

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

Equal Rights - Droits Égaux - Responsibilités Égales

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

IAW Newsletter February/March 2013, no 2



Equal Rights

Dear members,

*IAW is going to the Commission on the Status of Women, 4-15 March 2013, with statements and side events, to be part of the worldwide women's movement in banning violence against women and girls. A look at the list of side events, with all the different aspects women are working on, shows how serious we all are in continuing to tackle this subject. We do hope governments at CSW will listen especially after the 2012 failure, as well as that of 2005 where the theme was also violence against women. **The desired outcome for the CSW is, first and foremost, agreed conclusions BUT not at any price.** The Beijing agreements must not be weakened.*

In this newsletter you will find some special articles from four of our IAW members. Ayesha Javeri, Vice-President of APWA, has written a moving article on 'respect for women' in Pakistan. Natalia Kostus and Soon-Young Yoon are reporting on Post-2015 Sustainable Development, an important topic that cannot be ignored. Gudrun Haupter asks for our attention at a huge side event on Female Genital Mutilation at CSW, with many supporters from all over the world.

We wish all IAW delegates a successful CSW without the frustrations and lack of decisions of 2012!

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

CSW - General information

NGO access will again be extremely limited at official CSW session meetings and events in the North Lawn Building, due to the significantly high number of NGO representatives who have registered. However, all official meetings will be webcast. You are welcome to follow these broadcasts live or on demand via the CSW web page at <http://www.unwomen.org/csw/csw57> or at the United Nations Webcast at <http://webtv.un.org/>

The United Nations grounds pass will not be sufficient to gain access to the North Lawn Building, where official CSW meetings will take place. Secondary access passes must also be presented to gain access to the building.

Two secondary access passes will be given out to each organization as long as supplies last. These are transferable and may be shared with any NGO representative who has a grounds pass.

Any registered representative may pick up the secondary access passes on behalf of the delegation. A copy of the CSW57 confirmation letter should be brought for verification purposes.

The CSW Blog will be at <http://www.womenalliance.org/IWA/> as well as on iawomen.ning (where registration is required).

An inspiring list of all side events on: <https://www.ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum/ngo-parallel-events> and <http://www.ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Website-parallel-events-final-version.pdf>

Invitation for dinner

Soon-Young Yoon generously invites all IAW delegates for dinner at the Bangkok Palace at 48th and First Ave on Thursday March 7 at 7.00 pm. It will be a good opportunity for all to meet and have a nice meal together.

Information for IAW delegates

- * Morning Briefing every morning at 08.45
- * The side events schedule (**handbook**) will be updated by Wednesday and will have information about morning briefings and caucuses. Link to handbook of side events on: <http://www.ngocsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Website-parallel-events-final-version.pdf>
- * NGO CSW website on: <http://www.ngocsw.org/> and <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>
- * Link to draft agreed conclusions: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw57/CSW57_Draft_AC_proposal_presented_by_CSW_Bureau_8_February_2013.pdf
- * NGOCSW document for North America and Europe - an official UN CSW statement that IAW has signed - initiator: EQUALITY NOW, from UN Women's Communications Team
- * Link to a blog that Soon-Young and her staff have established in the name of IAW. On: <http://csw57ngos.ning.com/profiles/blogs/guidelines-for-csw57-ngo-voices-participation>
- * Join the network for CSW57 on: <http://csw57ngos.ning.com/>

Timetable

Sunday March **3** - **NGO Consultation Day**, 9am-5pm, **Armenian Convention Center Ballroom**
630 Second Avenue (corner of 35th Street and 2nd Avenue)

Monday March **4** - **All India Women's Conference** on "Fighting Violence against Women - Strategies and Partnerships", at 10.30 am. With Asha Deshpande and Sudha Acharya.

Tuesday March **5** - **NGO CSW Forum Reception**, at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN

Wednesday March **6** - IAW side event "**Prosecuting gender based Crimes and the ICC**", 2.30-4.00, Church Centre

Wednesday March **6** - **Meeting IAW participants** - at 4.15 pm in the upstairs cafeteria in the UN Building (or maybe at the Church Centre, please check the venue).

Thursday March **7** - **Dinner for IAW delegates**, at the Bangkok Palace, hosted by Soon-Young Youn

Friday March **8** - IAW side event on the "**Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women**." 6.15 pm -7.45 pm, Church Centre. With Anje Wiersinga, Betty Doornenbal and others.

