

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter January 2015

no. 1

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Dear members and subscribers,

At CSW this year a Political Declaration will be adopted on the very first day of the session. This has given rise to a lot of criticism from the NGO community including from IAW President Joanna Manganara.

IAW will be present at CSW with 3 side events and a pretty large delegation.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has just started a campaign on a social protection floor for all. This is strongly supported by IAW.

- and a lot more

CSW 59



This year's CSW will be celebrating and reviewing Beijing+20. A long process of reviewing has been taking place at the national and regional levels. In all regions a declaration has been adopted, and they can all be read [here](#).

We shall have no agreed conclusions this year. Instead a [declaration](#) will be adopted on the *first* day of the session. It will be commemorative, progressive, comprehensive and not negotiated after day 1. [Women's NGOs](#) are worried about this, as it will leave no room for input from the grassroots. It means that all negotiations must be finished by March 9 at the national level. And hopefully the contributions of NGOs have been taken into account in the regions. NGOs and the NGO CSW/NY Committee is trying to negotiate this with the Bureau of CSW

A draft declaration, worked out by the Bureau, can be read [here](#).

[Working Methods of CSW or Ways and Means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women Report](#) is a document by Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon. It is being negotiated now and is expected to be adopted before or during the session of the Commission. NGOs are now reviewing the document and UN Women has called a meeting on January 23 to discuss the document.

[Lyda Versteegen](#) has written an [analysis of the document](#).

[IAW President Joanna Manganara](#) has commented both on the Political Declaration and on the working methods of the CSW.

A large delegation of IAW members, headed by President Joanna Manganara, will attend CSW and will lobby governments in accordance with the [statement submitted to the Commission](#).

Information about CSW can be found [here](#), and please, follow also the important work of the [NGO CSW/NY Committee](#)

IAW will be hosting five side events:

Lessons Learnt from Women Presidents and Ministers—

March 10, 4.30pm, CCUN Boss Room

DEEDS—NO WORDS, Implementing CEDAW and UNSCR 1325, March 11, 6.15pm

CCUN 10th Floor

Why the Future of Economics and Economic Development must be Feminist

March 13—10.30am CCUN Drew Room

Social Media, Technology and Activism Beyond 2015

March 10, 2.30pm, Salvation Army Auditorium

Women, Peace, Security

March 19, 1.15 pm, Room CR-E, GA Building

NOTE!

Everybody who wants to attend the NGO Forum must register on an individual basis. It is free of charge and is done on the [NGOCSW/NY website](#)

It has nothing to do with registering for a pass.

This is also where you register and pay for Consultation Day and the Reception, if you wish to participate.

Important dates and other information

March 8: Consultation Day/ NGO Forum at the Apollo Theater.

UN Women & The City of New York will co-host a public march to celebrate the International Day of the Women

March 9: CSW 59 opens - United Nations

NGO CSW reception at Armenian Conference Center

March 10: A Beijing + 20 celebration at Madison Square Garden

sponsored by UN Women (free and open to all).

YAMMER: Everyone who is registered for CSW58 will be sent an invitation to join UN Women's YAMMER, the CSW 59/ Beijing + 20 Network.

Beijing+20 - Useful links

[Preparation in the Regions](#)

[UN Women : Beijing + 20](#)

[Preparation at the national level](#)



What will shape women's rights over the next 15 years?

Decisions made in 2015 will help shape the women's rights agenda for the next 15 years. In September, world leaders will endorse a new set of development goals at the UN. The proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs), which will replace the millennium development goals (MDGs), feature a standalone goal on gender, which encourages the world to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

Irini Sarlis, IAW representative to New York has sent this:

On Friday, January 16th, there was a day-long Stakeholder Prep-Forum and a mid-day Interactive Dialogue of the President of the General Assembly with Civil Society, organized by UN DESA and NGLS, which generated a lot of energetic participation from NGOs, and inaugurated the impending season of Negotiations, on the way to the refinement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in GA 70, in September. A recurring theme was the acknowledgment of mistakes made and omissions with the 8 Millennium Development Goals, now to be succeeded by the SDGs and the determination not to repeat any such, but to encourage the participation of every segment of society, and heed the voices of as wide and inclusive a cohort of stakeholders as possible.

The day's meetings are to be available on web-cast. Most important meetings are now web-cast, as you can detect from the always informative [UN Journal](#), now available only in "paperless" mode.

Interesting links

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jan/14/womens-rights-gender-equality-sustainable-development-goals>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/post-2015>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=1579&menu=35>



A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR FOR ALL

At the London Congress in 2013 IAW adopted an action programme, in which we pleaded for social protection for all. ILO—the International Labour Organization—has initiated a campaign promoting social protection floors for all.

[Read more](#)—and find out what a social protection floor is and why it is a good policy both socially and in terms of economics .

