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Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales



**Equal Rights**

IAW NEWSLETTER – PEACE – Dec. 2004, nr. 9

*Dear IAW members,*

*In this newsletter the main theme is Peace and the role of women since the 1325 Resolution of the Security Council four years ago. Despite setbacks, women have shown their strength to handle peace keeping and peace building in sometimes threatening situations. In politics, with quotas, in networks, in legally binding treaties. A lot has still to be done but ... we have joined hands to overcome!*

*Also in this newsletter news about the World Dignity Day, the online discussion Beijing+10, HIV and Young Women, and last but not least: an opportunity to buy a green/yellow IAW centennial scarf.*

*Season's greetings to all of you who celebrate at this time of year and a Happy and Peaceful New Year!*

### **WOMEN STILL EXCLUDED FROM PEACE TABLE DESPITE THEIR PIVOTAL ROLE, SAYS ANNAN**

New York, Oct 28 2004 5:00PM

Women remain overwhelmingly excluded from participating in peace talks and post-conflict reconstruction, and continue to suffer physical and sexual violence during war, Secretary-General Kofi Annan says in a report on women, peace and security. Mr. Annan's report, discussed in the Security Council today, says gender perspectives are not systematically included in the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of any area of peace and security work. Even though women can play a crucial role in identifying and defusing tensions before they turn into open hostilities, too often they are ignored at the peace table, Mr. Annan says.

The Secretary-General cites many examples of women's movements contributing to peace processes in recent years, including in Liberia, Northern Ireland, Colombia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The report "<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/2004/814>" has been issued to measure the progress achieved since the Council adopted a resolution in 2000 that called for women to have equal participation in peace-building efforts and spotlighted the violence and abuse suffered by women and girls during conflicts. State military organizations and rebel groups are both responsible for violations, he adds, including murders, rapes, abductions, torture and acts of sexual slavery. Some of the worst examples have occurred in Sudan's Darfur region, Afghanistan and Burundi, the report says. The fact that UN personnel have also been involved in abuse cases, such as in the DRC, "is particularly abhorrent and unacceptable."

#### **Improvement**

He also notes that the UN and many individual Member States have taken steps to improve the gender balance in peacekeeping missions and to ensure that peacekeepers are specifically trained on the protection of women. Many States are actively recruiting women to serve in peacekeeping contingents, especially in senior roles. The UN has also boosted the number of gender advisers from two in 2000 to 10 today.

But numerous inequalities remain, the report notes.

#### **European Union - Security Council Resolution 1325**

\* 2004 is the 4th anniversary of both UNSCR 1325 and the European Parliament (EP) resolution Gender Aspects of Conflict Resolution and Peace building. The EP resolution states: (Member States should)

\* ensure that at least **40 per cent of women** should hold posts in reconciliation, peacekeeping, peace enforcement, peace building and conflict prevention (and the Parliament)

\* 'calls upon Member States and the Commission to: support the creation and strengthening of non-governmental organisations and ensure that the warring factions incorporate civil society representatives - **50 per cent of whom should be women** - into their peace negotiation teams'

## **SUDAN - 21 YEARS OF INTERNAL CONFLICT**

The Sudanese government and rebel leaders signed an agreement promising to end the country's 21-year internal conflict by the end of the year. The signing took place before the UN security council, which was holding a special session in Nairobi. During the meeting, the security council also passed its latest resolution on Sudan, offering to support peace processes in the country aimed at ending two civil wars that have left millions dead and many more homeless.

### **Criticism**

The security council passed resolution number 157 - its third on Sudan - unanimously in a meeting intended to focus world attention on the conflicts in Africa's largest country. Aid organisations immediately criticised the UN body for failing to take a tougher line over the embattled western region of Darfur. "From New York to Nairobi a trail of weak resolutions on Darfur has led nowhere," said Caroline Nursey of Oxfam. "Yesterday Oxfam was unable to get vital aid to 200,000 people in Darfur who are cut off by renewed violence ... We needed the council to take action now, not yet more diplomatic dithering." Ahead of the meeting, human rights groups had called for **an arms embargo** or the threat of sanctions against Khartoum.

