

# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities  
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter June 2015

no. 3

## *In this issue*

1. IAW News
2. Earthquake in Nepal
3. Birth registration
4. Peace Conference
5. UN
6. EWL
7. IAW around the world
8. Around the world

## *Dear members and subscribers*

*One of the most important issues in this newsletter is the information about the earthquake in Nepal. IAW has an affiliated organization there. They are deeply involved in providing emergency assistance to the victims. Please help the Rural Women's Network of Nepal help victims.*

*IAW is working to find a new host for the International Meeting*

*Deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is July 15*

## **News from IAW**

### **International Meeting 2015**

IAW recently received an email from board member Shaikha Al Mezen saying that much to the regret of the Union of Kuwaiti Women, they had to say that they cannot host the IAW International Meeting in Kuwait. The situation in the region is far too unstable, and it may not be safe for IAW to go there.

This is really very regrettable, but as Shaikha Al Mezen says in her email, "The issue is not in our hands"

So IAW is looking for a different host and hopes to hear from one of our member organizations soon. So for the time being we are waiting for a new host and probably also new dates. Information will be sent out as soon as possible.

### **Earthquake in Nepal**

#### **- Emergency assistance**

IAW member organization in Nepal, Rural Women's Network of Nepal (RUWON) has asked for help to provide immediate relief for the many victims of the earthquake. As usual, women and children are the worst sufferers. Women by the thousands are giving birth in the open, and unprotected children esp. girls are in danger of being sold by traffickers. A second earthquake has made everything worse.

Read more here about how—as a consequence of the earthquake—thousands

Kuwait is cancelled as venue for the International Meeting

Who will host the meeting instead?

of women will give birth to children who will not be Nepalese citizens

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/ruwonnepal?fref=ts> and find out how you can help or [click here](#)

Birth registration



**Gudrun Haupter, IAW representative to WHO, and Lyda Verstegen, IAW representative to the Human Rights Council, have sent the following**

**African ministers agree to launch a Decade of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)**

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) in its March Newsletter, reported on the Conference of African Ministers 9 to 13 February 2015 under the theme “Promoting the use of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in support of Good Governance in Africa.” The PMNCH Secretariat is hosted and administered by the World Health Organization in Geneva.

At the Conference held in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, African nations committed to systematically documenting the continent's vital events over the next ten years. To this end Ministers agreed to launch a decade of CRVS, covering 2015 to 2024. The goal of this agreement would centre round the idea of “leaving no child out” and “no country behind” in the effort to register all births and vital events in Africa. The initiative is particularly important as many African governments have not been able to meet or monitor the UN Millennium Development Goals on infant and maternal health.

The first version of the CRVS will be published online in September 2015 and will be a live document that will continue to grow and develop based on input from relevant stakeholders. The stakeholders include the NGO sector which for many years has advocated stepping up efforts on CRVS.

IAW, in a resolution “*The invisible child in the world*” adopted in 2013, asks its member organizations to either influence their governments to put a birth registration system in place or to urge their governments to help countries do so through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, for instance.

[Read more](#)

68<sup>th</sup> World Health  
Assembly

**IAW statement on the occasion of the 68th World Health Assembly:**

The International Alliance of Women focuses on women's and girls' reproductive health and rights. In our view, 20 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, corroborated in 2000 by the Outcomes document of Beijing+5, progress to improve women's health has remained uneven.

Mandated UN agencies like WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, alongside with governments, NGOs, foundations and individuals became involved in the implementation of the health texts of Beijing. While the diversity of stakeholders is an asset, collaboration, transparency and efficiency of interventions are bound to present challenges.

As to health education and services, rural women still tend to be left behind, particularly so in low- and middle resource countries.

- ◆ They are less likely to be near a reliable source for contraceptives of their choice, or to receive emergency obstetric or other health care.
- ◆ Misconceptions about modern contraceptives remain hardest to eradicate in rural areas.
- ◆ Moral and religious norms detrimental to gender equality continue to particularly affect rural women and girls.

A 2013 UNICEF report estimates 220 million women have an unmet need for family planning and illustrates persisting socioeconomic in-country disparities.

Men continue to be unaware of their responsibility for smaller and more sustainable families.

Universal unbiased education on sexuality remains a far-away goal.

Progress in providing easy access to termination of an unwanted pregnancy remains uneven, so does access to post-abortion care. Abortion laws remain the responsibility of individual member states. Appeals to revise abortion bans for health and human rights reasons show mixed results. Access to RU486 and to emergency contraception - which does not cause an abortion – remains the privilege of a few in most countries.

