



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

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Feminism is the radical notion that women are people! *

The *Agreed Conclusions* reached at the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women were accepted by the majority of states. Some regretted more progress was not made. Others, however, did not support parts of the text relating to sexual and reproductive rights. These states included Egypt, the Vatican (Holy See), Iran, Sudan, Nicaragua, Jordan, Qatar, Libya, Honduras. (See IAW website IWA's weblog for *Agreed Conclusions*)

The *New York Times* editorial 11 March 2013 headed *Unholy Alliance* included: "Halfway into their two-week annual meeting, delegates to the Commission on the Status of Women fear they will not be able to agree on a final communiqué, just like last year.

The draft conclusions had already been condemned in a statement made on 14 March 2013 by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. "This declaration, if ratified, would lead to complete disintegration of society, and would certainly be the final step in the intellectual and cultural invasion of Muslim countries, eliminating the moral specificity that helps preserve cohesion of Islamic societies" is an extract from that statement.

Who is to blame? Delegates and activists are pointing fingers at the Vatican, Iran and Russia for trying to eliminate language in a draft communiqué asserting that the familiar excuses — religion, custom, tradition — cannot be used by governments to duck their obligation to eliminate violence. The United Nations Human Rights Council endorsed similar language just six months ago.

This all reflects the time and effort spent during CSW57 to protect women against strong fundamentalist attempts to roll back hard won women's human rights. In a statement published at CSW57, the Arab Caucus said: "The current position taken by some Arab governments at this meeting is clearly not prevention of violence representative of civil society views, aspirations or best practices regarding women and girls within our countries. We are in fact concerned that many of our governments are taking positions which undermine the very basis of the UDHR, which is the universality, and indivisibility of human rights."

* This phrase is attributed to British author/journalist Rebecca West (1892-1983) and seems particularly apt given some of the views expressed at CSW57 and continuing to be expressed in other forums.

CSW57 – IAW side events

Report by Lene Pind, IAW Secretary-General

It takes the whole village to eliminate violence against women

Presented by Mmabatho Ramagoshi, IAW Board Member

Mmabatho started out by expressing her frustration with CSW and discussing the same things, asking the same questions, adopting new documents etc, and nothing happens. "It is as if we haven't moved."

She then moved on to her presentation, describing the village, starting in the family, which is one village, moving on to school, government, the church, religion, media, workplaces, and into the global village. At all these different levels action must be taken. If there is no harmony at home, this is the message children will take with them into society. If schools don't have a gender equality policy, this will affect the children. Gender based crimes at school must be punished, so that the children get the message that this is not the way. South Africa has very progressive legislation but without enforcement it is not moving. Religion plays an important role but women and men get different messages from the bible; Media must be active to show that you are not a man if you abuse; Workplaces must be gender friendly; The international community must hold countries accountable.



Lene Pind, Mmabatho Ramagoshi, Thoko Majukweni

Thoko Majukweni, deputy National Director of Public Prosecution, South Africa, emphasized that the fact the global village had failed to implement the different conventions and treaties was a disaster. NGOs must press for implementation and accountability. In the criminal justice system the rules applied in terms of gender are not even the same; the police have different norms than the judges. There was a need for a process of cleansing in the judiciary system.

Hope is in coming together. The gum tree is a big, beautiful, nice smelling tree, but nothing can grow underneath. This is the image of the individual. The individual may be big and beautiful but will not accomplish anything alone. Holding hands is the way forward and forming relationships between governments and people/NGOs. Intergenerational Dialogue is needed.

Prosecuting Gender Based Crimes before the International Criminal Court (ICC)

presented by Dr Susanne Riveles, IAW Board Member

The panelist **Jelena Pia-Comella**, program director of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) in NY, spoke about the inclusion of gender provisions in the Rome Statute (RS), the treaty that created the ICC and defined its principles. The ICC is the first permanent international judicial body capable of trying individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes when national courts are unable or unwilling to do so.

By April 2012, ten years after the ICC came into force, 139 countries had signed the treaty but only 121 had ratified the Rome Statute, the US being among the latter. The Rome Statute recognizes rape, sexual slavery, trafficking, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy and enforced sterilization as mass crimes. The RS recognizes gender based crimes and sexual violence as war crimes, crimes against humanity mainly, and not as collateral acts of war. Impunity for rape as a weapon of war could become an occurrence of the past.

By ratifying the Rome Statute and its landmark gender provisions, states can protect women's rights and ensure justice for grave gender-based crimes.

