Dear IAW members,

There is news of the Alliance: the date of the Board Meeting, a ICT project, conferences which will be attended by IAW members, a succesfull TV presentation, etc.

Two historic events at the UN this month: the inauguration of the Human Rights Council and of the Peacebuilding Commission. In September Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa will be the second female President ever who will chair the General Assembly of the UN.

"The face of AIDS is increasingly young and female". Civil society groups, networks of women living with HIV, and United Nations agencies have to work together at global and national levels for improved AIDS programming for women and girls. As always, IAW emphasises the sexual and reproductive health and rights women need to fight this devastating epidemic. Also, the health of children and youth can be much improved by a better integration of health services and above all by "political will".

Conferences, guides and some interesting websites are as always at the end of the newsletter.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

IAW Board Meeting and International Meeting - in Paris

We are happy to inform you that IAW will hold the Board Meeting on 12-13 November 2006 and on 15-17 November the International Meeting. Both in Paris, France. More information will follow soon.

ICT Project

Dear Member Societies, dear Board Members,

Rosy Weiss and I would like to draw your attention to this possibility to win additional funds for any Information and Communication Technology project you may be doing for the benefit of girls in your country or with a partner project.

We would be eager to hear about such a project if you are doing one, so that we may publicize it in the International Women's News, so that sister organisations may know of your activities and contact you for information if they are inspired to start a similar project.

More on Development Gateway http://www.developmentgateway.org/

Application deadline is August 11, 2006. Please click to Global Prize for IT Benefiting Youth in Developing Countries on the website, to access subsidy references.

Good Luck to all who apply for the Prize.

Alison Brown, Secretary General, IAW Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities

Secrétaire Générale, AIF Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

To combat Illicit Trade in Small Arms

The UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons will be held in New York from 26 June to 7 July.

In 2001 member states adopted unanimously a Programme of Action to combat illegal arms and to encourage countries to strengthen their laws on the illicit trade and ensure that they are kept out of the wrong hands.

Part of a UN public information campaign, the announcement calls attention to the dangers posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including their humanitarian and social impact on children and the civilian population in general.

Our best wishes to IAW member Suzanne Rivelles who will be attending the UN Conference.

Chipo G. Maringue-Sinzara was invited, as a Board Member of the International Alliance of Women, to participate in a local Television Programme on Poverty Alleviation titled "Prosperity Insight". Topics discussed were:

1. What is Poverty
2. How does Poverty come into being
3. Is it a curse
4. Practical applications that can alleviate Poverty

Chipo writes: "This was my first time on National Television and it was a great experience. More episodes are to come and this will give me an opportunity to reach most of the women in Zimbabwe, especially the young and I will update you on the future events".

CEDAW
At CEDAW on 7-25 August, the following countries will report: Cape Verde, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Congo, Denmark, Georgia, Ghana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Mexico, Philippines, Moldova, and Uzbekistan.

CEDAW will always be followed closely by our IAW representative members at the UN.

Convenor of the IAW CEDAW Commission: Lene Pind

ECOSOC - NGO Forum
From 3 to 28 July 2006, representatives from governments, international and regional organisations and civil society will meet at the Palais des Nations in Geneva to participate in the 2006 session of the Economic and Social Council.

At this session, special emphasis will be put on the themes of the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC focusing on creating an environment at national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, its impact on sustainable development and of the Coordination Segment on sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty.

The Civil Society Forum will be held on 29-30 June at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Prominent women of the U.N. will be in a panel discussion: They will especially talk about the programme of work of the Economic Council and the participation of NGOs.

Read more on http://www.ngocongo.org/index.php?what=resources&id=10213
Send to us by the IAW representative at the Human Rights Council, Jessica Kehl

UNITED NATIONS

Optimism at the UN
As he enters the last six months of his tenure as United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan expressed optimism that divisions between Member States on reform of the world organization were healing, allowing a feared budget crisis to be avoided and letting both the reform and the myriad of ongoing operations to continue.

“I think the sort of tensions and poisonous atmosphere we saw earlier in the year seem to be dissipating, and I am confident that the Member States will come together and reform this Organization,” he told a press conference at UN Headquarters in New York that touched on a wide range of issues, from Somalia to Timor-Leste to relations with the United States administration to World Cup football.


