

**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 2008, no. 7



Equal Rights

Dear members,

Important: a women's view on the global food crisis, supported by IAW. Please take time to read it! Support too for the statement of Ban Ki-Moon: "Family Planning is a fundamental component of Reproductive Health". At last - a clear voice on World Population Day from the UN.

Other issues are: women are preparing the 2009 EU elections, female teachers in Uganda, the link between child soldiers and the small arms trade, 'lover boys', the Way to Doha and last but not least the IAW Board Meeting in October 2008, in the Hague, Netherlands. Events, Publications etc. are as usual at the end.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

A Women's Declaration to the G8: Support Real Solutions to the Global Food Crisis

This letter was supported by IAW and many other International NGOs

To: Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda (Japan) - Prime Minister Stephen Harper (Canada) - President Nicolas Sarkozy (France) - Chancellor Angela Merkel (Germany) - Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (Italy) - President Dmitry Medvedev (Russia) - Prime Minister Gordon Brown (United Kingdom) - President George Bush (United States)

This year, the world's eight richest governments (the G8) met against the backdrop of a global food crisis. With prices for all major food commodities at a 50-year-high, world leaders are discussing pervasive "food shortages" that threaten to destabilize dozens of countries. But worsening hunger is the result of cost inflation, not any absolute food shortage. In fact, the world produces [more food than the global population can consume](#).

The root cause of the food crisis is not scarcity, but the failed economic policies long championed by the G8, namely, *trade liberalization and industrial agriculture*. These policies, which treat food as a commodity rather than a human right, have induced chaotic climate change, oil dependency, and the depletion of the Earth's land and water resources as well as today's food crisis. Yet, in the search for solutions, the G8 considered expanded support for the very measures that caused this web of problems. Calls for more tariff reductions, biofuel plantations, genetically modified crops, and wider use of petroleum-based fertilizers and chemical pesticides were at the forefront of discussions in Japan.

These measures [cannot resolve](#) the global food crisis. They may, however, further boost this year's [record profits](#) for agricultural corporations. There are viable solutions to the food crisis, but they will not emerge from a narrow pursuit of the financial interests of multinational corporations. For nearly 30 years, the G8 has insisted that corporations replace governments in shaping and implementing national agriculture policies in the world's poorest countries. This demand has not maximized efficiency or reduced poverty, as promised. In fact, it has [ushered in a sharp rise in hunger and malnutrition](#).

As the World Bank itself acknowledged in its 2008 [World Development Report](#), the private sector has failed as a substitute for government when it comes to agriculture.

In fact, corporations have no legal duty to reduce poverty or fight world hunger. Governments, including the G8—and not the private sector—are the ones mandated to resolve the global food crisis.

As women's human rights advocates working with communities on the front-lines of the global food crisis, we called on the G8 to promote a worldwide shift from industrial to sustainable agriculture and to enact the economic policies needed to support this transition.

National policies, including investment, funding, and research, as well as international trade rules, must be redirected in support of small farmers and sustainable agriculture.

Editors note: this is an important article. Please read how Food Dependency and Change Trade Rules could be handled on: <http://www.madre.org/>

IAW BOARD Meeting 2008 - The Netherlands Welcome to The Hague!

Symposium on Human Rights Education - The Hague October 7, 2008

In 1908, a century ago, IAW came to the Netherlands for the first time to advocate suffrage.

In 1949, the subject was the UN and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

In 2008, at the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, IAW will have a symposium on Human Rights Education.

What happened to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in those 60 years? Have the UN member states circulated it, discussed it at schools and universities? Has it become a part of national laws? The venue will be the Old Reading Room in the Peace Palace on October the 7th 2008.

The [Peace Palace](#) in The Hague is home to a number of international judicial institutions, including the [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#) or World Court, the [Permanent Court of Arbitration \(PCA\)](#), the renowned [Peace Palace Library](#), as well as the [Hague Academy of International Law](#), which attracts law students from all over the world every summer.

Another purpose of the meeting is to make full use of the possibilities of the CEDAW, the Women's Treaty. The Dutch member of the CEDAW committee, Prof. Cees Flinterman, will speak on the effects of shadow reports. We have also invited specialists on human rights education from Amnesty and the Red Cross to join the discussion.

Lyda Versteegen, president of Vrouwenbelangen, IAW executive vice-president.

For the Programme of the IAW Board Meeting and the registration form write to IAW Secretary General Lene Pind at <iawsec@womenalliance.org> no later than August 15, 2008.

