Dear IAW members,

The Editing Committee of the IAW newsletter wishes you a fine and productive 2006! Good health, peace and wisdom to you all!

On this last day of December we are sending you a newsletter with a variety of information. Most of it in English, some in French. There is also some urgent action that could be taken. If you do, we like to hear from you.

Our warmest thanks goes to all of you who been sending us articles and interesting news during 2005. And please: be so kind to keep up that good work in 2006!

With best wishes, the Editing Committee of the IAW Newsletter.

GOOD NEWS - POSITIVE ACTION

UNESCO Prize for Peace Education - IAW invited to nominate candidates
IAW secretary Alison Brown is asking our readers to make suggestions in accordance with the criteria listed. Then the IAW Executive Committee can nominate one of the candidates officially.

The deadline for a nomination is Feb. 24, so suggestions should reach the Secretariat by Feb. 1.

Suggestions for candidates can be send to Alison Brown at iawsec@womenalliance.org

UNESCO Proposal - International Centre for Girls's and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA)
A decisions taken by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 173rd Session in October 2005 is of particular interest to our readers:

* Proposed establishment of the International Centre for Girls's and Women's Education in Africa under the auspices of UNESCO, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

* The General Conference, at its 33rd Session should approve the establishment and authorize the Director-General to sign the agreement (which is already formulated) between the Government of Burkino Faso and UNESCO.


Ed. The IAW is represented at UNESCO by Odette Goncet, Francoise Aujac, Ita Malot

EU - Statement on HIV Prevention
In an EU Statement on HIV prevention for an aids free generation, the members of the European Union reaffirm their commitment to tackle all the global aspects of AIDS pandemic. The statement pointed to the fact that some people, in particular women and girls, are disproportionately affected. The statement also expressed a firm belief that, to be successful, HIV prevention must utilize all approaches known to be effective including universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services for women, men and young people, including people living with HIV and AIDS, to ensure that they have reliable access to essential sexual and reproductive health commodities including male and female condoms. You can read the statement at <<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/eupresidency2005/EU-statement-dec2005.pdf>>

Gels to protect women from AIDS.
A new microbicide against HIV is being tested by women in Africa. The tests are part of a trial with 10,000 women across Africa. Microbicides are virus-killing gels applied vaginally before sex. They
are seen by many AIDS experts as a key to stopping new infections. This could offer women an HIV-prevention method that they control, and one they do not have to inform their partners about.

Convenor of the IAW Health Commission: Gudrun Haupter

WHO - Landmark study on domestic violence
A WHO report finds domestic violence is widespread and has serious impact on health
The study is based on interviews with more than 24,000 women from rural and urban areas in 10 countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Namibia, Peru, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women study makes recommendations and calls for action by policy makers and the public health sector to address the human and health costs, including by integrating violence prevention programming into a range of social programmes. More on:

UN - $85 million sought to tackle landmine scourge in Sudan, Somalia and Uganda
16 December 2005 – Seeking to curb the scourge of landmines and other explosive remnants of war that kill or injure between 15,000 and 20,000 people annually worldwide, the United Nations is appealing for more than $85 million to tackle the crisis in three of the most affected countries – Sudan, Somalia and Uganda. The projects cover all five aspects of mine action in the three strife-torn countries: clearing, marking or fencing off mined areas; assisting victims and their families; providing mine risk education; destroying countries’ stockpiles of landmines; and urging universal participation in treaties related to landmines and other explosive remnants of war.
Beyond their toll of dead and mutilated, mines hinder access to critical services by inhibiting the use of roads, airstrips and other infrastructure, and prevent the safe movement of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), delivery of humanitarian assistance and the deployment of peacekeepers.

Programme 2006
The 2006 programme devotes the lion’s share of the amount sought, $76.5 million, to Sudan, focusing on high impact areas totalling 596 minefields and on 11,000 kilometres of prioritized roads including clearance of 1,400 kilometres to support return of displaced people in southern and central areas. It also budgets $5.5 million for Somalia, where there are well over 800 dangerous areas, and $3.4 million for Uganda, where heavily affected areas include the border regions with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.

