

# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities  
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter December 2015

no. 6

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## Dear members and subscribers

*President Joanna Manganara in cooperation with EWL has sent a letter to the EU Commission about the urgent need for an EU strategy on equality*

*Preparations for CSW are in full swing. IAW Secretary General Lyna Castillo-Javier is in the process of registering IAW participants.*

*We have news from our international representatives at WHO, FAO, EWL.*

*You may also find the reports from two African associates on 16 Days of Activism interesting*

*Gudrun Haupter argues in favour of linking sexual and reproductive health and rights with climate change.*

*Deadline for contributions to the next Newsletter is January 15,*

*Happy reading and a Happy New year*

## News from IAW



### Urgent need for an EU Strategy for Equality between women and men from 2016 to 2020!

President of EWL Vivian Teitelbaum and IAW President Joanna Manganara sent a [letter to Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission and Foteini Kouvela, General Secretary for Gender Equality](#) calling for an EU Strategy for Equality between women and men from 2016 to 2020!

### A first-timer at an IAW International Meeting

#### *Shamain Haque, Pakistan, writes:*



Shamain Haque

October 6th 2015 was my first time in Paris and I felt great anticipation, not only to experience this beautiful city but also to attend my first ever IAW meeting.

I come from a background of strong, Pakistani women who all share a passion for improving the lives and status of women in our country, so when given the opportunity by the All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) to attend the International Meeting hosted by IAW, naturally I was eager to accept along with my mother, Samina Haque. However, being a fresh out of University graduate without any prior experience of the IAW I was unsure about what I should expect, yet upon arrival at the hotel reception both my mother and I were greeted by the friendly faces of the women with whom we'd been exchanging emails for the past few weeks; Lene, Jessika and Monique!

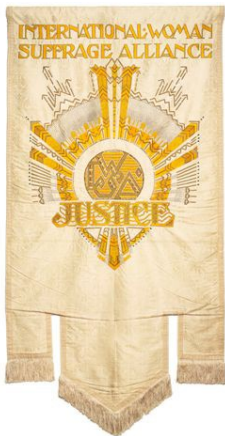
One of the best aspects of the meeting took place before it had even officially started.

The fantastic welcome dinner at the hotel in which the majority of the women had checked in allowed me to reconnect with old friends from APWA UK and make new ones from close neighbours in India and further afield in Switzerland. I personally found this to be such a relaxed way in which to connect with those attending the meeting who are all committed to a singular cause – aiding women around the world socially, economically or in any possible way.

Once the meeting began the next day I was struck overall by the willingness of every individual member to contribute to the various discussions held, and I valued especially the examples provided by most of them relating to the treatment of women in their respective countries. The dinner and active participation of all members encouraged me to participate; despite being a newcomer. So I felt it important to contribute my views and put forward questions to better my understanding and also represent my organisation, APWA, as best I could.

For a young 22 year old girl like myself to see women from around the world congregate in one place and discuss pressing issues such as violence against women, women and poverty, surrogacy, women and the environment among many others was an eye-opening experience. Not only because it allowed me to realise the similarities between different nations and the treatment of women but also because at university I had often felt the futility of discussing such issues without having access to a platform in order to bring about substantial and tangible change. Yet with an international body such as the IAW that has consultative status with the UN, a solution seemed far clearer. I now fully intend along with APWA, to work with the brilliant women from the AIWC in India in solving our many shared problems as well as with women from Chad who suffer from similar problems.

I feel like it is appropriate to end this brief overview of the meeting by repeating the words of a strong and inspiring woman in my own life who herself was present in Paris. To paraphrase Samina Haque's closing comments; seeing women from around the world working together to give a voice to the voiceless and fight for them – that is what gives me hope.



CSW 60 March 14—25

### **Congress in Victoria Falls,Zimbabwe**

November 17—25 2016

The theme of Congress will be STOP GENDER VIOLENCE

### **CSW 60 New York**

**March 14-25 2016**

**Priority theme:** Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development".

#### **Written statement**

[Read IAW's written statement](#) on our website

#### **Registration**

In order to participate we must be preregistered. Members of IAW who wish to participate must contact IAW Secretary General at [iawsec@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawsec@womenalliance.org).