John Washburn, convener of the American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the ICC (AMICC), spoke about the role the US government has played from the establishment of the court to the Obama administration's policy towards the ICC, which he described as being more positively engaged in the Assembly of State Party's meetings despite not being a signatory yet.

He stressed the important role of Non Governmental Women's Organizations in providing the right input and information for their national delegations at the CSW57.

Both panelists reiterated that being free of violence against women is a basic human right that is not negotiable. They pointed out that women's organizations should use their own language to better convince local parliamentarians.

The ICC still faces many challenges in effectively investigating and prosecuting these crimes but the hope was that in time the law will help to change human behaviour.

The very informative presentations and the concrete suggestions by the panelists for raising awareness about the court were well received by the audience and inspired a lively Q and A session.

Looking back at CSW57



Soon-Young Yoon and Lyda Verstege

IAW members were occasionally allowed some time to relax and one happy occasion was when the delegation was very kindly hosted for dinner by Soon-Young. Lyda gave an address, saying:

You know what is wrong with the IAW? We are too talented a bunch of women.

We work for women's human rights in a great number of ways, and so we seem not to be focussed. But we are, we are just each providing a piece of the kaleidoscope:

Torild Skard writes about political participation, Mmabatho Ramagoshi about community building, Rosy Weiss about violence from a human rights perspective, and Margunn Bjornholt and Joanna Manganara from an social economic perspective. Anje Wiersinga seeks attention for the new European Convention on elimination of violence against women, Susanne Riveles for the International Criminal Court, I have written a plan for a national plan to end violence and Soon-Young has made an enormous contribution to the North American/European caucus paper to which Jocelynne Scutt today has added some ideas.

And these are just the contributions to this particular CSW.

We must bring all this knowledge to Congress in London in September. On the basis of CSW 57, our contributions there, and what other members do in their different fields, we will

work out the new Action Programme for the next triennium to make sure that Gender Equality becomes an important part of the Post 2015 Development Goals and is mainstreamed into all other goals.

During the morning briefings about the negotiations here in New York, UNWomen tells us time and again how important it is that NGOs lobby their governments. In some cases there seems to be a gap between what diplomats in New York know and what the actual situation is in their country. For instance NGOs from Pakistan pointed out to their delegation that the legislation in Pakistan was much more progressive than what the delegation was trying to negotiate here.

The zero draft of the agreed conclusions is the bottom line of what we hope to achieve. They are being added to and diminished; that's what the negotiations are for.

International Women's Day 2013

UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet stressed that discrimination and violence against women and girls have no place in the 21st century.

“This year on International Women’s Day, we say enough is enough. Discrimination and violence against women and girls has no place in the 21st century. It is time for Governments to keep their promises and protect human rights in line with the international conventions and agreements that they signed on to. A promise is a promise,” she said in a message of both outrage and hope that discrimination and violence must end.



POST2015.org – what comes after the MDGs?

Post-2015 Development Agenda Bulletin

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Post 2015 Development Goals is the theme for the IAW Congress 9-13 September 2013 in London

IAW member organisations are discussing these issues in various fora in order to ensure their governments are kept constantly up to date with civil society's needs and expectations post MDGs.

The aim is for government delegations to be prepared well in advance with fully researched findings and completed recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda.

It is hoped that this period of research and discussion will embrace wide interaction between and within governments and civil society – nationally, regionally and internationally.

Keeping track of what's happening

The debate on what should follow the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015 is thoroughly underway. There is a new meeting, report or conference on the subject somewhere in the world almost every day. Trying to keep track of what the key players are thinking, writing and saying is becoming increasingly difficult.

This post-2015.org website (see *Future Goals Tracker*) and the [@post2015](https://twitter.com/post2015) Twitter account bring together the key documents, reports and ongoing research on the post-2015 agenda, with regular updates on events and briefings about the emerging agenda.

The post-2015.org site and @post2015 twitter feed are co-ordinated by the [Overseas Development Institute](http://www.odi.org.uk), which has a [major research programme](http://www.odi.org.uk) on the post-2015 agenda. It welcomes information about new research, policy papers or other relevant material to put on the site, and contributions to its post-2015 blog and discussion.

Please contact info@post-2015.org if you have resources to share, would like to write for the site or be added to its list of linked Twitter accounts so that your [#post2015](https://twitter.com/post2015) tweets appear on the post-2015.org site.

Background information

At the High-level Plenary Meeting of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), held in New York in September 2010, governments called for acceleration of progress towards achieving the MDGs, and for consideration of ways to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

In response, the UN undertook several initiatives aimed at developing this agenda, including: setting up a UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (UNTT); launching a High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP); appointing a Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning; and launching national and global thematic consultations.

