

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter

August 2017

no. 4

In this issue:

- Congress in Cyprus
- News from International Representatives
- IAW around the world
- Around the world

Dear members and subscribers.

First of all, please, note the information about Congress in Cyprus:

Deadlines:

New deadline:

Registration for attendance and booking of accomodation: September 10

Reports for booklet: September 1

Questions? Send email to lenepind@gmail.com

And of course we have news from our international representatives in New York, Geneva, Vienna, European Women's Lobby.

Why I became a feminist is a story by a 17-year-old South Korean girl.

IAW member, Anjana Basu, has had a new book published.

Congress in Cyprus

**- Eliminating violence against women and girls
—winning peace and prosperity in the world**

IAW will be holding its 37th Triennial Congress in Nicosia, Cyprus on the generous invitation of **Pancyprian Movement—Equal Rights Equal Responsibilities**, whose president is Koulla Koumides.

Congress is the most important meeting in IAW. At Congress we elect a new board, including a president, secretary general and treasurer for the next triennium. We also adopt an action programme, which will be the basis of IAW's work for the next triennium. Congress is the meeting where we decide on a political strategy for the period till the next Congress, so it is important that our members attend.

All members of IAW are invited to come: representatives of member organisations, individual members, commission conveners and members, international representatives, all office bearers, everybody will be more than welcome.

Our host has managed to find a good venue for us. They have negotiated extremely reasonable prices with two meals included every day: Breakfast and lunch.

In order to attend, members will have to complete a registration form both

37th Triennial Congress

October 20—28 2017

Nicosia, Cyprus

What is Congress?

Who are invited to attend?

What is going to happen?

What do I do to attend?

Good and cheap hotel

Reports for Congress
- the Booklet

Send to
lenepind@gmail.com
by September 1

Seminar



Pancyprrian Movement
Equal Rights—Equal Re-
sponsibilities



Simone Veil

for the meeting and for the hotel. The relevant papers can be found on the IAW website:

[Click here](#)

If you have questions, send an email to lenepind@gmail.com.

Reports for Congress—the Booklet

Member organisations and office bearers are expected to report to Congress about their activities over the past couple of years. This time they have been asked to describe how their activities are related to the IAW Action Programme.

[Details about the Booklet can be seen here:](#)

As part of the programme of Congress, [our hostess](#) has organised a seminar on the theme of Congress:

Eliminating violence against women and girls
—winning peace and prosperity in the world

The key note speaker will be

[Prof Dr Kalliope Agapiou Josiphedes:](#)

Women, Peace and Security: Silenced policies, invisible aspects, promising perspectives.

Gudrun Haupter, Convener Commission on Health 2 June 2017 writes:

In commemoration of Simone Veil

Simone Veil who spearheaded campaigns to legalize abortion, died June 30th in her Paris home at the age of 89. One of France's most prominent female politicians, she inspired wide respect across the political spectrum.

Her experiences in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, where she lost part of her family, made her a firm believer in the unification of Europe. In a 2007 interview to AP she said: "The idea of war was for me something terrible. The only possible option was to make peace."

Simone Veil rose to become the first elected President of the European Parliament and a symbol of the peace in Europe. Between 1979 and 1993 she was a member of the French Parliament. She also served a term as Minister of Health and during her last years was a member of the Académie Française.

At the height of her efforts to pass the legislation, one anti-abortion lawmaker accused her of "wanting to send children to the ovens" - this famously reduced her to tears.

But France eventually became the first mainly Roman Catholic country to legalize abortion and until today the country's abortion rights law is still called the "Loi Veil".

Throughout the 1970s, she also campaigned to make access to contraception easier following the legalization of the combined oral contraceptive pill in 1967.

*International
representatives*

News from New York

Simone Veil is remembered as a staunch feminist and saw herself as an advocate for the downtrodden. To honour this memorable woman a State Funeral ceremony took place in the courtyard of The Pantheon.

