

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

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



IAW NEWSLETTER - February 2002, nr. 2

Equal Rights

Dear IAW members,

Most of us, when preparing conferences, will probably know by now how to surf the net and how to find the subjects and narrow down what we are looking for, for news about CSW for example. In this newsletter also two cross-cutting issues to focus on. The first is a sad and alarming one: the child in danger all over the world, that will certainly be the centre of attention in the UN special session on children, May 6-10, 2002.

The second one is one of progress: the sudden interest of women all over the world on financing for development. In Monterey, Mexico and in the Alternative World Social Forum in Porte Alegre, Brazil, but also in a practical way. More than 40 countries handled the succesful Gender Responsive Budget Analysis.

The organisation of the IAW Congress in Sri Lank is running smoothly, in Afghanistan women have been lobbying for the Declaration, Kenia has a law against FGM, and forests have to be saved and protected..

"A CHILD IN DANGER IS A CHILD THAT CANNOT WAIT" - Kofi Annan

Protocol against Sexual Trafficking enters into Force

The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography has entered into force, with UNICEF hailing it as a positive advancement in the fight against child exploitation. One of two optional protocols adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 May 2000, it aims to reinforce the Convention on the Rights of the Child and criminalises violations of children rights, such as sale, transfer of organs for profit, illegal adoption, prostitution and pornography. It also emphasises international co-operation, information and education campaigns to combat the "multi-billion dollar commercial sex trade" and adds that poverty and underdevelopment, two of the root causes, should be addressed through international co-operation. According to UNICEF, about one million children, mainly girls, are victims of the trade every year. They are often refugees, orphans, abandoned children, and children working as domestic servants or those affected by armed conflicts. UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy described the protocol as a "marvellous testimony" of the international community's commitment to eradicating the illicit trade. She however added that it was "urgent that governments implement the standards".

The Protocol had been signed by 89 countries and ratified by 16, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

(Integrated Regional Information Networks)

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<http://www.childlabournews.info> and <http://www.globalmarch.org/clns/index.html/> Releases also available in Spanish and French

U.S. to assist Pakistan in reducing Child Labour

Islamabad -- The United States Department of Labour will provide \$5 million for education initiatives for the child labour programme in the current fiscal year with a possibility of additional funding in subsequent years. An agreement was signed between the United States Department of Labour and the

Federal Ministry of Education regarding education initiatives for the child labour programme in three districts of Punjab. Federal Minister for Education Zobaida Jalal and Thomas Moorhead, the deputy secretary of the US Department of Labour, signed the agreement. The Ministry of Education will co-ordinate its activities under the agreement with the relevant ministries and civil organisations. The agreement was signed as a result of the meeting held between the two groups last June with a view to enhance collaboration for providing working children and those children who are at a risk of entering the child labour market an access to top basic education.

The Nazims, district co-ordination officers, education and labour officers, and NGOs will be involved in implementing the programme within the government schooling system. The government schools will be assisted in starting afternoon classes for working children. Supplementary curriculum will be introduced at school level to make education more relevant to future work.

(Files from The Pakistan Newswire)

Sudan: more Child Soldiers demobilised in Bahr Al-Ghazal

The UNICEF disclosed that 909 child soldiers had been demobilised from the SPLA in Bahr al-Ghazal, southern Sudan, over the last two months. "The removal of more than 900 children in December and January from the SPLA marks another significant inroad into the number of children being used as soldiers," UNICEF said. The 909 were in addition to the 3,551 child soldiers removed from the SPLA - the military wing of the rebel SPLM - between February and August of 2001. The demobilisation work was being carried out by an SPLM taskforce, which had received training and support from UNICEF. Of the 909 newly demobilised child soldiers, 233 had been demobilised in Aweil West, 170 in Gogrial, 361 in Aweil East and 145 in Aweil South, according to UNICEF figures. A total of 147 had already been reunited with their families. An additional 918 child soldier were currently taking part in demobilisation processes in Aweil West and Gogrial.

