

Reports for IAW Board Meeting

Sion, Switzerland

October 2014

Compiled by Lene Pind

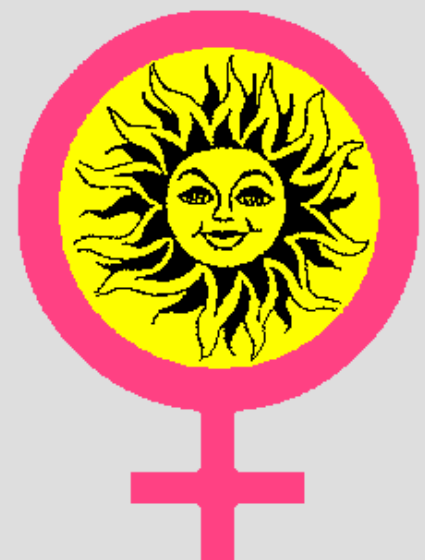
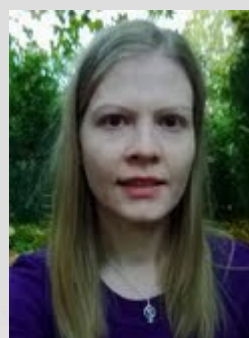


TABLE OF CONTENTS

President	3
Secretary General	7
IAW Membership Officer	8
International Women's News	9
Communications	11
International representatives	13
New York	13
Geneva	22
Vienna	22
FAO	24
International Criminal Court	25
UNESCO	28
European Women's Lobby	31
Commissions and International representatives	34
Council of Europe—Democracy	34
Human Rights	40
Health	40
Climate Change	48
Peace and Conflict	51
Feminist Economics	53
Regions	54
Kuwait	54
Working groups and other business	56
Young women	56

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013-2014

Dear all,

I will start by congratulating Lene Pind, head of our Communications Unit, and her group (Margunn, Alison, Joke) who shortly after I was elected President started working on our website, which was dormant up to now as Alison used to say, and brought radical changes to it both in its contents and in its design.

This development is very important as the website is our face and voice to the world. The new website is dynamic, attractive and modern and it can greatly affect the whole work of the IAW and of its membership.

We have also started to work with social media—facebook and twitter, and Lene has made a new start with the Newsletter together with a team of young girls in different regions of the world. All these are steps ahead.

We finally have the IWN , which we will try to modernize as well. A possibility could be to employ an editorial consultant well experienced in women's human rights.

CSW 58

Concerning the 58th session of the CSW I think our contribution was very positive.

For the first time the zero draft conclusions presented by the CSW 58 Bureau were circulated to the members of our extended Board, who were asked to present amendments to the text. Many did, and for that I would like to thank very much Jocelyne, Gudrun, Lyda, Marion, Rosy and others. Thus we had early on a position on the text which I transmitted to the Presidency of the European Union held at the time by Greece in order to support our amendments.

During the CSW 58 IAW organized two side events , and I want to thank the organizers of both events as they were very successful. Anje organized a side event sponsored by Karama on the theme of “gender-based violence as a political weapon. Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security” with many speakers: Mr Anwarul Chowdhury, Former Ambassador of Bangladesh who was the keynote speaker. He was president of the UN Security Council when UN SC resolution 1325 was adopted. The title of his speech was “Women's participation makes peace sustainable: 1325's core message”. He emphasized that the adoption of national action plans at country level is a top priority. The results up to now have been disappointing. Other speakers were : A representative from UN Women ,from Karama, WILPF, Syrian Women's Forum for Peace, the Council of Europe ,a representative from the Permanent Mission of Austria, and from “Men engage”. They all stressed that a gender responsive justice system is an integral element of effective peace processes and nation building. Sustainable peace and societies where violence and inequality would not any longer be the norm is only possible with the equal participation of women and men at all decision making levels and at all times.

Margunn and I organized a side event on the financial crisis, the global recession and women. Margunn spoke about the Norwegian social fund and its role as creditor in the eurozone and the need for its policies to be evaluated from a human rights perspective. I spoke about the effects of the crisis on women in the ECE region, mainly job losses in the public sector where the majority of workers are women. Austerity policies have brought a reprivatization of care where family members, mainly women, are expected to take over responsibilities that were once public.

Professor Radhika Balakrishnan, director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership and Professor at Rutgers University was the keynote speaker and spoke about the reasons behind the financial crisis, which started in the US, and its gender and racial aspects. I thank Margunn a lot for her contribution in organizing this event.

I also participated as a discussant in a side-event on the MDGs, Post 2015 and Beijing+20 regional perspectives: North America/Europe cosponsored by the permanent mission of Latvia, Poland and NGO/CSW Forum 2014.



Soon Young had arranged that, and I thank her a lot. Main speakers were John Hendra Assistant Secretary General of the UN, Ministers from Latvia and Poland, Drude Dahlerup Professor at the University of Stockholm. The panel was moderated by Viviane Teitelbaum, President of the EWL.

I also participated in a side event organized by WIDF, Women's International Democratic Federation, on the achievements of the Millennium, women and work advances and setbacks. The speakers were women trade unionists from Latin America and India. Esther Suter arranged that and I thank her warmly.

Finally Judy Gordon participated as a speaker in a very interesting side event on the subject of understanding health as a human right for older women organized by the Subcommittee on older Women, NGO Committee on Aging and the International Network for the Prevention of elder Abuse.

ECE NGO/CSW Forum



Geneva NGO FORUM - Beijing+20 UN ECE Regional Review

3-5 November, 2014

Palais des Nations - Geneva, Switzerland

act | advance | achieve | women's rights

Another forum that the IAW is participating in with success is the ECE NGO/CSW Forum, which is going to take place in Geneva from 3-5 November. The NGO Forum will be a platform to complement national country reporting by collecting civil society's perspectives on the assessment of the achievements, remaining gaps and challenges of implementation of each of the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform of Action in countries of the ECE Region as well as crosscutting and/or emerging issues.

NGOs were invited to contribute to this review by sharing their assessments and recommendations in the form of abstracts. The IAW has submitted 4 abstracts by: a) Torild Scard on power and decision making, b) by Joanna Manganara on the effects of the economic crisis on women in the region, c) Rosy Weiss and Anje Wiersinga on sexual and gender based violence as a political weapon in conflicts, d) Margunn Bjornholt on gender responsive budgeting - knowledge production and implementation.

Torild and Joanna have been invited to participate in round tables as panelists.

I would like to thank Esther Suter, who is following NGO/CSW in Geneva and has contributed a lot to the success of this process.

IAW undertook advocacy activities on a number of issues it considers top priorities.

Violence against women

I wrote a letter of support to Ms Hoorya Mashour Minister of Human Rights in Yemen, who has started a campaign to ban child marriage in her country.

I wrote a letter to the President of Nigeria, Mr Goodluck Jonathan, concerning the abduction and possible trafficking as child brides of more than 200 schoolgirls from their school hostel in Chibok, Borno state in Nigeria by Boko Haram, an Islamist group of armed extremists. I urged him to undertake immediate action and

work expeditiously to locate and secure the missing schoolgirls, bring to justice those responsible for their abduction and exploitation and more generally take measures for the safety of all girls in Nigeria.

We have signed a petition calling on all world leaders and enabled parties to rescue these girls.

We have also signed petitions:

Calling on governments around the world to work together to make the elimination of child marriage a global priority and to include it in any post 2015 development framework.

Asking India's Prime Minister Modi to take urgent action to end the rape epidemic in India.

Asking the government of Mozambique not to enact a new penal code that would make it easier for rapists to escape prosecution, that only considers children under age 12 as minors in cases of rapes and allows relatives to get away with tampering with criminal investigations.

Calling on Kenya's Inspector General of Police to deliver justice for the 16 -year -old Liz in Nairobi, Kenya including the immediate arrest and prosecution of her rapists and full disciplinary action for the police officers who failed to handle her case.

We have posted on our website the 4th Annual International Anti-street Harassment week March 30- April 5 2014 organized by the NGO Stop Street Harassment.

We have participated in the International Campaign 16 Days of Activism against Violence Against Women organized by the Center for Women's global Leadership, Rutgers University, New Jersey. The theme of the 2013 campaign was from "Peace in the Home to Peace in the World. Let us challenge militarism and end gender based violence."

Femicide

A group of members of the Board (Rosy, Bettina, Seema, Bashan, Asha, Jessika and Helen) decided that we had to do something about the increase across many countries of brutal attacks against women which surpass in barbarity the regrettably familiar incidents of rape and murder. It appears that in many of these cases the state and its administrators are not concerned and on occasions culpable. We decided to send a letter to the President of the Human Rights Council. The letter was drafted by Helen Self, and in the letter we asked him to give femicide the urgency it deserves and discuss it during the 26th session, and if not possible give it priority in the 27th session of the Human Rights Council.

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

IAW has signed a petition by the National Coordination of Spanish women in the EWL calling for support as a change of law has taken place in Spain restraining drastically the conditions of legal-abortion in their country.

IAW has sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Spain, Mr Marion Rajoy, and to the Minister of Justice, Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon, asking them to withdraw the bill.

IAW has signed a petition by NGOs in El Salvador that calls for the release of 17 women serving prison sentences of up to 40 years following obstetric complications. El Salvador has a very strict abortion law meaning a woman can be charged with homicide for suffering a miscarriage.

Protection of the 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 implying 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.

The IAW has written a letter to the Permanent Representative of Greece in Geneva asking him not to vote in favor of the resolution but to support the amendments to it in order to ensure that at a minimum the language of the resolution recognizes diverse forms of the family.

Together with other NGOs like WILPF, Amnesty International, IAW has endorsed a statement, which urges the UN Human Rights Council to ensure that the Panel discussion entitled "Protection of the family" sched-

uled to take place in September during the 27th session of the HRC, reflects the diversity of family forms and includes a focus on the promotion and protection of human rights of individuals within the family unit.

I participated as representative of the EWL in a Conference organized by the Confederation of family organizations in the European Union on the subject “Families in the crisis. Finding work-life balance in a difficult economic context on” April 29th in Athens.

Women Human Rights Defenders

IAW has circulated a petition concerning the protection of women human rights defenders in Egypt asking for the support of the call of Nazra for feminist studies to Egyptian authorities to drop all charges against 9 women human rights defenders, effectuate their unconditional release and guarantee that all human rights defenders in Egypt are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities free from prosecution, arbitrary arrest, judicial harassment and physical violence.

Post 2015 Development Agenda

IAW has endorsed a joint statement elaborated by 70 governments (charged with developing the Sustainable Development Goals) and civil society organizations to urge governments to move beyond rhetoric and effectively align the post 2015 sustainable development framework with human rights.

We have signed a statement “The actions we need for the future we want. A civil society Red Flag”. The statement calls on Member States and UN Agencies to demonstrate and sustain the necessary leadership and political will to ensure that the post 2015 development agenda is based on fully endorsing the fundamental principles of human rights, equality, non discrimination and social justice for all.

We have signed a statement to the co chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals together with WILPF, Center for Women’s Global Leadership and others asking for a strengthening of the link between the Development Agenda and the Conflict Prevention and Peace building Agenda from a gender perspective.

We have signed a petition by the NGO Committee for Social Development at the UN which calls upon all governments to implement nationally owned and designed floors of social protection in accordance with the Recommendation 202 of ILO to achieve the Millennium Development goals and as an integral component of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We have signed a feminist Declaration for “Post 2015 Economic, Social and Ecological justice for sustainable Development”.

IAW positions

All these texts I have referred to constitute the position of the IAW on different issues. We should stick to them and on their basis develop our initiatives and our work building on partnerships. I think all Board members should try to contribute in this direction.

I have circulated a position paper by EWL on women’s health in Europe and have asked Commission Conveners to try to do the same on issues they work with. The response was not very positive. Only Natalia did that, and I thank her very much.

IAW Banner

The President of Handarbetets Vanner/Licium (HV) in Stockholm Dr. Annika Ohrner took an interest in our banner as it was produced by their Association and presented at the sixth IAW Congress in 1911 in Stockholm by Miss Lotten von Kraemer. On the backside of the banner is a poetic line in Swedish which expresses the hope of a bright future for women.

The Atelier of Handarbetets Vanner has produced many of the leading works of textile art in Sweden both for public buildings and for private homes . HV also runs a school in advanced textile handicraft.

Dr Ohrner asked us if we could lend the banner to be exhibited in connection with their 140th anniversary this year in Stockholm (15 September-15 November 2014) President Louise Lindfors of Fredriha Bremer Forbundet, our Swedish member ,supports this project. Our answer was positive and we decided that I will carry the banner to Stockholm.

We signed a contract with HV/Licium concerning their financial and formal responsibility for the banner during the exhibition, and when the banner will travel from Stockholm to Athens.

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

It is an honour to write this report to the Board as Secretary General of IAW. Firstly, I want to thank my predecessor, Lene Pind, who has been very supportive and has also agreed to assist with some responsibilities to ensure that we deliver on our mandate.

Challenges for IAW

Responding to emails

There have been many activities taking place, and communicating with members and the agencies we are affiliated to have been ongoing daily. This has highlighted one challenge that we have that I think needs improvement, to respond to emails and communicate often.

Observing deadlines

Organising the CSW 2014 highlighted the importance of members to respond on time when requested because there were those who wanted to be registered after the registration was closed and were disappointed that we could not assist. Furthermore, it was a challenge this year as I could not attend CSW due to work commitments as a result the coordination was done remotely.

Responding to information sent

There is a lot of information that I receive daily, and I have forwarded it to Board members and Affiliates accordingly. What I am really missing with regards to all the information that I am sending to our members is how they are using the information sent or whether it is useful so that any information that is not required could be deleted

Communication between IAW and our international representatives

Communications with members representing IAW at UN Agencies and other Agencies can improve so that we can receive a maximum from our representatives in those agencies. I have been sending invitations for meetings specifically to representatives in the Agencies and with only one or two people responding. This is frustrating as without any response, I am not certain if we are represented or not. I want to recommend that the *representatives indicate who will be participating so that we are kept in the loop too.*

The UN always sends me messages of meetings and important events happening in these Agencies. As per the names accredited in these Institutions, I forward the invitations to them and the President to ensure that we do have representation. I would appreciate a response from the Representative to indicate who will be representing IAW in these events because this has been one of my challenges due to members not responding or responding very late. There are various meetings taking place at the UN and I am requesting that those attending the meetings inform me of the progress. I want to thank Judy who has been consistent in briefing me of every outcome of meetings she attends. This is very helpful especially in instances where IAW is asked to support a campaign or sign a petition as we would be following the discussions as participants in these meetings.

International representatives: Please, inform the President, the secretary general, and the head of communications of your activities

I have written letters to the European Commission and UN Geneva for members who were nominated to represent IAW in some of the Committees. This is a very important milestone for the organisation and once the members have been appointed I propose that they inform me so that I can then inform our members but also to be able to respond appropriately when I receive requests or questions from our stakeholders.

Fundraising

IAW is a respected and one of the oldest feminist organisations, and it really has to change its operational model to have an impact as an international organisation. Therefore, fundraising for the operations of the organisations should be given a priority, or it will continue to be in the shadows of other organisation that have



ECOSOC status and started at the same time.

Preparing for CSW

As we would be preparing for CSW soon, I am requesting that those that would want to attend respond on time. We are only given a specific number to register, therefore it is on first come first served basis, and once we reach the total number registered, we cannot register anyone anymore. I had challenges with the registration this year where some members responded very late. Even though the registration was not closed, we had already reached the maximum number and could not accommodate any more names.

Thanks to our hostess

Finally I would like to thank Jessika and Martine, for the sterling work in preparing and organising the Board meeting. They have ensured that everything is in order with regards to logistics of the meeting

Mmabatho Ramagoshi

IAW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014

It gives me great pleasure to present my Eighteenth Annual Report as Membership Secretary.



As most of you know, the administration of the IAW is done by volunteers working from their own computers, photocopiers, scanners and homes at different ends of the earth. Our President, Joanna Manganara is in Greece, our Secretary-General Mmabatho Ramagoshi is in South Africa, our Communications Director, Lene Pind, is in Denmark, & our Treasurer Seema Uplekar is in Switzerland..

I work very closely with our former email newsletter editor, Joke Sebus in The Netherlands, to keep the email address file up to date, and I ring Priscilla Todd, the editor of our Journal, 'International Womens News' in Melbourne every few weeks. My duties keep me very busy, answering requests and enquiries, mainly by email. As I am online all the time, I endeavour to answer requests immediately. Over the last few years I have also been required to collect the IAW annual subscriptions at the Board meetings and Congresses. I have also been the Collector for Australian subs for the last four years...

I keep the IAW master files, plus the printer's Excel address file and endeavour to keep them up to date...I send copies of them to the Executive at regular intervals for their information and for their work. I send back-up copies to Priscilla Todd as well... and also to my own Hotmail address. Last year I installed a new backup external disk with a larger capacity on my new computer.

I would like to thank all those Individual members and the Collectors in countries with a large number of members, who keep me up to date on who has paid and also any changes of address of our members or organisations...I like the journals to reach their new homes safely and also, Joke and I see it as our business to keep the lines of communication open, especially in the delivery of our Email communications on IAW matters including the delivery twice a year now of our Journal 'The International Womens News' in PDF format..

I would like to thank Alison Brown, our wonderful web content manager, who stores the back-up Excel Printers file...Also, to our two previous Presidents, Lyda Verstegen and Rosy Weiss, my heartfelt thanks for their help and advice over many years. I will be updating my auxiliary reports on membership status for the Board...but FYI, **we are mailing out approximately 750 copies of the journal now once a year and sending the other two issues in PDF by email to our members...this is why it is now vital that all our members be contactable online.**

Also, I would like to thank my assistant Membership Secretary, Sheila Deaves, for helping me with the administration of our seventeen Subscription libraries...although there are not many of them, they are reasonably complicated...as they pay through Subscription agencies and involve a lot of paperwork. We both invoice

any other libraries to pay IAW directly or request an invoice to do so. **We are both willing to keep looking after the libraries.**

However, I did indicate last year that I feel the time has come to hand over my position as Membership Secretary to someone younger and more proficient on the computer....who can 'ning', tweet, blog, facebook and Link in!!! I have enjoyed the work and I have enjoyed my email contact with all of you around the world for so many years...I will miss this contact more than I can say, but the work is never ending and the computer files are a bit much for me at my age... Nonetheless, the work has kept me abreast with technology...

I would suggest it is imperative that the Board proceed with the creation of a Database...which will cost money initially to set up but will make the administration of our organisation less of a burden. However, that is only the start as someone must be willing to update addresses and other details on a very regular basis and hopefully have time for direct communication by email with members. Also, there is always an immense amount of work following a Congress, with new people, new Board members, changes of status of everyone in the Executive, new organisations, payments handled at Congress and all their details to be keyed into two separate files....