Two Historic Inaugurations at the UN
June 2006 saw the inauguration of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. The Peacebuilding Commission is a new advisory body, aiming to shore up wobbly peace agreements that tend to disintegrate within five years, and to help prevent war-ravaged countries from lapsing back into deadly conflict. It has 31 members: China, Denmark, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States, Angola, Belgium, Brazil, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Poland and Sri Lanka, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway, Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Nigeria and Pakistan, Burundi, Chile, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji and Jamaica.
The UN General Assembly has a female president

Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa (born October 18, 1952) will be the President of the 61st United Nations General Assembly when it opens on September 12, 2006. She will be the first woman to hold the position since Angie Elisabeth Brooks of Liberia was appointed to the presidency in 1969. She was elected by acclamation after Bahrain was chosen as its candidate by the group of Asian nations. Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa was the Bahraini ambassador to France from 1999 to 2004. She was one of the first two women in Bahrain to practice law when she was admitted as a lawyer in Bahrain in 1979. From 1997 to 1999, she was the vice chairwoman of the International Bar Association. She is the legal advisor to Bahrain's royal court. She is also the founder of the Haya Rashed Al Khalifa Law Firm. From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Al_Khalifa

HIV/AIDS - A GLOBAL COALITION

THE GLOBAL COALITION ON WOMEN AND AIDS

The UNAIDS-led Global Coalition on Women and AIDS was established in 2004 to respond to the increasing feminisation of the AIDS epidemic and a growing concern that existing AIDS strategies did not adequately address women’s needs. A loose alliance of civil society groups, networks of women living with HIV, and United Nations agencies, the Coalition works at global and national levels to advocate for improved AIDS programming for women and girls.

The statistics are staggering, according to the Global Coalition. Besides the 25 million lives lost to AIDS, the disease has also made orphans out of 15 million children. "The face of AIDS is increasingly young and female, and more than 17 million women worldwide are now living with HIV," says the Coalition.

After 25 years of the epidemic, where has the international community gone wrong in fighting the disease? Is it lack of cheaper drugs? Lack of resources? Or lack of political will? Prevention works!

"The main thing we learned during these 25 years is that prevention works, and that it requires an ongoing, daily commitment to ensure that prevention is for life," says Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). More on www.womenandaids.unaids

Convenor of IAW Health Commission, Gudrun Haupter

High-level meeting on HIV/AIDS

The AIDS epidemic, described by the United Nations as the "most destructive in human history" and accounting for more than 25 million deaths so far, is still a growing threat to global progress and a high-level meeting of about 191 senior ministers, slated for May 31-June 2, has taken stock of the successes and failures in combating the deadly disease that continues to outpace the worldwide response. "Only a fraction of the 40.3 million people living with the HIV virus are even aware of their infection," says the UN study. "And fewer still have access to the HIV medicines they need to stay alive." Read more on http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=33385

Women in developing countries, and in sub-Saharan Africa in particular, are being let down in the efforts to stem the HIV/AIDS crisis because the issues that affect them are being ignored, said representatives of a new pressure group this week. The ABC prevention strategy (A for Abstinence, B for Be faithful, and C for use a Condom), which is being promoted by some charities in Africa, is wholly inappropriate in many countries where women know little if anything about HIV and are afraid to ask their husband or boyfriend to use a condom, said members of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS.

