

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

IAW NEWSLETTER - December 2001, nr. 10

Dear IAW members,



**Equal
Rights**

In this electronic newsletter a short impression of two important IAW events, the CEDAW conference in Ödense, Denmark and the International Meeting in Vienna, Austria. A list of the input written by IAW members is to be found at the end of this newsletter. There will be more in IWNNews.

Also concern for the women in Afghanistan, where gender equality has still a long way to go. The World Bank has launched a new all-in strategy to fight poverty, but the FAO has postponed the World Food Summit. The UN made a step forward preventing children being sent to war – no children under 18 and

Gudrun Haupter warns again about the dangers of smoking, in particular for girls and young women.

We collected some important dates and events for the year 2002 and please have a look at the websites of some of our IAW Affiliates and Associates.

CEDAW Conference in Ödense, Denmark

The Plan For Action of Beijing and the CEDAW Convention are the basis of our work in IAW. In this way it was an excellent initiative of the Danish Women's Society to organise a CEDAW conference in 1991. That first year the Danes discovered how little knowledge there was about this most important international treaty for women all over the world, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. They took up the challenge in 1992-93 by collecting, distributing and discussing an information file, consisting of a translation of the CEDAW Convention and other important international material. In 1994 they started a CEDAW campaign and installed study circles on violence and environment, followed in 1995 by a conference with their Scandinavian and Baltic sister organisations. After that they selected two CEDAW subjects, violence and trafficking, because prostitution is a big problem in the Baltic States. Both subjects were thoroughly discussed in workshops in 1997-1998. In 1999 they held a seminar for immigrant women and their supervisors, with the result that one of the supervisors who had never heard of CEDAW before, challenged the Danish government about the situation of abused immigrant women. In 2000, law students were their target group - students, who knew nothing about CEDAW. And now, in 2001, after a ten year cycle, they organised a follow-up of that first year 1991 with CEDAW and the Optional Protocol.

It was a great conference with great subjects and great speakers held in a most accommodating centre. Housing, venue and restaurant all together, even a library where we had the use of computers. Three speakers I will call to your attention in particular – they covered three main CEDAW subjects: Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling, member of the CEDAW Committee, talking about reservations to CEDAW as impediments for its implementation and the Optional Protocol; Drude Dahlerup, Professor in Political Science and Gender Research, University of Stockholm, about women in public and political life and the effect of Quotas; Göran Lindberg, Chief Commissioner of the Uppsala County Police Department on Violence against Women, causes and consequences. The Danes will collect all the addresses in a brochure, to be printed in the spring of 2002. Highly recommended! Workshops, talks and analyses by IAW members, intermezzos by sister organisations, Danish hospitality from the mayor of Ödense with a lovely dinner set on a sparkling table and a happy and cordial evening at Lene Pind's, all helped to make the conference both interesting and enjoyable. Thank you, members of the Danish organising team, for this inspiring CEDAW conference!

International Meeting, Vienna

IAW Vice-President Rosy Weiss and her team welcomed us cordially on the 6th of November in the imposing building of the Vienna International Centre, located near the Danube. Colourful flags of all the nations of the world greeted us from the ceiling of the central hall before we swished to the 7th floor.

Board Meetings, the reports of IAW representatives at intergovernmental organisations and the reports of national representatives of IAW Affiliates and Associates stood high on the Vienna Agenda. Luckily most representatives had produced papers, so we could read and listen about complicated international treaties and learn about national situations at the same time.

There was a lot of attention for the main theme of the meeting, "the Role of Women in the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence", with Resolution 1325 and its implementation at the centre of the debate. Experts from UN organisations in Vienna and members of international NGOs showed us the problems they could encounter when negotiating peace in complex situations, with human rights at stake and women and children to protect.

There was also time for the beautiful city of Vienna. We were graciously received at the Rathaus by the Austrian Parliament and sat in the small banks of former Austrian board members, like they did at the end of 1800, surrounded by statues of heroic Greek and Roman males (!). There was a special evening listening to lovely Viennese music, with wine and sausages with mustard in between. After the meetings were over some of us went on a wonderful guided tour of Vienna and then an enjoyable visit to Salzburg.