In addition to the above, other processes that will feed into the Post-2015 discussions include: the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), a 30-member group mandated by the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20) to prepare a proposal on sustainable development goals (SDGs) for consideration by the UNGA at its 68th session; regional consultations by the Regional Economic Commissions, which will result in a report on regional perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda; inputs from the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, set up by the UN Secretary-General in August 2012 to support global problem solving in ten critical areas of sustainable development; and input from businesses and the private sector through the UN Global Compact.

In order to ensure coherence across these different work streams, an informal senior coordination group of four Assistant Secretary-Generals (ASGs) was established, which includes the ASG for Economic Development at DESA, ASG for Development Policy at UNDP, ASG for Policy and Programme at UN Women, and the Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning. A "One Secretariat" has also been established to facilitate coordination and coherence across the work streams.

At the midpoint in MDG timeline, great progress has already been made



⇒ Reducing absolute poverty by half is within reach for the world as a whole.

⇒ With the exception of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, primary school enrolment is at least 90 percent.

⇒ Malaria prevention is expanding, with widespread increases in insecticide-treated bed-net use among

children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. In 16 out of 20 countries, use has at least tripled since around 2000.

⇒ One point six billion people have gained access to safe drinking water since 1990.

The Realization of women's rights: A history of the CEDAW in a nutshell

From *de jure* to *de facto*

Monika Gogna

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereafter, CEDAW) is brought into existence by a UN committee, the Committee on the Status of Women (hereafter, CSW or Commission). The CSW is a functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the principal organs of the United Nations, and of the same hierarchical level as the Commission on Human Rights. CSW comprises of States representatives who are assigned by it to promote the rights of women in the political, economic, civil, social and cultural field, and develop proposals in these areas.¹ This further extends and strengthens the Ð although inexplicitly mentioned but essential - objectives of the UN Charter² and the International Bill of Human Rights.³

CSW's effort in the realization of the CEDAW can be divided into a number of phases. Immediately after its establishment in 1946, the Commission developed the legal instruments, the so called standard-setting treaties aimed at improving the position of women. The first work of the CSW was in the field of the political participation of women. As a result of which, in 1952, the Commission came up with the Convention on the Political Rights of Women.⁴ The Convention states that women shall be entitled to vote in all elections, contest elections, and hold public office and to exercise all public functions on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.⁵ Similarly, the Commission extended its work into other areas such as the regulation of the nationality of married women and prepared a treaty for the same in 1957.⁶

1 See e.g. Article 1 sub 3 & 55 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945).

2 Charter of the United Nations (1945): In its preamble, it professes, among others, faith in fundamental human rights and the equal rights of men and women. In article 1, it proclaims that one of the purposes of the United Nations is 'to achieve international cooperation... in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to, inter alia, sex.' It also denounces, in a number of articles, the distinction based on gender such as Articles 1(3), 13(1) & 76 sub c prohibit discrimination based on sex with regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms; Article 8 concerns the equal eligibility for and participation in the UN bodies for men and women.

3 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted in 1948), whose principles are translated into legally binding instruments by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) with its two Optional Protocols, both of 1966, which entered into force in 1976. Although these initiatives Ð the culmination of which is called the

International Bill of Human Rights, lay down a comprehensive set of rights to which all persons, including women, are entitled, they proved to be insufficient to guarantee women the enjoyment of their internationally agreed rights. See United Nations Department of Public Information, 'Short History of CEDAW Convention', available at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/history.htm>
[accessed 21 February 2013]

This Convention aims to protect women against the loss of nationality due to marriage with a man of a different nationality. Likewise, in 1962 followed a treaty relating to the marriage license, the minimum age at which a marriage can be entered and the registration of marriages.⁷ This treaty was a reaction of the CSW to the adverse impact that traditional practices appear to have on the position of women.

Considering these efforts⁸ by the Commission with the objective of guaranteeing rights and create a much needed equilibrium of sorts between men and women as each of these treaties protect and promote the rights of women in areas in which the Commission considered such rights to be particularly vulnerable, why did the world need an all-embracing CEDAW?

