

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

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

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**



**Equal Rights**

**IAW NEWSLETTER December 2011, no. 12**

*Dear members,*

*Our best wishes for a good and peaceful 2012, with happiness, strength and wisdom for you all! The year 2011 was an interesting year for women, for example during and after the Arab spring. Women were also more active in Durban at the Climate Change Conference. "There were more gender, women and climate change side events than ever before", Soon-Young Yoon wrote from Durban. "Women will also move forward with more confidence towards COP18 in 2012".*

*Also in this newsletter: 'Human rights issues are high on the UN agenda in the ASEAN region'. LGTB rights, another human rights issue, was discussed openly by Hillary Clinton in Bonn. Women in Afghanistan are claiming their rights and they want to play a part in the future of their country, in particular in the peace and reconciliation process. There is even slight progress for all those children involved in the sex trade in Cambodia. During the last 10 years there are less victims, and traffickers are going to jail.*

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN**

*There is still time to enlist for the **Commission on the Status of Women** if you would like to go. "The deadline for registration is **January 17**, but to be able to finish the registration of all IAW participants, Secretary General Lene Pind needs your information before **January 1**. Only she can register IAW participants and IAW is only allowed to register 20 persons. On the link below you can find information about CSW 5". On: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/56sess.htm> "*

**Side events**

Up to now IAW will organise three side events at CSW:

1. The Human Rights of Rural Women of all ages, in cooperation with the International Federation of Women Lawyers;
2. Innovative Economic Development for Rural Women with Mapule Ncanywa and Mmabatho Ramagoshi;
3. How to start a mentoring programme in your own organization, with Daniela Reiter and in cooperation with the International Federation of University Women.

**IAW International Meeting 7-12 October 2012 – Melbourne Australia**

There will be an informal welcome for international delegates on Sunday 7 October and meetings will commence on Monday 8 October. A conference and workshop are being planned - more details will follow in the next newsletter. Meanwhile please note these dates and advise Priscilla Todd [iaw@toddsec.com](mailto:iaw@toddsec.com) if you are planning to attend.

**FRIDA YOUNG FEMINIST FUND - FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2011-2012**

The Young Feminist Fund mobilizes resources, funds and strengthens the participation and leadership of young feminist activists globally. The goal of The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA) is to provide accessible, strategic and responsive funding for young feminist-led initiatives, and to strengthen the capacity of young feminist organizations to both leverage their own resources and increase their social change impact.

FRIDA invites applications from groups led by young women and transgender youth under 30 years of age for grants of up to USD 5,000.

**DEADLINE for applications: Friday January 20th 2012**

Information on: <http://youngfeministfund.org/2011/12/grants-programapply-for-a-grant/>  
Send to us by IAW Secretary General Lene Pind

## IAW and CLIMATE CHANGE

### Highly recommended !

For an IAW interview with Soon-Young Yoon on Climate Change TV, go to:

<http://www.rtcc.org/climate-change-tv/unfccc-videos/soon-young-yoon-gender-climate-change-and-human-rights/>

### November 28 - December 9, 2011 - Durban Climate Change Conference, COP17

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Durban 2011, brought together representatives of the world's governments, international organizations and civil society. The discussions sought to advance, in a balanced fashion, the implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the [Bali Action Plan](#), agreed at COP 13 in 2007, and the [Cancun Agreements](#), reached at COP 16 last December.

"There were more gender, women and climate change side events than ever before," Soon reports. "Among these were rural women speak-outs, and panels on forests and REDD Plus, training for trainers, water and health."

#### Financing the Green Climate Fund

Many women's groups called for greater participation of women in the financing mechanisms coming out of COP 17 including the Green Climate Fund that should provide billions of dollars in aid money to developing countries. At the private sector World Climate Summit, there was strong emphasis on the need to "scale up" and "speed up" innovative technologies that can create carbon negative economies as well as green economies.

Harry Verhaar, head of strategic sustainability initiative at Philips, noted that the LED revolution would help families save energy while making an impact on climate change. He reported that nearly 20% of the world's electricity is used for lighting.

I think the negotiations are going well on the issues of the Green Climate Fund and adaptation.

Although COP 17 may not result in a binding treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, there was great energy and enthusiasm among the 17,000 participants to carry on the process to COP 18 in Qatar".

*Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative of the International Alliance of Women and Vice-Chair, NGO/CSW/NY*

### Strong GGCA Gender Voice at COP17 calls for

#### Gender-Equitable Decisions on Adaptation, Technology Mechanism and Climate Finance

30 Member organizations of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) were in Durban to strengthen the COP17 decisions by ensuring all final decisions taken in Durban are gender equitable.

Specifically, the GGCA urges governments to focus on promoting gender-equitable implementation of in the arenas of adaptation, the technology mechanism and climate finance.

More detailed GGCA policy recommendations are available in the GGCA Briefing Booklet, available at [www.gender-climate.org](http://www.gender-climate.org).

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### Remarks in Recognition of International Human Rights Day - on LGBT rights

December 5, 2011 - Hillary Rodham Clinton's address before the United Nations in Geneva will be remembered by history, with the Secretary of State unabashedly arguing to the world that LGBT rights are human rights.

"Today, I want to talk about the work we have left to do to protect one group of people whose human rights are still denied in too many parts of the world today. In many ways, they are an invisible minority. They are arrested, beaten, terrorized, even executed. Many are treated with contempt and violence by their fellow citizens while authorities empowered to protect them look the other way or, too often, even join in the abuse. They are denied opportunities to work and learn, driven from their homes and countries, and forced to suppress or deny who they are to protect themselves from harm.

I am talking about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, human beings born free and given bestowed equality and dignity, who have a right to claim that, which is now one of the remaining human rights challenges of our time.

I speak about this subject knowing that my own country's record on human rights for gay people is far from perfect. Until 2003, it was still a crime in parts of our country.

Many LGBT Americans have endured violence and harassment in their own lives, and for some, including many young people, bullying and exclusion are daily experiences.

So we, like all nations, have more work to do to protect human rights at home.

Now, raising this issue, I know, is sensitive for many people and that the obstacles standing in the way of protecting the human rights of LGBT people rest on deeply held personal, political, cultural, and religious beliefs. So I come here before you with respect, understanding, and humility. Even though progress on this front is not easy, we cannot delay acting.

So in that spirit, all nations, have more work to do to protect human rights at home.”

Hillary Clinton's speech is to be found on: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/12/178368.htm>

or on: <http://news.advocate.com/post/13844217337/watch-the-speech-youve-been-waiting-for>

IAW Chief Representative to the UN in Geneva, Hélène Sackstein

### **Human Rights development in ASEAN region**

Bali/Geneva, 28 November 2011 The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said that the next two years will be crucial to the development of regional and national human rights institutions in the ASEAN region, particularly in the light of developments under way in Myanmar, which will chair ASEAN in 2014.

The four ASEAN states with internationally recognized National Human Rights Institutions are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Pillay has spent three days on the Indonesian island of Bali meeting the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), National Human Rights Institutions from four of the ten ASEAN countries and a broad range of civil society organizations. While in Bali, she also spoke by telephone with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on a range of issues including Myanmar's forthcoming chairmanship of ASEAN.

#### **Sustain the momentum**

Pillay commended Indonesia's positive approach to human rights during its 2011 chairmanship of ASEAN and AICHR (which was created in 2009 with a broad mandate to promote human rights), and its vice-chairmanship of a second human rights body, the ASEAN Commission for Women and Children.

"These regional human rights bodies are still young, but I hope and believe they will develop in the years to come, and we must be careful to encourage this evolution. It is important to sustain the momentum generated by the very welcome creation of these bodies, and it is now time to start shifting up through the gears", she said.

#### **Concerns of civil society**

Pillay noted that a number of concerns had been raised by around 75 delegates, representing 40 civil society organizations from nine of the ten ASEAN countries, with whom she held several hours of discussions on Sunday. The number one concern was that AICHR, as a body, is not talking to civil society, although there have been some contacts with the current chairperson and one or two other Commissioners in their individual capacity.

"That is a major concern to me as well. No discussion of human rights can be complete or credible without significant input from civil society and national human rights institutions".

#### **ASEAN Human Rights Declaration**

The UN human rights chief also urged AICHR to listen to civil society calls for more transparency, particularly with regard to the forthcoming ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, due to be finalized by the end of the year.

Pillay said that Myanmar would need to be making significant progress in a number of key areas by the time it takes over the Chair of ASEAN and its human rights subsidiaries in two years time.