Monday March **11** - IAW Side event: "**It takes the whole village to end violence against women and girls**", A holistic approach. Speakers: Mmabatho Ramagoshi: South Africa; Georgette Taku: Cameroon; Dr Vijaya Laskshmi: India. Moderator: Lene Pind: Secretary General: Denmark. UN Church Centre. Time: 1230-1400 hours

Please, remember:

To write about your experiences at CSW on www.iawomen.ning.com and for the blog on the IAW website on <http://www.womenalliance.org/IWA/>

Please, remember to hand out copies of the flyer for March 6 for the IAW side event on 'Prosecuting Gender Based Crimes' at 2.30 - 4 and to attend the IAW meeting on March 6 at 4.15 afterwards (check the venue).

IAW Secretary General Lene Pind

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Review theme:

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)

Emerging issue:

Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework
Editor's comment: this can be very interesting.

One Woman: A song for UN Women – More than 20 musicians from across the globe are joining forces with the United Nations to spotlight the importance of empowering women through a song that will be [released](#) on International Women's Day, celebrated on 8 March.

The song, entitled “One Woman: A song for UN Women,” was inspired by the stories of women supported by the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([UN Women](#)) since it began its work in 2011.

The song, which was written by Graham Lyle from Scotland and British/Somali singer-songwriter Fahan Hassan, features renowned artists from all regions. They include: Angélique Kidjo from Benin; Bassekou Kouyate from Mali; Brazilian musician Bebel Gilberto; Charice from the Philippines and Jane Zhang from China, among others.

March 8

The software company, Microsoft, has sponsored the song and music video production, and all proceeds from its online sales on iTunes and Amazon will go directly to UN Women in support of its programmes to empower women on the ground.

More on: <http://song.unwomen.org/>

UNITED NATIONS

A letter from S. Ayesha Javeri, Vice President International & UN Affairs, All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA)

Do you think girls are respected in your society? In what ways are they respected and in what ways are they not respected?

Answer: Women and girls are definitely greatly respected in our society by a majority, if and only if, they remain within the perimeters chalked out for them by the male group. So you will find rare molestation, less public harassment etc. Safety bus travel in a section is allotted to women and even the dacoits, who invade the travelling buses and loot the passengers, do not enter the women's section.

But all this ends if a woman: wishes to marry by choice; take up a job not approved by her father or brother or husband; express any opinion not in concordance with these males. Then torture, anger and death are supposed to be her punishment. This is meted out by a council of tribal mindset individuals mostly living in the northern areas, who have no tolerance for women's rights as expressed by the Government or the religion of Islam.

Under a guise of misinterpreted translation of the scriptures, man is to be a step above women and so her guardian and keeper, whereas this injunction was pertaining to a financial clause and no way relevant for all matters. Try as you may and as many educated middle class man have tried, changing this concept has been in vain.

In fact, with the war of terror in the North, and the dissolution of set village life in those areas, there has been a mass migration of these close social set-ups to the South and its cities. So there are people of different viewpoints overriding and criticising by public and open disapproval, the independence and freedom the women enjoy in these cities.

There are more women in veils (purdah) now than ever before, irrelevant to what religion or religious majority or minority they belong to. It is to escape the verbal condemnation of these rural misfits who come into the urban progressive region not comprehending the reason women are empowered. The phrase chadar - veil, char divari (four walls) - is part of the tribal concept for women. She is free and all powerful only in this area and when abroad veiled and non-existent. It is quite archaic. These tribal clans give no rights for any education that may free the female mind to discuss or to argue. They are fearful that their way of life will be fragmented if women choose openness in affairs.

Centuries of living in the harsh battleground of clan warfare, they evolved the way of life as a safety in existence, close to home, so you can concentrate on being alive in an atmosphere where death is a constant denominator. There has been no law in these areas from the British time, and even the Pakistan Government laws are just tolerated, and mostly often not observed.

Slowly, as Pakistan's government influence has penetrated these areas, and schools and universities have been founded, the women in places like Swat, Peshawar and Quetta all began to educate themselves, and so all was going well.