UN - Emergency fund for natural and man-made disasters
15 December 2005 – The United Nations General Assembly today set up an emergency fund, expected to total $500 million, to bring immediate relief in natural and man-made disasters and save thousands of lives that would otherwise be lost to delay.
In a landmark resolution enacting a key reform sought by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Assembly established the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), upgrading the current Central Emergency Revolving Fund, which only had $50 million in resources, to ensure swifter responses to humanitarian emergencies, with adequate funds made available within three to four days.

Time span between restrictions and funds
In contrast, it took four months between the time when access restrictions were lifted in Sudan’s strife-torn Darfur region and funds were committed to the relief appeal. In the meantime, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) steadily climbed to 1.6 million and mortality rates rose above emergency levels.
In the case of the locust swarms that infested the African Sahel region, early funding would have mitigated the effects at less cost. A $9 million appeal by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in February 2004 to spray locust larvae and prevent their spread received an inadequate response. That summer, the locusts multiplied throughout eight countries and FAO revised the appeal to $100 million.

Funding a key aspect
Access to predictable funding for humanitarian emergencies is a key aspect of Mr. Annan’s reform package outlined earlier this year in his report ‘In Larger Freedom.’ At the UN World Summit in September, donors already pledged some $175 million in potential pledges.
The upgraded CERF consists of $450 million in grants and $50 million in loans to UN agencies to be replenished at regular intervals.
MORE GOOD NEWS - POSITIVE FINDINGS

UN – Legal ruling on abortion
The United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) decided its first abortion case, Karen Llontoy v. Peru. The decision establishes that denying access to legal abortion violates women’s most basic human rights. This is the first time an international human rights body has held a government accountable for failing to allow access to legal abortion.
The case was brought by the Centre for Reproductive Rights in partnership with the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women’s Rights (CLADEM) and the Counselling Centre for the Defence of Women’s Rights (DEMUS) on behalf of Karen Llontoy, a 17-year-old Peruvian woman who was forced by state officials to carry a fatally impaired foetus to term. The pregnancy severely compromised her physical and psychological health.

Peru failed to adopt clear regulation
Abortion is legal in Peru for therapeutic reasons, however, because Peru failed to adopt clear regulations, women are often denied the procedure by the health officials.
More information: Dionne Scott dscott@reprorights.org>

UNIDO - Relieving poverty by fostering productivity growth
UNIDO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, focuses its efforts on relieving poverty by fostering productivity growth. It helps developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their fight against marginalization in today’s globalized world. It mobilizes knowledge, skills, information and technology to promote productive employment, a competitive economy and a sound environment.
Areas of focus cover three main areas: Poverty alleviation through productive activities, such as: entrepreneurship (including rural women’s entrepreneurship); small enterprise and business development; development of micro-enterprises; including informal sector upgrade, development of the domestic private sector; assistance in the diffusion and transfer of modern and relevant technologies.
Trade capacity-building, including the capacity to conform to the standards of international markets.
Read more on: http://www.unido.org/

UNESCO Secretariat – Gender Balance of Staff
Report by the Director General on the geographical distribution and gender balance of the staff of the Secretariat: The Executive welcomed positive trends over the past five years and wishes a new report including a table on career development per gender over the past 10 years at its 177th Session.
It is interesting in light of this item to note that the above mentioned agreement on CIEFFA has no language whatsoever on gender parity in the selection of leadership and staffing of the Centre - women are the object of the project, but not necessarily the ones doing the actual decision making.

LOBBYING OPPORTUNITIES

The Next United Nations Secretary-General: Time for a Woman
1945-2006: 3 Europeans, 2 Africans, 1 Latin American, 1 Asian, 0 Women
In the sixty years since the United Nations was founded, no woman has ever been elected to serve as Secretary-General, despite the fact that there are many qualified candidates. Women are underrepresented in the ranks of the organization, as well as at the top. As of 30 June 2005, women occupied only 37.1% of professional and higher positions and only 16.2% of the Under-Secretaries General were women. Women’s unequal access to positions of decision-making power around the world hinders progress toward all the United Nations’ goals, including equality, development and peace.

