

# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities  
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter August 2015

no. 4

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## *Dear members and subscribers*

*In this issue we have updated information about the International Meeting in Paris in October. Registration must be done by August 25 .*

*Donations to IAW can now be made online.*

*We have reports and messages from our representatives in New York, Council of Europe, and EWL .*

*Protection of the Family is a MUST-READ for all members of IAW*

*Rural Women's Movement of South Africa is starting a huge project for rural women. Do we have members of Engineers without Borders among our membership?*

*Deadline for contributions to the next Newsletter is October 1*

## **News from IAW**

### **International Meeting**

Preparations for the International Meeting in Paris October 6 - 11 are in progress. A seminar on surrogacy motherhood will be an interesting part of the programme and experts have been invited to assist IAW in obtaining a position on this delicate issue

The board of IAW looks forward to seeing presidents of the IAW member organizations at the meeting. Now is the time for you to influence and support the work of IAW. If a president is unable to attend, she may send a proxy.

All relevant documents are available from [iawsec@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawsec@womenalliance.org).

**Registration must be done by August 25.**

### **Surrogacy Motherhood**

By way of preparations for the International Meeting and the seminar on surrogacy motherhood, President Joanna Manganara has sent these links, where information about the issue can be found:

[Surrogacy: a global trade in women's bodies](#)

[EWL puts the issue of surrogacy on the European agenda](#)

[Report and documents from the EWL issue group on surrogacy, GA 2013](#)

[EP study: A Comparative Study on the Regime of Surrogacy in EU Member States \(2013\)](#)

[ECJ opinion: surrogacy does not allow for adoption leave](#)

[Sweden - EWL members condemn surrogacy as a form of exploitation of women's bodies and reproductive organ](#)

### **Donation button on IAW website**

## **DONATE NOW**

On the [IAW website](#) we now have an online payment system, whereby members can now pay their individual membership fee, and everybody can send their donations. You may pay in both Euro and Swiss francs. Go to the website, click "donate" and the donation page will come up.

We have already received the first donations

*Transforming our World*

### **The UN has adopted the Post 2015 Developments Goals:**

[TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT](#)

Message from Soon-Young Yoon:

*Dear friends,*

*The Peoples Republic of China and UN Women are convening a Commitments Day on September 27. Heads of State (not foreign ministers etc) are invited to make commitments for the full implementation of the BPfA. Please check to see if your government has made its commitment to attend. Also, please send this message out to your networks and urge them to contact their presidents so we can have all 189 governments who signed onto the document make strong statements at this event. If you are planning to attend the General Assembly and will be in NY on September 27, please let us know.*

### **European Women's Lobby**

**EWL**

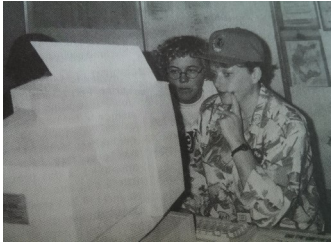
**Arina Angerman** represents IAW in the Policy Committee of the European Women's Lobby and has sent this report:

### **Equal education of women and girls**

13<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 was International Women's Education Day. Celebrating her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai launched her new slogan, "books not bullets", arguing that the 39 billion US dollars of extra money needed to fund free education worldwide 'represents what world governments spend on their militaries in just eight days'." [Note 1](#)

The European Women's Lobby informed her members and friends about results of the Gender Equality Index research by the European Institute for Gen-

der Equality (EIGE). ‘‘The EU-28 (member states) achieved an average score of 52.9 out of 100 points (2012 data) showing that Europe is only halfway towards a gender-equal and cohesive society. Moreover, progress since 2005, when the score was 51.3, has only been marginal.’’ [Note 2](#) You can browse the EIGE data visualization [here](#) The domain of power shows the greatest progress in the Gender Equality Index rising from 31.4 in 2005 to 39.7 points in 2012. Concluding: women, compared with men, are under-represented in political and economic decision-making.