The War on terror, the influence of America in that area, the frightened response of simple people to an anti-religion propaganda by the zealots, produced hatred for all Western oriented education. If they can be influenced to deny polio vaccination, feeling it's a weapon for sterilization, its small wonder that they think education will ruin these century old lifestyles, lifestyles which led the male to be the lion, with animal instinct which causes violence against women.

ONLY EDUCATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE by the media, the local mosque lecturers, the spiritual leaders of all sects and religions, the government agencies local and provincial urban and rural can improve the situation.

Good Governance The law must be implemented and harsh punishment given to self-appointed, local council jirgas (councils) which give judgements based on outlawed, ancient precedents. They are in cohort with the mind stifling, arrogance of a male chauvinistic outlook. They support 'honor killings' (murder), the exchange of women in feud settlement, the public humiliation of victimized women as an insult to her family. These practices must end under the strict scrutiny of law and punishment must be given.

The Supreme Court has taken many cases, and many have been publicized by NGOs and the media to obtain justice, but there are hundreds still remaining. The mindset can only change by free education and law enforcement, there is no other way to get out of this well of darkness. Each day it becomes darker, the light dimmer and if a torch is not lit soon we all will be blind, stumbling, falling, and dying un-noticed.

Thank you, Ayesha Javeri from APWA!

Post-2015 Sustainable Development

Soon Young-Yoon recommends three articles on gender in the post 2015 development agenda workstreams, written by Natalia Kostus.

The High-Level Leadership Meeting on Addressing Inequalities has just concluded in Copenhagen. A conference on Advancing the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda will take place in Bonn from 20 to 22 March 2013. Updates will follow soon.

UN Post 2015 Development Agenda

Initial good news for women from the High Level Panel

The High-Level Panel tasked by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to develop a framework for the post-2015 development agenda, consulted with women stakeholders at the third meeting, held in Monrovia, Liberia from January 30 through February 1, 2013.

The reports from the meeting from the African Women Development and Communication Network indicate that "resounding message echoed by all members of the High Level Panel and their representatives was that gender equality will be at the centre of the new framework".

In every single goal, women will matter

In the words of Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Post 2015, "In every single goal, women will matter."

The High Level Panel lead author and Executive Secretary, Homi Kharas supported advancing the gender agenda further and faster to see real change rather than repeating the previous processes in the new development framework.

The 27 member Panel is co-chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, and it includes leaders from civil society, private sector and government.

Commitments to gender equality

Commitments to gender equality are especially important now; the Panel will produce a draft report by the first half of April 2013 and submit a report containing recommendations to the Secretary-General in May 2013.

Submitted by Natalia Kostus, IAW Representative to the UN.

Composition of the Open Working Group on the SDGs - OWG

The Open Working Group was established on 22nd of January 2013 by the decision of the General Assembly. The Member States have decided to use an innovative, constituency-based system of representation that is new to limited membership bodies of the General Assembly.

This means that most of the 30 seats in the OWG are shared by several countries, with the aim of achieving “fair, equitable and balanced geographic representation”.

The Open Working Group

The OWG will negotiate a set of sustainable development goals to submit a report to the 68th General Assembly in September 2013.

The OWG will begin meeting later this month, and will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience.

It is important that the women’s groups and a gender perspective are included in this process.

Women's Groups

The African Group seats are: Algeria/Egypt/Morocco/Tunisia; Ghana; Benin; Kenya; Tanzania; Congo; and Zambia/Zimbabwe.

◊ The Asian Group seats are: Nauru/Palau/Papua New Guinea (PNG); Bhutan/Thailand/Viet Nam; India/Pakistan/Sri Lanka; China/Indonesia/Kazakhstan; Cyprus/Singapore/United Arab Emirates (UAE); Bangladesh/Republic of Korea/Saudi Arabia; and Iran/Japan/Nepal.

◊ The Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) seats are: Colombia/Guatemala; Bahamas/Barbados; Guyana/Haiti/Trinidad and Tobago; Mexico/Peru; Brazil/Nicaragua; and Argentina/Bolivia/Ecuador.

◊ The Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) seats are: Australia/Netherlands/United Kingdom; Canada/Israel/US; Denmark/Ireland/Norway; France/Germany/Switzerland; and Italy/Spain/Turkey.

