

Reports for Congress 2017 Nicosia, Cyprus

Complled by Lene Pind, head of Communications

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Victoria Falls 2016















President Joanna Mangana's report

Initiatives by the President



In September 2013, I was elected the 14th President of IAW by the 36th Congress of IAW in London. One of the priorities of my Presidency has been to attract new member organizations and individual members that are doing good work on women's human rights. In that way, IAW can become more influential within the international women's movement.

Recruiting new members

During my Presidency, a number of important organizations have become members (affiliate/associate) of IAW. In 2017, 6 well-known organizations

have applied to become members of IAW including the Canadian Federation of University Women and the General Arab Women Federation GAWF (both as affiliates).

Also, several very qualified young women have become members of IAW during my Presidency: Maria Hengeveld, with whom we organised the side event on Corporations and Women's Human Rights; Lea Boergerding, who is member of the IWN Editorial Team; Emily Murase Executive Director of the Department on the Status of Women in San Francisco; Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez Executive Director at the head of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls; Badana Rana Nepal's Member to the CEDAW Committee 2017-2020 and Strategic Director of the NGO Saathi and many others.

Capacity building of our membership

I also believe a lot in the capacity building of our members. During our board meeting in Sion in October 2014, I invited WILPF to give a training session on the process of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) and how NGOs can participate in it. During our international meeting in Paris in October 2015, I invited EWL and CLEF (the French national coordination of EWL) to organize a seminar on Surrogacy Motherhood. A number of French academics were invited and delivered very interesting presentations.

President's Newsletter

I have started circulating a President's Newsletter which focuses on different women's human rights issues. We gather information from different sources: the UN, Specialized agencies, scientific articles, research studies etc. The aim is to inform our membership and help them to understand better women's human rights issues so they can get ideas and undertake initiatives with other interested women and feminist NGOs.

The President's Newsletter has been circulated on a number of themes: the Evaluation of the 59th, 60th and 61st Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Prostitution and Trafficking, the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda, women human rights defenders, Femicide, FGM, refugee women and girls, women in top leadership positions, child marriage, our Board Meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, and women domestic workers.

IWN

Working to modernize our Journal, the International Women's News which is a hundred years old, I engaged a Greek graphic designer to design a new layout. The new form of our Journal is thematic and has a number of new sections. Each publication focuses on a specific theme and discusses its different aspects. The themes of previous issues have been the following: Feminist Economics, Corporations, Globalisation and Women's Social and Economic Rights, Prostitution and Trafficking, Gender-based Violence/Child Marriage in Africa. The current edition focuses on Young Feminists who are of particular interest to us and next year an edition on Women and Climate Change is planned. With new people writing for the IAW Journal we are finding new friends and allies in our fight against gender inequality and the violations of women's human rights. Our journal can also be used as a tool for building alliances and elaborating projects with other NGOs.

Commission on the Status of Women

I have participated in the 58th, 59th, 60th and 61st Sessions of the CSW in New York at the head of big delegations made up of 25 and more members of our organization. During CSW 61 we presented amendments to the Zero Draft Conclusion. Some of these amendments were picked up by CSW/NGO NY and UN Women. The amendments were drafted by Soon-Young, Renee Gerard and I.

The IAW Delegation had two meetings in a conference room in the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN to discuss developments in the CSW 61 and matters of interest to the organization.

Beijing +20

In 2015, the celebration of Beijing +20 took place in New York at CSW 59. It was preceded by regional meetings. The IAW participated in the ECE NGO/CSW Forum Beijing +20 review in Geneva to examine progress and obstacles in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Margunn Bjornholt and I participated in an interactive roundtable organized by NGO/CSW in Geneva on "Women in the Economy". The Forum adopted a Declaration and Recommendations.

The Political Declaration adopted on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which took place during CSW 59, represented a bland reaffirmation of existing commitments, and thus failed to match the level of ambition in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This could have triggered a major step backward. The CSW 59 also brought forward a resolution intended to review and enhance its methods of work but again, civil society voices were largely excluded from the working methods process. The working methods resolution further reduced space for civil society participation.

CSW 61

During CSW 61, important developments took place that resulted in increased restrictions to women's access to the work of CSW. The US travel ban was just the latest in a series of obstacles. NGOs had fewer possibilities to have their voices heard, less influence on what is being discussed in CSW. This year's CSW witnessed attacks on NGO's access to the negotiation process.

As a result, NGOs including IAW sent a letter to Ambassador Patriota, Chair of CSW 61, explaining that over the last 15 years they have seen a significative change in the way they have been doing the work. Less than 15 years ago, NGOs were able to observe the negotiations. In recent years, increasing restrictions limit their capacity to work with member states to deliver strong Agreed Conclusions. Under these circumstances, a group of feminist organizations including IAW visited the Secretary General, handed a letter signed by 900 women's organizations including IAW and invited him to attend the morning briefing of NGOs by UN Women.

In his speech at the briefing Secretary General Guterres acknowledged that there is backlash today against many of the gains women made over recent decades. He agreed that we need to reverse this trend. Mr. Guterres' belief is that we need to campaign to make sure governments understand that working with civil society is the best way to rule a country. They also need to understand that the UN has to apply the same procedures within its work. This is so because what is true at the national level in terms of the quality of democracy is also true at the global level in relation to the governance of democratic institutions. Mr. Guterres said that gender parity at all levels: political, cultural, economic and social, is a central objective and must be based on women's empowerment. Gender parity will also be a central objective at the level of senior management as well as of the entire UN staff.

NGO CSW 61 – EU/NA NGO/CSW Caucus

I am a member of a small coordinating group at the head of the NGO/CSW Europe – North America Caucus in New York.

Parallel and Side Events

The parallel and side events IAW organizes each year at the NGO/CSW Forum that take place side-by-side with CSW in New York are strong assets for the Alliance. We have organized events on the following themes:

CSW 58:

Gender-based violence as a political weapon: Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, by Anje Wiersinga

The financial crisis, the global recession, and their impact on women in USA and Europe, by Margunn Bjornholt and Joanna Manganara

CSW 59:

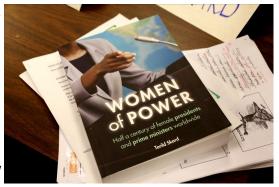
Lessons learned from women Presidents and Prime Ministers worldwide, by Torild Skard

Why the future of economics and economic development must be feminist, by Margunn Bjornholt

Implementing CEDAW and UN SC Resolution 1325 on Women-Peace-Security, by Anje Wiersinga

CSW 60:

Getting women to the top, by Torild Skard
Corporations, globalization and women's social and
economic rights, by Joanna Manganara and Maria
Hengeveld



CSW 61:

Sexism's effect on women in the workplace, by Signe Valhun

New Action Programme 2017-2019

At Congress, a new Action Programme covering the period 2017-2019 is going to be discussed for adoption. It is important that the action program is as broadly based as possible among Board members, International Representatives, Regional Coordinators, etc. The procedure that I proposed was the following: The Programme of Action will have as pillars justice/human rights, peace, economy, health, climate change and elimination of violence against women. Under each pillar, there will be strategic objectives and actions to be taken to promote gender equality and women's human rights. The pillars, of course, reflect the Commissions of the IAW. Working groups based on those pillars have been created, and coordinators and members appointed to work with the relevant commissions. The working groups have been open to anyone interested to work in their field. The coordinators of these working groups have finalized their draft texts of the Action Programme which will be discussed and adopted by the Congress in Cyprus. Ideas about how to implement the program at the national and international level will also be discussed.

Registration with the Swiss authorities in the canton of Geneva

In December 2015, IAW registered with the Swiss authorities in the canton of Geneva as a voluntary organization and has been given tax exoneration since 2015. The exoneration is actually for an unlimited time but the criteria will be checked in 5 years.

Lecture by Torild Skard organized by IAW and WCC on October 3rd, 2016 in Geneva

On October 3rd, 2016 the IAW organized with the World Council of Churches an event on the subject of women in top leadership and decision-making positions. We invited Torild Skard to give a lecture on her book 'Women of Power'. The lecture was followed by panel presentations and interactive discussions. The event attracted many participants and was very successful.

The IAW workload

I have circulated messages asking people in the organization to look around to find members or would-be members willing to share the work and concerns of IAW. There are many different kinds of jobs to be done in IAW: Board member, International Representative, member of a Commission, Commission Convener, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary General, fundraising, working with IWN, IAW Newsletter, website, the database, recruiting new members, doing press work, campaigns. We need members who are interested, committed, qualified, who would like to work for gender equality and women's human rights for the IAW.

History of the IAW

We have decided to look back in our past, which is a brilliant one. This has made us decide to have an Archives Officer again, preferably a historian, who would try to find feminist historians interested in writing about some aspects of the history of IAW.

IAW Secretary General

At the IAW Board Meeting in Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, Regina Smit from the Netherlands was appointed new Secretary General up to the next Congress in October 2017 in Cyprus. She resigned in July 2017.

Board Meeting Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 8 – 16 November 2016

The Board Meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe was a great success from every point of view. Our host organization did its very best to have us stay in a very nice hotel, with a fantastic view of different animals in the African savannah as well as a spacious place for our meetings where we had an in depth exchange of views on many issues.

Conference on Violence against Women and Girls (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe)

The Conference on Violence against women and girls organized by the host society was very interesting. All contributions are published in our IWN issue on *Gender based violence / Child marriage* (Volume 112, No 1 2017).

Working Groups

In Zimbabwe, I decided to create 3 Working Groups to look into the internal organization and future strategy and initiatives of the IAW. The WGs will present their recommendations at the Congress in Cyprus.



WG 1 – The internal organization of the IAW: We need to evaluate how our different officers are performing, to monitor their work and if there are problems, to examine what should be done. We also need to update guidelines for our different meetings (Board, Congress) and for our different office holders.

WG 2 – An IAW strategy for the future: WG2 should elaborate an IAW strategy to meet the worldwide challenges of today that range from climate change to structural inequalities, neoliberal austerity policies, the rise of right-wing, populist, xenophobic and antifeminist forces, the refugee crisis, the new forms of capitalism, the new economy of war and the impact of all these developments on gender equality and women's human rights. What development models should we work for? What is the world we want to live in? What agenda will help to transform the world in which we live? What factors would enable us to realize our visions and thrive? What counter-strategies with a feminist perspective should we adopt?

<u>WG 3 – Future initiatives of the IAW at the international level</u>: WG3 is directed towards making more effective IAW relations at the international level so that IAW increases its voice in the international arena. IAW will review its connections with other international, regional and local NGOs and identify those of our members who are members of these NGOs and are prepared to be our links with their organization and report on campaigns run by and with other NGOs so that our members can engage with them.

President's statements on the website

Throughout the year, I post statements on several feminist issues on the IAW website. In particular, I write on the International Women's Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women as well as on current events. For example, I posted statements on the American elections with a special focus on two candidates: Trump and Hilary Clinton.

IAW positions on different issues expressed in statements by IAW, statements by other organizations, petitions, letters to officials, politicians, etc.

Violence against women

On the 25th of November 2015, I was invited to Nicosia by the Pancyprian Movement to deliver a speech on violence against women and domestic violence in the context of the 16 Days of Activism on Violence against Women campaign. The event was very well organized and it was a great success. I also spoke on national TV and gave a number of interviews.

In April 2017, IAW signed a petition to end Female Genital Mutilation/cutting by 2030 and to invest in research and support of this problem in Asia. The petition emphasizes the need to reframe FGM away from being an African problem only. We have to recognize that this is a reality in many communities all over the world.

In April 2017, IAW signed a petition by the European Coalition to End VAWG, of which it is a member, asking for the EU to take concrete action to protect all women and girls from violence by ratifying, implementing and enforcing the Istanbul Convention.

The IAW subscribed to a statement made on the 8th of March 2017 by the European Coalition to End Violence against Women and Girls, of which it is a member. The statement asked EU Members to ensure EU ratification of the Istanbul Convention as soon as possible in the broadest way and without reservations.

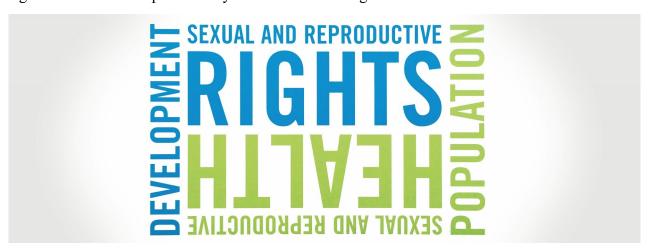
EWL Observatory on Violence

In October 2016, the designation of Jocelynne Scutt by IAW as its Representative to the EWL Observatory of Violence against Women was endorsed by EWL.

Protection and promotion of civil society space

During the CSW 61, the IAW elaborated two statements on the issue. The first one was to be read during the meeting of NGOs with the SG of the UN at the morning briefing by UN Women but was not possible because too many people were asking for the floor. The second was to be sent to Ambassador Patriota, chairperson of CSW 61, asking for a way to be found at CSW 62 so that people who would like to contribute to its work would be able to do so. The letter was not sent due to divergent views of our membership concerning its content.

In March 2017, we signed a letter to CSW calling for greater civil society access. The letter titled "No borders on gender justice", was circulated by the Post-2015 Women's Coalition during CSW 61 and was sponsored by AWID and other organizations.



Sexual and reproductive health and rights

In September 2016, IAW signed an open letter in solidarity with the Women's Movement in Poland against an abortion ban that the Polish Parliament had been trying to pass. This campaign has been an initiative of WeMove Europe in partnership with EWN.

We partnered with CLEF, Fondation Jean-Jaurès and other NGOs which organized a Parallel Event during CSW 61 on the universal right of women to abortion and birth control.

On January 29th 2017, we signed a letter to the Foreign and Development Ministers of the top aid donor countries and leaders of the World's Global Health Foundations. The letter called on

them to work together to create a special fund to be made available to any clinic or NGO around the world that decides to resist the US Global Gag Rule so that none of them are forced to give up counselling women on abortion within their national laws' constraints.

Chile has been on the verge of reforming its draconian abortion laws. In July 2017, IAW signed a petition urging the Chilean tribunal to act in favour of this abortion bill.

Gender justice

On March 8th, 2017, we signed a petition by AWID and other NGOs on "No borders to gender justice".

Accountability

IAW considers accountability of governments a priority and has undertaken a number of activities on this issue including two IAW Declarations on this subject which have been adopted by the Board in Sion and during the I M in Paris.

In 2016, we supported a petition by the Center for Reproductive Rights calling on the UN member states to match their bold promises in the SDGs with robust plans for monitoring and reviewing progress to protect the human rights of all, especially of women and girls. Emphasis is given on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Family

During the 26th session of the Human Rights Council, a group of 13 states succeeded in passing a resolution which represents the first step towards cementing a patriarchal and heteronormative family concept. This implies that the family is a subject of human rights protection in and of itself. The resolution has no human rights focus as it does not situate family members as the appropriate subjects of human rights protection against violations and abuses. Every year since then a similar resolution is adopted by the Human Rights Council. In 2015, we endorsed a statement that states that the family needs to be discussed beyond narrow ideas of marriage or marriage between a man and a woman alone, so as not to exclude all other forms of families.

Post-2015 Development Agenda

We have followed closely developments on the negotiations that have taken place for three years concerning the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In 2015, we signed a petition by the NGO Committee for Social Development at the UN asking that floors of social protection according to ILO Recommendation 202 should be an integral component of the Agenda.

The IAW has submitted its input electronically to the draft agreement of the post-2015 Development Agenda on the 20th of July 2015. The input has to do with comments on goals/targets 5.4, 5.a, 8.5 and 8.8 of the Draft Agreement.

Violations of human rights by corporations

The IAW supports the regulation of corporate human rights abuses. In 2015, we endorsed the New Treaty Alliance's statement demanding a stop to this kind of violations.

Election of the UN Secretary General

The IAW signed a number of petitions asking for a woman at the head of the UN. We signed a petition by the Women's Major Group concerning the election of a woman in the place of the new Secretary General of the UN. The petition had the title "It's time for a feminist UN Secretary General".

In October 2016, the IAW signed a petition by Equality Now on a feminist agenda for the first 100 days in office of the new UN Secretary General.

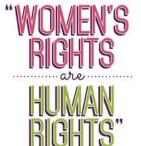


A newly formed network of feminists working inside the UN elaborated a Feminist Agenda for the Secretary General which was sent to us in October 2016. They considered it complementary to other Agendas circulating for the new Secretary General, including from other feminist civil society organizations. IAW considered that it is too internal to the UN, but sent a letter to

them saying that we support their demands and that we wish they would work closely with UN Women.

IAW has participated in the selection of the future Secretary General of the UN in a process open to civil society by formulating a question to be asked to the candidates. Our question was on the issue of refugee women and children. It was selected by a Committee of 22 civil society representatives from around the world to be on a short-list of 30 questions for the dialogues with the candidates – from among more than 1500 questions submitted from 70+ countries. The question I asked was the following: "What initiatives are you going to take to help with the current refugee crisis, in particular with the needs and rights of refugee women and children?"

Women human rights defenders



We have supported a number of women human rights defenders like Mozn Hassan from Egypt, one of the founders of NAZRA for feminist studies and its Executive Director. IAW has posted on its website a call joining its voice with many other organizations and individuals all over the world. This included a group of UN Experts in Geneva asking the Egyptian government to immediately repeal the repressive measures against human rights defenders, including travel bans and legislation that criminalizes legitimate activities.

On September 26th, 2016, Mozn Hassan and NAZRA for feminist studies received the Right Livelihood Award, which is known as an alternative Nobel Prize.

Feminist leadership

The IAW has commented on the EWL Strategic Planning Process, in particular concerning feminist leadership. We have argued for a reconceptualisation of power as a capacity or ability to empower and transform one's self and others. This is a type of power over – but it is very distinct from domination (which we consider as men's power) because it aims at empowering those over whom it is exercised.

Euro Mediterranean Women's Foundation

In 2016, we joined this foundation including its network of associations, a place where civil society, academia and public institutions are represented to share knowledge and good practices on gender equality and women's human rights.

Turkish women's rights

In November 2016, IAW declared its solidarity with Turkish women NGOs by supporting a protest letter written by the Turkish delegation in the European Women's Lobby. It concerned the shutdown and persecution of NGOs in Turkey including women's and feminist NGOs and called on the Turkish authorities to allow these NGOs to continue their work. This statement was posted on our website and it also covered a protest letter by the Turkish coordination in the EWL against the AKP's bill on marrying of children with their rapists and sexual harassers. It also referred to amendments proposed by the ruling party to Article No. 103 of the Turkish Criminal Code lowering the age of consent from 15 years old to 12. Finally, Turkey ruled for withdrawal of the AKP's controversial sexual motions.

Statements and letters

We submitted our own statement to the CSW 61 on Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

We signed an oral statement by the International Federation of University Women to CSW60 on Quality education as a critical factor in women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development.

IAW signed the International Soroptimist oral statement to CSW 61 on *Empowering indigenous and rural women*.

In February 2017 IAW signed an oral statement to CSW 61 on *Gender balance in climate policies* sponsored by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers on behalf of member organizations of NGO/CSW Vienna.

We signed a written statement for CSW 61 by Make Mothers Matters on motherhood in the changing world of work.

In October 2016, we signed an open letter to Permanent Representatives to the UN concerning Recommendations on the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security. The letter was drafted by the Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

In February 2017, IAW signed a letter to the Norwegian government to increase its funding in order to counter President Trump's reinstatement of the global gag rule.

In March 2017, IAW supported a joint statement by EWL, the European Youth Forum and a group of European CSOs and Trade Unions written on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Rome Treaty. The statement was calling for a just, sustainable, democratic and inclusive Europe.

In 2017, IAW signed a letter to the President of ECOSOC regarding the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the HLPF.

Regina Smit was appointed Secretary General at the Board Meeting in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe in November 2016. On July 15, 2017 she resigned.

This is her report:

In January 2017 the Secretary General was a full time job for me. My main task consisted of registration for all IAW UN Representatives 2017. Lyna Castillo-Javier was Assistant Secretary conducting the CSW61 registration for IAW members.

I attended the CSW61 in March 2017 and I met members of IAW at a special IAW meeting at the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN. I wrote a report of this first meeting. An important item was about the membership database. Back in Europe I visited the funder of the membership database Louise Deumer and the IT professionals in Arnhem, The Netherlands. Despite Louise's efforts and my efforts, we still don't have a membership database.

To do the job as SG you need a good membership database. I am grateful to members who sent me lists of addresses, so that we could make up-to-date lists for board members, individual members, affiliates and associates to send important information and documents for Congress. I am grateful to Danielle Levy, who translated the Congress documents from English into French.

I met in New York two IAW members from the Philippines who offered to organize the IAW Congress in Manila in the Philippines in 2020.

In April 2017 I visited the Board of the Pancyprian Movement Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities. We made preparations for Congress to be held in October 2017 in Cyprus. We worked one day on items such as venue, hotel, fee, excursions, booklet. The Pancyprian Movement board worked hard to plan a successful Congress with an attractive seminar and excursions.

In June 2017 I had a personal meeting with two Danish Board members in Copenhagen, Denmark.

As IAW Secretary General, I had to write letters, nominating members as delegates to attend several meetings and conferences all over the world, letters for visas, welcome letters to new members and thank you letters when IAW members moved to another country and were unable to work for IAW any longer. I handled IAW correspondence and, with the President, prepared reports, documents and agendas for Congress and Board meetings. As a member of the Working Group Internal Organization of IAW we started to update Membership and the function of Secretary General. I made a proposal to the Constitution Committee about the guidelines and bylaws for Secretary General.

UN representatives sent me reports and announcements for prizes and awards from the UN and from Universities to send to Affiliates and Associates to nominate members. I am interested in the work of the representatives. I am interested in the advancement of the Status of Women. As UN delegate in the Dutch delegation for the UN General Assembly in New York I learned that cooperation and personal contact is the best way to work together in both a local and international way.

I met a lot of friendly members of IAW with good ideas and prepared a report "The Future for IAW" in July 2017.

I decided to resign as Secretary General on July 15, 2017. I prefer to have good cooperation within the Board and to work together as a team.

Statistics on July 1st 2017: 410 individual members, 26 Affiliates and 17 Associates. I received and replied to more than 5000 emails.

IAW: Don't look backward, look forward. I wish you all the best for the future.

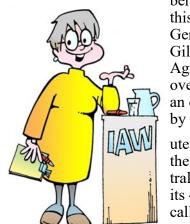
Membership Officer Pat Richardson

<u>Iaw.membership@womenalliance.org</u> 31/8/2017 Australia.

Dear fellow members of IAW...It seems only yesterday I was preparing a report for our Board meeting in Zimbabwe in 2016 and now here I am preparing a report for our booklet for our

Congress in Cyprus in Octo-Life or Honorary members Korbel both of Freiburg, dent from 1996 to 2004 Pat other of our Life members, home in Yorkshire and is way back when we still had every few days up and down

There have been many trib-Pat Giles in all our media in of the founders of our Aus-Lobby, (which is celebrating book written about her life years Australia was repre-Priscilla', but with the pass-



ber 2017. We have lost three of our this year...Janine Basseler and Irmgard Germany and our former IAW Presi-Giles, AM, of Western Australia. An-Agnes Reardon is now in a nursing over 100! She was the IAW Treasurer an office in London. She would travel by train. Talk about volunteers!!!!

utes made about the work and life of the last few weeks...Pat had been one tralian Affiliate, the Women's Electoral its 45th Birthday this year). She had a called 'Among the Chosen'. For many sented at the IAW by 'three Pats and a ing a few years ago of Pat Goble from

our Associate, the League of Women Voters of Victoria, we are now represented by 'One Pat and one Priscilla'! Pat Giles was a Federal Labor Senator from WA and led the Australian Government Delegation to the Nairobi World Conference. One of my most abiding memories of her was in our journals, when she and a handful of delegates to the CSW in NY in 2003 stood in the snow outside the UN with placards saying in different languages, 'NO WAR'. A brave heart in a tiny dynamic body.

As you know from my previous reports, I have been doing the Membership Secretary's job since December 1996, twenty one years...and before the Congress in London in 2013, I indicated that I was finding looking after the computer files just too much for me at my advancing age...as a consequence, a Database was proposed to be developed to take over my computer files although I said I would be happy to keep on doing the 'meeting and greeting' part of the Membership Secretary's position... and referring people to the right contacts. The excellent Database in the Netherlands was ready to take over when their services were dispensed with in April this year without any notice to me...so we are back to where we were and I have spent the last few months updating all my files once again...except I am now four years older.