Thank you so much Rosy Weiss for organising this wonderful meeting in Vienna 2001! Thank you members of the Frauenzirkel Austria for producing and copying all those papers, all that work on the computer, all the administration and everything else in the background which makes a meeting a success.

And a success it was!

Definition of Women and Peace

by Josephine Mataré, Zimbabwe

W – *women of the world* who are gathered today and are *willing* to help other disadvantaged *women of the world* by

O – *organising* and *orchestrating* the best strategies

M – *managing* and *maintaining* their

E – *empowerment expertise* to *educate* and *ensure equal rights* and *equal responsibilities*

N – *nations* by *nurturing* information through *networking* for *peace, non-violence*

P – we are the people who *plan, participate persistently* in *praying for peace*

E – we need plenty of *enthusiasm, energy* to *enhance peace*

A – as *agents advocating* through our *activated activities* work with

C – *communities* by evoking *commitment* with *confidence* and *courage* to bring about

E – *equality* in our *economy* and *environment* hence *equal rights equal responsibilities*.

The world as a peaceful village

When we reduce all the inhabitants in the world in one small village of one hundred people, the world would look like this:

57 people from Asia / 21 from Europe / 14 from America (North and South) / 8 from Africa

52 women / 48 men / 70 non-whites / 30 whites

30 Christians / 70 other religions or none / 89 heterosexuals / 11 homosexuals

6 persons own 59% of the world's riches and those six are from the USA

80 persons have insufficient living space

70 persons are illiterate

50 are undernourished

each day 1 person will die and 2 will be born

1 has a computer and 1 has an academic level of education.

When you look at the world in this way, it will be clear that it is absolutely necessary we need solidarity, understanding, recognition and tolerance, to live in peace.

Erasmus Network for Eriodan, Infoletter June 2001

GENDER EQUALITY

Afghanistan

The United Nations estimates that among a total population of 23 million in Afghanistan: 5,675,000 women are of reproductive age (15-49 years)

1,140,000 are pregnant

20,000 will require medical treatment in the next 12 months for miscarriage or other serious obstetric and gynaecological problems.

For full background information, go to: <http://www.PLANetWIRE.org>

In negotiating with the warlords about an interim government for Afghanistan, the UN is trying to put women in – and women are certainly needed in decision making positions for the sake of humanity quite apart from the fact that that should have the right to be included. At the time of writing we hear that while there although there are less women at the Bonn talks than hoped for, they are strong and it seems there may be 5 to 6 women included in the interim group formed to oversee the writing of a constitution and, hopefully, the election of a government. IAW members will agree that it is too few women and we can hope their voices will be loud and strong and that their views will be listened to and taken seriously. *Source: Australian Broadcasting Commission*

RAWA

Sahar Saba is a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), the oldest women's humanitarian and political organisation in Afghanistan.

CNN: Thank you for joining us today, Sahar Saba, and welcome

SAHAR SABA: Greetings to everyone joining this chat. I'm really happy to be here today with you to talk about the situation in Afghanistan. It's important for us to talk about the future in Afghanistan.

CNN: Is the Taliban retreat from Kabul and other Afghan cities a victory for the women of Afghanistan?

SABA: In some ways, yes, it's a victory. Seeing that there are no Taliban in power, it's really something that everyone was wishing for. So of course, this is a great and positive change in the Afghanistan situation, especially for women. But seeing that other criminal groups like the Northern Alliance will replace them is not good news for Afghan women and people in general.

So the situation is confusing for everyone about what will happen. If we have the Northern Alliance in power, then nothing will be changed, especially for women. So we can't deceive ourselves by seeing only few women without burqas or working in TV or radio.