Lyna Castillo– Javier will then preregister you, and once all information including where you are going to stay in New York has been submitted, you will receive from Lyna the document, which together with your passport will get you a pass to the UN Building. Many activities incl the many parallel events take place outside the UN Buildings, and you do not need a pass to attend those events.

The final deadline for preregistration is January 27. But you have to contact Lyna as soon as possible, preferably before January 1.

#### **Hotel in NY**

Many IAW members stay at the Pod 51 Hotel, 230 East 51st Street, NY City.

## Parallel events

Deadline for applying for parallel events was December 11. IAW has applied for the following event:

- Corporations, Globalization and Women's Social and Economic Rights - and is planning another 3—4 events on women in power, birth registration and climate change. More information will follow in the February Newsletter.

WHO



### World Health Organization (WHO)

**Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for IAW**, moderated a session during the WHO dialogue on NCDs and International Cooperation held November 30 to 1 December 2015 at WHO headquarters in Geneva. She reports that for the first time, the WHO convened 3 caucuses prior to the main event. There were NGOs and Youth, Private Sector and Foundations, and the UN System. HE Ambassador Carl Reaich of New Zealand and Ambassador Jorge Lomana from Mexico co-chaired the event. The conference participants agreed that preventing NCDs (diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, cardio-vascular diseases and cancer) is an investment in the SDGs, not a cost. Related health expenses can plunge families into poverty while poverty impedes early detection and treatment. Yoon emphasized that women's rights to complete well-being—mental and physical—is a prerequisite for women to exercise all other rights and freedoms and that human rights should be the foundation to build "non-siloed" solutions for NCDs

FAO

### Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

**Jessika Kehl-Lauff** attended her first meeting at FAO as IAW representative. The meeting was the annual plenary of the Committee of Food Security (CFS), October 2015.

Work is being done to develop a clear and helpful framework of indicators of how to measure the outcome of the SDGs 2030. [The International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#) has interesting knowledge about the effects of women's empowerment and gender equality in rural areas.

Members who are interested in specific training opportunities to build women's capacity in rural areas may contact Ms Claire Bishop-Sambrook at [gender@ifad.org](mailto:gender@ifad.org)

One side event was organised by FAO: How to reconcile the on-going climate change agenda and the role agricultural policies will play. It was a run-up to COP 21.

In another side event Jessika congratulated Mr Martin Frick from IFAD because he looked upon women, not as victims, but as agents of change.

A very interesting but also sad side event was : [Women in Protracted Crises—Syrian Realities and the Framework for Action \(FFA\)](#).

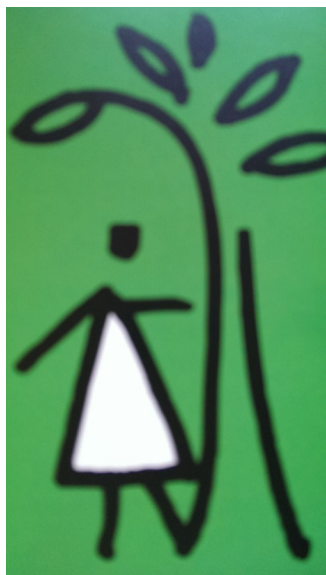
### European Women's Lobby (EWL)

**Arina Angerman** represents IAW on the board of EWL. She reports the following:

***Women as agents of change: no climate justice without gender justice***

In June 2015, European Women's Lobby says "Women as agents of change for

a sustainable people-centred world”. This quote is in From Words to Action 2015 Calendar in the year European Women’s Lobby (EWL) celebrates 20 years of the Beijing Platform for Action #Beijing20. According to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) “women, on average, generate less gas emissions to men, in particular in the transport sector. Women tend to travel in a more sustainable way than men. In Europe the overall number of women driving (40%) is smaller than the overall number of men (62%)”.



EWL demands in *From Words to Action a European Women’s Lobby review of the activities of the European Union 1995-2015 20 years of the Beijing Platform for Action* (September 2014). “Systematically include a women’s rights and gender equality perspective in the definition, implementation and monitoring of environmental/climate/transport/energy policies at all levels, including research activities and data collection, and in both EU external (including development) and internal policies.” (page 29)

In November 2015 IAW gave feedback to the EWL’s concept statement [‘For a just transformative & gender- responsive climate agreement’ at COP 21](#) More than two thirds of the 154 countries which made their contribution to COP21 did not include a women’s rights perspective. “The EWL calls for women’s human rights and gender equality to be fully integrated into the final COP21 agreement, not only in the general principles, but in provisions concerning the implementation of policies and financial and technological mechanisms”.