Congress to provide \$45 million for IPEC

The FY 2002 congressional appropriation for the US Department of Labour includes \$45 million for programs under the ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour. An additional \$37 million is earmarked for bilateral assistance "to improve access to basic education in international areas with a high rate of abusive and exploitative child labour". Other key appropriations include \$20 million for multilateral technical assistance and \$17 million for bilateral technical assistance to help developing countries implement core labour standards, strengthen the capacities of ministries of labour to enforce national labour laws, and protect internationally recognised worker rights, and \$10 million for global workplace-based HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs.

City Vice Girls 'Mere Slaves'

A disturbing report into prostitution has revealed a major increase in the number of East European women being offered to Birmingham massage parlours by pimps. The revelation comes following an investigation by the End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking (ECPAT). Local campaigners admitted they were worried at the revelations and said the women, many of them under age, faced conditions which were effectively 'slavery'. The project was largely funded by the STOP Programme of the European Commission and the Oak Foundation. It was the first investigation of its kind and experts found that women 'fresh off the boat' were turning up in phone flats and saunas very quickly. The report said, 'this indicates that someone is telling them where to work, as they have not had time to find out about the sex industry'.

(Birmingham Evening Mail)

Australia: Farmers in Children's Work Plea

The Victorian Farmers' Federation will ask to be exempted from laws requiring child work permits when employing their own children on farms. Farmers are expected to make the request in a formal submission to the Victorian Government's review of child labour laws. The review, the first in 30 years, is examining, among other things, whether children aged 15 and under on family farms need a permit to work. Caramut farmer and VFF industrial representative Alan Bowman said the employment of farmers' children on their own parents' farms was a grey area in law. Welcoming the review he opined that off-farm child employment in a place like McDonald's was completely different because it involved an external relationship.

(Weekly Times).

Not a single case of Child Prostitution Registered this year

North Bohemian police have registered not a single case of child prostitution and spread of child pornography this year, police spokeswoman Jarmila Hrubesova informed. The Dubi-Cinovec border crossing section of the international E-55 motorway is a notorious, most frequented "sex-road" in north Bohemia. The largest number of cases of child prostitution were registered there in the past few years. Of the 50 cases that were dealt with by north Bohemian police in 1993-2000, 21 were registered in the Teplice region. According to police information, 80% percent of clients were Germans. The police statistics reveal declining interest, mainly of German clients, in erotic services in the north Bohemian border region
(Czech News Agency).

Children to not Perform Heavy Tasks in Work Places

Turkey's Ministry of Labour and Social Security has prepared a draft law, which introduces fines of TL1billion for each child forced to perform heavy functions in work places. According to the draft children who have not reached the age of 15 and who have not completed their primary and secondary education may work only with the parent's written consent and provided the tasks required from them will not hinder their development. The law also prohibits those who have been previously punished for offences against children and youths, those who are known to be addicted to drugs or alcohol or who have been previously jailed for serious offences from employing children under any circumstance.
(Ankara - Turkish Daily News)

Film about one of India's Ugliest Secrets

The ritualistic sexual abuse of young girls in India is the topic of 'Maya', a devastating new film from first-time director Digvijay Singh. The film received raves for its unsparing depiction of India's little-understood devadasi tradition. Digvijay Singh and film's producers, Dileep Singh Rathode and Emmanuel Pappas, have been working on the film for the past five years. The subject matter is never made titillating, nor is it glossed over. A report quoted by Human Rights Watch states that "Thousands of untouchable female children between 6 and 8 years are forced to become maidens of God (Devadasis). Taken from their families, they are raped by the temple priest and finally auctioned secretly into prostitution
(India-West).

Bangladesh: Street Children face a daily routine of Exploitation

A recent report by the Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children Environment (ARISE) in Bangladesh has warned that the number of street children in the country is set to rise as the urban population grows by 9% a year. A joint initiative between the government and the UN, the report has been widely described as one of the most comprehensive reports on the plight of street children in Bangladesh. It is impossible to calculate exactly how many street children there are in total, but it is generally thought to be approaching two million. Most of these are aged between three and 18 years
(BBC).

Dominican Republic, Child Labour Poll

The Child Labour Poll carried out by the Dominican Republic Ministry of Labour has revealed that 240,000 children under 14 work. This is 56% of the children in that age group. Dominican law bans children under 14 from working. The survey also shows that 428,720 children 17 or younger work in the DR. Of these, 21% are 14-15 years old and 23% are 16-17 years old.
(DRI News).

