

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

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

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

IAW NEWSLETTER October 2010, no. 9



Equal Rights

Dear members,

All over the world women are already preparing for the 55th Commission on the Status of Women and CEDAW, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, works the year around. It has examined countries where IAW has Affiliates, like India, Burkina Faso, Czech Republic and Uganda. Interesting to read!

We also travel around the world with a report by the World Economic Forum, looking at 'gaps', between women and men. Some countries have surprised us, in a positive and also in a negative way.

Peace and Security is, as always, high on the IAW agenda, with the IAW Congress in South Africa beckoning. Useful information has been mailed around to participants by IAW Secretary Lene Pind. Also in this newsletter news from ESCAP, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; from the World Health Organisation, WHO; from the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun; from the European Union. News about International Years and Days is as usual at the end.

CSW and CEDAW

Deadlines for NGO Written Statements for CSW 55 - 2011

To NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC: Deadlines for submission of written statements are the following:

- Individual organizations: **11 November 2010.**
- Joint written statements: **18 November 2010.**
- NGOs on the roster or joint statements that include NGOs on the roster: **4 November 2010.**

Submission deadlines must be strictly observed in order to ensure timely processing and issuance of the statements as official United Nations documents for the Commission.

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work (ECOSOC resolution 2009/15), the 2011

Priority theme of the Commission on the Status of Women is:

'Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work'.

The Commission, 22 February – 4 March 2011, will also evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its fifty-first session on:

'The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child'.

More on: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw55/onlinediscussion3.html>

CEDAW with a Briefing to end all Corporal Punishment of Children

State party reports submitted to the CEDAW include extensive information on measures taken to address violence against women. But rarely, if ever, do they refer to the violence that can lawfully be inflicted on the female child in the name of “discipline” or “punishment” – in the home, in schools, in penal institutions, in alternative care settings (residential and day care institutions, foster care, etc) and even as a sentence of the courts.

Differences in laws

Of the state parties to be examined in the 47th session of the Committee, none has prohibited corporal punishment of girls and boys in all settings. Corporal punishment is lawful in alternative care settings in all states being examined, and in schools in all states except Burkina Faso, Chad and Malta.

Corporal punishment is lawful as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions in Chad, Comoros and Lesotho, and in Lesotho as a judicial sentence (see summary table on page 2 and detailed reports which follow).

Ending this legal acceptance of violence in childhood – violence perpetrated by adults against girls and

boys – is a fundamental step towards ending the social acceptance of all violence against women. We urge the Committee to pursue this issue with state parties, to emphasise how legally authorising a certain degree of violence against children undermines a zero-tolerance approach to domestic and other violence against women, and to recommend that governments adopt legislation to prohibit all corporal punishment in all settings.

The Committee may also wish to refer to the Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 8, issued in June 2006, on “The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment”.

On: www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/comments.htm).

CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

47th session (4 - 22 October 2010), Geneva. States examined, schedule and summary records of: Bahamas (postponed), Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, India, Malta, Tunisia and Uganda

On: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws47.htm>

PEACE AND SECURITY

New UNFPA Report Links Peace, Security and Development to a Women’s Rights and Empowerment

When women have access to the same rights and opportunities as men, they are more resilient to conflict and disaster and can lead reconstruction and renewal efforts in their societies, according to the [State of World Population 2010](#), published today by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. The report’s release coincides with the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council’s landmark resolution 1325, which aimed to put a stop to sexual violence against women and girls in armed conflict and to encourage greater participation by women in peacebuilding initiatives.

Healing old wounds and moving forward

Through the stories of individuals affected by conflict or catastrophe in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Liberia, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Timor-Leste and Uganda, the report shows how communities and civil society are healing old wounds and moving forward. However, more still needs to be done to ensure that women have access to services and have a voice in peace deals or reconstruction plans.

'Governments need to seize opportunities arising out of post-conflict recovery or emerging from natural disasters to increase the chances that countries are not just rebuilt, but built back better and renewed, with women and men on equal footing, with rights and opportunities for all and a foundation for development and security in the long run,' the report argues.