### **Deadlines ?**

Sudanese vice president Ali Osman Taha and rebel leader John Garang, the main peace negotiators, pledged to end the conflict in southern Sudan by the end of last year, but they missed the 2003 deadline and two more deadlines after that. This is the first time, however, that the warring parties have put a deadline in writing before the security council.

Read more on <http://www.guardian.co.uk/sudan/story/0,14658,1355221,00.html>

## **WHAT WOMEN CAN ACHIEVE**

### **SUDAN: Women Working for Peace in DARFUR**

The development of mechanisms - domestically and with an eye toward future international process(es) - to establish accountability, prosecute individuals, and address impunity is one of the recommendations made to the United Nations Security Council by 16 Sudanese women peace builders at a recent meeting in Washington, United States. The women further recommended that international observers and protection officers should work with local women's organizations on issues such as witness identification to ensure local credibility and legitimacy.

Published on 2004-10-28 on [www.womenwagingpeace.net/content/articles/sudanrecommendations.pdf](http://www.womenwagingpeace.net/content/articles/sudanrecommendations.pdf)

### **A Women's Peace Network**

The Mano River Women's Peace Network would like to inform you that its has just launched its new on-line journal, "Voices of Peace," ([www.marwopnet.org/voicesofpeace.htm](http://www.marwopnet.org/voicesofpeace.htm)) as well as several news articles ([http://www.marwopnet.org/news\\_en.htm](http://www.marwopnet.org/news_en.htm)) on its website, [www.marwopnet.org](http://www.marwopnet.org). Please visit our site regularly for information about the Network's activities and events.

We welcome feedback on our site as well; to send a comment, please write to [manoguinee@yahoo.com](mailto:manoguinee@yahoo.com) with a cc to [aprilthompson@hotmail.com](mailto:aprilthompson@hotmail.com). *The MARWOPNET Team Conakry, Guinea*

## **WOMEN BREAK INTO AFRICAN POLITICS**

### *Gumisai Mutume*

Women in Rwanda now top the world rankings of women in national parliaments, with 49 percent of representation compared to a world average of 15.1 percent. This success mirrors the trend of a small, but growing number of sub-Saharan countries, where women are breaking into politics. Rwanda nevertheless is special. This year the country commemorates the genocide of 1994, when Rwandan women suffered death, humiliation, persecution and sexual abuse during a 100-day massacre that left more than 800,000 people dead. As the country undergoes a period of reconstruction, women are taking an active role. They not only head about a third of all households, but have also taken up many jobs that were formerly the preserve of men, as in construction and mechanics.

### **Rwanda -new Constitution**

However, their most notable achievement has been in politics. Thanks to a new constitution, 24 out of 80 seats in the lower house of parliament are reserved for women. During the country's September 2003 general election, the first after the genocide, an additional 15 women were voted into non-reserved seats, bringing 39 into the lower house. In the upper house, 6 out of 20 seats are reserved for women. To attain this, Rwandan women lobbied heavily, helped to draft the new constitution and developed voting guidelines that guaranteed seats for women candidates. They were also able to push for the creation of a government ministry of women's affairs to promote policies in favour of women's interests.

### **Post-conflict situations**

Especially in post-conflict situations, where new constitutions and legislative structures are being created, **it is critical that women are present at the peace table and in post-war policy-making**, says UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer. The agency participated in post-genocide reconstruction in Rwanda, helping women to prepare for political office.

### **Rwanda overtakes Sweden**

It will be interesting to see what the entry of so many women in the national assembly will do for politics in Rwanda, says the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU [www.ipu.org/english/home.htm](http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm)), a Geneva-based organisation representing 138 parliaments worldwide. IPU President Anders Johnsson observes that the European Nordic countries have an established history of women's participation in decision-making, but that Rwanda now overtakes the long-time leader, Sweden, where women constitute 45 percent of parliamentarians.

