

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

Equal Rights - Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

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



Equal Rights

IAW Newsletter December 2012, no 10

Dear members,

For this newsletter we collected news and information for IAW members to use in 2013, 2014, 2015 and beyond. There will be many regional, national and thematic consultations of civic society during these years, and IAW likes to be prepared for the near future. So: let's get involved!

*At the end of the newsletter there is a collection of many URLs of *The World We Want in 2015*.*

In the meantime IAW is preparing for CSW - a statement on violence against women and girls, signed with our colleagues of other international organisations, has been introduced. More in the next newsletter.

In Kenya women are alert about their constitutional rights. In Cote d'Ivoire there was a warm welcome for a female police contingent. On the other hand, frowns from some women on the joint responsibility of men and women in family affairs (!). India was an AIDS success story, but prostitutes with cellphones can endanger this wonderful record. In the Philippines the Reproductive Health Bill passed the House of Representatives and Australia has its first national Indigenous TV channel.

We wish you all a most happy and successful New Year. Good health, wise judgement and strength on women's rights. From us all a warm 'thank you' for your support in 2012!

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

IAW and the Kyoto Protocol

The International Alliance of Women represented by Soon-Young Yoon, attending the UN FCCC meeting in Doha 26 November to 1 December reports that an historic landmark decision was made by governments on 2 December entitled:

“Promoting gender balance by improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol”.

This decision was the culmination of several years of hard work by the women's organizations and NGOs such as the Women's Environment Development Organization and Global Gender Climate Change Alliance along with Climate Justice and other groups to make sure that gender was a central concern of the negotiations—something that, prior to their actions, was missing.

It calls for all Parties to adopt a goal of gender balance in bodies established to the Convention and Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve women's participation. Women and youth groups celebrated this decision at a march at the Conference Centre noting, “Gender balance—the world is on ALL of our hands”.



There was also an **exciting Gender Day initiative** featured an all-day event with COP18 president HE Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah, HE Sheikha Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Mary Robinson, Foundation-Climate Justice president, and ambassador Dr. Nozipho J. Mxakato Diseko from South Africa. UNEP announced that a Gender Day would remain a permanent feature of the COP meetings in the future.

Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for the International Alliance of Women and Chair, NGO/CSW/NY, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, tel: 212-867-6161

IAW and the Commission on the Status of Women

IAW has, with other organisations, signed a statement for CSW on violence against women and girls. It is an extensive statement, so we copy here only the introduction.

Statement NGO CSW Outcome document for North America and Europe

-- An open discussion paper on Violence Against Women and Girls -- (Version 10 December 2012)

This NGO CSW outcome document for the North America and Europe region is submitted by an independent editing committee appointed by the NGO CSW/New York. The purpose of NGO outcome documents is to ensure civil society has a voice in the CSW Outcome document process. It is the result of wide consultation among NGOs but remains an open platform for continued dialogue before, during and after the CSW.

INTRODUCTION

At the UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting in 2013 (CSW 57), the women's movement, governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders will urgently bring violence against women and girls once again to the world's attention.

There is mounting frustration that 20 years after the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted by 189 governments and numerous other efforts to end this epidemic, violence against women remains a societal pathology that must be addressed as a human rights issue. If anything, the task has become more difficult.

It has become clear that ending violence against women and girls requires more than providing shelters, passing laws, or jailing perpetrators. A consensus is building that we need to find a long-term, sustainable solution, one that aims to transform social norms even as we implement new policies.

The UN and its member states must take the lead—yet in some ways, the challenge is growing. State-sanctioned violence and discrimination against women impedes changing cultural and social norms. States have a primary responsibility to shape the social, cultural and legal norms to end patriarchy.

As the Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls noted, when laws and policies limit women's freedoms or deem women as 'complementary' instead of 'equal to' men, this attitude trickles down to public perceptions of women and girls and their role in society, undermining their safety and security within the State.

Similarly, a culture of militarism combined with the proliferation of small arms and ammunitions can facilitate other arbitrary killings, torture and mutilation of women and girls. Experts have pointed out it is the responsibility of government to create an 'enabling environment' for effective prevention of violence against women and girls.

Mailed to us by IAW President Lyda Versteegen

Population Dynamics

Global thematic consultation on the post-2015 development agenda – IAW's input

Should Population dynamics become part of the new framework for international development? What about Governance? These and other big issues are currently up for discussion on

<http://www.WorldWeWant2015.org>

Comments on various aspects of population growth as a paramount component of population dynamics have been invited. IAW responded under the heading of a *Human rights and Gender-responsive approach to Population dynamics*. View the input at

<http://www.womenalliance.org/pdf/worldwewant-Human-rights-Gender.pdf>

The input is based on agreed positions of IAW and reflects the work that has been accomplished by members of the Commission on Health, to name Hélène Sackstein in the first place.

