Dear members,

A good and successful 2013 to you all! IAW will have a very busy 2013, working towards the outcome of the UN post-2015 consultations. In this newsletter the data on post-2015 has been collected as well as we could, but it still needs your skills at surfing the net, because it gets updated all the time. We do hope you can also follow the thematic consultations in your own country and we sincerely hope you will mail us your impressions.

A maximum of 20 IAW members will be going to the Commission on the Status of Women - we wish them all the best! In December the UN banned female genital mutilation (FGM) - the resolution was supported by 194 countries (!). Women in India walked in their thousands - and signed petitions in protest against rape crimes. A doctor renowned for his work with rape victims returned to eastern DR Congo. UN experts told Tunisia to adopt stronger measures to combat gender discrimination. Parliament in the EU took a step forward in ending trafficking for sexual exploitation. The third meeting of the High Level Panel on Post-2015 will take place in Monrovia, Liberia, with a particular focus on economic transformation.

Commission on the Status of Women
The list of International Alliance of Women delegates to CSW consists of 20 participants - the maximum - coming from South Africa, India, Australia, France, Denmark, Norway, UK, the Netherlands, USA and other countries. And even more IAW members will be attending CSW, as part of delegations from other organisations. It does IAW proud to have so many members attending!

CSW Introduction
On December the 13th, IAW representative at the UN and Chair NGO CSW/NY, Soon-Young Yoon (see picture), gave an introduction at the Stakeholders Forum on the theme of CSW. Title: 'Tackling causes and risk factors to prevent violence against women and girls: what works'.

CSW Websites
This link will take you to the CSW website: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm
It is full of important information: documents, organization of the official work, information for NGOs etc. It would be a good idea for all of us to acquaint ourselves with this website. It is updated regularly. NGO CSW/NY also has useful website on: http://www.ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum
The NGO Consultation Day will be held on Saturday March 3, 0900-1700, at Hunter College 423 E. 25th Street, New York.

IAW Statements
An oral statement on: 'Violence against Women as a Human Rights issue', submitted by former IAW President Rosy Weiss.
A written statement is primarily the work of Joanna Manganara (Greece) and Margunn Bjørnholt (Norway) which they began the work on during the International Meeting in Melbourne and Joanna
completed it. Title: 'The effect of the economic crisis on gender-based violence'.
For both the statements: see the IAW website.

**IAW Side events**

IAW has applied for 3 side events at CSW.

1. **Wednesday March 6:** "**Prosecuting Gender Based Crimes and the ICC**" (International Criminal Court); Church Centre, 8th floor Grumman Room, 14.30 - 16.00 pm.
   **Wednesday March 4 and March 6:** All India Women's Conference, both at 10.30 pm.

2. **Friday, March 8:** "**Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women**"; Church Centre, 8th floor Boss Room, 18.15 - 19.45 pm.
   **On March 5:** NGO Reception at the Turkish Centre, UN Plaza 821, 18.00 - 20.00 pm.

3. **March 11:** "**It takes the whole village to end violence against women and girls**" - a holistic approach; Church Centre, 8th floor Boss Room; 12.30 - 14.00 pm.

*Sent to us by IAW Secretary General Lene Pind.*

**A Blog on the IAW Website**

The International Alliance of Women will be closely following the events at CSW. The latest news written by Lene Pind and others will be found on the IAW website with a daily blog on: http://www.womenalliance.org/IWA/ and on NING on: www.iawomen.ning.com

*Sent to us by IAW website content manager Alison Brown and by Sanja Scharf.*

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**UNITED NATIONS**

**Global Thematic Consultations post-2015**

**Introduction**

The report [Realizing the Future We Want for All](http://www.womenalliance.org/IWA/) informs the work of the High-level Panel on Post-2015, which was launched in July 2012. The Panel will help to build political consensus on the vision for a post-2015 UN development agenda and will promote the engagement of all stakeholders in the post-2015 deliberations. The Panel will submit its report to the Secretary General with recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda at the end May 2013.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

One of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference was the agreement by member States to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that could be a useful tool for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. The Rio+20 outcome provides that the process of developing the SDGs should be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda.

**UN System Task Team**

A 30-member open working group of the General Assembly was tasked with submitting a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration by the sixty-eighth Assembly (2013-2014). Technical support to the GA open working group was provided by an inter-agency technical support team, functioning under the aegis of the UN System Task Team on the post-2015 UN development agenda.

**National and global thematic consultations**

[The UN Development Group](http://www.womenalliance.org/IWA/) has launched a project to support the consultations on the post-2015 agenda. National consultations to engage stakeholders in around 100 developing countries are being planned for 2012-13. These national consultations will be complemented by eleven thematic consultations which are currently under way.

Jointly organized by various UN entities and with support from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other international organizations, the thematic consultations will help guide thinking on how to include emerging and pressing issues in the post-2015 development agenda.