Finally, sexualized violence, with its many faces, keeps undermining women's health and human rights everywhere, and needs determined action on the part of governments and societies.

(Gudrun Haupter)

*Domestic child labour in  
Haiti*



Marie-Claude Julsaint

**Marie-Claude Julsaint, IAW representative to the Human Rights Council in Geneva**, has sent this report from a panel discussion hosted by the Permanent Mission of Haiti on the occasion of the 28th session of the UN Human Rights Council 25 March 2015

#### **Panel recommendations for the Government of Haiti**

The following recommendations were articulated by both panelists and participants:

- ◆ Review the findings of the soon to be released study on child domestic labour in Haiti
- ◆ Increase awareness of the general population and disseminate existing laws on child domestic labour in non-technical language, in rural and urban areas
- ◆ Put in place measures to increase implementation of existing laws, as well as sanctions to prevent impunity

- ◆ Improve the legal framework
- ◆ Better understand the socio-cultural and anthropological aspects of child domestic labour in Haiti
- ◆ Adopt a human-rights based approach that does not use culture to condone child rights violations
- ◆ In the framework of a pilot project, work with families who could serve as models/champions on this issue
- ◆ Ensure reintegration of survivors of child domestic labour

*Peace conference in the Hague 1915 and 2015*



### **Peace Conference in the Hague 1915 and 2015**

In April, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Peace Conference in the Hague.. The celebrations including a conference took place in the Hague, and IAW was there.

#### **Lyda Verstegen has sent this report from the event:**

There was a flash mob in front of the Peace Palace in the Hague to honour the brave suffragettes who in 1915, in the middle of the war came to the neutral Netherlands to plan for peace.

Inside on this sunny 25 April 2015 a bust of Dr Aletta Jacobs was unveiled. Aletta Jacobs was the first female physician, and the first female student of medicine in the Netherlands. She tried to be on the voters list, and when the authorities didn't allow her she became a founding member of the Association for Female Suffrage in 1894. She was also present in Berlin in 1904 when IWSA was founded, the forerunner of IAW.

It was war in Europe and the IWSA cancelled its 1915 Congress which would have been held in Berlin.

Yet many members everywhere felt something should be done to protest against the war.

[Read more](#) on the website of our Dutch affiliate.

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

In 1990 the European Women's Lobby was created in response to a growing awareness of the need to defend women's interests at European level. So this year we celebrate 25 years of feminist action and activism all over Europe ! On May 29, 2015 you are invited to join EWL's members in Brussels for debate, music and celebrations ! More info soon !

[EWL 25 years](#)



Aletta Jacobs & Arina Angermann: connecting IAW feminists 1915 & 2015

Arina Angermann, IAW representative to the EWL has sent this:

## Women and the Media & #Beijing20

One of Beijing '95 strategic objectives is 'Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and the new technologies of communication.' Did you know that only 16% of photos in European newspaper show women over 45 years of age (according to the project "You can't be what you can't see")? In the EU, women account for only 24% of people that we hear and read about in the news. Only 4% of the news coverage is against stereotypical portrayal.

Read more:

[EWL factsheet \*From Words to Action 1995-2015\* A European Women's Lobby review of the activities of the European Union p 26-27](#)

In May 2015, EWL demands 'Mirror, mirror on the wall ... a fair and equal representation of women in the media in Europe'

## #Beijing20 & Twitter

During the past decade, advances in information technology have facilitated a global communications network that transcends national boundaries. One of the challenges is that women who write on the Internet and participate in social media, on blogs and other online forums, meet increasing hostility and harassment. This is a way to silence women's voices in the public sphere.

At my public sphere Twitter account - @ArinaNoel - I retweeted an infographic of women in the media by UN Women.

There are around 2 Billion active social media accounts. Roughly half of social media users are women. Feminist hashtags - # - that have added to global conversations on gender inequality are #Beijing20 #HeForShe and #EverydaySexism The # symbol, called hashtag, is used to mark keywords or topics in a Tweet. Do you use hashtags at Twitter?