I hope, however, to stay on as the representative for Individual IAW members. My recommendation that individual members joining or renewing at a Congress pay for three years was successful at the London Congress....it is almost impossible for individual members from countries without a Collector to pay annually, as bank transfer fees would be more than the subscription...

Unfortunately, owing to cost and age I don't feel I can make it this year to the Board meeting in Sion in October...but will be with you in spirit. I am only as far away as an email!!!!

I hope, however, to stay on as the representative for Individual IAW members. My recommendation that individual members joining or renewing at a Congress pay for three years was successful at the London Congress....it is almost impossible for individual members from countries without a Collector to pay annually, as bank transfer fees would be more than the subscription...

Unfortunately, owing to cost and age I don't feel I can make it this year to the Board meeting in Sion in October...but will be with you in spirit. I am only as far away as an email!!!!

Pat Richardson, OAM,
IAW Membership Secretary
and Individual Members' Representative—

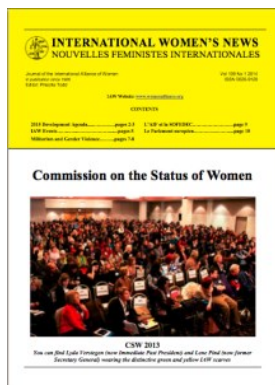
International Women's News

Report by Priscilla Todd, Editor

I took over the English pages in 2002 when Jan Marsh joined the Portrait Gallery in London and could no longer give her time to the Alliance. Hilary Paddon continued to produce the French pages and we worked with the English printers. Subsequently it became necessary to handle the entire production online with a new printer in Switzerland and we had to say farewell to Hilary. Mathilde Duval assisted with the French pages for a while; various members, notably Gudrun Haupter and Rosy Weiss, have produced regular copy in French and checked the syntax while Helen Self has been an ideal proof reader for the English pages.

The production of 4 editions per year, printing, binding, labels and packaging plus postage was a constant drain on IAW funds and the Board determined to reduce these costs. Currently 3 editions per year are pro-

duced, 2 online and one printed and posted by printers in Austria. Pat Richardson continues to produce labels for the printers.



A Time for Change

Recognising that we are in the immediacy of the digital age, that we now have a more interactive website and the e-newsletter has been revived, it is time for change. The website will continue to evolve and the e-newsletter will provide current information, news and articles. International Women's News has been in publication since 1906 in different formats and presenting a variety of content. Given its longevity, it would be sad to see it vanish but it needs a new focus and format.

Each of these communications platforms must have clear roles as well as complementing each other.

New Ideas have been canvassed and clearly the current format and content of IWNews does not appeal to younger women who constantly access a huge range of information online. Suggestions include:

Information about international feminist debate, eg key issues in different parts of the world and impact, if any, on government policies, social attitudes, etc.

Comment on where the situation for women has deteriorated.

As an IAW member how can I be active to improve equal rights for women and girls.

Other people's stories and experiences can be an inspiration.

Reviews of books and films with a feminist focus.

A mix of analytical articles and current news items.

Recommendations

Seek professional advice from a consultant who has hands on expertise with communications platforms, preferably at an international level and with no direct involvement with IAW.

Her brief will be to examine branding, formatting and content and to produce an overall profile for IAW across its communications platforms, provide recommendations, and possibly guidelines, about the individual and complementary functions for each area.

An overall focus must be to attract and recruit younger women and new organisations.

Outcomes

An editorial group, all of whom must demonstrate sincere commitment and a willingness to communicate constantly and to provide regular input including research, reading, communication and production of articles, photographs, cartoons, book/film/TV reviews etc. etc.

The group must include some younger women who are constantly up to date with all digital opportunities and possibilities. One or two must be fluent in at least English and French.

One woman must be prepared to take on overall responsibility for final decisions.

I will continue to produce IWNews until a proactive team is in place. I will be happy to liaise with the new group and be involved wherever I can be useful.

COMMUNICATIONS

WEBSITE

Congress 2013

At the London post-congress board meeting in September 2013, it was decided that IAW should have a new, more modern and flexible website.. In a very short time a new website was created, with a brand new appearance and with wordpress as the new technology. In cooperation with Alison Brown in particular and with me, it was decided what texts from the old website were to be transferred to the new one, and at the same time a link to the old website was established, so that nothing was lost. Our history is there, and Lyda and I are now negotiating with our archives in the Netherlands about how to save the old website as a historical document along with the rest of our documents

What the website is for

The website is our window through which the world sees IAW. Of course we hope that our members will follow the work of IAW on the web, but the target group is not our own members. The target group of the world, journalists, politicians, other NGOs, the UN etc. This is why we should not publish documents meant for internal working commissions or the board on the website. They must go on iawom-



showcase, the world sees IAW. our members will follow the work of IAW on the web, not our own members. The target group of the world, journalists, politicians, other NGOs, the UN etc. This is why we should not publish documents meant for internal working commissions or the board on the website. They must go on iawom-

The posts on our website are news from IAW or news from other sources provided this news has been analysed, interpreted, commented on, supported etc. by IAW. It may also be initiatives taken by others which we support or disapprove of. Everything is seen through the eyes of IAW. We must also try to get well-written articles. Just quoting a UN document is not good. It is unreadable for most people. Instead we should produce a news article and then upload the total document as a pdf file or whatever is relevant

In the “Opinion” section, which is a kind of blog, more personal opinions may be voiced and commented on by other readers.

The “Around the world” section is where I hope to see more news from our member organizations.

Donate

We still need the donate button, and I hope that the treasurer will get that sorted out with the bank.

More contributions

The website is developing to my satisfaction, and I thank members (Lyda, Joanna, Margunn, Torild and others) who have contributed. But we need more people to contribute. I think it is strange that it has not been possible to get general articles about our work by all commission conveners. That does not leave an impression of a strong, dedicated organization. At some stage I put up a job post asking for volunteers. Quite a few sent an application. It remains to be seen if any of them are qualified.

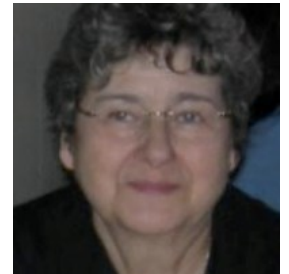
At the time of writing we have had more than 24,000 views since October last year. On the best day so far we had 270 views. I think it is OK, but we can do better than that. I would like to see more press releases, more well- written articles from conveners, regional coordinators, individual members etc. We have a unique opportunity to make IAW more known in the world.

For this to happen we need a group of people who want to write for the website.

The French Section

I really want to thank **Danielle Levy** for the work she is doing translating into French. It is not an easy job, and

– I believe – not too exciting, but we would have no French section without Danielle. However, what we need is somebody in charge of the French section, somebody who writes and edits. If we don't get that, I think we should cancel the French section.



IAW Newsletter

For 15 years Joke Sebus assisted by Priscilla Todd produced a monthly newsletter, which at the end of Joke's 15 years was sent out to 500 people. At Congress in London Joke announced that she was stepping down, but – alas – there was no one to take over.

Now a new editorial group has now been established consisting of

Anne Pelagie Cameroon	pelagie_y@yahoo.fr	
Maria Rydahl Ahlgreen Denmark	maria_ahlgreen@outlook.com	
Zainab Syed Pakistan/ Australia	zainabzsyed@gmail.com	
Katerina, Siomopoulou Greece	katerina__789@hotmail.com	
Lene Pind Denmark	lenepind@gmail.com	

Joke sends out the new newsletter, and Priscilla still gives editorial advice.

The first newsletter produced by the new group was sent out around August 21 in a new format.

The new group is in a learning process, but with the help of Joke and Priscilla and contributions from board members and others, I believe we shall have a newsletter worth reading.

My ambition is at some stage to merge the website and the newsletter. Technically this is possible, but as long as we do not get more contributions for the website, it is not a good idea.

Social Media

At the time the new website was up, it was an obvious thing to also have an IAW facebook page and a twitter account

Facebook

Unlike the website, facebook is a more informal medium. On facebook we publish news from IAW, we share news from other NGOs, newspapers, individuals etc. However everything is in accordance with the focus of IAW.

At the time of writing we have 502 likes. By way of comparison, the Danish Women's Society has more than 5000, so again – we can do much, much better. And it is important. From the statistics of the website, I can see that whenever we publish news from IAW on facebook, the number of views on the website goes up. Moreover, through facebook we get in touch with women of many ages who have never before heard about IAW.

I thank those of you – Mmabatho, Seema, Arina, Jessika, Margunn, Lyda, Jocelyne, Lyna... – who contribute by “liking”, “sharing” and commenting on the posts. It is really important. But we need more of you to do so.

Among the members of our organizations, there are bound to be many who have facebook and twitter accounts. I really urge you to find those members and encourage them to “like” and “share” and to “follow” and “retweet” - and last, but not least to send posts .

Facebook is good fun, among other things because it is informal. Through facebook we can reach thousands of people . I paid a sum of about 25€ to facebook to have Rosy's article about gender and militarism reach more people. It reached about 5000 and it gave us new “likes”, but obviously I cannot do that very often. It is much better when people on facebook “share”

Twitter

IAW has a twitter account, and so does the President. Twitter is also a rather informal medium, but very effective and very fast. I am still in a learning process and hope to be able to use it better as we go along. There is no doubt that it is important. Everybody has a twitter account: UN Women, Equality Now, WAVE, WEDO, WILPF, just to mention a few.

At the moment we have 217 followers. And what I mentioned in connection with facebook, also applies to twitter

IAW is not very well known

All these things must be done to improve the position of IAW, and we must make a greater effort to make our different media/ platforms of communication better. We have a major problem. IAW is not very well known. Why don't any of the big international organizations follow us on twitter ? I know we have a long and glorious past. We must work on getting a glorious future.

Lene Pind
September 2014

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

New York

IAW report for 2013-2014

Soon-Young Yoon

Main representative to the UN, New York

The New York IAW members participated actively in events related to gender equality and human rights, small arms trade, sustainable development, health including non-communicable diseases, and climate change. Special attention was given to Open Working Group meetings related to the Sustainable Development Goals, Beijing + 20 and the post-2015 Development Agenda.

The UN Women expert group meeting held in preparation for CSW 58 was held in Bangkok, Thailand (17-20 September 2013). For this meeting, the IAW actively participated in the discussions of the Millennium Development Goals. During the CSW, the IAW helped to organize events jointly with CARICOM, New Zealand

and WHO/PAHO on Women, Cancer and NCDs which helped build momentum for an historic inclusion of NCDs into the final Agreed Conclusions. IAW was represented at the UN Women launch of Beijing + 20 at the historic Apollo Theatre and numerous other events.

Details of some activities are outlined below:

5th Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, 16 – 20 June 2014 at UN Headquarters, New York City



As stated in the resolution [2117](#), the member states want to ratify the implementation of processes that would provide better assistance in identifying small weapons by creating universal serial numbers or tracking methods in order to be able to monitor illegal activities and effectively combat illicit arms trade. Most conflicts are fought mainly with small arms, which are broadly used in inter-state conflicts. They are the weapons of choice in civil wars and for terrorism, organized crime and gang warfare.

The tracing of arms needs to be universally available. Efforts must be made to implement regulations, keep records, monitor, and implement a tracking system to be used globally. At this meeting, it was suggested that there should be a point of reference in the coordination and distribution of pertinent information for the prevention and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and weapons.

Records show that the majority of conflict deaths are caused by the use of small arms, and civilian populations suffer the brunt of armed conflict more than ever. The sharing of data, methodology and resources will aid this cause by making eradication efforts more viable since it is a known fact that small arms are the dominant tools of criminal violence. Furthermore, there was discussion on how small arms facilitate a vast spectrum of human rights violations, including killing, maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, enforced disappearance, torture, and forced recruitment of children by armed groups. More human rights abuses are committed with small arms than with any other weapon, and the use of armed violence has become a means for resolving grievances and conflicts leaving legal and peaceful dispute resolution out of the equation.

The next meeting is scheduled to be in New York from 1-5 June 2015.

“Empowering Women — Empowering Humanity: Picture It!”

The UN Women kick off event at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. It took place on 26 June 2014 at 5 PM. This event was a celebration of the launch of the UN Women’s global campaign leading up to the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. When it launched, the UN conference marked the largest gathering of government and NGO representatives in attendance. Officials from nearly 200 nations around the world were united in China to incite action for women’s rights.

The 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing at the Apollo Theater was hosted by Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and included renowned speakers such as Gloria Steinem, a lecturer, writer, editor and activist, Alek Wek, UN Goodwill Ambassador, and Soon-Young Yoon.

Wounded to Death - The theatrical performance of “Ferite a Morte”, 25 November 2014 at the UN Trusteeship Council, NYC

The event was organized under the umbrella of the UN Secretary-General’s campaign *UNiTE to End Violence against Women*, which is managed by UN Women, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations. “Wounded to Death” is a performing arts project on femicide – whereby women are killed based on their gender – written and produced by Serena Dandini, an Italian journalist, writer and television personality, together with Maura Misiti, a researcher at CNR, the Italian National Research Council.



Based on actual crime reports, it gives voice, for the first time, to the victims around the world through a series of monologues. The debut performance of “Wounded to Death” was on 24 November 2012 in Palermo, on the eve of the International Day to End Violence against Women.

An exceptional cast read the various monologues at the UN Trusteeship Council in New York, and all wore an orange colored item of clothing to call attention to the orange theme.

Officially, the UN General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in a 1999 resolution inviting governments, international organiza-

tions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to “organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the problem on that day.”

This date was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the assassination of three Mirabal sisters, who were political activists in the Dominican Republic, on orders of Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo on 25 November 1960.

Also, this Day marks the start of 16 days of activism that culminates with the *Human Rights Day* on 10 December. “Orange the World in 16 Days” was the official theme to raise worldwide awareness on the gross human rights violation which all acts of violence against women and girls represent.

“Wounded to Death” was presented by Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, Ambassador Sebastiano Cardi.

UN General Assembly (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

After intense final negotiations in New York, the OWG-SDGs, Co-Chaired by H.E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya and H.E. Ambassador Csaba Korosi of Hungary, concluded its work with an outcome document encompassing 17 goals and 169 targets. Proposed SDGs include goals on (1) poverty, (2) hunger and food security, sustainable agriculture, (3) health, (4) education, (5) gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, (6) water and sanitation, (7) energy, (8) economic growth and employment, (9) infrastructure and industrialization, (10) reduction of inequality within and among countries, (11) cities and human settlements, transport, (12) consumption and production, (13) climate change, (14) oceans, (15) ecosystems, forests, land degradation, and biodiversity, (16) peace, access to justice, (17) means of implementation, and global partnerships, data monitoring and accountability.

Some of the goals, however not all, have specific gender-sensitive targets, including on poverty, education, water and sanitation, transport, equal pay for work of equal value, and climate change. Gender-disaggregated data is included in goal (17) on data, monitoring, and accountability.

The general consensus was that this was the best outcome possible, however, government delegations were speaking in favor and against the proposed goals at the conclusion of OWG-SDGs, so the negotiations process is far from over. Some governments wanted to delete goals on climate change, peace and security, and some targets on means of implementation, and others wanted to limit the number of goals to only ten. The Women’s Major Group was disappointed with limited targets on sexual and reproductive rights and lack of mention of women’s human rights in goal (5).

The IAW covered the OWG-SDGs during this reporting period outlined below:

- Fifth Session, 25-27 November 2013, New York: Focus on sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions, energy, infrastructure development and industrialization. Women’s Major Group prepared three presentations and input on gender issues in the context of economic policy and growth.
- Sixth Session, 9-13 December 2013, New York: Focus on means of implementation, financing, science and

technology, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building), global partnership for achieving sustainable development, and specific needs of African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and challenges facing middle-income countries, human rights, the right to development and global governance. Women's Major Group made a presentation on gender equality in the context of global partnerships and means of implementation.

- Seventh Session, 6-10 January 2014, New York: Focus on sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport, sustainable consumption and production, climate change and disaster risk reduction. Women's Major Group developed and presented position papers on gender and climate change, gender equality and transport, chemicals, women's empowerment and disaster risk reduction, gender equality in consumption and production and sustainable cities.

- Eight Session, 3-7 February 2014, New York: Focus on oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity, promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment, conflict prevention, post-conflict peace-building and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance. Contribution of the Women's Major Group included presentation on key recommendations and analysis promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in SDGs, specific papers and interventions on women and oceans and seas, gender equality and conflict prevention, post-conflict peace building and peace, and women and forests and biodiversity.

- Ninth Session, 3-5 March 2014, New York: Focus area document adopted and reviewed, amendments suggested including a comprehensive review of the 19 focus area in terms of gender equality and empowerment of women, and four interventions by the Women's Major Group.

- Tenth Session, 31 March-4 April 2014, New York: Indicative debate based on clusters related to focus area document. The clusters discussed correspond to the proposed SDGs and targets.

- Eleventh Session, 5-9 May 2014, New York: Consultations based on revised focus area document, Women's Major Group produced input on women's empowerment in each focus area

- Twelfth Session, 16-20 June 2014, New York: Consultations on SDGs and targets on the zero draft. Women's Major Group produced input to strengthen gender equality targets in the initial goals. Part of the session was closed to civil society.

- Thirteenth Session, 14-18 July 2014, New York: Following three complete readings of drafts during the OWG-SDGs informal consultations and statements by countries both in favor and opposed to the goals and associated targets, agreement was reached on the outcome document, with a standing ovation for the Co-Chairs.

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

IAW covered: many sessions in August, December, March and May.

- First Session, 28-30 August 2013, New York: Focus on modalities of work, agenda, two Co-Chairs were elected, H.E. Ambassador Pertti Majanen from Finland and Mr. Mansur Muhtar from Nigeria

- Second Session, 2-6 December 2013, New York: Focus on Cluster 1: Assessing financing needs, mapping of current flows and emerging trends, and the impact of domestic and international environments, and Cluster 2: Mobilisation of resources and their effective use.

Roles of different actors and instruments were discussed

- Third Session, 3-7 March 2014, New York: Focus on Cluster 3: Institutional arrangements, policy coherence, synergies and governance issues.

- Fourth Session, 12-16 May 2014, New York: Focused on review of the first draft of the report, and discussions on improvements and final modifications.

- Open briefing to Member States and stakeholders by the Committee Co-Chairs, 16 May 2014, New York: Initial discussion on progress on the zero draft of the report, especially consideration of public-private flaws, initial agreement regarding structure to mobilize and increase the capacity of financial sources. Discussion with stakeholders on financial architecture reforms, regulations for private sector, human rights foundation in practice, and community-driven initiatives.

