

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

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

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

IAW NEWSLETTER November 2007, no. 12



Equal Rights

Dear members,

We are beginning this newsletter with the 34th IAW Congress. And also with a short impression of how the Alliance was welcomed by the All India Women's Conference in Delhi!

IAW members Soon-Young Soon, Hélène Sackstein and Gudrun Haupter are drawing our attention to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Council and to pledges for funding maternal mortality.

The Bali Conference on Climate Change will start soon and will the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa make a meaningful difference in the lives of African women?

Rape (and politics at the UN) - violent and cowardly attacks on women in Basra, Iraq. Two current articles in the news that shocked us all. The worldwide fight for women's rights is still badly needed. And so is the International Alliance of Women. The decisions taken at the 34th IAW Congress in India gave us even more determination to go on.

At the end of the newsletter you will find, as usual, news of conferences and events.

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
United in Diversity - Women set the Agenda for 2015**

The 34th Congress of IAW, excellently organised by hostess All India Women's Conference in Delhi, India, elected a new Board, decided on a new Action Programme, installed 5 Commissions and sent 5 resolutions around the world. In short, everything was done to continue and expand as an efficient international organisation, focussing on women's rights.

Please have a look at the IAW website www.womenalliance.org to see a picture of a happy IAW President Rosy Weiss, Austria, with newly appointed Secretary Lene Pind, Denmark and Treasurer Rakesh Dawan, India. And please also read the resolutions!

During Congress we discussed several interesting topics. Experts in Round Tables gave introductions on Human and Civil Rights, Peace and Security, Education, Violence against Women, Health, the Role of Women Entrepreneurs for Industrial Development and last but not least: Environment and Sustainable Development.

With a panel of experts we listened to ideas on: Women Empowerment (Economic) for Industrial Promotions, Gender Equality, Reproductive Health (Maternal Mortality, Infant Mortality and Female foeticide).

IAW representatives at the UN, the IAW Regional Vice-Presidents and the Convenors of the IAW Commissions, presented their views and comments on the situation worldwide.

And at the base of the work for IAW, we followed with interest the reports of the activities and projects of Affiliates and Associates. For example: on violence against women, harassment, street children, abuse of children, child labour, illiteracy, shelters, child marriages, circumcision of girls and every child her or his own birth certificate!

All in all, a lot of information has been flying around! You will find most of it later in IWNNews, on the IAW website and the websites of Affiliates and Associates, or in the electronic Newsletters and the e-Publications. All this can be reached too on the www.womenalliance.org website, which has a very supportive webmaster, who was given his share of warm applause among all those members who have been doing much valued voluntary work for IAW.

Functions and Ceremonies

Hostess All India Women's Conference, had some wonderful surprises for the IAW members attending Congress.

It was a privilege to be received by Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the 12th President of India and India's first women President at the Presidential Palace. Two trumpets announced her entrance and we stood at attention during the Indian national anthem. A picture session followed with an informal and lovely high tea afterwards.

Another remarkable and solemn occasion was the Lighting of the Lamp during the Inauguration Ceremony of the IAW Congress. The venue was Ghandi Smriti and Dharsan Samiti, a conference and memorial centre at the place where Ghandi was shot. There was a poem and singing by a choir of schoolgirls followed by inspiring speeches made by the Guest of Honour, Smt. Gursharan Kaur and Chief Guest, Smt. Shiela Dikshit, Honourable Chief Minister NCT of Delhi and by Smt. Savita Singh, Director of the Centre.

IAW President Rosy Weiss, AIWC President Manorama Bawa and IAW Vice-President Aparna Basu thanked the speakers warmly and mentioned common goals in the history of IAW and India: women, supported by Ghandi, fighting for political rights.

Later in the week the Honourable Chief Minister NCT Shiela Dikshit invited us for dinner and she graciously joined each table to talk to delegates and visitors.

We visited an exhibition of social projects of the Red Cross in the India International Centre and saw elegant Indian dances afterwards. In fact, we were lucky to be able to admire Indian dancing on several occasions, one hosted Lt. Governor of Delhi and Smt. Uma Khanna. Just imagine: a tropical night in a beautiful garden, a gracious host and hostess and three different versions of dancing, beautiful women in lovely costumes and male dancers with drums.

