

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Responsibilities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter

no.

In this issue:

1. News from IAW
- Meeting in Zimbabwe
2. Join IAW
3. International reps
- EWL
4. BREXIT
5. President's letters
6. United Nations
- calls for action
- SDG Indicators
- feminist Secretary General
7. Around the World

Meeting in Zimbabwe

November 8—16 2016

Dear members and subscribers.

Dear members and subscribers

First of all a warm welcome to new readers, members or subscribers.

In this Newsletter we have new information about the IAW meeting in Zimbabwe. There is still time to register.

The President's letters on CSW 60 and FGM are full of interesting information.

The campaign for a woman Secretary General continues. It is important that we all support the campaign.

Join IAW and get international experience and friendship. You may join by clicking [here](#)

We invite all readers to share this Newsletter with friends, family and your network in general and to encourage them to join IAW and become part of a global women's movement.

News from IAW

Congress in Vic Falls, Zimbabwe has been changed into an IAW Board Meeting. The number of registered participants was too low for elections to take place and for the adoption of a new action programme.

However, the number is big enough for a meeting which can work on the most burning issues that IAW will have to deal with in the near future. IAW will have to decide on what political issues to focus on, and how we are going to modernise the administration of IAW to make us more effective.

Conference

We are still going to have a conference on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and preparations are in full swing. One key speaker will be Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanti, African Union Ambassador to End Child Marriage.

Still possible to register

It is still possible to take part in the meeting- even if you are not a board member. Anyone who is interested should just send an email to Lene Pind at lenepind@gmail.com

Help us make it possible for two of our members to attend the conference as speakers: [Click here](#) and spread the word among members of your network.

**Support our campaign to raise
money for two speakers**

JOIN IAW—and get international experience and friendship

The following is hardly news, but it is a story of why IAW is important and worthwhile. Rosy Weiss, former President of IAW, writes:



'Forging the International We'

Forging the International „We“

is the title of chapter 5 (Section II: Consciousness) of Leila J. Rupp's book "Making of an International Women's Movement: WORLDS OF WOMEN".

During their fight for women's suffrage our foremothers quickly understood that the condition of being a woman binds us all together across the borders of our countries, across existing ethical, cultural or religious boundaries. They acted accordingly with the creation of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance as a global umbrella organization, joining their efforts towards women's rights with other organizations acting internationally in order to influence the policy making of the governments of the world, first in the context of the League of Nations, after WWII within the United Nations system.

"Forging a global alliance" is the title of an article on page one of the IWN Vol 90 No 3 1995. It underlines that "the great UN Women Conferences of the past 20 years, especially in their NGO Forums, have shown the true spirit of women's internationalism and sisterhood, while at the same time focussing on the diversity of women's experience and needs."

"Sisterhood is global" is another article on page one of the IWN Vol 94 No 3 1999, where Priscilla Todd, our editor, states that "the Alliance has always been international, and proud of its global sisterhood".

This "internationalism" remains a pillar of IAW advocacy to this day and is one of the most important elements contributing to the international reputation of our organization. Our international team of dedicated volunteers (note 1) represents IAW in intergovernmental fora around the globe and maintains our agreed positions wherever necessary, very often against fierce opposition – sometimes alone, but very often in sisterhood with like-minded associations. During the decades the focus has been constantly enlarged to cover all aspects of a woman's life, wherever she may be.

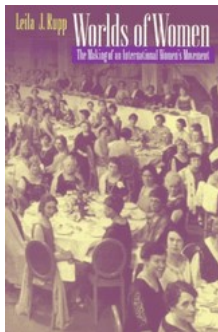
From the time in 1983 when Brigitte Pross (note 2) asked me to represent IAW at the Vienna based NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and to ask NGO colleagues there to help me bring violence against women and in particular domestic violence before the world audience, I have never interrupted my international lobbying for IAW. Would my appointment by the Austrian government as international negotiator for environment, sustainable development and family have happened without my international NGO experience? I do not know. However, it is clear that my designation as NGO liaison person during Austria's EU Presidency in 2006 during the 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, was exactly due to this experience both within governmental rule and obligations and in international non-governmental lobbying.

Why do I write this piece of personal history? Because I would like to encourage all of you to join our international teams. Your benefit is not to be calculated in economic terms. It lies in your personal experience, the broadening of your horizon and the enrichment offered to you by friendship all over the world.