Gudrun Haupter, Convenor of the IAW Commission on Health.

UNITED NATIONS - WHAT TO EXPECT BEYOND 2015 ?

Beyond 2015 is a global campaign aiming to influence the creation of a post 2015 development framework that succeeds the current UN Millennium Development Goals. It brings together 570 civil society organisations in 95 countries. On: <http://www.beyond2015.org/>

Editor's comment

A host of consultations is underway, led by civil society, youth, local communities, regional bodies, national governments and the United Nations, for the World We Want Beyond 2015. Beyond 2015 unites civil society to work towards a global, overarching, cross-thematic framework. If you like to get involved, please be so kind to look at the website at: <http://www.beyond2015.org/>

It is too much to copy all the events in countries and regions and all the on-line surveys here in the Newsletter. More URLs of websites on Beyond 2015 are to be found at the end of this newsletter.

International Conference on Population and Development + 20

Since the ICPD was signed by 179 UN member states, governments have continued to express their commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action. The latest shared statement of continued commitment came in 2011, when the UN General Assembly passed [UN Resolution 65/243](#).

The resolution recognized that much still needed to be done to achieve the vision of the ICPD and recommitted governments to continue the [Programme of Action](#) beyond 2014.

ICPD Beyond 2014 - a Global Survey

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Review is an opportunity to influence the future of global population and development policy at national, regional and global levels.

It provides a once in a generation chance to define what needs to be done to deliver a more equal, more sustainable world for the 7 billion people - and more - who share it.

The Review will identify progress and achievements towards the goals set out in the landmark International Conference on Population and Development, when 179 governments committed to a 20 year Programme of Action to deliver human rights based development.

The role of governments

A key role for governments is the ownership and management of the ICPD review process, especially during the [Global Survey](#) supported by UNFPA, involving broad-based dialogue between the national authorities, civil society and other development agencies.

Government leadership will be critical to the success and credibility of the evidence gathered and to ensuring ICPD goals are represented in the [UN post-2015 global development agenda](#)

ICPD Global Youth Forum - continued conversations

The ICPD Global Youth Forum has produced a set of recommendations which outline the vision of young people around the world for their future. The conference was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 4-6 December 2012.

The Forum was preceded by extensive interaction at national and global levels on the themes of staying healthy; comprehensive education; families, youth-rights and well-being, including sexuality; transition to decent work; and leadership and meaningful participation.

A dedicated web and mobile platform will provide the means for continued conversations on issues of youth rights, well-being and development in order to effectively influence global and national policies and programmes that impact young people. On: <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/about>

AROUND THE WORLD

Kenya - Violation of Women's Constitutional Rights

NAIROBI, Dec 14 2012 (IPS) - Kenya's rights activists are furious that the country's highest court violated women's constitutional rights by ruling against the implementation of a gender quota in parliament ahead of the 2013 general elections.

Activists here are threatening to boycott the March 4, 2013 elections and bring the government to a standstill unless the gender parity law, which states that no more than two-thirds of one gender should hold elected office, is enforced in the senate and national assembly in the upcoming elections.

Rukia Subow, chair of [Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation](#), the largest women's rights NGO in Kenya, told IPS that this East African nation was headed for a constitutional crisis if it failed to heed the provisions of the 2010 constitution.

On: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/no-women-no-elections/>

Cote d'Ivoire - Joint Responsibility for Family

ABIDJAN, Dec 14 2012 (IPS) - After 17 years of women struggling for parity with men in the household, [Côte d'Ivoire's](#) legislature has finally adopted a law which establishes equal responsibility

for legally married spouses.

Not everyone is happy

But not everyone is happy. The law has sparked angry debate in this West African country, with some women expressing worries about taking on joint responsibility for family affairs.

According to the new law, passed on Nov. 21, families are now to be managed jointly by both spouses, who are together responsible for the moral and material care of the household. Under the previous law, the husband was designated as the sole head of the family.

The new law also specifies that both spouses should contribute to the costs of running a household in proportion to their ability. A partner who fails to comply can be forced to do so by the courts.

On: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/some-cote-divoire-women-dont-want-joint-responsibility-for-family/>

Cote d'Ivoire - UN senior official welcomes arrival of female police contingent

14 December 2012 – The United Nations top police official today welcomed the arrival of a contingent of female police officers to the world body's peacekeeping mission in Côte d'Ivoire.

"The Police Division welcomes this contingent of highly qualified female officers.

