

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter October 2015

no.5

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Dear members and subscribers

This issue of the Newsletter focuses mainly on the International Meeting of the IAW in Paris October 6—11. One important decision was to have Congress 2016 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Enjoy the link Arina Angerman has sent where Frans Timmerman declares himself to be a feminist.

There are two invitations for events at the UN in Geneva.

IAW has now joined the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights.

There is news from the African Union, and for the first time we have included a feminist poem in the Newsletter.

How gender equal is your country? Study that!

Please, send your contributions for the next Newsletter to lenepind@gmail.com by December 1.

News from IAW

International Meeting

About 50 members of IAW from different continents met October 6 to 11 in Paris for the International Meeting of IAW.

Monique Bouaziz, AFEM, and Danielle Levy deservedly received everybody's applause for all their work and not least their warm hospitality.

The meeting was highly successful. For quite a few participants this was their first IAW meeting, and it was nice to see all the new faces.

Before the meeting the annual booklet of reports from President, members, international representatives, commission conveners etc. had been circulated and is now available on the [IAW website](http://www.iawalliance.org)

One outcome was the adoption of a [political declaration](#), which can now be read on the website.

One major discussion was the modernization of the International Women's News (IWN), including a modernized logo. Our journal has been published since 1906. Once upon a time the IWN was the only means of communication among members. Now we have many different platforms, and consequently IAW must think of a different way of using IWN. [The first issue of IWN](#) in its new form is now on the website. Please send your comments and suggestions to President Joanna Manganara at iawpres@womenalliance.org



It was decided to develop the journal and the logo further, so that a decision can be taken at Congress in 2016, and in the meantime we will experiment with the new logo and IWN, including use different colours

Congress 2016—

November 17 to 25, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

IAW was very fortunate in having two invitations to host the next two meetings.

Women's Comfort Corner, Zimbabwe, whose president is Rita Marque Mbatha, generously invited us for Congress in 2016. Congress will take place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in November 2016. More information will follow, of course.

On the invitation of *Pancyprian Movement—Equal Rights –Equal REsponsibilities, Cyprus*, the Board of IAW will meet in Cyprus in 2017. The invitation was presented by Ellie Christodoulou.

Thank you from IAW to both organizations.

New Commissions

The Commission on the Elimination of Violence against Women has a new convener: Rita Marque Mbatha, Zimbabwe wccf.trust@outlook.com

The Fundraising Commission will be headed by Nathalia Kostus kostusn@gmail.com

New initiatives arising from the International Meeting

On the initiative of Lyda Verstegen, IAW has now joined the [International Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights](#). Lyda will be the contact person

Lyda writes:

Launched in 2014 by an international coalition of NGOs and UN agencies, the Global Campaign advocates reforms for equal nationality rights.

That is necessary. 27 countries prevent mothers from passing their nationality on to their children on an equal basis with fathers. More than 60 countries have gender discriminatory nationality laws.

In 1930 the International Alliance, together with the International Women's Council staged a great demonstration in The Hague to make it possible that women could choose their nationality. This was on the occasion of the Hague Codification Conference of International Private Law.

Then women usually got the nationality, or even the statelessness, of their husbands. In the Netherlands that law was changed in 1936. A woman could keep her Dutch nationality if she could not acquire her husband's. It was under the influence of CEDAW (1979) that in 1984 Dutch women got equal nationality rights with men, including the right to pass on their nationality to their children.

Apart from pure discrimination, it is a violation of children's rights if the mother cannot pass on her nationality. This is a problem if the father is unknown, in case of divorce or widowhood, if the father is stateless. Last year I attended a side event in Geneva where a movie was shown of a family who lived, fatherless, in a country where the mother, a citizen, and the children were born. The children could not go to university, they could not get a job be-



Rita Marque Mbatha



cause they did not have the nationality of their mother.

And it is so simple:

Just change the law so that a father and a mother both have the right to pass on their nationality.



Natalia Kostus presenting her project

Programme on Climate Change and Sustainable Development

On October 7 2015, at the IAW International Meeting in Paris, the Board decided by consensus to give a mandate to Natalia Kostus, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change and Board Member of IAW, to start forming the IAW Programme on Climate Change and Sustainable Development to be adopted and launched at the Congress in 2016 and to have the possibility of attracting funding.

Natalia advised that the Programme will be based on two outcomes: Paris Agreement on Climate Change to be adopted in December 2015 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development adopted in September 2015. She stressed that both outcomes represent global calls to action, leadership, and partnership, represent people's revolutionary movements, set ambitious and specific goals for implementation and are set to attract significant amounts of funding.

Natalia explained that the overarching global programme will comprise a global component and a portfolio of multiple local projects developed and implemented jointly with IAW member organizations; capitalizing on the niche of IAW, which lies in providing the connection between global policy and IAW member organizations that work on the ground. The programme will be focused on climate change, sustainable development, gender equality and women's empowerment, and specific issues including: energy, cities, food security, environment, and consumption.