Election in 2006
The election of a new United Nations Secretary-General will take place in 2006, when the term of current Secretary-General Kofi Annan comes to an end. Tradition has it that the post of Secretary-General should rotate so that each geographical region gets its “turn.” Women have never had a “turn,”
and there are many qualified women from all regions of the world who could serve as Secretary-General.

Nine votes and avoid the veto of the five permanent members

The Security Council is responsible for recommending a candidate for Secretary-General to the General Assembly. The Security Council is composed of five permanent members (China, France, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the USA) and ten rotating members (who in 2006 will be Argentina, Congo, Denmark, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Slovakia and Tanzania). To be nominated by the Security Council, a candidate must secure at least nine votes and avoid the veto of any permanent member.

It is generally understood that no national of the five permanent Security Council members should serve as Secretary-General. Read more on:

http://www.equalitynow.org/english/actions/action_1102_en.html

Ed. Go to this website – the opening page lists possible candidates and action you can take.

CEDAW 34th Session, 16 January to 3 February 2006

The following is a list of country reports from States Parties to be examined during this session:

Initial reports: Cambodia, Eritrea, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo.

Periodic Reports: Australia, Mali, Thailand, Venezuela. More information and reports:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/34sess.htm

Ed. Each IAW Member Organisation is urged to read their country’s report, inform their members and comment to their government where appropriate.

UNESCO – Selected Anniversaries

The UNESCO especially associates itself with selected anniversaries, for example, the 100th Anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bertha von Suttner or the 50th anniversary of the death of Irène Joliot-Curie, Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry and the 500th anniversary of the death of the Jordanian Poet Aisha al-Baounieh. The full list is available at

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001389/138912e.pdf

Not surprisingly, men and their accomplishments make up the overwhelming majority. It might be an interesting exercise to lobby governments with suggestions for more Women to be honoured in this way.

BAD NEWS - 2006

WOMEN AND GIRLS CONTINUE TO Face ABUSE OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

Minor rape count shoots up

New Delhi, Dec. 14: Madhya Pradesh, where women have had their hands chopped off for reporting rape or protesting against child marriage, is the most unsafe place in India even for minor girls. Delhi, dubbed the nation’s rape capital, is n’t far behind.

Figures on rapes of minors compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau show Mizoram as the safest state in India and Bengal among the safer ones. Rapes of under-18s have shot up in most states over the past three years, rising from 2,532 in 2002 to 3,541 in 2004.

Madhya Pradesh comes out worst, having registered 710 in 2004 — up from 517 in 2002. Maharashtra is second with 634 in 2004, an increase of 29 per cent in two years, and Uttar Pradesh is third with 394 — though this amounts to a fall of 5 per cent since 2002. Mizoram has recorded none.

Among the more populous states, Bengal comes 19th with 19 rapes of minors in 2004 against 16 two years earlier. Bihar has surprised with only three such cases last year as well as in 2002, giving it the rank of 24, better even than the northeastern state of Manipur where four under-18s were raped in 2004.

A bureau official, however, was sceptical about Bihar’s showing. He put the exceptionally low figure down to Bihar police’s well-known reluctance to register FIRs.

Among the less-populated Union territories, Delhi has the worst record of 186 rapes of minors in 2004 with Chandigarh coming a distant second at 13.

Lakshadweep recorded zero from 2002 through 2004, tying for the “safest” tag with Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

But bureau officials said the figures would have been much higher had the families of raped minors all reported the crimes and the various state police recorded them. MANAN KUMAR

Ed. It is sad that a country like India, with its proud history and its now amazing commercial growth as one of the emerging world super powers, still has many areas and beliefs that continue to allow women and girls to face such injustices.

