INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

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

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

IAW Newsletter July 2013, no 7

Dear members,
The last items for the agenda of the IAW Congress in London are falling into place, and Secretary General Lene Pind urgently reminds IAW organisations and representatives to send their reports to her before August 5, so they can be included in the booklet.

The Greek League for Women’s Rights has sent out a Press Release on Mob Rapes in Egypt, and IAW President Lyda Verstegen wrote Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on ‘Women’s rights in the UN Secretary General’s report on the post-2015 development agenda’.
Surfing the net we found articles on: an extensive position paper on post 2015, published by UN Women; education of girls in Pakistan; violence against women as a “global health problem”; child marriage in Africa; IANSA’s MAP on women, peace and security; acid attacks on women and girls; insecticide in food in India, and a South African NGO is challenging dominant ideas of how to be a man … Last minute news: IAW Member Soon-Young Yoon, has been elected Chair of the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee for 2013-2015. Congratulations!

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
News of the IAW Congress in London

The 'famous' IAW Booklet
IAW Secretary General Lene Pind writes:
"Dear all IAW affiliates, associates, international reps, conveners etc. This week there was July 20 – deadline for your sending me your reports for the booklet, that will be published for circulation during Congress in London. I have already received some, but hopefully more will come. This is urgent. If you are still composing your report, please write me as soon as possible at: IAW Secretary General iawsec@womenalliance.org and before August 5".

IAW Congress, supplements to the agenda

Human Rights, Gender Equality, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Programme on September 10, 14.00 - 16.30, with the following speakers:
  Clare Coffey, Policy Advisor. UK, Action Aid
  Katrine Kielos, journalist, Sweden: Gender and the financial crisis
  Lyda Verstegen, President IAW: Birth Control
  Gudrun Hauper, IAW Comm. on Health: Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Poverty
Organizer and moderator: Joanna Manganara

Panel Feminist Economics
On Thursday, September 12, 14.00 – 16.30
  Professor Duane Elson, University of Essex: Gender and the financial crisis
  Margunn Bjørnholt, IAW Board member from Norway and Feminist Economics PhD
  Joanna Manganara, The effect of the economic crisis on women in Europe and in general.

Climate Change and Rio+20
Another item on the Congress agenda will be a presentation by Natalia Kostus, member of the IAW team in New York, on the issue of climate change. The draft title is: Climate Change Crisis, Equal Rights and Responsibilities.
Elected Officers and Members of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women’s Executive Committee for 2013-2015

On Thursday, June 20, 2013, the NGO CSW/NY held its monthly members’ meeting, during which the Executive Committee for 2013-2015 was elected. Elected officers and members and their positions are as follows:

Soon-Young Yoon, Chair (second from right)
Susan O’Malley, Vice Chair
Dr. Padmini Murthy, Corresponding/Communications Secretary*
Angeline Martyn, Recording Secretary
Mary Ann Tarantula, Treasurer
Bette Levy, Member-at-Large
Houri Geudelekian, Member-at-Large
Dr. Vivian Pender, Past Chair ex-officio

*Madeleine Brecher has resigned as Communications Secretary; Dr. Padmini Murthy has agreed to hold the position.

GREEK LEAGUE FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS
Equal Rights -Equal Responsibilities, founded 1920

July 10 2013 - The following Press Release has been issued by the “Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights” and the “Greek League for Women’s Rights”, with regard to reported mob rapes of women in Cairo Egypt during the recent demonstrations.

Mob rapes in Egypt
Reports from Egypt continue referring to fierce violence and mob rapes against women demonstrator in Tahrir Square, where Egyptian people massively protest against an oppressive Muslim regime. The number of cases increases day by day, with certain media already referring to many hundreds. Other crimes, including deaths and injuries, are also reportedly committed in the square. Worrying news about maltreatment of women in Egypt keeps coming for some time. Women seem to be the victims of prejudices, injustice, discrimination, forced and early marriages, Female Genital Mutilation and gender violence, while the perpetrators remain unpunished, in many instances even protected by newly enacted laws. However, this new outrageous incident of massive mob rapes of women protesters, shows that women in this country, apart from being deprived of other human rights, are now discouraged from participating in public life and voicing their demands for democracy and gender equality, so much needed in their case. We call on the interim Government of Egypt to immediately deal with the problem and stop sexual violence. The whole world, horrified by this massive abuse of human rights, expects that the first duty of the new Government will be to take action and put an end to crimes committed in Tahrir Square, especially sexual ones. And we expect that perpetrators will be arrested and brought to justice. It is the least Egypt can do at the moment for Egyptian women.
IAW agrees with the Greek League for Women's Rights and congratulates them for their stand,
IAW President Lyda Verstegen