I did mention last year that I had sorted all our printed issues of 'The International Women's News' and that a few issues were missing back to when I took over my job...(I had to send the labels to the UK printers for some years and multiple copies were sent to me from them...up to when we now produce the IWN only in PDF).......However, some of these missing issues were found and Priscilla Todd, our IWN editor, suggested that perhaps they all be scanned and put up on our website so they can be accessed by anyone wanting to do historical essays or to see what IAW was working on at the time... There would have to be funds put aside for this work. I also am hoping to find somewhere to archive all these journals which stand over two feet off the floor! Not to mention the dozen or so archive boxes in my storeroom containing all master files and printers lists etc... and also the printouts of emails to and from me...My computer still lists 4940 inward emails and 2318 outwards IAW messages...and that doesn't

include five years of data lost when my computer crashed a few years ago...luckily most would have been printed out and put into my archive boxes.

I continue to work with Joke Sebus in the Netherlands, who holds our email communication lists and sends out our Newsletters and Journals. Lene Pind, our Communications Officer, has been marvellous in keeping both of us up-to-date with new members and any other changes she receives, especially payments made via the Donate button on our website. Many of our individual members and affiliates and associated societies now find it easy to pay their subs by credit card.

I am pleased that those who join as individual members at a Congress now pay for three years, which has worked out very well.

I'm sorry I won't be with you in Cyprus, but long-haul flights are now a bit much for me... However, I am still at your disposal by email and usually answer immediately, if not before!

Best wishes in your deliberations in Cyprus.

Pat Richardson, OAM,

IAW membership Secretary; IAW rep for individual members; WEL Member NSW.

Admissions Committee / Jessica Kehl-Lauff

The following organisations, approved by the Admissions Committee, will be presented to Congress as candidates for admission:

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé President Ernestine NGO Melha aaeeh98@yahoo.fr Associate, supported by Monique Bouaziz

Canadian Federation of University Women CFUW-FCFDU CEO Robin Jackson <cfuwed@rogers.com Affiliate, supported by Joanna Manganara

General Arab Women Federation GAWF Ms Hoda Badran
shoda.badran@icloud.com
Affiliate, supported by Horeya Megahed (who checked the Arabic documents)

Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN) Ms Gertrude Kenyangi swage-nug@gmail.com Associate, supported by Jessica Kehl

Association Féminine Songmanégré pour le Développement, A.F.D President Claire GYEBRE <songmanegre2004@yahoo.fr> Associate, supported by Gudrun Haupter

ntengwe for community development CEO Elisabeth Markham elisabeth.markham@ntengwe.com Affiliate, asked by Joanna

Additional according to previous Board decisions:

Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development of India President Dr. Vijaya Lakshmi swhiindia@yahoo.co.in Affiliate, supported by AIWC, accepted by the BM in Sion

Ladies Circle of Cameroon – Coordinatrice Anne Pelagie Yotchou Tzudjom <u>cefap97@yahoo.fr</u> Associate, accepted by the BM in Paris

The following organisations are outstanding because they did not answer or not yet sent papers:

Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines WRMP (an affiliate of the national NCWP) by their President Norma J. Lonzano snorma.jlonzano@yahoo.com It is a former memberorganisation which Pat Richardson asked to be reinstalled at the BM 2015. Former Associate.

If WRMP: associate; if NCWP: affiliate, supported by Pat Richardson

Communications Lene Pind

The communications unit consists of **Priscilla Todd**, Australia, who is the editor of the IAW journal, International Women's News (IWNews), and who also as a native speaker of English amends any language errors in the Newsletter, **Joke Sebus**, the Netherlands, who sends out the Newsletter and IWNews, and **Lene Pind**, editor of the IAW website, Newsletter, Facebook and Twitter.

Together with Pat Richardson, membership officer, we update the list of members' emails, which is no little job.

Website



Fortunately a growing number of members wish to send contributions to the website. I do hope that this will continue. The purpose of the website is to show to the world what IAW is and what IAW does. But it is also possible to have articles on the website in which the writer expresses an opinion or discusses an issue.

I am looking for more members who would want to write for the website.

New members are recruited via the website. When somebody applies she receives an email from me, and when she pays she is accepted and I notify Pat Richardson, Joke Sebus, the Treasurer, and the Secretary General. Joke or Pat usually sends them a welcome letter. If we ever get a database, this process will be easier.

In 2016 73 people applied for membership, of which about 1/3 actually paid, in 2017 until September 51 have applied and so far 15 have paid.

So the website is an important instrument for IAW to recruit new individual members. The problem is what happens after they have joined. WE need to find out how to get them involved in the work. Here again I hope that a database will help us. A database will help us collect information about the interests and qualifications of our members, and thus we shall be able to draw on their knowledge and expertise. If we do not manage to get them involved most will disappear, and of course invoices must be sent to them the following years if we are to keep them as members.

Danielle Levy continues to take care of the French section of the website. I am sure she would like French speaking members to contribute to this part of the website.

Many thanks for your work, Danielle.

I need a sum of money that I can spend on technical support. As it is now, IAW does not have a webmaster.

Newsletter

The Newsletter and the website are closely connected. Often articles that are published in the Newsletter will be on the website as well. This is the usual procedure in most organisations. I am really pleased that the Newsletter receives more and more contributions from members. It is really becoming a media for news from IAW. This year I would like Congress to evaluate the Newsletter.

Many thanks in particular to Anjana Basu for her many contributions to the Newsletter and the website.

I am preparing a new format for the Newsletter.

Social Media

Our facebook account now has 1780 likes and 1765 followers. The twitter account has 596 followers. The number is slowly growing, but we should be able to boost this. I need help with the twitter account in particular.



Many thanks to Alison for sending to me on a regular basis suggestions for tweets or Facebook posts. I wish more people would do that. And to Arina for tweeting things that I can retweet.

Also thanks to those of you who retweet or share. This is important. I wish many more of you would realize how important.

Database

Since negotiations with Louise Deumer about the database broke down, Priscilla, Joke and I have been very busy trying to find new solutions. There is a separate report about that, but this has really been time consuming and an obstacle for my possibilities of keeping up activities on the website and social media.

Secretary General

Regina Smit stepped down as secretary general on July 15 i.e. in the middle of preparations for Congress. A quick decision had to be made, so Rosy Weiss and I decided that Rosy would take care of the money and I would take care of the rest with the very valuable help from Alison Brown, who has done the paper work in relation to elections. This is how it has worked until Congress.

Constitution Committee Lyda Verstegen

The Constitution Committee has finished its job of revising the Constitution and bylaws.

Congress will have to decide on the Constitution and the Board on the by-

We wrote an explanation of the changes.

Lene Pind and I communicated by skype and email. After 7 versions of the Constitution we were satisfied.

We sent the draft to the fiscal authorities in Geneva to make sure that the changes would not affect the status of tax exemption. They reassured us that this version would not do that.



Human Rights Lyda Verstegen, Convener



Our Action Programme asks to inform women and girls about human rights.

As convener of the Human Rights Commission I go to Geneva to the Human Rights Council and the International Labour Organization. I write about it on our website: www.womenalliance.org

I use every opportunity to link the Human Rights to the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore I am a member of the coalition for a Social Protection Floor.

I wrote an article for the Dutch Association for the United Nations on CEDAW. It is in English. <u>www.nvvn.nl/.../the-convention-to-end-all-forms-of-discriminatio</u>.

I follow the information of the OHCHR Civil Society Section, Weekly Update. It is a very useful publication and I recommend everyone to ask for a subscription, it is free: civilsociety@ohchr.org



The same is true for some apps: the Geneva Human Rights Agenda, and Women's Human Rights, W'sHR, from the University of Bern. The latter has all the texts of women's human rights instruments. They are available in the App Store.

I wrote a draft for the chapter on Human Rights for the programme of action for our President. I added the four questions that a feminist should ask about new policy or new laws:

1. Does or should the target group which the measure is aimed at include men and women?

A measure aimed at mixed target groups always implies the distribution or redistribution of resources, or a change in rules or regulations. Since the current distribution of resources- money, time, information, access etc. - and the impact of rules and regulations often differ between the sexes, it is probable that change will have different outcomes for men and women also. Equally it is possible that such change can support the elimination of differences, which unfairly advantage one gender over the other.

2. What is the situation for women and men in the area of action in question with respect to:

Representation - gender distribution on Boards, committees or other decision-making bodies; Resources - distribution of or access to resources between women and men. How do decisions concerning resources affect men and women? Rights;

Responsibilities and obligations.

Either the answers will indicate no difference or difference based on hard facts, or it will be difficult to establish because of the absence of statistical or other data. Collecting data is crucial in order to be able to answer this question and answer it accurately. And since men and women are not homogeneous groups the data has to be gender disaggregated and also relate to age, ethnic origin, social situation etc.

3. Explain the differences and similarities for men and women in the area in question. For example - what are the structures? What norms apply? What bearing does the way in which activities are organized have?

The earlier these questions are posed the less likely it will be that measures will develop which reinforce inequalities or which introduce new inequalities. As an extension, the questions may identify other structures or measures that are maintaining inequality and inhibiting the development of more equitable policy or programmes etc.

Particularly important is the inclusion of women and women's knowledge in addressing these questions.

4. What are the measurable goals, which have been formulated, and how do they show that equal opportunities have received due attention in relation to the measure, action or policy proposed?

If equality or inequality is an issue then next steps must include:

Goals formulated to address issues identified;

An action plan;

A timetable for measuring progress;

An effective monitoring mechanism;

These questions are from REFLEX

REFLEX is a method developed in Sweden by the Equal Opportunities Experts of the Regional Governments to support gender proofing of all public policy and measures. It has been contributing to 'Getting the Balance Right' for wider use and adaptation.

Getting the Balance Right was a transnational project funded under the EU 4th Action Pro-

gramme on Equality between Women and Men. I have used it in a European project on Gender Mainstreaming in Local Governments, in the 90s.

When I am in Geneva in September I am going to meet a new individual member who wants to be on this commission, Derya Akinci. .

Until the Board Meeting in Victoria Falls I was the main representative of IAW in Geneva. There it was decided that Arielle Wagenknecht would replace me. I still want to be a representative in Geneva.

Health Gudrun Haupter, convener

Preliminary remarks: The Commission's activities are intertwined with activities at WHO on behalf of the IAW.

IAW currently enjoys the status of Official Relations. This status has to be confirmed every three years, a fact that required collaboration between the Convener and the Liaison Officers (Representatives) at WHO, Ursula Nakamura and Seema Uplekar.

The collaboration between the three of us is documented in the report *IAW* at the World Health Organization, WHO, in 2016 – 2017.

Presently the Commission has ten members from different regions and countries, most have been with the Commission for many years. Ursula joined in 2015 and Mohinder Watson in 2016. Mohinder is IAW representative in Geneva and President of *Action on Child, Early and Forced Marriage*.

Burning issues: These are outlined in the draft of the Commission for the IAW Action-Programme 2017 – 2020 written jointly with several Commission members. It refers to SDGs 3 and 5 and takes up requests of the previous AP that women and girls must have a voice in decisions and a choice over their lives.

- 1. Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) more than ever claim urgent and continued attention. Less known threats to women's and girls' health rights and safety have surfaced such as Mass sexual aggression. They need to be addressed in addition to well-know concerns of the IAW like Female genital Mutilation/cutting; Sexual violence and exploitation; Child marriage; Improved access to family planning including access to safe and legal abortion to prevent, inter alia, Maternal death and Maternal morbidity. Last but not least: Provision of rights-based comprehensive sexuality education for girls and boys. Progress will also depend on the involvement of member organizations and individual members. Improved communication within the IAW will make a difference, too.
- 2. Women's Health Rights often fail to be met in those non-communicable diseases (NCD) that hit only women, such as Cervical cancer. This women-specific issue needs to be urgently dealt with. Prevention and early detection tools exist but are not available to women in countries that lack the required medical infrastructure. A less demanding alternative to regular pap smears exists and research results on using VIA, Visual inspection with acetic acid, in poor-resource countries, are available.
- **3.** Women-specific aspects of NCDs tend to be overlooked. The Commission holds that the Tobacco issue, in particular all forms of passive smoking and protection of women and girls from aggressive marketing, deserves continued attention.

Dealing with tobacco control as a burning NCD issue in the past helped IAW to remain among the few women's NGOs with Observer status at the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, WHO FCTC. Our thanks for lending her expertise go to commission member Soon-Young Yoon. In August 2017 she mailed me her comments on the WHO Montevideo Roadmap Declaration – the context is the WHO Global

Conference on NCDs 18-20 October 2017. She asks for serious revision, inter alia for the following reasons:

- -There is no mention of human rights. Human rights should be added to the beginning of the Declaration and serve as a principle of health promotion, prevention and treatment of NCDs to ensure that "No One is Left Behind".
- Women are not a homogeneous group; hence the need to recognize the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination by age, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic and cultural status, as well as disability.

C. Main activities of the Commission

° Letters to the Commission

Some of the above health issues have been presented in letters addressed to Commission members during 2016 and 2017. These were not only a means to channel information and to alert to problems but also a tool to ask members for country-specific information or their own view. I wish to thank everybody who responded. Referral to WHO events, positions and publications often helped to understand the global scope of an issue.

N.B. Letters have been mailed roughly 4 times a year since late 2013.

° News items for the IAW Homepage and other examples of our promoting IAW concerns



In May 2016 Oral Statement at the World Health Assembly, WHA, on ZIKA and Pregnancy delivered by Seema (photo) on agenda item "WHHO response in severe large-scale emergencies. Our statement dealt with possible consequences for women's health, in particular for the SRHR of women. IAW requested action on their SRHR in the context of ZIKA.

To commemorate May 28, the *International day of Action on Women's health*, the statement was put up at the Homepage.

In June 2016 supported by Seema I asked African IAW members if they were involved in Traditional medicine. A response received from Burkina Faso is on the Homepage, French section. Commission member Rakia Kaba from Chad responded to the question, so did Cameroon and Zambia.

- In August 2016 additional information I had provided to the President's Letter on FGM was put up and
- In March 2017 my item on *Women are suffering globally* as a consequence of President Trump's reinstatement of the Gag rule and growing opposition to SRHR, based on an article of the *Guardian*. N.B. In August 2016 the IAW had endorsed the campaign for women's right to safe abortion and for the institution of the *International Safe Abortion Day* to be commemorated on 28 September. This was requested in an open letter to the UN.
- In July 2016 Mohinder Watson was a panelist at the Graduate Institute in Geneva to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council, and spoke on Child, early and forced marriage.
- Also in July 2016 I proposed to the Deutscher Frauenring, DFR, the text of a Press release on Child marriage in Germany to be published on the *World Refugee Day*.
- The Commission in the IAW Newsletters (they can be downloaded from the homepage)
- NL December 2016: My report on Catholic schools and sexual education go hand in hand, an example from Burkina Faso.

- NL April 2017: Mohinder summed up the High Level Panel on FGM at WHO and explained why women with FGM in India need international support.
- The NL June 2017 included
- a) Ursula's report on the World Health Assembly in May. Go to pages 4+5 to read it. She attended the WHA with Seema and met Soon-Young who spoke at a side-event on *Leaving no one behind. Equity, gender and human rights policy and practice.*
- b) My contribution on a Congress in Indonesia. A quote: "Dozens of women from the Muslim majority country as well as scholars from Saudi Arabia, India and Pakistan gathered for what is believed the first major meeting of female clerics on Java, issuing a raft of religious decrees after 3 days of discussions. Among the most important was a fatwa calling on the government to raise the age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18".
- c) My article The State of Health of Young Women and Obstacles to their empowerment.

Dr. Flavia Bustreo, Assistant Director-General Family, Women's and Children's Health—Photo—presented the topic at the meeting of the G7 leaders in Taormina, Sicily, May 26 - 27,



Democracy Anje Wiersinga, convener

The focus of the commission has been on "Implementation and Accountability" It is a follow up of and in accordance with the IAW Statement "Implementation and Accountability" adopted in 2014 and the IAW Political Declaration "Call for a new Accountability Paradigm" proposed by Joanna Manganara, approved by the IAW Board in 2015.

This includes promoting implementing agreed treaties, policies and commitments and holding Governments, International Organizations and other stakeholders accountable to do so. If necessary to lodge an official complaint such as at Cedaw or at the CoE Co. on Social Charter

Our main references are CEDAW and Beijing Platform of Action with emphasis on equal participation in Democratic and Political Processes and Decision Taking, including in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and state building.

The recognition of the positive effect of women's participation for the whole of society is important and has been acknowledged in several International Conventions and Treaties; This we emphasize next to the fact that women's participation is still insufficient.

One of the core subjects the Commission is dealing with is the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security, in which we cooperate with the IAW Peace Commission.

In so doing we follow the IAW legacy handed down by Rosa Manus, Vice President of IAW, co-founder of WILPF, co-founder and secretary of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace, Honorary Secretary and Vice President of the Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations at the League of Nations in Geneva.



Our focus has been on the implementation of "1325" by the UN itself at peacetalks on Syria in Geneva, talks between Kosovo and Serbia and recently at the Cyprus reunification process. We are in contact with women's organisations in those countries and inquire about their wishes, demands and priorities and make those available to politicians. We have organized side events, inviting representatives of women's organisations from these countries as speakers for these events and for face to face discussions with politicians.

The IAW published a 50 page booklet "Wishes, Demands, Priorities of National Women's Organisations in the MENA Region" in which this information is made available.

This booklet is one of the actions of the Democracy Commis-

sion

Several side events were organized together with the Convener of IAW Peace Co. At CSW:

Parallel event on Implementation of UN SC Res. 1325 and CEDAW, sponsored by IAW and KARAMA resulting in Conclusions which were presented at a second Side event on Women – Peace - Security; Implementing UNSC Res. 1325 and CEDAW, sponsored by the Austrian Government, IAW and KARAMA

The IAW Convener has been reporting to the INGO Conference at the Council of Europe on the outcome of each CSW Session in her capacity as IAW Representative at the Council of Europe.

At CoE - similar side events were organised, one with Rosy Weiss as speaker.

At Council of Europe several amendments were formulated on Parliamentary Resolutions and Recommendations on the situation among others in Tunisia, in Syria, in Kosovo, in Libya and submitted through parliamentarians and adopted— often unanimously - by the Parliamentary Assembly. Our function is then: to provide expertise, which politicians often lack on these gender issues and are glad to receive.

So far the Commission's emphasis has been on implementation on the international level. The Commission is considering whether there is a need to assist affiliates promoting implementation at the national level. Per example how to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) 1325, which is included in the UN SC 1325. The Netherlands IAW Affiliate is a signatory of such NAP 1325, together with other NGO's.

Other side events are in preparation for 2018, in which new information will be provided among others on how a Legal Opinion can be submitted to the International Court of Justice when the UN SC does not implement its own - binding - resolutions.

The IAW Commission on Democracy is also working on an up-date of the information of its booklet. Two young members have volunteered to do this. Funds for printing has to be found.



Another subject of the Democracy Commission is the implementation of treaties and commitments eradicating Violence against Women, including the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention. As a follow up of IAW 2013 Congress' Resolution on the subject example letters in English and French are made available to be used to promote the ratification.

Two IAW Side events were organised at CSW on this subject:

- Parallel event on Istanbul Convention, sponsored by IAW, in cooperation with Turkish

Parliamentarians

- Parallel event on Gender-based Violence as a Political weapon, sponsored by IAW, cosponsor KARAMA

Several papers on Female Genital Mutilation and some on surrogacy have been written. At the Council of Europe we work together on these and other subjects; see for more information the report of the IAW Representatives at the Council of Europe.

Climate Change Nathalia Kostus

The highlight of my accomplishments for 2016 to 2017, was a private meeting with Gloria Steinem, American political activist icon, and feminist leader, at her home. We exchanged innovative ideas for future collaboration. I am honored to call Gloria Steinem my colleague and friend, and I am empowered by her leadership on women's rights.



Women's Land Rights and Climate Change Finance



The major accomplishment for 2016 to 2017, was my speech at the Ford Foundation and Center for Gender Economics Initiative CSW 61 panel on Expanding Opportunities for Women's Land Ownership Rights. I provided an international perspective on the importance of land rights for women in climate change policy and finance. Speaking from my experience in the private sector, I shared experiences that, even if, land rights standards apply, they are gender-blind; informed consent, prior to project approval affecting access

to land, utilization of water and other resources; land acquisition and resettlement processes; and compensation schemes do not include women. Launched at the event, was a comprehensive study on women's right to land in Nigeria, taking into account customary laws and land reforms. An important outcome was the recognition that even if the national law grants land rights to women, women are discriminated against in the family and pressured by male family members to give up their ownership rights. Women's land rights are in the IAW Action Program 2014 to 2016 adopted at the Congress in London: "No prejudice (handicapped, widows, witches), unequal access, control and ownership of land because of laws and customary practices."

Action Programme on Climate Change

The key accomplishment for 2016 to 2017, was my final version of Climate Change Pillar for the New International Alliance of Women Action Programme 2017-2020. I wrote this draft after conducting extensive consultations on the programme on climate change during 2015 to 2017, online and face to face meetings with over twenty leaders of IAW and member organizations, as well as, external partners. This high-quality result shows high levels of expertise and engagement across the Alliance. The programme has important commitments on (1) enhancing the connection between global policy on climate change and member organizations that work on the ground; (2) recognizing women's priorities, specific indicators, and adequate financing;

and (3) engaging in the global climate change policy development. The new Action Programme on Climate Change 2017-2020 is a continuation of IAW Resolution XI Climate Change and IAW Action Program 2014 to 2016, including on women's human rights, and mainstreaming gender equality in all decisions and decision-making bodies. See draft Action Programme on Climate Change 2017-2020 for further discussion and adoption at the Congress in Nicosia.

Publication on Women and Climate Change

I am working to put together a publication on women and climate change. Initially, in June 2016, I was asked by President Joanna Manganara and Editor Priscilla Todd to put together an issue of the IAW IWN on women and climate change. I received commitments for over 10 articles with good regional and thematic balance. The time frame of IAW IWN was extended once because initially, it coincided with COP 22. The content of the publication grew. In March, I received commitments for two articles from high-level authors that would increase the profile of the publication. I reported this development to President Joanna Manganara and IAW delegation at our meeting in the Greek Mission during the CSW. On April 10, the IWN Issue on women and climate change was canceled, unable to extend the time frame for the second time. I am going to publish this publication independently because it represents my work and the work of my authors. Two or more of the articles are cutting-edge, and it is important to get them right and to get them published. This publication relates to numerous provisions of IAW Action Program 2014 to 2016 and IAW Resolution XI on Women's Rights and Climate Change.

UNFCCC Accreditation

I will be able to move forward with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and obtain observer admission for IAW after the necessary decisions are taken at the Congress in Nicosia, following the mandate from Congress in London, IAW Resolution XI on Women's Rights and Climate Change. I am working with Jessika Kehl-Lauff, IAW Executive Vice-President, to obtain necessary documents from the government of Switzerland to move forward. The UNFCCC accreditation relates to the IAW Action Program 2014 to 2016: mainstreaming gender equality in all decision-making bodies. See my Representative to the United Nations in New York: Report on Activities 2016-2017 for analysis and activities on the UNFCCC Negotiations 2016-2017.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

NEW YORK

Soon-Young Yoon, main representative:

During CSW61 and the High Level Political Forum, the IAW representatives in New York participated actively in side-events as speakers and organizers. As a member of the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee, the IAW helped to guide the substance and logistics related to the NGO Forum and worked with members of the CSW Bureau to ensure a successful Agreed Conclusions. There was much discussion on how the CSW can become more integral to the SDG agenda and how to link the outcomes of the CSW to implementation at national level. Im-

plementation has generally been slow and—in the opinion of some governments-- follow-up by NGOs seems to lack enthusiasm. The IAW representatives in NY are keenly aware that a major weakness in NGO participation during the CSW is that NGOs are not allowed into the negotiations room.

