Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

IAW Newsletter April 2013, no 4

Dear members,

In this newsletter the first preparations for IAW Congress September 9-13 in London. The UN appointed Ms. Lakshmi Puri as temporary new head of UN Women. In the extra attachment you will find an elegant letter of former head Michelle Bachelet, who did us proud during the difficult negotiations of CSW57. The President of the General Assembly, Mr. Jeremić, made a review of recent decisions at the UN. He also gave a forecast of the schedule for coming months.

Girls are the subject in three articles found in the news: as future feminists, as new young voters and as being supported by young men in their campaign against sex-trafficking. We take a look at the news of three IAW Affiliates: the Frauenring in Germany, AIWC in India and WEL in Australia. Other news: protect your world, get vaccinated; the EU is preparing a law on child maintenance abroad; the registration for a Dialogue on International Migration and Development and also for an UNCTAD symposium; dates and registration of the 55th session of CEDAW.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

IAW Secretary General Lene Pind writes:

The following letter was received by NGO CSW/NY Chair Soon-Young Yoon from the former Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women Michelle Bachelet. While it was addressed to Soon Young, it was clearly meant for the entire membership of our NGO CSW/NY committee and so we wanted to share it with all of you. It represents a lovely thank you and farewell. We know you will appreciate her comments about our good work and the extraordinary partnership we had with UN Women during CSW 57. Enjoy!

For Michelle Bachelet's inspiring letter, please have a look at the attachment that is accompanying this newsletter.

IAW website

See also the IAW website with the report on CSW57 by IAW President Lyda Verstegen. It gives an overview of the many activities of IAW during this event. On http://www.womenalliance.org

SAFETY, CHOICES, VOICES
POST - 2015 WOMEN’S DEVELOPMENT GOALS
The 36th Triennial Congress of IAW

Message for IAW board members, member organizations, and individual members,

Secretary General Lene Pind writes:

The header above will be the overall theme of the 36th Triennial Congress of IAW, when we meet in London September 9 – 13, 2013. Planning is in progress, and very soon I’ll send out registration forms, nomination forms, a draft schedule etc. I have also started working on the agendas both for the board meetings and for Congress. The most important things that are going to take place at Congress are:

1. Elections. We are going to elect a board for the next triennium, inclusive. a new president and a new
secretary general.

2. New action programme. We have not had our action programme renewed for a long time. We need to do that now. Traditionally it takes a long time to write a new action programme. Lyda and the group we elected in Australia will work out a draft action programme, which will concentrate on CEDAW and the Post-2015 development goals for women. In this way we will have something concrete to work on when we get there, but it will still take up a lot of time during Congress

3. Resolutions. It is important, as was pointed out by the International Meeting in Melbourne, that we have something to show at the end of the meeting, some sort of result, policy paper or whatever. I hope to hear from especially Natalia Kostus: Climate change; Mmabatho: Violence against women; Lyda: CEDAW; Gudrun: Health. It would be really good to have something from Geneva also, something on human rights. I would welcome other contributions as well, especially if they are related to the theme of safety, choices, voices etc.

4. In the presentation of reports from members and international reps I would like us to focus on what members and international representatives believe are the most important issues for women in their country, region, field of work, so that we can include these in the action programme

5. International Women’s News. How is the work of making IWN digital progressing?

On top of all this we are going to have a round table/panel/conference organised by our hosting team.

My question to all of you now is:

Do you have any other suggestions for items for the agenda??

Please, let me know as soon as possible, and no later than May 1st. I hope to hear from you.

This Congress is going to be very important.

Lene Pind, Monday, 25 March 2013

Congress is September 9 – 13 + pre- and post congress board meetings on September 8 and 14

ALL members of IAW are welcome to attend Congress.

UNITED NATIONS

Acting Head of UN Women appointed Ms. Lakshmi Puri

Following the announcement of her departure by Michelle Bachelet, founding Executive Director of UN Women, the UN Secretary-General has designated Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director, as the Acting Head of the organization until further notice. Ms. Puri took on her new role as of 26 March 2013.

Ms. Lakshmi Puri is Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. She is directly responsible for the leadership and management of the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, United Nations Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships. She is now also currently Acting Head of UN Women.

Ms. Puri joined UN Women in March 2011, shortly after its creation. As a member of the senior leadership team, she actively contributed to the institutional development and consolidation of the entity, shaping its first Strategic Plan and positioning it as the leading organization for the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment globally.

She steered UN Women’s engagement in major intergovernmental processes, such as the Rio+20 conference and the Commission on the Status of Women.

She also led efforts to build strategic partnerships, particularly with civil society and women’s organizations, and oversaw the adoption and implementation of UN system-wide accountability and coherence systems for gender equality and women’s empowerment.

See also Ms. Puri’s interesting biography

Press Conference - what happened these months at the UN ?

April 16 - General Assembly President Vuk Jeremić reviewed recent meetings and forecast the schedule
for the coming months. Among recent landmark events was the Assembly’s adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty. It was characterized as “one of the most significant breakthroughs in the United Nations system on the international trade in arms”.