Natalia led the initial consultation and interactive discussion, gathering the first round of input on the programme direction, scope, strategy, and structure.

If you would like to contribute to the development and participate in the online discussion on the new IAW Programme on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, please e-mail Natalia at: kostusn@gmail.com

What will happen next?

During the discussions and sessions of groupwork participants came up with many good ideas. These suggestions for new initiatives, changes in the organization etc. will now be considered by the executive. As ideas are being elaborated, more information will be given in the Newsletter.

Seminar on surrogacy motherhood

As part of the meeting we had a very interesting seminar on surrogacy motherhood. The French Women's Lobby kindly organised the seminar for us and found the experts, among them Marine Segalen, anthropologist and sociologist of the University of Paris.

If you wish to know more about surrogacy mother there are many articles on the website of the European Women's Lobby. Read e.g about the [Swedish po-](#)

IAW position on surrogacy motherhood has not yet been decided



Veena Kohli (right) discussing with Anje Wiersinga

[sition](#) and the [Stop Surrogacy Now statement](#) of the European Women's Lobby President of the All India Women's Conference, Veena Kohli made an important contribution about the Indian position. [Read it on the IAW website](#). Veena Kohli urgently called on IAW to develop a position on this serious issue, and her proposal was that IAW campaigns for an international ban on surrogacy.

Anje Wiersinga reports that at the Council of Europe the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) is preparing a report and a Recommendation on this subject. This is being prepared by the Committee of Social Affairs and the Committee of Equality and Non-discrimination and will be discussed by the full PACE in January 2016. The draft text is under embargo until January.

The IAW position is still to be worked out.

Commission on the Status of Women 2016 (CSW60)

[CSW60](#) will take place in New York 14 to 24 March 2016.

Priority theme:

Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development

Review theme:

The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls ([agreed conclusions](#) from the fifty-seventh session)

At the International Meeting IAW started preparing for CSW. A number of proposals for side events were discussed:

- Climate Change and women in the context of sustainable development sponsored by IAW, AIWC, CEFAP-Ladies Circle and a government
- Women in Decision Making sponsored by IAW, AIWC, APWA
- Gender-based violence in times of conflict and as a political weapon (IAW + another organization)
- Private Companies and development
- And others

IAW may co-sponsor other side events e.g. on child marriage

These ideas must be developed further.

To get the best spaces in the programme of side events, it is very important to work together with other organizations

NGO participation

Each NGO is allowed a maximum of 20 delegates. A large number of participants in the International Meeting indicated that they plan to go to New York for CSW. Members who plan to go should contact secretary general Lyna Castillo-Javier at jawsec@womenalliance.org who will register all IAW participants online. Registration will begin in November.

Members who have the possibility of representing other organizations should

be registered by these organizations. That will make room for more IAW members.

IAW has submitted a statement for CSW 60. It will be published on the website.



Arina Angerman at International Meeting, Paris
photo: Ursula Nakamura

European Women's Lobby

Arina Angerman, IAW representative in the Policy Committee of the European Women's Lobby has sent the following report:

Women's Leadership in Peace (Webinar), He's a Feminist (YouTube) and Action:

September 21st 2015 was International Day of Peace. Women's organizations have a long history of peace activism and of solidarity. As part of its Year of Action on Beijing+20, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) held [a webinar on the issue of Women and Armed Conflict](#), to celebrate International Day of Peace. A webinar is a seminar that takes place on the Internet, allowing participants in different locations to see and hear the presenters. In my opinion a webinar is a very useful initiative and a way in which to inform, share and connect different generations of feminists and feminists in different parts of the world. In the EWL webinar you hear among others Rada Boric speak on the women's tribunal in Sarajevo, Elizabeth Law on the implementation of UN-SCR 1325 in Northern Ireland, Magda Zenon on the inclusion of women in peace negotiations in Cyprus and Borbala Juhasz from Hungary on the gender dimension of the current refugee crisis.

"It's perhaps more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in armed conflict." Quote by Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Patrick Cammaert, Wilton Park Conference, May 2008

"Key Recommendations from the Panelists

There is no other choice than to mobilise! It's imperative to have women's voices at the core of policies.

We need more education programmes, promoting tolerance. We need to make sure that the younger generations don't repeat our mistakes.

Women need to get policies AND laws, and those laws need to have a gender perspective.

Whom does conflict benefit? We need to look at war and conflicts as economies and dismantle myths about their need."

[EU 1st Vice-President Frans Timmermans is a feminist \(#HeForShe\)](#)

At the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment meeting of Global Leaders at the UN (150927) he said "I have a confession to make, I'm a feminist. Saying I'm a feminist should be the same as saying I'm a human being".
From Words to Action?

European Women's Lobby has a new website <http://www.womenlobby.org/?lang=en> You can keep up-to-date with their activities and feminist news from around the world in a bi-weekly EWL newsletter by submitting your email on the website. Or you can like their page at Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/European-Womens-Lobby-169340673246/> The page already has 24.000 likes! Please do join the Action!