Women in Development Europe - WIDE

WIDE is organising its Annual Conference to be held 9-11 October 2008 with the theme: *Feminist Visions for a Just Europe*. IAW members who would like to participate can write to the Conference Secretariat at wideconference2008@wo-men.nl for a registration form (Subject: Request for Registration Form) on or before 1 August 2008.

Human Rights Council

On website http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/alldocs.aspx?doc_id=14140 date: 28 May 2008, you will find a joint written statement submitted by NGOs, on which H el ene Sackstein, IAW representative at the Human Rights Council, has spent a lot of time and energy! Thank you, H el ene.

On HRC 8th - 28/05/2008 - A/HRC/8/NGO/33

To read the interesting Universal Periodic Reports of the Human Rights Council, go to:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

UNITED NATIONS

Family Planning Is a Fundamental Component of Reproductive Health"

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told during World Population Day:

"Family planning is a fundamental component of reproductive health as it allows for determining the spacing of pregnancies. Studies show that family planning has immediate benefits for the lives and health of mothers and their infants.

Ensuring basic access to family planning could reduce maternal deaths by a third and child deaths by as much as 20 per cent.

And yet the benefits of family planning remain out of reach for many, especially for those who often have the hardest time getting the information and services they need to plan their families, such as the poor, marginalized populations and young people. Demand will only increase, as more than one billion people aged 15-24 enter their reproductive years. I call on Governments to honour the commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development".

Cairo Conference

At the Cairo Conference, nations agreed that all couples and individuals have the basic human right to not only decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children, but also to have the information, education and the means to do so. As we intensify our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, let us take action to reduce maternal mortality and achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015. Let us devote greater attention and resources to the work to improve the health and quality of life for all people.

Vivian Stromberg, MADRE USA; **Rose Cunningham**, Wangki Tangni Women's Center Nicaragua; **Adriana Gonzalez**, LIMPAL Colombia; **Sandra Gonzalez Maldonado**, Women Workers Committee Guatemala; **Anne Sosin**, The Commission of Women for Victims, Haiti.

Sent to us by IAW President Rosy Weiss

Godrun's comment on: Message on World Population Day'

This is a strong message on reproductive health and family planning, and good news for women. The UN Secretary-General's message, though not an official document, clearly calls on governments' political will and financial commitments as pledged at the International Conference on Population and Development 1994, known as the Cairo consensus.

Both need resurgence and unequivocal support from civil society at large including the NGO community. The aim: to ensure access to information and services to allow all women to plan their families, with a focus on poor women, women with little education, rural women as the population segment with the highest "unmet need" (key message of the IAW Resolution Nr. 1, XXXIV Congress).

It is a question of rights

This is not a question of charity but of rights – the right to health, the right to life, the right to development. The S.G. also deserves praise for pointing to the steeply increasing demand of young people entering their reproductive years.

To go one step further: there is good reason for sharing the conviction, for example, of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, like WHO and UNFPA. It advocates strong links between Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS services to create synergy effects. It stated in 2005: "It is impossible to reach the MDGs of eliminating poverty, reducing maternal and infant mortality, equality in education, gender empowerment or combating the incidence of HIV/AIDS unless Sexual and Reproductive Health services are funded as envisaged at Cairo".

www.appg-popdevrh.org

At present, family planning is most severely under funded and the dual protection the condom provides – against HIV and other STIs and against unwanted pregnancy - is known as "the best kept secret!" This ought to change quickly.

July 2008, Godrun Haupter, Convenor of the IAW Health Commission.

A NEW RIGHTS CHIEF FOR UN

A South African judge who serves on the International Criminal Court will fill the post, officials say. The Secretary-General will name South African Judge Navanethem Pillay as the next U.N. Human Rights Commissioner, diplomats and U.N. officials said.

The daughter of a Tamil bus driver in Durban, she experienced human rights violations firsthand. Pillay earned a law degree at Harvard, but for 28 years during apartheid, she was not allowed to set foot in a judge's chambers as a lawyer because of her South Asian origins. In 1995 she became the first woman of colour to become a judge on the High Court.

Pillay, born in 1941, also served as a judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda prosecuting crimes related to that nation's genocide. She presided over landmark cases in international law that established rape as a war crime, convicted a former head of state for atrocities committed during his rule and prosecuted media for inciting genocide. She has served for five years on the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

Pillay may not be as outspoken as the current commissioner, Canadian Judge Louise Arbour, who often shamed governments and leaders that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon would not criticize by name. Arbour took the forefront on issues such as the United Nations' opposition to capital punishment, when Ban said he supported each state's right to decide whether to use it, and has criticized the United States for skirting international law in its fight against terrorism. Human Rights advocates wonder whether Pillay will stand up to big powers when they violate human rights, or push her native South Africa on controversial issues, such as human rights violations in neighboring Zimbabwe and elections there that the U.N. has declared illegitimate.