- Open briefing to Member States and stakeholders by the Committee Co-chairs, 18 July 2014, New York: - -
—Preliminary findings of the Committee and draft report were discussed.

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), 24 September 2013, New York: HLPF 2013 focused on “Building the future we want: from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda,” “from vision to action,” included mapping the way forward and global partnerships. The outcome document recognized that gender equality is crucial to human progress and that dismissing the potential of women impedes global economic progress.

HLPF 2014 (under auspices of the ECOSOC), 30 June - 9 July 2014, New York: HLPF 2014 focused on "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals" and included ministerial meeting (7-9 July 2014) high level panels on the main themes for SDGs, including dialogue with the Chair of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, gender equality and discussion with UN Women Executive Director Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. Women’s Major Group met every day during the HLPF, prepared, and delivered statements on the empowerment of women.

Recommendations submitted by Natalia Kostus for IAW work on Post-2015 Development Agenda to be adopted in late 2015:

- Contribute to the work of the **UNGA** and continued negotiations through 2015 especially considering SDGs and proposed strategies for financing for sustainable development to ensure the best possible outcome for women’s human rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women
- Advocate for the recognition of women’s human rights in proposed SDG (5) on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- Continue to work through the Women’s Major Group to call for stronger, ambitious, and transformative rights-based targets, ensuring human rights for all men and women, and ensuring gender equality principles and focus on women in the proposed financing for sustainable development strategies

Report on Activities 2013 to 2014 in New York

Natalia Kostus

Board Member, Representative to the United Nations, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, International Alliance of Women (IAW), E-mail: Natalia.Kostus.IAW@gmail.com

Post 2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

I contributed to the intergovernmental processes on the Post 2015 Development Agenda: Open Working Group on SDGs, Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), and the High Level Political Forum; working through the Women’s Major Group, together with over 600 women’s organizations and activists around the world.



UN General Assembly (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

After intense final negotiations in New York, the OWG-SDGs, Co-Chaired by H.E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya and H.E. Ambassador Csaba Korosi of Hungary, concluded its work with an outcome document encompassing 17 goals and 169 targets. Proposed SDGs include goals on (1) poverty, (2) hunger and food security, sustainable agriculture, (3) health, (4) education, (5) gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, (6) water and sanitation, (7) energy, (8) economic growth and employment, (9) infrastructure and industrialization, (10) reduction of inequality within and among countries, (11) cities and human settlements, transport, (12) consumption and production, (13) climate change, (14) oceans, (15) ecosystems, forests, land degradation, and biodiversity, (16) peace, access to justice, (17) means of implementation, and global partnerships, data monitoring and accountability.

Some of the goals, however not all, have specific gender-sensitive targets, including on poverty, education, water and sanitation, transport, equal pay for work of equal value, and climate change. Gender-disaggregated data is included in goal (17) on data, monitoring, accountability.

Proposed SDG (13) on climate change includes a target to promote mechanisms for capacity building for effective climate change planning and management, including focusing on women, and acknowledging that UNFCCC is primary international intergovernmental forum on climate change.

Proposed SDG (5) on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls includes nine targets on: (5.1) ending forms of discrimination, (5.2) elimination of violence against all women and girls, (5.3) eliminating harmful practices, forced marriage and genital mutilations, (5.4) unpaid care work and social protection, (5.5) women's participation and leadership in decision-making, (5.6) universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, (5.a) equal rights to economic resources, ownership and control over land, financial services and inheritance, (5.b) enabling technologies and ICT, and (5.c) strengthening policies for gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.

The general consensus was that this was the best outcome possible, however, government delegations were speaking in favor and against the proposed goals at the conclusion of OWG-SDGs, so the negotiations process is far from over. Some governments wanted to delete goals on climate change, peace and security, and some targets on means of implementation, and others wanted to limit the number of goals to only ten. The Women's Major Group was disappointed with limited targets on sexual and reproductive rights and lack of mention of women's human rights in goal (5).

I covered the following sessions of the OWG-SDGs during this reporting period, specific side events and details of the developments at each session are beyond the scope of this report:

- Fifth Session, 25-27 November 2013, New York: Focus on sustained and inclusive economic growth, macro-economic policy questions, energy, infrastructure development and industrialization. Women's Major Group prepared three presentations and input on gender issues in the context of economic policy and growth.

- Sixth Session, 9-13 December 2013, New York: Focus on means of implementation, financing, science and technology, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building), global partnership for achieving sustainable development, and specific needs of African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and challenges facing middle-income countries, human rights, the right to development and global governance. Women's Major Group made a presentation on gender equality in the context of global partnerships and means of implementation.

- Seventh Session, 6-10 January 2014, New York: Focus on sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport, sustainable consumption and production, climate change and disaster risk reduction. Women's Major Group developed and presented position papers on gender and climate change, gender equality and transport, chemicals, women's empowerment and disaster risk reduction, gender equality in consumption and production and sustainable cities.

- Eight Session, 3-7 February 2014, New York: Focus on oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity, promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment, conflict prevention, post-conflict peace-building and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance. Contribution of the Women's Major Group included presentation on key recommendations and analysis promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in SDGs, specific papers and interventions on women and oceans and seas, gender equality and conflict prevention, post-conflict peace building and peace, and women and forests and biodiversity.

- Ninth Session, 3-5 March 2014, New York: Focus area document adopted and reviewed, amendments suggested including a comprehensive review of the 19 focus area in terms of gender equality and empowerment of women, and four interventions by the Women's Major Group.

- Tenth Session, 31 March-4 April 2014, New York: Indicative debate based on clusters related to focus area document. The clusters discussed correspond to the proposed SDGs and targets.

- Eleventh Session, 5-9 May 2014, New York: Consultations based on revised focus area document, Women's Major Group produced input on women's empowerment in each focus area

- Twelfth Session, 16-20 June 2014, New York: Consultations on SDGs and targets on the zero draft. Women's Major Group produced input to strengthen gender equality targets in the initial goals. Part of the session

was closed to civil society.

- Thirteenth Session, 14-18 July 2014, New York: Following three complete readings of drafts during the OWG-SDGs informal consultations and statements by countries both in favor and opposed to the goals and associated targets, agreement was reached on the outcome document, with a standing ovation for the Co-Chairs.

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

Closed to observers, however, ICESDF held several briefings with civil society and some gender equality input was made through questions and informal work with members of the committee and facilitators of clusters. The financing needs for sustainable development are enormous across all critical sectors and estimates range trillions of USD per year, the ICESDF was charged with developing a financing strategy for sustainable development and I hope that financing benefiting women and local communities will be part of the solution keeping up with the Rio+20 commitments on gender equality. Input on gender considerations was facilitated by the Women's Major Group, UNFPA, UNICEF, and Save the Children.

I covered the following sessions:

- First Session, 28-30 August 2013, New York: Focus on modalities of work, agenda, two Co-Chairs were elected, H.E. Ambassador Pertti Majanen from Finland and Mr. Mansur Muhtar from Nigeria
- Second Session, 2-6 December 2013, New York: Focus on Cluster 1: Assessing financing needs, mapping of current flows and emerging trends, and the impact of domestic and international environments, and Cluster 2: Mobilisation of resources and their effective use. Roles of different actors and instruments were discussed
- Third Session, 3-7 March 2014, New York: Focus on Cluster 3: Institutional arrangements, policy coherence, synergies and governance issues.
- Fourth Session, 12-16 May 2014, New York: Focused on review of the first draft of the report, and discussions on improvements and final modifications.
- Open briefing to Member States and stakeholders by the Committee Co-Chairs, 16 May 2014, New York: Initial discussion on progress on the zero draft of the report, especially consideration of public-private flows, initial agreement regarding structure to mobilize and increase the capacity of financial sources. Discussion with stakeholders on financial architecture reforms, regulations for private sector, human rights foundation in practice, and community-driven initiatives.
- Open briefing to Member States and stakeholders by the Committee Co-chairs, 18 July 2014, New York: Preliminary findings of the Committee and draft report were discussed. Main messages included: meeting the sustainable development needs is possible, current allocation of investment will not deliver sustainable development, part of the investment has to be redirected to sustainable development, and the changing global context has to be taken into consideration. Enabling international environment has to be created to direct public investment and incentivize private investment. Each country is responsible for its own development—this is a national process and sustainable development financing should be mainstreamed in national actions. Focus on multi-stakeholder and people centered approach, as well as quality of financing, accountability and transparency, have to be central in sustainable development financing. Input made on gender equality and human rights standards and indicators for sustainable financing, gender budgeting, and social protection.

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

HLPF 2013 (under auspices of the General Assembly), 24 September 2013, New York: HLPF 2013 focused on “Building the future we want: from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda,” “from vision to action,” included mapping the way forward and global partnerships. The outcome document recognized that gender



equality is crucial to human progress and that dismissing the potential of women impedes global economic progress.

HLPF 2014 (under auspices of the ECOSOC), 30 June - 9 July 2014, New York: HLPF 2014 focused on "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals" and included ministerial meeting (7-9 July 2014) high level panels on the main themes for SDGs, including dialogue with the Chair of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, gender equality and discussion with UN Women Executive Director Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. Women's Major Group met every day during the HLPF, prepared, and delivered statements on the empowerment of women.

Recommendations for IAW work on Post-2015 Development Agenda to be adopted in late 2015:

- Contribute to the work of the UNGA and continued negotiations through 2015 especially considering SDGs and proposed strategies for financing for sustainable development to ensure the best possible outcome for women's human rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women
- Advocate for the recognition of women's human rights in proposed SDG (5) on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
- Continue to work through the Women's Major Group to call for stronger, ambitious, and transformative rights-based targets, ensuring human rights for all men and women, and ensuring gender equality principles and focus on women in the proposed financing for sustainable development strategies

OLDER WOMEN

Judith Gordon

Since my last report, I am pleased to report that an IAW Task Force on older women has been created. Gudrun Haupter and Marion Boeker volunteered to serve on it. Rosy Weiss has also contributed to our work, I thank them all for their support and wisdom. We welcome new members as the question as to the best way to consider and protect the human rights of older women remains before us as the development of a new human rights treaty for the protection of the human rights of older persons remains a subject of debate, not consensus.

I attended the 5th session of the GA OEWG re the protection of the human rights of older persons. The mandate given by the GA is to consider the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and to identify possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering the feasibility of further instruments and measures. Members of this GA OEWG plan to recommend a 6th session next year which we will continue to address its mandate taking into account the fact that member states have divergent views as to the best way to go about it.; One way is the development of a new legally binding convention on the human rights of older persons; the other is the implementation and enforcement of existing human rights standards and mechanisms at national and regional levels that can also take account of the general recommendations made by CEDAW and the Human Rights Committee, among others, that can monitor via member state reports whether or not older men and women's rights are being protected in the places where they live.

The dreadful violence and conflicts which the UN SG Council is now addressing also impacts the decision as to whether or not it is cost effective to develop a new treaty, given other demands on the UN.. Still others have debated the wisdom of claiming the existing human rights documents including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Bill of Rights exclude older persons because they do not use the words "older persons". Moreover, the Human Rights Council has considered the need to protect the human rights of older persons and has appointed a new Independent Expert who herself is an older woman. On 8th of May 2014 Ms. Rosa Kornfeld from Matte (Chile) was appointed.

Her contact is: olderpersons@ohchr.org The following webpage informs about the mandat and her work <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/OlderPersons/IE/Pages/IEOlderPersons.aspx> . Here you can find information about how engage with the IndependentExpertforOlderPersonshttp://www.ageplatform.eu/images/How_to_engage_with_IE_for_website.pdf . Members of the OEWG and NGO's representatives noted that her

mandate will complement the ongoing work of the ORWG. and should be on the agenda at a 6th session of this working group next year. Some member states also emphasized that more time is needed to be able to reach a consensus of the way forward.

At this moment in time, the social contexts re the protection of the human rights of older women being discussed are in flux. UN Women is concentrating on other age groups in its work, given its resources. This fact has been used to support the need for a new treaty which will address and protect the rights of older people in general and older women in particular., There are ageing network NGO's which were early members of the Global Alliance created by Susan Paul. This Alliance has grown in number and strongly supports the development of a new treaty which would protect the rights of older people taking account of the particular needs of older women. This position has also received major support from a petition which individuals have signed throughout the globe. The desirability of such a



Convention has also been supported by the outgoing OHCHR Commissioner Navi Pillay. However, her successor may or may not support such a treaty.. Moreover, there still is no consensus about the need for such a treaty among Member states, UN bodies or NGO's. There are also new NGO developments. Dr, Patricia Brownell who had resigned as the co-chair of SCOW has been appointed the Liaison of the NY COA to the CSW. She will form subcommittees including one in which she will ask me to participate. In April, the Geneva Committee On Ageing elected a new chair who has organized a side event during the coming European regional meeting re older women and she welcomes IAW's participation. Last but not least, there are member states who prefer attention be paid to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing which falls under the mandate of the Commission on Social Development. However, no plan of action is in fact legally binding as NGO participants and Member State Representatives who support the treaty repeatedly noted at the 5th session of the GA OEWG. In this changing moment of social time, we recommend the following:

1. The Task Force on Older Women be continued for another year and charged with making a recommendation in regard to the proposed treaty after it has the opportunity to consider all the options before us.
2. IAW board ask that all of its Commissions consider the special situations, needs and contributions of older women within the terms of their mandates and make recommendations as to whether or not the work of such Commissions can contribute to the protection of the human rights of women of all ages at this point in time.
3. IAW President sends a letter to the Mrs. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, the Independent Expert on the protection of the human rights of older person, congratulating her and making her aware of IAW's interest in collaborating in her work
4. IAW President sends a letter to the chair of the GA OEWG thanking the chair and the committee for their work and willingness to encourage dialogue in which NGO's are encouraged to participate, as IAW was during the last session, noting that we will continue to support and full participate in the work of the very important working group.
5. IAW continue its intergenerational mentoring programs and develop a follow-up workshop at the coming CSW which calls attention to a process we developed which benefits from the contributions of women of all ages.

GENEVA

Meetings attended by Seema Uplekar UN & WHO Representative Geneva since October 2013 till date

- Geneva Forum on Human Values in society. 19th September.
- Strategies for Implementing Evidence-Based Practice Global Mental health. John Hopkins school of public health, NGO forum for health. 8th October.
- Meeting IAW members at United Nations, USA. October.
- CSW meetings on regular basis.
- Organised a very successful campaign for 16 days activism against violence. November 25th to December 10th. Carried out a signature campaign (petition) which was signed by 185 friends and supporters. Sent 200 emails to spread awareness and also had discussions :
 - 25th November 2013, 12-3 p.m. (Campaign Booth)
 - 5th December 2013, 2-4 p.m. Talk and Q&A: Non-Violence and Spirituality
Venue: NGO Resource Center, UN
 - 9th December 2013, 3-5 p.m. Round table: Asian Perspective on Gender Violence
Venue: La Pastoral, opposite Hotel Intercontinental
 - 10th December 2013, 2-4 p.m. Round table: African Perspective on Gender Violence
- I made a sincere attempt to publish an article about IAW in UN Special but due to their editorial Policies it didn't get approved. I would like to thank Joanna, Helene Sackstein, Gudrun, Rosy, Lyda, Lene, Helen, Pat and my friend Anuradha for their support. Please excuse me if I forgot anyone. I worked very hard for 3 months from January till March. It was a very good learning experience.
- In January 20, 21, attended the WHO executive board meeting.

Although now I am the main representative at WHO, the administrative process for change was tedious, long.

Hence this World health assembly in May I couldn't present a statement only attended WHA with Gudrun.

- 4th and 5th September attended Mental health gap meeting at WHO. First suicide report was released. I am thinking of involving all IAW members in dissemination of WHO information brochures on various topics. I would like to discuss this at the Sion board meeting.

UN VIENNA

Representatives: Rosy Weiss, rosy.weiss@unvie@womenalliance.org, Daniela Reiter, daniela.reiter@diereiter.at

IAW is member of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, of the UNCAC Coalition and of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. In addition we follow closely the proceedings of the NGO committees on peace and ageing.

Please read carefully and tell us what areas of work are of particular relevance to you and your organization.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): Topics

UNODC's **alternative development programmes** centre on helping small farmers with illicit income generation activities to reduce their dependency on income from opium and coca cultivation. Efforts are also focused on health, education, basic infrastructure, community development and food security. Special attention is given to environmental protection and improved markets for alternative development products. UNODC-supported alternative development also empowers communities while ensuring that both men and women equally benefit from development interventions.

United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

International Anti-Corruption Day: 9 December

2014 Global Campaign: Zero Corruption. 100% Development.



The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) recognizes the role of civil society in combating corruption under its Article 13, by calling on governments to increase transparency, improve public access to information, as well as to promote public contribution to government decision-making processes.

This year UNODC and UNDP have developed a joint global campaign, focusing on how corruption hinders efforts to achieve the internationally agreed upon Millennium Development Goals and affects education, health, justice, democracy, prosperity and development.

For those interested to join the global campaign, please visit: <http://www.actagainstcorruption.org/actagainstcorruption/en/about-the-campaign/what-can-you-do.html>

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

UNODC has the mission of making the world safer from crime, drugs, and terrorism. To be effective and sustainable, responses to these threats must include strategies covering the following areas:

Crime Prevention, especially urban crime prevention; armed violence prevention; prevention of recidivism
Criminal Justice Reform: police reform, prosecution service, judiciary (the courts), access to legal defence and legal aid, prison reform and alternatives to imprisonment, and restorative justice

Justice for children; support and assistance to victims; gender in the criminal justice system

Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls, Bangkok 11-13 November 2014

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. The Convention is supplemented by three Protocols, which target specific areas and manifestations of organized crime: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. An additional objective of the Protocol is to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in persons with full respect for their human rights.

We will follow for you and report back in our IWN: **Seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Vienna, 6 to 10 October 2014.**

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Programme area: Women and youth in productive activities.

The primary focus of UNIDO's activities in this area is on the knowledge, skills, technologies and business support services needed to enable women and youth to engage in productive activities, generate income, and thereby reduce poverty. UNIDO assists governments to develop policies towards an enabling environment for economic growth that is gender- and age-responsive.

