

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

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

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

IAW SUPPLEMENTARY NEWSLETTER January 2008 no. 1A



Equal Rights

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The International Alliance of Women
wishes the 52nd session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and attending NGOs
success in promoting the right of women and girls to a life in security and dignity.

Look out for the following panel:

“Gender Budgeting: gender justice of public expenditure”

***On the 25th of February 2008, from 3:15 to 4:45 PM.
At the Church Centre - 2nd Floor.
See also the Handbook or the daily schedule of events.***

Members of the panel will consider gender budgeting implementation and will highlight the progress made in some regions, in contrast to the slow or non implementation in OECD states. Marion Boeker, boeker-consult/Consultancy on Human Rights and Gender Issues Implementation & Transfer, Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnenverband, will be the Moderator.

Please note that details of the session titled “*Weaving the World’s Women Together*” listed in the January Newsletter are incorrect – our apologies.

IAW delegation

The IAW delegation will comprise: IAW President Rosy Weiss, IAW Secretary General Lene Pind, IAW Board member Monique Bouaziz, Danielly Levy, and the IAW New York Team with Kay Fraleigh, Soon-Young Yoon and others

A calendar of all parallel events organized by Permanent Missions, UN entities, and NGOs will be posted on the DAW web site **one week prior to the CSW session**, and updated regularly.

Congratulations to Rosy Weiss on her re-election as Chairperson of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women. The Committee, created in 1982 in Vienna while the Division for the Advancement of Women, as part of the whole Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the UN, was still located in Vienna, also celebrated its 25th anniversary.

IAW NEWS AND VIEWS

First session of the CEDAW Committee in Geneva

Hélène Sackstein, from the IAW Commission on Health, attended CEDAW on behalf of the Commission and IAW. She handed out copies of the NGO Report XI on Women and Tobacco, submitted by the IAW and the International Network of Women against Tobacco.

The Flyer has been put on the IAW website - www.womenalliance.org

This year is exciting because it is the first time that the FCTC (WHO Frame Convention on Tobacco Control) has been mentioned (by the CEDAW Committee), and France and Luxembourg made

extensive reports. As a French speaker, H el ene, was able to closely follow the examination of the French report. *Thank you, H el ene!*

CEDAW, next session

German NGOs are preparing a shadow report to the 6th German National Report. An open redaction group will meet on invitation of the International Committee of Deutsche Staatsbuergerinnen-Verband. Issues include Gender Budgeting, Sexism in Advertising, Women and Smoking.

Press Release on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

IAW affiliate, Deutscher Frauenring, as a member of the German NGO Network INTEGRA, issued a Press Release on 25 November 2007, drafted by Gudrun Haupter, the Convenor of the IAW Commission on Health, with the following content:

- * Requesting the government to fulfill its obligation to protect children of immigrants living in Germany, which are menaced by FGM practised in their countries of origin (and sometimes illegally in Germany);
- * Presently there is a public discussion to make preventive physical examinations of infants and small children mandatory to better detect early signs of neglect or maltreatment. We wish such examinations to include genital inspection;
- * We also wish a continuous inter-sectoral cooperation of Ministries (this issue will be followed up by INTEGRA);
- * Support for demands to integrate FGM into the training and retraining of MDs, health personnel, social workers and other relevant professions.

UN Foundation issues challenge to eradicate violence against women

To members of the International Alliance of Women

Most members of the IAW are in one way or another concerned with the problem of violence against women. UNIFEM has launched an online campaign against violence against women, and the United Nations Foundation has announced its support to the campaign by promising one US dollar for each the first 100,000 signatures to this campaign.

All IAW members are encouraged to support the campaign by adding your name to the list of signatures. You may also forward this message to friends who would want to support the campaign.

Lene Pind

Secretary General

iawsec@womenalliance.org

22 January 2008 – The United Nations Foundation ([UNF](#)) announced today that it will donate \$1 dollar for each of the first 100,000 signatures to an online petition aimed at eliminating violence against women.

So far, 18,000 people from all over the world have added their names to the Internet campaign – called “Say NO to violence against women” and run by the UN Development Fund for Women ([UNIFEM](#)) – since its launch last November.

“Thanks to this fantastic challenge grant, every signature will bolster our cause to make ending violence against women worldwide a top priority,” said Nicole Kidman, actress and UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador.

She added that the funds will go towards UN-backed local initiatives to prevent human trafficking, assist survivors of domestic violence and help to implement laws against rape.

The petition also hopes to generate support for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, which thus far has helped fund some 250 programmes in 120 countries.

“Each day, each hour, each minute, a woman in the world is a victim of violence,” said Timothy E. Wirth, UNF President. “Taking this simple step, signing on to the campaign, sends the message that enough is enough and the cycle of violence must stop now.”