The Women’s Library in London 2013
The Women's Library in London is being transferred to The London School of Economics. Maybe we can visit it during Congress. It has a lovely website on: lse.ac.uk/librarynews
Here is a sample of an incident a hundred years ago, on a modern online exhibition
Emily Wilding Davison was born in Blackheath in south-east London on 11 October 1872. She was a student at Royal Holloway College and the University of Oxford. In 1906, she joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), the leading militant organisation campaigning for Women's suffrage in the United Kingdom. Davison was involved in a number of protests which led to eight short periods of imprisonment where she attempted to starve herself and resisted force-feeding. On 4 June 1913, Davison stepped out in front of the king's horse as it was taking part in the Epsom Derby. She died on 8 June 1913 as a result of her injuries. 

Editor's note: this militant action was taking place a hundred years ago. Another militant action is taking place now. See for example Femen in: http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-femen-activists-jailed/25059197.html

UNITED NATIONS and POST 2015

Post 2015 Priority List - VOTE!
On the website van MyWorld2015, by the UN and partners, people can vote on their priorities for the Post 2015 Agenda. The result will be put before world leaders. Up to now the priority 'Equal rights for Women' is still low on the priority list. So please, send the message around to members, friends and acquaintances and ask them to vote!

UN Women
UN Women has presented a Position paper on Post 2015 (48 pages, pictures included). They are pleading for a transformable agenda to realise gender equality, based on human rights, with three aspects: freedom of violence against women and girls; gender equality in 'capabilities' and access to resources and opportunities; and gender equality in decision-making power in public and private institutions. It is important that the new framework of POST 2015 takes a comprehensive approach to gender equality by mainstreaming gender considerations into all other goals, through appropriate targets and gender relevant indicators. Position paper on: http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/News/Stories/post-2015-case-for-standalone-gender-goal%20pdf.pdf/
The UN Women's online discussion, to collect feedback on the position paper, has reached its third week of the four. If you like to join, click on: this link

Three Women appointed in special UN positions
Three interviews with three women who were appointed this year by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on special positions. See: http://www.un.org/apps/news/newsmakers.asp?NewsID=89In June 2012
Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme, Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.
Editor's note: The interviews are very interesting and the websites worth visiting, with illuminating and sometimes beautiful pictures. You wonder in the meantime about the immense task these women have to confront.

Valerie Amos
For example Valerie Amos, appointed on March 28 2013 as Emergency Relief Coordinator, a former member of the British Cabinet and Leader of the House of Lords, serves as a focal point and voice for humanitarian emergencies.
She oversees more than 2,000 staff working in over 50 country, regional and headquarters locations, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.
Ms. Amos recently sat down with the UN News Centre following a visit to Turkey, where she visited some of the more than 1 million refugees who have fled the ongoing conflict in Syria and are residing in neighbouring countries.
AROUND THE WORLD

On 12 July, hundreds of students from more than 80 countries gathered in New York for a unique Youth Assembly, where diplomats took a back seat as young people took over the UN. Joined by Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani girl who was shot by the Taliban last year for attending school and who is celebrating her 16th birthday today, the young leaders issued a global call for quality education and highlighted the importance of ensuring access to this basic right for every boy and girl.

July 11, 2013 - GHALANAI, Pakistan — The classroom in Ghalanai, an area nestled amid the mountains of Pakistan’s tribal belt, has the air of a military camp: a solitary tent pitched beside a bombed-out building, ringed by a high wall and protected by an armed gunman. “We need to assure parents that it’s safe,” said Noor Haider, a local tribal leader who took on school security after Taliban militants bombed the school three years ago.

Extreme measures have become necessary as Taliban militants have pressed their violent campaign against girls’ education in north-western Pakistan, bombing schools and terrifying pupils and parents. More than 800 schools in the region have been attacked since 2009, according to government education authorities.

But it was a vicious attack last October on an outspoken 15-year-old schoolgirl, Malala Yousafzai, that moved the issue to global prominence.

Malala Yousafzai

A Taliban hit man shot Ms. Yousafzai in the head in an attempt to silence her eloquent advocacy of education rights in Swat, a picturesque mountain valley that had been the scene of fierce fighting between the Taliban and the military.

After a medical evacuation to Britain, where war surgeons repaired her shattered skull, Ms. Yousafzai has made a startling recovery. In March, she resumed her schooling in Britain. And on Friday she is marking her 16th birthday by addressing a youth assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

That speech will be the first unmediated public appearance by a young woman who has become an international symbol of teenage bravery and educational activism. Ms. Yousafzai has won numerous honours and been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. News of her progress is assiduously followed across the world.

Back in Pakistan, however, the Taliban war on girls’ education continues unabated.