Cross-cutting issue: Gender equality and the empowerment of women http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/media/documents/pdf/UNIDO_Gender_Policy_20130130.pdf

Attention: Clusters in cultural and creative industries in Southern Mediterranean invited to submit proposals for support

Clusters and cluster initiatives in cultural and creative industries in the Southern Mediterranean will have a chance to boost their competitiveness, improve their products, and access new markets through an EU-funded project being implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The project has also received financial contribution from the Italian Development Cooperation. Selected clusters will receive technical assistance over a period of three years, worth an estimated EUR 250,000 per cluster. The call for proposals is open until 15 October 2014. See www.cci-clusters.org for more details.

U.N. FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION, ROME

Bettina Corke -IAW representative to FAO -

Since 2012 FAO has been attempting to find the ways and means to eradicate Hunger and Poverty. This search for alternative and more effective ways to combat hunger and poverty has continued throughout 2013 and 2014.

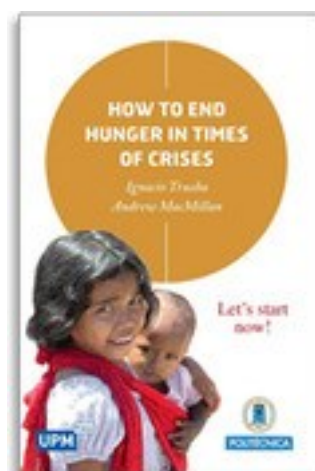
INGOs at FAO have also been searching for the best ways to assist their members and FAO, WFP and IFAD the three Rome based UN agencies in this enormous task, It is a search which requires a study of the existing arrangements within FAO itself and within the INGO community in Rome and at the country levels.

One result of FAO's review of the way it had been operating was that the Committee on Food Security decided to be more inclusive and have wider representation of "civil society" .

One of the outcomes of the review carried out by FAO was a new FAO Partnership arrangement, with three components... Civil Society, INGOs and Private Sector

A seminar was proposed by Bettina Corke and Rosy Weiss focusing on FAO's ZERO HUNGER PROGRAMME and other issues related to Hunger, Poverty and Malnutrition. (MDG1) It took place, during the 36th Triennial IAW Congress held in London, September 2013 Over 50 participants and IAW delegates from 22 countries attended the seminar. Each participant received a training and sharing of information package (i) Handbook on To End Hunger Now, written by Bettina Corke and (ii) the 2nd edition of Ignacio Trueba and Andrew MacMillan's book " How to End Hunger in Times of Crises" in the seminar package The seminar was a great success.

Since 2013 I have been following up on IAW interest on the Right to Food and the ZERO HUNGER PROGRAMME In the Board meeting after the 2013 Congress I was asked to be IAW's representative on THE RIGHT TO FOOD.



On the question of the achievement of MDG 1.(the eradication of hunger and poverty), all the Member States at FAO have signed on to this- as have all theINGOs in partnership with FAO. This is an opportunity for IAW to reinforce its efforts to improve the lives of poor and hungry women. One way to do this would be for IAW to encourage its membership(s) to build up upon these endorsements.

It is my sincere belief that without the eradication of hunger and poverty the "empowerment" of women cannot take place.. MDG1 and MDG 3 are linked one cannot happen without the other. To make a women's vote possible and meaningful To be an active and productive member of society a woman must eat regularly, nutritiously and be confident of being able to feed herself and her family in the days and months to come.

To help her and thousands of other women like her to do this we need to convince ourselves, our membership and then our governments to begin to set in place policies that will indeed eradicate hunger and poverty.

It can be done, for example, the Brazilian Zero Hunger programme between 2003 and 2009 was able to cut down rural poverty by 50%. . Now there is no excuse. We have the evidence that if a shift in agricultural food production does take place it will and can provide opportunities for rural populations to move forward out of hunger and poverty.

Finally, it will not be possible for IAW to go forward regarding its mission i.e..."voting rights for all women everywhere unless it combines its mission with the mission of MDG3 (the empowerment of women) unless the policy management of hunger moves away from one based upon crisis management in time of famine and disaster, to another approach which includes the possibility of medium and long term planning strategies and programmes . Programmes that set out to provide and sustain a more reliable and dependable form of agriculture, for domestic food consumption

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Deirdre Exell Pirro,

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

On the 13 August 2013, the International Criminal Court (ICC) presented its Ninth Annual Report to the United Nations, covering the period from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013 which detailed what the Chief Justice of the Court Sang-Hyun Song described as the busiest year of this permanent judicial institution responsible for prosecuting genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity since its inception in 2002.

On 15 February 2013, the Côte d'Ivoire ratified the Rome Statute under which the ICC was constituted, bringing the current total number of States Parties to 122. These State Parties include almost all of South America, nearly all of Europe, most of Oceania and about half the countries in Africa. However, we must keep in mind that another 31 countries, including Russia, have signed but not ratified the Rome Statute. Three of these states - Israel, Sudan and the United States - have informed the UN Secretary General that they no longer intend to become State Parties and, therefore, have no legal obligations arising from their former representatives' signatures of the Statute. The United States has gone as far as to enact the American Service-Members' Protection Act (ASPA), a federal law that aims 'to protect United States military personnel and other elected and appointed officials of the United States government against criminal prosecution by an international criminal court to which the United States is not party". Furthermore, forty-one United Nations Member States including China and India have neither signed nor ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute. Many of them are critical of the Court, particularly some African states (as well as the African Union) that have accused the ICC of primarily targeting people from Africa as, to date, all the ICC's cases have been from African countries. Nonetheless, four out of the eight current investigations originate from the referrals of situations to the Court by the concerned African country and States Parties themselves.



Nonetheless, in its short history, the Court has given hope to the victims of the most serious crimes, and more than 110,000 victims have already benefited from the concrete assistance programs of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims.

During the reporting period, of the eight situations currently under investigation, and the eight situations under preliminary examination, two cases moved to the appeals stage. These first of these cases was the Lubanga case in which Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, the leader of the Union des Patriotes Congolais, a militia rebel group in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was found guilty, on 14 March 2012, of the war crimes of enlisting and conscripting of children under the age of 15 years and using them to participate actively in hostilities and he was sentenced, on 10 July 2012, to a total of 14 years of imprisonment. The second was the Katanga case in which Germain Katanga, the former senior commander of the Force de Résistance Patriotique en Itur was found guilty, as an accessory on one count of a crime against humanity (murder) and four counts of war crimes (murder, attacking a civilian population, destruction of property and pillaging) com-

mitted on 24 February 2003 in the Ituri district of the DRC and he was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment. One accused, Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, indicted on similar charges to Katanga, was acquitted.

The trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo for alleged offences against the administration of justice in the Central African Republic (CAR) is still ongoing whereas the trials in the Kenya and the Banda and Jerbo cases, the last two relating to offences committed in Darfur, are scheduled to start soon. The Gbagbo case in which Laurent Koudou Gbagbo, former President of Côte d'Ivoire allegedly bears individual criminal responsibility, as an indirect co-perpetrator, for four counts of crimes against humanity, namely murder, rape and other sexual violence, persecution and other inhuman acts committed in the context of post-electoral violence in the territory of Côte d'Ivoire between in late 2010 and early 2011, remains at the pretrial stage. All cases in the situations of Libya and Darfur, Sudan, referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council remain at the pretrial stage. In these situations, none of the arrest warrants issued by the Court have been executed.

In fact, since the reporting period, arrest warrants issued by the Court remain outstanding against 13 individuals:

- (i) Uganda: Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen, since 2005; (ii) Democratic Republic of the Congo: Sylvestre Mudacumura, since 2012;
- (iii) Darfur, the Sudan: Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, since 2007; Omar Al Bashir, two warrants, since 2009 and 2010; and Abdel Raheem Hussein, since 2012;
- (iv) Libya: Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullan Al-Senussi, since 2011;
- (v) Côte d'Ivoire: Simone Gbagbo, since 2012.
- (vi) Kenya: Walter Osapiri Barassa, since 2013.

Non-cooperation with the Court in the execution of arrest warrants is a serious problem the ICC has to face. It is a violation of international obligations and stifles the ICC's capacity to deliver justice and, therefore, States must be encouraged to promptly execute arrest warrants and, above all, they should be named and shamed for helping to hide or shelter the perpetrators of the most serious crimes within their borders.

The task of the Office of the Prosecutor is to analyse information received from various sources alleging the commission of crimes potentially falling within the Court's jurisdiction. From 1 August 2012 until 30 June 2013, the Office of the Prosecutor received 572 communications relating to alleged crimes under the Rome Statute, 477 of which manifestly fell outside the Court's jurisdiction; 19 were unrelated to current situations and warranted further analysis; 43 were linked to a situation already under analysis; and 33 were linked to an investigation or prosecution.

The latest formal investigation opened by the ICC Chief Prosecutor, Gambian lawyer Fatou Bensouda in January 2014 concerned allegations of crimes occurring in Mali since January 2012. The Prosecutor focused her attention on allegations of intentional attacks against buildings dedicated to religion and historic monuments, including those that have received World Heritage status, and has accordingly cooperated with UNESCO and a number of other UN agencies present in Mali.

Six new judges of the International Criminal Court were nominated within the 4 August 2014 expiry date, in accordance the Rome Statute. The election will take place at the 13th session of the Assembly, scheduled to be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 8 to 17 December 2014.

Of greatest significance and importance for IAW and its members is that, in June 2014, the Chief Prosecutor pledged in a policy paper to step up the court's investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes, including in cases that could involve offences other than explicit physical brutality. The ICC's Statute, for the first time, included rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, sterilization and other forms of sexual violence as crimes against humanity and war crimes. From now on, it has been affirmed that all crimes under the Court's jurisdiction will be subject to a gender analysis.

Chief Prosecutor Bensouda stated loud and clear that:

We will spare no effort to bring accountability for [sexual and gender-based] crimes and in so doing, contribute to deterring the commission of such heinous crimes in the future. As a matter of policy, the Office will systematically include relevant charges in its cases on the basis of evidence of criminality. The message to perpetrators and would-be perpetrators must be clear: sexual violence and gender-based crimes in conflict will neither be tolerated nor ignored at the ICC.

Such recognition is particularly important in the case of sexual slavery, an offence that is seen all too often in conflict but up until now has received relatively little attention, despite tragic events like, just to mention one, those that the ISIS militants are currently inflicting on the Yazidis minority in northern Iraq.

The Chief Prosecutor's Office also recognised 'the crucial role that civil society plays in preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based crimes' and it plans 'to seek the support and strengthen cooperation with these organisations, especially those which have experience in documenting sexual and gender-based crimes and working with victims of these crimes'.

And this is where IAW and its member organisations can be invaluable. If you as an IAW member organisation have direct experience of these issues, you can provide the Prosecutor's Office of the ICC with that information. If not and your country is not State Party to the Rome Statute, you can strongly campaign and lobby for it to become one so that the iniquitous impunity gap can finally be closed. If you are not sure where your country stands, you can find out on the Coalition for the International Criminal Court website at: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=home>. If your country is a State Party, you can promote the Court by providing your members with up-to-date information on its work – just as IAW itself can and will continue to do.

Report about activities of the WICC working group in Washington DC

Dr. Susanne Riveles

The ICC advocacy in the US occurs on two levels: efforts to educate members of Congress and administration officials in Washington, DC and locally directed efforts to inform the American Public and create grassroots pressure for a closer US relationship with the Court.

WICC, the Washington based working group on the ICC represents a coalition of international /national human rights organizations, lawyers associations and faith based non partisan non governmental organizations that promote US engagement and cooperation with the ICC.

IAW presence in this coalition is by now well established. I have represented the IAW in this group since 2008 participating in their bi monthly meetings and contributing to advocacy events.

On April 10, this year the Prosecutor of the ICC Mrs. Fatou Bensouda and the Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp informed Congress members and staff in a briefing about the fight against International Atrocity Crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes). While the US has committed special forces in the hunt for Ugandan war lord Joseph Kony, and while DRC's Germain Katanga and Thomas Lubanga have been convicted many others remain at large and continue to destabilize the region.

On July 23, 2014 Ambassador Tina Intelmann, president of the ICC Assembly of States Parties briefed Congress members and staff at the Rayburn House Office building in Washington DC on the success and challenges confronting the ICC ranging from the courts activities, victims and witness protection, warrant and arrest procedures among others

To organize and coordinate such high level briefings requires efficiency and know-how and often one of the coalition partners take the lead in sponsoring and preparing events. The American Bar Association - ICC Project is particularly noteworthy in this regard. They also prepare excellent information material on the ICC. In June 2nd, 2014 the ABA Center for Human Rights brought Herman von Hebel, Registrar for the International Court, to Washington DC to address "Practical Challenges of the International Criminal Justice".

At the last WICC meeting on August 13, 2014 we heard from two staff members of the Dutch Embassy in Washington. HP Schreinemacher and Julia Koppius spoke about the Dutch government's ICC related outreach and advocacy. Their remarks were informative and valuable for the advocacy efforts of WICC.

The usual WICC meeting agenda consists of updates regarding the Court's current examinations, investiga-

tions and indictments and is followed by a discussion about the implications the issues will have for the ICC advocacy. Each country under consideration / investigation is discussed and the outlook and implications for ICC advocacy on the hill evaluated and their importance for awareness raising and mobilization of the grass-roots constituency considered. This is followed by reports from the different coalition member organizations on their activities in the country or issue concerned.

In the last August meeting the appeal to the UN by 58 countries to refer Syria to the ICC was debated and Ambassador Stephen Rapp's statement that the US would not support any amnesty or other accommodations' for Basher al Assad or other top government officials was recognized and appreciated.

Similarly was the Palestine- Israel conflict discussed and the possibility that the Palestinian Authority might consider invoking the jurisdiction of the Court debated. The WICC member organizations are diverse and have different mandates and work in different ways. They are, however, united in their support for the Court and are working together to built a more robust US relationship with the Court.

WICC simply seeks to support the Court and promote its development. It does not take positions on the specifics of particular cases or situations. WICC is nonpartisan and is committed to inclusive advocacy.

UNESCO

Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Levy

In September 2013, three important meetings were held: A NGO Forum on the 23rd, an orientation seminar for NGOs on the 25th and the committee on NGP (Non-Governmental Partners) of the executive Council on 26th.

I NGO FORUM, IN OFFICIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH UNESCO: September 23

"Which educational goals for tomorrow's citizens of the world: is quality enough?"

In keeping with the new UNESCO directives, NGOs have to organise events in order to demonstrate their capacity to mobilise their forces on the ground and this through the organisation of forums and international days.

The first Forum, as the Concept note drafted by the working group highlights, was intended to draw a survey of the quality of education. It was organised in Paris, around three main axes:

- A discussion on the state of education by presidents of NGOs from different sectors (Africa, teachers, higher education, women, culture, youth) and from different countries (USA, Kenya, Malaysia, United kingdom) livened up by a facilitator.

- Two high-level interventions on the question

- The presentation of a strategic plan aiming at trying to reach the objectives that a survey had identified as out of reach within the framework of the MDGs for 2015

A - The morning of the forum devoted to drawing a survey of the current state of education, brought out the backwardness vis a vis the MDG objectives which will never be reached by 2015.

- In his introduction, **Mr Eric Falt**, Assistant Director General for external relations and public information at UNESCO reminded us that «The mission of Education For All (EFA) is far from complete and insufficient in many countries, although everyone agrees on the fact that, education is a human right. Everyone should have an access to it, as much as to the other fundamental needs like, for example, food and access to water "

Then Ms **Isabelle Turmaine**, head of the team of NGOs who had prepared the Forum (among which IAW), presented the programme of the forum. She highlighted that besides the MDG objectives that won't be reached, we can observe, in some countries, new aggressions against women and girls who want to go to school, some even trying to eliminate them physically, as for Malala in Afghanistan. .

In The preparation of The UNESCO plans 37/ C4 and 37/C5, many NGOs had proposed lifelong quality education and inclusion. Intense reflection on these subjects has to be led to attain these goals and the forum has tried to find out solutions for the post-2015.

B - We heard two key speakers:

Mr David Atchoarena, director, division for Teacher Development and Higher Education, Education sector UNESCO, recalled the different milestones of the education periods

He values teacher training as an essential element, as much relevant when we reflect on quality, as fighting illiteracy which UNESCO has committed itself with eliminating, and as international education planning, education for peace in post conflict situation, technical and vocational training (long neglected, it is starting to be addressed now), programs dedicated to early childhood, education for sustainable development, education for HIV/AIDS and education for Global citizenship

Mr Georges Haddad, Director of the Education Research and Foresight Team, Education Sector UNESCO, carried UNESCO's message: Short-term and medium-term education as well as third education level which is as important, must be implemented by the States. UNESCO can bring ideas and synergies. There is no education without economy, without culture, without science, without communication. He reminded us that it was necessary to go back to Edgar Faure and Jacques. Delors 's reports and also to Edgar Morin who have been pillars for education.

In order to define the priority objectives, teachers could be assisted by research units, towards a new pedagogy not only prioritizing on accumulating learning but also on understanding, on mobilising minds and raising awareness. Education is a prerequisite for achieving the MDGs, for reducing poverty and for promoting citizenship.

The debate with the floor came to the conclusion that for the Education of Tomorrow's Citizens, we must take into account:

That schools should be relevant to the changing youth in a changing world and then, mobility should be developed as well as learning about cultural diversity.

The Right to gender equality in education

That we need to set new targets and revisit the old ones.

That when it comes to implementation - which is a challenge - we need to allocate resources towards this

That "Everybody needs a minimum requirement, which has to be customized for the needs of the local community and sometimes it is difficult to have those benchmarks"

As regards access: There are lots of gaps to be filled

"NGOs jointly agreed that Quality is critical and must be a priority at all educational levels and in all types of educational provision". They reaffirm the value of education for helping to everyone's right to fulfilment, for teaching nonviolence and management of conflict situations,

They reasserted the need of the participation of every citizen, and the need of developing new international legal instruments between countries, NGOs and the private sector.

C - Strategic plan:

The third highlight of the day was the presentation and discussion of the strategic plan presented by NGOs to reinforce their partnership with UNESCO in the perspective of the new directives.

The head of the working-group that had prepared the Forum had asked questions on the theme of the debate to the different associations. A text had come out of their suggestions and was presented to the plenary. Numerous alterations in matter and style were made, but regrettably, the final text was not totally corrected before the dismissal of the meeting and the modifications still needed some adjustments, yet it is very important that such an attempt was done and UNESCO seem satisfied of this new type of attempt, which illustrates a new form of partnership.

II Orientation Seminar

On September 25 we attended an orientation seminar organised jointly for NGOs, by the Section for Non-Governmental Organisations and the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. It was the first time that such a seminar was provided by UNESCO to explain the functioning and the major challenges of the General Conference, as well as the modalities of participation of NGOs at the 37th session of the General Conference, to be held from 5 to 20 November 2013.

