

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

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

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

IAW Newsletter June 2013, no 6

Dear members,

In this newsletter a personal invitation from Bashan Rafique for IAW Congress in London. For all of you who plan to come, watch the deadlines! And maybe we can visit the famous Women's Library in London afterwards, with its new e-future.

In this newsletter also the latest news of the issues we will be discussing during Congress: Post-2015, the FAO and CEDAW with seven countries that have NOT yet ratified CEDAW: the USA (!), Iran, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and two small Pacific Islands.

Most of the other news is focussed on refugees. The stream of new ones like those from Syria, where a whole nation is crumbling under civil war, and refugees who have been living in camps for years and years, like in Darfur in Chad. The UN Refugee Agency is doing a wonderful job and needs all the encouragement in the world.

Also: World Health Organisation is publishing figures on women and sexual violence; Afghan women and their political future; Ban Ki-Moon deplors the heinous nature of the attacks on a university bus carrying women students and educators and a hospital facility in Pakistan; news of the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council; and education for children with disabilities in India.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Invitation to all members of IAW

I am writing this letter to go out to every member of the IAW as a personal invitation from me, Bashan Rafique. I am also writing to you as Chair of UK All Pakistan Women's Association and as Executive Vice President of the International Alliance of Women.

Please, come and attend the IAW Congress. We have planned the Congress to take place in the heart of London, a great city with a vitality and warmth that is unique to this place.

You will be in the centre of the theatre and opera world, with some world famous restaurants; the British Museum and National Gallery, all within walking distance, and you will have a whole day to explore.

Your stay is organised within a radius of 1/4 of a mile; you can walk from your lodgings to Lincoln's Inn, and then around Covent Garden, Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square and Oxford Street. It will be a memorable experience, so work to get sponsorships, fund-raise to make it happen, do not miss this opportunity.

Lene Pind has been here in London. She and the Board are organising a great Congress where the key issues will be elections, a new action programme and 3 panels (see attached draft programme). The UK APWA is inviting speakers from Pakistan to give you an inside story of how events are unfolding there. We have speakers from Great Britain who will enlighten you about issues regarding women here.

We have a large group of volunteers who will guide and look after you during the Congress.

This Congress could have taken place in Pakistan but, due to the unfortunate problems of security, we of the UK APWA, as part of our parent body APWA National Headquarters, decided to have it in London. The Pakistani and British community will help to make it an awesome Congress, and your presence will add to that.



Equal Rights

Make this trip to take it all in while you are here. We will have a wonderful program which will bring Pakistan to you in London and thus you will savour the multiculturalism of Britain.

Look forward to welcoming the IAW and all its affiliates in London.

Bashan Rafique, Chairperson The UK All Pakistan Women's Association, and Executive Vice President The IAW.

Deadlines

IAW Secretary General Lene Pind writes:

July 20 – reports - **August 1** – registrations and nominations

The new IAW Board will hold its first meeting on **Saturday September 14**

The Women's Library at London School of Economics

The Women's Library at LSE is Europe's largest collection of material relating to the lives of women and is a key part of British heritage. Objects related to the suffrage movement within the collection are already internationally recognised.

Recent transfer

LSE Library is now managing The Women's Library Reading Room service following the transfer of ownership from London Metropolitan University in January 2013.

The Women's Library at LSE has a number of proposals in place to ensure that the library continues to grow and flourish. These include ambitious plans to digitise the collections, making the collection more accessible to global audiences in the digital age. The Women's Library at LSE will also further enrich teaching and research available at LSE, enhancing the University's already world-class events programme.



LSE Library announces Women's Walks, an interactive historical journey through London streets

The Library at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has partnered with the Arts Council England to create *Women's Walks*, an exciting new mobile phone app that enables users to engage with archive materials from women's history.

The app will work by tracking the user's position as they walk through the streets of London, identifying images, documents and audio clips relevant to each location, and downloading them to the user's smart phone. *Women's Walks* will be publicly available in early 2014.