### **In Africa, there are three main quota systems:**

- Constitutional quotas: some countries, including Burkina Faso and Uganda, have constitutional provisions reserving seats in national parliament for women.
- Election law quotas: Provisions are written into national legislation, as in Sudan.
- Political party quotas: Parties adopt internal rules to include a certain percentage of women as candidates for office. This is the case with the governing parties in South Africa and Mozambique.

*Excerpts from an article, originally published in Africa Recovery (United Nations) / afrol News on 10 May 2004, now known as Africa Renewal, on*

[www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol18no1/181women.htm](http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol18no1/181women.htm) and on [www.quotaproject.org](http://www.quotaproject.org)

## **WHAT WOMEN CAN DO**

### **AMNESTY - OXFAM – IANSA and the Control Arms Campaign**

The first Control Arms day (9th October 2003) was marked in 70 countries across the world when Oxfam, Amnesty International and IANSA (International Action Network on Small Arms) launched the Control Arms campaign. The campaigners are pushing for **a legally-binding, international Arms Trade Treaty** to help stop weapons being sent to destinations where they might undermine human rights, fuel conflict or exacerbate poverty.

The Control Arms campaign is now one year old and on the 30th of September had one of its biggest successes so far. UK Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, joined political leaders of 8 other countries in publicly pledging support for an Arms Trade Treaty. As the world's second largest arms exporter and a permanent member of the UN Security Council the UK's support for the treaty is a major step forward. Also Archbishop Desmond Tutu recently added his voice to the campaign.

There are around **639 million small arms and light weapons** in the world today. Eight million more are produced every year. There is a desperate need for a legally binding treaty that stops weapons being sold to people who persecute, torture and massacre.

**In order to achieve this treaty we need to demonstrate global support for our campaign. If you haven't done so, please join the Million Faces Petition.**

Read more on [http://www.controlarms.org/latest\\_news/oneyearon.htm](http://www.controlarms.org/latest_news/oneyearon.htm)

### **Resolution put forward by the IAW Environment Commission**

**The IAW Congress 2004 in Freiburg accepted the following resolution:**

**The IAW urges all its members to lobby their governments to support the IANSA (International Action Network on Small Arms) in its efforts to ban the proliferation of small**

**arms and further recommends to lobby all Governments to endorse the work of IANSA**

<http://www.iansa.org/>

Note: banning small arms also means banning mines, which are endangering inhabitants and are polluting fields and grounds for years to come.

IAW Environment Commission: Ida Kurth (convenor), Meena Pimpalpure

### **Conference on Mines in Nairobi – 29 Nov-3 December 2004**

First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

**Check the outcomes and see how you lobby your Government to support the Prohibition**

### **Amnesty – Violence against Women – a Campaign !**

Violence against women is the greatest human rights scandal of our times. **Read the stories** like the one of Ndambo in Congo on Women and war **and sign up to the campaign**.

#### **Women and war**

Sixteen-year-old Ndambo was raped by three soldiers in a field near Uvira, South-Kivu province, in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo. They shot at her mother when she tried to protect her. Unable to walk after the attack, Ndambo was carried to the hospital. Because she had no money, she received no treatment, and was unable to procure the document proving rape. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance estimated that some 5,000 women had been raped in the area between October 2002 and February 2003, an average of 40 a day.

Armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have raped tens of thousands of women, in systematic attacks marked by extreme brutality.