You may also wish to watch [this video of Bishop Desmond Tutu](#) talking about social protection.

WHO

Gudrun Haupter , convener of the IAW Health Commission, has sent the following news from WHO:



Gudrun Haupter

During the World Health Assembly Informal consultations on Health in the Post-2015 Agenda, specifically Universal Health coverage (UHC), brought together NGOs and the UN, with speakers from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank.

I wish to share thoughts on some issues of the article Universal health coverage (UHC) and adolescents published online 27 October 2014 in the bulletin of the WHO.

A group rarely mentioned in the ongoing discussion about UHC, are adolescents defined by WHO as persons aged 10 – 19 years. Adolescent women and men account for 1.2 billion or 18.2 percent of the world's population. Adolescence is often a period of experimentation and of risk taking.

Mortality for those aged 10 to 19 years is now greater than that in children aged 1 to 10.

Though it is impossible to quantify the extent of unmet need for adolescent health services on the whole, we know that adolescent girls who want to avoid pregnancy are more than twice as likely to have an unmet need for modern contraception than women aged 20 to 49 years. Each year, an estimated 6.1 million unintended pregnancies and 2.5 million unsafe abortions occur in adolescents in low- and middle-income countries – not to mention risks such as fistulae which hit adolescents giving birth at an early age much more frequently than adult women.

An important element of achieving UHC is how health care for this age bracket – which in many countries is rapidly growing – is financed. Governments in countries with functioning insurance systems follow different paths of adapting health financing arrangements to encourage use of health-care services by young people. To read more go to <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/1/14-139741/en/>

In countries without such systems it's the poor segments of the young population which are left behind. In addition, an unsupportive environment may bar adolescent women and men from getting the services they need.

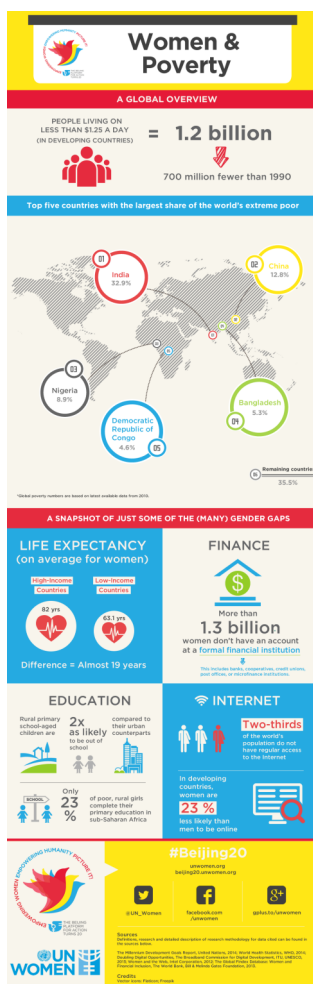
WEALTH—INEQUALITY –POVERTY

Wealth: Having it all and wanting more

Report by [Oxfam](#) published just before the The [World Economic Meeting in Davos](#)

Global wealth is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a small healthy elite. These wealthy individuals have generated and sustained their vast riches through their interests and activities in a few important economic sectors, including finance and insurance, and pharmaceuticals and healthcare. Companies from these sectors spend millions of dollars every year on lobbying to create a policy environment that protects and enhances their interests further. The most prolific lobbying activities in the US are on budget and tax issues; public resources that should be directed to benefit the whole population, rather than reflect the interests of powerful lobbyists.

The richest one per cent has increased its income by 60 per cent in the last 20



years with the financial crisis accelerating rather than slowing the process, and this explosive in extreme wealth is exacerbating inequality and hindering the world's ability to tackle poverty.

[Full report](#)

UN Women on women and poverty

<http://beijing20.unwomen.org/en/in-focus/poverty>

Women and Poverty— a global overview

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

As part of the campaign for a Europe free from prostitution, the EWL has published [a leaflet](#) 'answering to the most frequent assumptions of prostitution'. The leaflet also compares the policies of Sweden and the Netherlands after 10 years of implementation.

EWL Beijing +20 Economy: gender pay gap and pension pay gap—sent by Arina Angerman, IAW representative to EWL:

One of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action '95 is 'Promote women's economic rights and independence ...'. After 20 years the gender pay gap remains a major issue within the EU as women on average earn 16% less than men. A worrying development is the widening gender pension pay gap which stand at 39% within the EU. The gender pension gap shows that gender inequalities accumulate throughout women's lives and that a life-cycle approach to women's economic independence is urgently needed.

Austerity measures have a huge effect on women, both as workers in the public sector and users of public services. Moreover, women bear a disproportionate share of tax burdens, as they use larger portions of their income on food and basis goods for the household. Did you see the European Women's Lobby (EWL) video-clip "A she-(re)cession. What does austerity mean for women?" (2013) Note 1

Women's economic independence is the foundation of all rights. EWL's key demands to the European Union and the Member States are a.o.