The General Conference is held every two years. It determines the policy of UNESCO. The New directives offer the possibility to facilitate the integration of NGOs, since they offer an opportunity for NGOs to act with the State members

NGOs will be able to intervene during the plenary as long as they write in advance their questions and only on important matters

They may be able to observe or intervene in the committees as long as the chair of the commission agrees, and for the first time a special open space will be organised for Non Governmental Partners on the ground floor of the UNESCO headquarters, to offer them an opportunity, to inform about their activities, organise debates and all that can make them more visible.

III Committee on Non-Governmental Partners

On September 26, NGOs attended the meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners of the Executive Board (192nd Executive Board held from September 24 to October 11, 2013)

In the morning, the meeting mostly took stock of the implementation of the new directives concerning UNESCO partnership with NGOs

Mr Eric Falt, representative of the Director General, was pleased to announce that, during the first Forum under the new directives, held on September 23, about a hundred NGOs all coming from different backgrounds of activities, attended. That, for the first time, 27 national representations in official partnership with UNESCO, were represented. He also highlighted the crucial role that State Members are going to play with NGOs in their particular countries

Mr Patrick Gallaud, President of the Liaison committee said that now we are in line with the new directives that we would like to play a role in this respect not only in the choice of the themes but also in the implementation

Then a debate followed from which it was reported that during the last Biennium UNESCO cooperated with Non-Governmental Partners, especially in Africa, and established contact with new NGOs? This led to adding a new paragraph to the resolutions written that day, inviting national commissions to identify NGOs in their countries, who could become official partners of UNESCO

The rest of the day was devoted to a thematic debate about the coming 8th forum on youth (held on October 28-30) and to the opinion and ideas of young people from different parts of the world on the role that youth NGOs and NGOs working for young people can play in the implementation of the programme of UNESCO. "The youth are part and parcel of the work of UNESCO and we are aware that they are the future" so we must give a voice to them.

IV During the General Conference, held in November, as promised, for the first time, NGOs were attributed an open space where the Secretaries of the different Sectors of UNESCO came to explain the content of their work so that we could attend more comfortably their workshops and where we had the possibility to present our associations. Monique, then, was able to lobby and register a few new members for IAW.

V Since these meetings, and as decided in the new directives, we have participated in the workgroups preparing the forums and International days.

On March 6th 2014, an International Day, entitled "*education, sport and cultural diversity - new attitudes to promote human rights in the world*" has been organised by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO. UNESCO was associated and it was held at UNESCO headquarters. Eight hundred young people, aged 18 to 35 attended this event, which was meant to raise public awareness about Human Rights and show the wish of the youth to engage for their promotion in their town, at school, at university or through associations.

The next forum entitled: "*Access to water for all - women and youth at the source of this objective*" is to be held in Yamoussoukro in Côte d'Ivoire on 30-31 July 2014. We are very pleased to announce that one member of IAW, "*Survie de la mère et de l'enfant Association*", from Benin in Africa, will attend this Forum where a project on water "*Techno-Agriculture Innovation for Poverty Alleviation*" (TIPA), set up by *Handisables*, an Association that works with handicapped people in Senegal, and whose Président is a WIZO member, will be presented.

Two more Forums are being prepared, in consultation with the UNESCO sector of External Relations and

Public Information (ERI). Those forums are in a view of the post 2015 agenda for the development:

One will be held from September 28 to 30 2014, in Sophia and Sozopol in Bulgaria, *"on the role of youth for the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage,"*

The other, on *"the role of women in the fight against poverty"* will be held in China in the first semester of 2015.

The International Days, of Peace and of Literacy will also be celebrated in September and follow ups to all these forums and Days are planned for the following years, so that they will not remain single events but will show the Conference of INGOs' involvement in all these matters.

UNESCO, CLIMATE CHANGE

Ida Kurth

The results of the research on Climate Change I mentioned in my report 2013, will be available in 2015 but the climatic catastrophies we are expericing at present, leaves no doubt on global warming. For example, in a small area here in Germany, heavy rain and storm lasting only a few hours destroyed three villages and the damage was estimated at € 650,- Million.

Scientists and experts also doubt the effectiveness of World Conferences to bring about sustainable development and climate change because the resolutions agreed upon by leaders of about 152 nations participating are not being translated into national policies. Here the associates and affilates could provoke dialouges with their governments.

SUGGESTIONS

1. AGENDA 21

I suggest the president requests affiliates and associates to implement agenda 21 locally and move towards sustaunable development using their creativity and the given resourses. Evaluate their community's sustainability in all sections eg water management, overpopulation, etc. and evolve strategies to monitor government's responsibility and accountability.

2. 25. NOVEMBER

Instead of one billion rising, the blue flag of Terres des Femmes with the inscription " No violence against Women" was hoisted from the town hall, Bad Homburg from 25. - 29. Nov. 2013. The department of women's affairs and women's network comprising of 20 women's organisations, also DFR, put up an info. stand and disributed red cards as a stop singal against violence with hot-line tel.nos. for help and assistance. Multilanguage Flyers were also distributed since Bad Homburg with a population of 52,000 has migrants from 140 countries. This was financed by the local government. The union of pharmacists als support us and the red cards are laid out in all pharmacies throughout the year. A few days later, we were schocked to hear that an Afghani father had murdered his 16 yr. daughter by stabbing her 14 times. We have a long way to go

Report on the European Women's Lobby 2013-2014

By Joanna Manganara

Seminar on Women and Europe

CLEF the French national coordination that is a member of EWL invited Joanna Manganara to participate in a seminar that took place on 25 September 2013 in Paris at the House of Europe to discuss the relation of women to Europe. What women can contribute to it and how Europe should combat gender inequality .

Among participants were Catherine La Lumiere President of the House of Europe (former Secretary General of the C of E). Thierry Repentin French Minister of European Affairs, Pervenche Beres Member of European Parliament (France), Viviane Teitelbaum President of EWL, Brigitte Triems former President of EWL.

Three round tables took place. In the first one emphasis was put on the reconciliation of family life with work and on child care services. In the second round table was discussed the precariousness of the situation of women in Europe. Joanna Manganara's intervention focussed on the effects of the economic crisis on women in Europe. Francoise Morvan Vice President of CLEF spoke about the situation in France and Pervenche Beres about the need of all women to fight together. In the third round table was discussed the European contract on women and its four dimensions that have to do with participation of women in decision making, the gender pay gap, reconciliation of work with family life

and sharing of a culture of equality.

The EWL undertook many activities in different fields, the most important of which were the following:

Maternity Directive

The proposed directive was adopted democratically by a large majority of the E Parliament in October 2010 but has been blocked by Member States Governments (Council) for over three years.

The European Commission has recently proposed to withdraw the directive from the legislative process. The EWL has sent an open letter to the new President of the European Commission asking him to give his full commitment to reaching a decision with the Council.

Women in Decision making

The EWL elaborated a Manifesto "Act now for the future. Commit to gender equality". The main demands in the Manifesto are: A comprehensive framework to achieve gender equality, sustainable funding for gender equality, credible EU policies, women's economic independence, parity democracy, etc.

Many candidates for the 2014 European elections endorsed the Manifesto.

The EWL campaign 50/50 is supported by many European deputies from different political parties. It has also gained many prominent supporters among whom is Martin Schulz, Jean Claude Juncker, European Commissioner Viviane Reding who signed the joint Declaration "No modern democracy without gender equality".

Draft European Directive on improving the gender balance among non executive directors of companies.

The Directive was adopted by the European Parliament on 20/11/13. The position of the EWL on this Directive has been that it only addresses non executive board members. It neither calls this measure a quota nor does it determine sanctions in the case of non compliance.

Political mentoring for women of ethnic origin or from minorities. The EWL continued working on this project this year as well.

Violence against women

The EWL circulated a petition asking for the year 2016 to be established as a European year to end violence against women. It also asked for the adoption of a European Comprehensive Strategy and a European Action Plan to end violence against women and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. The IAW has signed this petition.

Campaign one billion rising on 14 February 2014. The EWL gathered a lot of supporters of the campaign in front of the Palais de Justice in Brussels to rise, dance and speak out about the urgent need for justice for the women victims of violence.

On the 25th of November the EWL launched a video clip to speak out and draw attention to the fact that rape needs to be seriously addressed by the authorities in terms of access to justice, prevention and support to victims.

Child Marriage:

The EWL supported and circulated the Petition of Equality Now on End Child marriage. IAW has signed this petition.



The EWL together with the Council of Europe participated in the Campaign of 16 days of activism against VAW with a joint project against rape and for the Istanbul Convention

Femicide

The EWL has supported a campaign launched by European civil society networks CIFCA, Grupo Sur, Heinrich Boll Foundation to give visibility to the phenomenon of femicides in Europe and Latin America in order to end impunity for this extreme form of violence against women.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Abortion

On 20 September 2013 the Spanish Council of Ministers approved a bill which allowed abortion only in the case of rape or if the pregnancy poses a serious physical or mental health risk.

The EWL has mobilized a lot to support Spanish women. It has circulated CELEM'S (the Spanish coordination) petition asking the Spanish government to withdraw the abortion law. IAW has signed this petition. Many members of the EWL including IAW have written letters to the Prime Minister of Spain asking him to withdraw the bill.

Estrela report

Differences between political groups in the European Parliament proved irreconcilable during the vote on this report which was authored by Portuguese MEP Edith Estrela of the Social Democratic group. The vote offered the opportunity to advance the EP supportive position on sexual and reproductive rights including access to accurate information and contraceptive methods. However the opportunity was lost by 7 votes. The EWL mobilized a lot and sent letters to MEPS asking them to vote favorably on the report. IAW sent such a letter to Rodi Kratsa greek MEP Vice President of the European Parliament.

Prostitution

The French Parliament on 4 December 2013 adopted a law proposal aiming at abolishing the system of prostitution. Persons in prostitution won't be criminalized any more. On the contrary they will be offered alternatives to exit the system of prostitution. The demand for prostitution is recognized as the main driver of the exploitation and the purchase of sex will therefore be criminalized.

France was supported in its efforts by more than 200 organizations from the 27 Member States of the EU which have all signed the call of Brussels "Together for a Europe free from prostitution".

Equality Now and 97 antitrafficking organizations worldwide including EWL are gravely concerned about two UN reports, which tell countries that in order to promote human rights of people in prostitution all aspects of the commercial sex industry should be decriminalized.

The EWL and the other interested organizations have asked the UN Executive Director to deliver a new note on prostitution and sex trafficking taking into account the reality of the phenomenon, the voice of survivors and a gender sensitive language.

Economic Crisis

In January 2013 the EWL launched a video clip she (re) session. What does austerity mean for women in Europe which captures the main messages of the EWL report on the impact of austerity measures on women in Europe.

Health

The EWL participated in the 2013 session of the European Health Forum that took place in Gastein, Austria. In its intervention it pointed out that while women are the majority of health care users still insufficient attention is given to their diverse needs throughout the life cycle.

Publications

The EWL published a feminist overview of women's rights and gender. The report looks at women's situation and gender equality in three main areas: women in decision making, women's economic independence and care responsibilities, violence against women and women's sexual and reproductive rights while also looking at the links between those areas.

COMMISSIONS and INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
COMMISSION ON DEMOCRACY.
ANJE WIERSINGA

Introduction

This report will list the activities and describe the work that has been done by IAW representative and commission convenor Anje Wiersinga. It will report on the most important events that have taken place between September 2013 and August 2014. The end of the report will list the action that can be taken by affiliate and individual members to follow up on the work that has been done over the past year.

The **objective** of the IAW Representatives at the Council of Europe (CoE) is to influence the policies of the Member States of the Council of Europe.



Meetings attended

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) sessions in October 2013, January, April, June 2014 in Strasbourg (reports made) including meetings of

PACE Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

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 in December 2013 and June 2014 Reports available.

Ministerial Gender Equality Commission in Strasbourg in April. Report available.

Hearing on access to justice for victim of violence, organized by the French parliament in Paris in December 2013.

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 June. Report available

CoE world forum on Democracy in Strasbourg, November 2013.

CoE INGO Conference and its committees in January and June 2014.

Six meetings of the INGO taskforce on "Including Gender Perspectives in Democratic and Political Processes particularly during and after Conflict" (from here on The Taskforce), as chair in Strasbourg and Paris. Reports available

Four meetings of the Freely Constituted Equality Group, as facilitator in Strasbourg.

UN 58th CSW in New York in March. Report available.

Anje attended the urgent debate of the Parliamentary Assembly in April 2014 on the situation in the Ukraine. The parliament decided to take away Russia's voting rights and the right to be in key positions. Report available.

In the Netherlands Anje is supported by an international working group of the Dutch IAW affiliate Vrouwenbelangen (reports available) and the Dutch gender platform Women and is a member of the NAP 1325 Working Group and its MENA subgroup on Middle East and Northern Africa.

Activities

DEMOCRACY

In November 2012 there was a world forum for democracy organised by the CoE held in Strasbourg. Unfortunately out of the 16 speakers there was only one woman. The Freely Constituted Group was very disappointed and took action in January 2013 by producing and lobbying with a poster

which listed as an alternative 15 women and 1 man for the November 2013 World Forum on Democracy. Nevertheless, on the draft program in September 2013 there were still no women speakers and therefore the IAW adopted a resolution naming this as unacceptable. This resolution was sent 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 in November 2014 included suddenly more women, particularly on places of cancellation of speakers.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

IAW resolution on the CoE Convention to Combat and Prevent Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO). As a follow up Anje supported the ratification of the Convention by making available example letters to be sent to governments and parliaments to promote ratification. She also tried to get the issue in the national news. This was all in light of the convention coming into effect on the 1st of August 2014. Unfortunately the item was not picked up by the national news. However there will be a new chance to promote the convention on the 16th of October 2014, when there will be an official celebration in Rome.

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 also available to be used in national campaigns to raise awareness for the convention.

The results of an 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 were 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).

Additionally Anje contributed to the report of Mr. Mendes Bota on prostitution, trafficking and modern slavery in Europe (doc. 13446). It is a balanced report and Anje recommends others to read it.

INCLUDING GENDERPERSPECTIVES IN POLITICAL & DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES MENA REGION

The **objective** of the INGO Taskforce, which Anje chairs, is the implementation of UN SC Res. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. 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 and the Syrian Platform for Women and Peace. We meet with members of these organisations during several meetings, such as the Conference in Rabat. The results of the gathering of information were published by the IAW in a book “Wishes, Demands and Priorities of National and Regional Women’s Organisations in the MENA Region”, sponsored by HIVOS. This publication is used to bring the subject to the attention of the parliamentarians of the CoE and other politicians. This has led to the adoption of amendments to parliamentary 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 raise the issue of the widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence during the Geneva Syrian peace talks. It also led to more discussion on this subject during the next Parliamentary Session. See report.

In January several guests attended the Parliamentary Session. These included Hibaaq Osman, the director of Karama, Cornelië Keyzer, a representative of Women and Jan Reinders, a representative of Men Engage.

On Anje’s initiative the INGO Conference/ Parliamentary Committee on Equality organized a side event on “Gender Perspective - Peace and Security” in June. Rosy Weiss, Honorary President of the IAW was one of the speakers. Report promised by Betty Doornenbal not yet available.

In June the INGO Conference adopted a recommendation on Gender-Based Violence as a Political Weapon in conflict.

Rosy Weiss and Anje’s suggestion the IAW submitted a proposal to hold a discussion group on gender

-based violence as a political weapon in conflict for the Geneva NGO Forum Beijing+20 Review in November 2014.

For more details see Report IAW Commission on Peace and Conflict of Rosy Weiss

Anje also initiated the side event at the 58th UN CSW on “Gender-based Violence as a Political Weapon – the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security”, organised by the IAW in cooperation with Karama. Report available.

Arab Revolution and the CoE/EU Program on Strengthening Democratic Reform in the Southern Neighbourhood. The program was officially launched in January 2012 following the Arab Revolution. To implement this program the CoE Neighbourhood Priorities for Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan 2012-2014 were adopted by the Committee of Ministers. These priorities include and emphasize the promotion of women’s rights, the reduction of inequalities, equal participation of women in political processes, better access to justice for women, preventing and combating violence against women and the improvement of the image of women in the media. Ms. Battaini, the deputy secretary general of the CoE, stressed that there are strict criteria for cooperation with the Southern Neighbourhood: Cooperation will be on demand and democratic principles must be valued. The CoE/EU won’t be knocking and no judgement will be passed. She said “I insist, we are not imposing things, it is their way - not our way” and “We cooperate by action plans”. There are action plans for Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan with specific indicators for evaluation. From 2015 onwards a new action plan will be formulated and the IAW, as one of the INGOs, can have input in this process.

LOBBYING TECHNIQUES

The Freely Constituted Equality Group invited Ms. Marina Davidashvili in January and Mr. Michel Julien in June to explain their lobbying techniques. This has contributed to a discussion within the INGO Conference because according to many the INGO conference is not reaching its full potential and additional information on how to contribute more effectively to the work of the politicians of the Council of Europe and is needed and very useful.

On a personal note Anje would like to stress that without the participation of men, gender equality will never be reached and therefore she works with MenEngage and tries to involve men in her activities.

CONCLUSION: 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 urge them to implement these.

They can promote the ratification, implementation and monitoring of conventions, such as the Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women and CAHTEH on Trafficking.

They can take part in the ongoing campaign to combat sexual exploitation of children with its Lazarotte Convention.

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

They can make shadow reports of governments reports as done for CEDAW.

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

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

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.

Assist in updating the IAW Publication mentioned above on Wishes, Demands and Priorities of national and Regional Women’s Organisations in the MENA Region.

REPORT ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE SESSION APRIL 2014.

ANJE WIERSINGA

Copy to Taskforce Including Gender-perspectives in Political and Democratic processes,
Freely Constituted Equality Group

As an observer I attended two meetings :

I. Gender Equality Commission 2-4 April

2nd PACE Session 7-10 April

I. GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION (GEC) 2- 4 APRIL:

Structure and Policies

As an Expert group the GEC reports to the Committee of Ministers. It was formed in 2012 and replaced the Steering Committee on Equality. The current GEC will stop and be replaced by a new commission. The new committee will be called “European Committee on Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality” and will start work in 2014. The commission will then shift from the Human Rights Directorate to the Social Cohesion and Democracy directorate.

In 2012 the GEC launched the transversal programme: “Contributing to gender equality by integrating a gender perspective into the Council of Europe’s activities” with the objective to move from legal equality to real equality in accordance with the Committee of Ministers (CM) Declaration “Making Gender equality a Reality” [CM(2009)68] and to achieve this through the implementation of the “Gender Equality Standards” [CM/Rec(2007)17].

