

# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities  
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter December 2014

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*Dear members and subscribers*

*The Beijing+20 Review process is in full swing. Regional meetings have taken place in all five regions by the UN, the outcome of the meetings will be included in the CSW 59 consultations*

*Soon-Young Yoon, IAW representative to the UN Headquarters in New York and chair of the NGO CSW/New York Committee has attended preparatory meetings in the regions*

*IAW has been very active in the European region: statements, round tables, discussions*

*International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was commemorated at an official event in New York. Lyna Castillo– Javier, IAW representative to the UN in New York, attended the event. In Egypt Nazra for Feminist Studies and Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance have launched a campaign against legitimized violence against women*

*Deadline for contributions to the next newsletter: January 15 2015*

## **IAW and the Beijing+20 Review Process**

**Soon-Young Yoon**, UN representative for IAW in New York, and Chair of the NGO CSW/NY, has been traveling around the world in support of the regional preparatory consultations for Beijing + 20. After the NGO Geneva Forum where she addressed the crowd of over 500 participants, she went to Bangkok for the NGO Civil Society Forum (14-16 November) that preceded the inter-governmental review and appraisal of the BPfA. The Asia and Pacific NGO Organizing Team had to turn away nearly 200 NGOs due to lack of space. The intergovernmental meeting was reported to be the "largest meeting ever held at ESCAP" according to Nanda Krairish, Director of Social Development. On 16 November, Soon-Young was in Addis Ababa at the Africa civil society forum and meeting of the ECA region. The NGO CSW/NY is coordinating an advocacy training project in each of the regional meetings funded by Switzerland and Norway to strengthen the regional process. Yoon is quick to note that the NGO CSW/NY is not a beneficiary of the funds but is contributing its time and efforts



Margunn Bjørnholt

**The UN ECE NGO Forum** In Geneva was one of the regional preparatory meetings for Beijing+20. The forum was attended by a delegation of IAW members headed by President Joanna Manganara. At the Forum

**Torild Skard**, Norway, talked about [Women in Power and Decision Making](#).

**Margunn Bjørnholt**, Norway, talked about [Gender Responsive Budgeting—Knowledge Production and Implementation](#).

**President Joanna Manganara's, Greece**, intervention was about [human rights and economic policies](#)

Moreover Joanna Manganara has [written an evaluation](#) of the meeting

**Lyda Versteegen**, Honorary President of IAW, moderated a side event about *Autism in Women and Girls* and has sent this report:

On the 7th of November I moderated a side event to the ECE commission review of Beijing+20 meeting in Geneva. The subject was Autism in Women and Girls. IAW decided to co-sponsor this event because it is in line with our suffrage past to give women a voice. And autistic women certainly need one as there is a lot of misunderstanding and under-diagnosing for these girls and women. Autism Women Matter (AWM) is an advocacy network in the United Kingdom, founded by Monique Blakewell and Olley Edwards in 2013. They are both on the autism spectrum and the mothers of autistic children. They talked about their relief when diagnosed and finally having a sense of belonging. Autistic women learn to 'mask' their autistic traits through observing and copying other people. Probably that is why they are referred for an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) assessment 10 times less than their male peers. The current male/female prevalence is 4:1 due to gender bias in diagnostic assessments. The projected ratio is 2,5:1. Worldwide ASC is common to 1:68 people. Autism affects the ability to communicate and manage interpersonal interactions. This can impair women's ability to access help and support. Autistic women may experience difficulties in understanding that their health experiences require medical attention. They may believe that their personal experience is normal and not imagine that others do not experience the same difficulties.

The World Health Organization is working on a guide for parents, which will be ready in the Spring. Dr Chiara Servili, the focal point for adolescent mental health, is dedicating 80% of her time to autism.

As one of the panelists, Adeline Lacroix, wrote: I learned something about autism. I think that autistic women and girls deserve a voice and our understanding. I really was moved by the experience.

### **Declarations and recommendations from different regions**

The outcome of the UN ECE NGO Forum was a declaration and recommendations in 10 areas of concern. [Read more](#)

Similar fora have been held in other regions e.g [Africa](#) and [the Asia Pacific Region](#) and have adopted declarations.



Left to right:

Adeline Lacroix, Lyda Versteegen, Erich Koffmel, Dena Gassner, Chiara Servili and Olley Edwards. Erich is chair of the NGO Committee on Mental Health

## Commission on the Status of Women 59 Beijing + 20

CSW 59  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Contact Mmabatho Ramagoshi if you wish to participate

IAW is preparing two side events for CSW. One is on *Lessons Learnt from Presidents and Prime Ministers Worldwide* and the title of the other one is *Deeds– No Words—Implementing CEDAW and UN SC Resolution 1325*

It is still possible for members of IAW to register as participants for CSW. To get into the UN buildings you will need a pass. Contact Secretary General Mmabatho Ramagoshi at [iawsec@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawsec@womenalliance.org) if you wish to become a member of the delegation and get a pass.

