

LAW NEWSLETTER 2 - December 1998

Dear IAW members,

As we approach the end of the year and the beginning of the festive season, the members of the Editorial Committee (EC) of the International Alliance of Women would like to send you their best wishes for a good, peaceful and healthy 1999!

The year 1999 will be an interesting year for women all over the world with, like always, many international problems to tackle and also a lot of preparation for monitoring the Plan of Action for Beijing Plus Five in 2000.

The EC will continue sending news from all corners of the world in 1999 and we also would very much appreciate hearing from you, too. This Newsletter is even more festive because we have a growing number of IAW countries that can be reached by e-mail - now 21! However, the Newsletter will be short. We are limiting our news to the two most important subjects of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW): Health and National Machinery. (And the Optional Protocol, and 1999 as the Year against Violence and also as the Year of the Elderly!)

NATIONAL MACHINERY FOR EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN

This header has been taken from a Fact sheet of the Ministry of Labour of Sweden, distributed during the IAW Conference in Malmo August 1998. There seems to be a world of difference, however, between this bold header and a sentence out of the report of IAW Regional Coordinator of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Ms Meena Pimpalpure of India. She writes:

* "Working with the view of GENDER COMPLIMENTARY rather than equality, has helped."

* Or Women's Electoral Lobby Australia, that put in a submission regarding selecting delegates for a Constitutional Convention as: "The need for GENDER EQUITY."

* Or: Equal Rights AND Equal Responsibilities" in training programs for women, by Sri Lanka's Women Conference.

* Or the also bold statements of many European IAW affiliates: MORE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

* Or the delightful ironic column called QUOTA IN INDIA, to be found at:

<<http://www.dds.nl/~vrbelang/internationaal/India.html>> or as an attachment in this header.

More about National Machinery in the January Newsletter. And, in particular, as a part of national machinery, news about the progress, or the lack of progress of an international agreement on the OPTIONAL PROTOCOL.

IAW Commission Convenor: Lene Pind

HEALTH

Gudrun Haupter has forwarded us a few sentences of the Daw Report on the Expert Group Meeting on Women and Health - Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective into the Health Sector - held in Tunis from 28 September to 2 October 1998.

Gudrun writes: The Expert Group Meeting's agenda was vast. The Debate and the Conclusions & Recommendations dealt with long-standing concerns like sexual and reproductive health and with areas which have not been focussed upon in the gender context on a global scale, like occupational and environmental health and mental health.

Specific and cross-cutting recommendations were made with regard to women's health issues and problems. Also a framework was elaborated for designing National Health Policies with an Integrated Gender Perspective.

The World Health Organization Press Office has press releases on many themes, like: School Health, Health Promotion in the 21st century, etc.

See the Internet on: <<http://www.who.ch/>>

IAW Health Commission Convenor: Gudrun Haupter

1999 - THE YEAR AGAINST VIOLENCE / THE YEAR OF THE ELDERLY -

The fight against violence, in all its cruel forms, should be a continuing issue on the agenda of NGOs throughout every year. Violence against defenceless human beings, often women and children, should be constantly analysed, its structures made visible, with measures to be taken, implemented and monitored, and good practices praised. In the meantime, many strategies, actions and activities on both issues are being prepared by NGOs for 1999.

IAW Commission Convenor: Rosy Weiss.

FROM E-MAIL NETWORKS I

Those of you who attended the Malmo meetings will remember Lajla from Albania who was present as an observer, pending consideration of her organisation for IAW membership. She has now written to say that the Albanian Woman Federation is trying its best to continue activities despite facing great difficulties in that country. Recently they have opened a radio station and are developing programs on women's issues, gender mainstreaming, education, human rights etc.

Their resources for the moment are very limited and they can only cover the Tirana area. They have a strong belief that as women they can influence their society positively and, in order to extend the radio coverage so that women's voices can be heard all over the country, they need help.

Equipment valued at about US\$ 9500 is needed. If any of our members can make any suggestions about how to or who can help with such a project; the names of institutions/ organisations; that the Albanian women can contact for help - please contact Dr. Lajla Pernaska, Albanian Woman Federation e-mail: <federat@fpwc.tirana.al> FAX 355 42 305 60>

FROM E-MAIL NETWORKS II

We found a call for papers in our e-mail on: Women and Political Action; 300 words by January 15 1999, on: Debating ways forward for feminists, Middlesex University, London 18-19 June 1999. This call for papers is meant for people intending to attend (and perhaps even speak at the Conference). Some themes are related to National Machinery, like:

- * Dealing with difference;
- * Women and the Law;
- * Women in formal politics;
- * Single issues campaigns;

Information and reply: ANGELA7@NW.MDX.CC.UK

THANK YOU

The members of the EC thank you for your helpful cooperation in 1998 and we trust that you will continue that support during 1999!

With best wishes and a happy New Year,
the Editorial Committee IAW on Internet,
Cock Kerling, Dorothy Khulusi, Lene Pind, Joke Sebus and Priscilla Todd.

NB

We invite you to redistribute this Newsletter to IAW members without an e-mail address. Also, please advise us if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organizations with an e-mail address.

International Alliance of Women / Alliance Internationale des Femmes

Hon. Secretary: Priscilla Todd
9th Floor, 10 Queen Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia
Membership Officer: Pat Richardson
P.O. Box 380, Nambucca, Heads, 2448 NSW, Australia