Win against Child and Slave Labour.

Ames Department Stores, Inc., the nation's largest regional discount retailer with \$3 billion in annual sales and 333 stores, announced in early December its new policy against sourcing or selling goods from Burma, the Southeast Asian country reviled for human rights abuses, including child labour and a modern form of slave labour. Ames' move follows similar pledges by 25 companies in the last 20 months to refuse to sell goods from Burma, including Wal-Mart, Kenneth Cole, Williams Sonoma/Pottery Barn, IKEA, Crate and Barrel, and Jones New York. For more information: visit <http://www.freeburmacoalition.org/>. (Free Burma Coalition)

Kenya enacts Law against FGM

The Kenyan government has finally enacted a law against female genital mutilation (FGM)! Yes, girls no longer have to live in dread of the 'cut', that dreadful ogre that terrorises many a young girl, traumatising them while destroying any vintage of satisfaction and pleasure they may have wished to have in their sexual and reproductive health. FGM, otherwise known as Female Circumcision, is one of the most severe forms of gender-based violence inflicted on girls at a tender age and it has its roots in the patriarchal cultural norm inherent in our society.

International Women's Tribune Center

UNICEF Cites Unsafe Conditions in Latin America

More than 14% of Latin American children work in agriculture under dangerous and life-threatening conditions, UNICEF said, adding that child labour in the cane, fruit, coca and cotton industries is a dangerous and persistent regional tradition. UNICEF said children working in agriculture are exposed to pesticides, long workdays outdoors and run the risk of being bitten by poisonous snakes or insects.

UNITED NATIONS

CSW, the UN Commission on the Status of Women

On 1) eradicating poverty, including through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle in a globalizing world and 2) environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters, a gender perspective. All documents are to be found on www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/46sess.htm

Gender Policies and Strategies in the UN system

An interesting document to read after downloading it from the same page is item 3a of the provisional agenda from the Economic and Social Council. The Title is: Review of Gender Mainstreaming in Entities of the United Nations system, 14 January 2002.

In chapter II for instance, on Policy and Strategy Development, you'll find interesting examples of gender mainstreaming. The gender mainstreaming policy in implementing the Security Council resolution 1325, the UN Centre for Human Settlements or UNCHS/Habitat, the UN Conference on Trade and Development or UNCTAD, the UN Children's Fund or UNICEF, the UN Population Fund or UNFPA, the World Food Programme or WFP, the ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organisation or FAO, the World Bank and others.

Have a look at www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw46/csw46jointworkplanadv2002.pdf

World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

In Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002. A lot of activity and a lot of preparation is going on, all to be found on the internet. See also www.johannesburgsummit.org

International Conference on Financing for Development

Monterey, Mexico, 2002. It is the first time in history that the UN, the World Bank, the IMF, and the WTO will come together to find new ways to ensure that financial resources are directed towards the implementation of established development goals. Topics on the agenda range from domestic resource mobilization and trade to institutional reforms in the world financial system, all of which have significant impacts on women's economic security and empowerment.

Vital financial resources for development are increasingly being steered towards meeting monetary and financial goals, at the neglect of meeting basic human needs, such as health, education and social services. Debt servicing, lack of development assistance targeted to women's needs and unregulated private capital flows often increase the burden of care on women, decrease their access to health care and education systems and increase the incidence of trafficking of women and girls as families are forced to find alternative means of survival. The FfD process is an important opportunity to ensure that commitments made, in particular at Cairo and Beijing, are backed by financial resources to facilitate their implementation. To this end UNIFEM will be working with economists and women's organizations world-wide throughout the FfD process to have women's voices and concerns included at the highest levels of policy deliberations.

Link to other resources: the official FfD web-site www.un.org/esa/ffd/

International Women and Health

The 9th IWHM will be held in Toronto, Canada from August 12th to 16th, 2002. The IWHMs are based on the recognition of equality as a condition of health and the recognition of the principle of distributive justice for women of the North and the South. The goal of the 9th International Women and Health Meeting is summed up by the Canadian Aboriginal words "Meno Totumowin" meaning "good action". The 9th IWHM will focus on the following three themes:

- * sexual and reproductive rights
- * violence against women (state and family), and
- * environmental health.