This resulted in the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017.

The CoE Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 focuses on the following topics:

- a. combating gender stereotypes and sexism
- b. preventing and combating violence against women
- c. guaranteeing equal access of women to justice
- d. balanced participation of women and men in political and public decision making

achieving gender mainstreaming in all policies and measures.

Gender Equality Rapporteurs are appointed by each CM Steering Committee from its members. They are working with the GEC to implement the Gender Equality Standards and Strategy within the Council of Europe’s institutions and within its member states.

A Network of National Focal Points on Gender Equality is working with the GEC to implement the Gender Equality Standards and Strategy on the national level. The 47 focal points are operating within each of the member states and are appointed by their own government.

The next – 2nd - meeting of the Network will be held in Helsinki, Finland on 9-10 October 2014.

Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women (VAW)

The EU fundamental rights agency, based in Vienna, presented its recent report with comprehensive data on gender based violence against women per EU country, using EU and Beijing+20 indicators. The room remained dead silent after the presentation with its shocking statistics. The report should be used to raise awareness about the problem of VAW in each of our countries.

Gender Equality Indicators

The director Virginija Langbakk of the European Institute for Gender Equality, founded in 2007, explained the use of the gender equality index and the development of a database for new indicators. In anticipation of Beijing +20, the indicators are already used by countries to write their reports in preparation of Beijing +20. The

indicators can be found on the EIGE website and can also be used by NGO's to write their shadow reports.

Guaranteeing Equal Access of Women to Justice

Women seeking access to justice experience legal, procedural, socio-economic and cultural barriers, which are different from those for men. The seminar "Tackling the gaps in research on and the lack of data disaggregated by sex concerning equal access to justice" will be held in Paris 26-27 of June. Even though there is limited space, anyone who is interested is free to participate. The seminar is a follow up on the hearing on "Access to justice for women victims of violence", which was held in Paris December 2013 and which I also attended.

II. SECOND SESSION PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY COE, 7-10 APRIL 2014

As an observer I attended and followed the discussions in the Political Affairs and Democracy Committee and in the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, as well as some of those in the Parliamentary Assembly.

Parliamentary Assembly (PA)

There were two debates on the situation in Ukraine in the PA. The first debate was on reports by rapporteurs who had followed the situation in Ukraine for several years. Ukrainian and Russian Parliamentarians disagreed on almost everything. The debate concluded with the adoption of Resolution 1988(2014).

The 2nd urgent debate was about the rights of the Russian delegation within PACE. Russia did not attend this debate. Instead it joined the protests outside in front of the building, where pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian demonstrators alternated slogans through loudspeakers. Russia was not expelled from the Parliamentary Assembly because the Assembly want to maintain the dialogue; however the right to vote and the rights to be in key positions were taken from Russia by the adoption of Resolution 1990(2014). It were interesting debates.

Another interesting PA debate was on the report "Prostitution, Trafficking and modern slavery in Europe" (doc.13446). This report was presented by Mr Mendes Bota as rapporteur.

The report is exceptionally well balanced on the different systems of prostitution in Europe and the effects on trafficking. According to the report the objective to control trafficking by legalizing prostitution has not been realized. On the contrary, legalizing prostitution has led to an increase in the demand of prostitutes and this had led to an increase of trafficking. However it is realised that a legal system can not be changed overnight. Therefore measures are included in the resolution [Resolution 1983(2014)] how to minimize demand, both for countries where prostitution is legal as for countries where it is illegal. Two amendments (paragraphs 12.1.6.5 and 12.1.6.7) to this resolution were drafted by me and lobbied for and were adopted unanimously by the Parliamentary Assembly.

PACE Political Affairs and Democracy Committee

The Political Affairs and Democracy Committee talked about Tunisia and its new constitution, which was adopted by 92% in the Tunisian parliament. The constitution includes an article on equality between men and women and an article on the freedom of speech, information and conscience. Religious tolerance will be part of education. Education will also be the tool to fight extremism and poverty. An independent constitutional court will be set up and will scrutinize laws and measures to see if they are in line with the new (secular) constitution.

Lord Anderson, Chair of the Political Affairs Subco on the Middle East and the Arab Region asked how Tunisia is addressing Sharia family law and asked advice for the ongoing discussion within UK on this subject. Sharia family law is being practiced in the UK in special Sharia courts. This is a growing problem since it provides different rights to UK citizens.

I also attended the Political Affairs subcommittee on the Middle East. This Committee will held its next meeting in September in Beirut. I suggested to invite a representative from the Syrian Women's Forum for Peace. This is being considered.

PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Within the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination two reports on which the committee is working were discussed. These reports are on "Equality and the crisis" and on "The situation of women in the emerging democracies following the Arab Spring". There was also a debate on abortion legislation.

Side events

Additionally an impressive side event was held by the parliamentary network women free from violence. It was a theatre show named “Wounded till death”. The performance by professional actors consisted of real stories of women who were victims of domestic violence until they died. The show can be booked and used to raise awareness and inform people about the topic.

Another side event attended was on Sexual violence against refugee children.

Mr. Westerveen of UN Human Committee on Refugees (UNHCR) was one of the speakers.

The topic discussed the high number of incidents of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) under refugees. It was explained how violence occurs during conflict, during flight, at destination and again after returning home and how it is often politically motivated. The Syrian example was mentioned where domestic violence occurs in 50% and where early marriages are practiced as ‘protection’. Due to shortages of food and money more sexual services are provided.

INGO Working Groups

The INGO working group “For the abolition of torture” chaired by Michel Aguilar was attended.

The way this group handles the follow up of the INGO Conference Recommendation on this topic is very interesting. I have invited Michel to explain this to the members of the FCEG in its next meeting in Strasbourg on 24th June 2014.

The INGO working group “Religious dimension of intercultural dialogue” chaired by James Barnett was also attended. He informed the group that its report is ready. Therefore the use and the implementation of the report were discussed. The aim is to change attitudes about religion and attitudes among different religions. One has to study one’s own religion as well as other religions to understand each other. Therefore education About, In and On different religions is important.

Art.9 of the ECHR was mentioned, which describes freedom of religion and freedom to change.

INGO Conference

Finally I was invited by the INGO Standing Committee to discuss the two letters sent to them on behalf of the Taskforce after the January INGO Conference. The outcome:

1. Jean-Marie Heydt as President has written a letter to Hibaq Osman, Director of Karama.
2. The Recommendation “Gender-based Violence as a Political Weapon will be redrafted and presented for adoption by the INGO Conference after discussion in the Committee on Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges in June 2014.

In June 2014 a side event on “Gender perspectives – Security – Peace” will be organised.

Human Rights Commission and the Constitution Committee.

Lyda Versteegen

This year I have attended two (parts of) sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

It is not possible to attend more (though I will go for another week prior to the Board Meeting) because it is too expensive to take a hotel in Geneva for a longer period.

In March I stayed with Simone Chapuis in Lausanne, for which I was very grateful. I met with Seema, our treasurer. We went to a very upbeat meeting of the Women in Business. On their invitation I made a speech about women’s rights for a roomful of men from Kashmir, and a lone woman. She is the chair of the Kashmir Women Forum and she invited me to speak in September on women’s rights.

I was at a side event of the European Union about freedom of religion, of which the gist was that hatred was by people, very often a power struggle, and not by religion as such. There was also the launch of a report on the human right of sex education for adolescents, presented by Marleen Temmermans of WHO, who in June was in a panel on FGM/C. She is a very caring gynaecologist from Belgium. I sent the information to Gudrun

and Seema.

In June I visited the InterParliamentary Union to talk about birth registration, as proposed in our Resolution. I brought them in contact with Nicoleta Panta, Plan-International. I also sent them and Nicoleta a copy of my questionnaire on birth registration. The IPU does as the parliaments ask them, and parliaments are not very interested in birth registration.

The Panel on prejudice against women was very interesting, especially the part about prejudice of judges. They should be educated. I reported on the website.

The Panel on FGM/C, on which I also reported on the website, had the surprising result that in the discussion afterwards the countries were unanimous in their condemnation of the practice.

I wrote an article about the report of a Working Group to the General Assembly, issued in April 2014 to the Human Rights Council on discrimination against women in law and practice, with a focus on economic and social rights, particularly in the recent crisis.

That is a subject dear to our heart, particularly Joanna's. I hope it will be in IWN.

UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, published a background note on Gender Equality, Nationality Laws and Statelessness. 27 states still have discriminatory laws, which causes statelessness. I went to a side event where they showed a very gripping movie. It showed children who couldn't get a job or go to university because they were born abroad as refugees, despite living in their own country with their own mother.

Would that be a subject for IAW to take on?

In its 26th session in June the HRC adopted a resolution to start working on a treaty about Human Rights and the responsibility of international business companies. USA and European Union voted against it. Someone said: 'the South has won' and I agree, good for them!

Another resolution that had a divided vote was the Resolution on the Protection of the Family and its Members, an initiative of Russia and South Africa. Our president wrote a very scared letter to her ambassador, because the family is not protected by human rights. Human rights are for individuals. Our fear is that the people who want to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the day of the family only recognize families of a father and a mother, as where so many types of families exist and are recognized as such in many countries. So I wrote a statement to the 27th session of the HRC to congratulate all families.

Also recently came to my attention a report of the UN Secretary General on the Commission on the Status of Women and how its work could have more impact.

Please see the website.

Constitution

As convener of the Constitution Committee I did not do much. Lene Pind came to stay with me, and we made a beginning to modernize it, but it is very tricky. And we have time till Congress. We did change the Guidelines for organizing Congress, and other IAW events, with an emphasis on how the financial risk is for the organizers and how they should start fund raising at least a year ahead, inspired by the last Congress.

HEALTH COMMISSION—WHO

Gudrun Haupter, Convener

Report of the Commission on Health for the board meeting in Sion - Follow-up of Burning Issues presented in the Congress report 2013.

In November 2013 I wrote a text for the homepage on the Commission's priority *Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights*. It lists three general stances IAW supports:

- Resist attempts of governments and NGOs to re-open the Cairo Plan of Action and the Beijing Platform of Action in order to go behind agreed language.
- Insist on women's right to health including their sexual and reproductive health rights. Women as not just one more "vulnerable group" that causes concerns but also actors that have rights.

Do not allow sexual and reproductive health and rights or gender equality to become fragmented among gen-

eral principles within the post-2015 framework. SRHR and gender equality deserve a prominent place of their own, as well as their own set of indicators, accountability mechanisms and budgeting.

National, international and UN levels in 2013/2014 had a focus on the ICPD+20 in order to take stock of the 2 decades after the International Conference on Population and Development, and call for Universal access to family planning and to sexual and reproductive health services, gender equality, women's empowerment and equal access to education.

Thus, the Commission was offered plenty of opportunities to promote its priority theme.

Examples:

– Upon our request IAW endorsed the “Common Ask” on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Sustainable Development Goals based on the CSW Draft Zero. The text was drafted for the last session of the Open working group on the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG, July 14-18, 2014.



We also endorsed on behalf of IAW the Partners' Forum Communiqué and the Post 2015 Position Statement issued by PMNCH (Partnership for maternal, newborn and child health). The Partners' Forum was convened in Johannesburg, 30 June to 1 July.

The latest information contained in the Post 2015 Newsletter August 14 disseminated by the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) is:

“The final set of SDGs contain four critical targets on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights – three under the health goal and another under the gender goal:

- o Health: 3.7 by 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes;
- o Gender: 5.6 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- o Health: 3.1 by 2030 reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births; and
- o Health: 3.3 by 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases”.

These targets are the result of many hard-fought battles over the last 18 months.

– Commission member Hélène Sackstein forwarded August 15 information about a French initiative “Attention physicians! Prohibition of abortion is killing women – help us by forwarding our call,” accompanied by a statement in French, English and Spanish. The commitment of the MDs will be published in September, in the week before the special session of the General Assembly on ICPD+20. To strengthen the campaign everybody can send an e-mail card to SG Ban Ki-Moon, and I widely disseminated the link.

– *Maternal and Child mortality-the role and benefits of family planning* titled my news item in German included in the Newsletter of the Society for German-Burkinabè Friendship regrouping c. 40 twinning initiatives. Burkina Faso ranks among the least developed countries, with 5.9 live births per woman as of 2010.

Lene Pind, Head of the communication unit, recently asked for a text to go into the IAW Newsletter on *Ending Child Marriage*. Several links for further reading corroborate the hard facts about the connection between early marriage and adolescent pregnancies, often entailing death or disability of the young mother. The article also point to IAW Congress Resolution No. 4 on “Let girls be girls not brides”.

Lene also invited the IAW “community” to sign an appeal from the World Federation for Mental Health I had mailed her.

In June the African Union launched its 2-year campaign “End child marriage”. I for-warded the Unicef video on *Why we can end child marriage in Africa* to Commission members and African IAW correspondents and asked them to spread the message. On my request Lene put the video and the accompanying text on the web-site.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-q4IZbU7Ms> Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, SG of YWCA and African Union Goodwill Ambassador for the UN campaign concludes: “If someone is getting married at age 14, this is not a marriage, it’s a crime”.

Several Letters to the Commission members provided information on the burning issues defined in the report to Congress and asked for reaction. On the whole there was a good response, sometimes a dialogue developed.

Right now, Soon-Young Yoon sent a Statement she wrote on behalf of IAW, on the BPfA critical area of concern *Women and Health*. It will be submitted to the NGO Forum in Geneva, 3-5 November 2014, dedicated to the review of the BPfA. It links the Beijing Platform for Action to the Agreed Conclusions adopted at the 58th session of the UN CSW and CEDAW and asks “Have these international agreements become a reality?” Her review is centered on women and health in North America and Europe with, she says, reference to the global situation. The issues: Universal health care is a human rights issue – example of the US; HIV/AIDS – differences among the disadvantaged; NCD – the missing target, with a focus on heart disease and lung cancer (largely due to tobacco use.) Eight recommendations give much food for thought and for action. Seema Uplekar and I are looking for the best ways to win support and endorsements among Geneva NGOs for the comprehensive statement and its recommendations and on how to make them known via the IAW media.

Regarding Women and Tobacco our bi-annual report to the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat mentioned a project of AIWC which initially had WHO support, of alternate vocations training programs for bidi workers in several Indian States. In March 2014 I was able to forward the excellent report from AIWC to the Convention Secretariat which had been asking for details of the program.

At the AGM in May of the NGO Forum for Health, Geneva, I was given the opportunity to present my *Summary of Medical and Human rights aspects of discrimination of Intersex children and Issues to be acted on*. (Attached)

The aim: getting the Forum’s working group on Health and Human Rights involved in lobbying at the HRC, the Committee of the CRC, WHO. Result of the discussions and at a June meeting of the Forum’s Steering Committee of which Seema is a member: there is no involvement in sight. This is not due to lack of interest but rather to lack of man-power. Contacts have been established with activist organizations in several countries. We would like IAW to follow up on the issue, perhaps by writing statements and lobby for a resolution of the HRC. The question is who would do the work?

Finally, I summarized *16 days of activities on violence against women*, which had been organized by Seema Uplekar in November 2013, for the French section of the IAW homepage, and

Wrote a French news item for IWNNews No. 1, 2014 on *Medical norms are male norms. Why is that so? Which are the consequences for women?*

With a view to tackling new issues or pursue issues taken up: partnering with other organizations could be a solution. Ideally they should have a solid knowledge and have the means to pursue activities. An example: African Youth Safe Abortion Alliance (AYOSA) recently approached IAW, and I outlined our possibilities to promote their cause.

28 August 2014

The BPfA critical area of concern: WOMEN and HEALTH
NGO Forum, Geneva 3-5 November 2014
Submitted by

International Alliance of Women Medical Women's International Association

Conceptual Framework

The Beijing Platform for Action recognizes that “the advancement of women and the achievement of quality between women and men are a matter of human rights¹”. Gender equality and women’s empowerment is also a condition for social justice, and sustainable development with cultural and environmental security for all. The Agreed Conclusions adopted at the Fifty-eighth session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women further reaffirms that the social determinants of health as well as health services need policy implementation to guarantee women’s health rights.

The conceptual framework:

Recognizes the wide diversity of girls and women who face differing and/or multiple discriminations. Barriers to good health may exist due to differences in “race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous women or because of other status”². Single parents, rural, refugee and displaced women, immigrants and women migrant workers vary in their ability to participate equally in decision-making and access health services.

Asserts that the right of women to control all aspects of their health, in particular, their own fertility and exercising their reproductive rights is basic to their empowerment

Acknowledges the importance of women’s health to end poverty and advance economic and political sustainable development.

Establishes a life cycle or life course approach with an emphasis on protection, prevention, and maintenance of health as a state of complete mental and physical well being.

Calls for universal access to health care, including quality sexual and reproductive health services, and

Recommends that men and boys help ensure an equal sharing of responsibilities and play an active role in achieving women’s empowerment.



Twenty years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, this framework continues to serve as an excellent policy guide. In addition, the 188 countries that ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have a legal instrument to advance women’s rights to health as a human right. Have these international agreements become a reality? What are the achievements, obstacles, and challenges ahead? The following review provides examples related to the BPfA critical area of concern on women and health in North America and Europe with reference to the global situation.

Universal Health Care is a human rights issue-example of the US.

As Dr Margaret Chan stated in her address to the World Health Assembly in May 2012, “Universal health coverage is the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer. It is a powerful equalizer that abolishes distinctions between rich and poor, the privileged and the marginalized, the young and the old, ethnic groups, and men and women. This is the anchor for the work of WHO as we move forward.”

Twenty years after the FWCW, the United States is an example of a late comer (as an advanced industrial country) to address UHC. How is it progressing? The U.S. Affordable Healthcare Act provides health insurance to all. Its key components are a Health Insurance Marketplace, a new way for individuals, families, and small businesses to get health coverage; coverage for people with pre-existing health conditions; insurance companies accountable for rate increases; protection against an insurance company arbitrarily cancelling a policy because a person gets sick; protection in choice of doctors; young adults under 26 covered under their parents’ insurance if they are not employed

and are students ; free preventive care; (screening programs such as mammograms), ending of lifetime and yearly limits on coverage of essential health benefits; breastfeeding equipment and support; birth control and counseling; mental health and substance abuse service parity; and the right to appeal a health plan decision.

Prior to the Affordable Healthcare Act there was a healthcare crisis in the U.S.:

In 2011, 35% of adults aged 18–64 who were uninsured did not get, or delayed, needed medical care due to its cost, compared with 7% of adults with private coverage and 13% of adults on Medicaid.

In 2011, 24% of adults aged 18–64 who were uninsured did not get needed prescription drugs due to cost, compared with 5% of those with private coverage and 14% of those with Medicaid Center for Disease Control.