Extract from interview broadcast by CNN

Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy co-sponsored by Equality Now, the European Women's Lobby and UNIFEM European Parliament in Brussels Belgium, December 4 - 5, 2001
Fifty Afghan women leaders representing women's groups from different ethnic, linguistic and religious or secular backgrounds in Afghanistan will take part in the summit. The aim of the summit is to engage Afghan women in a dialogue about how they can participate in peace negotiations, reconstruction and the building of democracy inside the country. The Global Fund is supporting the meeting with a grant of \$30,000. See <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/4news/event-afghanissues.html>

Women Elected to International Law Commission

On Wednesday, November 7, Professor Paula Escarameia of Portugal and Ms Xue Hanqin of China became the first women ever elected by the United Nations General Assembly to serve on the 55-year-old International Law Commission. The Commission was established by the General Assembly in 1947 to "promote the progressive development of international law and its codification".

Although less visible than other UN offices or programmes, the Commission plays a highly influential role in the interpretation and codification of international law. The Commission often serves as an important guide for General Assembly and Economic and Social Council actions and policy-making.

We particularly applaud Professor Escarameia's election. She has been a delegate to the ICC negotiations since 1997 and has been an insightful, conscientious and principled advocate in that process and a strong voice on the many gender-related issues.

While applauding this historic development, we must note that the presence of 2 women on a 34-member commission is still inadequate and unacceptable. As many of you will recall, the ILC also

played an important role in the ICC process in that it was the ILC's draft code which served as a starting point for negotiations toward the Rome Statute.
Women's Caucus for Gender Justice.

New Civil Code in Turkey

The reform of the civil code, for which the women's movement in Turkey has been lobbying for many years, has been finally accepted by the Turkish Parliament. The amended civil code scraps the supremacy of men in marriage and allows women to have a say in all matters related to the marriage, thus establishing the equality of men and women in the family. One of the most important changes included in the 1030 amendments to the civil code sees the removal of the clause that defines the man as the head of the family, giving equal status to the woman. The new code also raises the legal age for marriage to 18 both for women and men (which was previously 17 for men and 15 for women). Children born outside marriage will be given the same inheritance rights as others and single parents will be allowed to adopt children.

DATES OF FORTHCOMING UN EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,

December 17 - 20, Yokohama, Japan. The Congress will be held by the Japanese government in co-operation with UNICEF. See: www.unicef.org or www.ecpat.net or www.focalpointngo.org or www.unicef.or.jp

CSW - Commission on the Status of Women, 46th session: 4-15 March 2002, New York.
See www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/

CERD - UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD): 4-22 March 2002, Geneva.
See also www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/d_icerd.htm

FfD - The International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD): 18-22 March 2002, Monterrey, Mexico. Third Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), Part II: 15-19 October 2001, New York. Final PrepCom: 14-25 January 2002, New York. See www.un.org/esa/ffd/

RIO + 10 –The Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts at Rio +10: Assessing Progress, Addressing Continuing and New Challenges, to be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on December 3 through 7, 2001, is intended to provide an overall assessment of progress achieved on oceans and coasts since the Earth Summit. Nations around the world will converge at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10) in Johannesburg, South Africa, to assess progress made in the implementation of all aspects of the world agenda on environment and development agreed to at the 1992 Earth Summit Johannesburg 2002. See www.udel.edu/CMS/csmp/rio+10/

Ageing - UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, Berlin, 11-13 September 2002, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Madrid, Spain, 8 - 12 April 2002 - Second World Assembly and Forum on Ageing. International NGOs speaking on the proposed International Plan of Action on Ageing and the April 2002 NGO Forum. See <http://conf.un.org/confF.asp>

Special Session on Children expected to take place May 6-10, 2002

According to reports, the UN General Assembly is recommending that the Special Session on Children will now take place between May 8 and May 10 next year. The Children's Forum will take place May 6-8, 2002. The Session was originally scheduled for September 21. It was postponed following the September 11 terrorist attack on New York City. Also postponed were the negotiations on the so-called Outcome document ('A World Fit For Children') which will form the basic text for the Special Session.

NGO Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the NGO Committee for UNICEF will reconvene soon. It will then brief member NGOs on NGO plans for the resumed Special Session. These plans will be announced on the website - <http://www.ngosatunicef.org>.