More on: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/home/news/pid/6794>

Three steps to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325

At UN Headquarters in New York, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was presented with 22,219 signatures to the petition to Say NO to sexual violence against women in conflict and YES to the full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

On the 10th anniversary of this historic resolution that calls for the protection of women in conflict zones and their inclusion in peace building, the voices from people around the world send a strong signal for action to the UN Security Council.

The [<http://www.saynotoviolence.org/make-women-count-for-peace>] petition asks Member States to support three steps to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325:

- (1) Prosecute those who command and/or commit sexual violence and exclude them from armies and police forces after conflict;
- (2) Ensure that women participate in peace negotiations and all post-conflict decision-making institutions; and
- (3) Increase the number of women in troops, police forces and civilians within international peacekeeping efforts.

International Criminal Court confirms war crimes case against former DR Congo leader

19 October 2010 – The International Criminal Court (ICC) confirmed the case against a former senior official of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) charged with war crimes allegedly committed in the neighbouring Central African Republic (CAR), including rape, murder and pillaging

The ICC's pre-trial chamber confirmed last year that Mr. Bemba had the "necessary criminal intent" when in 2002 he ordered his armed group, the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC), into the CAR to back up embattled leader Ange-Félix Patassé.

It said that MLC fighters committed war crimes and crimes against humanity during that mission, with Mr. Bemba "effectively acting as military commander."

He was transferred to the ICC in July 2008 after being arrested by Belgian police. More on:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36490&Cr=international+criminal+court&CrI=>

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

The gender gap is narrowing across the globe, report claims

Large parts of the world are moving towards greater equality between the sexes in terms of pay, education, health and political representation, according to a report by the World Economic Forum.

Nordic nations, long time champions of an equal society, topped the list with **Iceland, Norway, Finland and Sweden.**

Of the countries surveyed, 59% narrowed the gap in the past year. **Denmark, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka** stayed at the same ranks as in 2009, keeping them in the top 20.

Although **Iceland**, rated the best nation for gender equality in the world, has seen its economic wealth shattered by recession, the government is committed to levelling society further and introduced laws this year to force companies with more than 50 staff to ensure their management is made up of at least 40% women by September 2013.

In Nordic nations, women live longer, have high employment rates and often enjoy generous maternity and paternity schemes. There are more than 1.5 women for every man enrolled in tertiary education.

Women still left out on the labour market

The report warned that while gaps were narrowing between men's and women's health and education, women were still left out of the labour market – including salaried and skilled jobs.

Klaus Schwab, the chairman of the WEF, said: "Low gender gaps are directly correlated with high economic competitiveness. Women and girls must be treated equally if a country is to grow and prosper. We still need a true gender equality revolution, not only to mobilise a major pool of talent both in terms of volume and quality, but also to create a more compassionate value system within all our institutions."

The developing world had some notable success stories. **Lesotho, the Philippines and South Africa** were more equal than the UK, which was 15th in the global list. Lesotho, which rose two places to 8th, is the only country in sub-Saharan Africa to have no gender gap in either education or health.

Female foeticide

China dropped a place to 61st because of the prevalence of female foeticide – aborting baby girls because of a cultural preference for boys. This has been exacerbated by the country's one-child policy and the report noted that China's sex ratio at birth fell this year from 0.91 to 0.88 girls for every boy.

India fares even worse at 112th with the report warning that "persistent health, education and economic participation gaps will be detrimental to (the country's) growth".

The bottom three

The bottom three spots this year went to **Pakistan** at 132nd, followed by **Chad** and **Yemen** at 134th. The **United States** rose to 19th, jumping 12 positions, in part because women now occupy a third of the top jobs in President Barack Obama's administration, compared to a quarter in the last government. There was also a rise in income for American women to almost \$35,000 (£22,000) from more than \$25,000.