The Board met pre and post Congress and held its final meeting at the venue of the All India Women's Conference. We admired their projects, courses in sewing, block painting, gardening, a small house built of waste material, cooking by the use of solar power, etc. A small but interesting library invited us all to read, but not only were we out of time but this Congress had already given us a lot of papers to study at home. We thank our sisters of AIWC warmly and wish them all the best in the future!

Messages from IAW representatives

Preparing for the Commission on the Status of Women 2008 - Soon-Young Yoon

The theme for the 52nd Session of the CSW: "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women. On the DAW website at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/> for further information on the conference and CSW preparation. The other theme for the 52nd CSW Session is Women's participation in conflict prevention, management, and conflict resolution, and in post conflict peace-building. The title is not yet finalized.

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW member and Vice-Chair NGO Committee on the Status of Women, attended as observer. She wrote: "The UN/DAW convened an expert group meeting in Oslo, Norway, September 4 to 7 on Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in preparation for the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women meeting, 2008.

The experts considered a range of topics, including Public finance, Gender-responsive budgeting, Macro-economic policies, particularly in relation to follow-up to the Monterrey.

Consensus on financing for development, Mobilization of international resources (including bilateral and multilateral assistance) and new aid modalities, and New and innovative sources of funding.

At a panel presentation to the NGO Committee on the Status of Women/NY, Soon-Young Yoon stated that much more effort must be made to seek new and innovative sources of funding for the women's movement, including for national machineries and the UN.

"Although the rise in private philanthropy and family foundations offers new opportunities for NGOs, we must remember that these are not necessarily informed by public policy decisions like the Beijing Platform for Action. We need a better balance between public and private sources."

The final report and expert group papers are available on the internet at:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/financing_gender_equality/egm_financing_gender_equality.html

Human Rights Council - the Universal Periodic Review - Hélène Sackstein

This review will be conducted based on three documents:

- (i) 20 page submission by the State,
- (ii) a 10 page compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents and
- (iii) 10 page additional, credible and reliable information provided by other relevant stakeholders inter alia, NGOs, NHRIs, Human rights defenders, Academic institutions and Research institutes, Regional organisations, as well as civil society representatives.

Question: Have the relevant stakeholders submitted their additional, credible and reliable information on Human Rights in their country ?

The schedules of the Universal Periodic Review - UPR - countries is available on the web site.

Please look for your country at: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/upr/uprlist.pdf>

Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa: second anniversary

What gains and what challenges do we have two years after the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa?

This is the overall question that the various articles presented in this special issue of *Pambazuka* aim at addressing. And what is clearly coming out is that the challenges outweigh the gains made so far, says Faiza Mohamed.

To what extent is the Protocol embraced?

The articles, which are mostly written by members of the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) coalition, for the occasion of the second anniversary of the Protocol coming into force, bring out descriptive country situations with emphasis on the extent to which the Protocol is embraced or not embraced by the governments of Kenya, South Africa, the Sudan and Uganda.

The authors raise several key issues that beg closer attention if this Protocol is to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many African women.

Faiza Jama Mohamed is the Africa Regional Director of Equality Now and convener of the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) coalition. More on: WUNRN <http://www.wunrn.com> and on http://www.achpr.org/english/_info/women_en.html

Sent to us by IAW President Rosy Weiss

Maternal Mortality – Gudrun Haupter

Every minute a woman dies from complications during pregnancy or delivery. In most countries with high maternal mortality prospects are dim for attaining MDG 5 which calls for a reduction by three quarters by 2015. Massive investment into family planning and training of health personnel are a must to improve the prospects.

At the international Conference “Women Deliver” www.womendeliver.org/ in London 18 to 20 October governments and international organizations made first pledges for funding. For example, the UK government pledged US\$200 million to UNFPA earmarked for improving women's access to reproductive health services. Pledges were also made by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation. Moreover, Japan announced that the G8-Summit 2008 to be organized under Japanese presidency, will focus on health.