Many NGO events were cancelled or postponed, along with the Special Session, on September 21. Consult also the NGO Committee website www.ngosatunicef.org about 'On the Record for Children' and a daily e-mail. It is produced by the Advocacy Project on behalf of the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

'On the Record for Children' is available at: www.ngosatunicef.org and www.advocacynet.org.

Des enfants soldats - child soldiers

NATIONS UNIES, 21 nov (IPS) - Un traité international interdisant l'utilisation des enfants soldats entrera en vigueur au début de l'année prochaine, selon des défenseurs des droits de l'Homme. L'entrée en vigueur légale du traité est attendue le 12 février 2002, exactement deux mois après avoir bénéficié de sa 10ème ratification, la semaine dernière, par la Nouvelle Zélande. "C'est un énorme progrès dans l'effort de mettre un terme à l'utilisation des enfants comme soldats dans les conflits armés", déclare Jo Becker de Human Rights Watch.

Le traité a également été ratifié par Andorre, le Bangladesh, le Canada, la République démocratique du Congo (RDC), l'Islande, le Panama, le Sri Lanka, le Vietnam et le Saint-Siège. Le traité, décrit comme un protocole optionnel de la Convention relative aux droits de l'Enfant, interdit la participation des enfants de moins de 18 ans aux conflits armés ainsi que leur recrutement forcé ou leur conscription. Jusque-là, 87 pays ont signé le protocole - exprimant ainsi leur intention de le mettre en œuvre, mais il manque une réelle ratification légale. On espère que certains de ces pays ratifieront le protocole avant la session spéciale de l'ONU sur l'enfance, prévue à New York du 8 au 10 mai, l'année prochaine.

Par Thalif Deen

Rome Food Summit delayed until June 2002

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has postponed the World Food Summit originally scheduled for November 5-9 until June 2002.

The summit, called "World Food Summit - five years later", aimed to raise both the political will and the financial resources to achieve a goal set in 1996 to halve the number of hungry people - still more than 800 million -- by 2015. More than 100 heads of state and government had been invited to attend. Italy's government made no secret of its worries about guaranteeing security at the high-profile event even before the September attacks on New York and Washington. Alarm bells started to ring in July when a summit of top world leaders in Genoa was overshadowed by two days of rioting by anti-globalisation demonstrators that left one protester dead and hundreds injured or arrested. Shocked by the violence of the rioters, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said the FAO summit should not be held amidst the ancient monuments of Rome and suggested that it be shifted to the Adriatic resort of Rimini. The FAO agreed, albeit unwillingly. After much behind-the-scenes activity, officials announced last week that the summit would, after all, be staged in Rome. Sources familiar with event said the confusion only served to worsen the plight of those whom the summit intended to help - the world's hungry. Recent data indicated that the number of hungry people in the world was declining by only eight million a year and not by the 20 million needed to meet the UN target.

Crispin Balmer, Reuters

The World Bank's New Environment Strategy, fighting poverty

In developing countries 5 to 6 million people die each year due to water-borne diseases and air pollution: Economic costs of environmental degradation have been estimated at 4 to 8 percent of GDP a year in many developing countries. Climate change threatens to further undermine long-term development and the ability of many poor people to escape poverty.

The World Bank's Board has approved a new strategy on July 17, 2001. This new environment strategy places emphasis on developing country priorities with three objectives:

- * improving the quality of life — people's health, livelihood and vulnerability — affected by environmental conditions;
- * improving the quality of growth — by supporting policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks for sustainable environmental management and by promoting sustainable private development;
- * protecting the quality of the regional and global commons such as climate change, forests,

Long term, four key areas

In addition to environmental assessment and safeguards, a targeted environmental assistance program has been developed to foster long-term environmental sustainability, strengthen environmental management capacity, and improve environmental conditions in developing countries. As part of this program, the Bank developed a portfolio of projects during the 1990s with clear environmental objectives which now amounts to some US\$16 billion. One of the most important criteria for taking part in a World Bank project is **political stability**.

