

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

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

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

IAW NEWSLETTER March 2008, no. 3



Equal Rights

Dear members,

*In this newsletter some results of CSW. Actually, we had hoped for more. Although all member states were convinced that empowerment of women was badly needed, for example to reduce poverty in the projects of the Millennium Development Goals, financing gender equality was a different matter. Gender responsive budgeting is a tool we can and have to use to claim equal rights!*

*The main subject of this newsletter is 'violence against women'. It is such a vast subject that we can only mention the good intentions of the UN, with a statement by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the campaign of UNIFEM. Please support that campaign with your signature! You will find also the latest news of IAW and at the end some interesting reports and useful links.*

### COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

#### United Nations – Statement by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

For my part, I will work to strengthen the United Nations Secretariat's own gender machinery. In my revised estimates for the 2008-2009 programme budget, on improving delivery of mandates for development activities, I propose to almost *double the staffing of the Office of my Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women*, and *significantly increase the resources of the Division for the Advancement of Women*.

I hope this will be supported by the General Assembly as a tangible contribution to gender equality and development.

In the longer term, I firmly believe that *one dynamic and strengthened gender entity*, consolidating resources currently scattered among several structures, would attract better funding from the donor community.

By mobilizing forces of change at the global level and inspiring enhanced results at the country level, such an entity would better advance our cause to empower women and realize gender equality worldwide. *I urge Member States to muster the political will to bring the consultations on this issue to a successful conclusion.*

On the DAW website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>

#### CSW Document finalised

The [Advance unedited versions of Agreed Conclusions and Resolutions](#) are also to be found on the DAW website, on <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>

Between the 7th and 12th of March 2008 the draft agreed conclusions were finalised, but:

- we lost DIRECT support to the NGOs
- we got only the funding of ACTIVITIES (no core funding)
- we did not get any new money for the work of the NGOs
- we lost even the mentioning of women's reproductive rights.

#### Resolutions

Two articles on: **Ending female genital mutilation:**

18. *Encourages* all decision makers, at all levels, with responsibilities for policies, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in eliminating female genital mutilation; (AGREED)

19. *Encourages* men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes; (AGREED)

### **Gender Responsive Budgeting**

The Gender Responsive Budgeting website is a collaborative effort between [the United Nations Development Fund for Women \(UNIFEM\)](#), [the Commonwealth Secretariat](#) and Canada's [International Development Research Centre \(IDRC\)](#), which was launched in 2001. The website strives to support efforts of governments, women's organizations, members of parliaments and academics to ensure that planning and budgeting effectively respond to gender equality goals. The site also provides practitioners with a variety of resources, assessments and training materials on gender responsive budgeting. Finally, it aims to promote cross-regional information-sharing on country experiences and facilitates networking and collaboration amongst countries, civil society and international organizations. More on: <http://www.gender-budgets.org/>

"Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is about ensuring that government budgets and the policies and programs that underlie them address the needs and interests of individuals that belong to different social groups.

Thus, GRB looks at biases that can arise because a person is male or female, but at the same time considers disadvantage suffered as a result of ethnicity, caste, class or poverty status, location and age.

*GRB is not about separate budgets for women or men nor about budgets divided equally. It is about determining where the needs of men and women are the same, and where they differ. Where the needs are different, allocations should be different."*  
*Debbie Budlender 2006.*

### **Louise Arbour - Human Rights Council - at CSW**

Noting that almost every country in the world still has laws that discriminate against women, the United Nations' top human rights official has said that promises to remedy this have not been kept. "Many States appear to have simply ignored the commitments they have made," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour said on the occasion of the International Women's Day. "It is shameful that, in the 60th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, fundamental rights are still not enjoyed by many women around the world."

#### **New Report**

This failure to create genuine legal parity between men and women is having "a detrimental effect on women in many countries -- sometimes to a devastating degree," according to a new report. One of the examples of this involves the recognition of sexual abuse as a crime under a country's laws and enforcing related legislation. "Rape is recognised as a crime in most legal systems," said Arbour. "But, even when it is, inadequate legislation or local traditions often mean laws are not properly enforced. In addition, at least 53 states still do not outlaw rape within marriage, and men frequently enjoy total impunity for physical as well as sexual violence against their wives," she noted.

