Dear members,

This week we received papers for Congress in London. The IAW Executive is currently focusing on the content of Congress. Which ideological issues will be discussed and what will IAW aim for in her Action Programme for the coming years?

At the UN: an interesting Women's day at the Human Rights Council; a programme tackling the killers of young children like diarrhoea and pneumonia; an important position for expert Ertharin Cousin; and the North-South Prize for two female experts, Monika Hauser and Asma Jahangir.

At the UN and in all continents there is concern about the many victims of rape and the sexual assault of women. Women everywhere are themselves speaking up, writing articles and putting their sometimes biting comments in the social media. Therefore the idea of a 'Barometer of rape' can be helpful and so can the 'Map of the best and the worst places to be a mother'. Both have to be based on research and women can use them as tools in their words of protest against violence of women.

At the end of the newsletter we have a look at the website of the All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA). And the Rajkot branch of the All India Women's Conference (AIWC) in Gujarat is sending us greetings.

Conferences, events, links etc. are like always at the end of this newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

International Alliance of Women 36th Triennial Congress
Lincoln’s Inn, London September 9 – 14 2013

SAFETY – CHOICES – VOICES: POST 2015 WOMEN’S DEVELOPMENT GOALS

What is going to replace the current UN 2015 Development Goals?
This is the big debate around the world and women’s voices must be heard in decision making at all levels: in the family through to globally.
This explains the theme of the IAW 2013 Congress and why IAW will focus on these key issues to work out a new Action Programme

- Safety for women is a must
- Women should be able to make their own Choices
- Women’s Voices must be heard in decision making at all levels

IAW will focus on these key issues when we meet to work out a new action programme.

Our host is the UK All Pakistan Women’s Association.
All relevant papers have been sent out to organizations as well as individuals. They are also available on www.iawomen.ning.com
All members of IAW are invited to Congress i.e. representatives of organizations, individual members, international representatives etc.
Please, spread the news to your membership and to any individual member you may know.
Lene Pind iawsec@womenalliance.org will be happy to deal with any queries you may have.

Correction:
There was a mistaken in the body of the last newsletter. Ms. Lakshmi Puri has been appointed 'temporary' new head of UN Women. With my apologies, Joke Sebus.

UNITED NATIONS

Meet Ms. Ertharin Cousin, the twelfth Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme
1 May 2013 – The (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization with approximately 15,000 staff feeding some 100 million people in 78 countries across the world. WFP also works increasingly with development and humanitarian partners to make the hungry poor self-sufficient and more resilient to crises.
Ms. Cousin has served in the non-profit and corporate sectors as well as in the US government on domestic agriculture and hunger issues.
In 2009, she was appointed US Ambassador to the UN agencies for food and agriculture in Rome by President Obama.
She returned recently from Mali, where hundreds of thousands have been displaced by fighting one year after a failed harvest posed another hunger threat.
More on: http://www.wfp.org/about/executive-director

Chief Representative to the FAO, Bettina Corke

UN Human Rights Council
There are four interesting Panel Discussions on the 23rd session of Human Rights Council on 27 May to 14 June 2013, in Geneva, and on the 5th of June 2013 there is the Annual Full Day on Women's Human Rights, in accordance with resolution 6/30 of the UNHRC. On the 5th of June the discussions will take stock of progress made in the elimination of violence against women over the past 20 years and will identify remaining gaps and emerging challenges that should inform the agenda of the Human Rights Council and of the international community in the future.
Building on these discussions, recommendations would focus on the strengthening and promotion of implementation of existing legal frameworks.