The answer can be found in the fact that merely giving general rights did not bear the expected fruits and the Commission soon recognized that it needed a framework of mechanisms, in conjunction with the rights given, to ensure the realization. Thus, there were discrepancies between *de jure* (what was contained in the existing treaties which can be deemed as partial in its effect in retrospect) and *de facto* (what happened, rather did not happen in reality). Although these treaties reflected the budding intricacy of the UN system with regard women's human rights, the approach was incomplete, rather fragmentary, as the treaties failed to deal with discrimination against women in a comprehensive way.⁹

There was concern that the general human rights regime was not, in fact, working as well as the CSW had anticipated. Accordingly, in the period 1965-1967, as a response to the dissatisfaction with the limited impact of the treaties established within the CSW, the General Assembly, on 5 December 1963, adopted its resolution 1921 (XVIII), in which it requested the ECOSOC to invite the CSW to prepare a draft declaration that would combine in a *single instrument* international standards articulating the equal rights of men

The Realization of women's rights: A history of the CEDAW in a nutshell

From *de jure* to *de facto*

The difference between the earlier conventions and CEDAW would be that the latter was not only to be a list of States' obligations but also an agenda of action. Countries that would ratify CEDAW, would agree to take concrete steps to improve the status of women and end discrimination and violence against them.¹³ This would establish the *de jure* and *de facto* equality of women and men.

The following year, a working group was appointed to consider the elaboration of such a convention. In 1974, at its 25th session and in the light of the report of this working group, the CSW decided, in principle, to prepare a single, comprehensive and internationally binding instrument to eliminate discrimination against women.

Adoption of the CEDAW Convention is considered a landmark achievement as it not only added a perspective on gender to the international human rights law incorporating women rights into it but also obliges States Parties to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. The CEDAW is a comprehensive treaty that superseded previous women's rights treaties¹⁴ which were a fragmentary approach that failed to address discrimination against women overall. Additionally, unlike other instruments instituting equality between men and women, CEDAW takes the approach of indivisibility of rights rather than maintaining the division of human rights into different categories of civil, political, economic, social and cultural. It also has an expert monitoring body, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), assigned to monitor the implementation of the Convention in its States Parties.¹⁵

The CEDAW thus entered into force in 1981¹⁶, superseding – by reinstating the provisions of – the previous partial women's rights treaties established within the Commission and also provides mechanisms for the *de facto* implementation.¹⁷

10 UN General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 7 November 1967, A/RES/2263, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3b00f05938.html> [accessed 20 February 2013]

11 Commission on the Status of Women Resolution 5 (XXIV) of 24 Feb. 1972.

12 *Supra*, note 8. Art. 7 incorporates the Provisions of Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1952); art. 9 of Convention of the Nationality of Married Women (1957); and art. 16 of Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962). See also Centre For Development And Human Rights, 'The Right to Development: A Primer', SAGE, 2004, p. 111

13 However, according to article 23, CEDAW, ratification does not mean that it will affect any provisions that are more conducive to the achievement of equality between men and women contained in other treaties ratified by a particular State. This can also be interpreted in the light of the previous treaties (*supra*, note 8) which were not as comprehensive and are even reinstated in the CEDAW. They remain in effect for the parties that have ratified them.

14 Dr. Dubravka Simonovic, 'International framework on violence against women with focus on the CEDAW', EGM/PVAWG/EP.7, UN Women, 2012, p. 3

15 *Supra*, note 3

16 Supplemented by the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1999) for allowing and considering the complaints from individuals.

17 See e.g. the interstate procedure in Article 29; State reporting Article 18; review by the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, established under Article 17.

4 UN General Assembly, Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 20 December 1952, A/RES/640, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3b00f08448.html> [accessed 20 February 2013]

5 *Supra*, note 4, art. 1-3

6 UN General Assembly, Convention of the Nationality of Married Women, 29 January 1957, A/RES/1040, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3b00f0674.html> [accessed 20 Feb 2013]

7 UN General Assembly, Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, 7 November 1962, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/456d89064.html> [accessed 20 February 2013]

8 The Convention on Political Rights of Women (1952), the Convention of Nationality of Married Women (1957), and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962).

9 *Supra*, note 3

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See also Addendum on page 7

Human Rights Council

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON "PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY"

The IAW Action Sheet March 2013 alerted members to this proposed resolution which was not consistent with the Human Rights Council's mandate to promote and protect human rights (*see IAW website Action Programs 20 March*) and called on IAW members to take action.

Subsequently Hélène Sackstein, IAW representative at HRC, reported the resolution had been withdrawn by the sponsors who framed their withdrawal as postponing consideration to a later stage. Hélène comments *It is not unlikely that they will seek to reintroduce the resolution in June.*

It is telling that the fear of introduction of language on the existence of various forms of the family into the text during action on the resolution caused this withdrawal/postponement. The language that would have formed the introduced amendment is agreed consensus UN language which has been used again and again. The EU and GRULAC groups and a number of States including Switzerland, the US, Australia and New Zealand stood firm in insisting that this language be included in the text. A number of other States from different regions stood ready to support the introduction previously mentioned.