*The eleven thematic consultations are:*

- Conflict and Fragility
- Education
- Environmental Sustainability
The article above was quoted from the DESA website. For more, have a look at: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/area-of-work/post2015.shtml

Thematic Consultation on Environmental Sustainability
UN Women has invited organizations and individuals to make their voices heard at the global post-2015 Thematic Consultation on Environmental Sustainability, co-organized by UNDP and UNEP in consultation with UN Women. See: www.worldwewant2015.org/sustainability2015.

Review
A review of the proposed topics will be carried out in January 2013 and in February-March 2013. The final report of the Consultation will be provided to the High-Level Panel of the UN Secretary-General on the post-2015 development agenda.

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

The third meeting of the High Level Panel will take place between 30 January and 2nd February 2013 with a particular focus on economic transformation. The first day of the HLP meeting will be an outreach and consultation day, where the Panel of Eminent Persons will take stock of key constituencies, emerging positions and new evidence, including global CSOs. The Panel of Eminent Persons consists of: President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, Chair; President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom.

January 30 - The CSO outreach day will be a two and a half hour interface between forty CSO representatives and members of the HLP, held on the 30th January 2013.

January 28 - This meeting will be preceded by a CSO Pre-Consultative Forum on the 28th January 2013, where sixty CSO participants will have an opportunity to meet among themselves in order to prepare for the engagement with HLP members and agree on strategic consensus positions.

Organization
Consultations with CSOs will be jointly organized by the Africa-wide CSO Working Group on post-2015 and the Liberian CSO post-2015 Working Group and CSOs from other regions, including Latin America, Asia, North America and Europe to ensure diverse participation in the CSO outreach events. The civil society consultation questions are available as a PDF here, and have been posted at www.worldwewant2015.org/Post2015HLP. Details about the Framing Questions and how to respond to them are available.

Editor’s note:
The deadline for registration has been passed, but there will be information, news, webcasts etc. to be found on the internet. See for example: http://www.beyond2015.org/news/hlp-meeting-monrovia-applications-are-now-open or go to: www.worldwewant2015.org

AWID - The UN Post-2015 Development Agenda – A Critical Analysis
In an interesting article, Natalie Raaber of AWID includes a paragraph on the 'Engagement by women’s rights and feminist groups' on Post-2015. It is to be found on: http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Friday-Files/The-UN-Post-2015-Development-Agenda-A-Critical-Analysis

United Nations bans female genital mutilation
The United Nations General Assembly passed on December 20 2012 a resolution banning the practice of Female Genital Mutilation. This significant milestone towards the ending of harmful practices and violations that constitute
serious threat to the health of women and girls was taken by the **194 UN Member States**, who approved five General Assembly resolutions on advancing women’s rights, including one on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations (FGM). Female Genital Mutilation affects about 100-140 million women and girls worldwide, and each year it is estimated that an additional three million girls are at risk of being subjected to the practice globally.

**Working on the ground**

“UN Women’s experience in Burkina Faso, Benin and other countries shows that while efforts to criminalize FGM are vital, they need to be backed up with services for victims, engaging key influencers and supporting community-based activities to change social norms, as well as practical actions to bring perpetrators to justice,” said John Hendra, UN Women Assistant-Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director.


See also the website of UN Women Worldwide on: [http://www.unwomen.org/worldwide/](http://www.unwomen.org/worldwide/)

Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

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**AROUND THE WORLD**

**India gang rape: Thousands of women march in Delhi**

Thousands of women have taken part in a rally on 2 January 2013 in the Indian capital, Delhi, to protest against the recent gang rape of a 23-year-old medical student. The victim died from severe injuries she sustained during the 16 December attack in a bus. The incident has caused a national outcry.

The women marched through the streets of Delhi, heading for Rajghat – the memorial of India’s independence leader, Mahatma Gandhi. Many held up placards calling for an end to sexual assaults on women, with ‘Respect women’. Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit was among the protesters who called for stringent anti-rape laws. According to official figures, a woman is raped in Delhi every 14 hours. “We are marching to create awareness among people that women should be respected. **AIWC**

President Bina Jain from the **All India Women's Conference**, AIWC, signed a petition and has sent a statement to several departments, demanding a strict and fast registration (a FIR) of sexual crimes and an immediate implementation of existing laws and measures. The AIWC is an IAW Affiliate with more than a million members. Many IAW affiliated members joined the rally.


*By IAW member Anjana Basu, who has sent us several articles on this rape crime. Very interesting is the article on: [http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/dec/30/india-gang-rape-un-call-action](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/dec/30/india-gang-rape-un-call-action).*

**CEDAW on rape in India, in 2007 (!)**

In its focus on India, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recommended in February 2007 that the country should “widen the definition of rape in its Penal Code to reflect the realities of sexual abuse experienced by women and to remove the exception for marital rape from the definition of rape.”

**Consult women's groups**

The Committee also recommended the Government “consult widely with women’s groups in its process of reform of laws and procedures relating to rape and sexual abuse”.