By Maggie Farley, Times Staff Writer.

Sent to us by Hélène Sackstein, IAW representative at the Human Rights Council

Strong link between child soldiers and small arms trade

15 July 2008 – The trade in small arms is a major factor behind the worldwide phenomenon of child soldiers, according to United Nations experts who gathered in New York to discuss the impact of the weapons trade on society.

“It is argued by many that it is the proliferation of small arms that has actually contributed to this rise – the ready availability of small arms in the period 1970 – 2000 led to the rise and the phenomenon of child soldiers as we know it today,” Radhika Coomaraswamy, the UN envoy on children and armed conflict, said.

“For \$5 one can find a serviceable weapon in most countries in the developing world,” she added, noting that it takes a child on average only 40 minutes to master an AK-47, one of the most common weapons used around the world today.

The UN envoy also stressed that there were 600 companies in 95 countries around the world producing small arms, in addition to the growing reach of private arms dealers “who sell arms to anyone and who are accountable to no one.”

UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Sergio Duarte, said that if governments failed to provide for the security of their populations, people resorted to retributive justice and armed violence.

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27382&Cr=child&Cr1=soldier>

Convenor of the IAW Peace Commission, Susanne Riveles

ALL OVER THE WORLD

EWL 50-50 Campaign - No Modern European Democracy without Gender Equality

In view of the European elections taking place in June 2009 and given that a number of EU top jobs will be filled in the course of the year 2009, including the presidents of the European Parliament and of the European Commission, the European Women's Lobby is launching a European-wide cross-party Campaign with the support of Margot Wallström, Vice President of the European Commission and the ministerial chair of the Council of Women World Leaders

Equal representation in political parties

The EWL campaign aims at putting pressure on political parties and decisions makers to make sure that women are equally represented in political parties' lists for the 2009 European Parliament elections, in the next European Commission and in all top political posts.

Support the EWL campaign

The first step of the EWL campaign is to gather the support of high level personalities from all European countries, political parties and all walks of life for the Campaign Call for Action. The EWL is therefore in the process of collecting support from personalities for its Campaign prior to the launch in September 2008. If you want to support the EWL Campaign, please contact Cécile Gréboval at the EWL Secretariat: greboval@womenlobby.org

Sent to us by IAW General Secretary Lene Pind

Two Women on the road to the White House for the Green Party – USA With Rosa Clemente, an independent radio journalist and media activist as future President and Cynthia McKinney as Vice President of the US, the Green Party has joined the elections for the White House. More on:

<http://www.wimnonline.org/WIMNsVoicesBlog/?p=1119>

Sent to us by IAW member Bettina Clarke

VoiceOver - The Netherlands

Application forms are now available on the VoiceOver website

35 people from developing countries will be selected to visit the Netherlands from October 20th till the 26th. During this week they will talk about their experiences, share their knowledge and discuss the foreign aid they receive. We are looking for people who have a direct link with this subject. People who live, have lived or work in (post)-conflict areas and who are willing to share their personal stories and experiences.

If you feel connected to this subject in any way and would like to participate in the program we would like to ask you to enlist for VoiceOver by filling out the application form on our website.

<http://www.politiek2015.nl/voice-over/index.php>

Protests against Child Labour - London - INDIA

Hundreds of people has been protesting outside Primark's Oxford Street store in London in response to claims that the retailer has been using child labour. The protest, organised by War on Want, comes before a Panorama report on BBC1 showing children making clothes for Primark. An 11-year-old Tamil girl at the Bhavani Sagar refugee camp is shown sewing sequins on a shirt from the Secret Possessions range.

"Pressure on Indian suppliers to deliver fast fashion at rock-bottom prices has made sweatshop labour inevitable," said Simon McRae at War on Want. "Again and again, scandals exposing UK retailers exploiting garment workers underline that the public cannot trust stores to police themselves. It is high time the British government introduced regulation to stop this shameful abuse."

Primark announced last week that it had sacked three of its clothing suppliers in India after being told that the programme had evidence it was subcontracting to child workers.