BOOKS - EVENTS - CONFERENCES - INTERESTING WEBSITES - CALL FOR PAPERS

American Prospect
An interesting website is to be found on http://www.prospect.org/web/index.ww
It is the online edition of The American Prospect. One of the articles, 'The Arsonist’, describes the peculiar situation around Bolton, the new American UN Ambassador. This article first sets the stage as follows:
"There is an excellent coffee shop in the basement of the United Nations building in New York. The espresso is served bitter and strong, Italian style. Sandwiches can be bought on hard French baguettes, and the pastries are always fresh. Whenever a meeting lets out in one of the conference rooms adjacent to the shop, diplomats make a beeline to the cash registers. Others light cigarettes: Though the United Nations is in Manhattan, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s anti-smoking crusade has not yet penetrated the complex, which sits on international land; so, beneath conspicuous no-smoking signs, diplomats routinely light up, creating a hazy plume that gives the Vienna Café a decidedly European feel”.
IAW members who have attended UN Conferences will certainly recognise the description of the Vienna Café.

Manual - Standards for documentation of abuses in armed conflict situations
During the last two decades the international community has increased its efforts towards the integration of women's rights in human rights systems. These include:
* 1981 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women - CEDAW
* 1993 The Declaration of the Elimination of Violence against Women.
* 1994 The appointment of a UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.
* 1995 The Platform for Action Fourth UN World Conference on Women.

In monitoring the adherence of governments and the international community to these agreements and treaties it is important to have accurate and consistent documentation on women's rights violation
A 124 pages manual edited by Amnesty International and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development includes an overview of Women's Experiences in Armed Conflicts, Standards for Documentation of Abuses in Armed Conflict Situations, information on the International Criminal Court and the Protection of Women, Monitoring Armed Conflicts, Documenting Incidents of Abuses, Sexual Violence, Trafficking in Persons and Abuses of Refugee Women. Access to the manual (it takes a lot of time to download it) on:
http://www.ideaccess.org/documents/2_ArmedConflicts.pdf

2nd Africa Conference on Sexual Rights and Health:
Organized by the Africa Regional Office of Planned Parenthood Federation of America-International (PPFA-I) and the African Federation for Sexual Health and Rights (AFSHR), the conference aims to give participants an opportunity to discuss issues of sexuality, sexual health and sexual rights, to share experiences and innovation programmes, to build alliances and networks, and to disseminate research findings on current and emerging sexuality issues in Africa. Please contact the Africa Regional Office, PPFA-I, 1st Floor, Chaka Place, Argwings, Kodhek Road, P.O. Box 53538-00200, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel. No: 254.20.272.704.952 or email <<mailto:conference@ppfa.or.ke>>.

First International Seminar on Sexual Violence (CIVS), Quebec, 18-19-20 April 2007
To register: <<http://www.civs.org>> or <<http://violsecours.qc.ca>>

Training on Gender, Macro Economics Policy, Planning and Budgeting
Due to increased demand from various actors on Gender budgeting including the UNDP, UNIFEM and UNICEF Southern and Western Region, the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme will be organizing the Regional Training on Gender and Macroeconomics Planning and Budgeting in Dar es
salaam, Tanzania from 31st January to February 10th, 2006. Open to senior officials, policy advisors, advocates, and professionals involved with macro-economic planning/budgeting. On-line application at <http://www.tgnp.org> 
<<mailto:lindiwe@genderlinks.org.za>>
For more information, please email: <<mailto:tgnp@tgnp.org>>, <<mailto:usu.mallya@tgnp.org>>.

**Gender and Media Handbook: Promoting Equality, Diversity & Empowerment**
This handbook is published by the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies [M.I.G.S] is now available online at <<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/Downloads/Handbook_final.pdf>> in its new and improved version.