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Made up of 23 independent experts on women’s rights from around the world, CEDAW monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which the UN General Assembly adopted in 1979, and is often described as a bill of rights for women. More on: http://hrdc.net/sahrdc/hrfeatures/HRF172.htm

CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
The 54th session (11 February - 1 March 2013): a half-day general discussion on the theme of access to justice will take place on Monday, 18 February 2013 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Palais des Nations in Conference Room XVI. All observers wishing to attend the above session and/or half-day general discussion must be duly registered. For more information on the half-day general discussion please click here.
Representatives of non-governmental organizations wishing to attend the session should register online and follow the instructions for registration and for obtaining a ground pass: Click here.
The Countries to be evaluated are: Angola, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Pakistan, Solomon Islands and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
On: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws54.htm

Return of renowned doctor to eastern DR Congo following attack
14 January 2013 – The head of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has welcomed the return to Bukavu of Denis Mukwege, a physician internationally known for his work with rape victims who was attacked at his residence last October. Dr. Mukwege, the founder and Director-General of the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu in South Kivu province, was attacked in his home by armed men who shot and killed his security guard. He and his family were not hurt in the attack.
Roger Meece, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative and head of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), said Dr. Mukwege’s “courageous” decision to return after he was attacked demonstrates his “infallible commitment and dedication” to women who have suffered sexual abuse. On: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43917&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo#.UPVii_JiBiO

Tunisia must adopt stronger measures to combat gender discrimination – UN experts
14 January 2013 – A United Nations expert group called on Tunisia to adopt stronger measures in its new constitution to combat gender inequality and discrimination and accelerate the participation of women in all aspects of society.
“We are concerned at the persistence of loopholes and ambiguities in the current draft of the constitution which, if not removed, might undermine the protection of women’s rights and the principle of gender equality,” said the head of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice, Kamala Chandrakirana.

Human Trafficking in the EU
Brussels, 10 January 2013 - The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has adopted its opinion on the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016. The European Women’s Lobby (EWL) welcomes this opinion, which calls for strong and coordinated action to end trafficking for sexual exploitation. In its opinion, the EESC stresses on the need to financially support victim support associations, as “this strategy cannot be applied without active support from civil society”.
The EESC recognises sexual exploitation as the main root cause for trafficking: "Sexual exploitation makes up the bulk of trafficking in human beings (80%) and it is therefore important to name it. It is important to be clear about what needs to be combated. The traffickers may appear to belong to a nebulous, far away and unreachable group, but both clients and victims are people any of us might come across on the streets of Europe’s cities.” In this perspective, the EESC proposes the introduction of a label for cities hostile to sexual exploitation of women and children. Read more on: http://www.womenlobby.org/spip.php?article4418&lang=e
MDG Review and post-2015 agenda:

· Ongoing: national consultations in 100 countries.
· Ongoing: e-consultations on thematic themes, all in preparation for consultation meetings hosted by Member States.
  o Thematic consultation Population Dynamics. Switzerland in February 2013
  o Thematic consultation Water. Netherlands.
  o Thematic consultation Inequalities. Denmark.
  o Thematic consultation Health. Botswana/Sweden
  o Thematic consultation Governance. South Africa
  o Education will start soon.
· March 2013: a report on the outcomes of national and thematic consultations will be made available to the High-level Panel.
· May 2013: High-level Panel will issue its report.
· Fall of 2013: The Secretary-General will present his annual report on accelerating progress towards the MDGs and proposals for the post-2015 agenda to the General Assembly.
· September 2013: Special event to be held by the President of the 68th session of the General Assembly. This event will focus on accelerating progress towards the MDGs in the final stretch before 2015.
· Rio + 20 - 68th session of the General Assembly: The Open Working Group on SDGs is mandated to submit its report (in September 2013, but also much later in the session)

ICDP+20
· August – December 2012: all countries are requested to fill out a Questionnaire about the implementation of the Cairo Agenda in their country
· Regional Economic and Social Commissions (In Europe the UNECE based in Geneva) will draft regional reports based on outcomes questionnaires, deadline June 2013
· Regional ECOSOC Population Conferences will be held July-Sept 2013 with negotiated outcome documents
· Outcome documents will feed into SG report in preparation for the Commission on Population and Development 47th session in 2014 – negotiated outcome document
· Outcome Document of the CPD session, plus outcomes from the thematic conferences on Youth (Bali), Human Rights (Netherlands) and Women’s Health (tbd) feed into SG report for UNGASS on ICPD 2014
· UNGASS on ICPD in September 2014

International Women’s News
At the last IAW Board meeting in October 2012, it was resolved to publish International Women’s News online with one printed edition at the end of the year. Most of our members are online or have access to a computer. However, if you know of any member who will have difficulty seeing the magazine online, please email details to Priscilla Todd, Editor iaw.iwnews@womenalliance.org and also advise the who collects IAW subscriptions in your country.

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.

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