The IAW in NY has actively followed preparations for Habitat III on human settlements, including communications with the Secretariat on civil society participation. Representatives participated in all preparatory meetings, including in Surabaya, Indonesia (the last prep-com) as well as numerous sessions in NY. The outcome document of the New Urban Agenda will be particularly important next year when the HLPF reviews Goal 11 on Urban Settlements. The IAW should continue to be an active participant in Habitat as cities are increasingly the locus of political, economic, and cultural decision-making and will hold more than 60% of the world's population by 2050. Cities also contribute the greatest proportion of green house gases and are critical in the fight against climate change.

The IAW in New York remains a strong supporter and leader in the Cities for CEDAW campaign. This campaign spread like wild fire, particularly under the new US presidency with more than 50 cities that have resolutions or city ordinances in support of CEDAW. Most recently Miami-Dade County passed another resolution that called for an in-depth study and reporting from all county departments on implementation of CEDAW. Other cities like Los Angeles are taking the Cities for CEDAW to the level of implementation, monitoring and calling for financial accountability.

The IAW representatives also contributed to the NGO Preparatory meeting for the HLPF as



organizers and volunteers. On July 9, more than 150 participants met on the second floor of the CCUN for an all-day program that included speakers from all major groups, the Coordinating Mechanism for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS), UN DESA, as well as the working groups on communications, etc. During the HLPF, members participated in the women's major group preparatory meetings for the SDGs and helped to ensure communications with CoNGO committees. IAW members are reminded

that participation in the MGoS is possible at regional levels and all should try to be a part of the preparatory meetings leading up to the HLPF in 2018.

At the International Conference on Health Promotion held in Shanghai, IAW representative, Soon-Young Yoon moderated a panel on gender equality and Non-communicable diseases. Speakers included the Minister of Gender from Denmark, representatives of SEWA from India and the White Ribbon campaign. The panel noted that many innovations might happen locally, but, without strong support and financial integration with national policies, these may be short-lived.

Issues that IAW/NY thinks need stronger support include a gender perspective on climate change, cities and human settlements, and financing for development. Representatives remain very active in related issues such as health, ageing, disabilities, and rights of the girl-child.

Natalia Kostus

Representative to the United Nations in New York: Report on Activities 2016-2017

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UNFCCC Negotiations 2016-2017

The highlight, from my activities at the UN in New York, was the meeting with Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and civil society organizations to commemorate the historic entry -into-force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change on November 4, 2016. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has been supporting the Paris agreement from its inception; once again



he raised momentum for the Agreement with this meeting, ahead of COP 22 in Marrakech. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon gave credit for the agreement to civil society leaders, raising the profile of civil society at the United Nations and in the climate change negotiations. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon thanked civil society organizations, representing and mobilizing millions of people, for their "vision, courage, persistence and leadership [that] made this day happen." Secretary General stated, "At the time that civil society is under attack in so many parts of the world, you have shown that citizens' groups are essential partners for progress." Representatives from civil society groups emphasized that women's leadership is key to implementing the Paris Agreement, as well as, pointed to the power of indigenous women and all women when they organize.

To date out of 197 Parties to the Convention, 160 Parties have ratified the Paris Agreement. During COP 22 in Marrakech, carrying the momentum, Parties to the Paris Agreement held their first meeting. COP 22 made substantial progress on accelerated technical negotiations on operationalization of the Paris Agreement, a rulebook for implementation set to complete by 2018. However, current pledges to limit emissions are inadequate. Estimated emissions gap is 12 to 14 gigatons to stay below 2°C. Estimated emissions gap is 15 to 17 gigatons to stay below 1.5°C. Current financial pledges to jointly mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 are insufficient, to date at USD 10.3 billion, in total. Progress on pre-2020 climate actions is lacking. At the same time, progress on gender and climate change is ambitious. At COP 22, Parties decided to continue and enhance the Lima work programme on gender. Parties committed to develop gender action plan, nominate gender focal points, increase the representation and active participation of women, establish annual in-session workshops, integrate gender in the UNFCCC process and the financial mechanism, integrate gender and traditional knowledge in national climate policy and actions, and recognize the value of participation of grassroots women. The COP 22 decision on gender resulted from consultations that gathered supporting input from a majority of countries; including regional groups G77 and China (representing 133 countries), LDCs (representing 48 countries), EU (representing 28 countries), United States, Canada, India, Mexico, Philippines, and Australia. COP 22 featured many high-level events on gender and climate change.

Most recent development, in climate change negotiations, is the withdrawal of the US from the Paris Agreement, as soon as it is eligible at the time of next election in the US. The United States will remain Party to the Convention and may re-engage with the Paris Agreement. Losing the leadership of the US on climate change is devastating and will have negative implica-

tions. The leadership of the US has been crucial in the Paris Agreement. The US is one of the top three emitters; the other two, China and the EU, remain committed. Most recent developments, in the negotiations on gender and climate change, are informal consultations and informal workshop to develop possible elements of the gender action plan under the UNFCCC to support the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates. Possible elements include (a) Capacity building, knowledge sharing, and communication; (b) Gender balance, participation and women's leadership; (c) Coherence within the UNFCCC and other UN agencies; (d) Gender-responsible implementation and Means of Implementation (MoI); and (e) Monitoring and reporting. Activities on the UNFCCC negotiations 2016 to 2017 relate to numerous provisions of IAW Resolution XI on Women's Rights and Climate Change and IAW Action Program 2014 to 2016; including on women's rights and mainstreaming gender equality in all decisions and decision-making bodies (50/50).

CSW 61 and Brief Overview of Other Activities

The highlight, from my activities at the UN in New York, was the UN commemoration of the International Women's Day on March 8, 2017. Women and men dressed in red. American award-winning actor and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Anne Hathaway delivered a keynote address on unpaid care work and paid parental leave.



Photo Credit: UN Women from Snapchat

I participated in the UN Women Snapchat campaign. Spirits were high.

Another highlight, from my activities at the UN in New York, was the historic town hall meeting with Secretary General and civil society organizations on March 17, 2017, during the CSW 61. Secretary General Antonio Guterres stated, "What I am interested in is listening to you and more than to your questions, to your suggestions, and to your opinions on how we can move forward with our commitments to gender equality."

I was honored to be there; there was an empty chair with a sign for all women who could not be there, because of denial of visas or other obstacles. I drafted, together with IAW Secretary General Regina Smit, IAW Representative Susanne Riveles, and Member of IAW Delegation Tone Brekke, the IAW statement for the town hall meeting.

I raised my hand; I was never called on to deliver the statement; however, speakers from the women's movement raised similar concerns. Members of the drafting group had different opinions on the issue of sharing the written IAW statement afterward.

High Level Political Forum HLPF 2017 reviewed implementation on seven SDGs: 1 (poverty); 2 (hunger); 3 (health); 5 (gender equality); 9 (industry); 14 (oceans); and 17 (partnerships); countries presented 43 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs); and adopted Ministerial Declaration. HLPF's ambitious agenda left little time for statements from countries and civil society limiting meaningful discussion. Some countries sought to renegotiate hard-fought elements of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, including on women's rights and reproductive rights in the

Declaration. My activities for CSW 61 and other UN processes in New York reflect the IAW Action Program 2014 to 2016.

Geneva

Lyda Verstegen, main representative

- see report under Human Rights Commission

Esther Suter

IAW /NGO-CSW-GE: Informal meeting with Soon Young on May 23, 2017 at Rue de Varembé 3, Geneva



Few NGO representatives were present beside the NGO-CSW commission of Geneva. I had the opportunity as UN-NGO (IAW)-Representative for Human Rights Geneva to participate.

Soon Young stressed out the importance of a CoNGO membership. Congo is allowed to speak at UN and has a bridging role. The next CoNGO GA will be in Geneva March 1-2 2018. There will be election for a new president in New York and a new vice-president in Geneva. Soon Young proposed the CSW-board to candidate with one nomination and two supportive nominations.

Is Soon Young going to be candidate for CoNGO presidency in NY? What about the vice-presidency for Geneva for the next 3 years, which organization will bring forward a candidate? In Geneva ILO, HRC and New Technologies (for climate change) are of importance.

Next CSW Session in New York will be from March 12-23, 2018. Ireland is now the Head of CSW-Bureau. The Youth Forum is expanding and has become a prominent part of CSW in the responsibility of UN-Women.

It was encouraging to meet Soon-Young with her energizing power and her clarity of reflections.

UNESCO

Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy

This year our action at UNESCO has been mostly focussed on the project of sending people from the Democratic Republic of Congo, to get trained as specialists in water and be able to train other people of the region around them. This was an outcome of the NGO-UNESCO FO-RUM organised in 2014 in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire) by the UNESCO INGO Conference, according to the new directives. Its Theme was ACCES TO WATER FOR ALL.

It was a great success due to the involvement of the UNESCO INGO conference, but also to the commitment of the Côte d'Ivoire government. Last year we reported in the booklet that an Appeal was made: *to make things move: move on from promises to action*.

As a follow-up, in UNESCO, a group of eight NGOs, including IAW, felt committed to answer the Appeal and decided to find funds in order to help members of our African Associations to get trained in water technologies.

Having searched financing for more than two years, (sponsorship being increasingly difficult to get) we were fortunate to get funding from the UNESCO Participation Programme and the first group of 14 people, among which 5 people from SOFEDEC, one of our association members have now completed their training and the SOFEDEC group have started training other

NGOs in their region. Their report is available in French on the IAW website. They relate the 3 weeks training they received in the International Institute of Engineering of Water and the Environment (2IE) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

We were all the more happy that they are also working with the Pygmy association Rapy that Lene gave us contact to. We asked the coordinator of SOFEDEC, Anuarite Muyuwa Siirewabo, to include them in their training sessions but in fact the two associations were already in contact. We hope that these sessions will help the region and mainly the women and children, escape rapes, hydric diseases and all the problems due to going to get water far from their homes, in unsafe places. Besides with safe water being close, women would have more time for doing many other things than their chores, from educating themselves to training to become leaders.

This group of 5 is still working well and we hope next year, to be able to send other grassroots members, from Togo, Senegal and Cameroon, for the same training. We hope that this plot project initiated in French -speaking Africa will also be extended, if possible, in a near future to English-speaking people too.







Training other people by the new SOFEDEC trainers



Water catchment by SOFEDEC newly trained technicians

Of course as usual we were present during the different sessions of UNESCO work: The UNESCO General Conference where NGOs got a space to explain who they are and become more visible, the Non Governmental Partner's Commission and the Conference of INGOs that was held in December 2016. It saw the election of the new Liaison Committee with Mr Philippe Beausant as its President and an interesting conference on THE CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION FOR NGOS. There, we got a space to present our association, to display IAW documents (booklets, flyers...) and on the walls to put paintings of the WIZO exhibition on the Olive Tree (a symbol of peace), that circulates at the moment all over Europe and France and is a series of paintings made by Catholic, Muslim and Jewish women, living in villages, close to one another in Israel. They are painting together and are a proof that living together is possible for people of different faiths and convictions.

This year again the NGO - UNESCO group prepared 2 INGO FORUMS. The first one, FROM PROMOTING TO BUILDING PEACE WITH NGOS, was held in Queretaro (Mexico) on 3rd and 4th November 2016, with its theme "life learning education is a sine qua none to achieve a lasting peace for the good of mankind". With its music, dance and artistic trends it was a great success especially among young people. Unfortunately we couldn't attend for lack of funds.

The second FORUM of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO was held in Riyadh in Saudi Arabia on 3rd and 4th May 2017. The theme was YOUTH AND THEIR SOCIAL IM-PACT. The forum was interested by ideas on education, volunteering, new technologies and social networks, the protection of cultural heritage and sustainable development.

Although the Abdulaziz Foundation (MISK) offered everything (including the flights), we members of the IAW team refused to participate in this FORUM because it was made an obligation to the women participants to wear the Islamic abayah (full dress and veil) that would be offered to us on arrival. This was against our principles, since we, French feminists, believe that wearing a veil is not an innocent way of being dressed but that it is a sign of the submission of women to men's power. Fortunately Mrs BUKOVA, UNESCO General Director who came to the session was spared that obligation, perhaps she was not considered as a woman.

We are also working to prepare interventions on International days:

International day of peace: *Using Drones and Robots at the Service of Peace*International day of the girl child

Both are to be presented in 2018, and the details are not ready yet. PLEASE ANSWER IF WE ASK FOR YOUR HELP ON SUCH OCCASIONS.

Equipe UNESCO: Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy

Cette année, notre action à l'UNESCO a été centrée notamment sur le projet qui nous a permis d'envoyer des personnes de la République Démocratique du Congo, suivre un stage pour devenir technicien(e)s de l'eau, et qu'elles soient capables de former d'autres spécialistes de l'eau autour d'elles.

L'idée de ce projet nous est venue suite au FORUM ONG-UNESCO organisé en 2014 à Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire) par la Conférence des IONG de l'UNESCO, dont le thème était L'ACCES A L'EAU POUR TOUS, UN DROIT HUMAIN FONDAMENTAL. FORUM dû aux nouvelles directives de l'UNESCO et qui a été une belle réussite, suite à l'implication de la Conférence des OING, ainsi que du gouvernement de la Côte d'Ivoire.

Dans le booklet de l'an dernier, nous avions écrit qu'après le forum ONG - UNESCO de Yamoussoukro, nous avions conclu en lançant un Appel: pour faire changer les choses: passer des promesses aux actes. Un groupe de huit ONG, incluant l'AIF se sont sentis impliqués dans cet appel et ont décidé de trouver des fonds pour aider des membres de nos associations à devenir technicien(e)s de l'eau. Après avoir cherché des fonds pendant plus de deux ans (il est de plus en plus difficile de trouver des sponsors), nous avons eu la chance être sélectionnées par le Programme de Participation de l'UNESCO et le premier groupe de cinq personnes de SOFEDEC, une de nos associations membres a terminé le stage et a commencé à former d'autres Associations autour d'elle. Vous pouvez lire leur rapport des trois semaines de stage à l'Institut International de l'Eau 2IE de Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) sur le site AIF.

Nous avons été d'autant plus satisfaites qu'elles ont travaillé avec l'association Pygmée

Rapy que Lene nous avait fait connaître, et qui en fait était déjà en contact avec la coordinatrice de SOFEDEC, Anuarite Muyuwa Siirewabo.

Nous espérons que ces sessions vont aider la région et notamment les femmes et les enfants à échapper aux viols, aux maladies hydriques, et à tous les problèmes liée à la recherche de l'eau à une grande distance, dans une région pleine de dangers, sans oublier qu'avec l'eau potable à proximité les femmes pourront passer plus de temps à autre chose que les corvées, à la formation ou à apprendre à devenir chefs d'entreprises par exemple.

Ce groupe de 5 personnes est déjà à pied d'oeuvre et nous espérons pouvoir envoyer se former à leur tour, l'an prochain, des gens d'associations du Togo, du Sénégal et du Cameroun, et si possible dans un proche avenir des gens de langue anglaise.

Bien sûr, comme à l'accoutumée nous étions présentes aux différentes sessions de travail de l'UNESCO: La Conférence Générale, où les ONG ont à présent un espace qui leur permet d'être plus visibles, la Commission des Partenaires Non-Gouvernementaux et la Conférence des OING qui s'est tenue en décembre 2016 et qui a vu l'élection du nouveau Comité de Liaison et de son Président, Mr. Philippe Beausant, ainsi qu'une très intéressante conférence sur les défis de la révolution numérique pour les O.N.G. Dans l'espace qui nous était alloué pour présenter notre association, nous avons pu disposer nos documents (booklets, flyers...) et sur les murs nous avons accroché des peintures de l'exposition WIZO sur l'Olivier (symbole de la paix) qui tourne actuellement à travers l'Europe et la France et qui est une série de peintures faites par des femmes catholiques, musulmanes et juives qui vivent dans des villages proches les uns des autres, en Israël. Elles partagent un cours de peinture et font la preuve qu'il est possible à des peuples d'origines et de convictions différentes de vivre ensemble.

Cette année, comme tous les ans à présent, le groupe ONG-UNESCO à préparé 2 FORUMS. Le premier: DE LA PROMOTION A LA CONSTRUCTION DE LA PAIX AVEC LES ONG, s'est tenu à Querétaro au Mexique, les 3 et 4 novembre 2016 et avait pour thème:" *l'éducation tout au long de la vie est un sine qua non pour réussir une paix durable pour le bien de l'humanité*". Avec sa musique, sa danse, et tous ses éléments artistiques il a eu un très grand succès surtout chez les jeunes. Par manque de fonds, nous n'avons pu y participer.

Le second FORUM des ONG en partenariat officiel avec l'UNESCO s'est tenu à Riyad en Arabie Saoudite les 3 et 4 mai 2017. Le thème en était: LES JEUNES ET L'IMPACT SOCIAL. Ce forum s'est intéressé à l'éducation, au volontariat, aux nouvelles technologies et aux réseaux sociaux, à la protection du patrimoine culturel et au développement durable.

Bien que la fondation Abdulaziz (MISK) ait offert en totalité aux participants le séjour et les voyages, nous, membre de l'équipe AIF, avons refusé d'y participer car nous savions qu'à l'arrivée il nous faudrait porter l'abayah islamique, (robe qui recouvre tout le corps) et le voile offerts, ce qui allait contre nos principes, car nous, féministes françaises, pensons que porter le voile n'est pas une façon innocente de se vêtir, mais qu'elle est un signe de soumission de la femme au pouvoir de l'homme. Par chance Mme B0KOVA, Directrice Générale de L'UNESCO, présente à cette session, n'a pas eu à se plier à cette obligation, peut-être que le mot anglais " Director" a fait qu'elle ait été prise pour un homme!

Nous sommes aussi en train de travailler à préparer des interventions pour les journées internationales:

Journée Internationale de la Paix: *Utiliser des Drones et des Robots au Service de la Paix*Journée Internationale de la Fille

Ces deux journées seront présentées en 2018, mais nous n'en avons pas encore les détails. REPONDEZ, S'IL VOUS PLAIT, si nous faisons appel a vous pour nous informer de ce qui se passe dans vos "pays.

Ida Kurth

UNESCO for Sustainability and Climate Change

Population Growth and Sustainable Development

Population control has been ignored in MDG programs for Sustainable Development and Climate Change and the battle cry "Women's Empowerment" of the IAW has a howllow ring when women still do not have control of their own reproductive system and this in the 21 Century. There has been no feedback from Affiliates and Associates on birth control management, the same with the WHO. Dr Nafis Sadik former

Executive Director of the UN Population Fund UNFPA said it is disappointing that in Agenda 21 family planing was not mentioned.

Progress of women is free decision making i.e. responsible planning of family size which leads not only to maternal health and the well-being of the family but also of society.

Dr. Reiner Klingholz, Director of the Institute for Population and Development in Berlin has, together with other authors, evaluated the ambitious huge projects of the United Nations - The UN-Development Agenda. The Programme embraces 8 millennium development aims as well as 21 further targets upto the year 2015.

He comes to the conclusion that the rapid rise of global population is counterproductive to sustainable development. The poorest countries have the highest population rate and are notorious troubles spots where civil war, terror and dysfunctional governments are in power. The young grown-ups living in poverty and hunger and with no perspectives whatever, find their way to the terror camps where they are received with open arms. Young women, according to Rashid Manju from Cape Town S.Afrika, are enslaved, raped if virgins and sold.

Overpopulation is an environmental danger and would lead to a sustainability crisis, a more balanced population growth has a sustainable future.

FAO



Jessica Kehl-Lauff, representative

Women's equal access to and control over productive resources

Discussion paper from the Delegation to FAO / CFS

After more than 100 years IAW faces new challenges to its goal of achieving equal rights and equal responsibilities for women. Women – and to a large part women and girls in rural sur-

roundings – don't know **how to assert and enjoy their rights of ownership**, or even worse: they don't have in their national legislation the right of ownership, neither of wages out of labour, nor of property inherited or bought.

Often this situation leads to <u>helpless poverty</u>: in some countries women will not be able to get into the local markets or to get their property registered legally as they don't have enough money to pay the charge of administration. There are even countries where women have to get the allowance to manage their own properties, very often in rural areas with old customs still alive. Without a registered property no financial institution will give them a mortgage, so they will not be able to enhance their economical or ecological potential. Often those women are not able to defend themselves in court, as legal procedures usually demand an advance payment. So they even are exposed to the danger to be degraded to Extreme poverty.

Women and girls in the situation of <u>Extreme poverty</u> in all countries around the world are usually exposed to increasing violence (f.i. forced prostitution, forms of new slavery, poor elderly women are accused to be witches; widows and girls will be forced to marry).

Point 1 of the discussion: GENERAL RECOMMENDATION No 34 (2016) of CEDAW IAW will promote women's access to ressources in a way that "no one is left behind".

Motivate member organisations around the world to take action for the abolition of hunger and the empowerment of the poor in their region by promoting Peace, Sustainable Development and Human Rights.

• Members advocate for the promotion of the General recommendation No 34 (2016) of CE-DAW on the rights of rural women (CEDAW/C/GC/34). They advocate to transfer its goals in legislation, if not possible, translate its focus in public policy at regional or local level. Members take special attention to paragraph "G. Land and natural resources" of the General recommendation No 34 (2016) of CEDAW where States i.a. are urged to take measures to achieve the substantive equality of women's rights to land, water and other natural resources and that they have full legal capacity.

Point 2 of the discussion: SDGs

IAW will promote women's equal access to and control over productive resources as land and property rights, water rights and developments programs.



The promotion of women's equal access to and control over productive resources as land and property rights, water rights and developments programs as designed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG) (Resolution 70/1 of September 25th, 2015 of the General Assembly of the U.N.) is important and gets attention by our member-organisations worldwide.

• While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to

primary education between girls and boys in most countries), women and girls continue to suffer not only discrimination and violence in every part of the world, but too many of them are living with constant malnutrition or hunger and violence, three big handicaps for any fight for equality.

IAW Members therefore take special care for SDG goal 5: "Gender equality" together with SDG goal 2: "Zero hunger". IAW promotes the knowledge, that women are the first to understand the need for healthy food for their families, that women are a large part of the workers – often unpaid – in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and that promoting women to get equal access to and control over productive resources therefore means enhancing decent incomes, getting healthy local produced food for local markets and a bet-

ter protection of environment (f.i. no far-away transports).

Point 3 of the discussion: FAO / CFS / IFAD / WFP IAW and its members promote the information on the international institutions of the United Nations in Rome amongst its membership.

IAW and its member organisations want to be represented by a delegation and will support their work at and with the **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO www.fao.org)**, an agency of the U.N. in Rome. By this step, IAW follows the work of Bettina Corke who edited in 2010 the first edition of her booklet < How to end hunger now! - A handbook to facilitate the work & activities taking place to end hunger & poverty > - and in 2014 a second, revised brochure. Bettina has taken care that IAW became a registered NGO on the list of FAO and a member of the important network "ad hoc group of international ngos" (www.ahgingos.org) where you will find our logo near to other important NGOs on the website.

After 2014, the institutions in Rome have understood the importance of the Civil Society Mouvement (CSM) where many grassroots are included and which has a right to speak during the **Commission on Food Security (CFS www.cfs.org**) on the subjects as every state-representative.

In 2016 all agencies got a researched report on Women and since then understood the importance of the female part of actors in all questions of food and nutrition. By the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD <u>www.ifad.org</u>) – the international financial institution and specialized agency of the U.N. dedicated to eradicate poverty and hunger in rural areas, our member-organisations could get help for those of their own member-organisations who fulfil the criteria.**

Members will be informed about the **Gender newsletter of IFAD** and get in contact with the regional and/or subregional offices of FAO by the 2015 presented Decentralized Offices. In these offices "where knowledge becomes action" **a Gender focal point of FAO** can be contacted. The delegation of IAW to FAO (ojekehl@bluewin.ch) will get members connected with the gender focal point of the corresponding regional and/or subregional office of FAO on demand. Some active Gender focal points invite the NGOs of their region regularly to meetings in their decentralized Offices.

The second contact possibility: members will announce themselves as a member of IAW to the Civil society Service of FAO (e-mail to <u>FAO-CivilSociety@fao.org</u>) with cc: to the IAW <u>Delegation in Rome (under ojekehl@bluewin.ch)</u> to get the possibility on the following benefits of partnering with the Rome Agencies:

Give a voice to stakeholders, particularly women and ensure that their views and opinions are taken into account;

Increase the effectiveness of FAO field projects and programs by building on experience in participatory approaches, poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture, as well as their capacity to act quickly and flexibly targeting the most vulnerable groups;

Build public support and political will to attain food security objectives.