Two days before the start of the Climate Summit COP 21, women’s organizations and feminists met in Paris to discuss the links between climate justice and women’s human rights. Let’s support feminists worldwide: [no climate justice without gender justice!](#)

## Commission on Health

Commission on Health

### Climate Change and Reproductive Health and Rights

- by Gudrun Haupter, Covener of the Commission

#### SPREAD THE WORD!



With reference to the IAW decision of the International Meeting October 2015 in Paris to work towards a program on Climate Change I would like to alert the Newsletter readership to the Advocacy Brief “Post 2015 Development Agenda CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEXUAL and REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS (SRHR).”

[This link](#) opens the advocacy brief prepared by the Asian-Pacific Research & Resource Centre for Women (ARROW) for the Post 2015 Women's Coalition.

One of the arguments for linking sustainable development and SRHR is: programs that provide reproductive health for all women are seen as a way to slow population growth and its associated energy demands, with the additional benefit of reducing the number of maternal deaths and the burden of maternal morbidity.

SDG Goal 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”, has a target 3.7 “By 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education,



and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs.”

In the Asia-Pacific region, the relationship between climate change, gender equality, and SRHR is marked. “Evidence from the ground demonstrates how climate change will not only exacerbate already challenging developmental contexts which form the basis for SRHR, but also how climate change continues to erode gender equality and the advancement of SRHR. It should be noted that there is a re-emergence of the population discourse that attempts to make direct and simplistic connection between climate change and population growth. In order to fully respond to the health risks of climate change of women and young people, there is a need to expand our understanding of the specific health risks from climate change, and to distinguish between sexual and reproductive health and the reproductive role of women and girls.”

Check Table 1 on how Climate Change affects Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. An example: extreme weather events and drought create worsening living conditions which in turn provoke reactions that negatively impact on gender equality and SRHR. Another keyword is migration due to environmental degradation: for women this may entail trafficking and exploitation, or loss of access to services due to migrant status.

Read also the case studies on the situation in the Philippines and Ethiopia.

SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” and its objectives make no reference to SRHR. This should be one more reason for IAW to spread the word.

!6 Days of Activism against Gender Violence



Activists in the Zimbabwean campaign

## IAW AROUND THE WORLD

CEFAP/ Ladies Circle in **Cameroon** participated in International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and runs a whole campaign. [Read more on the website](#)

**In Zimbabwe** Womens Comfort Corner has launched a nationwide campaign to stop violence against children and women. [Read more](#)

## Grief and Solidarity with our French sisters

Marion Boeker, member of the national board of Deutscher Frauenring, wrote to IAW’s French members Monique Bouaziz, Danielle Levy and Renée Gérard following the terror attacks in Paris and reports:

On Friday 20th October, during our board meeting we signed the condolence book of the French Embassy in Berlin and honored the victims by putting down roses in front of the Embassy. Here is what we wrote in French:

*« Nous ressentons une profonde peine et prenons part à votre douleur.*

*Nous partageons les valeurs LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ avec la population de la République Française: Nous sommes unies, dans l’Europe, aux Nations Unies, et dans le monde entier qui s’accorde pour la paix. »*

On behalf of the Executive Board of Deutscher Frauenring I’d like to extend our deepest sympathy to you in France, and to all targeted communities around the globe. We mourn with you the victims of Paris and, furthermore, those of Shingal, Mali, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, Turkey, and all places where Daesh acts against humanity, our values and our freedoms.

Let me also mention we signed the ZONTA statement on what women request to help victims of Daesh and what is needed to vanquish that threat. I fully subscribe to the statement you can read [here](#):

In October I joined an international conference in Saarbrücken with stakeholders from Syria (Rojava), Nigeria, Turkey (Ezidish women). Participants agreed that early and life-long free education based on gender equality is urgently needed, plus the whole set of professional help for the survivors, which means funding trauma therapy, re-integration, education, safety ...

Also in October Deutscher Frauenring deepened its cooperation with Ezidish women in Germany and donated for a survivors' center of Ezidish women who escaped Daesh, in Diyarbakir, Turkey. The center is run by Ezidish women and empowers them in many ways, for example by strengthening their self-confidence in Women Councils.