George Weston, chief executive of Associated British Foods, which owns Primark, said the company's Indian contractors were guilty of "wholesale deception". He said he would cancel million of pounds' worth of orders

Sent to us by IAW member Helen Self

School's first female teacher talks of the hurdles to learning faced by girls - UGANDA

Agnes Ameo is the only girl from her village ever to have passed O-levels, and now she is setting another record - as the first female teacher of Amorikot primary school in Katine sub-county, eastern Uganda.

She is 20 but looks much younger, and is so shy and softly spoken it is hard to imagine how she can control a class of 75 children - an average class size in Uganda - but the headteacher, Ben Ejadu, can hardly contain his delight at his new recruit. Throughout the interview, he beams with pleasure as Agnes murmurs her replies. Agnes represents the hope of headteacher Ben Ejadu that he can turn round the dramatic dropout rate that afflicts girls' education as they reach puberty.

Embarrassment

Embarrassed and confused, these young girls stayed away from school during their periods, and then often gave up altogether. The dirty latrines offered no privacy and without access to sanitary towels, they did not know how to cope. The African Medical and Research Foundation's Katine Community Partnerships Project, funded by Guardian readers and Barclays, has now installed a borehole just a short walk from the school as well as new pit latrines. Girls can fetch a bucket of water and there is a designated bathing area with soap behind a simple grass fence.

Fetching water

The borehole, now pumping clean water to nearly 500 households, has another impact on girls' education. The task of fetching water often falls to the young women, but before the borehole had been drilled, this entailed several hours of walking a day. Girls would often arrive at school two hours late. Now, the borehole is only a short walk away and they get to school on time.

Girls asking questions

But Agnes' role goes further. "All the teachers here are men apart from Agnes and the girls don't feel free to interrupt," says Amref's project education officer, Lilian Viko. "It is not the practice for a girl to ask a male teacher a question. Men are respected."

How the project works

Katine, a village district in rural north-east Uganda, is the site of a three-year project to improve the lives of its 25,000 inhabitants. Average incomes are currently less than 50p a day, the schools are overstretched and the health clinics struggle to cope in a region that has been devastated by civil war.

The Guardian has launched an appeal to raise the money needed to transform this impoverished community in partnership with the African Medical and Research Foundation (Amref) and Barclays Bank. The Guardian is reporting on the project, explaining where the donations go, how aid works - and how lives are changed. Join the project by making a donation, and then follow what happens to your money at: guardian.co.uk/katine

This article appeared in the Guardian on Saturday June 21 2008 of the International section. It was last updated at 00:02 on June 21 2008. Sent to us by IAW member Helen Self

British-born teenagers being trafficked for sexual exploitation within UK, police say

Teenage girls born in Britain are being trafficked for sexual exploitation within the UK, police said, adding that children are being "groomed" by men acting as boyfriends who carry out the abuse and then take the youngsters to other towns for further exploitation.

Officers fear that as many as 33 girls between the ages of 12 and 15 could have been involved in a case uncovered in Sheffield last year.

Only one, a 15-year-old, was willing to give evidence in court, but following that a 23-year-old man was jailed for 10 years for serious sexual offences which included rape of a child. Five other men faced deportation procedures.

'Lover boys'

Police have adopted terms like "lover boy" to describe the way older men at first act like an indulgent boyfriend, showering the young girls with drugs and gifts including money and jewellery.

According to the UKHTC, the girls are encouraged to "go missing" from home and to spend more and more time with their "boyfriends", who eventually start controlling them with threats and violence.

About 167 victims, including 13 children aged between 14 and 17, were rescued across Britain and Ireland, and 528 suspected traffickers were arrested during the six months of Operation Pentameter 2, which ended earlier this year.

More on <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/jul/03/childprotection.internationalcrime>

Sent us by IAW Member Anjana Basu

CONFERENCES - PUBLICATIONS

[The Road to Doha - Issue 16, July 2008](#), a publication jointly produced by the DESA Financing for Development Office (FFDO) and the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) in the run-up to the International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus to be held in Doha, Qatar from 29 Nov. - 2 Dec. 2008 (A/RES/61/191 and A/RES/62/187).

Gender equality - two countries on their way to be included in the European Union: Slovakia and the Czech Republic. From a communist to a democratic system during the accession period 1993 - 2004.

The result of the analysis: a backlash for gender equality during the political and economic transformation. *A dissertation published by IAW member Ingrid Röder*

More on: <http://logos-verlag.de/cgi-bin/engbuchmid?isbn=1573&lng=deu&id=>

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>
Membership Officer	: Pat Richardson	<iaw.membership@womenalliance.org>
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