Fear of violence and destitution stifles many HIV/AIDS education efforts in countries such as Kenya, Uganda and Mozambique. Women found to have HIV in these places are often blamed for bringing the virus into the home and are abandoned by their families. Unequal property and inheritance rights also reduce women's security, which can lead them to endure abusive relationships and be left homeless when their partner dies of an AIDS related disease... More on: http://bmj.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/328/7435/305
Worsening sexual and reproductive health worldwide
Together with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO has identified a number of priority areas for joint action, including a coordinated action plan for a global STI prevention and control Strategy, support to increase skilled health attendants in target countries, and plans to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health.
Many of the estimated 340 million new annual cases of bacterial STIs, such as chlamydia and gonorrhoea, are untreated because of lack of access to services. In addition, millions of cases of viral infection, including HIV, occur every year. HPV infection is closely associated with cervical cancer, which is diagnosed in more than 490,000 women and causes 240,000 deaths every year. Around 8 million women who become pregnant each year suffer life-threatening complications as a result of sexually transmitted infections and poor sexual health. Annually, an estimated 529,000 women, almost all in developing countries, die during pregnancy and childbirth from largely preventable causes.
Ms Obaid noted that in developing countries and those in transition, an estimated 200 million women lack access to family planning, while in some cultures, 3 million girls and young women are subjected each year to genital mutilation/cutting which, in recent WHO studies, has been shown to significantly increase the risk of death and serious injury for newborn babies and their mothers.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights - a guide
Whether through population programmes or the use of scare tactics in HIV prevention work, sex and sexuality have been regarded as a problem that needs to be controlled - rather than a positive force that can be part of the solution.
Now, as a result of international agreements and activism from non-governmental organisations over the past two decades, new approaches are emerging which recognise sexual and reproductive health and rights as human rights - an end in themselves - as well as being central to health and well-being.
These positive approaches recognise that good reproductive health, and the realisation of sexual rights, including rights to pleasure and fulfilment, are crucial for achieving equity and social justice.
Indeed, sexual wellbeing is integral to human development, underpinning all the major health and development goals.
As rates of HIV infection continue to rise, and women’s and men’s sexual and reproductive ill-health threatens international development targets, there has never been a more pressing need to make positive connections between sexuality, health and human rights.
You will find this guide on: http://www.eldis.org/health/srhr/index.htm

CHILDREN - YOUTH - TEENAGE GIRLS

Underweight children in India are among the highest in the world
India’s Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) needs to undergo significant changes to address the current malnutrition crisis in India, according to a new World Bank report released recently.
The prevalence of underweight children in India is among the highest in the world, the report says. It also observes that malnutrition in India is a concentrated phenomenon. A relatively small number of states, districts, and villages account for a large share of the burden - 5 states and 50 percent of villages account for about 80 percent of the malnutrition cases.
The five states with the highest underweight prevalence, namely Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, all rank in the bottom ten in terms of ICDS coverage. The report - India’s Undernourished Children: a Call for Reform and Action - analyses the effectiveness of the ICDS program in overcoming malnutrition, and proposes several reforms of the program. More on: http://www.unicef.org/earlychildhood/files/india_icds.pdf

UN - Political 'will' could slash child mortality in Asia-Pacific
Child mortality in the Asia-Pacific region could be significantly reduced if governments showed enough political will, United Nations agencies said in a statement.
The occasion was the opening session of a 3-day regional workshop "Child Survival Strategy" held recently in Laos. Some 3,000 children under five years of age die each day, according to the World Health Organization and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). "Most of these deaths, often associated with under-nutrition, are from preventable and treatable conditions," they said.

Interventions to address these conditions, such as pneumonia and diarrhoea, are widely known and their cost-effectiveness proven but they often do not reach those in greatest need. "With simple medical interventions, many of these child deaths could be averted," said Shigeru Omi, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific. Omi called for long-term commitment, investment and cooperation, and urged governments to place the issue higher on their agenda.

The United Nations 'goal' is to reduce by two thirds the under-five mortality rate between 1990 and 2015. See also: http://www.wpro.who.int/media_centre/press_releases/pr_20060509.htm

New international Child Growth Standards
The first of this set of new growth charts to be released includes growth indicators such as weight-for-age, length/height-for-age, and weight-for-length/height. For the first time, there now exists a Body Mass Index (BMI) standard for children up to age five, as well as the Windows of Achievement standard for six key motor development milestones such as sitting, standing and walking.