Rosy Weiss

Note 1) To the concept of volunteers, see United Nations Volunteers (UNV), created in 1970 by the UNGA. Three crucial requirements: service to others, professional competence and language proficiency. UNV specialists offer their time as service. The most rewarding element is the acquisition of international experience.

(Note 2) (1912-1996) Präsident of the Deutsche Frauenring from 1970 to 1976. Long-time IAW Vice-President and Commission Convenor. Representative to UN-Vienna. Organised IAW's 22 World Congress in Koniogstein/Ts. Initiated women's projects in Burkina Faso and Togo.



International Representatives
- Human Rights Council
- EWL

Lyda Versteegen, IAW representative to the Human Rights Council, reports:

The Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, which IAW joined last year, booked a small success during the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council in June.

111 Governments sponsored the resolution 'The right to a Nationality: Women's Equal Nationality Rights in Law and Practice'. In a previous resolution there was no mention of conferring one's nationality to a spouse. This still exists in over 50 countries, and this time it is mentioned. 27 countries still have laws discriminating women, so they can't pass on their nationality to their children. This leads to human rights violations for the children who don't have access to education or health care. For husbands and children it can lead to statelessness, a condition in which no state recognizes the persons as a citizen with all the human rights problems this involves

Womensvoices on the move & in decision-making

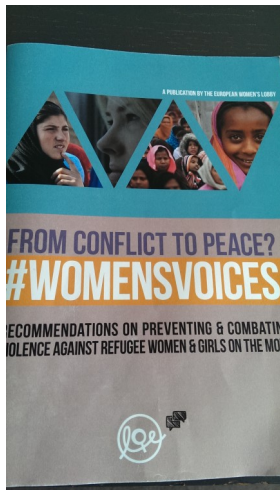
From January to June 2016, the European Women's Lobby, has been developing, together with the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) and the European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW), the womensvoices (Photo) project 'From conflict to peace? Women's and girls' voices on the move'. One of the three key demands after researching different countries is: "Comprehensive policies to end all forms of violence against women and girls in the EU and its member states, and specific measures to ensure that women and girl refugees and asylum seekers are protected and get access to justice." Some Findings by Country i.a. Germany: All staff in refugee aid are working over their limits; the Netherlands: Lack of accommodation centres; Sweden: Only 2% of reported violence against women cases lead to conviction. (Note 2)

One of the demands to the EU and its Member States: "The EU and all member states and acceding/candidate countries must ratify and implement, without bias to migrant, refugee and undocumented women, and without reserve, the Istanbul Convention, which guarantees the fundamental rights of every woman to be protected from gender-based violence at individual, institutional and structural level, regardless of her legal status." (page 4 of #Womensvoices) The publication #Womensvoices has been funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union.

Decision-making: democracy

At EWL General Assembly in Brussels 160604 International Alliance of Women was elected as an EU-wide organization to the Board of Administration 2016-2018. Arina Angerman (Photo) is reelected as Board Member and Marion Böker as Alternate.

'Together for a feminist Europe' is the subtitle of EWL's Strategic Framework 2016-2020. "We anticipate that the Sustainable Development Goals will continue to frame EU internal and external agendas in relation to Women's Rights. ... In light of the European elections in 2019, we will also be increasing efforts to influence the outcomes of the elections ..."



Arina Angerman re-elected to the board of the European Women's Lobby



What is my or our focus (doable goals) in the EWL Board 2016-2018?

* I will continue to share information and spread knowledge via Twitter or Facebook in order to strengthen the visibility of IAW and EWL across social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week.

* IAW is becoming a member of the virtual working group of EWL members on women in political decision-making. We are going to develop a campaign strategy to achieve parity democracy – meaning 50% women elected to the European Parliament in the 2019 elections. One of the threats i.a. is the rise of political movements to women's rights across the European continent.

Both these two goals are part of SDG5 target: “the use of enabling technology ... ICT” & “Ensure women's full and effective participation ... for leadership”

Join our IAW virtual working group

Question: Do you want to strengthen the visibility at social media or join our IAW virtual working group? Please feel free to react to my contribution ‘Womensvoices on the move & in decision-making’! As you know **TEAM** = **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore. I look forward to your comments.