#### **Stepping down**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed "great regret" at the decision of [Louise Arbour](#) to step down at the end of her first four-year term.

Ms Arbour, a Canadian Supreme Court Justice and ex-prosecutor of UN war crimes tribunals for the [former Yugoslavia](#) and [Rwanda](#), assumed the post of High Commissioner in 2004, after her predecessor, Sergio Vieira de Mello, was killed in a terrorist attack in Baghdad.

Along with announcing her departure, Ms Arbour today presented her final annual report to the Council, highlighting the distressing human rights implications of renewed conflict in West Darfur and Sri Lanka.

*Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu. and IAW President Rosy Weiss. Also on:*  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=25899&Cr=arbour&Cr1>

## **WE 'CANNOT WAIT' TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

### **UNiTE to end violence against women**

On the opening day of CSW, 25 February 2008, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon kicked off a multi-year global [campaign](#) bringing together the United Nations, governments and civil society to try to end violence against women, calling it an issue that “cannot wait.”

*I call on men around the world to lead by example: to make clear that violence against women is an act perpetrated by a coward, and that speaking up against it is a badge of honour. I call on Member States around the world: the responsibility, above all, lies with you. I call on all of you to pledge with me: United We Shall Succeed.*

“At least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Through the practice of prenatal sex selection, countless others are denied the right even to exist,” Mr. Ban said in his [address](#) at the opening in New York of the latest [session](#) of the Commission on the Status of Women.

For statements of General Secretary Ban Ki-moon and [Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#) click on <http://endviolence.un.org/statements.shtml>

### **ACTION - Urging Europe to take the lead in global efforts to end violence against women**

A campaign started by IRC – International Rescue Team. An email has been prepared that we can all send to the Presidency of the European Union, which currently is held by Prime Minister Janez Jansa of Slovenia. By signing the email we put pressure on the EU to take an active part in eliminating violence against women and girls.

You'll find all the information, including the email and information on how to sign up here:

<http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=61&ea.campaign.id=326>

The Council of Europe is calling for more action, and at the opening of this year's Session of the Commission of the Status of Women at the UN in New York, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launched his campaign to end violence against women and girls, so the present campaign is in full accordance with other international efforts.

*Send to us by IAW Vice-President Lyda Versteegen and IAW General Secretary Lene Pind*

### **ACTION - UNIFEM - Campaigning to end gender violence**

The Washington-based U.N. Foundation pledged its support to UNIFEM by agreeing to donate one dollar for each of the first 100,000 signatures to the U.N.'s online campaign.

*IAW strongly supports this campaign.*

*If you would still like to sign for UNIFEM, please do so now! On [www.sayNOtoviolence.org](http://www.sayNOtoviolence.org)*

The campaign, which was launched last November, has drawn over 18,000 signatures worldwide. IAW has already asked members to join this campaign.

People are signing from every corner of the globe. Movie stars like Nicole Kidman, Catherine Deneuve and Hillary Swank., but also President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro and the British Department of International Development.

The signatures will be presented to the Secretary-General in November as an expression of widespread public support to his efforts.

### **UNIFEM - Funding**

Joanne Sandler, UNIFEM executive director ad interim, says that in line with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's campaign to end gender violence, UNIFEM is expanding its advocacy and fund raising efforts.

The UN "Trust Fund to End Violence against Women" has risen significantly over the last year: from 3.5 million dollars in 2006 to over 15 million dollars in 2007.

The U.N. Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which manages the Trust Fund on behalf of the

UN system, has now set an ambitious goal: to raise about 100 million dollars a year by 2015.

#### **Even so**

other sectoral or special purpose funds in the United Nations -- such as the Peacebuilding Fund and the UN Democracy Fund -- had far more generous beginnings than the Trust Fund. Since its creation in 2002, the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, has raised about 10 billion dollars for grants in 136 countries.