Arina Angerman with baseball cap writes an email at the NGO -Forum in Huairou during the 4th UN World’s Women Conference in Beijing ‘95

### **Lifelong learning: eSkills**

Equal rights and equal responsibilities to an equal and non-stereotypical education throughout the life cycle is very important. Most (extended board) members of IAW and their member associations are digital migrants. They have learned how to use internet and email in the 90’s or 21th century. They learned these new digital eSkills for their societal activities, jobs or businesses.

Lifelong learning of new (digital) skills belongs to [the domain of knowledge](#) (49.1 points) in the Gender Equality Index of EIGE. ‘‘As identified by the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (Education and Training (ET) 2020), lifelong learning needs to be a priority, as it contributes greatly to employment, economic prosperity and employability, but also to providing the means for all citizens to realise their potential. (Council of the European Union, 2009b)’’ EU-28 (member states) lifelong learning achieved an average score of 42.5 points. Denmark has 85.5, the Netherlands 63.7, Germany 40.9, France 40.3 and Greece 27.8 points. [% of women in EU-28 is 17](#): in Denmark 44, the Netherlands 25, France 16, Germany 15 and Greece 10. [Note 3](#)

My personal conclusion: lifelong learning of new eSkills by women / feminists of all generations has to improve in order for women to remain agents of change!!!

### **Council of Europe**

IAW representative to the Council of Europe, Anje Wiersinga, informs us that IAW has been approved for renewal of registration on the list of INGOs entitled to lodge collective complaints, for the period 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2019.

### **Female Conscription in Norway**

In the June Newsletter we mentioned that Norway has introduced female conscription.

However, a number of feminist organizations, including the Norwegian Association of Women’s Rights, which is a member of IAW, have strongly protested adding another burden to the many duties women have especially in giving birth and breastfeeding.

[Read the full statement](#)



### **UN Habitat III**

Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 – 20 October 2016.

On behalf of IAW Soon-Young Yoon has submitted a comment on the current issues papers. She is asking for comments from IAW members, so read her submission and send your comments to [yoonsw@aol.com](mailto:yoonsw@aol.com) and to IAW President Joanna Manganara at [iawpres@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawpres@womenalliance.org)

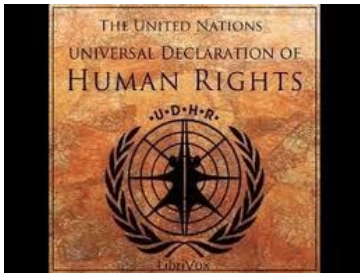
### **Women Deliver**



Women Deliver's 4th Global Conference, taking place 16-19 May 2016, will be the largest gathering on girls' and women's health and rights in the last decade and one of the first major global conferences following the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[Learn more and register](#)

### **"Protection of the Family"—a battlefield at the Human Rights Council**

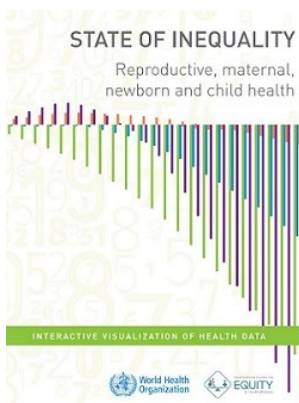


AWID—Women's Rights has published an excellent response to the different initiatives at the UN to "protect the family".

"We must recognize the centrality of the human rights of individuals within family contexts and effectively act on abuses of human rights that take place in family contexts"

[This is a must-read for all feminists and human rights advocates](#)

### **WHO**



The World Health Organization supports universal health coverage as the means to ensure that high-quality, essential health services are available and affordable to all. When universal health coverage is pursued through progressive realization it upholds principles of fairness and equity, setting the course for realizing the right to health. In the words of World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan, "universal health coverage is the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer".

*The State of Inequality* report provides comprehensive information on the state of inequality in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in low- and middle-income countries.