**Arab Women - Progress Report 2004 - UNIFEM**
This report provides an insight to the world of Arab women and the progress achieved throughout the years. Three levels of action in the region are investigated in the report towards women's empowerment: the policy level, the operational plans and actions at the national level, and most importantly, the achievements and challenges in terms of the everyday lives of women. Report available in English & Arabic on: <<http://www.unifem.org.jo/hdocs/mainform.asp?p=readPub&key=34>>

**Making Abortion Safe, Legal and Accessible**
This Toolkit for Action has been set up by the Centre for Reproductive Rights - Despite wide international legal support for a woman's right to access safe and legal abortion, the procedure still remains unsafe and out of reach for many women around the globe. The publication is a valuable resource for abortion rights advocates and policymakers who are working to reform abortion laws in restrictive settings. The toolkit packages together the most compelling arguments for liberalising laws regulating abortion.

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Identity, Sexuality, Diversity**
Call for papers for the Feminist and Women's Studies Association (UK and Ireland) Annual Conference on Identity, Sexuality, Diversity that will take place on July 14th and 15th 2006 at the University of Bradford. The focus of the Conference will be on making links between theory and action, academics and activists. Conference themes will be interdisciplinary. Abstracts of no more than 150 words should be sent to <<mailto:fwsacon@bradford.ac.uk>> by 20th January 2006. More information is available from Clare Beckett: <<mailto:c.beckett@bradford.ac.uk>>

**Know How Conference 2006 PUEG-UNAM-MEXICO**
"Weaving the information society: a gender and multicultural perspective", Mexico City, August 21st-26th 2006. The Know How Conference is hosted by Programa Universitario de Estudios de Género and UNAM, in co-operation with the Know How Secretariat. The mission of the Know How Conference 2006 is to advance gender justice and respect for every nation's cultural diversity within the information society, and promote access to information and communication as a fundamental woman's and human right. The deadline for submission is March 1st 2006. All proposals should be sent to: <<mailto:knowhow_mex@generounix.pueg.unam.mx>>

**International Conference in Social Sciences and Humanities**
"The Persecution of Women, Social Mobilisation and the Right to Asylum",15-16 September 2006, organised by the Centre de Recherches Politiques de la Sorbonne (Paris) and the Department of Politics and International relations (University of Southampton). Proposals to include a 300-word abstract and a CV with the author's principal publications in French or in English to be submitted to the organisers: J.L.Freedman@soton.ac.uk and valluy@univ-paris1.fr <mailto:valluy@univ-paris1.fr> by the 15th December 2005. More info: <http://terra.rezo.net>>

**Gender and Migration in Central and Eastern Europe**
The Migration Online website, which is focusing in migration and refugee issues in Central and
Eastern Europe, is looking for contributions (in English and Czech) to the theme: Gender and Migration. More info at: <<http://migrationonline.cz/news_f.shtml?x=755

Two interesting newsletters
The Fawcett Society has Fawcett news, a newsletter that is keeping readers up to date with current issues and policies, which impact on gender equality in the UK. On http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/
The newsletter of the European Women's Lobby has European and international news on: http://www.womenlobby.org/site/hp.asp?langue=EN . We have copied here a few French items.

French items - European Women's Lobby

Sur l'identité, la sexualité, la diversité
Appel à documents pour la conférence annuelle de la Feminist and Women's Studies Association (UK and Ireland) sur l'identité, la sexualité, la diversité, qui aura lieu les 14 et 15 juillet 2006 à l'université de Bradford. La conférence permettra de faire le lien entre la théorie et la pratique, les universitaires et les activistes. Les thèmes seront interdisciplinaires. Les résumés (150 mots maximums) doivent être adressés à <mailto:fwsacon@bradford.ac.uk> avant le 20 janvier 2006. Informations complémentaires: Clare Beckett <mailto:c.beckett@bradford.ac.uk>

Weaving the information society - Mexico City
Appel à documents: conférence de Know How 2006 PUEG-UNAM-MEXICO : « Weaving the information society: a gender and multicultural perspective », Mexico City, 21-26 août 2006. La conférence de Know How se déroulera sous les auspices du Programa Universitario de Estudios de Genero et de l'UNAM, en collaboration avec le secrétariat de Know How. Cette conférence a pour but de promouvoir la justice entre les femmes et les hommes et le respect de la diversité culturelle de chaque nation dans le cadre de la société de l'information, et de promouvoir l'accès à l'information et à la communication en tant que droit fondamental humain et des femmes. Date-limite d'envoi des propositions: 1er mars 2006.
Toutes les propositions sont à envoyer à : <mailto:knowhow_mex@generounix.pueg.unam.mx>

Genre et migration.