### **Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL), Australia**

WEL requests that Prime Minister Turnbull act swiftly to agree to a long-term secure separate national funding program for women's refugees to ensure women and children escaping family and domestic violence have a safe haven and access to specialist services to enable them to rebuild their lives.

[Sign the petition](#)

United Nations



## **UNITED NATIONS**

### **Achieving the sustainable development goals through ICTs**

Since 2005, peoples' access to the Internet at home has doubled, with 46% of households being able to connect to the web today. With this rapid growth, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have been recognized as critical drivers to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their positive impact on economic development has also been observed, where a 2% GDP increase can be seen for every 10% gain in broadband penetration in the developing world.

On 15-16 December, a more in-depth discussion on achieving the SDGs through ICTs will take place during a United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting in New York. This high-level meeting is convened to conduct an overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10).

[Read more](#)

### **Human Rights Council**

[In her report](#) to the Human Rights Council, **Rashida Manjoo**, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences concludes:

*It is time to consider the development and adoption of a United Nations binding international instrument on violence against women and girls, with its own dedicated monitoring body. Such an instrument should ensure that States are held accountable to standards that are legally binding, it should provide a clear normative framework for the protection of women and girls globally and should have a specific monitoring body to substantively provide in-depth analysis of both general and country-level developments. With a legally binding instrument, a protective, preventive and educative framework could be established to reaffirm the commitment of the international community to its articu-*



Rashida Manjoo

*lation that women's rights are human rights, and that violence against women is a human rights violation, in and of itself.*

## Around the World

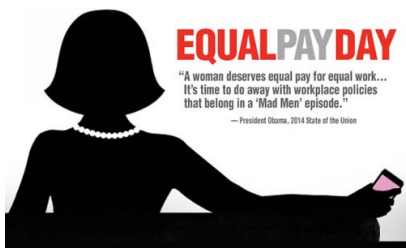
### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Maternal deaths drop sharply, but only 9 countries meet the UN Millennium Goal

Worldwide, maternal mortality fell by 43 percent since 1990, thanks to access to better-quality health services during pregnancy and childbirth, and to sexual and reproductive health services and family planning

#### World Economic Forum:

Ten Years of the Global Gender Gap has a lot of interesting information



#### Equal Pay in Europe

Monday 2 November marks the day in the year when women across Europe stop being paid, while men will continue to earn money until 31 December. The average hourly wage for women in Europe is 16.3% lower than it is for men, so women effectively work 59 days for free each year.

Ahead of this occasion, First Vice-President Timmermans, Commissioner Thyssen and Commissioner Jourová said:

"Equality between men and women is one of the fundamental values of the European Union, but this day reminds us that it is not one of its fundamental realities.

The pay gap between women and men is already unfair, unjustified and unacceptable in the short term. But in the long term, it accumulates throughout a woman's career and results in an even more significant pension gap, with women's pensions 39% lower than men's.

The results of a Commission consultation published today on equality between women and men confirm that Europeans see the gender pay gap as the most urgent inequality to deal with.

Recent study in the UK shows women work longer hours than men, yet the pay gap has widened

#### UN link on valuing women's work

#### Institute for Strategic Dialogue

Till Martyrdom Do Us Part - Gender and the ISIS Phenomenon builds upon ICSR's research into the foreign fighter phenomenon. Questions are now being posed as to how and why females are being recruited, what role they play within violent extremist organizations, and what tools will best work to counter this new threat.

## Climate Change COP 21

### Women Gender Constituency (WGC)



The WGC, one of the nine official constituencies accredited to the UNFCCC, comprised of women's rights, feminist organizations and networks representing thousands of groups and individuals, wants to express its profound concern about this new 'non-paper' which aims to act as a basis for negotiations on the new climate agreement.

[Read their paper](#)

### India

#### [Voice of girl child vrooms across India](#)

#### [India bans foreigners from hiring surrogate mothers](#)

### Films

**The Uncondemned** is a film about the story behind the first conviction of rape as a war crime.

[Watch the trailer](#)

#### **The Hunting Ground – Film on Sexual Assault on USA Campuses**

A startling expose of rape crimes on US college campuses, institutional cover-ups and the brutal social toll on victims and their families. Weaving together actual footage and first-person testimonies, the film follows survivors as they pursue their education while fighting for justice.

[Watch the official trailer](#)

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)

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