the financial crisis

During the last GA of the European Women's Lobby, which took place in Madrid 11h- 13 June 2010, the IAW submitted an emergency motion on women and the financial crisis and was supported by Cyprus, Portugal, Sweden, Luxemburg, Belgium, Slovenia, the European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions, the Business and Professional Women Europe, and was adopted unanimously.

On the basis of the motion the EWL amended the European Parliaments report on the financial, economic and social crisis drafted by Rapporteur Pervenche Beres on the 15 of June 2010.

Sent to us by Joanna Manganara, IAW regional co-ordinator for Europe.

The text of the motion is as follows:

In the light of the ongoing financial, economic, social crisis and the constant failure to address its gender impact, we ask the EWL to lobby the Commission and relevant EU authorities to take urgent measures in order to handle the crisis with a gender sensitive approach, the austerity measures and the privatisation of public services must not result in shifting the benefits to men and the risks to women, to integrate a strong gender equality priority in all recovery plans and to involve women at the decision making level in financial, economic social and other policies related to the post crisis era.

Joanna Manganara also sent us her excellent report of the General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby. Please go to the IAW website on: www.womenalliance.org and click under 'Issues and Actions', or on: <http://www.womenalliance.org/issues.html>

AROUND THE WORLD

Nigeria Suffers Acute Lead Poisoning Outbreak

The Nigerian government is trying to cope with an outbreak of lead poisoning which has killed over 200 people in Zamfara State since early July.

According to NGO News Africa, medical personnel supervising the treatment of victims confirmed that most of those who died were children aged five years and younger.

Physical damage

An on-site medic told NGO News Africa, "all the victims had more than 65,000 microgrammes per decilitre lead blood levels.... The implication of this is that many of them might have suffered permanent brain damage and the damage is likely to affect their intelligence. They might show other manifestations of damage to the central nervous system."

Mining

The activity of illegal miners and the improper processing of lead- contaminated gold ore caused the high death tolls. The whole article is to be found on: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52184>

Australia gets first woman Prime Minister

Australia appointed its first woman prime minister, Julia Gillard, who vowed to end the division over a controversial mining tax, resurrect a carbon trade scheme and call elections within months.

More on: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65N00120100624>

A General Election to vote in the next Federal Government will be held on 21 August 2010.

Virtual Discussion on Gender and Disarmament

The UN Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) has announced the launching of a three-week virtual dialogue "Reintegrating Female Ex-Combatants: Good practices and lessons learned in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of women and girls". June 28 – July 19, 2010

The discussion will be held in English (contribution of resources in Spanish and French encouraged) on the UN-INSTRAW Virtual Dialogue Forum.

To register visit <http://www.un-instraw.org/forum/ucp.php?mode=register>

Sent to us by IAW member Jessica Kehl

Rebecca Peters leaving IANSA

My dear colleagues and friends,

I am writing to tell you that I will soon be leaving my position as Director of IANSA, after eight exciting years in the post. It is difficult to express in a short note how I feel at this moment – I am sad to be leaving, but very much looking forward to new adventures.

Most of all I feel proud of our network and the wonderful work that our members have done around the world in the past eight years. IANSA has grown from 300 groups in 2002 to its present membership of over 900 organisations in 120 countries. We have become fully functioning in our three official languages (Spanish, English, French), and increasingly we operate in Portuguese, Arabic, Swahili and several local languages as well.

During those eight years IANSA members have been elected to parliaments, nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, proclaimed Mother of the Year, appointed as Ministers and to positions in the United Nations, in regional organisations and in national governments. They have published books, set records, made films, won awards, negotiated agreements, launched coalitions, spoken at countless conferences and appeared in innumerable stories in the media.

Thank you for the good work in IANSA and ... chapeau for IAW member Rebecca Peters !

(As an expression of approval and appreciation in France and other parts of Europe, as a sign of admiration or respect, one shall indeed remove his hat).

Rebecca Peters on an Arms Trade Treaty

We have waited a long time for this Prepcom. More than 20 years ago, the president of Costa Rica Oscar Arias called for global rules on the international arms trade. A group of NGOs took up the idea and in 2003 the Control Arms campaign was launched.

Campaigning in the UN

For three years we campaigned from outside the United Nations. In 2006 we delivered a petition to the UN Secretary General, on behalf of one million people demanding an Arms Trade Treaty. In that year our hard work paid off – the General Assembly voted to begin the ATT process. So for the past 4 years, the process has been within the UN.

What began as a civil society campaign had become a shared responsibility with Member States. A good example of this partnership has been the participation of local and regional civil society in the meetings organised by UNIDIR.

States and civil society

You, the States, have the power to bring about an ATT.

We as civil society have the ability to inform the process, to suggest ideas and examples, to do research and identify what works and what doesn't.

We have the right to lobby and communicate with you, and you have the right to expect accuracy and integrity from us.

Most of all we have the responsibility to bring into these discussions the voices and perspectives of people and communities who are suffering the consequences of irresponsible arms transfers – arms transfers that should not have been authorised, arms transfers that should have been stopped.

This is why we are here, to create an international treaty that will stop the transfer of weapons which are likely to be misused, whether by the initial recipient or further down the line.

More on: <http://armstradetreaty.posterous.com/>

EU Backs UN Arms Trade Treaty Plan

July 12 - The European Union has supported a UN plan to negotiate an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Describing it as "a legally binding international instrument establishing common international standards for the import, exports and transfers of conventional weapons," the EU said in a press statement that "such an international instrument will certainly contribute to reinforce international peace and security."

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the Arms Trade Treaty (64/48) in December 2009.

