

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.org>

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales
December 2009, no. 12



Equal Rights

Dear members,

Expectations were high before Copenhagen. Afterwards all we can say is: an informal accord is better than nothing. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said it like this: it is an essential beginning. And yes, there are new technologies to fight the climate change. But ... where were the voices of women in Copenhagen?

In this newsletter a first call for IAW 35th Congress 2010 in South Africa. There is CEDAW, CSW and UNESCO. We have a look at the figures on trafficking in South-Asia, and at the seemingly never ending conflicts in Pakistan and Congo. And every year there are more women in leading roles, so they can put their energy and strength into shaping a better world.

Our best wishes to you all for happy holidays and in particular, for a peaceful 2010!

Copenhagen - Non-binding accord limits temperature rises but includes no emissions targets

The climate change summit had three big ticket items on its agenda: emissions, financial assistance and the process going ahead. And on each of these counts the accord – which was effectively hammered out not by the whole conference, but rather by the US, India, [China](#) and South Africa – fell woefully short.

- Recognises the need to limit global temperatures rising no more than 2C above pre-industrial levels
- Developed countries to "set a goal of mobilising jointly \$100bn a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries"
- On transparency: Emerging nations monitor own efforts and report to UN every two years. Some international checks
- No detailed framework on carbon markets - "various approaches" will be pursued

Full text on: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cop15/eng/107.pdf>

A few bitter comments

USA - Obama's singular failure to raise the American game no doubt reflects his having one eye on the Senate, which he still needs to persuade to enact his climate laws. Other leaders, however, proved equally unable to transcend parochialism when the crunch came.

China's premier Wen Jiabao used his own speech to harry the developed world to make good on the cash it has pledged to the poor, an important demand but one that would have carried more force if it had been married to the explicit acceptance that China will soon have to find the means to prove to a sceptical world that it will curb its emissions as it promises.

Europe

Throughout the evening, Europe seemed bent on clinging to its trump card of increasing its emissions offer from a 20% to a 30% cut, refusing to think beyond the horse-trading that has been failing the climate for years.

Copenhagen must bring gender justice

Marginalised women across the developing world will be hit hard by climate change – but their voices are rarely heard.

Adaptation to climatic variability is perhaps the greatest challenge facing humanity in the coming decades. Two intertwined factors shape this challenge and determine how we respond.

The first concerns water – the basis for human life – and the second concerns questions of social equity and gender justice.

Both find little mention in the various policy documents under negotiation at Copenhagen.

Yet by 2025, it is estimated that almost two-thirds of the world's population are likely to experience water stress, and for 1 billion of them, this will be severe and socially disruptive. Across the

developing world, the predominant responsibility that [poor rural and urban women have for domestic water collection](#), food security and health suggests that they will be among the most vulnerable. Without collateral in the form of land titles or other assets in their name, women have little access to social protection measures or risk sharing mechanisms such as micro insurance, which are critical to the development of adaptive capacity.

Innovative technology is not for women

In addition, women's priorities are often overlooked when it comes to the development of innovative technologies, for example, those that help adaptation-mitigation as well as reduce their drudgery. The [use of solar energy](#) to lift water in the semi-arid region of Kutch, India, certainly enhances resilience to decreasing water availability, but is very costly and difficult to maintain, leaving women with few options when technological systems fail.

Part of an article of the Guardian, send to us by IAW member Helen Self,

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

First Call for IAW 35th Congress 2010 Equality Now!! ... Working together to build a safe planet for all *No to Violence against Women*

Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg South Africa
23 - 27 November 2010

On the generous invitation of our associate Mmabatho Foundation for Women's Development, the International Alliance of Women will hold its 35th Triennial Congress in South Africa November 22-27 2010. The pre-Congress Board meeting will be held on November 22 and the post-Congress Board meeting on November 28.

The venue will be Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg South Africa, a conference centre conveniently situated 7 km from OR Tambo International Airport. Website: www.birchwoodhotel.co.za

Participants

Participants in Congress are all members of IAW i.e. delegations of member societies, members of the board of the IAW, Individual Members and all individuals appointed by the Board for specific tasks, including international representatives, commissions convenors etc.