While the **United Kingdom** performs well in education and health, its male-to-female ratios in politics and the workforce are low. In terms of wages the UK ranks 78th out of the 134 countries.

The poorest performer in the richer democracies appears to be **France**. It ranks 46th, trailing much poorer nations such as **Kazakhstan** and **Jamaica**, and has fallen 28 places since last year due largely to a fall in the number of women in politics despite legislation that requires equal numbers of both sexes on political parties' lists of candidates. mandates that both sexes must be equally represented as candidates on political party lists.

Randeep Ramesh, social affairs editor, guardian.co.uk, Article history.

Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

More on: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/12/world-gender-gap-closing>

ESCAP - The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics

According to World's Women 2010, launched in Bangkok by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ([ESCAP](http://www.unescap.org)), Asia-Pacific trails the rest of the world in the share of women ministers, with less than 10 per cent of ministers in Governments in the region being women. Earnings gaps between women and men are wider in the region compared with Latin America and developed countries—women's average wage in the manufacturing sector being less than 70 per cent that of men's, for example.

The report is being launched simultaneously in New York, Shanghai and Bangkok. In Bangkok, the launch took place on the second day of the meeting of ESCAP's Committee on Social Development – an intergovernmental legislative forum which brought together 180 participants from over 20 countries.

Published every five years, The World's Women is a unique publication which presents statistics and analysis on the status of women and men in the world, covering eight key areas: population and families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment, and poverty.

More on: <http://www.unescap.org/unis/press/2010/oct/g49.asp>

WHO - Achieving the health-related MDGs

Critical shortages, inadequate skill mix and uneven geographical distribution of the health workforce pose major barriers to achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Only 5 of the 49 countries categorized as low-income economies by the World Bank meet the minimum threshold of 23 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population that was established by WHO as necessary to deliver essential maternal and child health services.

These 49 countries have been prioritized by the UN Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.

23 doctors, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population

Countries that fall below this threshold struggle to provide skilled care at birth to significant numbers of pregnant women, as well as emergency and specialized services for newborn and young children. This has direct consequences on the numbers of deaths of women and children. Some pregnancy-related services can be delivered by mid-level health workers.

Therefore, an effective workforce should consist of a carefully-planned balance of professional, paraprofessional and community workers.

More on: http://www.who.int/hrh/workforce_mdgs/en/index.html

IAW Convenor for Health, Gudrun Haupter

Malnourished Children Swell Ranks of World's Hungry – by the GHI scores

Washington, Oct 11 - With the number of hungry people growing to more than a billion last year, the world is "nowhere near" reaching the objectives outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), according to the latest Global Hunger Index (GHI) released Monday.

The first MDG - to halve the proportion of hungry people between 1990 and 2015 - is an unlikely hope, says the 2010 GHI report.

Recent global events have reversed progress

Though the percentage of undernourished people fell from 20 percent in 1990-92 to 16 percent in 2004-06, recent global events have reversed that progress. The widespread economic recession and lingering effects of the 2007-08 global food crisis saw the number of undernourished people surpass one billion in 2009.

The GHI, a multidimensional measure of global hunger, is published jointly by the International Food Policy Research Institute, Concern Worldwide, and Welthungerhilfe.

It combines three equally-weighted indicators to assess hunger - the proportion of undernourished in the population, the prevalence of underweight in children under the age of five, and the mortality rate of children under the age of five - and to establish a score.

195 million children under the age of five

Affected are about 195 million children under the age of five in the developing world – about one in three children. Nearly one in four children under age five - 129 million - is underweight, and one in 10 is severely underweight.

Improvements were made by Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Nicaragua, and Vietnam.

The Sub-Sahara, North Korea, Burundi, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, and Liberia became worse.

The most disturbing outlier is the Democratic Republic of Congo. Plagued with violent conflict and political instability, the GHI increased 65 percent since 1990. Three-quarters of the population is now undernourished.