Egypt took the floor to introduce the resolution and announce its withdrawal on behalf of the core group, comprising Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, UAE,

Uganda and Zimbabwe. The resolution had 72 co-sponsors including the Arab and OIC groups, Angola, Kenya, Botswana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sri Lanka.

They began by framing the subject in terms of Article 16 of the UDHR and said there is a lack of definition of the family, there are differences between societies; that the focus on individual rights has resulted in neglect of the family and group and collective rights; that there is no resolution or treaty which deals with the protection of the family in human rights law in a comprehensive manner. This statement failed to define what the family needed protection from.

They spoke of the need to openly discuss the issue so as to address state obligations to protect the family under relevant provisions of international human rights law; a discussion that would allow for the exchange of views and lessons learned and allow the Council to identify implementation gaps and possibly shed some light on how to tackle them. Hence this procedural resolution.

Their statement was very hard-lined and combative. They claimed to have approached consultations with an open mind and accused other States of holding pre-conceived notions and pushing divisive substantive issues. They also said it seems that the Council has not yet reached the level of maturity that would enable it to engage in delicate issues in a cooperative matter, and announced that they were postponing consideration of the text.

Monika Gogna has provided the following as an addendum to her interesting History of CEDAW

The Human Rights Commission (hereinafter, 'Commission'), which was a subsidiary of ECOSOC, was replaced by the Human Rights Council in 2006 (see General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/251 for the Council's mandate) due to a lot of criticism about how the country specific implementation increasingly politicized the work of the Commission as Member States would join the Commission not to advance human rights but to either seek protection from criticism for their own bad-human-rights-track-record or attack other Member States. See generally: *'A more secure world: our shared responsibility'* (A/59/565) See also *'In Larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all'* (A/59/2005), in which the then Secretary-General Kofi Annan asserted that Commission should be replaced by a Human Rights Council (hereinafter, 'Council'): 'Member States,' ... 'would need to decide if they want the Human Rights Council to be a principal organ of the United Nations or a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, but in either case its members would be elected directly by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. The creation of the Council would accord human rights a more authoritative position, corresponding to the primacy of human rights in the Charter of the United Nations. Member States should determine the composition of the Council and the term of office of its members. Those elected to the Council should undertake to abide by the highest human rights standards.'

Some important differences with the Commission:

- The members of the Council are elected by the General Assembly to ensure that the election procedure is more representative. Additionally, Member States which have committed gross and systematic violations of human rights during their tenure, their membership could be suspended by two-third majority vote in the General Assembly and they would not be eligible to immediate re-election after two consecutive terms;

Secondly, Council is a standing body which can meet any time in the year in contrary to the Commission which lacked a meeting time. It is easier to hold special session (see <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx>) under the rules of the Council unlike the Commission which had only five special sessions in the course of 15 years and that is basically the second year of the Council that there had already been six.

- Council is a subsidiary of the General Assembly, not the ECOSOC, which strengthens the Council's effectiveness. Council's creation of the Universal Periodic Review can also be highlighted as a difference with the former Human Rights Commission.
- Council's creation of the Universal Periodic Review can also be highlighted as a difference with the former Human Rights Commission.

Recent posts to IAW Melbourne Blog

What's the situation for Women in Egypt now?



Photo: Amr Nabil/AP

According to the Egypt Deputy Prime Minister, delivering the country statement to the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March, the Egyptian woman's "heroism inspires the world"! Certainly they have voted increasingly in post-revolutionary Egypt and the account stresses they are "full fledged citizens".

This is not a view that is shared by all; recent protests opposing the new constitution drafted by current president Mohamed Morsi and increased gang related sexual violence would suggest that Egypt has taken a giant step backward. According to The Guardian report 'Muslim Brotherhood backlash against the UN declaration on womens rights' by Patrick Kingsley, The Muslim Brotherhood, one of the most powerful political factions in Egypt, has also criticized the 2013 UN CSW draft Agreed Conclusions demanding global standards to prevent violence against women saying it would "contradict established principles of Islam, undermine Islamic ethics and destroy the family... [and] would lead to complete disintegration of society". (Patrick Kingsley, The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/mar/15/muslim-brotherhood-backlash-un-womens-rights>)

Despite this we can share the official Egyptian view that the set up of a regional office for UN Women in Cairo is a positive step.

Nawal El Saadawi



Nawal El Saadawi. Photograph: Felix Clay

As we take a look at women in Egypt it would be a crime not to highlight the astonishing Nawal El Saadawi, a self-empowered leading Egyptian feminist, sociologist, medical doctor and militant writer on Arab women's problems. She is one of the most widely translated contemporary Egyptian writers, with her work available in twelve languages.