See: <http://www.iwhm-rifs.org>

FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Genetic diversity keeps forests healthy, says Expert Panel. Forest genetic resources must be conserved – and the biggest threat to them is the loss of the forest itself. That is the view of the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Gene Resources, which met recently in Rome. Forests face a wide range of threats, from the degradation caused by fires to the deforestation resulting from encroachment by agriculture. These not only threaten the forest as a productive resource but may reduce the number of species, especially in tropical areas where many tree species may be found in a small area. The Panel also reiterated the importance of maintaining a high level of genetic diversity to ensure healthy tree populations. And it noted the need for institutions to collaborate on the conservation and exchange of genetic materials.

For this and other items see the FAO website at www.fao.org/

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Women's World 2002 Conference, Uganda - July 21-26 2002

The Women's World 2002 Conference which will be held in Uganda - Makerere University (my workplace). The Women's Studies Department will host it and it is the first of its kind to be held in Africa. The theme is Gains and Challenges.

IAW members are welcome, says Joy Kirenga, member of the organising/publicity committee.

Visit the website for more information www.makerere.ac.ug/womenstudies or email direct to gendermu@africaonline.co.ug

WELCOME DOWNUNDER

To anyone planning a trip to Australia who would like to meet Aussie feminists, please let IAW member Sheila Byard know, preferably with a copy to Priscilla Todd and Pat Richardson. Sheila and Priscilla are in Melbourne, Victoria and Pat is on the New South Wales coast north of Sydney. They all have contacts wherever you may be going in that big brown country.

Email address: cassia@vicnet.net.au

New Frontiers for a New Century

IAW 32nd Congress in Sri Lanka from 14 – 22 September 2002

Preparations are well underway. The Congress venue is the Galleface Hotel and all accommodation offered in Colombo is very reasonably priced and includes breakfast. This is the opportunity for all members to attend and meet old and new friends from all over the world. More details in the next newsletter.

A Hundred years of IAW in 2004

In 1994 the Alliance was inaugurated in Berlin in Germany – and it is planned to return to Germany in 2004 to celebrate our Centenary. This exciting concept will be discussed in more detail soon and final plans made at Congress 2002.

Websites IAW Affiliates and Associates

We made a typing error in the URL of the Swiss website – so here it is. Please take a look, it is a good one.

Swiss Association for the Rights of Women www.feminism.ch/

WORLD NEWS

Afghanistan, Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women

A lengthy and encouraging report has been received from Nasrine Gross who returned to the United States after staying in Kabul for forty days. Shoukria Haidar, the President of Negar and Nasrine Gross, President of Kabultec. Negar-Support of Women of Afghanistan were invited to attend the transfer of power ceremonies in Kabul on December 22, 2001. Below are some extracts.

The Ceremony

As you all know, the transfer of power ceremonies was a great success. It was the first time in Afghan history that power was being transferred peacefully. Both President Rabbani and Chairman Karzai were very gracious in their speeches and behavior as was the audience.

Chairman Karzai referred to women's rights, issues and needs. There were a couple of points, from the standpoint of women, that needed attention and we dutifully pointed them out.

- Of the three or so thousand guests only a handful were women. We asked that next time (for any ceremony) there need to be many many more women invited.

- Of all the speeches in the three hour ceremony, none was delivered by a woman. We pointed this out during the event and asked that Dr. Sima Samar give a speech. Unfortunately, by the time the message got to the right people, the closing Koran recitation was done and Dr. Samar decided that it would not be appropriate to speak. We pointed out that for the future, such inclusion be incorporated from the planning stage. To show their intent, the authorities invited all of the women to the day's luncheon at the palace - where we all met for the first time.

They were visible

During the event, however, we could not find seats, so fortunately we stood the whole time on the side where both the audience and the stage (where the old and the new governments were seated), had a clear view of us. Shoukria Haidar and Hassina Sherjan Samad were wearing pantsuits and no head covering, Nilab Mobarez a pantsuit and head scarf, and Nasrine a red mid-calf skirt, green blouse and black jacket (colors of the flag) with no head cover. Anne Marie Lizin and a couple of journalists also standing with us had no head cover. Our message was coming loud and clear. Outside, we shook hands with and distributed the Declaration to thousands of people and got signatures. In fact, there was such a clamor to receive a copy that we ran out of copies.

