

FINAL VERSION

The 36th Congress of the International Alliance of Women (IAW) taking place in London, from 8th to 14th September 2013 adopt the following resolutions

I.

About the Conflict in Syria

IAW

Deeply concerned by the more than 100,000 dead and millions of displaced persons in the Syrian conflict and especially concerned by the use of chemical weapons in defiance of international law

- Wishes to express solidarity with the Syrian people, who are victims and survivors of this conflict.
- Calls on all countries to open their doors to Syrians trying to escape the massacre in their country.
- Further calls on United Nations and other international bodies to find a negotiated solution to the conflict with respect for Human Rights.

Moved by

Monique Bouaziz, Vice President AFEM-France & Janicke Karin Solheim, The Norwegian Association of Women's Rights

Seconded by: Meher Kermani, APWA

II.

IAW for Peace

IAW

Recalling the words Nobel Prize Winner, Albert Camus **'Whatever the cause we defend, it will be forever dishonoured by resorting to the blind massacre of an innocent crowd, when the murderer knows in advance that he will kill women and children'**,

calls on its members to put pressure on governments so that they join forces in order to prevent the slaughter that continues in so many countries, to help achieve peace by respecting and valuing the sentiments of every human, thereby spreading the message of love and sisterhood to make world a better place to live in.

Moved by Monique Bouaziz, Vice President of AFEM and Ananya Dasgupta, All India Women's Conference

Seconded by: Rosy Weiss, Honorary President of IAW

III.

The Invisible Child in the World

IAW

- considering that
 - Annually 50 million children (representing 40% of the total births) are not registered.
 - A birth certificate is essential for the enjoyment of human rights,
 - The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Article 7 and 8 declares that national governments must register children immediately after birth and that child enjoy the right from birth to acquire a nationality.
- recalling that the Human Rights Council passes a resolution every year urging governments to have a civil registration system including birth registration.

Decides that the IAW President and Board urge governments to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and withdraw any reservations.

Asks its member organizations to either influence their governments to put a birth registration system in place or to urge their governments to help countries do so through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, for instance.

Moved by: Lyda Verstegen, President of IAW

Seconded by: Lene Pind, Secretary General of IAW

IV.

Let girls be girls – not brides

IAW is highly concerned about the persistence, extent and consequences of child marriage. The practice is deeply rooted in gender inequalities, tradition and poverty and severely hampers girls' right to education, sexual and reproductive health rights and their right to lead a life free from all forms of violence. Lack of progress in ending child marriage will exacerbate demographic and socio-economic problems in countries with an expanding youth population through an acceleration of the succession of generations.

IAW therefore decides

- 1) To fully support all human rights initiatives and actions, at national, regional and international levels, to end child marriage.
- 2) To urge governments to translate their commitments to relevant international conventions and treaties into national law, and implement legislation regarding
 - a) The protection of the rights of girls and women from all abuse, neglect or discrimination
 - b) The provision of the best-available opportunities for self-fulfilment, through education and whatever means possible
 - c) The age for marriage fixed unambiguously for both girls and boys at 18 years.
- 3) To lobby for monitoring of the implementation of legislation by third parties like human rights experts and NGOs.

**Moved by by Gudrun Haupter,
Convenor of the Commission on Health
Seconded by Jessika Kehl- Lauff, adf/svf**

V.

Girls' right to education

IAW considering that in some countries women and girls are threatened, killed and abducted on their way to school; that schools are systematically bombed and destroyed, leaving those women and girls deprived of their most elementary fundamental Human Rights to education and to a decent life.

Calls on the President and the Board of IAW

- To put pressure on the governments of such countries to take measures to put an end to these awful practices and allow women and girls the right to attend primary school, high school and university in a safe environment.
- To demand that these crimes are punished.

Moved by Monique Bouaziz, Vice-President AFEM France

Seconded by: Mmabatho Ramagoshi, Mmabatho Foundation for Women's Development

VI.

'Eliminate all kinds of injustice, discrimination and violence against women'

Injustice, discrimination and violence against women concern every human being. This demands a considerable change in the mindset of people.