Having endured her own personal wounds from the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) at the age of six, she has spent the past 60 years campaigning for an end to the barbaric convention. She has written 47 books tackling problems faced by women in Egypt, including *Women and Sex* in 1972, for which she lost her job as director of public health for the Egyptian Ministry of Health.

She is founder and president of the Arab Women's Solidarity Association and co-founder of the Arab Association for Human Rights and at the age of 80 she was among the 50,000 protesters who took to Tahrir Square in the 2011 Egyptian revolution. Her strength and courage to continue in the front line on the war against oppression is remarkably inspirational.

Asia Pacific Women's Watch 'Joining the Dots' Regional Research Workshop, CSW57



Photo: Women's Media Collective

Carole Shaw, Joint Director of JERA International, and Sepali Kottegoda, Director, Sri Lankan 'Women and Media Collective', who presented at the IAW Melbourne 2012 October 9 Regional Day 'Ending Violence', are seen here at Asia Pacific Women's Watch 'Joining the Dots' regional research workshop offered in New York at CSW57 in March as a side event. See full report at JERA International. (<http://jerainternational.org/csw-joining-the-dots>)

IAW Social Media which started as a lead-up to IAW2012

Have a look at the IAW Melbourne 2012 Media intern video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBl-7d1T2O4&list=LLZRqT--FyutUkg4wS0vixdw>

The Interns are still at work maintaining the blog, facebook and twitter

Look at the IAW Melbourne blog

<http://iawmelbourne.wordpress.com/>

'like' IAW Melbourne on facebook

[International Alliance of Women Melbourne](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalAllianceofWomenMelbourne)

'Follow' IAW Melbourne on twitter

[@IAWMelbourne](https://twitter.com/IAWMelbourne)

XXXVI Congress Call to Congress London 9-13 September 2013

**Theme: SAFETY, CHOICES, VOICES :
POST-2015 WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

IAW members are invited by All Pakistan Women's Association – UK to attend the 2013 Congress which will be held at the Great Hall in the historic precinct of Lincoln's Inn.

The IAW Board will meet on the 8th and 14th September.

It is a long time since the Alliance had its headquarters in London and many years since a Congress was held there so I hope that IAW Affiliate and Associate member organisations will be well represented and that many of our Individual Members will also be able to attend.

Lyda Verstegen
President

XXXVI CONGRES Appel au Congrès Londres 9-13 Septembre 2013

**Thème: Sécurité – Voix – Choix :
Les Buts de Développement après 2015**

All Pakistan Women's Association- UK invite les membres de l'AIF à assister au Congrès qui se tiendra dans le Great Hall dans le quartier historique de Lincoln's Inn.

Le Bureau se réunira le 8 et 14 Septembre.

Il y a longtemps que l'Alliance n'a plus de bureau à Londres et beaucoup d'années q'un Congrès s'y est tenu, donc j'espère que les Associations Affiliées et Associées seront bien représentées et que les Membres Individuels viendront nombreux.

Lyda Verstegen
Présidente

UNODC: Suivi de l'évolution de la criminalité organisée en Afrique de l'Ouest

par Rosy Weiss

Alors que les marchés de la criminalité transnationale organisée et les profits immenses qu'ils génèrent continuent d'alimenter l'instabilité et freinent le développement en Afrique de l'Ouest, l'obtention d'informations fiables sur ces marchés reste une tâche particulièrement ardue. Le nouveau rapport de l'UNODC intitulé Criminalité Transnationale Organisée en Afrique de l'Ouest : Une Évaluation des Menaces fait la lumière sur les principaux problèmes de criminalité qui affectent la région et fournit des recommandations à la communauté internationale pour les combattre.

Le trafic de cocaïne est l'activité criminelle la plus lucrative d'Afrique de l'Ouest. Bien que le flux de cocaïne transitant par la région ait décliné à environ 18 tonnes par an en 2010, après avoir culminé à 47 tonnes en 2007, les bénéfices issus de ce marché illicite pourraient excéder les budgets de sécurité nationale de nombreux pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Néanmoins, la cocaïne n'est pas la seule drogue illicite qui déstabilise la région. L'émergence de la production de méthamphétamine et son trafic présentent une évolution inquiétante : deux laboratoires de méthamphétamine ont été détectés au Nigéria en 2011-2012, et environ 3 000 passeurs de méthamphétamine ont voyagé de l'Afrique de l'Ouest vers l'Asie de l'Est en 2010, transportant l'équivalent de 360 millions de dollars de drogue. Par ailleurs, on assiste à une augmentation des saisies d'héroïne dans la région.