Each organization is allowed a maximum of 20 delegates. IAW usually sends a big delegation.

NGO CSW/NY Committee

NB! NB!  
Every participant must register for the NGO Forum.

The NGO CSW/ New York Committee is responsible for managing the logistics of side events. These events take place outside the UN Buildings, and consequently one does not need a pass to get in. The NGO CSW Committee also organizes Consultation Day and a Reception. If anyone is interested in attending either or both of these events, you must register for it yourself. There is a fee. Read all about the [NGO CSW/NY Committee](#) and their activities in relation to CSW.

As something new this year, the Committee wants every participant to register for the NGO Forum. It is free of cost. All this is done on their website.

International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women

**Lyna Castillo-Javier**, IAW Representative to the UN, attended the **Official Commemoration of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** at ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York, and sends the following report :

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, the United Nations Campaign [UNiTE to End Violence Against Women](#) kicked off the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. November 25<sup>th</sup> begins the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence ending on December 10<sup>th</sup>, Human Rights Day.

“[OrangeYOURneighbourhood](#)” uses the color orange as the theme covering a direct global invitation **to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.**

People were asked to use social media and the hashtag #orangeurhood to create more awareness during the #16Days. This campaign also urges people to pay attention at how violence intersects every area the [Beijing Platform for Action](#).

**“ORANGE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS NOW” restated the following key messages:**

Violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights and a pressing global issue.



Lyna Castillo– Javier with  
UN Women Director

□ Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. Violence against women and girls can and should be □ prevented. □

In order to sustain and advance efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls, the issue must be prioritized in the new global development agenda. □



Violence against women is a consequence of discrimination against women and girls, in law and practice, and of persisting inequalities between men and women. □

35% of women and girls globally experience some form of physical and or sexual violence in their lifetime with up to seven in ten women facing this abuse in some countries. □

Violence against women and girls impacts on, and impedes, progress in many areas, including poverty eradication, combatting HIV and AIDS, and peace and security. □

Violence against women and girls has enormous social and economic costs for individuals, families, communities and societies and has a significant impact on development and the realization of sustainable development goals. □



Teri Hatcher

The program also included a statement by Desperate Housewives' actress [Teri Hatcher](#). Ms. Hatcher opened up about her own personal experience with sexual molestation by an uncle, and the fact that 1 in 3 women face abuse. She related her commitment to not "let silence be a part of her story" ever again. See link: <http://webtv.un.org/topics-issues/global-issues/watch/actress-teri-hatcher-commemoration-of-the-international-day-to-end-violence-against-women-2014/3909122914001>

The highlight of this event was the [agreement](#) signed by UN Women and the City of New York to work together in order to enhance the safety and empowerment of women and girls. It is worth noting that this is first agreement signed between the City and a United Nations entity.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, and Chirlane McCray, New York City's First Lady, were all smiles at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding at UN Headquarters in New York during the official UN commemoration of the International Day to End Violence against Women.

Also, the UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, brought up the [HeforShe](#) Campaign saying that it was the "beginning of the end of gender inequality." She urged everyone to sign up, and added: "Everyone counts", so "Let us do this together!"

Lyna also attended the **Panel Discussion on Violence against Women: Best Laws and Policies -Learning from the winners of the 2014 Future Policy Award:**

*Violence against Women:  
Best Laws and Policies*

On November 25th, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, UN Women and the World Future Council on “Violence against Women: Best Laws and Policies” had a panel discussion that covered successful strategies since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, and introduced the winners of the 2014 Future Policy Award.

The program also included remarks by, UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. The panel was moderated by, Director of the World Future Council, Alexandra Wandel. The 2014 Future Policy Award was dedicated to “policies that address one of the most pervasive human rights abuses that humanity is facing: Violence against women and girls.”

The Future Policy Award is the first award that celebrates policies rather than people on an international level.

The Gold Award recipient was Duluth, Minnesota (USA) A Coordinated Community Response (The "Duluth Model"), 1981. The Duluth Model has been translated into 22 languages. The Model is based on the experience of victims and uses that information to shape policies, create awareness and it gives a voice to the community in order to find better ways to address gender-based violence.