"Aung San Suu Kyi informed me that she believes the number of political prisoners remaining in detention is probably around 600, although there may be others her party is not aware of", Pillay said. "I join her in her desire to see all political prisoners released in the very near future". Read more on: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/AsiaRegion/Pages/AsiaRegionIndex.aspx>

## **Fighting Back, One Brothel Raid at a Time**

*By Nicholas D. Kristof, New York Times*

Against my better judgment, I found myself the other day charging into a well-armed brothel in a police raid. But I was comforted to be with one of my heroes, Somaly Mam. Somaly dedicates her life to battling forced prostitution, for she herself was sold as a child to a Cambodian brothel. After enduring torture and rapes, Somaly escaped and reinvented herself as an anti-trafficking activist.

### **A human rights challenge**

It's partly because of grass-roots activists like Somaly, both in the United States and abroad, that human trafficking is increasingly recognized as a central human rights challenge. A UN agency estimates that [more than 12 million people are engaged in forced labor](#), including sexual servitude. Another U.N. report has estimated that in Asia alone, "one million children are involved in the sex trade under conditions that are indistinguishable from slavery."

### **Photographs**

This town of Anlong Veng is in northern Cambodia near the Thai border, with a large military presence. Somaly, whose efforts are financed mostly through American supporters of her [Somaly Mam Foundation](#), had sneaked into this brothel and surreptitiously photographed very young girls. With the photographs, she convinced Cambodia's anti-trafficking police to mount the raid.

Somaly is fearless. Brothel-owners have fought back ferociously against Somaly: They've sent death threats, held a gun to her head and shot up her car. When Somaly refused to back off, she said the traffickers kidnapped her 14-year-old daughter and gang-raped the girl with a video camera rolling. The daughter was recovered in a brothel, and Somaly blames herself. It's a credit to the courage of mother and daughter that they remain steadfast, upbeat and close, and determined to make a difference. These days, Somaly is very careful with that daughter and her other children.

### **The raid by the police**

The three unmarked police cars ahead of us pulled up in front of the brothel, and the police and prosecutor ran in. Somaly and I followed and watched as police with assault rifles confiscated cellphones from the brothel manager, a middle-aged woman, and her male partner, so that they couldn't call for reinforcements.

We quickly found five girls and one young woman, three Cambodians and three Vietnamese. The youngest turned out to be a seventh grader trafficked from Vietnam three months earlier, making her about 12 years old.

The anti-trafficking police found 10 rooms equipped with beds and full of discarded condoms in the trash; the rooms all locked with padlocks from the outside, presumably to incarcerate girls inside. Several other young girls Somaly had photographed in her earlier visit couldn't be found, despite a frantic search of all the locked rooms. "They're probably kept at another house in town, but we don't know where it is," Somaly said.

### **A brothel with military connections**

Soon the mood turned ugly. The brothel-owner had strong military connections. Seven armed soldiers soon arrived to order the police and prosecutor to release the brothel-owner.

The prosecutor responded with courage and integrity. He declared that the military brothel-owner would have to be taken to the police station. "If you want to stop me, you can shoot me if you dare," he told the soldiers.

The soldiers backed down, but, in the end, the army officer was not charged. The woman, who had more day-to-day involvement in managing the girls, is expected to be prosecuted, and the brothel presumably will now be out of operation. The girls were placed in a shelter run by Somaly, and they are receiving plenty of love from other girls previously extricated from sexual slavery.

### **There is progress**

I can see the progress here in Cambodia, where 10-year-old girls were openly for sale when I began reporting on forced prostitution. Now they're still sold, but fewer of them, and more discreetly — and traffickers are going to jail. There may well be prostitution a century from now, but we don't have to accept 12-year-olds being raped until they get AIDS.

In the 19th century, the world conquered traditional slavery. And in this century, with leaders like Somaly, we can emancipate the victims of human trafficking.

More on: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/13/opinion/sunday/kristof-fighting-back-one-brothel-raid-at-a-time.html>

Send by IAW member Anjana Basu

## AROUND THE WORLD

### **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Establishes Vienna Office**

VIENNA, 10 November 2011 - The newly established Vienna-base of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has started to operate with the arrival of its Chief, Franz Kolar on 2 November 2011.

It has been established on the basis of voluntary contributions from Member States, in particular with the financial support provided by the Government of Austria.