A few days earlier the UN study “Maternal mortality 2005” had been released. Download from www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.dfm?ID=343

CLIMATE CHANGE

*The **Bali Conference**, which will run from 3 to 14 December, is expected to launch negotiations on future climate change activities and on the creation of a plan for deeper cuts in CO2 emissions beyond 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol agreement expires.*

United Kingdom - Action on Climate Change before it's too late

Saturday 8th December National Climate March - THE TIME IS NOW

Join people all around the world to demand that world leaders take the urgent action we need to prevent the catastrophic destabilisation of global climate. The National Demonstration in London will be one of many on climate taking place all around the world on the same day

(<http://www.globalclimatecampaign.org/>) midway through the UN Climate Talks in Bali.

Emission Reductions Nationally and Locally

Largely as a result of pressure from the [Big Ask Campaign](#) organised by [Friends of the Earth](#) the government is introducing a Climate Bill this year. But we need to make sure that the Bill is effective and includes annual emissions reductions targets of at least 3%. [To ask your MP to support a strong Climate Bill click here.](#) See the centre column (left) for info about demonstrations around the country for an effective Climate Bill.

Australians named worst emitters

A study of the world's power stations has shown the extent to which developed countries produce more carbon dioxide per head than emerging economies. The Carbon Monitoring for Action (Carma) website is the first global inventory of emissions and looks at 50,000 power stations. The inventory lists CO2 emissions from more than 4,000 companies.

Australians were found to be the world's worst polluters per capita, producing five times as much CO2 from generating power as China. The US came second with eight tonnes of the greenhouse gas per head - 16 times more than that produced by India. The US also produced the most CO2 in total, followed by China.

(Australia has just elected a new Federal Labor Government which has promised to ratify Kyoto and to take strong action on global warming.)

TOP 10 EMITTERS

National power sector emissions (in tonnes of CO2):

US - 2,530 million	China - 2,430 million
Russia - 600 million	India - 529 million
Japan - 363 million	Germany - 323 million
Australia - 205 million	South Africa - 201 million
UK - 192 million	South Korea - 168 million

(Source: Carma/Center for Global Development - "Carma is built from a massive database provided by private sector (organisations). It includes every type of fuel and it includes power plants of almost any size). More on: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/science/nature/7092989.stm>

UN Climate Change Envoy Han Seung-soo at ESCAP

Mr. Han Seung-soo, a former president of the UN General Assembly, is travelling through the region two weeks ahead of the Bali Climate Change Conference, which the UN hopes will set the stage for future climate change action on all fronts.

The meeting, from 19 to 21 November in Bangkok, has attracted over 100 participants from across the Asia-Pacific region who will, among other things, examine a regional cooperation strategy for climate change.

Mr. Han applauded ESCAP for its Green Growth initiative, which calls for a paradigm change in thinking of growth and argues for ecological costs to be fully reflected in market prices. On: <http://www.unescap.org/> More information on <http://www.unescap.org/cm4/2007/CMG4-II/index.asp>

Empowering women key to achieving UN Millennium Goals – Migiro

November 2007 – Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro warned today that the pledges to slash poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy by 2015, made by world leaders at the United Nations seven years ago, are at risk unless countries pay greater attention to empowering women and achieving gender equality.

Addressing an international conference in Jerusalem on **women's leadership for sustainable development**, Ms. Migiro highlighted the "deep and unbreakable" connection between women and

development, particularly in reaching the set of global anti-poverty targets known as the Millennium Development Goals ([MDGs](#)).

On: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=24717&Cr=women&Cr1=>

RAPE ... WITH WOMEN AS THE MAIN VICTIMS

U.S. Measure Against Rape Fails at U.N

United Nations, Nov. 16 — The United States has failed to obtain a [General Assembly](#) resolution focused on rape used by governments and armed groups to achieve political and military objectives. A General Assembly committee has instead adopted a resolution that reiterates past condemnations of rape in general but eliminates language in the American draft making specific reference to rape employed by soldiers and militia members as a tactic for intimidation and in warfare. United Nations officials have identified the tactic as one used frequently by government-supported Janjaweed militias in Sudan to terrorize the population of the [Darfur](#) region.