Une approche du développement basée sur les droits humains
Bourse de recherche : l'Institute of Women's Studies, université d'Ottawa invite les candidats à sa Bank of Montreal Visiting Scholar in Women's Studies 2006-2007, ouverte aux chercheuses hautement qualifiées et travaillant sur les questions féminines. La « visiting scholar » devra présenter son projet de recherche en cours sur les questions de femmes à l’occasion de séminaires/conférences et collaborer avec la communauté des étudiants et des collègues. Pour en savoir plus, envoyez un courriel à : <mailto:mcharbo@uottawa.ca>

Une approche du développement basée sur les droits humains : Gestion d'un cycle de programme (OIR06), vendredi 10 - jeudi 16 mars 2006 - Dans le cadre de cette formation, les participant-e-s exploreront les principes, les politiques et la pratique qui sous-tendent le développement basé sur les droits humains. Cette formation doit mettre en évidence la capacité de programmation des participant-e-s. Faisant écho à la nature pluridisciplinaire du développement basé sur les droits humains, le programme de formation s'adresse aux conseillers politiques et aux gestionnaires de projet, spécialisés dans les droits humains, avec une expérience des contextes humanitaire ou de développement, ainsi qu'à ceux qui travaillent sur les questions de développement dans les pays industrialisés. Date-limite d'envoi des candidatures : 5 janvier 2006. Toutes les informations sur les programmes de formation IHRN sur : <http://www.ihrnetwork.org/current-programme.htm>

Forum social mondial
Appel à documents : Journal of International Women's Studies, numéro spécial sur le corps des
femmes, l'analyse sexo-spécifique et la politique féministe au Forum social mondial - Depuis son inauguration en 2001, le Forum social mondial (FSM) est devenu le lieu où se renforcent les solutions alternatives à l'agenda néolibéral de la mondialisation. Beaucoup de femmes et certaines féministes ont participé de diverses manières à ces forums : en tant qu'organisatrices, qu'animatrices d'ateliers, et participantes. Pour ce numéro spécial, on recherche des contributions sur le genre, provenant de femmes ayant une expérience directe de l'organisation ou de la participation à un ou à plusieurs événements du Forum social mondial. Veuillez envoyer votre contribution aux responsables avant le 30 avril 2006, en suivant les directives postées sur le site Internet du JIWS : www.bridgew.edu/JIWS. Contacts : Laura Roskos <mailto:roskos@masscedaw.org> et Patricia Willis <mailto:pwill06@coastalnet.com>

La persécution des femmes
« La persécution des femmes, la mobilisation sociale et le droit d'asile » - Appel à documents dans le cadre des préparatifs à la conférence internationale sur les sciences sociales et les lettres, 15-16 septembre 2006. Les ONG et la société civile sont vivement encouragés à envoyer leurs contributions avant janvier. Pour en savoir plus, contactez Jérôme VALLUY : jerome.valluy@univ-paris1.fr

Note
To avoid misunderstanding, we always send the IAW Newsletter twice: 1) in the body of the e-mail, and 2) as an attachment, saved in Word 97 (changed). Both have exactly the same content. The only difference is, that the attachment has a better lay-out, so it will be easy for Affiliates to copy it and send it by post to IAW members without e-mail.
Also, please advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address.

IAW Newsletter / News Flash : Joke Sebus <iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>
International Women's News : Priscilla Todd <iaw.iwnews@toddsec.com>
Membership Officer : Pat Richardson <iaw.membership@tsn.cc>
Treasurer : Marieluise Weber <marieluise.weber@web.de>