There were two Silver Award recipients, Burkina Faso, Law Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation, 1996, and Austria: Court Assistance for Victims of Violence in the Criminal Procedure and the Civil Procedure, 2006. They offer psychological and legal assistance to victims free of charge.

Implementation and benefits of the winning policies can be found in their booklet: “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls”.

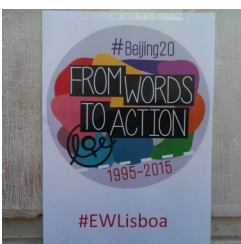
**IAW representative to the European Women’s Lobby, Arina Angerman, writes:**

**Connecting generations of feminists by social media: IAW and EWL**

Celebrating the Beijing+20 event in Lisbon, I was inspired by ‘Phenomenal Woman’. The author of this beautiful poem is Maya Angelou. Marion Boeker and I attended as IAW representatives the launch of EWL’s Beijing+20 report ‘From Words to Action’ in Lisbon. EWL demands as actions among other things women as agents of change for a sustainable people-centred world. (Note 1). European Women’s Lobby (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of more than 2000 women’s associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women’s rights and equality between women and men. European Women’s Lobby is posting or sharing information every day on Facebook and already has 18500 likes.

One of my goals as representative of IAW at EWL’s Policy Committee / Board of Administration will be to share information and spread knowledge by Twitter or Facebook in order to strengthen the visibility of IAW and EWL on social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week (social media mobilisation). (Note 2 )One other doable action is writing a blog. Please join us on Twitter or Facebook in order to follow, share and engage with activities for Gender Equality or Equal Rights = Equal Responsibilities F/M or Social Media + Women’s Rights = The Future!

*Connecting generations of feminists through social media*



1. [EWL –get involved campaign](#)

2.. [Arina' Angerman's blog](#)

### **Family Planning Day September 26 2015**

**—proposal by Gudrun Haupter, convener of IAW Health Commission**

I just read an interview Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and co-host of the London Family Planning Summit in July 2012, granted to TIME for the issue December 1-8, 2013. This was one year after the Summit where she confirmed she would devote the rest of her life to improve access to family planning all over the globe. The Summit which was supported by UNPFA, WHO and other partners, launched a global movement to give an additional 120 million women in the world's poorest countries access to lifesaving family planning information, services and supplies by 2020.

TIME published the interview one year later again, and it has lost nothing of its topicality. 2.3 billion \$ had been raised and used in part for research on contraceptives, working with manufacturers and bringing prices down. Melinda Gates quotes progress for the long-term solution of implants saying "We have got the rods down to two very small ones that you can put into your arm that lasts 3 to 5 years." She also mentions a vaginal contraceptive spray under research which, she says, would last, say, 30 days. If you wish to get comprehensive information including on male implants go to

[http://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/events/2012ICCR\\_Sitruk-Ware.pdf](http://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/events/2012ICCR_Sitruk-Ware.pdf)

Cost is indeed keeping poor women from using contraceptive services. My example is from rural Burkina Faso, Department of Kongoussi in the Province of Bam. Counseling capacity is very low and, once the woman has the prescription in hand she needs to spend more time on going to the maternity ward, waiting there to obtain the commodity. Our local project partners say that, in the system known as "social marketing" the women often do not have the money to pay their share. They still have an average of 6 children, and their husbands all too often think it is up to women...My idea for the next World Contraception Day, September 26, 2015 is: we should write to Melinda Gates to congratulate her on her decision expressed in the interview to "take more meetings about Women and girls' issues and the cultural behavior-changes pieces of that," and, perhaps, telling her at the same time about the plight of women in rural Burkina Faso.



Fabiola Gianotti

### **Good News**

*A woman in a man's world:*

Fabiola Gianotti will be the first female director of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) .

<http://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/2014/nov/09/fabiola-gianotti-new-director-general-cern>

## [UN General Assembly finally adopts a substantive resolution on child, early and forced marriage](#)

Asia-Pacific governments declare decade of action to achieve universal civil registration. Ministers commit to ‘Getting every one in the picture’

[Read more](#)

Women’s groups in Malawi are taking maternal health matters into their own hands

[Read more](#)

### **Prostitution**

*More countries adopt legislation banning the purchase of sex*

In Canada an online consultation on prostitution-related offenses has been carried out: It was launched in February 2014 on direction from the Minister of Justice. The consultation was open to all Canadians. A national news release, as well as Facebook and Twitter posts, served to draw public attention to the consultation Web page. A discussion paper was provided on the consultation Web page, including background information, context on existing criminal laws governing prostitution and information on models that have been implemented in other countries.