BREXIT and the European feminist movement

Prime Minister Theresa May declared that the “UK will leave the European Union, but it will not leave Europe”. Will Brexit influence women? Will feminists from Europe still understand each other at the European Women's Lobby, the Status of Women, CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence?

These last months we have seen in European countries and also in countries on Europe's border some different political interpretations and misunderstandings of key words like democracy, law and order, human rights, state and religion, national and international measures.

IAW members have always tried to stand together in times of conflict or change. A small group of IAW members in Europe is proposing to start an informal network to inform each other and discuss remarkable or confusing situations that arise during the BREXIT period. It will be particularly interesting to learn from British feminists about their views on how well informed they were leading up to the referendum; was it weighted towards BREXIT? How much emphasis was placed on the refugee situation or on the trade situation? What forward planning was outlined should BREXIT be successful?

We hope that a broad range of feminists will become involved in this group because, although the immediate effects are being felt mostly in EU member countries and Britain, this has ripple effects all around the world. Please contact Joke Sebus at j.sebus@inter.nl.net to express your interest.

Some websites of interest about British views on human rights include:

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/apr/25/theresa-may-michael-gove-exit-tory-leadership-human-rights>

Join the new informal European IAW network

<http://rightsinfo.org/news/>
<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2016/08/03/the-breaking-down-of-the-european-convention-on-human-rights-and-the-uks-responsibility-george-stafford>

President's Newsletters

President's Newsletters

In her **June** President's Newsletter, Joanna Manganara evaluates the outcome of CSW 60

[Read the Newsletter](#)

In her **July** Newsletter, the President describes why Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a violation of the human rights of girls and women

[Read the Newsletter](#)

UNITED NATIONS: Calls for action

United Nations

Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women: Call for Action

The Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences, Ms Dubravka Šimonović, intends, inter alia, to focus on the legal and policy frameworks of her mandate and the international human rights mechanisms to discuss the gap in incorporating and implementing the international and regional standards related to violence against women. In this context she wishes to secure views from different stakeholders, including States, National Human Rights Institutions, Non-governmental organizations, as well as members of academia.

IAW urges women to provide input.

[Read more and act on the call](#)



CEDAW— Call for Comments

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is currently updating its General Recommendation No. 19: "25 years of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19 (1992): Accelerating efforts on gender based violence against women".

The Committee invites all interested parties to submit comments in writing on the "Draft update of General Recommendation No. 19" (to be indicated in the subject title) to the following email address: cedaw@ohchr.org

Deadline September 30

[Get the full picture](#)



SDG Indicators

The United Nations has just published a report with new data showing the biggest gaps between reality and the new Social Development Goals, which were adopted by the nations of the world in New York in September

[The report is available here](#)



Irina Bokova
UNESCO

OECD—DAC

Around the world



Campaign for Feminist Secretary General

Gender bias in the UN?

Out of the twelve candidates for the next Secretary General of the UN, six are women. In the first informal vote in the Security Council, only one of the six women reached the top five. Four of the five at the bottom are women.

Obviously the Council ignored the pressure of 60 member states, an open letter signed by UN experts and former leaders and petitions from civil society to appoint a woman.

[Read the article](#)

[List of candidates](#)

OECD-

The main objective of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is to promote development co-operation and other policies so as to contribute to sustainable development. The Committee monitors development finance flows, reviews and provides guidance on development co-operation policies, promotes sharing of good practices and helps shape the global development architecture.

DAC has just published a report:

[Tracking the Money for Women's Economic Empowerment - Overall Donor Support Targeted for Gender Equality: Small](#)

Conclusion: The money provided for women's economic empowerment is still a drop in the ocean in spite of the fact that a prerequisite for achieving gender equality and building inclusive and prosperous societies. Is that women are economically empowered.

We usually associate **child marriage** with Africa and India, but what about America? [Read more](#)

Pakistan will pass law banning honour killings
[Read more](#)

46% of rape victims in Delhi, **India** are minors
[Read more](#)

Learn about the Global Campaign for **Peace Education**
[Click](#)

Violence Against Women

Violence against Women is a scourge all over the world, not least in Latin America. During the Olympic Games in Brazil an NGO, Rio de Paz, has organised a protest against violence against women

[Brazil's Copacabana Beach Dotted With Underwear To Protest Violence Against Women](#)

IAW is financed by membership fees and private donations.

Support our work for equal rights—equal responsibilities for women all over the world

[**DONATE NOW**](#)