IAW therefore calls upon its members to act in solidarity against femicide of all kinds and the denial of human rights to women

Moved by:

Dr Lata Sinha, Bettina , Bushra Hussain and all the delegates from All India Women Conference New Delhi India- Asha Deshpande- Vijaylakshmi – Santha Das– Rakesh Dhavan, Ananya Das

Seconded by: Seema Uplekar

VII.

How to end hunger- the right to food

In the light of the IAW seminar on hunger and food security based upon the book 'How to end hunger in the time of crisis' written by Ignacio Trueba and Andrew McMillan

IAW calls upon its members to urge their governments

- To work towards the eradication of hunger and poverty in the shortest possible time and
- To set in place programs and projects to implement their commitments to do so.

Moved by Bettina Corke, IAW permanent representative to FAO

Seconded by: Lyda Versteegen, President of IAW

VIII.

Women - Visibility and Input

IAW

- Noting that women were underrepresented as speakers at the Council of Europe World Forum for Democracy 2012 with 15 men and one woman in the opening session.
- Noting that in spite of action by INGO Freely Constituted Equality Group, women are again underrepresented as speakers in the November 2013 World Forum for Democracy with men only, and no women, in the opening session.

Concludes that this is in contradiction of Council of Europe official policy '**to make equality in law a reality in fact**' and unacceptable.

IAW therefore:

- Urges those responsible for the World Forum for Democracy, including the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and its Secretary General, to urgently rectify the situation
- Calls upon the members of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly to ensure that in future an equal representation of women and men is guaranteed.

Moved by Anje Wiersinga, IAW permanent representative to CoE

Seconded by: Jessica Kehl-Lauff, adf/svf

IX.

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women including domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) will only come into effect after having been ratified/acceded to by 10 member States (it is also open for ratification/accession by non-European countries)

IAW therefore urges its members to lobby their governments and parliaments to ratify or accede to this important convention.

Moved by Anje Wiersinga, IAW permanent representative to CoE

Seconded by: Hana Elroy

X

Women and the Economic /Financial Crisis

IAW,

Recalling resolution 10 on the above subject adopted by the 35th Congress of the International Alliance of Women in South Africa in 2010 and in light of the ongoing economic/financial crisis that affects women much more than men, as illustrated by statistical and research data provided by Diane Elson, professor at the University of Essex, as well as other sources

calls on its member organizations to lobby their governments and regional and international authorities

- a) for the integration of a strong gender equality perspective in all recovery programmes
- b) for equal participation of women in decision making at the highest levels (preferably through the adoption of quotas) in the formulation and implementation of all policies, in particular economic/financial and in the corporate/private sector, in order to rectify the negative effects of these policies on women wherever they exist
- c) for the elaboration and implementation of macro-economic policies that respect human rights and gender equality

decides to proceed to capacity building on feminist economics of its members to enable them to undertake important actions on these issues.

Moved by Joanna Manganara, Vice President for Europe IAW

Seconded by Margunn Bjørnholt

XI

Women' Rights and Climate Change

Recognizing that climate change is among the biggest environmental and development challenges of our time, threatening the achievement of women's human rights and IAW mission of Equal Rights and Equal Responsibilities

IAW decides to:

Apply for observer status with the UNFCCC- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

IAW calls upon IAW affiliates, associates, and members to:

Increase the understanding on the dramatic impacts of climate change on women all over the world across the IAW

Increase the participation of IAW members in the climate change decision making processes at international and national levels

Build capacity on climate change, to enable meaningful and effective participation

Rationale

It is especially important that IAW is part of the conversation on climate change policy, because the UNFCCC processes will have tremendous implications for women's rights, human rights, and international development. Parties under the UNFCCC are currently negotiating a universal agreement on climate change that is scheduled to be adopted at COP 21 in Paris in 2015, and will take effect beyond 2020. Furthermore, countries are preparing national action plans on adaptation and mitigation, and public finance and private investments going into climate change programmes will be significantly scaled up.

Moved By Natalia Kostus, IAW representative to the UN, New York
Seconded Ida Kurth

Decision
By

The 36th Congress of the International Alliance of Women (IAW) taking place in London, from 8th to 14th September 2013 adopts the following decision:

IAW intends to review CONGO performance and its own membership to CONGO at its 37th Triennial Congress.

Lene Pind
03 October 2013