*Convenor of the IAW Commission on Health: Gudrun Haupter*

#### **The Impact of Guns on Women's Lives - CSW**

Hosted by the [UN Office for Disarmament Affairs](#) and [IANSA](#) the International Action Network on Small Arms. The panel of women speakers came from Argentina, the DRC, Iraq, Canada and India. Binalakshmi Nepram is a young woman from India and founder of [Control Arms Foundation of India](#). She opened her speech by saying " This is my first address to the United Nations, a place where everyone comes for final justice." She dedicated her speech to the 5000 women who have died by gun violence in her region by state and non-state actors, and went on to say "My very presence here is proof that women are taking action to stop gun violence".

#### **India, a country that gave birth to non violence**

She spoke of her pain as a young woman born in the country that gave birth to non violence and is today the largest democracy in the world, knowing that India is "arming itself to the teeth" and has 40 million fire arms, the majority of which are in private hands. She'd recently attended an arms bazaar in New Delhi where one of the 450 arms dealers had told her that in India "gun shops are mushrooming like phone booths".

#### **One or three guns per home?**

On February 6th this year CAFI demanded that the Indian parliament redraft the country's gun legislation so that only one gun per home is allowed (currently men can have three because they can buy them in the name of their wife and son) and that when a man wants to buy a gun licence the consent of the woman and other householders he lives with must first be obtained.

She spoke too of the Coalition of Gun Survivors Network which is now opening bank accounts for women so that they can start to earn their own living and of women "meeting with new found courage".

#### **Final justice**

Binalakshmi said that "if you think gun disarmament is conferences and diplomacy you are wrong". While acting to end gun violence at the grassroots and parliamentary levels in her own country, she had come to the UN seeking "final justice".

[Jane Gabriel](#), 05/03/08

[http://www.opendemocracy.net/blog/jane\\_gabriel/looking\\_for\\_final\\_justice](http://www.opendemocracy.net/blog/jane_gabriel/looking_for_final_justice)

*Jane writes: "Days inside the UN can feel like weeks and the bureaucracy enough to make you comatose, but amidst this sealed off world, voices are sometimes raised that pierce the atmosphere. Binalakshmi Nepram's voice was such a one.*

#### **Websites on the fight of Violence Against Women:**

\* UNiTE to end Violence against Women <http://endviolence.un.org>

\* UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict: Stop Rape as a Weapon of War, on:

<http://www.storapenow.org/> (*an excellent and moving one*)

\* UNIFEM's Say NO to violence against women campaign: [www.sayNOtoviolence.org](http://www.sayNOtoviolence.org)

\* UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women: on:

[http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/trust\\_fund.php](http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/trust_fund.php)

\* Human Rights Watch work on sexual violence, on: <http://www.hrw.org/women/sexualviolence.html>

\* International Rescue Committee's gender-based violence programmes, on:

<http://www.theirc.org/what/gender-based-violence.html>

\* PeaceWomen Project, on: [http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325\\_Monitor/RW/theme\\_SGBV.htm](http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325_Monitor/RW/theme_SGBV.htm)

*Convenor of the IAW Commission on Violence: Mmabatho Ramagoshi.*

## **INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN**

### **All India Women's Conference - AIWC**

IAW Affiliate All India Women's Conference has newly elected office bearers for 2008 to 2010:  
President: Gomati Nair  
Hon. Secretary General: Shivani Mehta  
Hon Treasurer: Asha Deshpande  
*We wish the new AIWC Board lots of success. Please keep up the good work!*

### **News from the Greek League for Women's Rights - GLWR**

Information and Registration form: GLWR <L.women-rights@otenet.gr>

In the excellent journal of the GLWR we read about the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights and the GLWR, who took the initiative to start the fight for the institution of quotas in the electoral lists for the Parliament.

The aim is for at least 1/3 in the electoral lists of national elections.

Other issues: a discussion on the report of the UN Research Institute for Social Development: Gender equality: striving for Justice in an Unequal world; an extensive analysis of the EU Fundamental Rights; the Elimination of Poverty; Gender and Immigration; etc. etc.

### **Greece - Conference on European Policies to combat sexual harassment at the workplace, Athens June 9<sup>th</sup> 2008.**

Since July 2007 the Greek League of Women's Rights is implementing a program to combat sex discrimination in the labour market, in employment as well sexual harassment at the workplace, which will last till June 2008 and which is financed by the European Social Fund. The target groups are working women in the private and public sphere, managers as well as representatives of trade unions (employees, employers) and unemployed women. Academics, researchers and experts inform and sensitise these groups on the above mentioned subjects.