Between 2001 and 2011, the percentage of the population under age 65 with private health insurance obtained through the workplace declined from 67% to 56%.

In 2011, 7% of children under age 18 and 21% of adults, aged 18–64, had no health insurance coverage (public or private).

The number of adult women and men without health insurance has increased. People with insurance are much more likely to have a doctor or other medical professional who provides regular care; one out of seven women has no usual source of health care. (*White House Council on Women and Girls*).



Prior to the Affordable Healthcare Act, many people with mental illness or substance abuse issues did not have insurance that covered the necessary services or they had a finite number of visits and inpatient psychiatric hospital stays. The Affordable Healthcare Act health insurance plans are now required to cover mental health and substance abuse services even if the condition was pre-existing. There is **are** also no waiting period for coverage of these services and no lifetime or yearly dollar limits for mental health services with parity protection for mental health services. This means that limits applied to mental health and substance abuse services cannot be more restrictive than limits applied to medical and surgical services.

Although it is too early to know what effect the full Affordable Healthcare Act will have on the American people, to date there has been a significant increase in coverage for 19-25 year olds. Evaluation results are likely to also indicate that disadvantaged women, including female heads of households, and older women coverage may be essential.

HIV/AIDS– Differences Among the Disadvantaged

New HIV/AIDS infections continue to decline in most of North America and Europe and access to treatment has improved. For example, by 2010, 88% of pregnant women living with HIV in Eastern Europe received treatment to prevent transmission to their child. However, social and ethnic inequalities persist. According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2010 the rate of HIV infections among Black women in the U.S. was 20 times that of white women.⁴ Aboriginal women, who represent 4% of the Canadian female population accounted for 45% of positive HIV tests among women in 2007.

Most alarming, the number of persons living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia almost tripled between 2000 and 2009 with young women appearing to be the most vulnerable. In Russia, the number of young women aged 15 to 24 years with HIV is twice the number of men of the same age. Similar trends are found among young women in the U.S.⁶ other high-risk groups include women who use drugs (caused by needle sharing), women in prostitution, replace with commercial sexual workers, prisoners and victims of sexual violence.

NCD – The Missing Target

The most outstanding change in the global health context is the rise in noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Although the BPfA mentions cancers, comprehensive policy guidance for women and NCDs developed more recently in response to the global epidemic. According to the Global Status Report on NCDs (WHO), almost two thirds of the 57 million deaths that occurred in 2008 were due to NCDs, mainly cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic lung diseases. NCDs are the leading cause of death in women, killing 18 million women each year, exceeding communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions combined. Of all the regions covered by WHO, Europe has the highest burden of NCDs, accounting for 77% of all disease and 86% of mortality before the age of 60.

The four main NCD risk factors are unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, tobacco use and abuse of alcohol. Women are more likely to be obese than men, become ill or die of secondhand smoke (SHS)⁹ and are less knowledgeable about heart disease. Even in high-income countries, women belonging to lower social economic strata have higher risks of cancer death due to unequal access to health services that provide early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer.

Many women are unaware of the methods of preventing or the need for early diagnosis of NCDs. For example, most North American women believe that men are more likely to suffer from heart disease and lung cancer, not realizing that heart disease is the number one killer of American women¹⁰ and that an increasing number of women are dying from lung cancer in North America and in high-income European countries, largely due to tobacco use.

Women carry the heaviest burden of NCDs due to economic inequalities and their role as unpaid caregivers. Few governments take women's unpaid work into account in public financing. Nor do social protection programs sufficiently offer support for homebased care that would improve women's capacity to balance work, caregiving and family responsibilities. Unfortunately women tend to neglect their own health and often do not have access to health care services and this puts them at a higher risk.

NCDs also affect national economies by inflicting debt and pushing millions of people into poverty. A report of the UNDP notes that NCDs constitute a larger share of lost output in higher-income countries because labour and health care costs are more expensive. By 2020, two thirds of the expected 7.5 million deaths from tobacco will occur in Lower and Middle-Income Countries and half will be among those in their economically productive middle years.

Multisectoral coordination is needed to ensure that women and girls are protected from aggressive marketing by the tobacco industry. Progress in combatting NCDs include ratification and enforcement of the WHO Framework Convention in Tobacco Control that calls for gender-specific policies, raised taxes and women's participation in decision-making. Improved data collection on NCD risk factors, efforts in primary care as well as universal health care coverage such as the U.S. Affordable Care Act and health prevention are advancing. However, the costs of health care in Canada are escalating and services are being cut. Greater attention is needed to inequalities, including those related to gender, age, socio-economic and ethnic status.

Recommendations

a. Universal health coverage should include financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for girls and women of all ages. Special measures should be taken to ensure access by women who face discrimination by age, gender identity, social and economic status.

b. UHC should have benchmarks with progressive realization and financial investments in women's health using the life cycle approach as women's health needs and challenges they face vary with age.

c. Women should have equal leadership roles in public health information and communications campaigns to address myths and misconceptions about women and girls' health, including sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and NCDs. Stronger efforts should be made to disseminate gender-sensitive information about early detection and timely treatment of cancers and diabetes, physical activity, enforcement of smoke-free public places and raising taxes on harmful products like tobacco and alcohol. Special attention should be given to reach women and girls throughout their life course.

d. Women's health data, including indicators on sexual and reproductive health, maternal mortality and other indicators reflecting the wide diversity of women should be included in the sustainable development goals (SDGs)

e. Public and private foundation funding should increase support for research and data collection to incorporate gender design, analysis and interpretation of studies on women's health; gender-specific monitoring and evaluation of health services delivery and effectiveness is also needed.

f. Innovative partnerships should be established to improve access to affordable, quality-assured, gender-sensitive essential medicines to provide prevention, early detection and treatment for women—particularly in rural communities as well as low and middle-income countries.

g. Public policies should take women's unpaid care work, including that related to support for the disabled and chronically ill, into account in national budgeting and ensure that public funds are allocated for social protection services.

h. Civil society advocates for women and health and governments should support the full implementation of the BPfA, CEDAW, Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments that support women's health rights, WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (2013 - 2010), the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health as well as the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol.

Summary of Medical and Human rights aspects of discrimination of Intersex children and Issues to be acted on

Gudrun Haupter, International Alliance of Women, IAW

April 2014

At the AGM in May 2013 I was given the opportunity to make a short oral presentation of why the situation of Intersex people could be an issue for the Working Group on Health and Human Rights of the NGO Forum for Health, NGOFFH. Alan Leather asked me to send him a summary to be circulated to the membership in order to get guidance for the WG on whether to take up the issue.

The below information in italics is taken from a UNDP Discussion Paper on Transgender Health & Human Rights mentioned in the NGOFFH Newsletter 1- 2014.

Intersex: While a trans person is usually born with a male or female body, an intersex person is born with sexual anatomy, reproductive organs and/or chromosome patterns that do not fit the typical definition of male or female. These may be apparent at birth or emerge later in life, often at puberty. There are many different intersex medical conditions.

Typically, intersex people do not want to be defined by a medical condition or term. Most intersex infants are subjected to procedures, and/or hormonal treatment, naturally dominant definitions of maleness and femaleness.

Although this discussion paper, many of their experiences are shared by intersex people, particularly in the areas of legal gender recognition and access to health. In several regions, including Africa, trans-work and intersex advocates work closely together on these issues. The current situation in brief



To make their requests better heard intersex people contact founded national organisations/societies e.g. in Australia, Germany, South-Africa, Switzerland, the US.

2012 and 2013 have seen much concerted action, by state actors and non-state actors, to change the present situation of performing non-consensual cosmetic genital surgeries on children. However, the information received from www.Zwischengeschlecht.org Switzerland, and from www.Intersexuelle-Menschen.de Germany, suggests that their Parallel reporting to State reports up for review by the Committees of CRC, CEDAW, ICESCR, CAT, the CHR etc. had mixed results and that efforts must go on.

Examples: CRC has been alerted for the fifth time by Swiss NGOs to the violations of the human rights of intersex children Up to now the Committee has ignored such reports. Action by the NGOFFH or other Human

rights NGOs would be most welcome.

A core issue of the shadow report of the German Net of Intersexual people for the Fifth Country report of Germany to the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights, ICESCR was the Highest attainable standard of health. The Committee's Concluding remarks said that people who see themselves as human beings with their specific sexual identity must not be considered mentally disturbed. An intersexual identity is no illness.

UNHRC 2012 and CRC 2013: Collective NGO reports have been produced for the upcoming reviews of Switzerland. Both UN bodies up to now ignored the issue and kept silent.

Following the UN-Committee against Torture, CAT's, finding that non-consensual cosmetic genital surgeries on children are in violation of the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in March 2013 the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture called for ending the practices of "genital normalizing forced surgery" and of "sterilizing children born with atypical genital characteristics". The Concluding remarks of the UN Committee on Germany's 5th Country report on CAT made it clear that Genital mutilations practised on intersexual people and the removal of hormone producing organs constitute cruel inhuman treatments.

In resolution 1952 of October 2013 the CoE asked for legal measures to end „unnecessary medical or surgical treatments (...) which are cosmetic but not vital for health.”

The Swiss organisation called for action and protest on May 7 2013, the first Worldwide day of sexual autonomy. Activists call surgical interventions aiming at "normalising" the clitoris of inters*x children Western genital mutilation.

Medical organisations like ESPE remain in favour of the current practice, in spite of the statements of organisations like Zwischengeschlecht.

Paediatric surgeons in Germany are split over the issue. Under pressure from Concluding remarks of the CEDAW Committee to the 6th Report of Germany, the German Ethics Council issued in 2012 a statement on behalf of the Federal Government, that explicitly acknowledged the physical and psychological suffering of survivors of non-consensual cosmetic genital surgeries on children, stressed their Right to physical Integrity and the limits of the parents' rights to consent to cosmetic procedures for their children and dealt with reparations to be paid to survivors.

According to Zwischengeschlecht this statement provides many loopholes.

The statement of the Swiss National Advisory Commission on Biomedical Ethics (NEK-CNE) is unequivocal about genital surgery on psychosocial grounds. Activist organizations all over the globe have hailed it.

Contentious issues / issues the WG could deal with:

The request to put off decisions on cosmetic surgeries or other measures until majority of the child

Physical characteristics of intersexuality should no longer be classified as DSD = disorders of sex development but as differences of sex development

Legal measures against Intersex Genital mutilations should be requested as outlined by NEK-CNE, the UN Special rapporteur on torture, and the Council of Europe.

Cooperation with human rights groups to promote the human rights of intersex children/people at the HRC, on the occasion of country reviews – UPR, the Universal periodic review, the CRC, the CEDAW, the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

Lobbying CRC, HRC, CAT and OHCHR to request countries to re-appraise their position. This could be done by writing a short letter to the CRC to highlight the urgency of dealing with the issue.

Contact data can be provided by www.zwischengeslecht.org

Prepare statements of the NGOFFH for May 7, the Worldwide day of sexual autonomy or stage an action

Necessity for countries to agree on a satisfying solution for indicating sex details in official identification documents, which offer only male or female .

Keeping contact with human rights consultants/experts and profit from their expertise on how to protect a child from undergoing surgical or other procedures.

Report on Activities 2013 to 2014 Commission on Climate Change

Prepared by Natalia Kostus, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, Representative to the United Nations, Board Member, International Alliance of Women (IAW), E-mail: Natalia.Kostus.IAW@gmail.com



I promised, as the Convener of the Climate Change Commission, to apply for an observer admission with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that was decided at the IAW Congress in London and adopted in the Resolution XI on Women's Rights and Climate Change. I am happy to report that I have successfully prepared and submitted the application with the approval of Joanna Mangamara, IAW President. I have been working very hard on this application and I have big plans to organize IAW delegation to Paris COP in 2015, where the Paris Agreement on Climate Change will be adopted.

During the first year of the work of IAW Commission on Climate Change, I chair, I focused on capacity building, outreach to members of IAW, following the climate change negotiations, and integrating climate change and gender equality issues into the work of IAW Commissions, International Representatives, and Members.

As part of the outreach strategy of the Commission, I wrote and produced two articles and video reports for IAW website and social media YouTube to increase interest and buy in on climate change among IAW Members. My article and video report on Climate Change and Women's Rights, gives an overview of gender equality and climate change issues, including women's contribution and critical role in coping with direct impacts and slower onset effects of climate change, as well as, an overview of the work of the Commission (For video report and full article see: <http://womenalliance.org/climate-change-and-womens-rights>). My article and video report on Climate Change COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland focused on the climate change negotiations updates, analysis of outcomes and my activities during COP 19, including meetings with Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, and Mary Robinson, now appointed UN Secretary General Special Envoy for Climate Change, and first ever in-session workshop on gender, climate change and the UNFCCC (For video report and full article see: <http://womenalliance.org/warsaw-conference-on-climate-change>).

I prepared IAW Position Paper on Women's Rights and Climate Change outlining general policy recommendations to enhance integration of climate change into the work of IAW Commissions, International Representatives, and Members. Recommendations include recognizing that gender equality and protecting women's human rights are fundamental in combating climate change, as well as, specific recommendations on Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights, economic and social rights, UNFCCC and CEDAW, climate finance mechanisms, property rights and access and control over resources, and accountability for previous commitments on gender equality and women's human rights applicable to climate change (To download the Position Paper in pdf form see: <http://womenalliance.org/no-climate-justice-without-true-gender-equality>).

I worked with Renee Gerard, Anje Wiersinga, and Edith Wenger to input into the Position Paper of the INGOs' Conference of the Council of Europe on "Climate Change and Human Rights." I prepared the IAW Gen-

der Amendment to influence the discussion in Strasbourg, specifying gender recommendations under the five priorities of the Position Paper: (A) on mobilization of citizens to promote women's empowerment and full participation, and to ensure integration of local solutions to climate change; (B) on social and territorial cohesion matters to integrate gender equality in climate finance mechanisms and adaptation; (C) on economic governance to ensure social equity and gender equality in green economy; (D) on environmental protection to ensure property rights and access to natural resources for women; and (E) on education, information, and access to data to collect sex-disaggregated data and ensure access to information and capacity-building for women.

Commission on Status of Women 58th Session (CSW 58), New York, 10-21 March 2014

At the CSW 58, I focused on working with governments, IAW representatives and board members, as well as civil society and UN partners to integrate climate change into the agreed conclusions in the context of challenges and achievements in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls. In the agreed conclusions, the Commission recognized that climate change poses a threat to the achievement of sustainable development and that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by climate change impacts such as desertification, deforestation, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, and loss of biodiversity, owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods and food security. The Commission recognized the vital role of women in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, including rehabilitation and reconstruction and the need to enhance women's access, capacities and opportunities to effectively and equally participate in the prevention and preparedness efforts and in response to disasters.



Those strong outcomes were crucial in building the commitment of Ministries of Women and women's organizations on gender and climate change and increasing the involvement of women stakeholders in national decision-making processes on climate change. The Commission urged governments and civil society to promote integration of a gender perspective in environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen the participation of women in decision making on all levels in strategies related to impacts of climate change.

Recommendations for CSW 59 undertaking a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:

- Conduct analysis of BDPfA , in the context of climate change crisis, as one of the challenges affecting implementation of BDPfA and negatively impacting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda
- Evaluate the critical areas of concern of BDPfA in context of climate change and gender inequality: poverty, inequality in access to education, inequality in access to health care, violence against women, conflict, inequality in access to resources, power, and decision-making
- Propose specific actions on empowerment of women and girls and promotion of women's human rights in climate change strategies, especially considering: poverty, education, health, violence against women, armed conflict, the economy, decision making, media, environment, as well as institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women in climate change finance mechanisms and implementation
- The CSW 59 outcomes on gender equality and climate change could further inform and influence the 2015 Climate Change Agreement

IAW Events and other Activities during the CSW

During CSW 58 on March 11, I moderated IAW and KARAMA sponsored event on “Gender-based Violence as a Political Weapon.” Focusing on implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, the IAW event organized by Anje Wiersinga and chaired by Joanna Manganara, featured high level keynote address by Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury of Bangladesh, who was the President of the Security Council when the resolution 1325 was adopted, as well as, two panels of eight speakers from Austria, CEDAW, UN Women, WILPF, and Men Engage, among others. The discussion was very engaging, and I was able to include my expertise on climate change, in the context of which the conflicts over land and water will increase, and so will gender-based violence.

Detailing all of the events I covered ahead and during CSW58 is beyond the scope of this report; however, notable is the International Women’s Day Celebration on March 7 themed “Equality for women progress for all,” which included high level statements by Hillary Rodham Clinton. In 1995 in Beijing Clinton stated famously that “human rights are women’s rights—and women’s rights are human rights.” On the eve of CSW 58, Clinton stated” achieving equality for women and girls is “the great unfinished business of the 21st century.”

CSW 58 was an opportunity to fundraise. Ahead of the CSW, I spoke with Anne Wegge and Margunn Bjornholt, as well as, conducted outreach to find a government or UN agency co-sponsors for the IAW event on financial crisis and explored opportunities for travel funds. During the CSW, I met with Joanna Manganara to explore concrete strategies for fundraising for IAW.

Furthermore, CSW 58 was an opportunity to meet with IAW Board Members, Representatives, and Members and government and other partners to discuss recent developments in climate change policy and post 2015 development agenda. An interesting opportunity was to contribute to the work of CEDAW on gender and climate change

IAW 36th Triennial Congress, London, UK, September 9-13 2013

My key priority for the Congress was climate change, raising awareness of climate change issue and UN-FCCC negotiations among IAW Members and outreach to empower IAW Members to participate in climate change decision making processes on international and national level.

I presented during the business session panel on September 10, on the resolution on Women’s Rights and Climate Change, increasing IAW commitment and involvement on climate change. My presentation focused on UNFCCC process and the building blocks of the new universal agreement on climate change that is scheduled to be adopted at COP 21 in Paris in 2015, including legal form, commitment on national emissions target, mitigation actions, policies and measures, carbon trading market mechanism, common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) principle and financial mechanism. I worked closely with Rosy Weiss revising the resolution and improving its operational modalities; the resolution was adopted.



I integrated climate change perspective in other panels and discussions during the Congress, specifically in the discussions on the right to food and the food security crisis, led by

Rosy Weiss, with Dr. Helen Self and Bettina Corke. I participated in the focus group on the Violence Against Women, together with Thobi Maphumuro, Nasreem Mahmood, Dr. Hana Elroy, Saniya Husain, Ida Kurth, Sofia Merchant, and Heleen Kirst. Key outcomes included involvement with local government and community stakeholders to recognize their responsibility and accountability, IAW-led campaign sharing tools and best practices, IAW call to action, as well as, involvement of men focusing on women as agents of change instead of victims. I contributed on climate change crisis increasing gender inequality, conflicts, and violence against women.

