

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

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

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

IAW August Newsletter, no. 7



Equal Rights

Dear members,

In this newsletter we look at the Agenda of the General Assembly of the UN. Between the many issues that will be discussed, from September 18th till December 2012, there are three conferences we should be giving special attention: the 56th session of CSW, the Arms Trade Treaty and Rio+20. Two failures, and one missed opportunity. In this context, what will happen with a Fifth World Conference on Women? In a progress report we find an overview of most of the opinions worldwide.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has appointed a Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, because of the serious situation in Syria. The International Criminal Court issued the first reparations order that paves the way for strengthening women's access to justice for conflict-related crimes.

CEDAW is, as always, well documented and the comments of the Committee per country are good to read. The 57th session of CSW on Violence against Women and Girls is being prepared, Kenya has its own National Women Police Association, ECLAC will soon present a document called 'Structural change for equality', money seems to be running out for vaccinating on polio, and IAW Vice-President for Europe, Joanna Manganara, is asking for material on crisis and austerity policies for the European Women's Lobby. Last but not least: the IAW International Meeting in Melbourne is getting into shape. The programme looks good!

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Preparing the IAW International Meeting in Melbourne, Australia

The International Meeting is a meeting between presidents of IAW member organizations and the IAW Board. The purpose of the meeting is to exchange information, to discuss current issues that are important to women, and to set goals for the future work for the Alliance.

The International Meeting in Melbourne is being organized by Lene Pind, Women's Electoral Lobby, League of Women Voters Victoria, and Union of Australian Women.

The booklet

Every year IAW Secretary General Lene Pind collects the reports of IAW affiliates, associates, international representatives and regional coordinators, and publishes them in the famous IAW 'booklet'. It is a way of describing the situation in different parts of the world and to exchange ideas and good practices. She needs the reports in particular if the organization is not able to send a representative.

To do a good job, the executive and members of the board need to know what is going on. Moreover, through the reports from our representatives we are informed about the main focal points of women's issues at the UN and in the different regions in the world. And we can use this collective information for fund raising purposes.

The booklet, when finished, will be found on the internet, on www.iawomen.ning.com

Melbourne, the programme October 8-12

In the Melbourne programme IAW has its separate agenda, with reports and with time for discussion of the work inside and outside the organization - and with planning the goals for the future.

The Australian part of the programme consists of some exciting and wonderful issues and events as listed below.

October 8:

Welcome by WEL Australia Chairperson Helen L'Orange and an official **Opening** by the Victorian State Minister for Mental Health, Women's Affairs and Community Services, the Hon. Mary Wooldridge MP. Guest speaker: Professor Marian Sawer.

October 9:

IAW **Pacific Conference** with a workshop in three segments on Ending Violence:

A. in the Region (with a focus on grass roots women's experience of Overseas Development Aid)

B. in Australia (with a focus on the Law Reform Commission final report February 2012)

C. voices of the future - women of region looking forward; JERA International and Victorian Immigrant & Refugee Women's Coalition.

October 10:

In the afternoon a visit to charming Melbourne, using the **Women's Map of Melbourne** and the Free Circle Tram (The Women's Map is both a guide to existing services and a celebration of the contribution women have made to the life and history of the city).

Map on: home.vicnet.net.au/~uawvic/UAW.Map2007.pdf

October 11:

Towards Equality: three Roundtables and Workshops, with three wonderful speakers, on:

1. Workplace Issues, including impact of Fair Work Australia

2. Senior Rights

3. Housing Crisis for Single Older Women

At the end of the day a **Conference Dinner**, with Guest Speaker Clare Wright, award-winning historian, author and public commentator who has worked in politics, academia and media.

Obituary Joan Bielski

Distinguished feminist Joan Bielski, one of the founders of Women's Electoral Lobby, Australia, died at 88. A teacher, in 1977 she led an equal opportunity push through reforms to the way math, science and technical education was taught to girls. One of memorable observations was: "There was a time when North Coast cows were better represented in State Parliament than women".

She will be remembered, by our Australian colleagues and also by IAW.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly of the UN

The General Assembly (GA) is the main deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. [Comprising all 193 Members of the United Nations](#), it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. The Assembly meets in regular session intensively from September to December each year, and thereafter as required.