Programme

The planning of the programme is in progress and among the highlights will be a meeting with the UN special rapporteur on violence against women Rashida Manjoo, a number of roundtables on various aspects of violence against women, and a roundtable on conflict resolution.

Elections

Of course we shall have our business sessions, which include elections for a new president, members for the board and appointments for other important tasks of IAW.

Publication of membership reports

As usual, members are expected to send in their reports of their activities since Congress from 2007 with a focus on activities in the period from the International Meeting in June 2009 till mid-2010.

Again we will present all reports from member organisations, international representatives, commission convenors etc. in one printed booklet which will be printed at Congress.

Reports must be sent to Secretary General Lene Pind <iawsec@womenalliance.org> *by October 15 2010 in order to be published in the booklet.*

Questions/queries, information etc. can be addressed to the Secretary General.

She would also be pleased to receive suggestions for items for the agenda as soon as possible.

Lene Pind, Secretary General IAW

Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women 1 - 12 March 2010

In March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

IAW members who are going to CSW, please contact Lene Pind at <iawsec@womenalliance.org>

Women's Comfort Corner - Zimbabwe - an IAW Associate

Are your officers equipped to successfully investigate sex crimes? Are you looking for a challenging, refreshing and practical course? Then EVAW International Training Institute for Sexual Crimes Investigations is for you.

To commemorate 16 days of activism against gender based violence EVAW International is offering all of their online Modules to Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust and other interested advocates free of charge.

Please contact [Rita Marque Mbatha](mailto:womenscomfortcorner@yahoo.co.uk) at womenscomfortcorner@yahoo.co.uk

New on the IAW website

In her **President's Letter** Rosy Weiss gives an overview of a 'busy and exciting year 2009' and is looking forward to 2010.

Click on '**Other Issues**' for articles on: *Streamlining the UN on bureaucracy in outcomes for women*, and other interesting articles to be downloaded:

[“Gender in the Malestream”](#)

[“Integration of Women in Industrial Development”](#)

[“Women’s Rights and Gender at the United Nations”](#)

On **IWA's weblog** you can give your opinion on the Iranian government, which confiscated the contents of Shirin Ebadi's safe, taking, among other things, the Nobel Peace Prize document and medal awarded to her by the Nobel Prize committee in Oslo.

UNITED NATIONS

CEDAW - UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

A very important site and material for all of us on http://www.unifem.org/cedaw30/events_calendar/
Sent to us by IAW president Rosy Weiss

Call to Heads of State of Arab countries to withdraw reservations to CEDAW

On the 30th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the regional Coalition for “Equality without reservation” launched a call to Heads of State of Arab countries to promote the equality and citizenship of Arab women and in particular to:

■ Withdraw all reservations to the Convention and reform all discriminatory laws which constitute obstacles to the fulfilment of the rights of women as citizens.

■ Integrate the principles of equality and non-discrimination based on gender into constitutions, laws and action plans and ensure their implementation.

■ Support the efforts of non-governmental organisations to raise awareness on the Convention and contribute to its implementation in order to end all forms of discrimination against women and promote substantive equality.

Positive Measures in recent years

The Coalition, in its appeal, welcomed the positive measures that have been taken in recent years in this area, in particular :

The withdrawal by Egypt and Algeria of reservations to Article 9(b) concerning nationality.

The withdrawal by Jordan and Algeria of reservations to Article 15(4) on freedom of movement and choice of residence.

The announcement by the Moroccan government of its intention to withdraw reservations to CEDAW
The ratification by Tunisia of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW, thereby becoming the second country after Libya to have ratified this Protocol.

The ratification by Qatar of the Convention.

Human rights and women's rights

The Coalition drew attention to the significant efforts of human rights and women's rights organisations to overcome obstacles which prevent Arab women from enjoying their human rights, in particular concerning transmission of nationality, personal status, violence and political participation.

The Coalition "Equality Without Reservation" includes over 600 Arab organizations .

More on: <http://www.adfm.ma/spip.php?article1041&lang=fr>

UNICEF invites you to visit the recently launched Legislative Reform Initiative – LRI.