Technical and institutional support In the scaling up of successful approaches which benefit the poor.

Greater influence on public policy, service delivery, finances and human resources development.

Council of Europe Heleen Jansen, representative

INTRODUCTION

This report will list the activities and describe the work that has been done by IAW representatives at the Council of Europe (CoE) and IAW commission convenor on Democracy Anje Wiersinga. It will report on the most important events that have taken place since Congress in London in 2013. The report will list the actions that can be taken by Affiliates and Individual Members to follow up on the work that has been done over the past period.



The **objective** of the IAW Representatives at the Council of Europe is to influence the policies of the Member States of the Council of Europe by making their expertise on gender issues available.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) four annual sessions of one week each in Strasbourg (reports made of several sessions) including meetings of

PACE Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and of PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and its sub-committee on Women Free from Violence.

PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination in Paris twice yearly.

Ministerial Gender Equality Commission in Strasbourg annually. Report available.

Hearing on access to justice for victims of violence, organized by the French parliament in Paris.

International Conference on the North-South process for the Empowerment of Women on the: "Participation of women in political life in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries: Challenges and Opportunities" in Rabat in 2014. Report available

Meetings held in Strasbourg in between the regular PACE sessions are often attended by Monique Bouchet who lives in Strasbourg such as the

CoE World Forum on Democracy in Strasbourg, annually November

CoE INGO Conference and its committees in Strasbourg twice yearly.

ECE meeting in Geneva in November 2014.

UN 58th, 59th and 60th CSW in New York in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Report available.

Expert meeting on the "De-legitimization of war" in The Hague. Statement available.

MEETINGS ORGANISED

As chair six annual meetings of the INGO taskforce on "Including Gender Perspectives in Democratic and Political Processes particularly during and after Conflict" in Strasbourg and Paris. Reports available.

As facilitator four annual meetings of the INGO Freely Constituted Equality Group (FCEG) in Strasbourg.

CSW 58 Side event on "Gender-based Violence as a Political weapon" with Karama

CSW 59 two Side events on "Implementing UN SC Res.1325 & CEDAW" in New York in cooperation with Rosy Weiss: one with Karama in Church Centre on "Deeds – No words" resulting in 5 statements presented to the 2nd in the UN Building hosted by the Austrian Government on "Women–Peace–Security"

INGO Side event on "Gender based Violence as a political weapon" in Strasbourg CoE parliamentary debates of the Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination 2016 and 2017



Putting an end to sexual violence and harassment of women in public spaces

Migration from a gender perspective: empowering women as key actors for integration

Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence CoE June 2016 site event Women and religion

INGO Resolutions - Recommendations, Amendments to Parliamentary Resolutions, Discussions and Reports, Awareness raising among INGO's and politicians

INGO Conference Recommendation on "Gender based violence as a political weapon"

INGO Position paper on "Climate change and Human Rights" prepared by the working group on climate change for which an addendum is requested on Gender aspects.

Adopted Amendment to Parliamentary Resolution on Situation in Tunisia.

Recommendation CONF/PLE(2016)REC1 adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 24 June 2016 Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova: the case of "Promo LEX" Association established in the Republic of Moldova

Recommendation CONF/PLE(2016)REC2 adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 24 June 2016 Health care and socio-medical conditions and respect of human rights of older persons in Europe

Recommendation adopted by the Conference of INGOs on Thursday 29 June 2017 CONF/PLE (2017)REC2 Business and Human Rights in which the gender paragraph was formulated and proposed by IAW representatives for which Renee Gerard and Heleen Jansen expertise was particularly persuasive.

Resolution CONF/PLE(2017)RES1 adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 27 January 2017 Protecting the freedoms of association and expression in Turkey under the State of Emergency

Declaration CONF/PLE(2017)DEC1 adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 27 January 2017 Support for the letter of the Council of Europe Secretary General on the proposed legislation which would decriminalise certain domestic violence in the Russian Federation

Declaration CONF/PLE(2017)DEC2 adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 27 January 2017 The European Social Charter is central to the dialogue between the Council of Europe and the European Union (Turin Process)

Contributions to Parliamentary discussions and several proposed and adopted amendments to Parliamentary Resolutions, a. o. on Tunisia/ Syria/Egypt, Kosovo and surrogacy.

THE FREELY CONSTITUTED EQUALITY GROUP AT THE COE (FCEG)

About 1/3 of its members are male. (Anje is convinced that without the participation of men gender equality will never be reached). This group meets 4 to 6 times yearly. Apart from the specific topics (see below), it has discussed how the INGO representatives can contribute more effectively to the work of the politicians of the Council of Europe and how the INGO Conference can reach its full potential and what is needed. See under INGO Conference below.

How can IAW Affiliates and Individual Members relate to this work with actions in their own countries?

They can remind their government of policies adopted by the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and urge them to implement these.

The website www.coe.eu provides information on CoE policies and activities.

Each of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe have an appointed Gender Expert in their Government who communicate directly with the Gender Expert Group of the CoE. These National Governmental Gender Experts can be contacted for consultation.

They could promote the ratification, implementation and monitoring of conventions, such as the Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women in conformity with IAW Congress' Resolution in London. Only a few of our European Affiliates' countries have so far ratified this Convention. So there is a lot to do.

Anje has made available example letters in English and French to be used to promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

The CoE Parliamentarian Network Women Free from Violence has in each of the 47 member States a Contact Parliamentarian, who is available for NGO's to work with. The CoE has offered to assist in organising seminars for Parliamentarians and Politicians on the issue. For further action see below under Violence against Women.

They can take part in the ongoing campaign to combat sexual exploitation of children with its Lazarotte Convention. Again there exist a Network of Contact Parliamentarians with members in 47 countries, who are available for cooperation on the national and local level.

They can raise awareness of these issues and Conventions, including in the media.

Recently it is announced that the 25th of each month should become an VAW action day.

They can make shadow reports of their government's reports as done for CEDAW.

Governments do report on several CoE treaties such as the Social Charter, the Convention on Trafficking and on the Istanbul Convention. Shadow reports are welcome.

Find a case to file a complaint under the Social Charter on Unequal pay for Equal work.

Recently the Social Charter's Committee renewed, on IAW's request, IAW's listing as a INGO allowed to lodge a collective complaint under the Social Charter. See below under Equal pay for Equal work.

The CoE Commissioner of Human Rights reports on the Human Rights situation in each member State. The Human Rights Commissioner often consults (national) NGO's during his visits, often before he listens to the government. IAW Affiliates can use this opportunity and could also comment on the reports of the HR Commissioner. On the website you will find his agenda: which countries he will visit and when: September 2017 Luxembourg, October 2017 Sweden and Moldavia. On YouTube you can find videos about his functioning.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROtWhA9vqu0&feature=youtu.be&list=PLc kaV4hXMlONgSazn6ZuWHvPsHy5wlo4

Assist in updating the IAW Publication on Wishes, Demands and Priorities of National and Regional Women's Organisations in the MENA Region. See below under Gender-perspectives in Democratic and Political Processes.

DEMOCRACY



The IAW Congress in September 2013 in London adopted a Resolution on the CoE World Forum for Democracy in which the IAW named the continuing underrepresentation of women speakers in those fora as unacceptable. This resolution was send by us to the CoE Secretary-General and he responded with a letter saying that he was aware of the problem. To our delight the final program of the World Forum a few weeks later in November 2013 included more women. And in 2016 the keynote speakers of the opening session were **Erna Solberg**, Norwegian Prime Minister and

Najat Vallaud-Belkacem French Minister of Education, Higher Education and Research. At the CoE we are continuing to press this point for the annual World Forum for Democracy.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Preventing and Combating Violence against Women is one of the priority themes of the CoE. The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the **Istanbul Convention**, is declared by the UN as the most comprehensive so far. The IAW Congress resolution on the Istanbul Convention recognises this and has been made known by IAW Representatives to the CoE Parliamentarians. The convention came into effect on the 1st of August 2014.

After ratification it is the monitoring of the implementation which is important to follow, first of all on the national level and secondly on the international level.

The monitoring will be done by the expert group (GREVIO), which has been appointed in May 2015 by the Committee of State Parties and decided in September 2015 on the rules and mechanism. At the CoE in Strasbourg we promoted the involvement of NGO's in GREVIO's work. Anne Nègre the Gender Expert is appointed as INGO Representative on the Committee of State Parties in 2016 as is done for the Trafficking Convention.

IAW Affiliates and Associates can take part in this monitoring process at the national level and may send information to GREVIO; they are encouraged to keep the IAW Representatives at the CoE informed, so that they can take this up at that level. You can find the timetable on the CoE website http://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/timetable

We also advocate to get the national news media involved particularly around the 25th of each month. During one of the sessions in Strasbourg there was a hearing during which five stories of female victims who did not survive domestic violence were read by actors. These stories are very effective and available to be used in national campaigns to raise awareness of the problem and the necessity of the implementation of the convention.

PACE adopted a report and a Resolution 2054 (2015) on equal access to justice including for victims of gender-based violence.

More systematic collection of data on VAW is the next issue for the CoE Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence. The results of a recent EU wide survey on domestic violence was presented by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency in the PACE Committee on Equality. The survey was held among 42000 women in 28 countries and the results are shocking, 20-30% of women have experienced acts of domestic violence; see publication on (http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14_en.pdf).

IAW Representatives have participated in debates and reports on Female genital Mutilation and on Surrogacy.

PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING

The CoE Parliamentary Assembly 2014 report on the subject (doc. 13446) is a balanced report and it is recommended to read it. Although it acknowledges that some women do choose prostitution by their free will, they constitute a small minority. It concludes that the scale effect prevails over the substitution effect when prostitution is legalised, leading to an increase in trafficking. "While each system presents advantages and disadvantages, policies prohibiting the purchase of sexual services are those that are more likely to have a positive impact on reducing trafficking in human beings"

The European Union Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality also published in 2014 its report on sexual exploitation and prostitution and the impact on gender equality. It also attaches great importance to the link between prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation. The report takes a clear stance in favor of the Nordic model of prostitution regulations, presenting it as the most effective tool both to counter trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation and to improve gender equality.

The team of EUROPOL officers working on cases of trafficking amounts to six people. In view of the large and increasing number of cases of trafficking in Europe is this clearly insufficient.

PACE Resolution 1983 (2014) on Prostitution, Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Europe calls for better data collection and more resources for combating trafficking. It proposes for the different legal systems measures, which can be taken leading to a reduction in trafficking, such as

raising the minimum age. A ban on advertisement for sexual services. The resolution includes two proposals by Anje: "require that information on the rights of sex workers as well as contact details of anti-trafficking services be clearly displayed in prostitution establishments" and "raise awareness of the need to change attitudes towards the purchase of sexual services and to reduce the demand, including by countering social encouragement, particularly in the workplace".

Affiliates and Associates and IM are encouraged to use the recommendations in these reports to promote the implementation of these at the local and national level.

THE SOCIAL CHARTER AND EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK



The Social Charter of the Council of Europe (1961) includes the right of equal pay for equal work. The European Union included in its Rome Treaty (1957) the need for equal pay for equal work.

In 1996 it became possible to be listed as an INGO which could lodge a collective complaint under the Social Charter. The FCEG at the CoE has worked on the subject of unequal pay, to find a case, and facilitate the filing of a complaint since years. Finally Anne Nègre has been able to lodge complaints for unequal pay in several countries. IAW support her.

See the website: http://www.coe.int/it/web/turin-european-social-charter/collective-complaints-procedure

GENDERPERSPECTIVES IN POLITICAL & DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

The **objective** of the INGO Taskforce at the CoE, which Anje chairs, is the inclusion of gender perspectives in <u>all</u> CoE work. Women have equal rights, at the same time they often have different contributions to make and different needs. One current topic is peace talks with the implementation of UN SC Res. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; to include women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace, democracy and state building. Presently we concentrate, first on the situation in the MENA Region, and second on that in the countries of ex-Yugoslavia by supporting the wishes, demands and priorities of women from these regions. In order to learn about these wishes, demands and priorities we talk to our contacts in the region, such as Karama, the Arab Network on Women, Peace and Security, the Libyan Women's Forum for Peace and the Syrian Women's Forum for Peace.

We invite representatives of these organisations - Hibaaq Osman, director of Karama, Mouna Ghanem, Coordinator of Syrian Women's Forum for Peace - to Strasbourg, as speakers for side events and for face to face discussions with politicians.

Anje is one of the 2 authors of the IAW publication "Wishes, Demands and Priorities of National and Regional Women's Organisations in the MENA Region" in which the results of the gathering of information were published. Our request to place the full text of the IAW publication on IAW's website has not yet been full filled. The necessary up date of the publication is our present goal. It is a huge task for which the IAW Democratic Commission is responsible. The working group Gender-perspectives in Democratic and Political Processes has also adopted this as one of its objectives.

This publication is used to bring the subject to the attention of the parliamentarians of the CoE and other politicians. So far it has resulted in the adoption of amendments to Parliamentarian Recommendations and Resolutions, often suggested by Anje Wiersinga as IAW Representative. One example of this are two amendments to the Recommendation on the situation in Syria on the need to address the issue of the widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence. It also lead to more discussion on this subject during the following Parliamentary Sessions.

We cooperated with the first Council of Europe South Programme (2012-1014) and with the second Council of Europe South Programme (2015-2017) "Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean" These programmes use the specific CoE experience from the transitional democratic processes in Central and Eastern Europe to apply in the MENA Region. The Programme states: Cooperation will be on demand, whereas principles of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law should be valued. It emphasises as Ms Bat-

taini, Deputy SG said "we do this on demand, we do not judge and we do not impose; it is their way - not our way"

We attend the PACE debates on the issue and we like to mention the adopted PACE Resolution 2012 (2014) and PACE Recommendation 2053 (2014) on Women's Rights and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

In April 2015 the IAW nominated together with 6 other International Organisations Salwa Bugaighis for the Vaclav Havel Prize 2015. Salwa Bugaighis was a Human Rights activist and initiator of the Libyan Women's Forum for Peace. Salwa was murdered in June 2014 in Benghazi for these activities while her husband was taken hostage and never heard of again. The Libyan Women's Forum for Peace started an International Campaign to end Impunity for such crimes, which we support.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The INGO Conference adopted a Position paper of the Working Group on this subject.

INGO CONFERENCE

Ms Anne Nègre was elected in January 2015 as Gender Expert and she has been very active. She represents the Conference of INGOs on various Council of Europe commissions and committees: Gender Equality Commission, PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, the ad hoc working group on gender equality in the audiovisual sector (CPP-ESA), a subcommittee of the Ministerial Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) which is preparing a Recommendation on gender equality in the audiovisual sector. This rather novel activity is being carried out with the participation of Eurimages and the Conference of INGOs. The Ministerial Steering Committee for Human Rights, furthermore, has set up a drafting group to prepare a good practice guide aimed at combating female genital mutilation and forced marriage, in which Anne Nègre is also involved.

A side event entitled "Are religions a place of emancipation for women? Progress and setbacks", was jointly organised by the Human Rights Committee. Close attention is being given to the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention. Ratifications of this convention by national governments are continuing, with the European Union due to follow shortly. The triggering of the evaluation procedure with Austria and Monaco marks the start of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. In March 2016, a comprehensive questionnaire was compiled for governments, although it is also very useful for any NGOs wishing to contribute to the "shadow report" when their country is being evaluated. In January 2016, the Gender Equality Expert held a briefing to encourage NGOs to participate in the monitoring of the Convention. Among those present at the meeting was Carolina Lasen Diaz, Head of the Gender Equality Unit, and Cécile Greboval, Programme Advisor, Gender Equality Unit, and Johan Friestedt, an administrative officer in the Violence against Women Division – secretariat of the Istanbul Convention monitoring mechanism. INGOs enjoying participatory status are strongly encouraged to take part in this work through their national members. The Gender Equality Expert sought to promote the Convention during events staged by INGOs belonging to the Conference (Conference of European Churches from 30 May to 3 June 2016), the "Sexism and Racism" event held in Strasbourg with the participation of young people, the International Conference on Men and Equal Opportunities held in Luxembourg (October 2016), and in the special statement on the Istanbul Convention made at the event hosted by the Prefecture of Rouen to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. We cooperate closely with her in this project.

<u>Due to a severe cut</u> in its budget the INGO Conference and its Commissions meet only twice yearly. It meets at the same time as the Parliamentary Assembly and since 2010 in a different building. This makes it very difficult to attend both the INGO activities and to follow the CoE Parliamentarian Assembly.

Moreover the procedures of the INGO Conference take so much time that contributions to the work of the Committee of Ministers and that of the Parliament become irrelevant by the time the procedures have been completed.

The good news is that a new Standing Committee – the governing body – has been installed and has already taken measures to improve the working methods. In June 2015 members of the Committee of the Ministers were invited for a dialogue with the INGO Conference members on future cooperation. Indeed they were not aware of the INGO Conference meetings and its work.

The INGO Conference Action Plan 2015-2017 was adopted in June 2015. Although it is a mayor improvement of previous working methods the IAW abstained since – contrary to the official rules - the proposal was not available until a few hours before the discussion and voting and there was no way to consult or inform members of the IAW Board or even to have a discussion among its own IAW Representatives at the CoE.

IAW did vote in favour of the Action Plans of the thematic committees.

The Activity Report of the NGO conference was adopted in January 2017. It is available on the website of the CoE. https://rm.coe.int/16806ecbbe

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

Gender Equality has been part of CoE's Human Rights agenda, as it is of the UN agenda.

There is a dangerous tendency to water this down at all levels and it is important to be aware of this.

The 1948 UN Declaration on Human Rights mentions four principal aspects of Human Rights: Dignity – Equality – Freedom – Security.

The 1994 Vienna declaration states Women's Rights are Human Rights.

The 1995 Being Platform for Action uses the word Equality after a year long international battle against the replacement of equality with the term Equity.

Equity is again used instead of Equality; it is used by politicians in outcomes of meetings (including those of UN) where most participants are not aware of the implications and later in other settings it is claimed by those politicians to be "adopted language"; it is also used by NGO's who are not aware of the danger, such as during the Rio Conference on climate change.

Dignity is used instead of Human Rights. However dignity is only one aspect out of the four mentioned by the UN Declaration of Human Rights and for some people does not include equality. This tendency is one of the mayor discussion points between the EU and the G77 group at the annual UN CSW.

At the CoE Gender Equality work has been transferred from the directorate of Human Rights to the directorate of Democracy. Moreover and worse, it has been included as the third subject with Social Cohesion and Dignity into one Committee (CDDECS)..

In the CoE Parliamentary Committees the conservative members are also active. One of these is the chair of one of the Committees. They are proposing reports on borderline SRHR subjects such as the Family, the Rights or the Role of Fathers and are appointed as rapporteur, knowing very well that everybody is in favour of happy families and the involvement of fathers and mothers in the upbringing of their children depending how it is formulated. The most recent example is the report on **Surrogate** mothers, which might divide the women's movement and lead to the claim of the pro life right of every foetus and make abortion illegal. It was therefore extremely important to have the right rapporteur appointed and the INGO's involved.

REPORT ON SURROGATE MOTHERS

At the instigation of the Gender Equality expert Anne Nègre, first the Standing Committee and then the Conference of INGOs were asked to establish a joint position on **surrogacy** to support the work being carried out by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The Standing Committee had approved this project with the proviso that any such position must be adopted in a consensual manner and not by a majority of votes. A consultation process involving all the INGOs from the Conference was launched, with Michel Aguilar, Chair of the Human Rights Committee, and Thierry Mathieu, Vice-Chair of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Issues Committee, acting as co-ordinators.

Members of the INGO working group on Gender Perspectives and the FCEG produced in a very short time an opinion concluding that the present draft was not yet mature enough for publication since a.o. it lacked recent international developments and information; the INGO Conference should not get involved in a debate taking place within other pillars of the CoE without being fully informed and aware of the consequences and without understanding how their statement will be used or misused and by whom. Fortunately the INGO Conference agreed with the Standing Committee's proposal that formal note be taken of the fact that the Conference of INGOs was **not ready** to issue a statement, resolution or recommendation on this issue at present. **Conclusion: surrogacy is not an area for this group to be involved in at this moment.**

SYRIA

It is not easy to find out whether and how women are involved in the current peace negotiations in relation to the conflict in Syria.

Answer, there are many highly qualified and organized Syrian women, who have worked on this issue and have spoken at the COE and at the UN. The women are currently not allowed to take part in the official peace negotiations in Geneva, because some of the parties will not attend if there are women present. The Women Advisory Commission with Syrian women as members is set up in Geneva with the support of UN Women. This commission is consulted by the UN Representative in Geneva. This UN representative at the peace talks is acting as their spokesperson in the official peace talks.

SIDE EVENT

Anje proposed a side event for January 2018 and to invite these women to explain the situation and also what they expect us to do. She started already the organization

Subject: Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Particularly at Syrian peace negotiations and also in Cyprus talks

Organiser: Parliamentarian or PACE Commission, supported by INGO Conference members

In June 2017 we have had elections for the chairs and vice-chairs of the thematic committees. Workgroups can be changed, but we have good raisons to believe that the FCEG can continue its work.

The mandate of Anne Nègre will end in 2017. We hope it will be renewed.

In January 2017 Heleen Jansen became the official IAW representative at the CoE to relieve the task of Anje, who is the chair of the workgroup and does a lot of work.

European Women's Lobby Arina Angerman:

Feminists with a To-Do List



During the General Assembly of European Women's Lobby (EWL) in Brussels, June 2016, Arina Angerman from Amsterdam was reelected as IAW representative to Board of Administration. My preparation to Board Meetings (in 2016 & 2017) and General Assembly (2017) of EWL was done together with Marion Boeker from Berlin, the IAW elected Alternate to me (by Skype). Marion and I are talking on average every two months.

EWL membership extends to more than 2000 women's associations in all EU member states and candidate countries. IAW is one of 10 Europeanwide non governmental organizations in this Board.

Sharing information and spreading knowledge

My GOAL representing IAW in EWL's Board was to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter or Facebook in order to strengthen the visibility both of IAW and EWL at social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week (social media mobilization). These doable social media actions I did every week. Both IAW & EWL have increased their social media presence.

Social media presence seen at 17.08.30	@EuropeanWomen	@Womenalliance	@ArinaNoel & @MarionBoeker
Facebook 2016	30.000 Likes		
Twitter 2016	10.000 Followers		900 Arina
Facebook 2017	34.560 Likes	1.775 Likes	
Twitter 2017	12.155	593	969 & 1.252

Do you want to share information and knowledge too at Facebook or Twitter? Please give EWL a Like at Facebook and follow EWL, IAW, Arina Angerman and Marion Boeker at Twitter.

Another way to share information with members of IAW is to write a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL. I published five stories in the IAW digital Newsletter since my last IAW report in 2016:

Our Future Starts Now! Together for a feminist Europe

The (EWL) Strategic Framework 2016-2020 has 8 aims for a Feminist Future. 3 internal strategic aims to build 'our' movement and 5 external strategic aims to transform society. Working on internal strategic aims was a very important discussion at the Board Meeting (October 2016) i.e. Challenges of building an inclusive women's movement by such a diversity!

Women in Politics

The political under-representation of women constitutes a serious democratic deficit, which undermines the legitimacy of the contemporary democratic ideal. Women in Politics is about to position different generations of feminists (F/M) and the promotion of women's human rights at the heart of political participation and decision-making.

Women in political decision-making

As a member of IAW affiliate Vrouwenbelangen I supported Vote for a Woman with Aletta (Jacobs) Actions using a blog and other social media actions (in Dutch). The result of the elections was the representation of women in political decision-making in the House of Representatives went down to 36% = 54 women from 58 women in 2012 and 61 women in 2010.

Uncover anti-feminist workings of right wing populist parties

Since General Assembly 2016 EWL and its members are mapping right-wing populist antifeminism that is spreading across Europe. EWL has focused on France (Front National) the Netherlands (PVV) and Germany (AFD). The three parties share 'an Islamophobic view of Islam as the primary threat to women's rights, and they also share an opposition to gender quotas.'

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

The atmosphere at EWL's General Assembly 'Mobilise, Strategise and Act' was inspiring 'politics and friendship'. IAW contributed to strategise on 'gender budgeting' in EWL's Working Programme 2017/18 and complimented EWL's (co-)funding awesome results in 2016 & 2017!