**Post-2015**
In addition, much work was being undertaken on the post-2015 development agenda under the auspices of the General Assembly, including the Open Working Group on the yet-to-be-elaborated sustainable development goals.

Mr. Jeremic had also attended a recent high-level event of the Secretary-General on the post 2015 agenda in Bali and Indonesia, and several follow-up events would be organized. He said that among other work streams relating to the post-2015 agenda, he had appointed Permanent Representatives of Norway and Kazakhstan to help structure a group of 30 experts on financing for sustainable development. He had also appointed Brazil and Italy as co-facilitators to help create the high-level forum that would replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, which would be tasked with monitoring and fulfilling the sustainable development goals once they were crafted and adopted.

**Millennium Development Goals**
He also spotlighted an upcoming high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals — the last of its kind — to be held on 25 September and intended to mark the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Agenda. Moreover, many efforts were being undertaken to bring various work streams relating to the development of the post-2015 agenda together, he said, adding that he would create an informal panel of all the relevant facilitators, in keeping with his “holistic vision” of the next 1000 days leading up to the deadline for attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

**Water and the ICC**
Thematic debates (which was the President’s prerogative to choose), were on: Water (March 22) and on International Criminal Crime Justice (April 10).


**UN urges parents and caregivers to ‘protect your world, get vaccinated’**
18 April 2013 – There is an urgent need to improve vaccination supplies and to better communicate the health benefits provided by vaccines, the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) said today ahead of World Immunization Week, starting on April 20, noting that up to 22 million children are not being immunized against preventable diseases.

**What are the challenges?**
These challenges range from not being able to keep vaccines at the correct temperature, to incorrect record keeping, to not allowing health workers access to children, according to a joint news release from WHO, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and their partners, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the GAVI Alliance.

Vaccination averts an estimated 2-3 million deaths every year, according to UN figures, from preventable diseases such as diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, pneumonia, polio rota virus, diarrhoea, rubella and tetanus. On: [http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44692&Cr=vaccin&Cr1=#.UXD4C0q56kw](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44692&Cr=vaccin&Cr1=#.UXD4C0q56kw)

*Convenor of the IAW Commission on Health, Gudrun Haupter*

*Editor’s Note: There are emerging problems in developed countries too, often due to the belief that the ‘old’ diseases are no longer a threat.*

**AROUND THE WORLD**

**Real Men Don't Buy Girls! - Irish Men Unite Against Sex-Trafficking**
8 April 2013 - 'Real Men Don't Buy Girls' is the message of a major social media campaign being launched by the Immigrant Council of Ireland to highlight sex-trafficking and the early age at which many girls enter into prostitution. The campaign is aiming to use high profile men from Irish music, sport and the arts to create greater awareness amongst young men about trafficking both in Ireland and abroad.
Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of the Immigrant Council of Ireland said:

"In Ireland one in four people sex-trafficked is a child. As a front-line agency we know that girls and young women are often being tricked into coming Ireland only for the grim reality of their situation to dawn when they are picked up at Dublin Airport and forced into a life of selling their bodies. This is something no brother, young father or any man should find acceptable.

**Some of Ireland's best known men are campaigning**

We are delighted that some of Ireland's best known men are uniting to launch this important awareness campaign and deliver the message that there is never any excuse for buying a girl, either here in Ireland or when travelling abroad with mates.

Through this campaign we hope to get young men to reflect on this and ensure they are fully aware of the reality behind trafficking."


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**School – the new Front - with generation F**

Introducing ... Generation F: young feminists in action

On International Women's Day we're delighted to announce Generation F - a ground-breaking new project supporting young people to take action for gender equality.

Generation F will provide workshops in schools and resources for young people to reclaim the 'f word' and speak out against sexism.

![Generation F](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Support Generation F!**

Here are three things you can do to support Generation F:

1. **Forward this email** to five young people, parents or teachers that you know.
2. Make a **donation** towards Generation F and increase the number of schools we're able to visit.
3. **Tweet**: Join Generation F: young feminists in action [www.ukfeminista.org.uk @uk_feminista](http://www.ukfeminista.org.uk @uk_feminista)

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**Girls today face endemic sexism.**

1 in 3 young women experience sexual bullying in school on a daily basis. Help them organise for change.

On: [http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=46729959b056037726793102e2&id=94d5c0149c&e=q7786f08d1](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=46729959b056037726793102e2&id=94d5c0149c&e=q7786f08d1)

From an article, found in the journal of IAW Affiliate WEL (Women's Electoral Lobby) in Australia.

*A new UK initiative of high school women making their stand for gender equality!*

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**EU - Recovering child maintenance from an ex-partner living abroad**

On 17 April MEPs (Members of European Parliament) approved the final amendments to the Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child support, which allows it to enter into force in the EU. This international convention covers many practical matters, such as language requirements, standardised forms and the exchange of information on national laws.

The Hague Convention was negotiated by the EU and a number of other countries including the US to make
it easier to recover maintenance from someone living in another country. The EP vote allows the Hague Convention to enter into force. Antonio López-Istúriz White from Spain, the MEP in charge, says.