Looking for new audiences in the future

Liz Chapman, Director of Library Services, said: 'Women's Walks provides an exciting new way to access the historical collection at The Women's Library at LSE, combining the latest smart phone technology with women's rich history and heritage.'

More on: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/supportingLSE/whereYouCanHelp/TheWomensLibrary.aspx>

Sent to us by IAW Membership Officer Pat Richardson

UNITED NATIONS and Post-2015

Post-2015 - four reports

In partnership with the Post-2015 Development Planning Team/Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) is **facilitating a consultation to gather critical analysis from civil society** on four post-2015 reports submitted to the Secretary-General:

- 1) [High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda \(Post-2015 HLP\)](#)
- 2) [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#)
- 3) [UN Global Compact \(UNGC\)](#)
- 4) [UN Development Group \(UNDG\): The Global Conversation Begins.](#)



For more information on how to contribute to this consultation, visit:

for English: www.worldwewant2015.org/nglsconsultation;
for Spanish: www.worldwewant2015.org/consultaSENG;
for French: www.worldwewant2015.org/consultationSLNG.

Information in Arabic will be available soon.

The synthesis of findings, to be produced by UN-NGLS, will focus on regional perspectives and alternative views to those contained in the four reports under review, building upon concerns raised in previous related UN-NGLS consultations, including for example:

- systemic issues of trade,
- finance and development;
- human rights framework and accountability mechanisms;
- public-private partnerships;
- extractive industries and land grabbing;
- **social, economic, environment/climate, and gender justice**;
- and peace and conflict.

The synthesis report will be delivered to the Secretary-General, and Heads of State and Government at the General Assembly Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals on **25 September** and the [Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#) (OWG on SDGs).

It will also inform a day of dialogue between CSOs and Member States on 22 September on the post-2015 development agenda.

High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on Post-2015 presents report: emphasis on five transforming shifts

On 30 May the Post-2015 Development Agenda presented its long-awaited report, A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development, to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Post 2015 and 10 critical Human Rights messages

On 6 June 2013, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued an open letter to all Member States urging them to further and fully reflect human rights in the on-going discussions and outcomes on the Post-2015 development agenda. The letter highlights 10 critical human rights messages that must guide and be included in the post-2015 development frameworks, its goals, targets and indicators. For example: 3. equality; 5. poverty; 6. a healthy environment; 9. a strong accountability framework, etc.

More on: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/MDGPost2015Agenda.aspx>

FAO Conference, Rome 15-22 June 2013

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger - MDG 1 - is broken down into three targets:

- reducing by 50 percent the proportion of hungry people,
- achieving decent employment for all, and
- halving the number of people living on less than 1.25 dollars a day by 2015.

June 16 2013 - Thirty-eight countries were recognised for the first time on Sunday by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation for cutting in half the prevalence of people suffering from undernourishment, one of three targets under the first [Millennium Development Goal](#).

Of those countries, 18 also achieved the tougher World Food Summit Goal of halving the absolute numbers of hungry people:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba, Djibouti, Georgia, Ghana, Guyana, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Vietnam.

Twenty other countries were recognised for cutting by half the prevalence of hunger (but not yet absolute numbers):

Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Malawi, Maldives, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Togo and Uruguay.

Received with broad acclaim by the FAO assembly during the award ceremony, the new Venezuelan president, Nicolas Maduro, outlined his country's path to reducing hunger prevalence from 13.8 percent to 2.4 percent over the last decade, emphasising the core role played by former president

Hugo Chavez in this battle.

Still 870 million to go

According to the UN's The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012 [report](#), significant progress has been made on combating hunger since 1990, yet in some areas around the world this was either slowed down or even reversed by the global economic crisis.

Current estimates put the number of people suffering from hunger today at 870 million.

More at: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/ending-hunger-is-possible/#sthash.WnAP5EXE.dpuf>

More on the FAO Conference on: <http://www.fao.org/bodies/en/>

"Unfortunately, women typically lack access to land, credit, markets, inputs, education, and extension services."