Besides using Twitter & Facebook & IAW digital Newsletter I published 2 blogs on angerman.europablogspot.com

Internet & Financial independence for women - #lifelonglearning
In this blog I shared my experiences as an 'experienced' feminist in a personal letter with participants of the AGORA '16 Young Feminist Summer School of the EWL https://angermaneuropa.blogspot.nl/2016/09/internet-financial-independence-for.html

Connecting international herstories: Jewish Dutch #Feminist Rosa Manus (1881-1942) In this blog I focus on Rosa Manus as board member of International Alliance of Women since 1926 together with Huda Sha'rawi, president of the Egyptian Feminist Union. https://angermaneuropa.blogspot.nl/2017/07/connecting-international-herstories.html

B. Important Actions by IAW in EWL policy making

IAW was on request involved in several important actions in EWL policy making:

-Follow up of Adopted Emergency Motion 'Banning of small arms must be part of European Year on Combating Violence Against Women' proposed by IAW in EWL General Assembly on 2015.05.31 -An EWL letter - 26th 2017 - to EU Commissioner on Security Union, Julian King, to ask for his concrete



actions in the European Commission year of focused actions on violence against women in 2017.

The Council of the European Union has - 11 May 2017 - agreed on EU's signature of the Istanbul Convention = Council of Europe (CoE) Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Now a.o. Austria, Denmark and the Netherlands have ratified, and Greece and Switzerland signed and didn't ratify yet! [Germany decided the ratification law by 31.05.2017 and Cyprus in July].

IAW with other (more than 25) European civil society networks have joined the broad European Coalition to End violence against women and girls (VAWG), convened by EWL.

In December 2016 and February 2017 I participated by audio in the EWL Working Group on women in political decision-making in order to develop a joint campaign strategy to achieve 50% women elected to the European Parliament in the 2019 elections. In June 2017 I participated in Brussels in face to face meeting of this EWL Working Group too. Leonie van Gils and Erica van Engel (both experts from the Netherlands) advise me on requests by email or telephone.

With Marion Boeker always looking precisely into budgets IAW made several comments during Board Meetings and General Assembly for a diversified & strong EWL budget.

C. GOALS or concrete doable actions for the coming year

- **GOAL 1.** To continue social media mobilization to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter and Facebook in order to strengthen the visibility of IAW and EWL on social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week.
- **GOAL 2**. And to inform members of IAW by writing a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL in every IAW digital Newsletter.
- **GOAL 3**. I as IAW representative focus on AIM 7 of Our Future Starts NOW! of approved EWL Work Programme 2017 & 2018: To position women at the heart of political participation and decision-making i.a. develop a campaign strategy to achieve parity democracy meaning 50% women in the European Parliament in the 2019 elections and 50% women in the new European Commission.

I want to thank Marion Boeker, Joanna Manganara, Jocelynne Scutt, Lene Pind, Joke Sebus, Rosy Weiss, Anje Wiersinga, Lyda Verstegen, Louise Deumer, Regina Smit, Leonie van Gils and Erica van Engel for their support, feedback and suggestions. They supported me by sending or answering emails, listening & advising in (Skype or telephone) conversations and stimulating to act; cooperation leads to success & as a group we are more powerful!

D. Relation with IAW Action Programme

IAW had an active voice in EWL's decision-making process in General Assembly & Board Meetings and supported various successful activities on ending violence against women and girls & 50/50 in decision-making bodies.

E. Burning issues as international representative

- 1. In order to continue to share information and spreading knowledge by social media IAW's presence at social media has to improve a first/small step is social media mobilization at IAW Congress in Cyprus. Who is using Facebook and or Twitter? For making IAW more visible at social media many more members could open accounts at Twitter or / and post at Facebook.
- 2. IAW has no Financial Resilience and Sustainability Plan (FRSP) similar to EWL's FRSP (2016-2020) which is specifically designed to support the organization to raise funds and carry out priority activities. Marion and I want to remind and encourage IAW members and post holders to implement such a FRSP into IAW's policies framework. We hope IAW Congress will decide to take up this burning issue!
- 3. At Wikipedia I recently discovered <u>Joanna Manganara</u> & <u>Lyda Verstegen</u> & <u>International</u> <u>Alliance of Women</u> ... in order to become more visible at this free encyclopedia for our members and other feminists (f/m) can IAW develop a WikiMedia project?

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Deirdre Exell Pirro,

IAW Member, Italy, IAW representative to the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) since 2005

The year 2016 was a disturbing year for the International Criminal Court in terms of its future. Three African nations, all previously full members of the Court - South Africa, Bu-



rundi and Gambia - signalled their intentions to pull out. The principal reasons they cite are a perceived bias in the Court's activities against African countries and complications involved in prosecuting senior political leaders. It is now feared that South Africa's departure, in particular, may produce a hemorrage of other African States following suit.

However, former Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, has stated that this should not happen in pointing out in Africa's initial support and participation in the Court's activities that,

"ICC remains the continent's most credible court of last resort for the most serious crimes ... [It] does not supplant national jurisdictions; it only intervenes in cases where the country concerned is either unable or unwilling to try its own citizens."

However, compounding this already serious situation, in November 2016, Russia announced it was formally withdrawing its signature from the founding statute of the ICC, a day after the court published a report classifying the Russian annexation of Crimea as an occupation.

Prior to this latest blow, on 19 August 2016, the International Criminal Court (ICC) presented its Twelfth Annual Report to the United Nations, covering the period from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2016.

The Court moved to its permanent premises in The Hague, the Netherlands costing more than \$240 million, which were officially opened by King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands in the presence the UN Secretary General on 19 April 2016.

Once again, the Office of the Prosecutor's busy workload included carrying out activities related to preliminary examinations in 11 situations, one more than the previous year involving Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Comoros, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Nigeria, Ukraine and State of Palestine and opening a new investigation into the situation in Georgia.

Overall, during this time, the ICC was dealing with 23 cases and 10 situations (Central African Republic I and II, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Darfur (Sudan) and Uganda).

The Court's first case involved command responsibility and the first conviction for sexual violence against Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo who was found guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Central African Republic. He was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment and has appealed the decision. Reparations are sought.

The trial of Bosco Ntaganda, sadly known as 'the Terminator', relating to the Democratic Republic of the Congo began on 2 September 2015 and the trial of Laurent Gbagbo, ex President of the Côte d'Ivoire and Charles Blé Goudé, a politician from the same country, on 28 January 2016.

The ground breaking and first case in the situation in Mali against Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi who was surrendered to the Court on 26 September 2015. This was also to be the ICC's first war crime charge regarding the destruction of historic monuments and buildings dedicated to religion, in this case in Timbuktu, was confirmed on 1 March 2016 and trial was scheduled to begin on 22 August 2016.

Charges against Dominic Ongwen, ex child-soldier and ex-commander of the Sinia Brigade of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda, were confirmed and the trial was set to begin on 6 December 2016.

Reparations proceedings in the cases of Thomas Lubanga and Germain Katanga, both from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were commenced.

Arrest warrants remained outstanding for 13 individuals, two more than the year before:

- (a) Côte d'Ivoire: Simone Gbagbo, since 2012;
- (b) Democratic Republic of the Congo: Sylvestre Mudacumura, since 2012;

Deidre Pirro

- (c) Kenya: Walter Barasa, since 2013 and newcomers Paul Gicheru and Philip Kipkoech Bett, since 2015;
- (d) Libya: Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, since 2011;
- (e) Darfur (the Sudan): Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, since 2007; Omar

Al Bashir, since 2009; Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein, since 2012; and Bahar Idriss Abu Garda, since 2014;

(f) Uganda: Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti and Okot Odhiambo, since 2005

The Court found it necessary to refer three findings of non-cooperation to the Security Council relating to Darfur.

More than 300,000 victims in northern Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were assisted with physical and psychological rehabilitation and material support by the Trust Fund for Victims.

On 3 March 2016, El Salvador acceded to the Rome Statute, becoming the 124th State party.

The Court continued to work actively with its civil society and has used civil society organisations extensively as intermediaries in terms of reaching out to victims and affected communities, also by assisting them in publicising proceedings, especially in the Ongwen case and in informing victims in the Georgia case.

So, what you as IAW members can do if you have direct experience of the issues within the ICC's mandate, is to continue to provide the ICC's Prosecutor's Office with information. If your country is not State Party to the Rome Statute, you can campaign and lobby for it to become one. Or, now more urgently, if your country is already a signatory Party State that may show signs of wishing to withdraw from the Rome Statute, you should protest to prevent the iniquitous impunity gap between heinous crimes within the Court's jurisdiction and punishment from growing.

To find out the status of your country in relation to the ICC, go to the Coalition for the International Criminal Court's website at: http://www.iccnow.org/?mod=home. And again, let me repeat, IAW can help promote the ICC by providing your members and friends with up-to-date information on its important work.

ARAB REGION Horeya Megahed

Despite of all the turmoil in the region, Arab women are gaining more leadership and government roles. They managed in many cases to break the so called glass ceiling.

Arab women took the sky:



In an historic event on the occasion of the celebrations of International Women's Day and the Egyptian Women's Day, March 19, two big commercial flights (Airbus 330 and Boeing 737-800) carrying passengers on regular Egypt Air trips took off at the same time from Cairo International Airport, with exclusively female crews, heading to Abu Dhabi and Kuwait.

Egyptian Cap Nevine Darwish became the first Arab and African female to pilot the world biggest commercial plane, the Airbus 380 assisted by the Emirati female copilot Alia Al Muhairi in a regular trip to Vienna, on March 8. This step was initiated by

Emirates Airlines to celebrate the International women's event. Just to recall that Cap. Magda Malek became the first Egyptian Female Pilot to fly the Boeing 777-300 in February 2017.

It is worth noting that while women are not allowed, yet, to drive cars in Saudi Arabia, a Saudi pioneer woman Hanadi al Hindi was able to get her aviation license back in 2005 from Jordan Academy with the Support of the Saudi Billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Bin Abdel Aziz who was behind her success and who entrusted her to drive his own private jet flight for years. Her main hope is to pilot the Saudi national fight.

In the context of Arab Women took the sky, the first woman in the region and in Africa and the second in the whole world to get an aviation license was the Egyptian pioneer Lotfia El Nadi back in 1933. Google created a doodle image of her in the celebration of the International Women's day, 2017, while it celebrated her 107th birthday anniversary on October 29, 2014, with another one.



2017 Year of Egyptian Women

2017 was officially declared as the "Year of Egyptian women". Unprecedented steps were strongly taken towards women empowerment. Most important is the appointment of the Eng. Nadia Abdo as the first woman Governor (of Beheira in the Nile Delta), a post traditionally reserved mainly for retired army or police generals. The appointment of a female- for the first time- as the Minister for the key Ministry of Planning, Follow-Up and Administrative Reform, in February 2017. At the same time Sahar Nasr, who has been already the successful Minister of International Cooperation, was added to her the Important Ministry of Investment. She came second in the lists of Forbes, July 27, 2017 for the most powerful Arab Women in government. The first is from the Emirates. Moreover, the appointment of a female for the new post of Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture, and another one as the Executive Chair of the Small and Middle Enterprises Development then, as the Secretary General of the Social Fund for Development. Of the new positions for Egyptian women is the appointment of a young lady as a ship Master. Moreover, Lobna Helal in her capacity as a Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Egypt for Monetary Stability she plays a crucial role in this critical period of economic reform, which required sharp currency devaluation. She is the second most powerful Arab Women in economics and Finance in the lists of Forbes, 2017, the first is a Saudi. Ambassador and ex-Minister Fayza Aboul Naga, who has been the President's National Security Advisor since 2014, is also playing an important role and is occupying her place for years in Forbes's lists.

The National Council for Women (NCW) in Egypt has launched its "Door Knocking Campaign" to familiarize women in rural and unprivileged areas all over the country with its role in women empowerment, offers its supports, and listens to their problems especially with regard to health and education and report them to the officials for solutions if difficult to handle directly. NCW aims at mainstreaming the gender concept in the National Sustainable Development Strategy: "Egypt 2030 vision", with focusing on women empowerment in all spheres, and working with government branches as well as civil society and media. It has reached training and awareness raising, which covered 154 villages and 60 thousand families. On the other hand, there is young women's training with Microsoft with the cooperation of UNDP. In addition to the issuance of thousands of ID cards. In addition to the branches, they depend on the activities on the awareness caravans: "Egyptian Women Making the Future"; which has become a motto.

"Egyptian Women Can", conference organized by the Ministry of State for Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs in cooperation with the NCW, Cairo, July 2-3, 2017.

"Philanthropy in Transition: Exploring the Path to SDG"s, Takaful 2017: Sixth Annual Conference on Arab Philanthropy and Civil Engagement, AUC, Cairo, Oct.18-19, 2017.

"Women in Energy", conference on the third day of Egypt Petroleum Show, Feb 14-16, 2017.

Morocco

Six Moroccan women ministers are included in Forbes's 200 most powerful Arab Women.

In Morocco, women have become eligible for (adoul): a notary positions in the Muslim court system while the competition will take place in Oct. 2017, according to the Justice Ministry.

"Young Arab Women Leaders: the Voice of the Future, the Arab International Women's Forum (AIWF), the 8th Conference, Kuwait, Oct.19, 2016; the 9th Conference, Fez, Morocco, April 18, 2017.

"Women and Politics in the age of Uncertainty: the Road to Sustainable Democracy and Democratization", an international conference is to be held in Quarzazati, Morocco in Oct. 24-26, 2017.

Lebanon

A Ministry of Women Affairs was established on Dec.22, 2016, while the Minister is a man.

Jordan

In the Parliamentary elections that took place on 20th September, 2016, female MP's won 20 out of 30 seats (15.4%), compared with 18 out 150 (12%) in the previous one, a remarkable progress.

After a long struggle, the Jordanian Parliament abolished the provision in article 308 of the penal code that allows rapists to escape punishment if they marry their victims, in August 1st, 2017, which is hailed as (Historic day) asserting the principle of no pardon for the rapist.

"Women's Economic Participation in the Changing World of Work", The Women's Economic Empowerment Conference, Amman, August 3, 2017.

"Women's Socio Economic Empowerment", a conference organized by CAFRAJ, IPEMED France, the World Bank, and UN women, Amman, March 30-31 2017

Somalia

Fadumo Dayib has been the first woman ever to run for the presidency in the election scheduled for 30 November 2017.

Syria

"It Takes a Woman" to build peace in Syria, UN Women launches audiovisual campaign at the Brussels Conference on: "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region", April 13th, 2017. It is produced by UN Regional Office for Arab States in collaboration with several International and regional agencies and MP's.

"Economic Empowerment of Syrian Refugees and Vulnerable Women in Host Countries", a program by UN women that reached refugees in Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon, almost thirty thousand families benefited from it. In general the refugees' severe problem has been relieved.

Tunisia

The Parliament passed a landmark law to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls July26, 201

Arab League

The common denominator in women's empowerment in the Arab Region is combating violence against women. While Arab Women Organization (AWO), as a wing of the Arab League, has its own strategy 2011-2020, which has been given new vision and dynamism in the light of the 2030 agenda, a number of Arab States have adopted their own national strategies, in line with AWO: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. Some states have passed laws eliminating violence against women, the latest is Tunisia, while others are in progress, including Egypt.

The Coalition of Women MP's in the Arab States in their efforts to combat violence against women launched a draft Arab convention aimed at tackling the issue in the Arab Region, it took place at the Arab League Headquarter, Cairo, Dec. 1st, 2016. The Coalition, which was supported originally by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy as part of its interest in

combating violence against women, is gaining the support of Arab Parliaments. The ultimate goal is that the Convention becomes a source of International law for combating gender- based violence with the hope that the Arab League would adopt it and plays an active role in this respect.

Some conferences and events::

- "Women and Achieving Peace and Security In the Arab Region, The First Ministerial Conference organized by The Arab League and UN Women, A.L. Headquarters, Cairo, Sept. 6, 2016.
- "Role of Women in the Arab Countries: Pathways to Reform and Change", the Sixth Conference of AWO, Marriott Hotel Cairo, December 13-14, 2016
- "Role of Women in Arab Unity", a forum by AWO on the sidelines of the Cairo International Book fair, January, 2017.
- "Women...Partners of Success", conference to invest the opportunities of communication between Businesswomen for the growth of business, the Arab League, Cairo, Feb.19, 2017.
- "Women Empowerment in the Banking and Finance Sector", forum, Beirut, March 3, 2017.
- "Investing in Refugee Women: Turning Challenges into opportunities", a seminar by AWO on the occasion of CSW 61st Session, UN, New York, March 15, 2017.

AWO participated in the event of launching of Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa the First Lady of Bahrain, the Global Award for Women Empowerment, March 2017

AWO launched its official English website (english.arabwomenorg.org), March, 2017.

Finally, one can say that Arab women are joining hands with the rest of women in the world to turn the glass ceiling into a myth hopefully by 2030.



Saudi women will now be allowed to drive a car

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Affiliates:



Association suisse pour les droits de la femme Schweizerischer Verband für Frauenrechte

2013-2017

ADF-SVF Suisse was presided from 2012-2014 by the section of Basel, frauenrechte beider basel, followed by ADF Vaud from 2015-2016, and now the torch of presidency is in the hands of ADF Neuchâtel.

Networking on the national level

ADF- SVF Suisse has been very active in networking on the national level. The non-party voice of



ADF-SVF Suisse concerning women issues is often very much appreciated by other organiza-

NGO Post-Beijing -Swiss office for equal rights -CSW

ADF-SVF is represented within the national coordination for women's and human rights organizations. This NGO works very closely together with the Swiss office for equal rights and the international NGO's, also IAW, in Geneva and New York.

The cooperation was excellent, when preparing a common platform for the UN Commission on the Status of Women CSW in New York. The exchanges became more intense regarding the CSW Conference in New York 2015, where besides of Esther Suter, Swiss IAW member, this time also Ursula Nakamura, delegate of ADF-SVF Suisse, could attend. Already during the preliminary NGO Forum 2014 in Geneva one realized how

women's rights requests made by ADF-SVF Suisse and other NGO's were also actively supported by the Swiss government. Thanks to these mutual efforts some of the massive backlashtendencies at CSW 2015 fortunately could be stopped.

Maya Graf, President of the Swiss Parliament (lower chamber)

Maya Graf, a member of the Basel section of ADF-SVF, was presiding the lower chamber of the Swiss parliament during 2013. She had mastered this very demanding and difficult job extremely well.

ADF-SVF Suisse was very thankful to Maya Graf for positively promoting women's rights.

2013-2014

October 2013 ADF-Meeting in Lausanne

The members of ADF-SVF Suisse went to Lausanne, being invited by ADF Vaud. Besides of talking about the IAW Congress in London we could watch an interesting movie about the history of women's voting rights.

November 2013 Role-stereotypes in Swiss television

ADF-SVF Suisse had to protest against a series about Swiss history produced by the Swiss National television SRF. It was called "We the Swiss" but except for some minor roles as maids, wives and daughters etc., the whole saga was figuring only well-known men! Ursa Krattiger, Co-president of ADF-SVF Suisse, wrote right away an open letter of protest to the director of SRF. Finally it became an important topic in the media!

14th June 2014 Assembly of delegates ADF-SVF and City-Tour in Berne.



The annual assembly of the ADF-SVF-delegates took place in Berne. Everybody enjoyed the exchange of ideas. Later on a city-tour about women's history in Berne was offered. At the end all ADF-SVF delegates were standing in front of the Federal Palace remembering the permanent struggle for women's rights.

Public votes at the National Level

Whenever the topic might touch the situation for women then ADF-SVF Suisse issues a recommendation and very often joins other women's organizations for a statement in common.

24th November 2013 Family Initiative

A broad alliance of progressive organizations refused clearly an attempt to reinforce an outdated family pattern in the constitution. Thanks to a lot of spontaneous «last-minute» actions we were successful.

9th February 2014 Abortion Financing Initiative

The "abortion financing initiative" endangering the Swiss progressive law on abortion was fortunately rejected by a huge majority at the polls.

A long time before already the Swiss women's organizations and some political parties had built up a very strong alliance against this assault. ADF-SVF Suisse was very active in the committee, promoting the networking among the different linguistic regions of Switzerland and working for general PR.

18th May 2014 Initiative for statutory minimum wages

Here again SVF-ADF Suisse joined a broad alliance of organizations, saying yes to better minimum wages.

ADF-SVF focussed on the point that mostly women have to struggle each day with an insufficient income.

Unfortunately this initiative was rejected.

Consultations

ADF-SVF Suisse has formulated its position several times when consulted by the national authorities, be it on topics like breast-feeding at work, new migration laws etc.

With a joint effort so many women's organizations try to protect the actual social security law by preventing a higher age for women for retirement (from 64 to 65 year). The whole issue is still in progress.

Activities of ADF-SVF

9th September 2014 Charge in common and child support: Is it an issue about the child's welfare or rather a matter of power?

The patterns of family-life have changed a lot. After separation or divorce in Switzerland most of the times the mothers take care of their children, and cannot work in a well-paid job, this being a great risk of poverty. Many interested people listened to speeches of the two well-known women being experts.

4th October 2014, Sion IAW Board and ADF-SVF



Because the section of Basel was already fully occupied preparing is centenary in 2016 (!) it was ADF Vaud who had invited the Board of IAW to Sion Switzerland. All interested members of IAW were invited for a wonderful festive gathering on October 4th at Sion.

2015

7th January 2015, Lausanne Handover of mandate

The ADF-SVF section of Basel, frauenrechte beider basel was officially handing over the mandate of presidency to ADF Vaud.

7th March 2015, Berne National demonstration for equal pay

Even today in Switzerland there is a salary gap of 18% between men and women.

ADF-SVF Suisse was a long-standing member of the organizing committee. For the first time the well-established women's organizations, almost all political parties, professional associations and unions were standing up together for equal pay. ADF-SDF Suisse having advocated women's voting rights since more than a century now played an important role.



June 6th 2015

The annual assembly of the delegates ADF-SVF Suisse took place in the beautiful medieval city

Yverdon-les-Bains. After the statuary agenda Josiane Aubert, former member of the federal parliament

was moderating a debate about promoting the number of women being present on the national level this particularly in view of the upcoming national elections in fall.

October 2015 National Elections

Of course ADF-SVF is always fighting for an equal participation of women and men in parliament, be it on the community, cantonal or national level. This time ADF-SVF joined a large non-party coalition of women's organizations in a big campaign for gender parity. It was very successful regarding the lower chamber (Nationalrat) by increasing the percentage of 30% to 33%. Unfortunately in the upper chamber (Ständerat) there was a setback from 19% to 15%. Fortunately there is a slow but steady in-



crease of women's participation in the cantons, be it parliament or government.

2016

The year 2016 could be called rather uneventful for our association on the national level.

After having been the hosts of the IAW Board Meeting in Sion, in October 2014 and the huge national demonstration for equal pay in March 2015 there were no remarkable further events in 2015.

Of course we have experienced some very important moments but all this rather took place on the regional level. I am thinking about the Basel section celebrating its centenary with multiple events during the whole year, or about the section of Neuchâtel with their intensive collaboration with "Marche Mondiale" and then about the section Vaud being the founders of the association **politiciennes.ch**

a network promoting the women candidates during elections. It gives them a chance to present themselves in the media, on websites and at public events: After celebrating a successful election <u>politiciennes.ch</u> stays in touch with these women.

May 28th

The annual assembly of the delegates took place in Estavayer-le-Lac.

We are thankful to Rosemarie Balimann and Michelle Chassot who took care of the whole infrastructure (welcome, meals and a sight-seeing-tour).

Three persons got the award of being honorary members: Simone Chapuis-Bischof, Liselotte Kurth-Schläpfer and Margrit Jungen-Fackler.



Besides of the statuary agenda Rebecca Ruiz, member of the national parliament, presented the new national initiative for a paid paternal leave of 20 days. Now in 2017 the required signatures are successfully collected. Let us hope that later on the Swiss voters will adopt this initiative! ADF-SVF published a message to the medias.

General activities

The representatives of the three Swiss sections of ADF-SVF were meeting twice coordinating their activities. I think that it is very important to have a good exchange of information and ideas. It is a chance for planning for us and also for dealing with the general situation in Switzerland

Ursula Nakamura followed by Marina Schneeberger (beginning 2017) was in charge of the Website www.feminism.ch. It is always up to date and provides a lot of information. We are

thankful and proud about this homepage.