Le rapport traite également du trafic illicite de migrants depuis l'Afrique de l'Ouest vers l'Europe, du trafic de médicaments frauduleux depuis l'Asie vers l'Afrique de l'Ouest, et de la piraterie maritime qui sévit dans la région. Malgré le fait que le flux de migrants faisant l'objet d'un trafic depuis l'Afrique de l'Ouest vers l'Europe ait diminué au cours des dernières années en raison de la crise financière, un flux constant de migrants en situation irrégulière continue de s'acheminer vers le nord, généralement avec l'aide de criminels. En outre, on constate que le changement politique survenu en Afrique du Nord, ainsi que le renforcement des efforts consacrés à l'application de la loi dans les régions occidentales, ont entraîné un déplacement des itinéraires vers l'Est.

Le trafic d'armes dans la région est un problème particulièrement sensible car les armes à feu engendrent à

la fois misère humaine et instabilité. L'Afrique de l'Ouest a connu une série de coups d'État et subit toujours l'influence d'un certain nombre de mouvements rebelles actifs qui recherchent des armes à feu. La plupart des armes illicites proviennent de stocks légaux détournés ou volés, on considère donc que la limitation de la taille de ces stocks et une surveillance plus étroite pourraient aider à réduire l'ampleur de ce problème.

Les médicaments frauduleux font peser une menace considérable sur la santé des habitants de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Alors que les profits générés par leur trafic semblent relativement faibles et dispersés, l'approvisionnement régulier du marché en médicaments de qualité inférieure empire l'état des malades. Une plus stricte réglementation et un accroissement de la coopération régionale dans ce domaine pourraient être une bonne manière de combattre ce fléau.

Si la piraterie maritime est habituellement associée aux eaux situées au large des côtes somaliennes, elle pose également problème dans le Golfe de Guinée. Cette activité est en grande partie liée à l'industrie pétrolière de la région et à l'essor du marché noir pour le carburant. Bien que la plupart des attaques se résument à de simples vols qui rapportent des bénéfices relativement faibles aux criminels, leur fréquence fait augmenter les primes d'assurance, ce qui en retour fait diminuer l'usage des ports d'Afrique de l'Ouest pour les transports maritimes et prive ainsi les gouvernements de la région à court d'argent de revenus vitaux.

A bientôt à Londres: Des suffragettes à Bridget Jones



La Bibliothèque des Femmes - y compris une importante collection A.I.F. - vient de trouver un nouveau gîte à l'École (Supérieure) de Sciences Économiques et Politiques de Londres (LSE). La réouverture de la Bibliothèque des Femmes, fondée en 1926, dans le nouveau contexte de la LSE aura lieu le 1er Août 2013. Une visite pendant notre Congrès me semble obligatoire.

Les Mutilations Génitales Féminines, MGF

- La sur-formation des médecins et du personnel médical, de la police des assistants sociaux et des enseignants est jugée indispensable.
- Une approche des médias sensible et sans goût du sensationnel est de rigueur qui transmette l'idée de la dignité de la femme. Tout comme le Président de notre République parraine Integra il serait bon d'avoir une marraine ou un parrain dans le monde des médias.

Le projet du Deutscher Frauenring au Burkina Faso, en partenariat avec l'Association Féminine Songmanégré pour le Développement, AFD, repose sur une base solide. Ses responsables ont été soigneusement formées dans le projet CAP-MGF réalisé avec l'appui technique du Service Allemand de Développement (DED) et l'appui financier de l'Ambassade du Danemark. Il avait pour objectif de capitaliser, vulgariser et promouvoir la mise en œuvre de bonnes approches endogènes et exogènes pour la promotion de l'abandon des MGF en milieu rural.



Coopérant avec l'association allemande Chances de Vivre nous sommes intervenues au moment où le travail prometteur de l'AFD dans le Département Kongoussi au Nord de la capitale, risquait de s'écrouler faute de financement. En 2010 il fallait former les agents de l'AFD dans l'utilisation de la série GRAAP adaptée au domaine de l'excision en testant, sur les femmes de clubs d'écoute et les membres des relais villageois, le « cahier de l'animateur/ trice » traduit en moré, la langue nationale des Mossi. Le volet Commémoration de la journée internationale de la femme (8 mars) a associé les noyaux relais et des leaders d'opinion des villages, et renforcé le réseautage entre les clubs.