Danielle Nierenberg, co-founder of Food Tank, "focused on feeding the world better" said recent findings from the FAO suggest that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, yields would increase by 20-30 percent, helping raise agricultural output in developing countries and reducing the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 percent.

"The MDGs on gender equity and food security need to be more intertwined because we can't have one without the other," she said. "I hope the new set of Sustainable Development Goals food security will also include women's empowerment," said Nierenberg, who is an expert on issues relating to sustainable agriculture and food.

Interview for IPS by Thailif Deen.

See more at: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/battle-against-hunger-lost-without-gender-empowerment/#sthash.R0cz01kh.dpuf>

Chief IAW Representative to the FAO, Bettina Corke

REFUGEES WORLDWIDE

UN Refugee Agency

According to the UN's refugee agency ([UNHCR](#)) the number of people currently in situations of displacement has hit 45 million, the highest figure for 14 years. The worrying news was announced just a day before [World Refugee Day](#), which is held annually on June 20th.

The commemorative day was designed to draw international attention to the increasingly desperate situation faced by displaced people across the globe and to honour the determination of the affected people and those working to help them.

According to UNHCR these new figures include 15.4 million internationally displaced refugees and 937,000 asylum seekers, as well as 28.8 million people forced to flee their homes within their own countries.

As many as 55% of these refugees come from only five countries: Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Syria and Sudan, although the UNHCR also mentions significant new displacement from Mali and Sudan.

Alarming numbers

António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and head of UNHCR, announced: "These alarming numbers reflect individual suffering on a huge scale and they reflect the difficulties of the international community in preventing conflicts and promoting timely solutions for them."

More on: <http://www.euronews.com/2013/06/19/world-refugee-day/>

World Refugee Day - 20 June - 2013 and the Council of Europe

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Jean-Claude Mignon, made the following statement: "The drastic situation of the Syrian refugees is constantly worsening and has reached an unprecedented level of suffering. A million and a half Syrians have fled their country; it is an outright humanitarian disaster! More on: <http://hub.coe.int/>

World Refugee Day - 20 June – 2013 and the UN High Commissioner

António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees: "I have come to Jordan on this World Refugee Day to stand by the people of Syria in their time of acute need. I also want to salute Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and all the countries in the region for being generous havens that have saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

In all the years I have worked on behalf of refugees, this is the most worrying I have ever witnessed. The needs of these people are overwhelming; their anguish is unbearable. Today, there are over 1.6 million registered Syrian refugees. More than one million of them arrived just in the last six months, and thousands more come every day, seeking places to stay, sustenance, someone who will listen and help them heal.

Syria was a host of refugees once

In the heart of a turbulent region, the country was host to over one million Iraqi and half a million Palestinian refugees. I think of the Syrians I met over the years during many visits to see Iraqi refugees. Never could they have imagined that such violence would overtake them – that they would become refugees themselves – desperate, destitute and forsaken.

I repeat my call on those with political responsibilities to overcome their divisions and come together to do everything in their power to stop this war".

On: <http://www.unhcr.org/51c2f1ba6.html>

UNHCR completes relocation of thousands of Darfur refugees to Chad camp

Tissi, Chad, June 14 – The UN refugee agency has completed the relocation of thousands of Darfur refugees from the volatile border area of Tissi in south-east Chad to a newly opened camp, Ab Gadam, deeper inside the country. In total, UNHCR and its partners moved 7,161 people over the past month – most of them women, children and elderly refugees. Some 3,086 other refugees travelled to Ab Gadam by foot and on donkey carts.

These people fled inter-communal conflict in Darfur. In addition, Tissi is also prone to bad weather.

The skies are dark and the first new storms and heavy winds of the May-November wet season have hit the region, which is strewn with wadis that flood in the coming months and make roads impassable. It is a race against time.