The goal of the United Nations, since 2009, is to have at least 20 per cent of our police service female by the end of 2014," the UN Police Adviser, Ann-Marie Orlor, told the UN News Centre. "We are only half way there globally and in Côte d'Ivoire, but more deployments like this will make it possible," she added.

The contingent of 15 female police officers from Rwanda is the first formed police unit to serve with the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) since it was established in 2004 by the Security Council to facilitate the peace process in the country, which was split by civil war in 2002 into a rebel-held north and Government-controlled south. In the aftermath of the post-election violence that followed the 2010 presidential polls, the mission is assisting the West African nation with a number of key tasks, including the restoration of law and order, national reconciliation, the holding of legislative elections, and economic recovery.



On: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43781&Cr=ivoire&Cr1=#.UM8xPawi9w8>

India - Patna village bans women from using mobiles

ATNA: "The villagers have issued an order to impose a fine of Rs.10,000 if a girl is found using a mobile phone, while a married woman will have to pay a fine of Rs.2,000 if found talking on a mobile outside her house," an official said.

A senior police official at the police headquarters here said it was the first such dictate issued by a village panchayat in Bihar. "The decision was taken in a meeting attended by panchayat members and village elders," Mohammad Manzoor Alam, who presided over the meeting, told IANS by telephone Monday. Alam said the villagers, mostly elders, favoured imposing the ban. "Mobile phone is the cause of all evils in our society, including increasing love affairs and the incidents of elopement," he claimed.

Kishanganj is a Muslim-dominated district, and among the most backward districts in Bihar with 60 percent of the population living below the poverty line.

On: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Patna-village-bans-women-from-using-mobiles/articleshow/17462030.cms>

Mailed to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

Cellphones Reshape Prostitution in India, and Complicate Efforts to Prevent AIDS

MUMBAI, India — Millions once bought sex in the narrow alleys of Kamathipura, a vast red-light district here. But prostitutes with inexpensive mobile phones are luring customers elsewhere, and that is endangering the astonishing progress India has made against [AIDS](#). Indeed, the recent closings of hundreds of ancient brothels, while something of an economic victory for prostitutes, may one day cost them, and many others, their lives. Cellphones, those tiny gateways to modernity, have recently allowed prostitutes to shed the shackles of brothel madams and strike out on their own.

Independence

But that independence has made prostitutes far harder for government and safe-sex counsellors to trace. And without the advice and free [condoms](#) those counsellors provide, prostitutes and their customers are returning to dangerous ways.

Studies [show](#) that prostitutes who rely on cellphones are more susceptible to H.I.V. because they are far less likely than their brothel-based peers to require their clients to wear condoms.

India was an AIDS success story

India has been the world's most surprising AIDS success story. Though infections did not appear in India until 1986, many predicted the nation would soon become the epidemic's focal point. In 2002, the C.I.A.'s National Intelligence Council predicted that India would have as many as 25 million AIDS cases by 2010. Instead, India now has about 1.5 million.

An important reason the disease never took extensive hold in India is that most women here have fewer sexual partners than in many other developing countries. Just as important was an intensive effort underwritten by the World Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to target high-risk groups like prostitutes, gay men and intravenous drug users.

Gates Foundation

But the Gates Foundation is now largely ending its oversight and support for AIDS prevention in India, just as efforts directed at prostitutes are becoming much more difficult. Experts say it is too early to identify how much H.I.V. infections might rise.

Nowadays, the mobility of sex workers is huge, and contacting them is very difficult," said Ashok Alexander, the former director in India of the Gates Foundation. "It's a totally different challenge, and the strategies will also have to change."

Read more on: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/25/world/asia/indian-prostitutes-new-autonomy-imperils-aids-fight.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20121125&pagewanted=print&r=0

By Sruthi Gottipati. Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

Australia's First National Free to Air Indigenous TV channel - NITV

New York, 12 December 2012 - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "It is my great pleasure to congratulate Australia's National Indigenous Television on the SBS Television network.

This is a momentous achievement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. "Thirty years in the making, NITV will now have its rightful place in the Australian media landscape, alongside the various international and World Indigenous Television Broadcasters.

The establishment of NITV will help challenge stereotypes of indigenous peoples. It will empower indigenous voices, and influence the social and political agenda. It will also play an important role in promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and safeguarding indigenous culture and language for years to come.

But let us be clear: NITV is not just for indigenous people. The channel will enrich and benefit all Australians, who now have access to 60,000 years of powerful storytelling and knowledge. This will improve understanding of Australia's first peoples – and help to create a brighter future for all".