**Same rights!**

In the EU 13% of couples include someone from a country outside the EU. Thousands of European citizens that do not have the right to child maintenance can now ask for that. This new law also creates a central European authority, which will gather all the claims from all the citizens around the European Union and ask governments of third countries about those particular claims. Someone married in Spain with a partner from United Kingdom, Denmark or Sweden, should have the same rights in Spain, in Denmark, in the United Kingdom!

We are working to enhance cooperation between member states, as they have different laws and different approaches to divorces. For example, we now have homosexual marriage, which is handled differently in the countries of the European Union and we have to work to have a common stand in the future.


*IAW Regional Vice President Europe, Joanna Manganara*

**Religious Youth Could Swing Pakistani Poll**

Karachi, April 19 2013 - From the local butcher, to the pavement fruit vendor, to the cobbler sitting beside his tools on Elphinstone Road, a busy street in the heart of Karachi, one question is on everyone’s lips: Who will win the upcoming elections on May 11?

In Pakistan, a country that is reeling from the Taliban’s militancy in the north, rampant corruption in the government and an armed force that has a life of its own, few have the answer to this question.

**Young voters**

But one thing is certain: for the first time in Pakistan’s history, young people between the ages of 18 and 29 – who currently comprise well over half of the country’s population of 170 million people — will play a pivotal role in determining the election outcome.

Of the registered 85 million voters, 25 million fall into the “youth” category; 13 million of these will be first-time voters.

A nationwide survey of 4,450 young people, carried out by the Islamabad-based Free and Fair Election Network (Fafen) back in January, showed that only 48 percent of voters aged 18 to 25 intend to vote, putting them far behind other age groups: in contrast 68 percent of those between 26 and 35, and 84 percent of those above 55, said they would cast their ballots. In an article by Zofeen Ebrahim.

More on: [http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/04/religious-youth-could-swing-pakistani-poll/](http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/04/religious-youth-could-swing-pakistani-poll/)

**NEWS FROM IAW AFFILIATES**

**IAW Affiliate WEL, Australia OHS -**

WEL writes in its Journal on OHS (Occupational Health and Safety) that: A majority of listed companies in Australia now have a gender diversity policy in place or plan to implement one.


**A disappointment for IAW Affiliate 'Der Deutscher Frauenring'**

April 18. 2013 -The Bundestag, the lower house of the German Parliament, rejected a motion which called for a 40-percent binding quota for women in supervisory and management boards of large companies, within a decade. After an emotional debate, 320 lawmakers voted 'no', while 277 voted in favour, with one abstention. Women made up 4 percent of management board membership among the 200 big German companies in 2012, according to a study by the DIW economic research institute. The Frauenring refers on its website to the 60 year old German Constitution with Article 3.2, and to
CEDAW of 1985, both with a lawful commitment to equality between women and men. With the rejection of this motion equality between women and men has not been improved. The Frauenring is now looking hopefully at the European Union, where a Direction is being prepared with a binding quota for women in supervisory and management boards. Website of the Frauenring: www.d-fr.de

Rape cases spark outrage in India
Latest news - Indian police arrested a second man in connection with the rape and torture of a five-year-old girl in New Delhi, but that was not enough to halt protests at perceived police incompetence and corruption. More attacks on children reported
New Delhi has the highest number of sex crimes among major cities, with a rape reported on average every 18 hours, according to police figures. One in three rape victims in India are children, according to UNICEF. Child sex abuse was only outlawed last year under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. More on: http://www.trust.org/item/20130422130423-ey31i/?source=spotlight

Former Chief Justice J.S. Verma, died at 80
His recommendations were described as "path-breaking" and "progressive" by women's groups and were used by the government to draft a new law to crack down on rising violence against women. He headed a panel which drew up a blueprint on tackling gender violence after public outcry over a fatal gang rape in December. He died late on Monday, leaving a legacy of tougher punishments for sex crimes, the creation of new offences under the law, and measures to make the police more accountable when responding to rape victims. More on: http://www.trust.org/item/20130423153517-psb2m/

EVENTS - LINKS - CONFERENCES

Registration for 2013 UNCTAD Public Symposium open until 1 June 2013

Dialogue on International Migration and Development
The website for the informal interactive hearings for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held at the United Nations in New York on 15 July 2013, is now available. With links to the pre-registration both for representatives of NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status, as well as for representatives of civil society organizations and the private sector. On: http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/HLD2013/hld2013.html

CEDAW - 55th session (8 - 26 July 2013)
All observers wishing to attend the above session must be duly registered. Representatives of non-governmental organizations wishing to attend the session should register online and follow the instructions for registration and for obtaining last year a ground pass. All other observers should fill-out the Conference Registration Form in full (http://goo.gl/261iF) and send it by e-mail to the Secretary of CEDAW at cedaw@ohchr.org. States to be examined: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Serbia, United Kingdom. More information on: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws55.htm

Note
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 also can mail them this Newsletter.

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