### **IPU**

The Interparliamentary Union (IPU) has published interesting statistics on the percentage of women in parliaments. Rwanda is at the top with 63% women

[Find your own country](#)

## IAW Around the World

### Geschlechterrolle—vorwärts—Germany

Deutscher Frauenring, IAW member organization in Germany, is running an interesting project, which challenges the gender stereotypes imposed on men and women. It would be interesting to have more information when the project is finished. [Read more](#)

### South Africa

#### Rural Womens' Movement of South Africa, Sizani Ngubane writes:

*Rural Women's Movement is in a process of starting a very big programme: Indigenous Women and Girls Agricultural Skills Training Centre and a Shelter for women and young girls who are threatened with abduction and forced marriages as well as domestic violence. Just been granted a 110-hectare piece of state land.*

*We want this centre to have eco-houses and biogas digesters and boreholes as well as a solar system. I think we should have like 90% solar and just 10% electricity as a back up in our efforts to make this centre self-sustainable.*

*We are looking for engineers and people with architectural backgrounds to come and assist us on voluntary basis. Do you think we could use the space in our organization to announce in case there are members who know someone for example who is with the Engineers Without Borders - they are doing great job in other countries.*

If you have any suggestions for Sizani Ngubane or you have contacts with Engineers without Borders, let us know.

Contact [ruralwomensmovement@gmail.com](mailto:ruralwomensmovement@gmail.com) and [lenepind@gmail.com](mailto:lenepind@gmail.com)

### Australia

#### League of Women Voters of Victoria, Australia

The longest standing Australian member organisation with IAW is **The League of Women Voters Victoria** and today at a forum held at the Parliament of Victoria its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated.

On 8 August 1945 **The League** came into being and its first President was Mrs Julia Rapke MP. A major focus throughout its history has been to encourage young women to learn about and become involved in political issues, to meet politicians and to understand parliamentary processes. Alliance members who attended the 2012 International Meeting in Melbourne will remember the session on Human Rights and Seniors' Rights enthusiastically presented by students from two high schools.

[Read more](#)



Sizani Ngubane



Students attending the ceremony, ready to make their presentations



## Around the world

### India:

Sometimes one person can change a whole community. [Read this story about the achievements of one woman in Kolkata](#)

KOLKATA: A recently released set of data shows adolescent girls in rural Bengal setting a nationwide trend with their keenness to go to school. Compared to their male counterparts, the central survey shows, rural girl students have a better attendance record.

[Read more](#)

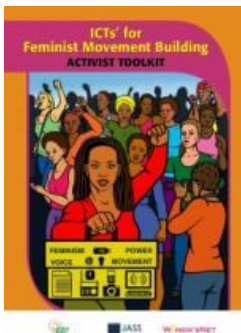
### Nigeria:

Nigeria has introduced a ban on female circumcision / female genital mutilation. The worry now is whether the law will be enforced throughout the country and whether offenders will be prosecuted.

[Read more](#)

## World Map of Feminists

Just for the fun of it—have a look at this [World Map of Feminists](#)



### [ICTs for Feminist Movement Building](#)

Just Associates (JASS), the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and Women'sNet (APC/JASS/Women'sNet) have produced an inspiring toolkit.

International Alliance of Women is funded by membership fees and private donations. We are grateful for any contribution to our work to promote women's equal rights throughout the world.

[\*\*DONATE\*\*](#)

### Note

Please be so kind as to notify Membership Officer Pat Richardson if you know of any members, affiliate or associate societies with an email address, so that we can mail them this Newsletter

IAW Newsletter: Editorial group [ienepind@gmail.com](mailto:ienepind@gmail.com)

International Women's News: [jawiwn@womenalliance.org](mailto:jawiwn@womenalliance.org)

Membership officer: [jaw.membership@womenalliance.org](mailto:jaw.membership@womenalliance.org)