As an implementing agency with the UN Development Program and UN Nations Environment Program of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Bank is supporting projects in four key areas: 1) biodiversity conservation; 2) addressing climate change; 3) phase-out of ozone depleting substances; 4) and the protection of international waters.

See: <http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/pb/pbenvironment.htm> or www.worldbank.org/environment

I AW REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR REPORTS TO IAW INTERNATIONAL MEETING – VIENNA 2001

New York UNCHR – CSW

- * Background Report on CEDAW Activities, by Kay Fraleigh and Johanna E. Sterbin, F.I.F.C.J.
- * The International Criminal Court, by Kay Fraleigh
- * Report of the Committee on the CEDAW Convention, by Padmini Casinader Christiansen, IAW Convenor

Geneva UNCHR – ILO – UNCTAD – WHO – CRC - ECE

- * Report on the Geneva team of IAW-IAF for 2000-2001
- * Statement to the 57th session of the Human Rights Commission on item 10, Jessica Kehl.
- * Droits de l'Enfant, 57th session UNCHR, by Maria-Esperanza Furter and Isabelle Cavicchi.
- * Report on the Health Commission, 57th session UNCHR by Gudrun Haupter and Mala Pal.
- * Questionnaire on Women and Mental Health, Gudrun Haupter.
- * Note on Women and Gender, Migrant Workers, 57th session UNCHR, by Maria Anna Knothe.
- * Report on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and related Intolerance, Durban, by Karolina Frischkopf.

Rome FAO

- * Women: Agriculture and Rural Development, article by Bettina Corke
- * Implementation of the World Food Summit

Paris UNESCO

- * Manifesto on the Girl Child, NGO-UNESCO Collective Consultation, including IAW
- * Technologies Nouvelles – Societe Nouvelle: Place aux Femmes, by le CILAF

Strasbourg Council of Europe

- * Report on the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, by Anje Wiersinga

Reports from Office Holders

- * Membership Secretary: Pat Richardson - IWNNews: Jan Marsh - Archive Officer: Marijke Peters

Reports of IAW Affiliates and Associates

We collected in Ödense and Vienna most of the reports of IAW Affiliates and Associates. It is fascinating to read (later at home) about the initiatives in promoting women's rights. During both conferences we listened and talked to IAW members from: Australia – Austria - Bangladesh - Burkina Faso – Cyprus - Denmark - Dominican Republic – Egypt – Finland - France – Germany – Greece – Hungary – Iceland - India – Ireland – Israel - Japan – Lithuania - Netherlands – Norway – Madagascar – Maroc - Russia - South Africa - Sri Lanka – Sweden - Switzerland – UK - USA - Yugoslavia – Zambia - Zimbabwe.

Websites of IAW Affiliates and Associates

International Alliance of Women - www.womenalliance.com
Australia: Women's Electoral Lobby - www.wel.org.au
Denmark: Dansk Kvinnesamfund - www.kvindesamfund.dk/
Denmark: Dansk Kvinnesforum - www.kvinfo.dk
Finland: The League of Finnish Feminists - www.naisunioni.fi
Germany: Deutsche Frauenring - www.frauenring-dfr.de
Iceland: Icelandic Women's Rights - www.krfi.is
Ireland: National Council of Ireland - www.nwci.ie
Netherlands: Vrouwenbelangen - www.vrouwenbelangen.nl
Netherlands: Vrouwen Alliantie - www.vrouwenalliantie.nl
Norway: Norwegian Association for Women's Rights - www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se/members/norwegianassoc.html
Sweden: Frederika-Bremer Forbundet - www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se/
Switzerland: Swiss Association for the Rights of Women - www.feminism.ch

Small change of IAW members in Vienna

The total amount of coins and paper currency from countries soon to convert to the Euro collected in the campaign at the International Meeting amounted to ATS 1501,50 or **Euro 109,-**. Special thanks to vacationers who exchanged the Italian and Spanish currency as no delegate from those countries was available. Delegates from Finland, Germany, The Netherlands and Greece graciously took their coins home to be repatriated. Thank you all. As we heard from our Treasurer, the IAW can certainly use the cash. *And thank you in particular, Alison Brown!*

Women and Smoking

The Tobacco Industry has clever strategies to attract young smokers

In the electronic July Newsletter 2000 you were asked to contact the Convenor of the IAW Health Commission, Gudrun Haupter, if you wished to become involved in PR work in your country regarding correct information on the dangers of smoking - as opposed to the biased and incomplete information offered by the tobacco industry, which is often taken up by the media. It seems to be difficult to mobilize non-smokers (not to mention the smokers) on the subject of young girls and women lured by messages which convey ideas and ideals of independence, of stress relief, slimness, glamour and modernity.