The resolution mandates five meetings of a preparatory committee leading to a UN negotiating conference in 2012. The first session of the committee is in New York July 12-23. More on:

<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4704589>

An IANSA paper on ATT is on line at <http://iansa-women.org/node/273>

Virtual Discussion on Gender and Disarmament

The UN Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) has announced the launching of a three-week virtual dialogue "Reintegrating Female Ex-Combatants: Good practices and lessons learned in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of women and girls". June 28 – July 19, 2010

The discussion will be held in English (contribution of resources in Spanish and French encouraged) on the UN-INSTRAW Virtual Dialogue Forum.

To register visit <http://www.un-instraw.org/forum/ucp.php?mode=register>

Sent to us by IAW member Jessica Kehl

UN - Online discussion on gender, education and employment (7-20 July)

Preparing CSW 2011

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) is organizing an online discussion on the linkages between women's and girls' access to and participation in formal and non-formal education and training, and their equal access to full employment and decent work.

The online discussion, which is taking place from 7 to 20 July in both English and French, is part of the preparatory process for the [55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (2011).

For more information, please visit the following website:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw55/onlinediscussion.html>

Sent to us by IAW member Irini Sarliss

Iranians still facing death by stoning despite 'reprieve'

Twelve Iranian women and three men are on death row awaiting execution by stoning despite an apparent last-minute reprieve for a mother of two who had been facing the horrific sentence after being convicted of adultery. Human rights groups and activists welcomed a wave of international publicity

and protests over the case of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, 43, who was awaiting execution in the western Iranian town of Tabriz after what her lawyer called an unjust trial and a sham conviction. The Iranian embassy in London said in a statement that "according to information from the relevant judicial authorities" the stoning would not go ahead. If confirmed it would be a victory for a brief but intense campaign that was [first highlighted by the Guardian](#).

Concerns

However, there are still concerns over her plight. In a previous case a prisoner who was to be stoned was instead executed by hanging.

Iran censors information about executions

Without a reprieve, Mohammadi Ashtiani would have been buried up to her neck before being pelted with stones large enough to cause pain but not so large as to kill her immediately. [Iran](#) routinely censors information about executions, but all the 12 other women on death row have been convicted on adultery charges, as has one of the three men.

More on: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/08/iran-death-stoning-adultery>

Sent to us by IAW members Helen Self and Anjana Basu.

Remains of Early Venezuelan Feminist Saenz Laid to Rest in Caracas

Venezuelans commemorated the arrival of the symbolic remains of "independence fighter and feminist" Manuela Saenz to Caracas on Sunday, July the 6th.

She was laid to rest at a service at Panteon Nactional alongside her comrade and lover Simon Bolivar, who won independence for Venezuela. On: <http://venezuelanalysis.com/news/5476>

Sent to us by IAW member Annemarie Lopez.

Honour killing': Kill the mindset – an introspection

"Honour killings" or horror killings — call them by any name, they are just one of many crimes born out of unholy traditions which survive on the blood of the innocent. Ironically, any law, no matter how severe it is, will be able to check these crimes.

Cemented over the centuries by the feudal and patriarchal set-up, changing the mindset of the population today is tougher than the toughest thing is the world. A law might ban khap panchayats or at the most make "honour killing", a non-bailable offence punishable with death penalty. But "honour killing" will continue to prevail till we convince people, be it the illiterate village folk or the highly educated city dwellers, that what they are doing is a sin and an immoral act.

Slavery

Let me illustrate my argument with some examples: Slavery was abolished in America in 1865 and it took over 150 years for Americans to change the mindset and elect a black president. And cases of racial discrimination are still reported. Back home, 60 years after untouchability was abolished, the ill still exists. Dalit suppression continues despite a strict law and despite dalits holding key positions in government. Misuse of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act is also rampant but studies reveal that atrocities on dalits have increased -- women are raped and paraded naked, men assaulted and killed, their houses burnt, their children denied education. All for breaking the code imposed for ages by the brahminical order.

Dowry

Dowry Prohibition Act was passed in 1961 but the evil continues to be part of our social customs. As per National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 6,787 dowry death cases were registered in 2005, 7,618 in 2006, 75,930 in 2007 and 8,172 in 2008. It's an open secret that dowry is part of over 95% of the marriages taking place today.

Domestic Violence – female feticide

Further, the Domestic Violence Act 2005 was brought to protect women in the family from mental and physical violence but it has failed to make any impact. Studies reveal that over 95% of women don't report domestic violence but still 81,344 domestic violence cases were registered in 2008 and 75,930 in 2007 in courts. The PCPNDT ACT prohibits female feticide but every year over one million girls are being killed before taking birth. More reflections of author Ashish Tripathy on:

<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Introspection/entry/honour-killing-kill-the-mindset>

Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

CONFERENCES

63RD ANNUAL UN DPI/NGO CONFERENCE - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA **“ADVANCE GLOBAL HEALTH: ACHIEVE THE MDGs”**

30 August – 1 September 2010

Gender Budgeting – from data analysis to gender equality controlling

On 16 - 17 September 2010. Contact IAW member Marion Boeker <marionboeker@gmx.de>

To Fight AIDS, Fight Gender Inequality

The XVIII International AIDS Conference, taking place Jul. 18-23 in Vienna.

Read also about the Antiretroviral Gel, which lowers HIV Infection and offers hope to women.

See: <http://ipsnews.net/headlines.asp> and <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52183>

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	<iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>
International Women's News :	Priscilla Todd (English)	<iaw.iwnews@womenallince.org>
	: Mathilde Duval (French)	<mathilde.duval@yahoo.fr>
Membership Officer :	Pat Richardson	<iaw.membership@womenalliance.org>
Treasurer :	Rakesh Dhawan	<iaw.treas@womenalliance.org>