Dear members,

The road to reach the Agreed Conclusions of CSW was a bumpy one. There was support of governments for eliminating the violence against women and girls, and progress was made on several issues, but there were also signs of big problems in the near future. Like the withdrawal of the resolution on 'Protection of the Family' in the Human Rights Council, with 72 countries supporting non-agreed text. Hélène Sackstein tells us the whole story.

Also, news on the 2015 Development Goals; a UN warning about drug-resistant tuberculosis; how to prevent dating violence in schools; the implementation of laws for poor children working in India's mines; a brutal killing of a social worker and other aid workers in Pakistan; a video of women from 70 communities in seven countries across Africa on access to justice. And immediate action you can take is to sign against flogging rape victims in the Maldives!

As well, news from IAW Affiliates in Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

IAW Secretary General Lene Pind writes:

I take it that we are all relieved to see that agreed conclusions were achieved. For more information about CSW click here: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm and here: http://www.unwomen.org/

At UNWomen you’ll find the closing remarks of Michelle Bachelet. Attached are two position statements produced before CSW came to the final conclusion. I think they give a good picture of what was at stake in the negotiations and also what will continue to be at stake. The link below will take you to the WILPF’s website, where they also reflect on CSW: http://www.peacewomen.org/publications_enews_issue.php?id=181

I hope you followed my small diary about CSW on www.iawomen.ning.com (thank you Lene, JS!)

Lene Pind, Secretary General International Alliance of Women

Side Events and Reports on the IAW website

If you are on the IAW website, on http://www.womenalliance.org and would like to have a look at the content of two well attended IAW side events: 'the International Criminal Court' and: 'It takes the whole village to eliminate violence against women', just go to the IAW starting page and click on IWA, on: http://www.womenalliance.org/IWA/

You will find the two side events between several CSW reports, collected and put on the site by IAW International Women Activist and webmaster Alison Brown and webwizard Sanja Scharf. See also: http://www.womenalliance.org/index.html and http://www.womenalliance.org/issues.html
Looking back and going forward after CSW57

CSW 57 - Young Women's Statement
The young women’s caucus says No More Excuses - culture, tradition and religion should never be used as an excuse to justify violence such as harmful traditional practices including female genital mutilation in all its forms, and early and forced marriage. We believe that legislation, law enforcement and education targeting community leaders, parents and girls are essential for the eradication of FGM and early and forced marriage.

**Economic empowerment**
Economic empowerment is a key tool in the prevention of violence against girls and young women by enabling women to have financial independence and choices. We know families living in extreme poverty sell their daughters into trafficking, forced marriage or domestic servitude for economic reasons.

**Eliminate poverty and organised trafficking**
We call for increased efforts to eliminate poverty and organised trafficking networks. Young women are one of the most powerful driving forces to improve lives and transform communities and therefore, we call upon the United Nations to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda include a strong emphasis on the elimination of all forms of violence against girls, young women and women as well as securing peace with justice and respect for fundamental human rights.

Download the Statement on: [CSW 57 - Young Women's Caucus Statement.pdf](#)

CSW57 Women's Rights Caucus

**New issues** - Importantly, the Agreed Conclusions recognize new issues in the campaign to end violence against women, including the need for strategies to address the role of new media; the impact of climate change on women; the need for measures to encourage businesses to act on workplace violence, but also their responsibility to support workers experiencing violence in the home; and the need for multi-sectoral responses to end violence against women.

**Support of governments** - In addition, discussions at this CSW showed high levels of support for governments to address violence against women and girls based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. There was also widespread support for addressing the problem of intimate partner violence. Although Member States at this year’s CSW failed to agree on specific language about these issues, human rights groups are confident that consensus that has been achieved on these matters throughout the UN system and will soon be reflected in Agreed Conclusions of the CSW.

**Deep concerns** - However, civil society groups expressed deep concern over attempts by conservative members to derail negotiations during the CSW. Thankfully, many governments held firm on commitments to women’s rights.