Gudrun Haupter, convener of the IAW Health Commission has sent the

following:



Female genital mutilation violates – among other human rights – the sexual and reproductive health rights of girls and women. According to the OHCHR, Women's sexual and reproductive health rights are also at risk when they are subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriage. WHO says that Female Genital Mutilation is a global health issue, and can have devastating physical, psychological, and social consequences for women and girls.

I can report a big success for the project of Deutscher Frauenring to end the harmful traditional practice in rural Burkina Faso. At the end of October this year's cooperation with our African partner organization will culminate in a big public ceremony to swear off FGM. The circumcisors who used to do the job will put down their knives, village and neighborhood chiefs will hold up signs reading in French, "This village renounces female genital mutilation". Public pleas will expand the reasons.

To get the whole population on board, our partners involved the traditional and religious authorities, representatives of the local and provincial education and health levels, as well as focus groups of the young, women and men. Door-to-door visits were also part of the meticulous preparations.

Though the action is limited to areas in and around Kongoussi, it is hoped more villages of the Department where our partners work will follow suit and stop practising FGM for good.

Geneva:

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW main representative to the UN New York sends this invitation to a very informal lunchtime meeting on:

Cities for CEDAW

1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Friday 13 November 2015

You are cordially invited to attend an informal **lunchtime** briefing on the US Cities for CEDAW campaign presented by the NGO CSW/NY along with civil society representatives

The meeting will take place at the UN in Geneva in conference room XVI

Cities for CEDAW



Soon-Young Yoon also forwards **an invitation by the NCD Alliance and the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network (YP-CDN)** to participate in a Civil Society Caucus ahead of the WHO GCM/NCD Dialogue on International Cooperation for NCDs 30 November to 1 December.

Soon-Young writes:

This is an unusual opportunity for the women's movement and NGOs to have an input into WHO's non-communicable diseases partnerships dialogue. If you know NGOs interested to join in the caucus, please have them register before 7 November. They also need to register for the WHO meeting in Geneva.

Around the World

The African Union has adopted a [Declaration on 2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa's Agenda 2063](#)

Abortion study

A recent study

<http://www.newstatesman.com/lifestyle/2015/07/95-women-i-dont-regret-my-abortion-it-was-happiest-day-my-life>

From Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial we have received this:

[PM's Claim Of Toilets For Girls In Every School Fails Scrutiny](#)



Books and Film

[Mona Eltahawy](#), famous Egyptian journalist and activist, has published a book:

Headscarves and Hymens – why the Middle East needs a sexual revolution

New film on the Suffragettes

[Read more](#)

Useful links



GUIDEBOOK ON CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 30 & UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY

http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/CEDAW-Guide-REV2_UNW.pdf

HOW TO FOLLOW UP ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS – GUIDE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/CivilSociety/HowtoFollowUNHRRecommendations.pdf>

OCCUPATIONAL GENDER SEGREGATION IN EUROPEAN LABOUR MARKETS – NEW METHOD TO UNDERSTAND

[Read more](#)

Invitations to make donations to IAW and/ or pay your annual fees

The new online payment system makes it possible for everybody to pay their annual membership fees and/or make donations to IAW. Donations may be made to the general IAW work, or you may choose among other projects. Go to the website, then to 'donate' in the top menu. This will take you to the donation page, where you can choose an amount and a bit down the page in a scroll down menu choose among a number of different possibilities.

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](#)

Zainab Sayed, Pakistan/Australia, feminist, IAW member, recently won a poem contest, which gave her the opportunity of performing at the Sydney Opera House.



Tahrir square celebrates its second anniversary with a striptease.

When midnight strikes
The night explodes with balloons and fireworks
the world glues in and looks to patterns in the sky

on the ground
there is a piercing scream
stitched into the melody of a million lanterns
yet she remains unlit
as she is ripped from her seams
and left, an unstitched thing

when asked for numbers so NGO's can go to their governments
to petition
one person as collateral is not enough of damage
afterall, there are bigger things to fight for,
like this land
this blood
but not woman
she is not land enough, she is not blood enough,
and now, an unstitched thing
she is not woman enough
now her bleeding; the explosion of colour,
like a carnival,
a historic moment in the history of her nation -
everyone was too busy watching the lanterns they missed the one that went out.

When a United Nations conference adopted guidelines for ending violence against women, the Brotherhood condemned the statement, saying it would undermine Islamic ethics and lead to the disintegration of society.

As if to say,
her blood across the streets of Tahrir Square is no longer holy for a nation
how soil becomes more of a thing to worship than the womb that births all of humanity
as if they don't know each woman cradles all of humanity in her lap
as if a woman is a thing to extinguish
something to be broken

every rape is a nation pulling the air out of its own lifelines
ripping apart the very homes that protect them
if those who cheer are just as important as those who demonstrate
then it follows that those who remain silent are just as accomplice as those who
rob a woman of womanhood
deny her, her worth

if we allow our women to be undone
who is to say we were not the ones
unravelling the hooks
undressing our daughters
for the crowds to devour?

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

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