All members of the United Nations are represented in the General Assembly. Each nation, rich or poor, large or small, has one vote.

IAW Chief Representative to the UN in New York, Soon-Young Yoon

Provisional agenda of General Assembly

The regular session of the sixty-seventh UN General Assembly will convene at the UN Headquarters on Tuesday, 18 September 2012 at 3 pm, New York.

The Agenda of the GA, A67/150, is to be found on: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/67/agenda/>

Advancement of Women

On the Provisional Agenda, with its enormous amount of issues, we can find in chapter A the Advancement of Women under 28 a and b. Under 28a there are six resolutions, under the heading of Social Development. Under 28b the Implementation of the Outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and on the twenty-third special of the General Assembly, with four resolutions.

It will be interesting to read the discussion on the unsuccessful outcome of CSW56.

Arms Trade Treaty

Disarmament is in chapter G, with at no 95 (b): towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, with one resolution

and one decision.

This discussion will also be interesting to read, after the failure to reach an agreement (see also the June/July IAW Newsletter). Convenor of the IAW [Commission on Peace](#), Rosy Weiss.

Rio+20

Sustainable Development is in chapter A no 20, with two resolutions and several paragraphs.

"While the leadership of the United Nations and governments are calling the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development a success and a historic achievement, to the people of the world, civil society and women, Rio+20 was a missed opportunity and a failure", writes IAW member Natalia Kostus in the IAW Talking Point of June.

Editor's comment: I like to mention Raymond Lloyd, who also was a IAW delegate to RIO+20. I thank him for his contribution, which I have read with interest, accompanied by Beethoven's Ode of Joy.

Preparing for the Commission on the Status of Women 2013

The fifty-seventh session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 4 to 15 March 2013.

The Priority theme is: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

The Review theme is: The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS ([agreed conclusions](#) from the fifty-third session)

In preparation for the fifty-seventh session, UN Women, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO), will convene an Expert Group Meeting on prevention of violence against women and girls, on 17 to 20 September 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand.

UN Women has also organized an online discussion on the priority theme from 23 July to 3 August 2012. And a preparatory expert panel on the priority theme was held during the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on 29 February 2012, with a video on:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/webcast/2012/02/56th-session-of-csw-preparatory-panel-for-2013.html>

NGO/CSW/NY Enquiry Panel on the Fifth World Conference on Women

(Beijing +20, A Global Campaign)

16 August 2012 - The Enquiry Panel is an ad hoc group whose task is to fact find and gather intelligence concerning the Secretary General (SG) and President of the General Assembly's (PGA) proposal for a Fifth World Conference on Women (5WCW).

A progress report by the NGO/CSW/NY Enquiry Panel has been established by the NGO/CSW/NY in April 2012. Member States and NGOs will also be brought into the conversation. It includes meetings with governments, NGOs, UN organizations, written reports and statements.

The NGO/CSW/NY will not take a formal position on the 5WCW but will instead provide information and urge our members to engage in the process.

Members of the Enquiry Panel include Susan O'Malley (IFBPW), and Angeline Martyn (Save the Children), co-chairs; Marion Boeker (International Alliance of Women), Maria Butler (WILPF, Peace Women Project), Rachel Harris (WEDO) and Jackie Shapiro (NGO/CSW/NY).

On: <http://www.ngocsw.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/CSWEnquiryPanel.pdf>

The progress report consists of 17 pages. It gives a good overview of the opinions on a Fifth World Conference on Women.

Sent to us by IAW Chief Representative to the UN in New York, Soon-Young Yoon

CEDAW 2012 - Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice. They are also committed to submit national reports, at least every four years, on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations.

The CEDAW Committee held its 52nd session from 9 to 27 July 2012 in New York.

The States that were examined were the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica and Mexico.

The result is published on <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws52.htm>

The 53rd session will examine the Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, Togo and Turkmenistan, from 1-19 October 2012 in Geneva.

Special interest in CEDAW, IAW Secretary General Lene Pind. All country reports are to be found in alphabetical order on: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/reports.htm#n>

THE UN AND AROUND THE WORLD

Global anti-polio drive stumbles on funds shortfall, 94 million kids vulnerable

July 25 - New Delhi: In the coming months, [either polio](#) will be finished globally or it will strike back with horrifying results, wiping out over two decades of global [immunization](#) drives.

