

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

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

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

**IAW NEWSLETTER February 2008, no. 2**



**Equal Rights**

*Dear members,*

*The IAW delegation and other IAW members representing their organisations, are on their way to CSW in New York with bags full of papers and with our good wishes for a successful conference.*

*In this newsletter news of the IAW side event at CSW, of CEDAW, trafficking, the struggle to reduce HIV/AIDS, a special Women's Day Seminar in Geneva, Switzerland. Around the world with Australia, India, Saudi Arabia, and Mary Robinson.*

*Also: A hundred year old campaign for change by women: 1908-2008 - Women's Day!  
You will find data on conferences and international days at the end.*

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN**

**Gender Budgeting - good and bad practices - Gender Justice of public expenditure**

The Side Event by IAW and WILPF on 25 February 2008 will take place at the Church Center,  
777 UN Plaza, New York, Drew room, zero level, 2.00 - 3.45

The event will be chaired by IAW President Rosy Weiss.

Moderator is Marion Boker, IAW, EGBN-European Gender Budget Network, Berlin.

Speakers:

\* Ewa Ruminska-Zimmy, UN-Economic Commission for Europe - The Economical setting of Gender Budgeting.

\* Dr. Abdur Razique Samadi, Afghanistan Deputy Minister of Finances - A new instrument for gender justice and its benefits for the equality of women and men.

\* Klaus Feller, Ministry for Finances of the Land, Berlin, Germany - The methodology and results of the integration of Gender Budgeting in Berlin since 2002.

**Quotes from the IAW and WILPF flyer**

Gender budgeting, surely we have means for ensuring gender equality in public finance and surely we have the ability to disaggregate public finance in such a way as to track and show the budget resources that actually go to women.

*Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia.*

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is to keep us out of war.

*Maria Montessori*

When men talk about defence, they always claim to be protecting women and children, but they never ask the women and children what they think.

*Patricia Schroder, first Congresswoman of Colorado.*

**CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**

Please note that as of 1 January 2008, responsibility for servicing the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has been transferred to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

Information on the [40th](#) and future sessions of the Committee is available on the [website of OHCHR](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/index.htm), on <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/index.htm>

## **CEDAW - 41st session - 30 June- 18 July 2008**

*Finland (5+6) - Iceland (5) - Lithuania (3+4) - Nigeria (6) - Slovakia (4) - United Kingdom (5+6) - Tanzania (4+5+6) - Yemen (6).*

Of the state parties to be examined in the 41<sup>st</sup> session of CEDAW, two (Finland and Iceland) have prohibited **corporal punishment** of girls and boys in all settings. In others, it is lawful for parents to inflict corporal punishment on their children as a form of “discipline”.

Lithuania and Slovakia have committed themselves to prohibition.

In the UK, parents and some other carers can still justify common assault on their children as “reasonable punishment”.

Corporal punishment is not yet prohibited by law in all schools in Tanzania. In Nigeria, Tanzania and Yemen, corporal punishment is lawful in the penal system, both as a sentence for crime and as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions.

### **THE RIGHT TO FOOD THROUGH THE RIGHTS TO LAND AND WATER FOR WOMEN AND POOR FARMERS - and CEDAW**

A Round Table on “**The right to food through the rights to land and water for women and poor farmers**” was organised jointly by FAO and the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs in formal status with FAO (Chair: IAW member Bettina Corke) on the occasion of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Conference, November the 17th 2007.