Internationally, the law generally treats prostitution in one of three ways:

*Decriminalization/legalization*: seeks to reduce the harms associated with prostitution by decriminalizing both the purchase and sale of sexual services and regulating the way in which prostitution takes place (implemented in Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Australia)

*Prohibition*: seeks to eradicate prostitution through the prohibition of both the purchase and sale of sexual services, as well as the involvement of third parties in prostitution (implemented in the U.S.A., except in Nevada) and

*Abolition* (the “Nordic Model”): seeks to abolish prostitution through criminalization of those who exploit prostitutes (clients and third parties) and decriminalization of prostitutes themselves, who are viewed as victims of sexual exploitation and assisted through programs (implemented in Sweden, Norway and Iceland).

Canadians were invited to respond to the online public consultation by filling out and submitting the online form or by sending an email directly to a “consultations-prostitution” email address.

The volume of responses to the Department’s online consultation on prostitution-related offences is indicative of the significant level of public interest in, and engagement on, the issue of prostitution in Canada. The results show the following:

a majority (56%) of respondents felt that purchasing sexual services

should be a criminal offence (44% felt it should not be);  
a majority (66%) felt that selling sexual services should not be a criminal offence (34% felt it should be); and  
a majority (62%) felt that benefiting economically from the prostitution of an adult should be a criminal offence (38% felt it should not be).

**SOURCE:**

[http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/rr14\\_09/rr14\\_09.pdf](http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/rr14_09/rr14_09.pdf)

Both Canada and Ireland have now adopted legislation that criminalises the buying of sex.

[Read The Irish Times](#)

## **Around the world**

### **Egypt**

[Mona Eltahawy](#), Egyptian journalist, award-winning columnist and international speaker on Arab and Muslim issues has written an interesting article in the New York Times about female genital mutilation in Egypt. It appears that the rate of FGM among women between the ages of 15 and 49 is 91 % .

[Read more](#)

If you are interested in following what is happening to women in Egypt , [Nazra for Feminist Studies is a very active organization](#). One of their main focal areas is women human rights defenders.

[Read about their latest initiative](#) , a campaign against legalized violence.

### **Pakistan**

#### **Ruhi Sayed, member of IAW board, reports from Pakistan:**

All Pakistan Women's Association ( ARWA) is a member of IAW and a lead organization in Pakistan striving for the protection of women since 1949, just two years after the creation of Pakistan.

The history of the last 65 years of hard work has enabled the organization to analyze the change in the social and cultural environment of the country as far as the situation of violence is concerned.

The struggle of civil society to reduce violence in society has pressed government at different levels to take different measures towards curbing the increasing tendency of violence.

The most recent and important development include the legislation by the government for the protection of women such as;



*91% of Egyptian women aged 15—45 have suffered FGM*

*Campaign for the Elimination of Legalised Violence against Women*



1. Prevention of anti women practices (criminal law amendment) Act 2011.
2. The protection against harassment of women at workplace Act 2010.
3. The criminal law (second amendment) Act 2011 dealing with offenses of acid throwing etc.
4. Protection of women (criminal law amendment) Act 2006.

APWA is working with a vision that violence can also be decreased by the empowerment of women and children through education and skill development programs, hence, we are a platform to work for the empowerment and betterment of women through advocacy for the dissemination of information on rights of women and children by holding different meetings, seminars and through publications. Besides advocacy APWA is running a skill development program for the empowerment of the domestic workers in the country.

APWA is working for the education of the girl child on an emergency basis and is conducting advocacy campaigns in the light of new constitutional development on the right of free education in the country.

APWA will put all its endeavors to make our country a more prosperous and peaceful piece of land to live in.

*APWA will put all its endeavors to make our country a more prosperous and peaceful piece of land to*

### **India**

In some parts of Rajasthan, India, girls are married as young as eight years old. Some have grown up to declare freedom

Read this interesting article : [The Brides that dared](#)

### **United Kingdom**

In the UK, the End Violence Against Women Coalition has campaigned intensely and successfully to get Government and Opposition to attend to the urgent funding crisis in specialist women's services. The Government has announced a new £10 mill to support women's refuges across the country and will announce new grants for grassroots groups working to end FGM.

[Read more](#)

### **Women Make Movies**—an interesting commercial

### **IAW on Twitter and Facebook**

If you wish to help distribute news from IAW, like us on facebook and follow us on twitter.

You are also welcome to share this newsletter with women you think might be interested.

#### Note

Please be so kind as to notify Membership Officer Pat Richardson if you know of any members, affiliate or associate societies with an email address, so that we can mail them this Newsletter

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