Further information on <http://web.amnesty.org/actforwomen/conflict-index-eng>

## **AROUND THE WORLD**

**Conferences - Events - Books - Centennial Scarves**

### **Online Discussions WomenWatch Beijing+10**

At the moment there are online discussions at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/forums/review/> of Human Rights of Women, Violence against Women, Women and Health, (including Reproductive Health, AIDS and Human Rights) and Trafficking in Women, soon followed by: Women and the Environment, Women and Poverty, Education and Training of Women and the Girl Child, Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, Women and Armed Conflict and Rural Women, mainstreamed in all topics.

*The IAW delegation to the UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting Beijing + 10 in Geneva, 12-15 December 2004, will consist of Rosy Weiss, Jessica Kehl and Hélène Sackstein*

**The Future of Women's Rights, Global Vision and Strategy**, Joanna Kerr, Ellen Sprenger and Alison Symington. Zed books, London, Pb ISBN 1 84277 459 X (\$25.00).

### **World Dignity Day - 5 December 2004 - New Delhi - India**

After the World Conference Against Racism at Durban held in 2001, this will be the first time that Dalits from all faiths and religion will be coming together on a single platform through the call of the Social Movements International Network. This day we urge all citizens of the world to mobilize simultaneously on 5th December for World Dignity Day. We are millions of people united in the struggle against our common enemy: **inequality, indignity and exclusion**. In order to achieve our objectives, we reiterate our strong desire to reinforce the call of the Social Movements International Network and our capacity for struggle.

#### **Peoples' Dignity Rally**

With this determination in mind, 50,000 dalits, tribals, minorities, women and their mass organization are coming together in New Delhi, the capital city of India, for a Peoples' Dignity Rally. We call upon all the social movements and mass organizations of the world for a worldwide mobilization on 5 December 2004, in solidarity for the International Day of Dalit Struggle and Peoples' Dignity Rally !!

Read more on website: [www.worlddignityforum.com](http://www.worlddignityforum.com)

*Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu (thank you, Anjana!).*

## **CEDAW**

The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee will hold its thirty-second session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 28 January 2005. There are four NFAS in the list of country reports from States Parties to be examined during this session.

The countries are: Samoa, **Croatia, Italy, Turkey**

From among the countries scheduled to report at the 33rd Session in July 2005, there are NFAs in: Lebanon, **Australia, Burkina Faso, Ireland, Israel, Thailand.**

Full information on CEDAW is available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

## **HIV hounds Young Women**

Mumbai, Nov. 24: The number of women infected with HIV has gone up alarmingly in all parts of the world over the past two years, with the steepest increase in east Asia, followed by eastern Europe and central Asia, a report released by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) says. There are about 37.2 million adults in the world who are HIV-infected, says the report titled AIDS Epidemic Update 2004. Close to half of them, about 17.6 million, are women, the report says.

The highest percentage of HIV-infected women belongs to sub-Saharan Africa, which also has the largest concentration of the disease. Here, HIV-positive women far outnumber the men, constituting 57 per cent of the infected and totalling a population of 13.3 million. *By Chandrima S. Bhattacharya on*

[http://www.telegraphindia.com/1041125/asp/nation/story\\_4045363.asp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1041125/asp/nation/story_4045363.asp)

*Sent to us by Arjana Basu*

Look also for HIV/Aids on the informative website of the **UN World Health Organisation**

[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2004/pr\\_unaids/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2004/pr_unaids/en/)

## **An IAW Centennial Scarf in green and yellow !**

A perfect souvenir of a once-in-a-life-time event; an ideal year-end present for members of our member associations. Made of finest Egyptian cotton, printed with the IAW logo, name and dates in both French and English, a versatile 50x200 cm, the scarf can be wrapped and draped to suit the styles of all our nations. You can see the scarf on [http://www.womenalliance.com/images/scarf\\_large.jpg](http://www.womenalliance.com/images/scarf_large.jpg)

Price 5 Euros (includes packaging) plus postage. Bulk rates available on request.

To order: contact IAW Treasurer Marieluise Weber at Fax: +49 761 56315 or [marieluise.weber@web.de](mailto:marieluise.weber@web.de)

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