By Taha Siddiqui. reported from Ghalanai, and Declan Walsh from London. Sana ul Haq contributed reporting from Swat, Pakistan.


Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

WHO report: Violence against women as a “global health problem of epidemic proportions”

2 July 2013 - The report was developed by the World Health Organization, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the South African Medical Research Council.

It is the first systematic review and synthesis of the body of scientific data on the prevalence of two forms of violence against women – violence by an intimate partner and sexual violence by someone other than an intimate partner.

It shows for the first time, aggregated global and regional prevalence estimates of these two forms of violence, generated using population data from all over the world that have been compiled in a systematic way. The report documents the effects of violence on women’s physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health. This was based on systematic reviews looking at data on the association
between the different forms of violence considered and specific health outcomes.
To read the executive summary of the report go to
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85241/1/WHO_RHR_HRP_13.06_eng.pdf
To download the full report go to
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf
Sent to us by Gudrun Haupter, Convenor of the IAW Commission on Health

IANSA's Monthly Action Point - the MAP
The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security has
released the July 2013 version of its Monthly Action Points (MAP)
on Women, Peace and Security for the UN Security Council.
For July 2013, in which the United States has the Security Council
presidency, the MAP provides recommendations on the situations
in Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Darfur, Democratic Republic of the
Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, the Middle East and South Sudan.
The MAP also provides recommendations on women, peace and
security. Download the MAP from:

A new monitoring report
The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security has also
published a monitoring report, "Mapping Women, Peace and
Security in UN Security Council: 2011-2012." In relation to four
thematic and general issues, and 30 country situations, our new
report analyses reports, meetings, presidential statements, and
resolutions, evaluating the degree to which women, peace and security obligations are being met.
The report provides invaluable insight for policy makers and advocates alike, detailing analysis,
identifying trends, and providing recommendations on how implementation deficits can be redressed.
Picture: a statue called 'Peace', seen on a traffic roundabout in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Bihar midday meal tragedy: Insecticide in food or cooking oil
July 18 - PATNA: Post mortem reports on 22 children who died this week after eating a school lunch
in Bihar confirmed that insecticide was either in the food or cooking oil, a doctor Amar said on
Thursday. The free midday meal was served to the children on Tuesday in Gandamal village in
Masrakh block, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Patna, the Bihar state capital. The children, aged 5-
12, got sick soon after eating rice, lentils, soya and potatoes, and soon 22 of them were dead and
dozens were hospitalized.
The 25 children and the school cook still being treated in the hospital are unlikely to suffer from any
serious after effects from the tainted food, Amar said, though four of the children were still in the
intensive care unit. "There will be no remnant effects on them. The effects of poisoning will be
washed after a certain period of time from the tissues," Amar said.

Organophosphate?
The Bihar state education minister, PK Sahi, said on Wednesday that a preliminary investigation
suggested that the food served to the children contained an organophosphate used as an insecticide on
rice and wheat crops.
Local villagers, however, have said the problem appeared to be with a side dish of soya and
potatoes, not rice. Children who did not eat the side dish were fine, even though they had eaten the
rice and lentils, several villagers said on Wednesday. Thousands of school children were refusing free
meals in Bihar, fearful of being poisoned, officials said on Thursday.
In the press there were remarks of corruption and mismanagement. See also:
http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Bihar-midday-meal-tragedy-Insecticide-in-food-or-cooking-oil-doctor-
says/articleshow/21140403.cms
Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

Stronger Laws to Deter Acid Attacks on Women
Seven years ago, the Supreme Court suggested that the government draft a “complete and
comprehensive” law to tackle this menace, according to Chakraborthy.
But it took the brutal gang rape of a young medical student on a moving bus in the middle of New Delhi on Dec. 16, 2012, and the ensuing wave of protests, to finally push the government to fast track passage of the Criminal Law Amendment Act in April 2013.

The reform ushered in sweeping changes to laws that claim to protect women against violence, and made provision for harsh punitive measures against those who violate women’s rights.

Acid attacks quickly came under the ambit of the new law, which itself resides under the Indian Penal Code (IPC 326 A&B).

**Punishment of perpetrators**

Punishment for acid attacks now includes a minimum of 10 years’ imprisonment, extendible to a life term, while “conviction on voluntarily throwing or attempting to throw acid with the intention of causing damage will incur a penalty of five to seven years,” with a fine that could go up to roughly 16,600 dollars, according to the text of the amended Act.

The fine will be used to pay for the extensive surgical procedures necessary for facial reconstruction. Still, money alone will not compensate the families for the long-term trauma of acid attacks. Rehabilitation remains a major problem for survivors, with many poor families unable to afford the extended treatment required for a full psychological recovery.

The Pun- jab and Haryana High Court recently directed the Pun- jab government to formulate a policy that would facilitate free treatment, including counselling, for acid attack survivors.