It supports efforts for the realisation of the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the

Child (CRC) and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The LRI is divided into four sections:

Thematic Papers: These provide in-depth analysis of legislative reform on specific issues by UNICEF and external experts. The papers cover a broad range of issues such as child marriage, child domestic labour, the right to food and trafficking.

Legislative/ Policy Papers: These address broader issues of legislative reform, including approach, assessing national legislations' compliance with international human rights laws, including child rights in constitutional reform, and supportive policies and practices for the implementation of law.

Tools: These are designed specifically for practitioners, covering various aspects of legislative reform.

Reports: These are reports of UNICEF-organised expert-level events, consultations, roundtables and meetings to on the harmonization of national legislations with international human rights instruments and standards.

More on http://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/index_51868.html

Sent to us by IAW member H el ene Sackstein

ALL OVER THE WORLD

Pakistan - Female Health Worker Shortage

PESHAWAR, 2 December 2009 (IRIN) - Insecurity in many parts of northwestern Pakistan, where the military have been fighting militants for several months, is making women health workers think twice about trying to access internally displaced persons (IDPs).

People from the Bajaur and Khyber agencies in FATA have been moving into camps in Nowshera or the Lower Dir districts of NWFP. While the rate of displacement from South Waziristan has slowed over the past week, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 428,000 IDPs have been registered in Dera Ismail Khan and Tank districts of NWFP which border on South Waziristan.

Read more on: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87287>

Nobel Prizes honour a record 5 women in 2009

STOCKHOLM — A record five women were among the 13 people awarded Nobel Prizes on Thursday, including a writer who depicted life behind the Iron Curtain and two American researchers who showed how chromosomes protect themselves from degrading.

From an article by Malin Rising and Louise Nordstrom (AP)

Success for EVAW, UK

EVAW - End Violence Against Women has been celebrating a major success as the UK Government publishes its plan to tackle all forms of violence against women including rape, domestic violence, trafficking, and forced marriage.

[We have long campaigned together](#) for coordinated government action as a vital step towards the government fulfilling its human rights obligations. In recent years we have attracted support for our campaign from the Conservatives, Lib Dems as well as the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Sent to us by IAW Member Helen Self

United States - buying unlicensed weapons

A video that demonstrates how easy it is to buy weapons at gun shows in the US has been released by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Colin Goddard, a survivor of the Virginia Tech campus massacre, went to several gun shows and bought guns in cash without having his identity or criminal record checked. The transactions were recorded with a hidden camera.

The Brady Campaign is asking the US Congress to close the legal loophole that enables unlicensed sellers to trade guns for cash with practically no questions asked. To see the video go to:

www.bradiycampaign.org/

From the IANSA newsletter, update 10.12.09

Congolese flee inter-ethnic violence in  quateur province

15 December 2009 – Tribal violence in the north-west of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has sent 84,000 people fleeing across the border into the Republic of the Congo since last month, with the United Nations refugee agency reporting today that supplies to assist the displaced are running low.

Inter-ethnic clashes between the Enyele and Munzaya tribes erupted in Équateur province in November over farming and fishing rights, and fearing the spread of fighting, people are continuing to leave their homes. Some 100,000 people are said to have been internally displaced so far in the province, where the situation remains tense and Government troops have reportedly taken control over several areas. More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33264&Cr=equateur&Cr1=>

What's ahead of ESCAP - UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

At the UN Conference Centre, Bangkok there was a Thematic Lecture and Panel Discussion featuring UN Special Rapporteur Asma Jahangir. Ms. Jahangir, a human rights lawyer based in Pakistan, was appointed Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in July 2004.

There is an ESCAP newsletter - December 2009 - with lots of news!

On: http://www.unescap.org/unis/What_s_Ahead/2009/Dec/dec.asp

Sent to us by IAW ESCAP Coordinator Pat Richardson

Figure It Out: Reporting on Trafficking in Women

Media coverage of trafficking of women and children, migration and sex work is confused and inaccurate. Media wrongly uses the terms 'sex work' and 'trafficking' synonymously, perpetuating stereotypes and stigmatisation and contributing to the violation of women's right to free movement and livelihood options, say these authors

If media reports were to be believed, there would be no young girls left in Nepal. Oft-quoted figures such as 5,000-7,000 Nepali girls being trafficked across the border to India every year and 150,000-200,000 Nepali women and girls being trapped in brothels in various Indian cities, were first disseminated in 1986 and have remained unaltered over the next two decades.