Still 18 additional remote sites

"We are now turning our attention to other Darfur refugees scattered across 18 additional remote sites in the border area. A first convoy departed from Haraza village yesterday with 270 refugees. Our aim is to complete all transfers before the wadis are flooded," a UNHCR spokesperson added.

More on: <http://www.unhcr.org/51bb26e76.html>

Picture by © UNHCR/R.Schoeffl, refugees waiting to board trucks



AROUND THE WORLD

CEDAW

The United States is one of just seven countries—the others being Iran, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, and two small Pacific Island nations (Palau and Tonga)—that have not yet ratified CEDAW.

The Obama administration strongly supports ratification and has included CEDAW as one of five multilateral treaties that are a priority. In the U.S. Senate, the CEDAW treaty has been voted favourably out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee twice with bipartisan support: in 1994 with a vote of 13-5 and in 2002 with a vote of 12-7. It has never been brought to the Senate floor for a vote. More about CEDAW on: <http://www.cedaw2011.org/index.php/about-cedaw/faq>

Statement Attributable to the Secretary-General on terrorist attacks in Pakistan

New York, 15 June 2013 - The Secretary-General strongly condemns the attacks today in Quetta and Ziarat, Pakistan, in which at least twenty civilians were reportedly killed and many more injured. He deplores the heinous nature of the attacks on a university bus carrying women students and educators and a hospital facility, as well as the heritage Quaid Azam Residency which has a historical importance as a former home of Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

No cause can justify such violence

The Secretary-General notes with dismay that violence against women and educators has increased in recent years, the aim being to keep girls from attaining the basic right to education.

The Secretary-General sends his condolences to the victims, their families, and the Government of Pakistan. He calls on the Government to do all possible to bring the perpetrators to justice. He expresses the unstinting solidarity of the United Nations in the face of continued terrorist violence in Pakistan. See also: <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=6908>

WHO on Sexual Violence

More than a third of all women worldwide – 35.6% – will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, usually from a male partner, according to the first comprehensive study of its kind from the [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO). The report reveals the shocking extent of attacks on women from the men with whom they share their lives, with 30% of women being attacked by partners. It also finds that a large proportion of murders of women – 38% – are carried out by intimate partners.

Afghan women lose political power as fears grow for the future

Kabul, June 17 (Reuters) - A legal requirement that women make up **at least a quarter** of all provincial elected officials was quietly removed by conservative male parliamentarians, officials said, the latest in a series of decisions undermining advances in women's rights in Afghanistan.

The change, engineered in mid-May, was only discovered by women members of parliament a few days ago. The action has sparked fears among women's rights activists that President Hamid Karzai's government is increasingly willing to trade away their hard fought gains to placate the Taliban as part of attempts to coax them to the peace table.

What about Afghan law?

The law had previously set aside for women at least **a quarter of seats** in some 400 districts and 34 provincial councils. Seventeen of 28 women in the upper house are appointed by Karzai.

The remaining 11 must be chosen from among women sitting on district and provincial councils, but those positions are now under a cloud.

More on: <http://www.trust.org/item/20130617092235-h2zcr/?source=hptop>

Human Rights Council, 23rd regular session

The Human Rights Council concluded its 23rd regular session, held from 27 May-14 June, by adopting 26 resolutions that address a wide range of issues, including the human rights of migrants, the role of freedom of opinion and expression in women's empowerment, foreign debt and human rights, the right to education, and human rights and international solidarity, amongst others.

More on: <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article4319>

IAW Chief Representative to the UN in Geneva, H el ene Sackstein

The 2013 Awards for public services

Hundreds of participants are expected to witness the most prestigious international recognition of innovation in public service at the United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony, to be held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, from 24 to 27 June. This year: five categories:

1. Preventing and combating corruption in the public service
2. Improving the delivery of public services
3. Fostering participation in public policy decision-making through innovative mechanisms
4. Promoting whole-of-government approaches in the information age
5. **Promoting gender-responsive delivery of public services.**

See: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/newsletter/dsanews/feature/2013/06/index.html#7447>

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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