Two panels
The Annual Full-Day discussions will be divided into two panels. The second Panel will reflect on historical barriers and challenges in shaping violence against women as a human rights issue, lessons learned as well as the main recurring challenges. Building on the conclusions of the first Panel, the afternoon discussion (13:00-18:00) will make recommendations on priorities for the future, with emphasis on the work of the Human Rights Council and other relevant intergovernmental processes.
The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, will moderate the full day discussion.
To be found on http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx
IAW Chief Representative to the UN in Geneva, Hélène Sackstein

New Effort Targets the Leading Killers of Children
UN, May 22 2013 - PATH, a Seattle-based global health development organisation, is aiming to save two million lives by 2015 by jointly tackling diarrhoea and pneumonia, the leading killers of children globally.
Steve Davis, president and CEO of PATH, delivered the message at the ninth annual PATH Breakfast for Global Health held in Seattle, said: “Today we placed a bold stake in the ground, with partners around the world, to save two million lives by the end of 2015. No parent should have to bury a child because of something we can help prevent or treat.”
PATH will begin its efforts in India, Cambodia and Ethiopia, where intervention is most urgently needed and PATH has resources.

**Diarrhoea and pneumonia**

While all three countries have seen their child mortality rates from diarrhoea drop, India’s pneumonia death rate remains stagnant, accounting for 24 percent of deaths of children under five, the same as in 2000, according to 2013 World Health Organisation statistics.

"Diarrhoea and pneumonia are two diseases that overwhelmingly affect children in African and Asian countries", Davis said, "with diarrhoea claiming around 760,000 lives a year. And while the number of children dying in Africa before the age of five has decreased, it still vastly outnumbers all other parts of the world, according to the 2013 WHO statistics".

Melinda Gates, philanthropist and founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which helps fund health development and vaccines worldwide, spoke at the breakfast of the importance of vaccinating children as well as “appropriate” science that meets the needs of communities in the developing countries.


*Convenor of the IAW Commission on Elimination of Violence, Gudrun Haupter*

**Girls as young as six raped by Congolese soldiers in Minova**

UN, May 8 - Democratic Republic of Congo troops raped at least 97 women and 33 girls, some as young as 6, in the country's volatile east after they fled from advancing M23 rebels in late November, according to a U.N. report released on Wednesday.

The majority of the rapes by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) occurred in Minova during a two-day period, and most cases documented by U.N. Joint Human Rights Office were committed in the same manner.

**Twelve officers suspended**

Twelve senior officers, including the commanders and deputy commanders of the 41st and 391st battalions, have been suspended over the Minova incidents and "were to be put at the disposal of military justice authorities".

More on [http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/05/08/uk-congo-democratic-un-idUKBRE9470GO20130508](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/05/08/uk-congo-democratic-un-idUKBRE9470GO20130508)

*Convenor IAW Commission on Violence: Mmabatho Ramagoshi*

**North-South Prize of the Council of Europe**

The Laureates for 2012 are: Monika Hauser and Asma Jahangir.

**Monika Hauser** is a gynaecologist and the director of the women’s aid association medica mondiale. In 1992, in the middle of the Bosnian war, she opened a therapy centre in the city of Zenica for victims of rape and war trauma.

**Asma Jahangir** is a leading Pakistani lawyer, advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan and human rights activist, who works both in Pakistan and internationally to prevent the persecution of religious minorities, women, and exploitation of children.

She was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief from August 2004 to July 2010. Previously, she served as the UN Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial, Arbitrary and Summary Executions. She is also chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Asma Jahangir has spent her career defending human and women’s rights, rights of religious minorities and children in Pakistan. She also was and remains a staunch critic of the Hudood Ordinance and blasphemy laws of Pakistan.

More on: [www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/ns_prize_EN.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/ns_prize_EN.asp)

*IAW Representative to the Council of Europe, Anje Wiersinga*
USA - Sexual assaults in the Military - and a study
May 7, 2013 -Washington - The problem of sexual assault in the military leapt to the forefront in Washington on Tuesday as the Pentagon released a survey estimating that 26,000 people in the armed forces were sexually assaulted last year, up from 19,000 in 2010, and an angry President Obama and Congress demanded action.
The study, based on a confidential survey sent to 108,000 active-duty service members, was released two days after the officer in charge of sexual assault prevention programs for the Air Force was arrested and charged with sexual battery for grabbing a woman’s breasts and buttocks in an Arlington, Va., parking lot.