*Ms Joanna Manganara, member of the GLWR Board and regional co-ordinator for Europe of the International Alliance of Women is responsible for the program.*

**Follow-up of 'A Call for Immediate and ongoing Action'** - concerning the Afghani student, Sayed Pervez Kabaksh, who is under threat of the death sentence. IAW strongly supports this campaign and urges you to take whatever action you can.

Sign the petition on [www.independent.co.uk/petition](http://www.independent.co.uk/petition)

*Latest news: "Paervez's brother Yaqub told Kabulpress that he had asked the Supreme Court of Afghanistan to transfer the case from the northern province of Balkh to Kabul.*

*The Court accepted and sent a letter to the Balkh court which asked them to stop the proceedings there. The case will be moved to Kabul".*

### **Daphne III, combating and preventing violence**

IAW member Marilyn Latona, representing IAW in the European Women's Lobby, mailed us: Daphne III is still pending - **Prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk.**

It provided for a financial envelope amounting to *EUR 116.85 million for the 2007-13 period.*

The text will now be sent to the European Parliament for a second reading under the Parliament-Council co-decision procedure. More on: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5290062>

### **Icelandic event at CSW - Growth, Power and Fun**

Like always, many governments and NGOs around the world took an immense quantity of interesting events to CSW. We received from Iceland the following report

Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, opened the event: 'Growth, power and fun, Icelandic ways of empowering women'. Then Gudrun Jonsdottir, spokeswoman for Stigamot, a Counselling and Information Center for survivors of sexual violence, spoke of personal Growth. Victims, if they manage to survive the sexual abuse and get back on track, are all the more powerful for it.

Next, under the heading Power, *IAW member Margrét Steinarsdóttir* gave a presentation on All the Women of the World, a co-operation group established by women, whose work, in one way or another, is aimed at strengthening the status of immigrant women in Iceland, and to further mutual integration.

Finally, under the heading Fun, Matthildur Helgadóttir introduced and showed an extract of the



documentary “Untamed Beauty”, a parody of beauty pageants.  
All presentations were very well received and the event as a whole was a huge success.

## REPORTS - EVENTS - CONFERENCES - USEFUL LINKS

### Gender Responsive Budgeting - newsletter

The Gender Responsive Budgeting website is a collaborative effort between [UNIFEM](#), the [Commonwealth Secretariat](#) and [Canada’s International Development Research Centre](#) (IDRC), which was launched in 2001. The website strives to support efforts of governments, women’s organizations, members of parliaments and academics to ensure that planning and budgeting effectively respond to gender equality goals. The first issue of the Gender Responsive Budgeting Newsletter, timed to coincide with the 52nd session of CSW, is available [online](#).

### The Road to Doha - newsletter

The February 2008 issue of “The Road to Doha”, is 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 November to 2 December 2008 (A/RES/61/191 and A/RES/62/187).

*High level meetings on April 14, 15 and 16 in New York.* More on: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

### EU - Women in power still trapped by glass ceiling - report

Across the EU, 24% of parliamentarians are women – up from 16% a decade ago – with a similar proportion holding ministerial office. In the private sector, men still represent 9 out of 10 board members in top companies and two-thirds of company bosses.

The report coincides with International Women's Day on 8 March and comes ahead of a new European network of women in power, to be launched later this year.

Further information:

- [Report "Women and men in decision-making 2007 – analysis of the situation and trends"](#)
- [Database on women and men in decision-making](#)
- [2008 Report on equality between women and men](#)

### Interactive expert panel - CSW - Papers / Presentations

Key policy initiatives on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women,

[Isabella Bakker \(York University, Canada\)](#)

[Mireille Brunings-Stolz \(Central Bank of Suriname\)](#)

[Mayra Buvinic \(World Bank\)](#)

[Lydia Alpízar Durán \(AWID and Chairperson of EGM\)](#)

[Caren Grown \(American University, United States\)](#)

[Dubravka Šimonovič \(Chairperson, CEDAW\)](#)

### 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

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