On: <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=6509>

Picture: IAW members at the Koorie Heritage Trust of south eastern Australia, Melbourne



Philippines Reproductive Health Bill passes House of Representatives

14 December 2012 - In the early morning of December 13th, 2012, the Philippines House of Representatives voted to pass the Responsible Parenthood, Reproductive Health and Population and Development Act of 2011 (commonly known as the RH bill), which will give millions of women access to contraception and other reproductive health services that were in many cases out of their reach. Click on: [Philippines Reproductive Health Bill Passes](#)

EVENTS - CONFERENCES - LINKS - BEYOND 2015

IAW Members who would like to receive the IAW report of the International Meeting in Melbourne, can write to IAW Secretary General Lene Pind, at: <<iawsec@womanalliance.org>>.

Anti-Gay Bill Stalls

14 December 2012 Kampala, Uganda – The Ugandan Parliament failed to pass a bill that would sentence lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) people to death before closing for the end of year recess. Click here on: [Uganda's Anti-Gay Bill Stalls: report](#)

Women's Rights - Kenya

14 December 2012 - Despite the promise of a new constitution, arguably East Africa's most progressive or liberal constitution, Kenya still has the lowest level of women representation in key places of decision making and could face a serious constitutional crisis, if it does not find a suitable mechanism for effecting several constitutional provisions on gender equity and representation, especially on parliamentary representation.

[Click here on: Gender Equity Kenya Crossroads](#)

Ireland EU Presidency

From January 1st until June 30th 2013 Ireland will host the [Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#). For those six months this small country will be at the centre of decision making in Europe, helping to shape policies and drive forward legislation that will impact on the futures of over 500 million EU citizens. More on: http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/about_the_eu/presidency/index_en.htm

Webcast: **Love and Justice, Women's Anthem** sang in Australia.

On: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HpCmdLRuF8>

Mailed to us by IAW member Arina Angeman

Beyond 2015

The United Nations Non Governmental Liaison Service -

Very useful - subscribe! On <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=sommaire>

On 26 November, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) presented an [in-depth consultation report](#) to the [UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) .

Summary ICPD in 2013 en 2014

2013 - Regional meetings with UNCOSOC with outcome documents (4 x)

Conference on Human Rights (Netherlands) and Women's Health: 46th session on New Trends and migration: Demographic aspects.

2014 - CPD: 47th session assessment of status of implementation ICPD PoA negotiation outcome document.

Social Development Goals (SDG) 2013

The Open Working Group will prepare a **report** on SDGs in 2013.

A draft system 2013 will be developed during a mini summit on post-2015/MDGs at the General Assembly in New York

Rio + 20 - The outcome document says: probably merge the SDGs and post-2015 development

agenda processes. In January 2013 will start work on **financing SDGs** - see &7 of the Agenda-21-26 November 2012 Decision. Also the start on access to (safe, ecological) **technology**.

Gender Inequalities

An interesting summary of the first week of the online discussion, including an emerging new framework to address gender inequalities. On: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/275909>

(Gender) Inequalities

This joint Civil Society/UN consultation, co-convened by UNICEF and UN Women and sponsored by the Governments of Denmark and Ghana, is an open and inclusive conversation for representatives of civil society, academia, governments and the UN to discuss what the Post-2015 development agenda should look like. On: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/inequalities>

Rio+20 Women's Major Group on Sustainable Development, website:
<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=104>

The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** is currently undertaking an online survey with Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGS) in order to collect feedback on UNEP's current engagement system and inputs on new models of participation that can respond to the needs of all stakeholders. The survey will be open from 7 – 31 December 2012. Consultation on:
<http://obsurvey.com/S2.aspx?id=1709BF46-57AF-41C0-A894-5F6DF3EAAFEA>.

AWID FRIDAY FILE: The **Post 2015 Development** Agenda on: <http://awid.org/News-Analysis/Friday-Files/The-Post-2015-Development-Agenda-What-it-Means-and-How-to-Get-Involved>

AWID FRIDAY FILE on the **UN Fifth World Conference** on Women in 2015 on:
<http://awid.org/News-Analysis/Friday-Files/The-Proposed-Fifth-World-Conference-on-Women-A-Time-to-Take-Stock-and-Demand-Implementation>

Monrovia, Liberia -At the request of the Secretariat for the [High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (Post2015HLP), the [United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service](#) (NGLS) is facilitating a civil society consultation **through 11 January 2013** to inform the Panel's meeting in Monrovia, Liberia taking place at the end of January. This consultation will be conducted through the Post2015HLP civil society consultation web page at www.worldwewant2015.org/Post2015HLP.

Contributors who do not have Internet bandwidth sufficient for posting submissions online may submit responses via email. Instructions for participation are provided below.

Note

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in .pdf. An attachment saved in .doc is available; if you cannot open it, please write me at <iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>
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 >