Since 1981 **Equal Rights** for women and men (education, family and work) are anchored in the Swiss Constitution and the respective law (GIG) has been enacted in 1996. But often there are problems with its implementation, one of the biggest issues being the gender pay-gap. Very often women being discriminated keep silent because they afraid of an eventual lay-off. Also the judges often neglect the implications of GIG. Therefore ADF-SVF strongly supported the amendment of GIG relating to the employment of women proposed in 2015.

The Federal Office of Equality is inviting regularly all (women's) organizations and others working for equality.

The Federal Coalition of (women's) Organizations regarding social security in old age also met in 2016, but due to the different opinions working together is difficult.

Twice we had the chance to get in touch with the women of the federal parliament. Their inputs were highly interesting. Unfortunately there is usually no time for a discussion, because this all usually happens during their lunch break.

NGO Coordination post Beijing

Our association is represented in the committee, first by Marianne Herrera and now by Ursula Nakamura. Alice Glauser, federal parliament member participates there also.

June 11th 2016

At the annual congress of NGO Coordination post Beijing, Patricia Schulz, member of the UN CEDAW committee, talked about CEDAW, about the challenges UN is facing and about the role Swiss NGO's might play in it. (Martine Gagnebin)

Commission on the Status of Women CSW 60 New York

14th-24th March 2016 Our association was represented by Ursula Nakamura, who thinks that these sessions are very interesting being there in 2016 for the second time. Also Esther Suter was participating.

Centenary of the Basel section, frauenrechte beider basel frbb:

20 160 We were celebrating two important milestones for the women in the Basel region: Our section for the women suffrage had been founded 100 years ago. Maybe thanks to the relentless efforts of these courageous founding women 50 years later the women from Basel-Stadt got

their political rights (the first ones had been

Vaud and Neuchâtel in 1959 and Geneva in 1960). This "twin feast" was a unique chance for all of us to get a lot of public attention and support. We from frbb were focussing on our former members and amazing pioneers in a particular field.



We picked out six remarkable women, be it in teaching, economics, science, nursing care, justice or politics. With the slogan

"past – present – future" we could get many very young people involved in our activities. We had events in a high-school, where students were enacting the founding assembly of frbb and singing the famous "Women's March", in a nursing university, where students voiced their visions of health-care in future or during the 1st of May rally on a rainy day in the middle of the Basel-city with an actress re-enacting a Swiss woman pioneer at the International Labour Organization etc.

Together with us the government of Basel Landschaft solemnly inaugurated a street in Liestal dedicated to one pioneer. It all culminated with a great final event in the completely crowded

City Hall of Basel with a band of young people playing and the prominent women of Basel in politics (most of them frbb members) debating together. Of course they all agreed that without women there is no democracy. They were all convincingly defending women's rights.

The news-coverage during the whole year was excellent. frbb could win new members and now we can start the next hundred years with new energies! About more information on see website https://www.frauenrechtebeiderbasel.ch/ (frauenrechte beider basel Ursula Nakamura)

Coming to the end of our two years term of presiding ADF-SVF I realize once again that

there are many good reasons for this organization to exist. The situation of the women in our country and worldwide requires more than ever all our efforts for continuing progressing and maintaining the achievements. I also see that I often meet people who are showing us their recognition also for our predecessors.

I want to express my thanks to committee of the section Vaud who have accepted to engage themselves for our national organization.

Now in January 2017 we have handed our torch of the ADF-SVF presidency over to the members in Neuchâtel, and we are wishing to them joy and courage in dealing with this task.

Martine Gagnebin,

president ADF-SVF Suisse 2015-2016

2017

Starting in January 2017 the ADF section of Neuchâtel is presiding ADF-SVF Suisse.

June 10th

The annual assembly of the delegates took place in Neuchâtel with the presence of Jessica Kehl.

Esther Suter was nominated for succeeding Jessica as a IAW board member and representative of ADF-SVF Suisse. There was also a heated controversial debate about a proposal of reforming the social security

system in Switzerland. The Swiss citizens are going to vote about it on September 204th.

ADF-SVF Suisse also issued a communication to the media regarding the upcoming election of a member of the Swiss Federal

Council, the highest executive office.

ADF-SVF demands the election of a woman.



RAPPORT D'ACTIVITE DE l'AFEM (Janvier – septembre 2017) PRESENTE A l'ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES Présenté par Monique BOUAZIZ

L'année 2017 est marquée par la célébration du 20ème anniversaire de l'AFEM. Une cérémonie organisée lors de l'Assemblée générale de la fédération, tenue le 1^{er} avril 2017 à Paris, a réuni ses membres fondateurs et ses nouveaux membres autour d'une conférence de Jacqueline NONON, ancienne Directrice à la Commission européenne et membre fondateur de l'AFEM.

L'Assemblée générale a institué un Conseil d'honneur de l'AFEM dont est membre Alice MARANGOPOULOS, ancienne Présidente de l'AIF. Elle a élu la 5^{ème} Présidente de l'AFEM, Catherine Sophie DIMITROULIAS et a permis le renouvellement et le rajeunissement de ses

organes décisionnels auxquels participent Monique BOUAZIZ, Vice-présidente pour la France et Danielle LEVY, administratrice, déléguées de l'AFEM auprès de l'AIF.

L'AFEM continue à œuvrer conformément à ses objectifs statutaires pour la sauvegarde, le renforcement et l'application effective de l'acquis européen et international en matière de libertés et droits fondamentaux, notamment de droits sociaux et de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes en tout domaine, ainsi que pour le renforcement de la société civile euro - méditerranéenne sur la base de ces mêmes valeurs et principes.

A cette fin, l'AFEM poursuit un dialogue permanent avec les institutions du Conseil de l'Europe, des Nations Unies, de l'Union européenne, les autorités publiques nationales des pays dans lesquels elle est implantée et les organisations de la société civile. L'AFEM a vu ses positions acquises et ses mandats électifs renouvelés en 2017 avec :

a) le renouvellement de son statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe. L'AFEM a été très active dans ce cadre en contribuant aux événements majeurs du CoE, dont la Conférence de Nicosie « Renforcer les droits sociaux face à la montée du mécontentement en Europe », tenue à Chypre, le 24 février, et en participant aux sessions plénières de la Conférence des OING du CoE en janvier et juin. Elle y a présenté le 1er juin sa contribution à l'élaboration de la Recommandation du Conseil de l'Europe sur la lutte contre le sexisme. L'AFEM est par ailleurs membre du Réseau académique sur la Charte sociale européenne et participe à son activité régulière.

L'AFEM soutient l'objectif de l'adhésion de l'Union européenne aux traités majeurs du Conseil de l'Europe, la CEDH et la Charte sociale européenne révisée, conformément aux propositions du CoE et du Parlement européen, ainsi que la Convention d'Istanbul. Elle se mobilise notamment pour la ratification de la Charte sociale et pour l'acceptation de son Protocole additionnel par tous les Etats membres du CoE. Une série d'action de formation est prévue à ce sujet dans les années à venir, auprès des OING féminines et des milieux spécialisés dans l'ensemble des pays où l'AFEM est implantée.

b) la réélection de l'AFEM en qualité de coordinatrice avec Hairou Commission, de la Commission des femmes dans le cadre de l'Assemblée de la société civile partenaire du processus mondial Habitat III qui sera mis en œuvre ces prochaines années. La procédure d'élection en mai 2017 impliquant 25 pays et des centaines d'organisations et personnalités, renouvelle la confiance des membres à Teresa BOCCIA, Présidente d'honneur de l'AFEM. A ce titre elle est chargée de préparer des actions de terrain afin de promouvoir la mise en œuvre du processus.

L'AFEM a participé, notamment, à la Conférence Internationale de suivi du processus mondial Habitat III, les 16, 17 et 18 mai 2017 au siège de l'OCDE à Paris, réunissant des représentant (e)s de l'ONU, de l'OCDE, de la Commission européennes et des gouvernements nationaux. Teresa BOCCIA s'est prononcé lors de l'Assemblée Générale de Haut Niveau des Nations Unies, tenue à New York les 5 et 6 Septembre 2017 dans le cadre de la table ronde interactive : « mettre en œuvre le nouvel agenda urbain et les SDG », collaborations entre les parties prenantes pour revitaliser, renforcer et créer des partenariats pour mettre en œuvre ce nouvel agenda. Elle a plaidé pour l'introduction effective de l'approche de l'égalité des genres.

- c) la réélection de l'AFEM au Bureau du Réseau Euromed France. L'AFEM unique organisation de femmes, membre fondatrice de ce réseau depuis 2005, y est représentée par Catherine DIMITROULIAS réélue par l'Assemblée générale du 23 juin au poste de membre du Bureau chargée de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes en tant que thématique transversale. Sur proposition de l'AFEM, le REF a adopté, notamment : une position conjointe avec l'AFEM à l'occasion de la Journée Internationale des Droits des Femmes, le 8 mars, ainsi qu'une position relative au mariage des tunisiennes avec des non musulmans dont l'initiative revient à l'Association des tunisiens de France.
- d) L'AFEM accorde par ailleurs une importance prioritaire à ses relations avec Mouvement Européen International, dont elle est membre associé. Elle a participé en mai au Conseil fédéral du MEI à Bruxelles au Parlement européen, et soutenu les positions importantes adoptées dans ce cadre, notamment, relatives à l'Etat de droit, aux droits sociaux et aux droits des réfugiés à

l'échelle de l'UE.

Pa ailleurs dans le cadre de l'UE, l'AFEM a présenté sa position le 15 juillet, à la consultation de la Commission européenne sur l'initiative citoyenne européenne.

e) En sa qualité de membre associé de l'Alliance Internationale des femmes (AIF), élue au Conseil d'administration (CA) l'AFEM est représentée par Monique BOUAZIZ et Danielle LEVY, qui participent inlassablement aux travaux et manifestations des OING en coopération avec l'UNESCO dans le cadre du Comité de Liaison étant déléguées de l'AIF qui jouit d'un statut consultatif accrédité auprès de l'UNESCO.

On relèvera à titre d'exemple que cette année a vu la réalisation des efforts entrepris depuis 2014, à la suite du Forum de l'UNESCO à Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire : trouver des fonds pour permettre à des femmes africaines de faire un stage de techniciennes hydrologues afin de capter l'eau près de chez elles, l'assainir et former d'autres gens à ces techniques pour éviter ainsi aux femmes les maladies hydriques et les viols en allant chercher l'eau au loin. Les Etats commencent à se rendre compte de la valeur du travail des OING, comprennent qu'ils peuvent y trouver des modèles de bonnes pratiques sur le terrain et leurs proposent de travailler avec eux.

Les représentantes de l'AFEM n'ont pu se rendre cette année à New York pour participer à la Commission du Statut de la Femme, mais ont participé à la préparation de cette session, comme elles le font depuis plusieurs années, auprès des autorités ministérielles françaises.

Association des femmes de l'Europe méridionale Siège social : Maison de l'Europe, 29 avenue de Villiers, 75017 Paris - contact@afemeuropa.org

All India Women's Conference

From the President's Desk . A Brief Report of All India Women's Conference, New Delhi for the years 2014 to 2016. By Veena Kohli



I would like to share with you the work we have done during my 3 years term as President AIWC. It has been a great learning experience for me; I got to know the insights of the problems of women and looked for solutions against injustice, inequality, poverty, persistent discrimination, safety of women, old age, illiteracy, exploitation, and many others issues. Working on this platform and its organizational strength, we have been able to continue our struggle for the betterment of society through women's empowerment. We members have worked towards the women's movement as a collective strength; this is the strength to refuse to tolerate discrimination, the strength to refuse to tolerate lies and slanders; the strength to face challenges and to realize our potential beyond any tenure or territory; the strength to refuse to tolerate the arrogance of the powerful and absolutely and utterly refuse to tolerate violence in any form.

I experienced many positive moments which I will always remember, and the kindness and support of my colleagues and members during the difficult times. I had the opportunity to travel to different parts of India and visit and make contacts with our branches as well as travelled to other countries representing AIWC at various forums and meeting other women and NGOs doing similar work.

The total number of programs sponsored by the AIWC Head Office and the AIWC Trust in the last 3 years to its various branches have been approximately 1051. The details of these programs are available in the Secretary General's report. These have benefited at least 1 lac women directly and many more thousands of women, and their families indirectly. The backbone of AIWC are its branches and the maximum work is done by these branches. It is this

spirit of dedicated social work that has kept the organization in existence since the last 90 years.

The uniqueness of the organization is that its members are volunteer workers. They work at grass root levels under 9 zones spread across the country through 520 branches and constituent branches with a membership of 2 lac women. The strength is the unity which is represented through thousands of women who get together during 2 annual conferences held at different Indian cities organized by host branches. It is interesting to note that an organization which started with a handful of likeminded women is growing day by day by adding more and more members, based on Gandhiji's concept of volunteerism. Till today, though we live in an increasingly "money for work" conscious world, AIWC continues to be run by Volunteers, an age – old model that has survived the test of time.

During the 3 years many new programs were introduced i.e. Udhan, Community Resource Centers, Medical dispensaries, Climate Change, Growing of Herbal Plants, Clean water, Inter



College Debates, Ode to Womenhood, Wings to Fly etc. and one day awareness were introduced along with the earlier programs and given to branches who work with their groups and members, under the guidance of the dynamic zonal organizers. These were directed towards Sustainable Development and a permanent change of societal attitude, change of heart towards girls, giving special attention to families and adolescents and uphold laws against discrimination in our system, At the head office we have a health program through which 2 field workers and a doctor visit the slums and the cluster areas of the city regularly and diagnose and supply medicine free of

charge to the needy. We also run health camps and have old age day care centers at various branches and also give scholarships to post graduate deserving financial week students. Hoping for a better life, we designed programs which will result in women's empowerment, better health, wealth creation, sustainable development and a permanent change of societal attitude, change of heart towards girls, giving special attention to families and adolescents, and a life of security.

I would to like to mention about the program, 'Wings to Fly". This is one of the very popular programs and many branches are regularly organizing this on every 24th of each month. It has had quite a reach and touches the core of AIWCs thought. At the head office we had the Minister Smt Meneka Gandhi to inaugurate it.

My specific concern has been to bring about more dignity and self confidence to women and girls. I worry for the voices that have been silenced, marginalized and even erased. I am certain that it is, education and economic independence that will give us empowerment and a status of equality we deserve. Our shelter home known as, "Bapnu Ghar" has been doing work of giving a hope to many distressed women and girls, is specially active in rehabilitating and preparing them to stand on their own feet.

I am happy to tell that the vocational institute is doing great work and is continuously upgrading itself. Besides the earlier courses, as partners with IGNOU and NIOS in computer training, beauty and tailoring courses, we are now part of the Pradhan Mantri Koshal Yogna. We have partnered with Red Cross for a Home Health Attendants course, with an internship of students at the Ganga Ram Hospital. We have collaborat-

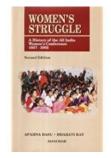
ed with Rotary to start a Singer tailoring center. It is my dream that one day we will have many such AIWC vocational institutes all over the country.

This day may not be far, as of now we have been given donations of two properties by our members in Mathura district which have been legally registered in the name of AIWC. I have encouraged a cultural dimension as part of our lives. I believe that culture provides moral standards about how to behave in society and defines roles and attitudes and a fusion of art and creativity takes away the stress from our daily life. We have been celebrating almost all festivals and have had interesting sessions with music and dance performances. The highlight was the 'Sabrang' utsav at the Shilp Kala Mela which we have every year and which is visited by many dignitaries, such as Samriti Irani, Minister for Textiles, Meenakshi Lekhi Member Parliament, Jaya Bachaan Actress, Sushma Seth, Actress and many others. We have also renovated a space as a multipurpose hall which can have such events.

Maintenance and repair of the building of the head office was long overdue, and after a structural audit which reported weakening of the building, we started the work which is not complete and has yet to be continued. We received a donation of 20 lacs from the Aga Khan Foundation for the repair of the Aga Khan hall..

At the International level, our ECOSOC status gives us opportunity to attend UN conferences and once a year we have been attending the CSW meeting at USA. We conducted 2 side events at New York at the CSW meetings in 2015 and 2016. The themes were "Women and Poverty" and "Empowering the marginalized and excluded women". We are active with IAW and the UNFCCC and APWLD for Climate Change projects which are being given to us regularly. The various papers presented by me have been uploaded on our website and are published in our in house magazine 'Roshni'. We have an understanding with IWPG, a International Women's Peace group, a South Korean NGO which works for peace who invited me to

their annual Summit at Seoul. You will be happy to know that a UK publisher has published an article, sent by us about AIWC, in their book "A Better World". This book has a worldwide circulation and is sponsored by United Nations. Also, we consolidated the work of AIWC during the last 20 years in a publication – "Pioneering the women's Movement and Championing Women's Rights" a work of two decades, and Our Patron Dr. Aparna Basu completed her 3rd volume of "Women's Struggle", updating the history of AIWC till date.



We are living in times when everything is changing very fast. Many new friends and members are expressing ideas and perspectives which are perhaps different from ours but equally rich and meaningful. This is good sign that more and more women express themselves. I have encouraged members to open their hearts, discuss their problems and also tell us where and how we can improve our working. We have had Media programs and interacted with other NGO's and have interacted with them on common issues like the Government Budget for Women, Women 30:50 (target to get 50% equality by the year 2030) and the Women's Reservation Bill. I am sure that collective solidarity with others and within ourselves will keep our organizations strong and vibrant in the years to come.

My 3 years as President has been a wonderful experience and I am happy to be part of this AIWC family. My suggestions are that we must continue work to strength the branches.

Amend our Constitution as it is vague and not clear on many issues. We may discuss about making non -voting members, extend our scope of work towards research on women's issues. Here I would like to mention that it is important that AIWC continues to keep its uniqueness of having 'volunteerism' as its working concept. AIWC is the oldest and the largest women's ngo, representing the women of India from all over the country. Our network is amazing, connecting 520 branches and affiliates. Our members work for the development and empowerment of women because they feel the need and the passion to help other women. To continue this concept we must be on the quest to enroll and motivate more and more women, young women and girls and start a youth wing and prepare and train them for working for the organization. Publicity and awareness of the movement is now very important. Participation in events and holding hands with other like minded organizations and individuals is necessary.

Last but not the least, these 3 years work could not have been possible without the support of all the office bearers, members in charge, program officer, executive secretary, accounts officer, the department heads and all the staff, who not only guided me but shared a very enthusiastic and a happy working relationship. Thank you all and best wishes always.

ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN ASSOCIATION (APWA) is a non-profit and non-political welfare organization established in 1949 by Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, the wife of Pakistan's first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan. Her pioneering efforts led to the first women's movement in Pakistan.

APWA is the country's oldest NGO and the largest umbrella organization of voluntary women workers with branches throughout the country and internationally. It functions as a sisterhood of Pakistani women committed to the social and economic empowerment of women through education and health initiatives, vocational training and advocacy.

In keeping with our founder's vision, APWA is an All-Pakistan, nationwide organisation with branches across the country and throughout various districts with APWA Headquarters based in Karachi. Each of the four provinces of Pakistan has its particular branch and works for the welfare of its own community within the aims of the APWA constitution. Locally, APWA is active as APWA Sindh, APWA Punjab, APWA Baluchistan and APWA KPK, and functions internationally in Great Britain, the United States and Canada.

It has continued its commitment to the economic welfare of Pakistani women and children since the inception of Pakistan with multi project centres throughout Pakistan with schools, mother and child health centres, maternity homes, family planning services, orphanages, craft centres, industrial homes, and income generation projects in both urban and rural areas in all provinces of Pakistan.

APWA offers community led and integrated developments with a holistic approach. APWA schools are often spaces which house adult literacy, family health and nutritional services as well. APWA programs include Mother and Child Services (MCH), Montessori/Primary Education, Nutrition programmes, Adult Literacy and Social Awareness programmes, Legal Aid, Skill Training, Population Planning and Adolescent programmes for lower income families across Pakistan. APWA branches overseas serve to bring women of Pakistani origin together and assist in their integration into their host countries. Worldwide, APWA functions as a platform for the powerful voice of the dynamic women of Pakistan.

The mainstay of APWA projects revolve around women's empowerment through economic

independence, health and education. As the oldest and largest women's NGO in Pakistan we are grateful to have centres across the nation in various districts.

APWA has 32 schools offering affordable primary and secondary education to low income are-



as in all provinces of the country, focusing on academic excellence, tolerance and athletic endeavours. Many of these schools have adjoining health centres for the ease of parents and in order to promote community spirit, giving women and girls an environment where they can feel safe to discuss their family planning options as well. In a community led initiative, mothers of low income students in Liaqatabad Karachi asked us to provide them some reading material and we have recently created

a basic library for their use. We aim to further develop on this initiative. Lately, at our branch in Baluchistan, 4 students at the APWA Girls High School were awarded the opportunity for further studies at the IBA as part of the IBA National Talent Hunt Program. In Sindh, APWA Sindh works throughout 4 districts and runs APWA Ra'ana High School in Hyderabad with 325 students from pre-school to matric and is affiliated with the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Hyderabad.

APWA has 25 heath facilities including family welfare centres, maternity homes and hospitals. APWA has also led outreach programs for the awareness of immunizations, family planning and anti-smoking. We are currently introducing new training for our maternity homes in Karachi and updating the health and immunization records of students at our various Karachi schools through the linked health centres. At our branch in KPK, health camps for TB, eye check-ups and general health have lately been conducted.

APWA also runs craft centres and vocational training facilities to teach women that being homebound does not limit their capacity to earn their independence. We are also affiliated to the Ra'ana Liaquat Craftsmen Colony, named after our founder. We have recently re-opened our outlet, the Pink Building in Karachi, as a platform to sell these crafts along with those of our Jail Project and to provide the craftspeople with a sustainable living.

APWA KPK has recently sponsored the education of deserving female students and advocated for the enrolment of 20 young women trainees in the Peshawar Uniformed Police Force and 15 women for enlistment into the Peshawar Traffic Police Force. While, our APWA Punjab branch has been doing some excellent work for the recognition of domestic workers and advocated for the inclusion of domestic workers into the recognised workforce by drafting legislation. Their stellar record goes far beyond this and, as they will attend the Congress this year, we hope you will get an opportunity to hear about all the excellent projects on their roster.

As these many projects continue, we aim to augment and develop new initiatives. This year, in particular, we would like to highlight Our Jail project in Karachi because of the fruit it has borne. This project seeks to raise the morale of women prisoners, many of whom are the victims of patriarchy, through economic empowerment. With the tireless work of our teachers, they are taught a craft and a means of livelihood. The beauty of their newly learned craft dispels much of the darkness that had previously shadowed their minds. Recently, we have been approached by the prisoners themselves, these forgotten women, to educate them and enable them to pass state exams. This is a remarkable development and a community led initiative which we are poised to take under the leadership of our new President, Syeda Ayesha Javeri who has personally advocated for this project. The Jail Project also serves to provide health

care check-ups and a little joy to those young children who live in jail alongside their convicted mothers. We bring them new clothes and gifts as we attempt to show them that the world is not as bleak as their confines.

Another new task is the updating and reconstruction of our website which is to be an accessible, mobile responsive site. This has been a mammoth undertaking since new content must be written and archives must be included. We are hoping that it will be completed by the next couple of months and aim to use it as a platform for craft projects as well as to provide a better understanding of our efforts. In delving through material for the website, we have discovered some beautiful vintage photographs of the early APWA days and the inception of Pakistan which we hope to share on the site.