This unprecedented situation has led the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO) to label it as an "emergency" even though polio cases have fallen to just 88 in 2012, and India has achieved the remarkable feat of remaining polio free since January 2011.

Why this bizarre state of affairs?

The biggest reason is that money is short in the global fight against polio. The polio campaign 2012-13 needs \$2.2 billion, and it is still short by a whopping \$945 million. As a result, 68 polio campaigns have been cancelled in 33 countries, mainly in Western and Central Africa.

Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan

According to a report in the leading medical journal *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, an estimated 94 million children in a swathe of countries across central [Africa](#) may not be immunized. This belt begins at Nigeria which is one of the three countries in the world where polio is still endemic. So, there are considerable chances of the polio virus travelling across these countries preying on these un-immunised children.

A similar danger of cross border transmission exists for India too because the other two polio-endemic countries are [Afghanistan](#) and Pakistan. But India's strong polio program offers some protection, unlike Africa. Pakistan has registered only 22 cases in 2012, a notable achievement after being criticized for its weak performance earlier.

Apart from this, flagging support has led many countries in Africa to stop immunization because no cases were reported. The *Lancet* estimates 2.7 million under-5 children who have never been immunized in the region and many more who have been partially immunized. They are extremely vulnerable to polio attacks as they don't have any immunity.

Experts say that if this happens, over 200,000 cases may appear every year over the coming decade. More on:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Global-anti-polio-drive-stumbles-on-funds-shortfall-94-million-kids-vulnerable/articleshow/15144508.cms>

IAW Convenor of the Commission on Health: Gudrun Haupter

Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

Russian Punk Band is sentenced to 2 years in Prison for Anti-Putin Stunt

A Moscow judge delivered a two-year prison sentence on Friday against three members of a punk band who staged a protest against Vladimir V. Putin in an Orthodox cathedral last February and whose jailing and trial on hooliganism charges have generated worldwide criticism of constraints on political speech in Russia.

Read More on: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/18/world/europe/suspense-ahead-of-verdict-for-jailed-russian-punk-band.html?emc=na>

Sent to us by IAW Member Helen L'Orange

Convention on Prevention on Genocide - Syria

The 1948 Convention confirms that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or war, is a crime under international law which parties to the Convention undertake "to prevent and to punish".

Genocide means any of the following acts, committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. The primary responsibility to prevent and stop genocide lies with the State in which this crime takes place.

On 14 June a statement was made in the Security Council on the responsibility to protect on the situation in Syria. On: <http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/pdf/14%20June%20Statement%20-%20English.pdf>

On 17 July 2012 Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Adama Dieng of Senegal as his Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

And on July 24th Hilary Clinton held a keynote speech on Prevention on Genocide, mentioning a few cases of what is being done on behalf of women. The webcast of this speech is well worth listening to, on: <http://www.ushmm.org/genocide/endgenocide/videos/#clinton>
Sent to us by IAW Board member Marion Boeker

UN Women welcomes first reparations order issued by the International Criminal Court

August 9, 2012 - The ruling made by the International Criminal Court this week, regarding reparations to victims in the case of convicted former Congolese militia commander Thomas Lubanga, reflects a growing recognition in international law that justice must go beyond mere prosecutions and a focus on perpetrators to include an equal focus on victims' rights to redress and reparation.

It is a landmark ruling, that paves the way for strengthening women's access to justice for conflict-related crimes.

This is the first time that the ICC has ruled on reparations and UN Women welcomes the inclusion of explicitly strong language on aspects of gender-sensitivity and women's inclusion.

UN Women's Deputy Executive Director, Lakshmi Puri, says this ruling sets a precedent for future court decisions.

In the past, reparation programmes have tended to marginalize and exclude women, who should be primary beneficiaries. In particular, the decision notes the need for specific attention to be paid to the needs of survivors of sexual and gender based crimes, emphasizes that "gender parity in all aspects of reparations is an important goal of the Court" and lays out innovative recommendations regarding overcoming administrative obstacles faced by women, such as possession of formal identification documents.

More on: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/>

ECLAC - proposal on structural change for equality

The most important biennial meeting of this United Nations regional commission, ECLAC or the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, will be held from 27 to 31 August in the Salvadoran capital.