Figures differ vastly

Not surprisingly, figures about the same phenomenon differ vastly. For example, the news report 'Majority of girls trafficked are minors', Indian Express, Guwahati, March 9, 2007 cites the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as estimating that 150,000 people are trafficked within South Asia. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that between 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked across borders.

People on the move

Today, more than ever before in history, people are moving across the world in search of better opportunities of life and livelihood.

In 2005, the five major South Asia labour-sending countries (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan) sent over 1.5 million migrant workers abroad legally.

India sent 549,000 migrants; Bangladesh 253,000; Nepal 184,000. The number of migrants deployed rose in each country by 2007; for instance, according to Migration News 2008, the number of Indians deployed was 800,000, the number of Bangladeshis 833,000.

Remittance by migrant workers

Remittance by migrant workers is said to be a major pillar that supports the economies of some countries. In 2007, the five major South Asia labour-sending countries received \$40 billion in remittances, led by \$27 billion in India, \$6.4 billion in Bangladesh and \$1.6 billion in Nepal.

Most South Asians earn about \$200 to \$400 a month in the Gulf oil-exporting States.

According to a 2006 report of the International Labour Organisation, women are increasingly migrating and now account for half the international migrants.

This article, written by Laxmi Murthy and Rajashri Dasgupta, was first published by Infochange News & Features (www.infochangeindia.org) and is reproduced here with permission.

Send to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

Editor's note: This article is too long to quote here properly. If you like to read it as a whole, please e-mail <iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>

LINKS - EVENTS - CONFERENCES - REPORTS

Latest news from the IAW New York Team

* The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) is mounting a campaign for CEDAW ratification by the USA.

* For signing a petition for Women Rights in the GEAR Campaign, click on:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/gear>

* The NGO CSW sub-committee on Women and Climate Change is planning to organise a panel discussion at CSW. (*Editor's note: that would be great!*)
Sent to us by IAW members Niki Ireni Sarlis and Soon-Young Yoon .

December 20 - International Human Solidarity Day, proclaimed by the General Assembly has as its goal awareness-raising of the importance of advancing the international development agenda and promoting global understanding of the value of human solidarity. On: <http://social.un.org/ngos/>

[Information Note on NGOs participation at the 48th Session of the Commission for Social Development](#), which will take place from 3 to 12 February 2010 in New York, is now available online. NGOs and the **Commission for Social Development: Promoting Social Integration**

Newsflash of the European Women's Lobby, November 2009, click here ;
http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1abstract.asp?DocID=2646&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu=

European Gear Campaign Newsletter November 2009, click here: http://www.un-gear.eu/uploads/cms/_images/European_GEAR_Campaign_Newsletter_November09.pdf

WIDE call from **EU ratification of CEDAW** and states implementation, click here:
<http://62.149.193.10/wide/download/cedaw%20statement%20final.pdf?id=1037>.
Sent by IAW representative at the European Women's Lobby, Joanna Manganara

*The Research Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Granada is pleased to inform that the GEMMA Erasmus Mundus **scholarship application** period for third country (non-EU) students and scholars to take part in its fourth edition (2010-2012) is open until 31 December 2009. Call for scholarships, Third Country students and scholars, GEMMA Master Erasmus Mundus in Women's and Gender. Contact: <gemma@ugr.es> , website www.ugr.es/local/gemma*

AWID - Women's Right activists define religious fundamentalism.

Based on the responses of more than 1,600 individuals to AWID's survey in September 2007, and 51 in-depth interviews conducted by the AWID research team.
To be found on: <http://www.awid.org/eng/content/view/full/44599>

New website - of the Sex Worker Rights Movement

The PLRI (Paulo Longo Research Initiative) website is a substantial library of resources about sex work in the context of economics, law, health, gender and sexuality, and migration. On www.plri.org
Sent to us by IAW member Helen Self

Note

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in Word 97. Please be so kind to advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address, so we can mail them this Newsletter too.

IAW Newsletter / News Flash : Joke Sebus <iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>
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