

IAW NEWSLETTER 1 - November 1998

Dear IAW members,

As a member of the Editorial Committee (EC) of the International Alliance of Women, one of my tasks is to collect e-mail addresses of IAW members for a future IAW mailing list. Our small list is growing constantly. At the moment we have a list of 40 e-mail addresses from 20 countries and that is a good reason to send you this first NEWSLETTER.

As a start we propose to cluster news items around the 7 topics of the IAW:

1) Civil & Political Rights; 2) Education; 3) Elimination of Poverty; 4) All Forms of Violence/Trafficking in Women; 5) Health; 6) Environment and Habitat; 7) Committee on the CEDAW Convention. There are already 4 or 5 Commission Convenors with e-mail.

We will try to introduce a selection of News from the Net - News that could be important to IAW affiliates and members. And, because this Newsletter is also meant as a form of communication between IAW members, we also can include IAW news from affiliates, associates and members. And, very important: the IAW Newsletter will be short! We all have so much to read already.

NEWS FROM THE NET

5-9 June 2000 - Beijing plus Five, New York

The Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) has done extensive work on various actions of the Platform for Action at CSW 40, 41 and 42, to be continued at CSW 43, March 1-19 1999, to complete work on the Health and the Government Machinery sections. CSW 44, March 2000, will be extended by one week to plan the June meeting of Beijing plus Five. The five UN regional commissions of the world: ECA - ECE - ECLAC - ESCAP - ESCWA are in full swing, supported by reports of many subregional meetings.

Information on: <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/followup/regional.htm>>.

The UN has sent out a questionnaire to the Government missions in New York for onward submission to their capitals. It is designed to obtain information on implementation for the Special Session of Women 2000, to be held in June 2000.

The due date for replies is 30 April, 1999. Here lies a task for IAW affiliates: - to be informed of the reply of your Government! The questionnaire is available online in all official UN languages on:

<<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>>.

5) HEALTH

DAW has two reports available. The first report is of an Expert Group Meeting organized by DAW and the World Health Organization, on 'Women and Health', in Tunis September 1998. The other one is of a three-week 'online conference' on women and health, discussing good practices as well as identifying obstacles to implementing the agreements of the Beijing Platform for Action (same URL as above).

IAW Commissioner Convenor: Gudrun Haupter.

7) CEDAW

CEDAW 20 will meet from 19 January to 5 February 1999, at the UN in New York, with the following countries due to report: Algeria, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Greece, Thailand, China and Colombia.

The pre-session Working Group will meet on 11-15 January 1999.

IAW Commission Convenor: Padmini Casinader Christiansen.

4) VIOLENCE/TRAFFICKING

Violence against Women, in all its cruel forms, demands a continuous campaign on all levels in the world. UNIFEM, the World Bank and the Global Knowledge Partnership launched a Virtual Working Group on 4 October 1998, to discuss successful strategies in eliminating violence against women. The result will be fed into a Global Videoconference, to be held on 8 March 1999 in the United Nations General Assembly: <<http://www.unifem.undp.org/>>.

Sixteen days of Activisme in AFRICA and ASIA/PACIFIC

From 25 November (International Day on Violence Against Wome) to 10 December (50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) there will be all kinds of activities in all continents to bring the subject of violence into the open. In Africa with drama, essay, poster and slogan, with workshops on women's rights and

legal awareness, with a seminar for police on human rights and law enforcement. With a poem/painting competition for regional schools in Seychelles, Swaziland, Mauritius and Zimbabwe on the theme: 'A Life Free from Violence'.

In Asia and the Pacific the sixteen days will be focussing on domestic violence and women's legal human rights, especially in terms of law enforcement. With marches, distribution of sheets with information, an all-India essay competition, seminars for journalists etc. In Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen and Egypt also an essay and drawing competition, documentaries and other media activities and so on, and so on. With the support of: UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO, WHO, UNAIDS.
IAW Commission Convenor: Rosy Weiss.

1) CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

IAW affiliates and members who are interested in Governmental Machinery can have a look at the result of a UNIFEM seminar, presented in November 1998 by Diane Elson, called: Accounting for Gender in National Budgets. Looking at the topics of seminars and workshops of the world, this seems to become a rather popular theme. Has the national budget a place for civil rights and especially for women's rights? Is there a place in the budget, for example, for health, for education of girls and women? How can women influence the budget?

In 1998 there have been some interesting elections, with the percentage of political women for the Upper House slowly growing. With women campaigning in: Australia, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, India. Other campaigns for more women in politics were not very succesful: some percentages seem to be at a permanent standstill. It all will come back, we trust, on the Agenda of CSW 43 with National Machinery.

An interesting website is to be found at: <<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>>.

IAW Commission Convenor: Lene Pind.

3) ELIMINATION OF POVERTY

A Women and Poverty Diagnosis with four strategic objectives can be found on: <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/>>. Eight pages of heavy reading! A follow-up is under construction.

IAW Commission Convenor: Anje Wiersinga

ABOUT PRIVACY

In sending these 40 e-mail letters we have, temporarily, to use my e-mail address until the IAW gets her own domain. It is: sebus.gj@inter.nl.net.

I've taken some measures to protect your privacy and have made a strict division in my addressbook, separating my personal addresses from those of the IAW list, so they can't get mixed up. I don't like to and will not give away your e-mail addresses to others without your consent. Some of my friends are getting a load of commercial letters by e-mail. May be it will also happen to you, but not by me!

If you would like to have the e-mail address of another IAW member, please send an e-mail to me and I will 'Forward' it to her.

Another request: please put in the subject of the header of every e-mail you are sending me: IAW MAIL. It will be easy for me to find it and I will be opening my e-mail IN BOX nearly every day ...

In the last place, please have a little patience. I'm learning this EC e-mail list business from bottom-up. And, I could not do this without the much appreciated help of IAW Membership Officer, Pat Richardson.

With best wishes from
the Editorial Committee IAW on Internet,
Joke Sebus

NB: We invite you to redistribute this Newsletter to IAW members without an e-mail address.