On the international front, this year Mrs Javeri attended CSW61 in New York 13-24 MARCH 2017 and the World Muslim NGOs Meet (WNM) in Malaysia in 23-25 September 2016 where



APWA Pres Syeda Ayesha Javeri at CSW61 (far right) with Minister Social Welfare Pakistan Hameeda Wahid and Dr Shazra Mansab

she spoke on the need for teaching religion with wisdom and tolerance. She emphasised that Pakistan is a country which has borne a heavy burden as extremists have appropriated our faith and laden it with archaic, patriarchal traditions. Pakistan has lost near 50,000 souls and seen 142 innocent school children at a Peshawar school slaughtered in 2 hours by extremists. There is a vital need for clarity in understanding Islam and in the correct translation of words in the Quran. Out of the many interpretations of a word, very often the most patriarchal is chosen as a tool to keep women dis-empowered. This is a massive issue in the forward movement for Muslim women and must be addressed

President Syeda Ayesha Javeri, VP Charmaine Hidayatullah and Chairperson International Affairs Zehra Laila Javeri also attended the UN led meeting of NGOs at the Country Strategic Plan for Pakistan. Mrs Javeri and Ms Javeri also attended the Provincial Consultative meeting by the Ministry of Human

Rights for Pakistan's Universal Periodic Review Report where government and NGO heads discussed country-wide human rights issues for review before the UN.

Along with these forward developments, we have also had some tragic set-backs this year. We mourn the loss of two dear APWA stalwarts; that of our Associate Advisor, Mrs Salima Ahmed and Mrs Farzana Rehman, a vital member of our Executive Committee who has been spearheading our project for the uplift of women prisoners. May they rest in peace, amen.

But, as we continue past this loss, we try and remember the uplifting words of an iconic and brave Pakistani girl Malala Yousufzai who is changing the world around her "If we want to achieve our goal, then let us empower ourselves with the weapon of knowledge and let us shield ourselves with unity and togetherness". And though we regret that no one from our Headquarters can visit the uniting platform of the IAW Congress this year as our President has been unwell and cannot travel for a couple of months, we are proud of the APWA Punjab team who will, by the Grace of God, be with you and show you a window into an organisation that is dear to our hearts.



Girls can do anything careers presentation t the APWA adult Literacy Liibrary Laiquatabad, Karachi

Danish Women's Society

By Signe Vahlun



The political landscape in Denmark

On November 28th 2016, there was a change in government formation in Denmark. Prior to this, the liberal party "Venstre" had constituted a minority government but with the shuffle both the Conservative people's party and the relatively new very neoliberal party "The Liberal Alliance" joined the government and now holds several offices in government. The politics have, yet again, taken a turn in a more neoliberal direction. The Danish Women's Society (DWS) is very concerned about how some of the changes are affecting the welfare state and especially vulner-

able people and in particular women with children.

According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, Denmark had dropped from a 14th place in 2015 to a 19th place in 2016. Taking into account that the countries that we most commonly compare ourselves to, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden are placed on the list as no.1,2,3 and 4 respectively the fact that Denmark is at no. 19 is very concerning.

StopHarassment

During the past years the DWS has seen a rise in cases where people – women in particular - are finding sexualised pictures (formerly known as revenge porn) of themselves being shared on the internet without their consent. Unfortunately the police has been known to be rather bad at receiving reports and there has been a lot of victim blaming facing those whose pictures have been shared. There have been almost no consequences for the perpetrators.

At the beginning of 2017 the DWS started the project "StopHarassment."

StopHarassment is for people whose pictures have been shared without their consent. By contacting StopHarassment people can get help finding out where the pictures are, how they gather information about their own case, how they avoid unwanted stalking, how they contact the police and help contacting a lawyer. StopHarassment is working very closely with both the police, lawyers and other stakeholders.

At the beginning of the year, there was a lot of focus on the problem, and three ministries launched a plan of how to combat the problem. Unfortunately both politicians and the media talked about this as being primarily a teenage problem.

However StopHarassment primarily gets approached by women in their thirties and up to their

mid-sixties whose pictures, have been shared by former boyfriends or husbands as a result of a breakup or a divorce. By contacting shelters for battered women around Denmark, it has become clear that this is something they are beginning to see a lot of.

The consequences of having a picture shared on the internet can be enormous. First of all the images will be there forever. Although it is possible to get pictures removed from certain social media platforms or groups, you can never be sure that everything has been removed. Some people contacting StopHarrassment have gone as long as seven or eight years of thinking that their picture was gone but have all of a sudden found them on different internet sites.

In the most extreme cases the pictures end up on "Russian" sites (called Russian since its servers constantly move and the site therefore keeps moving country). Once a picture is located on one of these sites, it is a bonus for the users if a woman's personal details are provided. There are therefore several cases of women who have been stalked and blackmailed by men from different parts of the world. By telephone and SoMe and even by men seeking them at their homes demanding sexual favours or money.

The consequences are so dire for some women that they fall ill and are afraid to go outside their homes. It has therefore become clear that the sharing of sexualised pictures without peoples consent is a new form of violence against women and should be treated accordingly.

Shelter

Since 2006 the DWS has run a shelter for battered women in Frederiksberg. Here we have experienced a special vulnerability for the women who are pregnant or have small children. The shelter in Frederiksberg is one of 48 shelters in Denmark and they are always full. The DWS will therefore by January 2018 establish a specialized shelter aiming to support the mothers to a better relationship with their children and support and inspire the children to a better childhood and a future grownup life without violence.

The shelter will be placed in Copenhagen and will have 18 rooms that will create the right environment to offer special treatment for battered mothers and children

The Danish Women's Society's work and smaller projects

Roskilde music festival

The DWS is depending on a lot of voluntary work, and this year one of the voluntary groups managed to make a fantastic project in largest rock festival in the north – Roskilde festival. All too often music festivals eperience too many rape cases. The main objective the project "Consent with your consent?" was to get people to talk about the positive aspects of having sexual relations with consent. This happened by both having volunteers walking around talking



to

people on the campsite while handing out condoms, and by hosting a debate where the subject was debated by some young and famous people. The project was well received and got a lot of media attention.

Sexism in nightlife

Through a cooperation with the Council of Copenhagen the DWS is visiting schools to talk to kids from the ages of 15 and up about sexism in nightlife.

"Sexism in nightlife" is part of the Copenhagen's council's fight against different forms of discrimination.

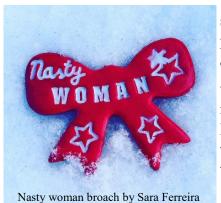
DWS overall

A big part of DWS' work and interaction with its stakeholders is through social media.

The DWS facebook page currently has almost 15 000 followers, twitter 4300 and Instagram 2500. All SoMe platforms allow the organisation to both help set the agenda but also go into debates with its followers, whether it be private or public persons.

The DWS is frequently asked to attend festivals, political hearings, submit the organisation's views on certain subjects and to meet with different stakeholders for both public and private meetings.

Overall the Danish Women's Society has been doing rather well the past year. That being said



the organisation is relying on financial support from memberships, donations, the web-shop and fundraising for specific projects.

The increasing interest in feminism and gender equality seems to last and to a certain extend even develop further. The Danish media picks up on certain matters, more people are joining the DWS and still more facebook pages concerning themselves with feminist subjects appear. However there is still an opposition which increasingly shows itself in the form of trolls on the internet and lately with our new government with neo-liberal politics and several ministers who are against equality organisations and women's rights.



Activities of the Deutsche Frauenring e.V. Oct. 2016 - Oct- 2017 linked to the IAW-Action-Program 2014-2016 (2017)

Congresses and public seminars (documentations in German available on DFR-webpage):

Human rights: "How can we build an age inclusive society. Human rights of elderly women: Strengthen the rights - Prevent all discrimination and violation." – Expert talk on the occasion of the review of UN MIPAA (Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging), 14. Oct. 2016, Federal Women's Ministry, Berlin

- press release available in English/German, the DFR calls for a new Human Rights Convention on the Rights of Elderly persons, especially elderly women (under OHCHR roof) with OP and drafting process under NGO participation
- Equality between women and men, anti-discrimination: "To-day poverty among the elderly- how can we prevent it tomorrow?". Seminar with speaker/representatives of science, civil society and politics (15. /16. October 2016), Erkner, near Berlin; main topic: to invent one pension insurance for all, secure a pension which allows a living without poverty--> better job payment for women, fulltime job for women, close gender pay and pension gap

- --> after both events we were invited to the Fed. Parliaments committee on social security to report and give expertise
- --> we published a statement on MIPAA and a new Human Rights Treaty
 --> Press Release of DFR 2017 in occasion of the release of the documentation on the seminar about poverty among the elderly including an interactive "risk finder" in the annex

Equality between women and men: Give women rights a future by inheritance and endowments, internal Erna-Schlepper-Seminar (31. March 2017), Berlin; how to build our financial capacities and have a resilience plan.

Human rights: "The human right on housing", Seminar with speaker/ representatives of science, civil society and politics (13.-15. October 2017), Hannover

<u>Lobbying and working for the following selection of topics:</u>

Equality between women and men, anti-discrimination, CEDAW

Equality between women and men is the cross-cutting theme that runs through all events, position papers and publications of the DFR. It is enshrined in our statutes as it is the active lobbying and work for the CEDAW et al. implementation. To achieve this goal the following activities were implemented:

- Letter to the German chancellor Angela Merkel demanding an effective wage justice and the elimination of the Gender Pay Gap (21%) and Pension Gap (57%)
- Collaboration on the CEDAW- Alternative report (throughout 2016) and taking part as DFR in the reporting procedure in Geneva 2/2017 with the German NGO "Alliance for CEDAW" which demands the federal government to continue the work for equality and against discrimination in many issues (see report in English here
- http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/DEU/
 INT_CEDAW_NGO_DEU_26187_E.pdf; taking part in the follow up 7/2017 having urged the German Government in a speech to implement an NAP CEDAW with precise objectives, indicators and benchmarks

Safety (Women, Peace and Security - WPS):

- Regular participation in the UNSC RES 1325 and National Action Plan meetings of the NGO Alliance with the IMAG (Inter-ministerial Working Group of the Federal Government), before and after 1325 NGO Alliance meetings for preparation and Alliances statements. Exchanges and events with nine Federal ministries on NAP 1325 issues and meetings with UN representatives, dialogues. The NGO 1325 Alliance influences and monitors the German NAP I and II in drafting and the implementation of UNSC RES 1325 and its follow up resolutions by comments, recommendations and criticism and open dialogue. The alliances severe criticism is that the NAP is not connected to a proper (gender) budget; for many measures one does not see clearly the resources; the NAP targets foreign and development politics but not internal politics; the NGO alliance urges every time again that the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Fed. Ministry for Economy and the Private Sector shall take measures for coherence with the program. Until now there is no political will, nevertheless both ministries are

at the round table. Success: The NAP incloses activities for refugees, measures for safety for female refugees, includes awareness raising lectures for the protection and of girls/women from violence against women in integration seminars by regulation and resources of the *Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth*; the NAP works for to end impunity of Violence Against Women as a Weapon of War)

- DFR's long term active involvement in the network INTEGRA (German network to overcome FGM) https://www.netzwerk-integra.de/akteure/ continued; Success: In 2013 FGM was defined as a crime under the Penal Code; 2014 survivors medical treatment is accepted to be covered by public general health insurance (which everyone living in Germany has); there is a clinic for medical restoration; 2017 a first study on prevalence of FGM in Germany https://www.netzwerk-integra.de/startseite/studie-fgm/; INTEGRA published quality standards for the work against FGM/C in EU and in other countries https://www.netzwerk-integra.de/dokumente/ (all documents in German)
- Press Release of the DFR: Violence Against Women must be reduced: it is time to enforce the Istanbul Convention in Germany the ratification is decided in May 2017 in the Fed. Parliament and in the Cabinet.
- DFR / NGO Alliance for UNSC RES 1325 took part in a parliamentary conference on Êzidi women survivors where Ms. Merkel delivered a speech and men took equally part in the conference. Conservative MP Volker Kauder, chair of the CDU/CSU group said: Men in the world must change; men must stop terrible gender based violence of all forms."
- In March 2017 the DFR and two Êzidi Women NGOs established a solidarity partnership and working cooperation. DFR Berlin section took part in a demonstration and commemoration of the 3. Year after the femicide against Êzidi women in Shengal/Iraq (2014). The DFR supports the Êzidi Women's Council of Berlin to find a better office and room for counseling since the offers counseling to survivors of D'aesh in Berlin. With an international Êzidi Network we support survivors to find ways for legal complaints of survivors and build a support campaign.
- As a member of UNSC RES 1325 ALLIANCE we discussed measures to protect women from the effects and harmful practices of fundamentalism/ extremism in all religions with 9 ministries and we met new Special Advisor of Sec Gen UN Ms Pamila Patton; DFR gave recommendation how to strengthen her mandate.



Voices

Start of a long term online-campaign "50 Prozent Frauen in den Parlamenten" (50% women in parliaments) on the online -petition-platform change.org https://www.change.org/p/50prozent-frauen-in-den-parlamenten

Goal of this campaign is to mobilize as many votes as possible so the next parliament must make a law for 50% women, 50 % men parliament

members as it exists in France, 10 other EU member states and many other globally (Rwanda). It is in the same time the DFR's contribution to the 50:50 campaign of the EWL. There is already political support and the topic will be taken up at the next German Gender Equality Ministers Conference. The local Munich DFR group has started actually the whole by a request for a normative control of the Bavarian Electoral Law if the electoral law is conform with the Gender Equality Law by the constitution of Bavarian before the Bavarian Constitutional Court. If an electoral law in Bavaria is unconstitutional as long it does not produce Gender Parity it will be as well unconstitutional in the Federal Germany electoral law (on national level).

- -- In support to this campaign and in occasion of the current and upcoming elections the DFR developed a handout on the 100 years old Women's Vote with the title: "Make use of it !"--> some of IAW know already that DFR has a button for this as well
- Press Release of DFR: The action network accuses the federal states. They want a 50%-50% law. The DFR welcomes and supports this action.
- The DFR is lobbying on different ways for the implementation of mainstream gender equality into the "Bundesgremienbesetzungsgesetz" (a 50:50 of women/men in all governmental bodies/ committees of the Federal level); for Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting

'Choices'/ Human Rights

- 2016 DFR took part in the campaign "NO is No" for elimination of impunity for perpetrators of rape; the campaign succeeded and resulted in a stronger changed Penal Code
 - Press release on the publishing of the CEDAW- Alternative Report: http://www.deutscher-frauenring.de/aktuelles/13.12.2016-presseerklaerung-anlaesslich-dermorgigen-vorstellung-des-cedaw-alternativberichts
 - DFR statement Prohibition of early marriages in Germany. The age of marriage must save children and young adults and has to accord with the UN- On the Rights of the Child
 - Press Release of DFR: We demanded the abolition of early marriages. The German legislators have to fix the age of marriage on 18 years. Success: the new law banned finally all under age marriages even all exceptions;
 - DFR is partnering pro active with FNF-Women's Peace Network, Bonn and is promoting a new UN-Treaty on the Human Right To Peace (a draft exists in Geneva) and a CULTURE OF PEACE
 - DFR supports SDG Goal 5 as to the indicators measurement: women in parliament on an platform

Human Rights

Press Release of DFR: More participation is necessary for proofing the UN- World Action plan! Poverty among the elderly, discrimination on old people and the pension gap on women have to point out — the human rights of elderly people should be protected and juristic enforceable.



Marion Böker

Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V. / Women's Network for Peace, Germany (WNP)
Heide Schütz



Highlights of the last two years 2016-2017

- 1. Monitoring and supporting the implementation of UN Security Council RES 1325 (2000) in German politics
- 2. Working on gender issues in peace and conflict and advocating for a gender perspective in the German peace community
- 3. Organizing workshops for students and teachers who work in peer mediation in schools in the Cologne-Bonn region
- 4. Remembering Bertha von Suttner, Austrian peace activist and first woman to win the Nobel peace prize (1905)
- 5. Promoting women's peace work

Report 2016-2017:

Peace is more than the absence of war. But during times of war or thereafter, women are not able to enjoy safety at all. Life, education, job, social security: none. Thus, we strongly believe that working for peace on as many levels as possible (local, national, international) is very important if women intend to work for women's benefit and equal rights and responsibilities.

As to women's and girls' safety and security, peace is one of the most important factors. War generates violence. It intrudes and deteriorates societies and families more than anything. In times of war, there is little or no school education, no income, no jobs, and especially: There is no security of life. Peace is not everything, but without peace, everything is naught.

Key factors to promote peace are the political will to solve conflicts by the means of non-violent strategies, learn the skills of non-violent action and trust in their effectiveness. And, most important: There is no **durable** peace without women, as it has been proved by many studies already. Therefore the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 must be given high priority.



1. Monitoring and supporting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) in German politics

The Women's Network for Peace, Germany (WNP) has continuously been a member of the German network of civil society organizations monitoring the implementation of UNSCR 1325 since 2003. Due to continuous pressure and advocacy work by this network, the Federal Government of

Germany finally adopted a National Action Plan to implement UNSCR 1325 in December 2012. Since then, there have been regular meetings between members of the ministries and representatives of civil society. Margret Otto and Heide Schütz have participated regularly in these meetings as representatives of the WNP. Many topics of the resolution have been covered in these meetings, but we hope for more dedicated political support of the German government concerning the issue of women's participation in international peace negotiations and peace processes in the years to come ("Bring women to the peace tables"). In January 2017, the government adopted a second National Action Plan for the years 2017-2020. In its preparation, WNP as part of the 1325 civil society network, had the chance to present recommendations to be included in the plan.

We are fully convinced that women's voices must be heard at the peace tables all over the world. Their knowledge, wisdom and needs have to be taken into consideration. This is relevant in negotiations to end war and armed conflict as well as in the plans to reconstruct wartorn societies.

2. Working on gender issues in peace and conflict and advocating for a gender perspective in the German peace community

Since its foundation in 2012, members of the WNP have actively been participating in the working group "Gender and Peace" of the German peace organization Federation for Social Defence (BSV). The working group is a place to share knowledge and experiences on the interconnection of gender roles, conflict dynamics and peace work. In cooperation with the working group, the WNP organized two workshops in Bonn and Berlin in January and October 2016, the latter being part of the International Conference "Disarm! For a Climate of Peace" of the International Peace Bureau (IPB). These workshops connected people who are working on the interfaces of gender and peace. They exchanged best practices and discussed on how to deal with challenges in this field, thus empowering each other.

On 24th September 2016, we celebrated our 20th anniversary with a symposium on "Gender and the Commitment for Peace – German and European perspectives" in cooperation with the Regional Representation of the European Commission in Bonn. The contributions of politicians, scientists and NGO representatives covered gender in peace politics, in peace and conflict studies, in the German peace movement and in practical peace work in Africa and Asia. The symposium is comprehensively documented (in German language) in the publication "Gender, Frauen und Frieden" ("Gender, Women and Peace").

3. Organizing workshops for students and teachers who work in peer mediation in schools in the Cologne-Bonn region

The yearly workshops are offering an exchange of experiences in the field of peer mediation as well as further training, e.g. body language, intercultural and gender dimensions. We consider the appreciation of the volunteer peace work of these young people and their supporting teachers to be very important in order to help reduce violence in schools.

4. Remembering Bertha von Suttner, Austrian peace activist and first woman to win the Nobel peace prize (1905)

Since the centenary of Bertha von Suttner's award of the Nobel peace prize in 2005, and especially in the last few years, the WNP has actively worked on the appreciation of her personality, her peace work and her forward-looking strategies to end war and to promote peace, e.g. her dedication for disarmament, the implementation of an International Council on Arbitration etc. Elements of our commemoration work have been the erection of a monument at the Bertha-von-Suttner-Square in the city of Bonn (2013), the design of quotation postcards (2014) and information flyers (2016), the online learning tool "Learning with Bertha" for young people(2017). We showed the Austrian exhibition on Bertha's life and work which is available in 16 languages and motivated groups and schools in other cities to do the same.

5. Promoting women's peace work

Promoting and advocating for the important roles that women play in peace and conflict has always been one of our main focal points. Therefore, part of the celebration of our 20th anniversary in 2016 was a panel with women who work in various fields of political and humanitarian peace work worldwide. During the panel they presented their projects and organizations as well as their personal experience of what it means to work for peace as a woman.

In 2015, we re-activated our Facebook account and in 2016, we comprehensively relaunched our website www.frauennetzwerk-fuer-frieden.de with new, expanded content and brand new design. We explicitly use both, website and Facebook account, to spread knowledge about women's contributions to peace and reconciliation.

The 15 German PeaceWomen among the 1000 PeaceWomen Worldwide who had been nominated for the Nobel peace prize in 2005, are honorary members of our network. We introduce them and their work on our website and keep personal contact.

In September 2017, we are happy to welcome Rebecca Lolosoli, founder and manager of the first women's village, called Umoja (Together) in the north of Kenya for the second time. She and her son Tom will talk about the life of the women in Umoja and about their daily struggles. Furthermore, she will address their roles in the local peace processes in and around Umoja, the principle of equal rights and opportunities for boys and girls to achieve school education in the village as well as the relevance of the sustainable development goals (SDGs): how the women in Umoja have always worked on them long before they became an international agreement.

What else?

In 2007, the WNP initiated the "Bonner Friedenstage/Bonn Peace Days" together with a group of peace organizations based in Bonn and has been a member of the coordination group since then. The Bonn Peace Days are an annual series of events around 21st September, the international UN Peace Day. This year, we are going to celebrate its 10th anniversary. Our highlight will be the peace boat on the river Rhine, organized by the WNP and the German peace organization DFG-VK. It will be sailing from Bonn to the anti-war museum "Bridge of Remagen", a famous war site which has been turned into a peace project. It has become a place of friendly encounters of American World War II veterans, local authorities and the German population.

Furthermore we are a member of the German network "Stop the Arms Trade" and of the campaign "MAKE PEACE. Non-violent Solutions for Syria". We are also part of the German network against nuclear weapons and regularly demonstrate against the US-American nuclear warheads based in Germany.

Currently, we are planning a scientific symposium on the culture and logic of peace as alternative and counterparts to a culture and logic of military security. The symposium will take place in November 2017 in Bonn.



In order to realize all our projects, external fundraising has been a very time-consuming task.

Apart from the political and educational peace work, the last two years have been filled with discussions about how to continue the work of the WNP in the future. The current board of directors is eager to lay the work into younger hands and is still looking for women to replace them. Although an interim solution may have been found, we would be grateful for any advice on how to deal with this situation from fellow IAW member organizations which probably have made similar experiences.

Fredrika Bremer Förbundet—Sweden

The Fredrika Bremer Association (FBF) is a members' organisation with eight local organisations, spread throughout Sweden - Avesta, Båstad, Karlstad, Landskrona, Linköping, Stockholm/Uppsala, Sundsvall and Örnsköldsvik. During the past year, the local organisations have arranged a number of seminars, debates, lectures and program activities, focusing on current gender equality issues throughout the country. The FBF has been involved in several national networks as well as external projects together with other organisations working with similar issues.



Each year FBF arranges the "Apelrydseminar", a two-day conference focusing on a specific aspect of gender equality, bringing together researchers, politicians and activists. In 2016 the focus of the seminar was "Gender equality and the Future". Among the participants were Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister of Higher Education and Research, Linnea Engström, Member of the EU Parliament, and Nour El Refai, Comedian and Actor. The discussions during the seminar embraced the inequalities found within higher education, climate feminism and the role of literature in shaping gender.

In 2017, the theme of the "Apelrydseminar" was "Gender equality and health", with speakers such as

Jan Eliasson, former Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations and Barbro Westerholm, Member of the Swedish parliament. During the seminar topics such as gender-biased medical research, sexual and reproductive rights, and stress among young women were discussed.

In 2017 FBF released a report on unequal pay with the results showing that the labour market in Sweden still is unequal and that men earn more than women in most sectors. The report was launched during a seminar in Almedalen during which Iceland's Minister of Equality presented Iceland's new law for equal pay. The report has been handed to Sweden's Minister of Equality.

The organisation has contributed to the publishing of six debate articles in 2016, published in major Swedish newspapers as well as local media. The organisation's



own social media channels have gained many more followers which has enabled more interaction. FBF has also participated in "MR-dagarna" (Human Rights event), Bokmässan (Sweden's largest book fair), Forum Jämställdhet (Gender equality forum) as well as several demonstrations, such as "Lön hela dagen" (Equal Pay All Day), and Women's March Stockholm. The Fredrika Bremer Association has also been represented at international events, such as "The Commission on the Status of Women" at the UN, among others.

Twice a year FBF publishes the publication "Hertha" – one of the oldest feminist publications in the world. "Hertha" is distributed to all members and the release of each new issue and is accompanied by popular release events in Stockholm, with talks and discussions. Furthermore, FBF is running the project "Herthabloggen", a blog where previously published texts from earlier publications have been presented in a digital format.