**Easy access to acid**

While rights activists welcomed the IPC 326 provisions, they are disappointed that the amended law makes no mention of restrictions on acid sales, drawing attention to the fact that a bottle of sulphuric, hydrochloric or nitric acid can be obtained for as little as 30 rupees (half a dollar) from almost any corner store.

More on: [http://www.ipnews.net/2013/07/stronger-laws-to-deter-acid-attacks-on-women/](http://www.ipnews.net/2013/07/stronger-laws-to-deter-acid-attacks-on-women/)

**Nigeria: an amendment on Child Marriage**

July 21 - The wife of former Kwara State governor and founder-President of The Wellbeing Foundation Africa, WBFA, Mrs Oluwatoyin Saraki, has called for an urgent amendment of Section 29 (4) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), legalizing child marriage.

In a position statement on the resolution of the Senate to retain provisions of the Section in question, Saraki pointed out that the constitutional amendment was desirable for clarification purposes, and to eliminate all forms of equivocation that can and will promote the continued abuse of girls through child marriage.

"Section 29 (4) (b) contradicts conventions that the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a signatory to, which profess, as commitments, the protection of the rights of girls and women from all forms of abuse, neglect or discrimination, as well as providing the best-available opportunities for self-actualization and fulfilment, through education and other means," the statement said.


**South African NGO challenges dominant ideas of how to be a man**

July 16 - Even though the overall media attention for the matter has faded these past few months, women in South Africa continue to be brutalized, harassed, assaulted and murdered by the country’s men (mostly in the domestic sphere by known perpetrators) — we wrote about that [here](http://allafrica.com/stories/201307210014.html?aa_source=useful-column).

A few weeks ago, [black lesbian woman Duduzile Zozo, was raped and murdered](http://allafrica.com/stories/201307210014.html?aa_source=useful-column), found with a toilet brush inside her. She was buried last Saturday.

Obviously, the task of eliminating these many forms of violence rests not only on the shoulders of women, legislators and police.

**A male face**

The simple fact that all forms of violence in South Africa have a male face tells us there’s something fundamentally wrong with ideas around manhood. It challenges us to take seriously the meanings that are attached to ‘being a man’ in South Africa and interrogate the ideas around man- and womanhood that young boys grow up with.

So next to keeping their own pester-potential in check, how should men commit to reducing the daily threats that their sisters, mothers, nieces and friends face? How to step out of those stereotypes and become structural partners for gender justice?
Sonke Gender Justice in Cape Town is an organization that made it a priority to figure out how to go about this. Wessel van den Berg, who is the coordinator for the global MenCare campaign, developed by Sonke and Promundo US, and Joshua Ogada, the NGO’s communications manager, took some time to sit down with us and share their views on how men and boys can engage.


France - Une loi pour agir à la racine des inégalités
In France the union for Women's Rights, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, has presented a general law on gender equality.

Ce mercredi 3 juillet, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, ministre des Droits des femmes a présenté en conseil des ministres la loi-cadre pour l’égalité entre les femmes et les hommes. Cette loi a été construite avec tous les partenaires du ministère des droits des femmes avec lesquels le dialogue se poursuit pour préparer au mieux le débat parlementaire. Elle contient des mesures décisives en matière d’égalité professionnelle, de garantie contre les impayés de pension alimentaire, de protection des femmes victimes de violences et pour la généralisation de la parité.

Sent to us by IAW member Leonie van Gils

United Kingdom - Women's equality - what is the government considering?
The government is carrying out a ‘wholesale review’ of the Equality Duty. At the moment the ‘Equality Duty’ requires that government and all public bodies, such as local councils, the police, schools and the NHS, consider women’s equality when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in how they treat their own employees. Dropping the duty could mean public bodies would be required to do less to advance women’s equality - at a time when what we actually need is more action. The Fawcett Society is warning on dismantling equity laws - Read the Guardian story on the issue

UN CONFERENCES ON POST 2015

General Assembly September at UN in NY on 22, 23 and 25-09-2013
Sunday 22nd of September 2013, NGLS MDG/post2015 conference with civil society
Monday 23rd of September 2013, creation of the High Level Political Forum
Wednesday 25th of September 2013, High Level Event on MDGs and post2015/SDGs

Post 2015 in October
October 2013 - Interactive dialogue day of Major Groups and Stakeholders with Governments on SDGs (date to be confirmed)
25-27 October.2013 = 5th Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Post 2015 in November
25 - 27 of November 2013, at UN in NY on Macro Economic Policy, Trade, Finance and Energy

Post 2015 in December
13 December 2013, the 6th OWG on SDGs
13 of December 2013, at UN in NY on Means of Implementation for SDGs and link to Post-2015 development agenda

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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