By Peter Boaz. More on <http://ipsnews.net/text/news.asp?idnews=53126>

UN Climate Change Conference Cancun - COP 16 & CMP 6

29 November-10 December 2010: Cancun, Mexico

The sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP) and the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) will be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010, together with the thirty-third sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the fifteenth session of the AWG-KP and thirteenth session of the AWG-LCA.

Deadline Tuesday, 16 November

The deadline for nominations from observer organizations to attend COP 16/CMP 6 has now passed. Those organizations that have made nominations should confirm their participants on the online registration system by Tuesday, 16 November at midnight CET in order to ensure they are registered by the secretariat to attend. Participants that are not confirmed will not be able to access the conference venue. More on: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

EUROPEAN UNION

EU Maternity leave

Brussels, 18 October 2010. In the run up to the European Parliament vote on the proposed revision of the so-called 'Maternity Leave Directive', UK business leaders have been descending en masse on Brussels in an attempt to block legislation designed to protect women's rights and economic independence throughout the 27 country block.

'It is absolutely scandalous that short-sighted business interests from one member state should put at risk the human rights of millions of women throughout the EU, as well as the sustainability of European economies', says Brigitte Triems, President of the European Women's Lobby. 'For UK MEPs to vote to block this legislation would be misguided.'

Result: a majority of MEPs voted to extend minimum maternity leave in EU to 20 weeks with full pay, adopted by 390 votes in favour, 192 against and 59 abstentions. The European Commission has now to work on balanced compromises with EU countries.

IAW action! IAW regional EU coordinator Joanna Manganara asked IAW members to take action and lobby their MEPs for the extension to 20 weeks paid maternity leave. We thank all of you who did! More on: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=402>

United Kingdom – End Violence Against Women Coalition is taking action

This action is in response to a Yougov poll commissioned by the End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) which has found disturbingly high levels of unwanted sexual contact, sexual assault and sexual harassment against girls in UK schools.

1 in 3 girls in the UK experience unwanted sexual contact at school

71% of girls experience sexual harassment on a daily or weekly basis

EVAW Chair, Professor Liz Kelly, said: "Not only is sexual harassment against girls at school routine,

every day and unquestioned, our results show that sexual assault is in fact commonplace in school environments. **Students rarely hear from their teachers that these behaviours are unacceptable.** Schools are failing in their legal and ethical responsibility to effectively challenge all forms of violence against women and girls and provide safe and supportive environments for their female students. Unfortunately, it is clear that teachers are not being given the training and ongoing support they need to do this."

And equality is still a distant dream

In 2010 it is still the case that just one in five MPs are women, around half of women in England and Wales experience sexual assault, stalking or domestic violence in their lifetime and significant inequalities remain in women's pay, health and work. So equality is still a distant dream and the Coalition. EVAW and many other women's organisations have co-signed a letter from the Women's Resource Centre to Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equality. *Sent to us by IAW Member Helen Self*

Eastern Europe – The pay gap and the Members of Parliament gap

The EU-wide pay gap between women and men is on average 18 percent, according to official EU figures. But the figure is higher in many Eastern European countries -- jumping to 20 percent in Slovakia and Lithuania, and 25 percent in the Czech Republic. Some independent surveys in selected jobs have shown differences of more than a third.

There was outrage among women's rights activists following parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic earlier this year when a new cabinet was formed which did not include a single female minister. In the Slovak parliament women make up just 15 percent of the MPs. The figure in Romania and Hungary is 11 percent.

More on: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53126>

INTERNATIONAL YEARS AND DAYS

During its sixty-third session the General Assembly declared 19 August each year as World Humanitarian Day, to increase public awareness about all humanitarian assistance activities worldwide and to honour all United Nations and all other humanitarian workers, including those who have lost their lives in the cause of duty.

The Assembly has proclaimed 2011 the International Year of Chemistry with UNESCO as lead agency and focal point for the Year.

It has also designated 22 April each year as Mother Earth Day and 8 June as World Oceans Day.

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)	<mathilde.duval@yahoo.fr>
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