FBF's board had nine regular board meetings; five all-day meetings in Stockholm and two half -day meetings in Apelryd, as well as several conference call meetings. The organisation has recruited Miriam Limås-Kollberg, as Press Secretary and Louise Lindfors, our Chairperson, has also had the role of Strategist in a one-year project for our foundations. The Fredrika Bremer Association administers numerous charitable trusts and has awarded grants to women across the country.

Greek League for Women's Rights

Irene Fereti, President E-mail: feretii@hotmail.gr

The changing economic environment of the past decade in Greece has made safeguarding and promoting women's rights a difficult issue. The Greek League for Women's Rights, always in the forefront of the feminist movement, wishes to introduce this Report with a few general remarks. Despite past progress and positive steps in both legislation and policy, the present situation and the consequences of a long lasting crisis dominated by high unemployment, even higher female unemployment, increase of part-time, low pay or unpaid work, severe income cuts and increased taxation have undermined women's position and quality of life in all spheres. Large numbers of highly educated women and men without job prospects have left the country, the result being that both economy and society are deprived of their potential. Many women bear the most painful consequences, burdened with additional obligations and lack of economic independence while a significant portion of the population have to live in poverty. Women's representation in the political scene continues to severely lack behind and needs to be addressed by a quota system in parliamentary seats. Similar under-representation applies for high ranking positions in both the public and private sector. It is high time to implement gender budgeting, close monitoring based on reliable data and equality indexes. With regard to violence against women, Greece has not yet ratified the CoE Istanbul Convention but steps have been taken towards this direction. The magnitude and complexity of the refugee problem, disproportionately allocated in this country at a time of economic crisis, has exacerbated the situation. Thousands of desperate people fleeing war, conflict and poverty need to be cared for, with women and chil-

dren being both in greater need and at greater risk. It should nevertheless be emphasized that there has been an admirable flow of support, hospitality, kindness and solidarity from women in Greece in general and especially from those brave and generous women in the Eastern Aegean Islands who tirelessly rescued thousands of refugees and provided comfort and assistance to them. Within this general climate, we, at the GLWR, are strongly determined to continue to work systematically in order to promote and protect women's rights, knowing well the existing

needs, the advances and setbacks, as well as recognizing that there is a long way to go to

GLWR's main activities: November 2016 - September 2017

1. Prevention and elimination of violence

achieve gender equality.

Since October 2016, our League actively participates in the European Women's Lobby (EWL) Observatory on Violence against Women which brings together the experience and expertise of women from all parts of Europe and plays a key role in identifying burning issues and monitoring progress towards a Europe free from all forms of violence against women. During its recent meetings (November 2016 and June 2017) the Observatory worked in critical fields of policy making, law implementation, prevention, service provision for the victims, raising visibility and stressing the need for the ratification and implementation of the CoE Istanbul Convention which is still a pending issue in Greece - campaigning for the elimination of prostitution, cyber violence and calling for measures to protect refugee women and girls on the move from war conflict among its top priorities. [Irene Fereti, Vice President and since March 2017 President of GLWR, participates as an expert in the EWL Observatory].

GLWR continues to offer "Free Legal Counselling and Social Support Services" to all women, members and non-members alike from all over the country who contact our League and seek

help and advice for a wide range of problems relating to various forms of violence against women such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, child abuse as well as problems relating to divorce, child custody, alimony and other problems involving family conflict, injustice and discrimination.

On 25 November, day for the Elimination of Violence against women, we issued a press release condemning this hideous phenomenon and stressing the need for the ratification of the CoE Convention and for preventive measures, mainly through school education on human rights, gender equality and sexual education.

2. Elimination of prejudices and stereotypes

Following the completion in 2015 of the Program "Contribution in combating gender stereotypes as they appear in Mass Media" - cofunded by the European Social Fund and national resources, involving a range of activities, such as counseling seminars, workshops, production of material for eliminating gender stereotypes addressed to journalists and students in the field of mass media, two issues of the GLWR's Journal with extensive writings on this topic etc - we are continuing to systematically focus on this very critical area in order to put an end to the reproduction of stereotypes. Specifically, we are addressing all schools and colleges of journalism as well as the two university departments for media studies and invite both teachers and students for a mutual exchange of activities on the basis of our publication "Guide of good practices for eliminating gender



stereotypes in the Media" which is available in our website and in printed copies. Apart from good practices the guide contains information on the national legislations and regulations regarding how women should be presented in mass media and advertising messages, information on practices of international institutions, data on women's participation in high ranking management positions in the media as well as other information on how to avoid discrimination against women.

3. Work-life balance in the context of changing families and labour market in Greece (WORLBAL)

During the period 2015-2016, GLWR has been a partner in the above project, co-financed by the European Economic Area grants (EEA Grants, 85%) and resources of the Public Investment Program (15%). The project was concluded in December 2016 and was carried in partnership with Family and Childcare Centre (KMOP) as Project leader, National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) and the University of Iceland. The main purpose was to assess women's needs and expectations and to identify how they experience reconciliation of work-life balance in Greece in times of crisis. The project provided empirical evidence on the needs and expectations of specific categories of women and explored methods and good practices to promote women's effective life-work balance in contemporary Greek society. The project was successfully completed and the results were presented in a final event at the University of Athens, where all partners, plus a group of experts, analysed their findings and made useful recommendations.

4. Recognising and rewarding women's social contribution and achievement.

Each year, on the occasion of the International Woman's Day in March, GLWR honours women's social contribution and special achievements.

This year, the 2017 "Woman's Social Contribution and Achievement Award 'Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos' was awarded to the President and Founder of MERIMNA, Danai Papadatou, Professor of Psychology at the Nursing School of the University of Athens. MERIMNA (which is the Greek word for 'care') was founded in 1995 and is a non profit organisation whose scope is to provide quality care services, without charge, for the needs of children and families who either live with a life threatening illness or are grieving the loss of a loved one. They are also involved in promoting a supportive community through raising awareness as well as offering specialised education and training to professionals in existing services who work with children and their families. All members of MERIMNA's Board of Directors and Executive Committee are women. For all those who attended the event for the International Woman's Day and the presentation of the Award to MERIMNA, which was held at the National Foundation of Research, it was a unique experience of condensed learning through the experts' and volunteers' humane and sensitive perspective to a very difficult topic, a truly moving experience and a well deserved honour.

5. Awards to Journalists

The GLWR continues to encourage and honour journalists of the press and electronic media for "consistently and in the correct spirit" supporting the case of gender equality. It is our belief that this practice has earned the League friends as well as support for our cause. The Awards are announced and delivered during the New Year Event. For this purpose, reportage and articles supportive of gender equality appearing on the press, are evaluated by a Committee which decides on the professional(s) meriting the award. This year a woman journalist, Lena Papadimitrou, received the pres Award. The Award for the Electronic Media was awarded to British film director Sarah Gavron for her outstanding drama film 'Suffragette', " a valuable and compelling reminder of the history of feminism and the need to promote women's rights across the globe". Everyone agreed that the Award for 'Suffragette' was an excellent choice and was enthusiastically received. Along with the presentation, we showed the official trailer with Greek subtitles as well as the UK trailer and of course we read Sarah Gavron's letter of acceptance which got very warm applauds. She wrote to us: "I am delighted to be receiving this award. It means a great deal that it is coming from the first feminist organisation in Greece and that it is an award that recognises a work that promotes women's rights. When we set out to make the film - 7 years ago - we wanted it to be a film that reached women across the globe and resonated today. So it is particularly exciting to receive this from your organisation. As we know the struggle for women's rights goes on - and an award like this shines a much needed light on the issues. From the UK I send you all best wishes for a wonderful evening. I will be thinking of you all tonight! Thank you, Sarah Gavron"

6. Documentation and Study Centre (KE.TE.ME)

Our valuable archives contain records and rare documents of feminist interest, practically from the early beginning of the women's movement in Greece to this date. A devoted volunteer worker, Ms Helen Barba, sometimes assisted by University students either placed for work experience or doing voluntary work on gender equality, classifies press clips, documents, mail, books and all incoming material, for use by scholars, researchers and students who are wel-

come to read them in our premises. These archives form a unique collection and source of information in the field of women's rights, equality and the feminist movement in Greece.

7. Our Journal "Woman's Struggle"

The historic journal "Woman's Struggle", was first issued in 1923. It is since in constant circulation, except for the two periods the country was under dictatorship. It is highly valued because it is the only exclusively feminist journal, with material on feminist, scientific, cultural issues and news from the international scene on women's achievements, UN works and declarations, EU directives, Council of Europe recommendations, EWL, EIGE etc. All our activities and projects, sometimes carried out in partnership with other human rights, feminist and scientific organisations, (Resolutions, Protests, Letters to authorities etc.) appear in its pages.

During this year we published two new issues of our journal. Issue no 95, edited by GLWR previous President, Lili Kourakou, came out in spring containing a wide range of interesting



topics. Trafficking and prostitution, work-life balance, the challenge of successful policies for equality at a time of crisis, women's voting in US elections, methods for monitoring gender equality at university/college level and academic research, book reviews and news from around the world are some of the areas covered. However, the topic which dominates this issue is an extensive fifteen page presentation, analysis and discussion of the current refugee crisis by a number of experts along with the fascinating first hand accounts by women volunteers who opened their hearts and homes to help the refugees arriving in the Eastern Aegean Islands reminding them and all of us that the world can still be a humane place.

This summer we were very happy and proud to publish a special issue of our journal, dedicated with gratitude and respect to our Honorary President, Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos, in honour of the anniversary of her 100th birthday in July 2017. It is dedicated in recognition of her outstanding leadership, endless inspiration, unfailing support and great generosity to the League of Women's Rights, during the past eighty years, for thirty out of which she has served as our President. This special issue contains a representative documentation of major aspects of her exceptional academic work and unparalleled commitment to fight discrimination, by putting knowledge and expertise in the service of humanity and especially of the most weak and vulnerable. It includes a selection of important texts and speeches which Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos has delivered in various fora, or articles which have been written in honour of her widely recognised achievements in the fields of Human Rights, Criminology and Women's Rights. We have asked those who have shared closely with her a lifelong journey in academia, activism and commitment to common goals to write an article 'from the heart'. They all sent their contributions recalling events, thoughts and memories. Alice's constant support for Cyprus is also honoured, as is her special bond with the International Alliance of Women of which she has been President between 1989-1996. This issue further includes contributions by GLWR board members who have worked with Alice towards gender equality. Finally, this issue has the unique privilege of being embellished by some of her impressive works of art, courtesy of her sister, Professor Elli Yotopoulos-Sicilianos. For all of us in GLWR it was a great honour and pleasure to present Special Issue No 96 of 'Woman's Struggle' to our Honorary

President, for her invaluable contribution to humanity and for inspiring us with hope, optimism and strength to carry on.

8. Representations

The GLWR is represented in the following organisations: 1) International Alliance of Women (IAW). Seven members of the Board are individual members of IAW. 2) European Women's Lobby (EWL). Two members of the Board represent the GLWR at the Greek Coordination of the EWL. They take part at the monthly meetings, and keep the Board informed on the activities of EWL. 3) The EWL Observatory for Violence Against Women. One board member participates as an expert. 4) AFEM. 5) National Committee for Human Rights.

Pancyprian Movement Equal Rights –Equal Responsibilities Koulla Koumides, President



Koulla Koumides sends warmest regards from her elf and the entire board:

Regarding our Movement, each year is different as far as demonstrations are concerned. These only take place based on the most urgent and foremost issues.

In 2016 we decided to grant a certain amount of funds towards the creation of a children's play area in the building where domestic violence victims are housed. The majority of women who are there for protection also take their children with them. On the other hand, the first Help Centres for Victims of Domestic Violence were created by our Movement in 1988. Therefore the children will have their own space to spend their time pleasantly.

The International Olympic Commission decided on a 50/50 target regarding the participation of men and women in the 2020 Olympic Games. We therefore celebrated 8 March, International Women's Day, by awarding the female athletes who qualified at the International Shooting Meeting which took place in Nicosia, in order to announce this achievement in Equality.

In an attempt against racism and acceptance of diversity, we invited the multi-national Caritas choir to sing for us. We will be fortunate enough to present this Choir to you during the IAW Congress, which will take place in Nicosia.

Inequality regarding payment in employment and in the participation of men and women at Decision-Making Centres are matters on which youth, in particular, should be updated. For this reason, we invited young people, firstly from the musical domain and secondly from the athletic field and used them as models, we arranged fashion shows and subsequently informed them accordingly.

In conjunction with other organisations of the National Mechanism for Women's Rights, we organise joint events with a view to promoting Equality and in addition the reporting of all kinds of violence, sexual harassment and other bad incidents which we want to banish from society.

In October, we are expecting the Members of IAW in Nicosia for the 37th Conference. We are hoping for a great participation turnout and we will do our utmost towards a pleasurable stay for them, a successful Conference and for their acquaintance with Cyprus.

Women's Electoral Lobby, Australia

As reported previously, WEL's current ten priority areas of work are:
Eliminating violence against women
An equitable taxation system
Adequate retirement income for women
Social security
Vocational education and training
Job security, flexibility, and working time
Gender pay equity
Affordable housing
Child care
Strengthening women's representation at decision making levels

WEL's priority campaigns over 2016/17 were on violence against women and reproductive rights. WEL NSW led WEL's national work, including through preparing submissions and correspondence on national issues.

In relation to our violence against women campaign, we are undertaking ongoing lobbying for adequate funding of women's refuges with the aim of achieving long term secure funding for women's refuges as a priority program via the new national Housing Agreement. WEL is also partnering with Sydney University on two research projects and seeking additional research funds aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of women's refuges.

Abortion is still in the Criminal Code in the Australian states of Queensland and NSW. Decisions under case law mean that women are able to lawfully access abortion in both states. However retention of abortion in the Criminal Code constrains availability in rural and regional areas and means that most services are confined to relatively expensive private clinics.

In NSW, WEL organised an inaugural *Decriminalisation of Abortion* Roundtable on October 2016 with the aim of developing a campaign to decriminalise abortion and to improve access for women to abortion services. The Roundtable has created a coalition of peak groups, including Family Planning NSW, women's health, medical and legal experts. Intensive work is ongoing on drafting a framework and principles for law reform, mapping the context, polling, staged communications and strategic messaging. The WEL Campaign will launch in 2018 with the aim of influencing the outcomes of the March 2019 state election and securing political support for the new government to legislate to decriminalise abortion.

One important aspect of WEL's activities is to influence public policy and build momentum for change through a wide range of submissions, deputations and presentations. A major focus this year was a WEL submission to the Australian Labor Party's consultation on its women's policy, **Setting the Agenda**. The submission covered violence against women, women's health and well-being, work and caring responsibilities, women's economic security and independence, improving gender equality within education and training and through education and training. This work has provided a useful basis for reviewing and developing our policies ahead of upcoming elections.

Other WEL submissions included one to the Australian Law Reform Commission Elder Abuse Inquiry and contributions to the National Foundation for Women's gender budget analysis.

This year, WEL is celebrating its 45th anniversary. The Lord Mayor of Sydney hosted a well-

attended reception in the Sydney Town Hall on 2 August 2017. WEL produced a four minute video **Women Count**, showing WEL's history and aspirations, now available on our website www.wel.org.au. We also produced a brochure **Making Women Count** celebrating WEL's 45 years, setting out our agenda for the future, and launching our Women **Count Fund** to provide funds for leadership, tools and training to support our campaigns.

WEL was an active participant in this year's International Women's Day celebrations and par-



en's March on Sydney on 21 January 2017. Our 'pussy hat' project for IWD was a fun and highly successful project which involved many women participating in knitting including a session hosted at the Powerhouse Museum, Sydney. It attracted a lot of attention, a lot of demand and a visible WEL presence.

Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines

WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Advancing & promoting the rights of women, youth & families Since May 5, 1958



WRMP Joins Advocacy for the Elimination of Stigma and Discrimination

The Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines (WRMP), led by its newly elected president Norma J. Lozano, expressed commitment to help reduce stigma against sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Lozano acknowledged that one way of reducing stigma and discrimination is to have deeper understanding and conversations on the issues.

This realization came into light when WRMP Board Members participated in the March 6, 2017 Stigma Reduction Workshop conducted by the Catholics for Reproductive Health (C4RH), a national advocacy organization that promotes SRHR as human rights.

The stigma reduction workshop was part of the education and information drive aimed at developing Filipino's critical thinking and encouraging informed and responsible decisions concerning their lives and health. During the workshop, participants were encouraged to articulate opinions and re-examine their views and beliefs on SRHR and explore the diversity and complexity of the issues surrounding it.

Recognizing that stigma and discrimination have negative impact not only on the individual but also on the community and whole society, WRMP expressed commitment to help reduce stigma against sexual taboos and sexuality, reproductive health and rights. This commitment is being translated to its various programs and activities such as Health and Wellness Advocacy, Nutri-

tion Education, Medical Missions, Leadership Development for women and youth, among others.

The WRMP was established in 1958 by a group of fifteen committed women representing different professions and civic concerns to help other women from all walks of life, irrespective of individual political convictions, affiliations or religious belief. WRMP aims to protect and promote women's rights and empower women through education and advocacy for equality in both public and private spheres.

ASSOCIATES

International Meeting 2017
Women's Comfort Corner Foundation



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Prepared by Rita Marque Mbatha and Lisa Lunga

Report on Activities 2016 to 2017

Women's Comfort Corner Foundation assisted a client who had been ordered to vacate her matrimonial home within 24 hours. The estranged husband communicated via whatsapp. The woman who is living with cancer was devastated and approached our organisation in tears. The woman who had been married for 22 years sold her stand in order to raise the money to buy the bigger stand to build a large house. They build the house from the ground but sadly the man made a secret decision to sell their house without communicating with his wife. We made a decision to lodge an urgent application at the High Court to stop the eviction of the woman from her matrimonial home. We further lodged an application for a declaratory order and the application is still pending at the High Court and happily the woman and children still have a roof over their heads. The case reflects one of many instances where litigants do not understand their rights and obligations to their detriment. Had she not approached Women's Comfort Corner Foundation, she could have become destitute and homeless. The husband who has sold the home has pocketed the ill gotten gains and sadly neglected to pay college fees for the children and the sick wife is burdened with hospital bills and further has to support her children on the meagre salary as a teacher at a local government high school.

Walk of Shame

Women's Comfort Corner Foundation was approached by seven young women between the ages of 19 and 27. The women averred that they were prostitutes and that all of them had been infected with gonorrhea and the group alleged that a 66 year old man had deliberately infected with the disease whilst insisting that protection should not be used in order to be paid a high fee for services rendered. The women were not able to pay for proper treatment and resorted to using panadols to dull the pain which did not help. We persuaded them to go to the clinic where a prescription of antibiotics was issued and we bought the medication for them. Word has spread about the man who intentionally infected them with the disease. *This is one of the many cases that demonstrate the importance of the work that Women's Comfort Corner Foundation is do-*

ing in alleviating the plight of vulnerable in the society.

Conversation Cafes

Conservation cafes brings together young people from different backgrounds to discuss the issues affecting them, providing an important forum to build consensus around possible solutions to their problems. What came out from the conversation cafe is that most girls are not able to buy tampons and opt to use newspapers and dirty rags in place of tampons and sometimes spoil their uniforms as the barrier to prevent flow of blood during menstruation would be inadequate. Women's Comfort Corner Foundation has been donating tampons to 1200 girls with the help of the donor who has been providing tampons from January 2017 and has undertaken to do so up to December, 2017.

Help Desks & International Women's Day



Women's Comfort Corner Foundation runs a plethora of help desk to assist those unable to travel to main centres, thereby improving the access to information. The help desk in Epworth assisted parents who were failing to acquire birth certificates for their children because of poverty. The number of children obtaining birth certificates has drastically increased. Women's Comfort Corner Foundation hosted International Women's Day Event and invited various stakeholders including Cleo Matimbe an individual member of Internation-

al Alliance of Women.

SOFEDEC—DEMOCRATICE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Anaruite Süriwabo Muyuwa, la Coordinatrice de l'Afrique Subsaharienne, et Coordinatrice du programme des observatoires des viols contre les femmes en Afrique francophone. Anaruite est la Présidente de SOFEDEC, Associée de l'AIF en RDC

Le séminaire de FORMATION DES TECHNICIENS DE L'EAU a été suivie à



Ouagadougou avec le soutien financier de l'UNESCO en collaboration avec l'AIF, représentée par Monique Bouaziz et Danielle Levi. Une approche qui incarne des stratégies pour répondre au plan du programme des observatoires des viols contre les femmes en Afrique Francophone en général et en Rd Congo (RDC) en particulier.

Les pays africains en général et ceux de l'Afrique sub-saharienne en particulier, ont connu des guerres à répétition, c'est pourquoi leurs richesses ne profitent en rien à la population.

En RDC comme partout en Afrique, spécialement en Afrique Francophone et dans le monde entier, la femme a été depuis la nuit de temps, victime de plusieurs violations, en temps de conflit comme en temps de paix, compte tenu qu'elle se situe au centre de l'objet qui fait opposition entre deux sujets. Ainsi plusieurs femmes ont été violées lorsqu'elles ont voulu

comme toujours, protéger et sauver des vies en danger.

L'eau est indispensable à la vie humaine et plus particulièrement à la femme. C'est pourquoi le fardeau d'approvisionnement en eau de la famille appartient à la femme et à ses filles surtout en milieux ruraux partout en Afrique. Voilà pourquoi, la femme cherche à tout prix à avoir de l'eau pour son corps et pour sa famille. C'est la raison même pour laquelle elle sacrifie sa vie en allant même très loin avec des petites filles, le jour et la nuit pour satisfaire les besoins en eau. Ce phénomène est plus grave dans les pays quasi désertiques de l'Afrique en général et francophones en particulier.

Les dangers qu'elles courent sont nombreux et beaucoup d'atteintes à leurs droits ont été enregistrées:

- Viol au chemin de l'eau,
- Rupture de plusieurs liens conjugaux due aux absences exagérées de la femme (jour ou nuit à la recherche de l'eau),
- Non procréation des couples (témoignage d'une dame à Ouagadougou), un danger pour une société africaine,
- Travaux lourds exercés par les enfants (à l'âge de 9 ans la fillette est obligée de transporter 25 l d'eau à une distance de 3km et au-delà)
- Non scolarisation de plusieurs filles (elles sont à la recherche de l'eau pour une bonne hygiène de leurs corps et leurs maisons)
- Discrimination de la fille ; non égalité entre garçon et fille, pas de droits égaux ni responsabilités égales. etc.

L'éloignement de l'eau est pour la femme un facteur entre autres de beaucoup d'atteintes à ses droits et ceux de la petite fille. Même dans les écoles en milieux ruraux et quelques fois en milieux urbains partout en Afrique, en se référant à notre propre pays, le manque d'installations hygiéniques cause beaucoup d'abandons de la part des filles causés surtout par les règles mensuels.

Tous ces aspects sont négatifs vis-à-vis de la perspective du leadership féminin de notre temps, en ce sens que c'est la petite fille africaine d'aujourd'hui qui va diriger l'Afrique de demain, et que nous devons faire 'elle ce qui lui donne cette capacité. C'est aussi contraire à ce que prône l'AIF (droits égaux, responsabilités égales).

Pour atteindre ses rêves, l'AIF représentée par Monique et Daniell s'est adressée à l'Unesco pour demander un soutien financier afin d'envoyer des femmes à une formation des techniciennes de l'eau à Ouagadougou.

Au cours de cette formation nous avons appris de manière sommaire à :

- capter une source ou une rivière
- traiter l'eau



- faire l'adduction ou le transport de l'eau.

Notre but est de transformer des femmes africaines en général et celles francophones en particulier, en techniciennes de l'eau pour contourner les problèmes des femmes liés à l'eau.

Nous avons formé 35 personnes homme et femmes au cours du mois de juillet, et dans notre perspective nous voulons rendre solide cette stratégie, car nous avons découvert que c'est un soutien au **programme des observatoires des viols contre les femmes** à sa phase d'intégration socio-économique des femmes violées.

Nous avons en même temps fait usage du côté pratique de notre formation pour aider des femmes dans un village à réparer les conduites de leur réseau qui étaient cassées.

Ainsi, nous demandons aux femmes lectrices de ce rapport si elles peuvent soutenir notre équipe afin de répéter cette formation en Afrique francophone.