Les campagnes d'une durée de 5 mois chacune –y inclus l'évaluation– ont touché une vingtaine de villages. Le contact avec les anciennes exciseuses est maintenu, des victimes souffrant de séquelles ont eu des opérations de reconstitution. Des moyens de communication performants mais coûteux sont les jeux radiophoniques, le théâtre-forum, le ciné-débat.



Dans le contexte des droits humains et du genre des causeries éducatives visent à relever le bas statut de la femme et de la fille. Pour ce faire l'AFD se sert d'une boîte à images et d'autre matériel développé au Burkina avec le concours des jeunes.

Tout récemment la planification familiale a été ajoutée comme nouveau volet, Des personnes-clé ont reçu une formation de base en la matière. L'idée est d'informer les femmes dans les villages autour de Kongoussi et les élèves des établissements scolaires, comment éviter les grossesses précoces et espacer les naissances. Les chefs des villages sont fortement impliqués et seront invités aux supervisions prévues après la campagne.

Compte tenu de nos moyens financiers limités et de certaines pesanteurs socioculturelles du milieu, nous pouvons constater des résultats remarquables obtenus par le travail efficace et dévoué de nos partenaires.

Gudrun Haupter Février 2013

¹Groupe de Recherche et d'Appui pour l'Auto-promotion Populaire. GRAAP regroupe plusieurs outils et techniques de communication développés pour travailler avec des populations rurales peu éduquées de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

²En 2010, 44 % des jeunes femmes entre 15 et 19 ans ont eu au moins un enfant ne-vivant. Jusqu'à l'âge de 49 ans, la moyenne des enfants nés-vivants par femme était de 5.9. Ceci va de pair avec un taux très élevé de mortalité et morbidité maternelle et infantile et freine le développement du pays.

Les Mutilations Génitales Féminines, MGF – quoi faire pour arriver à leur abandon?

par Gudrun Haupter, Commission Santé de l'AIF

Mieux connu en milieu africain comme excision, la pratique traditionnelle continue à ravager la santé physique et mentale de ses victimes et est reconnue comme une grave violation des droits humains de la femme.

Au niveau international en novembre 2012 la Commission Sociale de l'ONU, a adopté une résolution basée sur le projet écrit par les pays africains, intitulée *Intensification de l'action mondiale visant à éliminer les Mutilations Génitales Féminines*. Il y a de quoi se réjouir de ce bannissement à l'échelle universelle.

Dès 1984 les MGF font l'objet principal de la lutte du Comité Interafricain, CI-AF, contre les pratiques traditionnelles affectant la santé des femmes et des enfants. Et il y a dix ans c'est le CI-AF qui a institué le 6 février comme Journée Internationale de *Tolérance zéro envers les mutilations génitales féminines*.

Au niveau national allemand depuis 2007 il existe INTEGRA, le réseau allemand pour l'élimination des MGF, dont le Deutscher Frauenring est un des près de 30 acteurs. Integra en tant que réseau et chacune des organisations membre s'impliquent pour l'abandon des MGF. Integra vise à convaincre les communautés africaines en Allemagne tout comme les pays d'origine qui adhèrent à la tradition néfaste. Le fait que beaucoup de ces pays ont passé des lois pénales réprimant la pratique est à saluer mais comporte le risque de la clandestinité et d'un âge de plus en plus jeune des victimes.

Les acteurs du réseau ont récemment formulé des *Critères de qualité* auxquelles ils adhèrent dans leur travail en pays africain. Ceci n'empêche que leurs approches et méthodes varient.

Une action récente d'Integra était une conférence organisée à Berlin le 27 novembre 2012. Des exemples d'un travail réussi de prévention au Kenya et au Burkina Faso ont été présentés. Les données de base en Suisse ont été comparées à celles en Allemagne. Des associations allemandes spécialisées, majoritairement africaines, ont évoqué les éléments nécessaires pour faire, chez nous, un travail de prévention compréhensif et efficace y compris des consultations sanitaires et juridiques.

Des points soulevés dans les divers groupes de travail étaient

- Un soutien ferme au niveau des Länder s'impose pour établir, par exemple, des tables rondes réunissant les divers groupements d'intérêt.
- La ré-institution de la Commission nationale mixte : niveau fédéral, niveau Länder et ONG, afin d'arriver à formuler un Plan national d'action.
- Une mention spéciale dans le code pénal réglant la peine et les prescriptions, au lieu du classement actuel des MGF dans la catégorie des blessures corporelles.
- La loi seule ne peut pas changer la situation. Il faut aussi un travail patient de sensibilisation pour arriver à changer les comportements et les normes traditionnelles. C'est un travail qui ne peut pas être fait bénévolement mais demande un financement soutenu.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS / NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

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