*With particular reference to Article 14 of CEDAW on Rural Women, which was presented by Dr. Ivanka Corti, Former Chair of the UN CEDAW Committee.*

Ivanka Corti provided an overview of the CEDAW monitoring process and inquiries on situations of grave or systematic violations of women’s rights. As far as Article 14 is concerned, the Monitoring Committee pays particular attention to **access to women’s land and property rights**, discrimination in inheritance, access to resources and credit as well as their full integration in the rural development. In particular, Dr. Corti focussed on Article 14 of the Convention dedicated to the rights of rural women:

- \* to participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;
- \* to have access to adequate health care facilities, including family planning;
- \* to benefit from social security programmes;
- \* to obtain all types of training and education;
- \* to organise self-help groups and cooperatives in order to obtain equal opportunities through employment or self-employment;
- \* to participate in all community activities;
- \* to have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;
- \* to enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

*Send to us by Bettina Corke, IAW representative at the FAO.*

### **HIV/AIDS**

The **Emergency Fund of President Bush** to fight HIV/AIDS has disbursed since 2003 almost US \$15 billion. That is, the major part of the \$19 billion which had been earmarked to help 15 countries, many of them among the hardest hit. Although Zimbabwe belongs to this group it is not part of the programme.

At the end of January President Bush announced that the focal countries will receive the main portion of the US \$30 billion the US intends to provide in the next 5 years for the fight against HIV/AIDS.

### **IAW Questions**

The convenor of the IAW Health Commission has some questions. The disbursement is fine, but where is the funding for family planning? Where is the integration of family planning and reproductive

health services into HIV/AIDS programs, in order to produce synergy effects which would benefit both women and men?

#### **IAW resolution**

The request to improve this integration is contained in Resolution 1 of the 34th Congress of the International Alliance of Women. The resolution also demands a reverse of the current trend and quick restoration of effective levels of funding for family planning as part of global reproductive health and population aid. The money is there, but ...

*Send to us by Gudrun Haupter, Convenor of the IAW Commission of Health.*

#### **2008 high-level meeting on AIDS**

A 2008 high-level meeting on AIDS will take place at the UN headquarters in New York on 10 - 11 June.

It will review progress made in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

Ahead of this high-level meeting, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will submit a comprehensive and analytical report for consideration by Member States. The SG's Report will be based on national reports that Member States were requested to submit to UNAIDS by 31 January 2008.

The organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting are outlined in a resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2007. Detailed information about the plenary meetings, the thematic panel discussions, and the informal interactive civil society hearing will be provided in due course.

The high-level meeting will provide an important forum for various stakeholders, including government representatives and accredited civil society participants.

More on: [http://www.wunrn.com/news/2008/02\\_08/02\\_04\\_08/020408\\_hiv.htm](http://www.wunrn.com/news/2008/02_08/02_04_08/020408_hiv.htm)

#### **Women, Wars, Weapons and Conflict Prevention - At What Cost?**

WILPF, 2008 **International Women's Day** Seminar, Geneva, Switzerland, 5 and 6 March 2008

March 5 is an NGO conference -- an opportunity for activists and advocates to share information in a series of briefings, discussion and strategising on gender, security and preventing conflict.

March 6 is an opportunity for dialogue among NGOs, governments and UN officials.

A keynote speech during the lunchtime period will be followed by two panel discussions in the afternoon, all of which will take place in the Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Since 1984, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) has worked with other NGOs to organise a seminar linking 8 March – International Women's Day – with disarmament, peace and security issues.

Co-sponsored by WILPF, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and the NGO Committee on Disarmament, this day will start with a panel reflecting on the rewards and limits of Security Council resolution 1325.

**Today military budgets are soaring**, new weapons for killing and mutilating are under development, and 27,000 nuclear weapons remain threatening our very survival.

Outdated military security doctrines and budgets of the Cold War prevail, and while they remain the vision of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security cannot be fulfilled.

Without women's participation and empowerment and without gender equality, sustainable peace, sustainable development and true human security are unattainable.

The failure to finance gender equality is the failure to finance development and human security.