◊ The Eastern European Group seats are: Hungary; Belarus/Serbia; Bulgaria/Croatia; Montenegro/Slovenia; and Poland/Romania

Submitted by Natalia Kostus, IAW Representative to the UN.

Gender focus in the Sustainable Development Solutions Network

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network, launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will mobilize scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable-development problem solving at local, national, and global scales.

The Network will convene twelve global expert Thematic Groups on key sustainable development challenges that will identify common solutions and highlight best practices.

The Third Network

The 3rd Network’s thematic group is on “Challenges of Social Inclusion: Gender, Inequalities, and Human Rights”, co-chaired by Joshua Castellino (Dean, School of Law at Middlesex University, UK) and Bineta Diop (Founder and President, Femmes Africa Solidarité, Senegal).

The TG will work on advancing gender equality, strengthening social inclusion, human rights including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural and transition to sustainable development, strengthening human rights institutions, specific policy solutions to foster the role of civil society in promoting sustainable development, and new available metrics for happiness and human well-being.

Submitted by Natalia Kostus, IAW Representative to the UN. For more information contact:

kostusn@gmail.com

Thank you, Soon-Young Yoon and Natalia Kostus!

Post 2015 Agenda

The [High Level Panel of Eminent Persons \(HLP\) on the Post 2015 Agenda](#) is a group of experts that has been convened by the UN Secretary General to deliberate, consult and provide independent recommendations on the global development agenda after 2015.

Bali, 25-27 March 2013

The Panel will hold its fourth consultative meeting in Bali, Indonesia from 25 to 27 March 2013.

Each meeting of the HLP has included events aimed at enabling a structured dialogue between the HLP members and key stakeholders groups, including civil society, academic institutions, national and local elected representatives and the business community.

Full Text of First Outreach Announcement for Fourth High Level Panel Meeting in Bali:
Stakeholder Outreach Events at the Fourth High Level Panel (HLP) Meeting on the Post 2015
Development Agenda ([English](#))
[NGLS presents Consultation Report to the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)
Sent to us by Gudrun Haupter, IAW Convenor of the [Commission on Health](#)

Female Genital Mutilation

Side Event of the European Network and the USA

Wednesday March 6, 8.30 - Several distinguished speakers:

- ◆ Khady Koita, Co-Founder EuroNet FGM/ La Palabre. Senegal/France [Statement]
- ◆ Dr. Tobe Levin, Co-Founder FORWARD – Germany/ Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University. “Germany’s Partnership with Mali”
- ◆ Dr. Comfort Momoh, MBE, FGM/Public Health Specialist, Well-Woman Clinic, St. Thomas’ Hospital, London, UK. “Care and Reversal of FGM”
- ◆ Fana Habteab, EuroNet-FGM /RISK, Sweden. “FGM in Sweden”
- ◆ Franziska Gruber, Terre des Femmes/Director 2012-2014 DAPHNE FGM grant, Germany [Statement]
- ◆ Dr. Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, FORWARD – Germany/INTEGRA. “Synergies: Germany’s INTEGRA”
- ◆ Agatha Joyce Oginere, Media Specialist/ Coordinator Inter-African Committee Norway. “FGM in Norway”
- ◆ Daniela Colombo, Co-Founder, AIDOS. “FGM in Italy”
- ◆ Jane Roberts, Co-Founder, 34 Million Friends of UNFPA [statement]

Respondent: Dr. Ousseina D. Alidou. Director, African Studies, Rutgers University.

Moderator - Ms Neneh Bojang, Founder / Executive Director, IAC Norway

Sponsors:

- ° EuroNet FGM (European Network for the Prevention and Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation)
- ° FORWARD – Germany ° IAC (Inter-African Committee) Norway ° La Palabre ° RISK, Sweden
- ° Terre des Femmes ° AIDOS

In cooperation with the Well-Woman Clinic, St. Thomas’ Hospital, London; 34 Million Friends of the UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND www.34millionfriends.org and Rutgers University, African Studies

Sent to us by Gudrun Haupter, IAW Convenor of the [Commission on Health](#)

Avaaz - How to start a petition

http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/start_a_petition/?cl=2463592709&v=21604

Sent to us by IAW member Arina Angerman.

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>
Membership Officer	: Pat Richardson	<iaw.membership@womenalliance.org>
Treasurer	: Inga Thorbjorg	<iaw.treas@womenalliance.org>