During the meeting ECLAC will present the document *Structural change for equality: An integrated approach to development*, which proposes a concrete path to long-term growth with equality and environmental sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The new document is putting forward a series of interlinked and complementary industrial, macroeconomic, social and labour policies that would enable this transformation process of the production structures of the region's countries.

The document also deals with the crucial role of the State and social and fiscal covenants in the road towards high economic growth with environmental sustainability and equal rights. More on: <http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/4/47744/P47744.xml>

National Women's Police Association in Kenya

The National Women's Police Association has been supported by UN Women. It will be a forum to advance the unique needs of women police personnel, and is part of the extensive ongoing police reforms work.

The association aims to enhance the role of women in policing by developing leadership skills, providing a platform for women officers to share experiences and support one another, as well as lobby for gender sensitive policies. More information, with inspiring pictures, on:

<http://unwomeneharo.blog.com/2012/08/07/kenya-set-to-form-a-national-women%E2%80%99s-police-association-with-the-support-of-un-women/>

One million signed to end violence against women in Pakistan

Posted on [August 14 2012](#) | [News](#)

August 14, 2012. A high profile campaign to end violence against women (VAW) in Pakistan has culminated ceremonially with the signature of its one millionth supporter – the country's President.

UN Women launched the [One Million Signatures Campaign](#) during the annual [16 Days of Activism](#) in Pakistan in 2011, in partnership with a country-wide network of women's organizations, the EVAWG Alliance.

Working to raise awareness on violence against women and the stereotypes at its root, the campaign has seen more than 450,000 community members and social media users mobilised, along with at least 1,500 Pakistani women leaders.

Pakistanis from all walks of life, including a plethora of celebrities and politicians, have publicly signed postcards in support of EVAWG goals, while Charters of Demand have been gathered from 57 districts, many with a focus on reforming laws, policies and services to serve women as well as men. The campaign also generated political commitments and support for two pending laws, such as the Domestic Violence Bill and the Acid Crime and Prevention Bill. More on: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

European Women's Lobby

Following the EWL General Assembly issue group organised by the IAW 'Effects of the economic and financial crisis on women in Europe,' the EWL has decided to follow-up its publication "Invisible crisis?" with a new study.

The updated study will focus on the **gendered effects** of the current **public sector crisis and austerity policies** in place in several member states. It will look at the effects that public sector layoffs and wage cuts, cuts in essential public services and benefits, and reduced support for gender equality machinery and women's organisations have on the lives of women in Europe and on gender equality. Please send me material (research studies, at the European or national level, statistics, etc) that will complement the official statistical data available at the EU level and that I will transmit to the EWL secretariat. E-mail: <joanna.manganara@gmail.com>

Best regards, Joanna Manganara, IAW Vice President for Europe

CONFERENCES - PUBLICATIONS - LINKS - WEBCASTS

[Gender and Urban Planning](#)

Publication UN Habitat 2012 - If policies to improve and enhance places are to address gender inequality, they must also take into account the issues and needs of both women and men. The policy implications are clear. Gender-sensitive urban planning starts with the needs of people in communities. The design of places and spaces needs to reflect the **socio-cultural needs of women as well as men, girls as well as boys**. Existing policies and programmes need to be scrutinized to see how they can be adapted to become more gender aware and bring about genuine gender equality.

Helen Self has mailed us an article in the Guardian with the header: "Why is India so bad for women?" On: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jul/23/why-india-bad-for-women>

UN Webcasts

The United Nations Web TV has several webcasts. The UN Web TV Channel is available 24 hours a day with selected live programming of United Nations meetings and events as well as with pre-recorded video features and documentaries on various global issues.

On: <http://webtv.un.org/news-features/>

Note

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in .pdf. An attachment saved in Word 97 is available, if you cannot open it.

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.

IAW Newsletter / News Flash :	Joke Sebus	< iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net >
International Women's News :	Priscilla Todd (English)	< iaw.iwnews@womenallince.org >
	: Mathilde Duval (French)	< mathilde.duval@yahoo.fr >
Membership Officer :	Pat Richardson	< iaw.membership@womenalliance.org >
Treasurer :	Inga Thorbjorg	< iaw.treas@womenalliance.org >