<http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/infographic/media>



## United Nations

The United Nations has published its annual report: **Progress of the World's Women** with the subtitle *Transforming economics—Realizing Rights*

One question that is raised in the introduction is *Why focus on women's economic and social rights* and the answer is: *It is clear: the global economy is not working for women. This report offers a new economic agenda, one firmly rooted in the human rights framework, and brings rights—the right of all women to a good job, with equal pay and safe working conditions; the right to an adequate pension; the right to healthcare, and water and sanitation—into economic policymaking.*

[Read the report](#)

### Celebrating 70 anniversary of the United Nations

The Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) in collaboration with the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development organised a panel and a reception to honour the United Nations on its 70th Anniversary, Thursday, May 7 2015. Keynote Speaker was H. E. Ambassador Martin Sajdik (Austria), President of ECOSOC

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW main representative to the UN in New York and vice chair of CoNGO greeted the participants in the reception with the following words:



CoNGO board and ambassadors

*Dear friends,*

*As the First-Vice-President of CoNGO and the UN representative for the International Alliance of Women, I welcome you to this commemoration of the UN's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The IAW—an umbrella for over 50 organizations world-wide—was founded in 1904. Originally based in Geneva as part of the women's international peace movement, we were among the many women's organizations that strongly supported the creation of the UN.*

*I mention the founding date of the IAW to remind us that the UN exists because ordinary citizens around the globe cried out for world peace. The social movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries created the political momentum that led to the founding of the UN. We remember Eleanor Roosevelt's valiant call for women's rights to be included in the UN Charter. We honor those NGOs and civil society leaders who pushed governments to make a commitment for a strong and vibrant international organization.*

*CoNGO's commitment to making civil society's voices heard at the UN thus continues this important relationship. I'd like to pay special tribute to our CoNGO president, Cyril Richie. Cyril has been with CoNGO as a member and officer for more than 45 years. Cyril RITCHIE was the President of the 2006 International Civil Society Forum for Democracy, held in Doha. He was from 2000 to 2008 President of the Council of Europe INGO Grouping « Civil society and democracy in Europe » and is currently President of the Expert Council on NGO Law. His dedication to CoNGO's mission is constant and admirable. Please join me in thanking him for organizing today's panel at the UN.*

*We also thank our co-sponsor, the UNSRC Friendship Club for this beautiful space. In case you are wondering what UNSRC stands for, it is not a "UN Security Council Resolution", but much more on the Recreation side. This co-sponsored event marks a new friendship between CoNGO and the Club—one, which we hope, will continue into the future.*

### IAW Around the World

#### Denmark

In 1915 the Danish Constitution was changed so that women and poor people also got the vote.

On June 5 2015 the Danish Women's Society takes the lead to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this event. In 1915 a march through the streets of Copen-

IAW around the world

Women's Suffrage 100 years

hagen took place to celebrate the event. The march ended at the royal palace of Amalienborg. This year another march will be one of the highlights of the celebrations.

All IAW members have been invited to come to Copenhagen and take part in the celebrations.

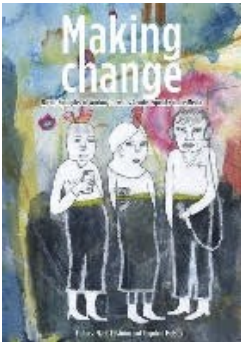
Women celebrating in 1915. This march will be repeated in 2015



## Around the World

### Nordic countries

The Nordic region is well known for having gender equality as a hallmark of society. In the media sector, however, the male dominance persists in many areas, both in the industry itself and in the output. However, in the Nordic region there are also important examples of structural and individual steps towards gender equality in the media.



*Making Change. Nordic Examples of Working Towards Gender Equality in the Media* presents a collection of inspiring media practices in the Nordic region and a compilation of comparative data on gender equality in the Nordic media sector (film, journalism, advertising and computer games). Contributing authors are representatives from academia, civil society, activism and industry.

Editors: Maria Edström & Ragnhild Mølster (eds)

Published by Nordicom, Göteborg. ISBN: 978-91-87857-00-0

[Download the full publication \(pdf\)](#)

### Norway

[Both Sexes Called To Arms as Norway Cons-  
cripts Girls](#)



## China

Men outnumber Women by 33 Million after Decades of Gender Bias .

[Read more](#)



## Bangladesh

In Bangladesh more and more women are turning to community radio as a means of spreading awareness of women issues

[Read this interesting article](#)

## USA

### Should a woman replace Andrew Jackson on the 20\$ bill?

US Senator Jeanne Shaheen introduced legislation that would create a citizen report to suggest a woman to replace President Andrew Jackson on the 20\$ bill. It builds on the work of a grass-roots campaign called Women On 20ies, which advocates putting a woman on the 20\$ bill by 2020, the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

The campaign held an online vote to determine the historic finalists. Of 100 candidates, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Eleanor Roosevelt and Cherokee Nation Chief Wilma Mankiller are on [the final ballot](#)

At the moment Harriet Tubman has the best papers. Born into [slavery](#), Tubman escaped and subsequently made about thirteen missions to rescue approximately seventy enslaved family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the [Underground Railroad](#)

[The campaign](#)

[Read more](#)



## 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)