Obama
At a White House news conference, Mr. Obama expressed exasperation with the Pentagon’s attempts to bring sexual assault under control.
“The bottom line is, I have no tolerance for this,” Mr. Obama said in answer to a question about the survey. “If we find out somebody’s engaging in this stuff, they’ve got to be held accountable, prosecuted, stripped of their positions, court martialed, fired, dishonourably discharged. Period.”
The President said he had ordered Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel “to step up our game exponentially” to prevent sex crimes and said he wanted military victims of sexual assault to know that “I’ve got their backs”.

Editor's note: All bells started ringing, and many articles in the Press, for example this one: http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/19/us-usa-military-sexassault-idUSBRE94I01I20130519

A Map of the best and the worst places to be a mother
A new report by Save the Children, a London-based NGO, gauges and ranks the conditions for mothers in almost every country in the world.
Their annual report, just out, shows that Nordic countries are the best places to be mothers. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are the worst.
The Mother’s Index, based on a wide range of data gathered from the United Nations and other sources, is mapped out in the report. Bluer countries are best for mothers, red countries are worst and purple are somewhere in the middle.
The report measures conditions for mothers using five different metrics:
1. risk of maternal death,
2. infant mortality rate,
3. the number of years an average child will spend in school,
4. gross national income per capita and
5. participation of women in government.
Those last two variables are built on the inferences, fleshed out in the report, that mothers with more money will be more likely to secure food and medical care, and that countries where women participate in governance are more likely to pass laws promoting women’s health and well-being.
For details go to: https://socialreader.com/me/channels/80082/content/EZLmk?_p=article
Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

European Women's Lobby, a Barometer on Rape in 2013
Representatives from women’s NGOs from the Balkans recently met in Zagreb to coordinate their efforts to agitate and to raise awareness and to convince their governments to ratify the Council of Europe Convention for preventing and combating Violence against Women. Representatives from the Autonomous Women’s Centre (Belgrade), SOS Telephone (Ljubljana), United Women (Banja Luka), Centre for Women War Victims-ROSA (Zagreb) and National Council of Women of the Republic of Macedonia (UWOM) are working in concert to achieve this aim.
As associated partner, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) represented by Colette De Troy, was invited to take part in the meeting to present examples of successful actions for the convention - (like the lobbying kit) and to discuss further synergies in view of the ratification of all the EU countries and the EU.
The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the proposal to use the results of the soon to be published 2013 EWL Barometer on Rape, which will illustrate the need for important changes in legislation, data collection and services to support women victims of violence.

EWL on: http://www.womenlobby.org/?lang=en
IAW representative at the European Women's Lobby: Joanna Manganara

**G8/G20 London, UK 2013 - Parliamentarians demand a Decade of Family Planning**

On 9th and 10th May 2013 57 parliamentarians from 34 countries from around the world (including 14 G20 countries) met in the Houses of Parliament in London, where they were joined by over 100 other participants from across the fields of international development.

They discussed the importance of family planning and reproductive health in development, and how they are key to issues such as sustainable development, women’s empowerment and maternal and newborn health.

At the end of the event they agreed upon a powerful message to the policy-makers who are planning the future framework for International Development. This message outlined their understanding that:

> “Women’s and adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health and rights affect not only their own wellbeing and destinies; they also direct the future of families, societies and humanity and are a key driver of social and economic development.”

It then went on to: “Demand that G8/G20 leaders place family planning in the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights at the core of the post-2015 development agenda.”

The conference brought together parliamentarians from Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe who believe that development can only occur when the reproductive rights of women to plan their families are respected. Their aim was – and is still - to ensure that these rights remain at the top of the international development agenda in 2015 when the successor to the Millennium Development Goals begins.

Read more on: http://www.iepfpd.org/global-conferences/
*This event was organised by the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, website on: http://www.iepfpd.org/home/ It was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Countdown 2015 Europe and UNFPA.*

**A senior female Pakistani politician has been shot dead in the city of Karachi**

Zahra Shahid Hussain was the senior vice-president of Pakistan's Movement for Justice Party (PTI), led by former international cricketer Imran Khan.