Some ideas that we can do - mostly from the *WHO Kobe Declaration*:

- Monitor the media to ensure accurate and balanced image of tobacco in reporting women's health issues.
- Call for effective health education regarding tobacco use and control, including media literacy, at all levels of formal and informal education.
- Ask governments (and the international community) to develop gender-specific tobacco control strategies and to allocate sufficient funds for tobacco control programmes that also reach poor women and girls.
- Ask governments and relevant health agencies for existing materials. If these are what you think they should be, offer to disseminate them. If not, enter into dialogue.
- Make position statements - look for alliances e.g. with human rights groups, with consumer protection groups.
- Uphold the principle of women's and children's right to health as a basic human right. Build on existing documents such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child; CEDAW; Human Rights Covenants; The Ottawa Charter on Health Promotion.

The tobacco industry has developed a three-pronged clever approach to attract young smokers (quotations are from *ash (action on smoking and health)* and are well researched))

- They position their own marketing activities as „responsible“ and not directed at teenagers. The activities are governed by voluntary codes that define what is not acceptable. Much is known about how tobacco advertising reaches young girls and boys although it is not directed at them.
- The industry proposes that only adults should smoke: a proposal very unlikely to succeed because a major motivation for teen smoking is the aspiration to adulthood, rebellion and rejection of

parental values - teenage girls are at least as vulnerable to the „forbidden fruit“ mechanism as are boys.

- Under-age access initiatives: the companies press for enforcement of age restrictions through retailer systems, ID cards and legal sanctions. They can count on the thrill of defying authority and of evading detection.

Measures that are known to be effective in reducing smoking: advertising ban, taxation, high-quality anti-tobacco advertising, regulation of pack design and information, restrictions on smoking in public, support for quitting, anti-smuggling measures.

Re anti-tobacco advertising: a recent US study found that „Ads that graphically, dramatically, and emotionally portray the serious negative consequences of smoking were consistently rated highest by respondents in terms of making them stop and think about not using tobacco.“ We should demand that the special health hazards for young girls and women be particularly emphasized.

News from Germany: In a project sponsored by the *European Commission* ‘**Be Smart - don’t start**’ 250 high school students aged 13-14 years near my hometown try to stay smoke-free for 6 months. Children start at an ever earlier age in Germany: 30% of the 11-year old male students and 15 % of the female students have already tried smoking. The recompense for those who abstain will be a trip to Athens.

For co-operation or for more information contact Gudrun Haupter, e-mail Haupter@t-online.de or Fax +49 6234-92-02-16

=====
Note
: to avoid misunderstanding, we always send the IAW Newsletter twice, 1) in the body of the e-mail, and 2) as an attachment, saved in Word 6.0/95. Both have exactly the same content. The only difference is, that the attachment has a better lay-out, so it will be easy for Affiliates to copy it and send it by post to IAW members without e-mail.

NB: We invite you to redistribute this Newsletter to IAW members without an e-mail address. Also, please advise us if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address, and in that case: please be so kind to contact Pat Richardson.

=====
International Alliance of Women / Alliance Internationale des Femmes

IAW Secretary: Priscilla Todd, toddsec@netlink.com.au

14th Floor, 10 Queen Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia

Membership Officer: Pat Richardson, patgum@nvi.net.au

P.O. Box 380, Nambucca, Heads, NSW 2448, Australia

IAW Newsletter, provisional e-mail address: Joke Sebus joke.sebus@inter.nl.net