*More on:* <http://www.wilpf.int.ch/events/2008IWDseminar.html> or email [felicity.hill@wilpf.ch](mailto:felicity.hill@wilpf.ch)

*The best resource regarding Peace issues is the very thorough electronic WILPF newsletter.*

*The WILPF website is to be found on: [www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)*

*This message was sent to us by IAW member Irina Salis-Morfopoulos*

#### **Combat human trafficking**

15 February 2008 - The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking brought together 1400 delegates from 116 countries to share knowledge and develop an international strategy to combat human trafficking, called for greater awareness, more resources and coordinated action in the fight against trafficking.

The Forum was convened by the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), an initiative launched by UNODC and several UN partners to combat a practice that is viewed as modern-day slavery.

Calling the Forum "just the beginning of a process," Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), called for practical measures to prevent trafficking, such as self-certification by businesses to take slave-made products off the shelves and developing new technology to monitor human trafficking routes.

He also proposed the tracking and blocking of credit card payments for internet human trafficking transactions and codes of conduct to curb sex tourism.

#### **Women Leaders' Council**

Stressing the need to strengthen partnerships among governments, businesses and civil society in the fight against trafficking, the Executive Director hailed the launch during the Forum of the Women Leaders' Council.

*The group brings together political figures, diplomats, trade union representatives, business leaders and entertainers from around the world to work together to tackle the problem and help the victims.*

#### **Trafficking - biggest of obscenities**

Ms Chowdhury, India's Minister of Women and Child Development, stressed the need to move "from talk to action". Describing human trafficking as the "biggest of obscenities", she urged people to be "brave enough to speak inconvenient truths".

Praising the success of the discussions of the last three days, she said, "We are leaving this Forum with innovative ways to influence our respective nations and governments."

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25649&Cr=trafficking&Cr1=Vienna>

### **AROUND THE WORLD**

#### **Australia's apology to Aborigines**

On February the 13th the Australian government made a formal apology for the past wrongs caused by successive governments on the indigenous Aboriginal population.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised in parliament to all Aborigines for laws and policies that "inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss".

He singled out the "Stolen Generations" of thousands of children forcibly removed from their families.

The apology, beamed live around the country on TV, was met with cheers.

But some Aborigines say it should have been accompanied with compensation for their suffering.

More on: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_pictures/7241980.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_pictures/7241980.stm)

#### **India - one-room school has shown the way**

Around two hours away to the east is Navi Mumbai and another two hours farther east towards Pune is Khairat-Dhangarwada village. The landscape changes from Mumbai's high-rise buildings as one drives towards the village. Khairat is a small village tucked far away from Mumbai, the commercial capital of India, a four-hour drive from the metropolis. Everything in the village points to rural settings – the rice fields, cows, goats, chickens and hills, but one thing does not – the XO laptop computer.

#### **First pilot project for children in India**

The XO computer arrived at this village school last year and is changing the lives of the children. It is the first ever pilot project for children in India. The 22 children, all in the 5-10 year age group and hailing from a nomadic tribe, settled many years ago in the region. They are studying in grades one to four.

The advent of the prototype B4 XO laptops has not changed the children's approach to school or the daily chores they do in the classroom of rural Indian schools. There are no benches to sit on. They sit cross-legged on the floor, but the machines have prompted the children to learn more and more.

#### **Language barrier**

In spite of the language barrier, the XO has been a huge hit with the Marathi-speaking children of the school. The medium of instruction at school is Marathi, the official language of the state.

"The keyboard is in English. English and Marathi are two different, alien languages. The children are new to computers, yet the XO is so user-friendly that I can manage to get across to them, to show them

how to do something with it," says Carla Gomez-Monroy, the educational consultant to the Khariat School Project.

*The XO is a technological masterpiece, which costs around US \$189 and has features suitable for use by children. It consumes power frugally, can withstand rough use and be used in hot and dusty environments.*

The ultimate aim is to bridge the digital divide between children from the poorer parts of the world and those who have access to digital educational resources.

The Indian government rejected the proposal after relying on multiple reports from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The Education Secretary said, "OLPC may actually be detrimental to the growth of the creative and analytical abilities of the child. We can't visualise a situation for decades when we can go beyond the pilot stage. We need classrooms and teachers more urgently than fancy tools."