To read more go to: <http://ind.pn/2h2fsh5>

High Level Political Forum Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (HLPF MGoS CM):

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW main representative in New York, on behalf of IAW, signed on to the following letter to the President of ECOSOC: on behalf of IAW

To

H.E. Ambassador Frederick Makamure Shava
President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council
Your Excellency

We, members of the High Level Political Forum Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (HLPF MGoS CM), want to thank you for your continued leadership in the High Level Political Forum process. We appreciate the participatory and transparent approach that ECOSOC has ensured for civil society, major groups and stakeholders engagement in the HLPF.

Acknowledging that human rights, gender equality and sustainability are cross-cutting throughout the 2030 Agenda, as well as the need for continued transparent and active civil society and stakeholders engagement in its implementation and follow up process, we approach you with concerns related to the negotiations that are currently taking place regarding the Ministerial Declaration.

We are aware and support your intention of submitting the version of July 10th for adoption on the last day of the HLPF. In this regard, we would also like to suggest that, following procedure, a meeting be called with the relevant member states to work together, prior to Wednesday, to ensure progress in reaching a consensus on the adoption of a strong ministerial declaration. In this process, we would very much appreciate the involvement of MGoS as has been the practice to date.

We are at your disposal to provide concrete recommendations and support a strong and ambitious Ministerial Declaration.

The following members of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) Coordination Mechanism:

Business and Industry Major Group
Children and Youth Major Group
Indigenous Peoples Major Group
Local Authorities Major Group
Non-Governmental Organizations Major Group
Scientific & Technological Community
Women's Major Group
Workers and Trade Unions Major Group
Stakeholder Group for Educational and academic entities
Stakeholder Group of Persons with disabilities

Volunteer groups
Stakeholder Group on Ageing
CSO Financing for Development (FfD) Group
Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (FfD)



Rahima Sajid, IAW representative in New York, reports:

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the HLPF, the United Nations held a meeting with the following title:

Investing and Financing for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG17- Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development): July 13, 2017

This meeting convened to review the current financial plan in place for the 2030 agenda (17 Sustainable Development Goals). There was a quick agreement that this financial plan will not allow us to reach our 17 goals in a timely manner.

Points from the Financing for Development Forum (FFD) document were repeated. This included considering gender equality, figuring out a way to measure the value of unpaid work and its contribution towards the development of the national economy; building infrastructures that are both resilient and reliant and to move towards a more data and evidence based process.

[Read more](#)

POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND WOMEN

By Lyda Verstegen, Honorary President and IAW representative to Geneva

In June I went to Geneva to attend 10th session of the ILO Conference. The ILO, the International Labour Organisation is the oldest specialized agency of the United Nations. It was founded in 1919 in the aftermath of the First World War. It is unique because its meetings are tripartite: workers, employers and governments, as equals. It prepares Conventions, finally concluded by governments, Declarations and Recommendations. In short, It sets standards for the labour relations. And for social justice.

I went to the ILO Conference, as convener of the Human Rights Commission, because I wanted to know how they would make the link between labour principles and rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs have as first goal an end to poverty (less than 1,25\$ pp per day), goal 5 is Equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, goal 8 Decent work and economic growth, and goal 10 Reduced inequalities within and between countries.

All these can be furthered by applying the ILO Conventions and Recommendations. [Read more](#)

News from Geneva



CSW NGO/ GE—informal meeting attended by Esther Suter

[Read more](#)

UN Convention against Corruption

The United Nations Convention against Corruption in force since 14 December 2005 is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The vast majority of United Nations Member States – exactly 182 - are parties to the Convention.

The Convention covers five main areas: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, asset recovery, and technical assistance and information exchange and covers many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector.



Rosy Weiss

Rosy Weiss, IAW main representative in Vienna, attended an NGO event:

Accountability, transparency, participation -

- ***Interesting findings*** from an NGO event organized at the margins of the Eighth session of the Implementation Review Group (IRG) of the Conference of the States Parties of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), Vienna, 19-23 June 2017.

A meeting, at the margins, no doubt. Not on the official agenda, a one-day briefing for NGOs with voluntary participation of member states representatives. Lengthy statements read from Bureau members on progress made and resources available. Followed by NGO statements of the usual suspects: Transparency International and UNCAC Coalition. Conclusion: NGOs remain not accepted as observers at the governments deliberations. The rest of the day's agenda: three technical round-tables - „give them voice and importance“

So far from our vision: accountability, transparency, participation.