The WHO Child Growth Standard is, with a charming picture, available at www.who.int/childgrowth

Indian Committee of Youth Organizations (ICYO)
ICYO is a registered non-profit, non-governmental network organisation, committed in developing areas of mutual cooperation and understanding among different youth voluntary agencies, youth groups, clubs and individuals working in the field of youth welfare in India. ICYO functions as an umbrella organization of youth NGOs in India. Its family consists of over 356 organisations spread in 122 districts of 22 states from different corners of India. Their goals are:
- To improve and extend the youth work and services through Youth Organizations;
- To enhance and demonstrate youth work in the society;
- To promote effective youth programmes;
- To organize network of civil society organizations working towards the development of youth work;
- To organize seminars, conferences, workshops, trainings;
- To maintain international relation with organizations promoting young people in their programmes and activities

Affiliation:
Consultative (Roster) Status with ECOSOC, United Nations;
Consultative Status with Commission on Sustainable Development;
Full Member of World Assembly of Youth (WAY); Asian Youth Council (AYC);
Youth for Habitat International Network (YFHIN); CRIN, South Asia Youth Environment Network (SAYEN), Affiliate group of ECPAT International, Thailand;
ATSECE-DELHI, Indian Partner of AIDS Care Watch Campaign;
Steering Committee member of World Bank's YDP Network;
Working relation with Indian Association of Parliamentarians (IAPPD);
International Medical Parliamentarians Organizations (IMPO);
Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD);
World Youth Foundation, Malaysia.
Website: www.icyo.in
Email: icyoindia@gmail.com / icyo@icyo-india.org

Pregnancy in teenage girls 'all part of nature's law'
A leading doctor sparked controversy after claiming teenage girls who get pregnant "behind the bike sheds" are only obeying nature's law and should not be condemned out of hand.
Dr Laurence Shaw, deputy medical director of the Bridge Centre fertility clinic in London, gave as key quote: "Society may 'tut tut' about them, but their actions are part of an evolutionary process that goes back nearly two million years; while their behaviour may not fit with western society's expectations, it..."
is perhaps useful to consider it in a wider context."
Speaking at the annual meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (Eshre), he said nature intended women to become mothers when young, and for their fertility to decline while they raised their children.
But family groups and politicians in Scotland, which has western Europe's highest rate of teenage pregnancy, condemned his view. Figures published last month revealed that abortions among under-16s have reached record levels, with 341 terminations in Scotland last year.
More on: http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=895962006
Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

**EVENTS - CONFERENCES - GUIDES - WEBSITES**

An interesting UN website for women is always: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/

**Sixth Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF)**
The 6th Asia Europe People's Forum (AEPF) will be held from September 3-6, 2006 in Helsinki, Finland. The main themes of the 6th Asia Europe People's Forum are: 'Peace and Security', 'Economic Security and Social Rights', and 'Democracy and Human Rights'.
For more information log on to www.aepf.net

**Women & Elections**
A guide to promote the participation of women in elections

**In the Kuwait election 32 Women were Registered to Run**
Read more on: http://www.wunrn.com/news/06_12_06/061506_kuwait_first.htm

**Millennium Development Goals**
Go to http://www.undg.org/index.cfm and click on REPORTS for your MDG country report. Lots of reports. Australia for example has an attractive report (2005) with good pictures.

**Gender Pay Gap**
The newest publications, among others the Gender Pay Gap over Women's Working Lifetime.
On http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/

**Microcredits for Women in Syria**
Microcredits are giving more colour to social change, of proud fathers with earning daughters.

**Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**
The recent increase in the scope, intensity and sophistication of crime around the world threatens the safety of citizens everywhere and hampers countries in their social, economic and cultural development. The dark side of globalisation allows multinational criminal syndicates to broaden their range of operations from drug and arms trafficking to money laundering and trafficking in human beings.
UN Office on Drugs and Crime on: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html
See also the Sitemap with Crime Statistics.

**Defending Women's Rights**
On the website of Front Line, the International Foundation for the protection of human rights defenders, we found an article about the interruption of a peaceful demonstration for women's rights.
See below - read more on: www.frontlinedefenders.org

Iranian women human rights defenders were arrested, interrogated and stopped from demonstrating. Front Line is gravely concerned over reports of the continued violent harassment of women human rights defenders in Iran.
On Monday, 12th of June 2006, a number of women human rights defenders peacefully protested for women’s rights. The gathering was disrupted by female police officers, who used
pepper gas and beat a number of the protesters. Approximately 60 protesters were arrested and are being held at an unknown location. Front Line is confirming the names of those human rights defenders arrested.

**Networklearning**
A website about networklearning and closing the gender gap on [http://www.networklearning.org/](http://www.networklearning.org/)

**Note**
Due to a technical problem we are sending this Newsletter as an attachment only, 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.

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