*By Armstrong Vaz, February 11th 2008 and send to us by IAW member Anjana Basu*

### **Mary Robinson and the 'Elders'**

We found on the web a charming article on Mary Robinson, which will please our Irish members in particular. By Patrick Barkham, in the Guardian of February 13th 2008, to find on:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/feb/13/ireland.gender>

#### **Robinson on Leadership**

Another commitment Robinson has taken on is as one of the Elders, a group of 13 global senior citizens including Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Kofi Annan and Jimmy Carter (plus a chair kept symbolically free for the detained Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi) who hope to use their moral authority to intervene in crises around the world.

Robinson sees typically "female" leadership qualities in some of the male Elders - Tutu and the economist Muhammad Yunus are two who come to mind - but wants high-profile women to push for a new style of women's leadership.

#### **Two types of women**

"There are two types of women who get into high positions," she says. The first she describes as "very talented" women who do it in a traditional - male - way.

Like Margaret Thatcher? "Yes, and fair dos: to get through is not always easy. A lot of women in business accept that model. But there is also the other model I would very strongly advocate and this is equal to the contribution of men but different, complementary, exciting and innovative."

### **RIYADH, Saudi allow women to stay in hotels without a male guardian**

Women in Saudi Arabia can now stay in a hotel or a furnished apartment without a male guardian, according to a government decision that comes as the country faces increasing criticism for its severe restrictions on women.

The decision was adopted after a study conducted by the Interior Ministry, the Supreme Commission of Tourism and the religious police authority known as the Commission for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice.

Saudi women, under strict Islamic law, suffer severe restrictions on daily life: They are not allowed to be anywhere with an unrelated man, cannot drive, appear before a judge without a male representative, or travel abroad without a male guardian's permission.

The daily Al-Watan quoted a woman identified as saying that she once arrived late at night at King Fahd airport on an internal flight and was denied a hotel room because she was alone.

More on: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/01/21/news/Saudi-Women.php>

*Send to us by IAW member Gudrun Haupter..*

## **INTERNATIONAL DAYS - CONFERENCES - WEBSITES**

### **WOMEN CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE - 100 YEARS**

#### **8 March 1908 - 2008 - International Womens Day -**

Women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in

campaigning for change. Then in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day (NWD) was observed across the United States on 28 February. Women continued to celebrate NWD on the last Sunday of February until 1913.

*An overview of those 100 years on:* <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/about.asp>

### **24 March 2008 - World TB Day**

The annual event on 24 March marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch detected the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. This was a first step towards diagnosing and curing tuberculosis. WHO is working to cut TB prevalence rates and deaths by half by 2015.

Full text on: [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world\\_tb\\_day/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_tb_day/en/index.html)

### **7 April 2008 - World Health Day**

In 2008, World Health Day is dedicated to the theme "Protecting health from climate change." The theme was selected in recognition that climate change is posing ever growing threats to global public health security.

Full text on: [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world\\_health\\_day/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_health_day/en/index.html)

### **31 May 2008 - World No Tobacco Day**

Tobacco use is the second cause of death globally. It is currently responsible for killing one in 10 adults worldwide. Tobacco is the number one preventable epidemic that the health community faces.

Full text on: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/wntd/en/index.html>

### **AWID**

The 11<sup>th</sup> AWID, Association for Women's Rights in Development, will launch the 11<sup>th</sup> AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development, called: **The Power of Movements**, November 14-17, 2008. In Cape Town, South Africa.

*The final report* from the Expert Group Meeting on indicators to measure **violence against women** (8 to 10 October 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland) is now available for download on:

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/IndicatorsVAW/IndicatorsVAW\\_EGM\\_report.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/IndicatorsVAW/IndicatorsVAW_EGM_report.pdf)

### **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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