Recommendations for future IAW Congress:

- Include innovative participatory methods for information sharing, discussion, and capacity building. I would like to propose an interactive capacity building session on climate change involving games methodology.

IAW Commission on Peace and Conflict: Report 2014

Convenor: Hon.Pres. Rosy Weiss. Members at present: Marion Boeker, Bettina Corke, Anje Wiersinga, Zainab Syed.

Please join the corresponding discussion group on <http://iawomen.ning.com/>.

During 2013 two important documents have been issued, one by the Security Council and the other by the CEDAW Committee:

The new **resolution 2122(2013)** adopted by the UN Security Council offers a far more strengthened reference to the equality aspects of the Women, Peace, Security (WPS) resolutions of the Council, including references to threats to peace and security by terrorist acts, and supports (in its preambular section) the reproductive rights of women in conflict-affected contexts.

The UN women's rights committee (CEDAW) adopted a landmark document on conflict, prevention and post-conflict situation. – its **30th General Recommendation** (CEDAW/C/GC/30). Download: [<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/GComments/CEDAW.C.CG.30.pdf>]

To both texts, see my comments on <http://iawomen.ning.com/>

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AS A POLITICAL WEAPON IN CONFLICT.

The powerpoint presentation made on 24th June 2014 in Strasbourg during Anje's side event at the Council of Europe can be read on <http://iawomen.ning.com/>. Your comments are most welcome.

The issue has also been submitted to the Geneva NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the organisers of the **Geneva NGO Forum Beijing+20 Review, November 2014** with the following text:

The International Alliance of Women concerned about the systematic targeting of women and girls with sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations and as a method of war, proposes to discuss specific input to the Beijing+20 process by assessing gaps and challenges in the implementation of normative provisions on women and conflict as formulated by the United Nations Security Council and the CEDAW Committee.

It has become clear that without a significant implementation shift, women and women's perspectives will continue to be under-represented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace building for the foreseeable future.

This proposal relates to several "Critical Areas of Concern" of the Beijing Platform for Action as well as to its Strategic Objectives and Actions E on Women and Armed Conflict. The discussion and its outcome would also provide input from women NGOs to the UN Security Council High-Level Review, which will assess its Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in 2015. In addition, it would provide input for the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The Committee's agenda for 2015:

Follow-up activities to gender-based violence as a political weapon

Planning to organise a peace and security workshop in Kuwait during the International Meeting of IAW

Support of IAW membership in lobbying for the Implementation of SCR1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, and 2122, through awareness campaigns in IAW media

Advocacy input to 15th anniversary of 1325 in 2015; UN Security Council High-level Review to assess its Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in 2015, in cooperation with like-minded NGOs

Input to the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Report IAW side event 11th of March 2014 at the UN 58th CSW in New York

“Gender-based violence as a political weapon” - Implementation of UNSC 1325”

Anje Wiersinga

On the 11th of March 2014 the IAW organized, co-sponsored with Karama, a side event on “Gender-based violence as a political weapon” and “Implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security”. We were fortunate to have Mr. Anwarul Chowdhury, former Ambassador of Bangladesh, as the keynote speaker. He was president of the UN Security Council when UN SC resolution 1325 was adopted. His title: “Women’s Participation makes Peace Sustainable : 1325’s Core Message”. Subsequent Resolutions focus on three goals: strengthening women’s participation, ending sexual violence and impunity, and providing an accountability system.

Politicians should realise that women are not just a vulnerable group but are contributing to hold societies together during conflict. Experience has shown that the participation of women in conflict resolution contribute to lasting stability, good governance and sustainable peace by including gender perspectives, by women sharing their experiences, priorities and solutions. Mr Chowdury named the adoption of National Action Plans for 1325 at country level top priority. So far only 43 countries have done so and 10 are in preparation. Implementing 1325 so far has been disappointing which he blames on the existing political concept that security is based on inter-state power structure rather than on security of the people, thereby also disregarding the fact that militarism is impoverishing.

Ms. Ulrike Nguyen, from the Austrian Foreign Office explained the use of National Action Plans.

Two speakers of WILPF explained how women from former Yugoslavia survived and dealt with traumatic experience in the aftermath of the conflict and how these experiences were shared with Syrian women. Whereas in the 1990’s the Yugoslavian women were not well organised and excluded from the peace process, the Syrian women nowadays are better organized for example in the Syrian Women’s Forum for Peace and have formulated their views; nevertheless they were not included into the recent Geneva peacetalks. Ms. Amal Basha, from Karama explained the activities of the recently founded Regional Arab Network on Women, Peace and Security. They all stressed that a gender responsive justice system is an integral element of effective peace processes and nation building.

Jan Reynders from “Men engage” emphasised the importance of the role of men in the process of eliminating sexual and gender-based violence and by the implementation of UN SC resolution 1325.

The event was chaired by the IAW President Joanna Manganara with Natalia Kostus as the Moderator.

The side event was a great success; the room was overflowing with interested people.

Conclusion: Sustainable peace and societies where violence and inequality would not any longer be the norm is only possible with the equal participation of women and men at all decision making levels and at all times.

Anje Wiersinga

31 Augustus 2014

Commission on feminist economics

Margunn Bjørnholt

Side event on the financial crisis, the global recession, and women

The main activity of the commission since it was formed at the board meeting in London 2013, has been the planning, funding and hosting of a side event on the financial crisis, the global recession, and women, which took place in New York City during the 58th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). After several unsuccessful efforts to obtain funding of flights and hotel for some of the experts, the Norwegian Association for Women’s Rights (Norsk Kvinnesaksforening, NKF) was able to obtain

some government funding in the very last minute, of the event as part of their activities, and was willing to cover some of the expenses from their own budget. Due to the unsecure funding situation, two of the experts were unable to participate.



Still, the event was very successful, and well attended, with presentations by Radhika Balakrishnan, director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University and co-author (with Diane Elson) of the book *Economic Policy and Human Rights: Holding Governments to Account*, on the effects of the economic recession on women, financial institutions, and human rights. Joanna Manganara, President

of IAW, gave a presentation on the recession and women in Europe. Joanna spoke about the effects of the crisis on women in the EU region mainly job losses in the public sector where the majority of workers are women. Austerity policies have brought a reprivatisation of care where family members mainly women are expected to take over responsibilities that were once public. Finally Margunn Bjørnholt, sociologist, Director of Policy and Social Research in Norway, IAW board member and acting President of the Norwegian Association for Women's Rights, on the Norwegian "Oil Fund," creditors' responsibility for the financial crisis and the debt management from a human rights perspective. The whole event was filmed by professor balakrishnan's staff, and the event was announced in their website. An article on the event was published on IAW's and NKFs websites.

Feminist economics at Nordic forum, Malmö Sweden 12-16 June 2014

Although not organised by IAW, several of the Nordic IAW member organisations and individuals, participated in events on feminist economics in Malmö, which contribute to capacity-building. Margunn Bjørnholt participated in two panels and gave a presentation of her new book, co-edited by Margunn Bjørnholt and Ailsa McKay: *Counting on Marilyn, Waring: New Advances in Feminist Economics*.

Gender responsive budgeting – knowledge production and implementation

We have also submitted two abstracts and proposed an event on feminist economics at the ECE NGO/CSW FORUM in Geneva 3-6 November, one by Joanna Manganara who will be a panelist there in a round table on women and the economy, and the other, taking as its starting point a new book, co-edited by Margunn Bjørnholt and Ailsa McKay: *Counting on Marilyn, Waring: New Advances in Feminist Economics*, which explores the range and impact of Waring's seminal book *If Women Counted: A new Feminist Economics* (1988), over the quarter century since its publication, on feminist economics as an academic field as well as on feminist activism and mobilisation.

REGIONS

Kuwait

The Kuwaiti Union for Women Association,s (KUWA) Report this year concentrated on continuation of its vision which it obtained from the main aim : Equality, Development and Peace. The efforts were focused on three issues :

1. Improve women status socially, educationally, financially and politically
2. Ensure youth education locally and globally
3. Stand with and support women in poor and disastrous countries

KUWA mission is to unify women voices for further rights and responsibilities and to organize their efforts in order to strengthen their capacities in all life aspects. In this respect, KUWA involved in different activities:

in the health field the Union conducts comprehensive lectures, seminars and field trips to raise women awareness in breast cancer, diabetes, blood diseases and the most serious health problems surrounding our area MERS Corona Virus. GCC health committee is working very hard to stop spreading disease and taking all precautions to prevent the disease.

Although Kuwaiti Government and GCC countries are taking great interest in education for males and females equally, in very high standards in their programs and all teaching requirements. KUWA sharing our government their interest in caring of youth education locally and abroad, two of the Union Associations Kuwaiti Women's Voluntary Society and Bayader Alsalam Association own bilingual schools for Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis from KG till Secondary level. The third association Islamic Care Society concentrates on helping non-Kuwaiti students in study fees especially for the University students.

The 6th session of Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was held in Kuwait on 4th and 5th December, 2013.

17 Arab countries attended from West Asia, 8 of them are Ministers of Women Affairs in their countries and one representative from Arab League and one representative from Arab Women Organisation, to discuss and finalise the agenda as follows :

1 - Progress achieved in the field of advancement of women since the 5th session of the Committee on Women :

(a) Implementation of activities related to the advancement of women under ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013 and pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its fifth session.

(b) Actions taken by member countries in the field of advancement of women pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its fifth session.

2 – Regional issues :

(a) Frameworks for combating violence against women in the Arab countries: national laws and international standards.

(b) Gender mainstreaming in public institutions in the Arab countries.

3 – International issues :

(a) Arab women and gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda

(b) Preparations for the 20-year review of progress in the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

4 – Programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015 in the field of advancement of women

5 – Date and venue of the seventh session of the Committee on Women

6 – Adoption of the recommendations of the Committee on Women at its sixth session

On the last session the Kuwait announcement sub committee presents Kuwait announcement which include Kuwait initiation by allowing the memorandum of understanding between Kuwaiti women committee and ESCWA signed by H.H. Sheikha Latifa Al-Sabah and Ms. Rima Khalaf, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCWA.

Other local event was Board meeting of the Chairperson of Women Affairs Committee in the Cabinet Sheikha Latifa Al-Sabah with Director General of Women Affairs of Ethiopian Foreign Ambassador Desta Walad Yuhanis. They discussed ways of co-operation and support relations in sustainable development.

Politically and Socially KUWA shared different activities and commitments locally and internationally. The first one was in March 2013. We conducted two days Seminar on "Women between their ambitions and contributions in different fields: Education, Health, Media, Women status in Islam, Law, Legislation and Police services, at the level of regional and international events, regarding women ambition and counterpart in the NGO's.

In April 2014 the Chairperson of the Women Affairs Committee at the Cabinet and the Chairperson of the Kuwaiti delegate to the 58 session of the Women status in the United Nations : Sheikha Latifa Al Sabah attended this session from 10-12 April held in N.Y. The Kuwaiti participation is to ensure women status and support their presence in the international forums that Kuwait participates actively in working paper contained the Arab consolidated report on progress in the implementation of the millennium development goals for women and girls in the Arab region.

The Kuwait worksheet includes great development witnessed by the conditions of Kuwaiti women during the past decades and government support for its role in community participation and development processes and

efforts to raise the level of women.

Sheikha Latifa chaired the delegation of the State of Kuwait to the regional preparatory meeting organized by the Women Affairs and the family and childhood Arab League in Cairo on 23rd February to prepare the report, which will be submitted to the Arab League 58th session of the Women status Committee in the United Nations.

In May 2014 Women Committee discussed the women's and family affairs parliamentary council in the Kuwaitis parliament in its meeting the subject of women's equality with men in the Kuwaiti housing loan and the possibility of registration to request a housing. The Committee discussed the possibility of amending the laws so as to achieve the principle of justice and equality through ensuring the right of Kuwaiti women to register half of the house its name five years after the submission demand housing so that was a divorce with granting widows Kuwaiti women the right to receipt of loan housing by 70000KD like Kuwaiti allowance rent for married to non-Kuwaiti as well.

June 2014 the Chairperson of the Council of Arab Business Women and Vice President of the Arab Union of small and medium enterprises Sheikha Hissah Al Sabah, lectured at meetings of the Forum thousandth Lawmaker. She announced that the small and medium enterprises occupies major importance to economic decision in the world for its role in the creation of new jobs inspite of the cost compared to the few economic giant projects pointing out that small medium sized projects are prevailing in the Arab states, it is more than 99% of total economic institutions in Egypt and Kuwait approximately 90% of migrant workers include estimated by 45%.

The Government and NGO's in Kuwait are working very hard to support the poor, disastrous and worn countries.

On 20th August Kuwait Government donated USD Five Million to WHO and to the United Nations Office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs (OCHA) to combat the spread of Ebeola virus in West Africa. This donation was ordered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to aid in this humanitarian crisis, especially since Kuwait, the current President of the African Arab summit, is concerned with supporting sustainable development programmes in the African countries.

Islamic Care Society one of our Union associations always play the role of a humanitarian, in the period of 2013-2014 they provide aids as following :

1. Inside Kuwait for needy families, food, educational needs, conditioning and cooling devices, financial support.....K.D.43,424
2. Out of Kuwait: Al-Yemen, Egypt, Syria, Panama, for education, clothing, treatment, food and Haj feasts.....K.D.82,103
3. Cooperation with Association of Social Reform : for Syria rebuild houses, building schools, provide treatments, clothes and food.....K.D.43,100
4. Aids partnership with different Islamic Charity Associations in Kuwait to Syria and Gaza : for food, shelter, water treatmentK.D.22,980

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) is one of the most helpful Organisation in the world. They spent comprehensive efforts to relief suffering people in any part of the world, regardless of differences in race, nationality, religion, colour and gender. Looking in the framework of human solidarity since the Israeli hostility on GAZA on July 8th, KRCS rushed to deliver all types of aid to Palestinians who are suffering of shortage basic needs. Also KRCS has similar role in Syrian crisis. They helped Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey border and Palestinians in Gaza to relieve hundreds of thousands to secure food packages, rent bakeries and distribute bread in cooperation with 31 bakeries in Lebanon border, clothing, provide shelters, offering all medical supplies, medication, kidney dialysis, portable clinics, food water, wheelchairs, ambulances, incubators and send cancer patients, heart diseases, women in labour, kidney failure patients to the neighbouring countries.

In East Asia KRCS send aids to Philippines to help affected people from Haiyan Typhoon. They helped 10,000 families in providing food, medication, shelter, blankets and transfer people to safety locations.

In Africa KRCS helped Sudan during torrents and typhoons by 11 Planes to airlift and ship and loaded 275 tons of Aids. In addition KRCS helped Egypt in providing food in about 3.5 million £ deposited in the food bank which benefited 50,000 families. Also in the field of relief and humanitarian activities in Somalia as well as other disaster hit counties.

Finally, in August 2014, a Kuwaiti Woman Weam Waleed was selected by the International Union for Gymnastics as an International Coach for Men.

Shaikha Al Mezen

Best regards,

WORKING GROUPS and other business

Young Women

Anne Wegge, representative of individual members, younger women

After the IAW congress in London I wrote an article about what I had experienced to the feminist magazine Tulva, which is published by the Feminist Association Unioni in Finland. The circulation of Tulva is 3300, but nobody contacted me for any further questions or to show some interest. The membership of IAW has always gone without saying in Unioni, probably for nostalgic reasons, and nobody has set any higher expectations on it. However, I have later got some positive feedback when I have met people, and especially Nordic co-operation is highly valued. So everybody was pleased when the Danish Women's Society organized a Nordic IAW meeting in connection to Nordic Forum in June. The meeting consisted of presentations about what is going on in our countries and how do our organizations work. We have also applied NIKK for financing to organize seminars in Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway about the Nordic women's economic citizenship.

The member organizations of IAW may not feel any need to actively implement the IAW action program. Actually, the program has a quite general substance, so a lot of what the member organizations do seem to be convergent with it anyway. To make IAW more attractive, the marketing should concentrate more on things that national organizations cannot do by themselves, e.g. IAW makes it possible to bring issues from the grass root to UN, it is easier to get finance for projects when you co-operate with others, the exchange of information and knowledge, and social bonding.

I think the aim to get soon a lot of new members and volunteer workers for IAW is unrealistic. It is already difficult to gather people to do something on a local level. Ordinary people usually have no extra money and time to travel around, and IAW has no concrete benefits to offer its individual members. As a newcomer and without a proper coaching I have found it difficult to get a clear picture of what IAW does. Therefore I suggest that IAW should try to reach especially people who already are somehow involved or at least familiar with international affairs. IAW should also do some long-term plans about how to improve the financial situation and maybe invest the money somewhere. For many people an international organization without any employees does not sound worthy of attention.

This year Unioni has tried to become more sensitive to different kinds of hierarchies. The annual general meeting decided that Unioni is to respect an individual's own definition of her/his gender. Disabled women and women of color have in the organization. Espen begun to equate feminism Unioni took part in the and neo-nazism, which was darity for the victims of the Malmö, Sweden. Unioni the Helsinki Pride parade June. The Legal Affairs gender-neutral marriage bill probably was the reason for breaking 20 000 attendees.



also taken more social space cially younger feminists have with antiracism. In March demonstration against fascism organized to show some soli-Women's day parade in was also visible represented in for parity and diversity in Committee had scrapped the only few days earlier, which the parade to gather record-

Unioni has two long-term projects: 1) *La Casa Panchita*. Unioni is co-operating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the situation of the domestic workers in Peru. They are offered some education, legal advice and empowering workshops to become more capable and active citizens. 2) *Gender-Sensitivity in Early Childhood Education – Equal Encounter in Nursery Schools (2012-2014)*. The main objective, besides producing the educational website is to bring the idea and practices of gender sensitivity more widely known in the Finnish speaking early education field through research, continuing education and through statements of educational policy.

Unioni has also been defending the each child's subjective right to daycare, which has been questioned lately by the Finnish government. Young women have difficulties to get a permanent job, and that is why Unioni is for the 6+6+6 -model, where each parent would stay at home with the child for 6 months and one 6 months period parents can decide by themselves.

According to the FRA Violence Against Women -survey, 47% of Finnish women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or a non-partner since the age of 15. This is the second worst result in Europe. Unioni has been demanding more resources for preventive actions. Some lobbying has also been done to criminalize the buying of sex.

Finland has the parliamentary elections in 2015, and Unioni will of course try to generate discussion about feminist issues and encourage people to vote for a woman.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