She was killed outside her home in the city's upmarket Defence neighbourhood. Her murder comes on the eve of a highly-contested partial re-run of the vote in the area following last Saturday's general election. The killing on Saturday had an immediate effect on the voter turnout, despite the presence of army troops at polling places, officials said.

**Praise for Hussain**

Politicians and analysts praised Ms. Hussain for her dedication and courage. “She was a very hard-working, eloquent and progressive woman,” said Shumaisa Rehman, a political talk show host with Pakistan Television.

More on: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/20/world/asia/

**First Saudi Arabian woman on Mount Everest**

Kathmandu, Nepal — A Saudi Arabian woman was among 64 people who successfully scaled Mount Everest on Saturday from Nepal’s side of the mountain, according to mountaineering officials.

An official with Nepal’s Mountaineering Department, Tilak Padney, said that 35 foreigners accompanied by 29 Nepalese Sherpa guides reached the 29,035-foot peak on Saturday morning after climbing all night from the highest camp on South Col, the pass between Everest and a neighbouring mountain.

All the climbers were reported to be safe. The climber, Raha Moharrak, is the first Saudi woman to scale the world’s highest peak. She is 25, and now lives in Dubai, according to the BBC.

Everest can be climbed from either Nepal or Tibet.

NEWS FROM IAW AFFILIATES

Meet the Rajkot branch of All India Women's Conference in Gujarat
Secretary Dr. Bhavna K. Joshipura is sending us greetings from the AIWC Rajkot branch. Rajkot is the fourth largest city in the state of Gujarat, India, with a population more than 1.6 million as of 2012. Rajkot is also the 22nd fastest growing city in the world. The city is located on the banks of the Aji and Nyari Rivers. The AIWC Rajkot branch is working at old age homes and family counselling centres; the work is to uplift the social and economic circumstances of women and children, organising women's labour, illiteracy programmes, schools for street children etc.

Meet the All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA)
APWA is one of the longest running and prestigious social welfare organisations in Pakistan and was founded in February 1949 by Begum Ra’ana Liaquat Ali Khan (wife of the first prime minister of Pakistan), to encourage the women of Pakistan to participate in the public, economic and cultural life of the country (see picture).

President Mrs Laila Haroon Sarfaraz is a well-known and respected philanthropist in Pakistan and has been President of the All Pakistan Women’s Association since 2004, working towards consolidating the organisation and reviving its reputation as an organisation for women, by women.

Mrs Bashan Rafique, Chair of the UK APWA Board of Trustees, has worked within the Inland Revenue, financial services and property development. She has been a prominent member of many fund-raising committees representing Pakistan in the United Kingdom for the last twenty years. She is the Honorary Cultural Patron at Asia House, an Executive Vice President of the IAW and Governor at South Camden Community School.

Please have a look at the UK APWA website at: www.theukapwa.com

CONFERENCE - LINKS - ACTION

Deutsche Frauenring - The missing gender link
The Deutsche Frauenring International is organising a seminar, on: *The missing gender link, justice and reconciliation processes after war crime and violations of human rights against women.* On Sunday, 30 June, an introductory workshop will be organised and an event by the Action-Alliance Kim Hak-Soon. *For information and details e-mail IAW member Marian Böker at <mail@d-fr.de>.

High-level Panel’s Report on the Post-2015 Agenda,
This event will be held on 31 May, from 10:00 am to 12:30 am, in the ECOSOC Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event will be webcast by UN WebTV and live streamed on the World We Want web platform. The flyer for the event with full details is available [here](pdf).

Action Guilt-free clothing
Hundreds of Bangladeshi women have been burned or crushed to death while making *our* clothes! In days, major fashion companies could sign an agreement for a strong building and fire safety pact. Take action now on: [http://www.avaaz.org/en/](http://www.avaaz.org/en/)

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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