A statement signed of concern signed by feminist organizations during CSW is available online at [http://cwgl.rutgers.edu/program-areas/gender-based-violence/csw57/statement-on-outcome-document](http://cwgl.rutgers.edu/program-areas/gender-based-violence/csw57/statement-on-outcome-document).

See also the [New York Times - Unholy Alliance](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/12/opinion/concerns-at-un-conference-on-violence-against-women.html?_r=0).

**IAW ACTION ALERT**

**Human Rights Resolution on 'Protection of the Family' withdrawn**

March 22 - We thank Hélène Sackstein, IAW Chief Representative to the UN in Geneva, and our members who have acted immediately - they wrote to the Foreign Ministry of their countries. We also like to thank both our IAW webmasters, who put the IAW Alert pronto on the IAW website!

Hélène Sackstein wrote:
'The resolution on ‘Protection of the Family’ was NOT adopted at the Human Rights Council today. It was withdrawn by the sponsors. This withdrawal/postponement was caused by an introduced amendment, telling of the fear of language on various forms of the family into the text. Language should be ‘agreed by consensus UN language’, which has been used again and again.'
Egypt took the floor to introduce the resolution and announce its withdrawal on behalf of the core group, comprising Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, UAE, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The resolution had 72 co-sponsors including the Arab and OIC groups, Angola, Kenya, Botswana, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sri Lanka and many others.

They began by framing the subject in terms of Art. 16 of the UDHR and said that there is a lack of definition of the family; that there are differences between societies. That the focus on individual rights has resulted in neglect of the family and group and collective rights. That there is no resolution or treaty which deals with the protection of the family in human rights law in a comprehensive manner. This statement failed to define what the family needed protection from.

They spoke of the need to openly discuss the issue so as to address state obligations to protect the family under relevant provisions of international human rights law. A discussion that would allow for the exchange of views and lessons learned and allow the Council to identify implementation gaps and possibly shed some light on how to tackle them. Hence this procedural resolution.

Their statement was very hard-lined and combative. They claimed to have approached consultations with an open mind and accused other States of holding pre-conceived notions and pushing divisive substantive issues. They also said that it seems that the Council has not yet reached the level of maturity that would enable it to engage in delicate issues in a cooperative matter, and announced that they were postponing consideration of the text. Despite what you might hear to the contrary, the Egyptian representative did not stamp his feet, burst into tears or storm out.

It is not unlikely that they will seek to reintroduce the resolution in June, in what is already being viewed as a highly contentious session with resolutions expected on sexual orientation and gender identity, and violence against women, to name but two.

The EU and GRULAC groups and a number of States including Switzerland, the US, Australia and New Zealand stood firm in insisting that agreed consensus UN language be included in the text.

A number of other States from different regions stood ready to support the introduction previously mentioned. By Hélène Sackstein, IAW Chief Representative to the UN in Geneva

UNITED NATIONS

Horror in Paradise
It's horrifying -- but we can do something about it. I've just signed a petition to change the law in the Maldives to stop rape victims being publicly flogged for "sex outside marriage". Politicians there make a lot of money from tourism, so a global outcry can get the President to face down extremists and act. Join me in this campaign, and send this email on to others:
http://www.avaaz.org/en/maldives_global/?kKxpJab
Sent to us by IAW President Lyda Verstegen.


Using its new outreach component “Voices”, the World We Want Web platform has launched a social media discussion across 18 to 25 March. This conversation, which will kick off in Bonn at the civil society conference “Advancing the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda”, will centre on the Panel’s Stakeholder Outreach Day on 25 March, as well as the two-day CSOs Preparatory Meeting from 23-24 March.

The global “Voices” discussion will provide a chance for those not participating physically in Bali to easily interact online and provide responses to the key framing questions to be discussed by HLP members at their Bali meeting. The “Voices” questions will be asked and can be answered in French, Spanish and English. Responses will be aggregated and used to inform a data visualization and top-level analysis.
Responses received will be shared with Panellists and participants through the Town Hall event being held on the Outreach Day. These will also be available online as a ‘real-time’ reference for Panellists and stakeholder groups across 18-25 March.