The establishment of the Office in Vienna, as part of UNODA, responds to the growing need to cooperate and facilitate closer cooperation and effective interaction in all areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control with UNOV and with Vienna-based organizations and related specialized agencies, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as well as with other relevant regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The Vienna Office will also follow-up on relevant developments and provide advice to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs; provide support to and organize meetings and conferences in the field of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation and respond to public information queries related to UNODA and its activities.

*Sent to us by Honorary IAW President Rosy Weiss, Convenor: IAW Commission on Peace and Chief IAW Representative to the UN in Vienna*

### **Afghanistan - Women's message diluted but persistent**

December 5 2011, Bonn - Coverage on Afghan women who have travelled the distance to be part of the Bonn Conference in Germany this week did show up short as global media placed more attention on international politics instead of participation for the women who wanted to discuss on-the-ground security needs.

#### **Numerous police recruits from extreme groups**

AWN – Afghan Women's Network is the largest and most prominent network of women's organizations in Afghanistan with over 80 member organizations and thousands of individual members.

Issues for the women include their needs for the government to be involved in greater "Vetting of recruits for (the) Afghan National Security Forces, including the Afghan Local Police (ALP)" as Afghanistan's government has allowed numerous recruits in with connections to [extremist groups](#); what AWN has described as recruits who have records including "rape, murder, torture and misuse of power."

Selay Ghaffar is an industrious women's rights activist and sits on the executive board of the AWN, a key umbrella group for women's rights organisations in Afghanistan. As the only woman speaking for Afghan civil society at the Bonn conference, she had an important opportunity to ensure women's rights stayed on the agenda.

#### **For women three minutes only!**

But she was officially given just three minutes in which to do it.

Three minutes to defend women's rights in a conversation otherwise dominated by male foreign ministers, traditional security agendas, and formal diplomatic rhetoric about peace, democracy, rule of law, justice and human rights.

#### **There was support from Hillary Clinton:**

Opening her talk at the December 5 opening session, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton included the topic of Afghanistan's women from the start.

"I want to recognize a number of the women leaders who are here from Afghanistan," she said. "I met with them and with representatives of Afghan civil society this morning and just now because I am



convinced that they have a crucial role to play in the future of Afghanistan, and in particular the peace and reconciliation process.

Women and civil society have achieved considerable progress over the last 10 years, and we don't want anything that we agree to or do to undermine that progress or to turn the clock back on human rights for women and men."

More on Women's News Network: <http://womennewsnetwork.net/2011/12/07/afghan-womens-message-diluted-but-persistent-bonn-conference/> and The Guardian on: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2011/dec/06/bonn-what-next-afghan-women>

*The Bonn Conference was attended by Marian Boeker, Convenor of the IAW Commission on Human Rights, Justice and Good Governance.*

## **Council of Europe**

### [Elections at the Conference of I NGOs in January 2012](#)

Strasbourg, 12 December The Conference of I NGOs will elect its President, Bureau members and an expert on gender equality issues, at its winter Session in January. More information on each candidate, including his/her motivation for standing for election will soon be published.

Anje Wiersinga wrote: "The Council of Europe has increased the number of members to 47 countries in the last 2 decades, but its budget has hardly increased. So the Council started a long process of reorganisation and cut backs, which will be implemented on January the first 2012.

#### **The good news is that:**

1. the new Parliamentary Committee on Discrimination is very strong on Equality issues;
2. the 3 INGO Committees are all three chaired by a woman;
3. a Gender Equality Expert will be elected in January to sit on the Standing Committee (the Board) of the INGO Conference. (One of the candidates as an expert on gender equality issues: IAW member Betty Doornenbal);
4. the INGO Conference decided to include "gender equality as the objective of the Conference and its Committees and as a universal value and a fundamental right" and that "gender equality should cut through all our activities";
5. a freely constituted group on equality has already started and is very active and effective. At the moment I am the coordinator;

b. a declaration is being prepared to support the KARAMA's Statement (made in Cairo by women's organisations from 11 Northern African and Arab countries).

*Sent by Anje Wiersinga, IAW representative at the Council of Europe*

## **CONFERENCES - EVENTS - LINKS**

Call for Participation: 12th AWID International Forum, Istanbul, April 19-22, 2012

[Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development \(20-22 June 2012\)](#)

## **UN Announces SEED Award Winners, First Gender Equality Award Winner 2011**

The "Solid Waste Management and Community Mobilization Program" in Nepal.

See for more news UN Women on: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

## **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.

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