Official documents available:

CAC/COSP/IRG/2017/NGO/3: Written statement by UNCAC Coalition. "Making UNCAC work".

CAC/COSP/IRG/2017/NGO/4: Written statement by UNCAC Coalition. "Discussion draft - A Guide to Transparency and Participation in the UNCAC Review Mechanism".

CAC/COSP/IRG/2017/NGO/6: Written statement by Transparency International. "Transparency and Participation in the International Meetings of Anti-Corruption Review Mechanisms".

All documents to be found on <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/IRG/session8.html>.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe ([OSCE](#))

With 57 participating States in North America, Europe and Asia, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization. OSCE traces its origins back to the Helsinki Final Act (1975) and the creation of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which during the Cold War ser-

ved as an important multilateral forum for dialogue and negotiation between East and West.

Invitation from Rosy Weiss

The Seventh session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention against Corruption will be held at the V.I.C. from 6 to 10 November 2017.

Interested friends wishing to attend will find hospitality in my apartment in the centre of Vienna.



Rosy Weiss attended the 2nd OSCE Gender Equality Review Conference, June 2 in Vienna and sends these **impressions**:

On the screen:

„At the current rate it will take 170 years to close the global gender pay gap.

81% of OSCE- member states have laws to punish sexual harrassment, 83% to punish domestic violence and 39 to punish marital rape.

22% of MS parliamentarians are women

90% men versus 10% women serve in the OSCE MS military forces.

Gender balance across the OSCE structures: 54% male against 46% female.

Women's issues are located within in the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Warsaw.

OSCE Women's empowerment principles:

- establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality;
- treat all women and men fairly at work – respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination;
- ensure health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers;
- promote education, training and professional development for women;
- implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women;
- promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy;
- measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality.

PS. Personal remark: Participants saw video messages from OSCE and UN Women representatives. As an Austrian I take note that for the Austrian Chairmanship this event was not worth attending neither in person nor via video message.

Arina Angerman, IAW representative on the Board of the European Women's Lobby attended the EWL General Assembly:

Feminists (F/M) with a To-Do List

The atmosphere at General Assembly 'Mobilise, Strategise and Act' of Euro-

pean Women's Lobby was an inspiring event of 'politics & friendship'. I prepared IAW's contribution with IAW's alternate Marion Boeker. IAW's contribution was to strategise on 'gender budgeting' in EWL's Working Programme 2017/18 and complemented EWL's impressive (co-)funding results in 2016 & 2017.



Wendy O'Brien, Australia & Arina Angerman visiting Atria, Institute on gender equality and women's history (170517) in Amsterdam

IAW's Emergency Motion 'Banning of small arms must be part of European Year on Combating Violence Against Women' got great support at EWL's General Assembly 2015. This was followed up in an EWL letter - 26th 2017 - to EU Commissioner on Security Union, Julian King, asking for his concrete actions in the European Commission year of focused actions on violence against women in 2017. *"The most unsafe place for women and girls is at home. Small arms like knives (which are classified as small arms), pistols and rifles are easy to buy and conceal. They give a sense of power to partner, ex-partner, family member or acquaintance and are great threats to the safety of women and girls. ... We believe that within your areas of responsibilities such actions could include to allocate resources to raise awareness about prevention of violence against women and girls and the harm especially caused by the use of small arms like knives, pistols and rifles."*

My ambition is among other things to continue to be active on social media and share EWL's @EuropeanWomen tweets with followers of International Alliance of Women @Womenalliance EWL now has 12.000 followers, IAW 583, and I have as @ArinaNoel 957 followers & @MarionBoeker has 1.220 (seen at 2017.07.21). Please help us and retweet / share 'our' messages!

You can read about activities of EWL and its members at [EWL's website](#) including #HerNetHerRights, a new project to stop violence against women & girls in the digital sphere!

Anuarite Siiriwabo Muyuwa is the president of our associate Sofedec in Congo. Helped by Danielle Levy and Monique Bouaziz she was able to follow a UNESCO course on water management in Ouagadougou. Since she has been giving courses in her region.