Please consider adding your perspectives on the next global development agenda and your suggestions on what the Panel should discuss in Bali at www.worldwewant2015.org/bali2015. The World We Want team would also appreciate your sharing this link and information with your networks and constituencies; to assist in this process, a social media pack and one-pager are available here.

Suggested Tweets:
3 upcoming meetings in Bonn, Bali & Tunis will help define the next #SustDev agenda. Join the conversation at www.worldwewant2015.org!
What messages would Civil Society like to send to the #Post2015HLP in Bali? Add yours at www.worldwewant2015.org/bali2015 #post2015

UN - To combat drug-resistant tuberculosis
24 March 2013 - In his message marking World Tuberculosis Day, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said there are still challenges to be met, mainly stopping the spread of multi-drug resistant TB, also known as MDR-TB, which threatens to reverse the gains achieved in past years.
“New diagnostics, new drugs and the promise of new vaccines have the potential to further accelerate progress against TB, which still kills 1.4 million people a year – more than any infectious disease other than AIDS. But two obstacles stand in the way,” Mr. Ban said.
The first is the emergence of TB strains that fail to respond to first-line drugs […] the second is the need for funding.” More on: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44476&Cr=tuberculosis&Cr1=#.UU9vcDf_qkw

AROUND THE WORLD

Shifting Boundaries - on preventing Dating Violence
March 18 - The White House this month issued a resource sheet focused on the Violence Against Women Act. Shifting Boundaries.
The study examines the impact of a dating violence prevention program for middle school students in a large urban school district. Researchers concluded that a comprehensive school program was effective in reducing dating violence and sexual harassment. Stein is a senior research scientist at the Wellesley Centres for Women where the work was co-directed.

Progress and Problems
While tremendous progress has been made since the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was first enacted, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking are still significant problems facing women, families, and communities.
The White House notes that the new VAWA bill signed into law in early March will continue effective programs, make targeted expansions to address the needs of especially vulnerable populations, and help prevent violence in future generations. The White House resource sheet is available online.
The Shifting Boundaries intervention and evaluation was cited as evidence that research shows that schools can make a difference in preventing teen violence and other forms of gender-based violence.
More on: http://www.wcwonline.org/Active-Researchers/nan-stein-edd
Sent to us by IAW Vice-President Bashan Rafique

Children Toil in India’s Mines, Despite Legal Ban
Khliehriat, India — After descending 70 feet on a wobbly bamboo staircase into a dank pit, the teenage miners ducked into a black hole about two feet high and crawled 100 yards through mud before starting their day digging coal.
They wore T-shirts, pyjama-like pants and short rubber boots — not a hard hat or steel-toed boot in sight. They tied rags on their heads to hold small flash lights and stuffed their ears with cloth. And they spent the whole day staring death in the face.

**Implementation of law**

Just two months before full implementation of a landmark 2010 law mandating that all Indian children between the ages of 6 and 14 be in school, some 28 million are working instead, according to UNICEF. Child workers can be found everywhere — in shops, in kitchens, on farms, in factories and on construction sites. In the coming days Parliament may consider yet another law to ban child labour, but even activists say more laws, while welcome, may do little to solve one of India’s most intractable problems.

“We have very good laws in this country,” said Vandhana Kandhari, a child protection specialist at UNICEF. “It’s our implementation that’s the problem.”

**Causes?**

Poverty, corruption, decrepit schools and absentee teachers are among the causes. While the Indian government has laws banning child labour and unsafe working conditions, states are mostly charged with enforcing those laws. The country’s police are highly politicized, so crackdowns on industries sanctioned by the politically powerful are rare. Police officers routinely extract bribes from coal truckers, making the industry a source of income for officers.

**Research**

In 2010, Impulse, a non-governmental organization based in Shillong, Meghalaya’s capital, reported that it had found 200 children — some as young as 5 — working in 10 local mines. The group estimated that as many as 70,000 children worked in about 5,000 mines. Its findings led to images in the Indian news media of small children working in horrifying conditions.

State officials angrily denied that there was any child labour problem. Investigations soon followed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, as well as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, one of the nation’s most respected independent research groups. Both confirmed the presence of child labourers.


Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu.

**Karachi - Social Worker killed**

March 15 - The brutal slaying of Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) director Perween Rahman in Karachi on Wednesday comes as a shock. She was a brave, committed woman who worked to uplift the poor and marginalised. For three decades, Ms Rahman worked in a challenging environment in a part of Karachi that suffers from frequent breakdowns of law and order. She worked for the benefit of those the state was unable — or unwilling — to help. The OPP has developed sewage and sanitation systems for the vast settlement as well as undertaken health, education and economic uplift projects for the community on a self-help basis.

**Disturbing trend**

Ms Rahman’s killing represents a disturbing trend where those who attempt to bring positive change to society are targeted. Last month Dr Ali Haider, a leading eye specialist of Lahore, was killed in a sectarian attack along with his son. The doctor also regularly provided free medical care to needy patients.

Across Pakistan aid workers have been attacked, polio teams have been hunted down and teachers have been killed due to a variety of reasons, including religious and nationalist militancy. What is equally disturbing is that women — and children — who were previously not targeted by militants are now considered fair game.

The state and society have both failed to unequivocally condemn these deadly trends and to work towards uprooting the forces responsible for spreading such violence. More on: http://dawn.com/2013/03/15/self-destruction-social-worker-killed/

Sent to us by Bashan Rafique, IAW Vice President and Chair of APWA, UK
NEWS FROM IAW AFFILIATES

LAHORE – The All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA) organised a colourful ceremony in connection with Women’s Day held at the APWA Punjab office. Addressing the ceremony, chairperson Ruhi Syed said that the APWA was the only organization in Pakistan which has been working for women’s rights during the last six decades. She urged society to eliminate the discrimination against women. She called on both women and men to come forward to be a part of the change.

IAW life member Edith Anrep, born 1912, died 2012, was a Swedish lawyer and feminist. She served as the 7th President of the International Alliance of Women from 1970 to 1973.

In Sweden she was President of the Fredrika-Bremer-Förbundet Scholarship Institution, Vice-President of the Swedish Cancer Society and board member of the Swedish Committee for Cultural Cooperation in Europe. One of her best known publications is: Some Features of Woman’s Status in Swedish Family Law (1962).

The Presidents of the International Alliance are: 1 Carrie Chapman Catt, 2 Dame Margery Corbett Ashby, 3 Hanna Rydh, 4 Ester Graft, 5 Ezlynn Deraniyagala, 6 Begum Anwar Ahmed, 7 Edith Anrep, 8 Irène de Lipkowski, 9 Olive Bloomer, 10 Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos, 11 Patricia Giles, 12 Rosy Weiss, 13 Lyda Verstegen.

Association Suisse pour les Droits de la Femme - Schweizerischer Verband für Frauenrechte is organising an Open Day on: Fundamentalismus versus Frauenrechte, Samstag, 8 Juni 2013, 13.30 - 16.00 Uhr, Bildungszentrum 21, Missionsstrasse 21, Basel, Switzerland. Website: http://www.feminism.ch/

Custodianship of The Women’s Library transfers to the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), of the London Metropolitan University on January 1st 2013. Liz Chapman, Director of Library Services, said: “Our team is now running The Women’s Library Reading Room service at Aldgate while the project to bring it to its new home at LSE Library continues. LSE is now the custodian of a truly inspiring collection of women’s history”.

More on: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/library/newsandinformation/womenslibraryatLSE/home.aspx

A BOOK AND A VIDEO

March 8 - Sponsored by UNDP and coordinated by HC, women from over 70 communities in seven countries across Africa for over a year engaged in a participatory action research on local obstacles to women’s access to justice and new bottom-up models to remove judicial bottlenecks. Video on: http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/video-african-communities-strengthen-womens-access-to-justice/

The Legacy of Nafis Sadik, Champion of Choice

“Champion of Choice”, a book by acclaimed author Cathleen Miller, details the life and times of Sadik, the extraordinary women’s advocate who served as executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) from 1987 to 2000.

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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