Signing the Declaration

From the next day on, we began our activities in earnest. Our plan was to visit with each minister and get his/her signature for the Declaration. We were able to get signatures from most of them - in fact all those we were able to meet signed the Declaration, including former President Rabbani and Director of King Zaher Shah's Office, Dr. Zalmay Rassoul. We asked to see Mr. Karzai. His office gave us a fifteen minute meeting. When we went there, Mr. Karzai kept us with him for three and a half hours. After talking with us over the Declaration (in the presence of Mr. Qassemyar, now the elected President of the Special Independent Commission on the Emergency Loya Jirga and Dr. Ashraf Ghani, advisor to Lakhdar Brahimi) he invited us to meet Senator Joseph Biden, have lunch with them and attend the private meeting of the two. Finally, after all that ceremony during which Dr. Samar was also present, he excused himself from the Senator to come and sign the Declaration. To us his signing the Declaration underscored the commitment and direction of the interim government.

P.S: In case you want a copy of the Declaration, visit www.erols.com/kabultec.

Afghanistan, an interview of Hamid Karzai by EurasiaNet

Eurasianet later had an interview with Hamid Karzai, head of the Afghan interim government, via email.

Here is a small selection. For the whole interview see <http://www.eurasianet.org/>

EurasiaNet: On the issue of women, what concrete steps is your administration making to help the situation of Afghan women in general?

Karzai: We think their education has the highest priority for us. Women in Afghanistan will enjoy rights like women in other countries like Iran, like other places. They must be able to choose their own profession for example.

EurasiaNet: What about the veil?

Karzai: We are a Muslim country.

EurasiaNet: Does it mean the veil is obligatory?

Karzai: We are a Muslim Country.

Gender Responsive Budget Analysis

"If you want to see which way a country is headed, look at the country's budget and how it allocates resources for women and children."

Pregs Govender, Member of Parliament, South Africa

The budget is a policy statement. It reflects the social and economic priorities of a government, the monetary embodiment of its political commitment to specific policies and programmes. Gender responsive budget analysis provides a way to hold governments accountable for its commitments to a gender equality and women's human rights - by linking these commitments to the distribution, use and generation of public resources.

Gender responsive budget initiatives can be carried out at national, provincial and municipal levels and may cover the overall budget or selected parts. They can be done within government, by the Ministry of Finance in conjunction with the Ministry of Women's Affairs or other spending ministries, or outside government, by NGOs and/or independent researchers. Initiatives with support within and outside of government, operating in dialogue with each other, have proven especially effective. Applying gender analysis to the budget is not simply a technical exercise.

It requires thinking about government finances in a new way, looking beyond the household as a single unit of analysis to examine the situation of each of its members, male and female. It requires a focus on the unpaid care economy, in which much of women's time is spent. And it requires gender-disaggregated statistics. See also www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/46sess.htm

Alternative World Social Forum

In Porto Alegre, Brazil – February 1-5th 2002, representing a myriad of social movements worldwide, tens of thousands of activists opened their alternative to the World Economic Forum in New York with a massive peace march on January 31, 2002. As many as 30,000 people joined the march to open the World Social Forum. The six-day conference featured 700 workshops, 100 seminars and 28 plenary assemblies of more than 13,000 delegates for the 50,000 participants from 150 countries who are gathered at the sprawling complex of Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul. "The importance of this forum is not simply a matter of how many people participate, but the enormous number of important topics to be discussed here," said Brazilian Workers' Party leader and presidential hopeful Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva. While participants at the World Economic Forum discuss "how to accumulate wealth," the World Social Forum will focus on "how to better distribute it," he said.

The World Bank president James Wolfensohn, who asked to be included among speakers at the forum, has been denied entry, as the principles the World Bank defends are incompatible with those of the forum, said Sergio Haddad of the Brazilian Association of Non-Governmental Organisations.

Wolfensohn was told he could be included as a member of the audience.

(Files from the Agence France Presse)

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 organisations with an e-mail address, and in that case: please be so kind to contact Pat Richardson.

International Alliance of Women / Alliance Internationale des Femmes

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