L'EAU C'EST LA VIE :

Quelle conséquence à la femme qui s'en charge et qui ne fait que donner la vie ?

D'après les études faites par UNICEF, en zone rural les femmes et les enfants fournissent la quasi-totalité de l'eau servant à la famille.

En observant dans nos sociétés, nous nous rendons compte que les femmes est les filles sont toujours en mouvement, agitées par la recherche de l'eau.

La situation de la femme et de la fille influe beaucoup sur le prix à payer dans la recherche de l'eau pour assainir et mettre en bonne hygiène leur environnement. La charge qu'elles ont sur leurs têtes, les transformations hormonales de reproduction chez elles font qu'elles aient beaucoup plus d'intérêt dans l'amélioration des conditions d'accès à l'eau potable. C'est pourquoi après une analyse par nous faite en zone rurale comme en zone urbaine, certaines filles ont abandonné les études parce que l'école manque des toilettes assainies, lorsqu'elles doivent chaque fois qu'elles ont leurs menstrues, rester sans aller à l'école pendant cinq jours chaque mois, de peur de mauvaises conditions hygiéniques. D'autre abandonnent les études parce que les services d'eau sont loin des ménages, elles sacrifient tout le temps à la recherche de l'eau afin de



Anuarite Siiriwabo Muyuwa

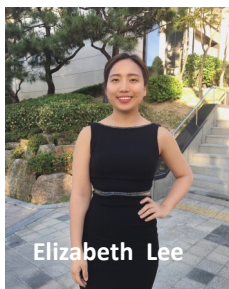
servir la famille pour ne pas perdre la vie, comme l'eau c'est la vie et la femme est là pour donner des vies. Lors d'un entretien avec une dame du Niger rencontrée à Ouagadougou, Madame Saidou Fatimata, elle m'a révélé un danger que la société nigérienne a couru l'année 2003, selon lequel il s'est manifesté une baisse grave du taux d'accroissement de la population, qui a créé une panique.

Après les analyses des sociologues, la cause était le manque d'eau. Tout le temps les femmes étaient à la recherche de l'eau jour et nuit et n'avaient même pas le minimum de temps pour être à côté de leurs maris pour produire des enfants et donner de la joie à leurs maris. La conséquence n'est autre que la rupture des mariages. Au Niger même, lorsqu'on marie une fille, rien qu'on lui donne comme cadeau qu'un âne pour le transport de l'eau.

Au cours de nos activités lors des réceptions des victimes des viols, vous découvrirez avec nous que certaines femmes et filles ont été violées au chemin de l'eau.

Ainsi donc, les femmes et les filles ont le plus grand intérêt à l'amélioration des services d'adduction d'eau et assainissement et à la continuation de bon fonctionnement des services d'eau.

C'est pourquoi la question de bonne condition d'accès à l'eau et un bon assainissement est prioritaire pour les femmes et les filles.



Elizabeth Lee recently joined IAW. She is a 17-year-old Korean girl and has started a campaign for equal pay in her city in South Korea .

Read her article about [why she became a feminist](#)

Varina Winder is a former Senior Policy Advisor on Women's and Girls' Rights at the U.S. State Department. In this nearly heartbreaking letter she describes how the policies of the Trump Administration will be a disaster to women all over the world .

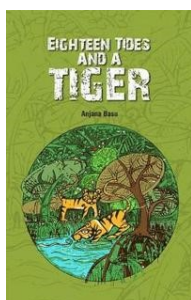
[Dear Secretary Tillerson: This is why I had to resign](#)



Book launch by Anjana Basu

[On International Tiger Day](#) Anjana Basu launched her book [Eighteen Tides and a Tiger](#) published by TERI, an environmental organisation with a publishing wing. The book is part of a series of 3 she has written for children on issues like habitat loss and man animal conflict, told through stories involving the ghost of Jim Corbett, known for his writings on tigers. All 3 books were published by TERI.

[Watch this video](#) The book is available [here](#) and [here](#)



IAW Editorial group: lenepind@gmail.com
International Women's News: iawiwn@womenalliance.org
Membership Officer: iaw.membership@womenalliance.org