Watered down

The nonbinding measure was watered down in response to objections from South Africa and Angola, acting on behalf of the Africa Group, a 43-nation coalition.

Revisions were made throughout the text to drop mention of organized and state-sanctioned rape, and in a final excision before adoption Thursday night, the final words of the title of the resolution, "Eliminating rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including as instruments to achieve political objectives," were changed. The phrase after the comma was altered to read "including in conflict and related situations."

and why ?

South Africa's ambassador, Dumisani Kumalo, defended the revised measure.

"The original US draft appeared to concentrate on condemning rape when perpetrated for political and military purposes only," he said. "We felt strongly that this would have created two categories of rape, that is, rape by military and militia groups and rape by civilians."

Mr. Kumalo said that the Africans had insisted on the changes "to balance the text by making certain that there was no politicization of rape".

Grover Joseph Rees 3rd, an American ambassador with responsibilities for human rights, protested that "contrary to what some have suggested, this resolution never said there were 'two kinds of rape'." He said the original language had been aimed at "the particularly outrageous situation in which a state condones the use of systematic mass rape by its own forces or surrogate militias in order to advance their military or political objectives."

By Warren Hoge, New York Times. More on:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/17/world/17nations.html?_r=1&th=&oref=slogin&emc=th&pagewanted=print

Basra, Iraq - Religious extremists are carrying out a campaign of violence against women

The chief of police in the southern Iraqi city of Basra has warned of a campaign of violence against women carried out by religious extremists. It has, Maj-Gen Abdul Jalil Khalaf said, included threats, intimidation and even murder.

Some victims were dressed in indecent clothes by their killers or had notices attached to them, he said. Women interviewed by the BBC said they no longer dared venture on to Basra's streets without strict Islamic attire.

"There is a terrible repression against women in Basra," Maj-Gen Khalaf told the BBC.

"They kill women, leave a piece of paper on her or dress her in indecent clothes so as to justify their horrible crimes."

Forty-two women were killed between July and September this year, although the number dropped slightly in October, he said. In one case, he added, a woman was killed in her home along with her six-year-old son, who was rumoured to have been conceived in an adulterous relationship.

Maj-Gen Khalaf, sent to Basra this year by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki to impose order in the city, said the police were often too scared to conduct proper investigations into the killings.

"The relatives are reluctant to report the crimes for fear of a scandal or because they despair of the police's ability to solve them," he added.

Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

EVENTS - CONFERENCES - SPECIAL DAYS

CEDAW - [40th Session of CEDAW \(14 January to 1 February 2008\)](#)

On: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/40sess.htm>

IAW Commission: Justice - Human Rights - IAW convenor Margret Steinarsdottir

Human Rights Council

Sixth session (first part and resumed): 10 to 28 September 2007, and 10-14 December 2007

On: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/6session/>

Universal Declaration of Human Rights - 60th anniversary, December 10 2007.

On: <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/>

Microfinance in Pakistan

2 November – The United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has announced that it will provide a \$35 million loan to a new \$46 million programme making microfinance services available to about 160,000 new clients – at least half of them women.

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=24761&Cr=general&Cr1=assembly>

International Year on Sanitation

United Nations, November 21. According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), an average of about 1.5 million children die every year due to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene.

And so the United Nations formally launched the International Year of Sanitation 2008 (IYS), a theme set by the 192-member General Assembly in a resolution unanimously adopted in December 2006.

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=24758&Cr=sanitation&Cr1=>

and on: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=40162> and on:

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25 November

By [resolution 54/134](#) of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and invited governments, international organizations and NGOs to organize activities designated to raise public awareness of the problem on that day. Women's activists have marked 25 November as a day against violence since 1981. This date came from the brutal assassination in 1960, of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic, on orders of Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961).

On: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/violence/> with links to the UN and the UN system sites.

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@womenalliance.org>
	: Mathilde Duval (French)	<aifnfi@womenalliance.org>
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