UNF was created in 1998 with the aim of promoting a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world through the support of the UN. Through grant-making and building new and innovative public-private partnerships, it acts to meet the most pressing health, humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25376&Cr=unifem&Cr1=IAW Commission on Violence, IAW convenor Mmabatho Ramagoshi, South Africa>

Kerry Lovering and the Order of Australia Medal

IAW member Kerry Lovering, Convenor of Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria, was honoured by the Federal Government in the Australia Day Honours with an Order of Australia Medal. She is also President of the League of Women Voters of Victoria and on the National Board of WEL.

Dear Kerry, congratulations from us all!

AROUND THE WORLD

Perspectives on Technology and the Construction of Gender

Women's World 2008 Conference - Madrid (Spain) 3-9 July 2008

The 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, "Women's Worlds 2008" includes a one day session on Women and Technology (7 July). The session is entitled "Perspectives on Technology and the Construction of Gender". The session is part of the theme area "Science and Technology" and sub-theme "Women and Science".

We invite people interested in the theme of Women and Technology to submit their individual papers. Papers can be focused on the following topics:

- Scientist and technologist women in the information and knowledge society (conceptualisation, labour market).
- Technologist women in companies, NGOs, public institutions (decision-making positions, working male model).
- Women in Higher Education (decision-making positions, working male model).
- Mentorship (role, networks).

Abstracts must be 250 words maximum. They must include the following information: Name, Title, Key Words, Institution, Country, E-mail. Proposals must be submitted to: alicia.miyares@mec.es <http://www.mmww08.org/> E-mail: mmww08@unicongress.com

Send to us by IAW member Alison Brown

Doha, Qatar - 29 November - 2 December 2008

Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been involved from the outset in the Financing for Development process by providing important inputs, expertise and proposals to the International Conference on Financing for Development.

Moreover, with their diverse voices and priorities, they are instrumental in the follow-up process to Monterrey. This view has been endorsed at the highest level in the Monterrey Consensus itself, which in paragraph 69 calls for civil society to stay involved and actively engaged in the process.

The FfD website contains a separate section on civil society engagement in the FfD process:

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/indexCivilSoc&BussSec.htm>

Regional Economic Commissions in coordination with the Financing for Development Office will also organize five regional consultations during the first half of the year.

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions [61/191](#) and [62/187](#), the review conference should address progress made, reaffirm goals and commitments, share best practices and lessons learned. The conference should also identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for further implementation, as well as new challenges and emerging issues. More on: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/>

Turning the Pot

NEW DELHI "Turning the Pot" by Ilaiah is the first Indian children's book to openly challenge the 3,000-year-old caste system, which ranks professions from scholars to shoemakers in a rigid hierarchy and is reinforced by some interpretations of Hindu theology.

Farmhands, barbers, leather workers and others

In the book, Ilaiah tries to highlight the achievements of low-caste workers. "Weavers discovered how

cotton is spun into cloth. Laundry men discovered the country's first cleaning detergent and saved us from diseases," he writes. "Farmers nurtured us with cereals, pulses, fruits and vegetables. Why not respect those who produce our food?"

India's school textbooks were revised in 2005 to include a history of discrimination against lower castes, but Ilaiah and others say the books must go further and also teach children respect for lower castes. The Indian government, led by Prime Minister [Manmohan Singh](#), who has called the caste system "a blot on humanity," is considering buying Ilaiah's book for some public schools.

"It's a hugely important book," said Samphe D. Lhalungpa, chief of education for [UNICEF](#) in India, which has bought 3,000 copies to distribute in schools. "The school system has a critical role to play. Every Indian child should read it."

Uneasy responses?

Upper- and middle-caste children in India often grow up with domestic servants, including maids, personal chefs, door openers and dog walkers. In many such families, Indian children are never asked to clean their rooms, wash the dishes or empty trash, because such tasks are seen as beneath them.

Ilaiah hopes that children will learn to see that's not the case.

So far, the response to Ilaiah's book from some upper-caste parents has been uneasy.

"There is no need to grill our kids on caste," said Rattan Lal, 45, a member of the Brahmin caste who was shopping for books with his 13-year-old daughter. "Any kind of education about caste would only be dividing the country. It's drawing too much attention to the issue in the first place."

Anahita Singh, 33, who also hails from a higher caste, said she felt that the issues might be painful but that they had to be discussed. "I want my child to grow up as a balanced human being who should never pass judgment based on caste," she said.

By Emily Wax, Washington Post Foreign Service. More on:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-yn/content/article/2008/01/19/AR2008011902412_pf.html

Send to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

Note

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in Word 97.

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 can mail them this Newsletter too.

IAW Newsletter / News Flash	: Joke Sebus	<iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>
International Women's News	: Priscilla Todd (English)	<iaw.iwnews@womenalliance.org>
	: Mathilde Duval (French)	<aifnfi@womenalliance.org>
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