- Guarantee the individualization of social security and taxation rights in order to break women's dependency on their partners and/or the State;
- Close the gender pay gap by 2020 and set targets to close the pension gap;
- Use Gender Budgeting as a standard methodology of all public budget processes.

The European Women's Lobby hope the 2015 calendar From Words to Action will inspire you, move you & mobilize you. Let's make the most of the 12 months of 2015 to take action and bring words into reality for all women and girls in Europe. January is the month of Economy. Will you read & share EWL's factsheet about Women and the Economy? Note 2

Note 1 video-clip '[A she-\(re\)cession](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eulp9VdKzFk)' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eulp9VdKzFk>

Note 2 Read more and download at <http://www.womenlobby.org/news/ewl-news/article/ewl-beijing-20-in-january-women-s?lang=en>



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

On the occasion of its 100 years anniversary WILPF will organise a global conference: *Uniting a Global Movement of Women's Power to Stop War*.

"The [WILPF 2015 Conference](#) is the place where hundreds of women peace-makers from all over the world will come together to establish a new peace agenda for the 21st century. "

Time and place: The Hague April 2015

Around the World

Schoolgirl Jihadis

While we are all appalled by the terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris, hundreds of [young women and girls](#) are leaving their homes in western countries to join Islamic fighters in the Middle East, causing increasing concern among counter-terrorism investigators.

South Africa

[Rape and other forms of sexual violence in South Africa](#)

Denmark

In 2015 Denmark will be celebrating 100 years of the vote for women. Celebrations will culminate on June 5—Constitution Day, but have already started. On January 12 a painting of Nina Bang, minister of education and first female minister (1922-24) in Denmark was unveiled. Members of the Danish Women's Society (DWS) participated. The Danish Women's Society is at the front of the preparations for the centenary

Left to right:
Signe Vahlun, member of IAW board
and DWS board
Nina Bang
Lisa Holmfjord: President of DWS
Ulla Tornemand: Vice president



Zainab Syed, member of the editorial committee, has sent this very personal account from Pakistan



Never Forget,

On the 16th of December 2014, gunmen walked into the Army Public School in Peshawar and killed about 141 people, most of whom were children. Most neighboring schools first mistook the sound for celebratory shots for a party the school was having. The gunmen were in the building for about two hours to avenge the death of their own children who had died in Army operations. The stories of how they killed the children, and then left them in piles - dead body over dead body - are descriptions no mother should ever have to hear. What has unfolded in Pakistan since, has been a kind of collective anger at these individuals who claim to fight under the banner of Islam but speak of no religion most Pakistanis identify with.



On the 19th of December, All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) held a protest followed by a candlelight vigil on Charring Cross in Lahore. On that bitterly cold day, my cousin and I stood behind my grandmother, and many other women of APWA who I have admired growing up. All around us there were women of all ages, children too – slogans were loud and sentiments were strong. We weren't alone. All over the country people were gathering - December's wedding and party seasons toned down, and schools closed early, exams waived and we all sat down to pray.

With the recent Charlie Hebdo attack, APWA's protest carried even more resonance as it asked people to stand together and speak up. This is not new to APWA. As an organization, APWA has made the moral, social and economic wellbeing of women in Pakistan a top priority. It was founded in 1949 by Be-

gum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, a famous women's activist who called for equal status of men and women. It is a very active organization with branches in 56 districts all across rural and urban Pakistan. Among its accomplishments are the pursuance of the government in 1961 to pass the family law ordinance which successfully introduced the registration of marriage, minimum marriage age, regularized divorce procedure and inheritance law for orphans. Other achievements include the instigation of multi-project centers' for women, schools, dispensaries, maternity homes, family planning clinics (urban & rural), regional institutes of higher education including the prestigious APWA college Lahore, which my grandmother tells me began in my great grandmothers home!

One of APWA's main focus areas has been Primary Health Care including Family Planning and Safe Motherhood initiatives to under privileged women and girls in urban slums and rural areas. APWA's approach is through integrated multi-dimensional programs and projects that have combined primary health care with several components of reproductive health, including adult literacy, primary education, skill development, nutrition, legal rights, maternal care and family planning.

My own grandmother (photo below—middle) has dedicated most of her life to this organization and is an inspiration for all of us young Pakistani women who want to make a difference in women's lives in Pakistan. It was therefore, an honour to be a part of the women calling for all of Pakistan to speak up against injustice.

If anyone would like to be more involved in helping the efforts in Peshawar, post attack please get in touch with me, or follow Ministry of Change on Facebook.



Note

Please be so kind as to notify Membership Officer Pat Richardson if you know of any members, affiliate or associate societies with an email address, so that we can mail them this Newsletter

IAW Newsletter: Editorial group lenepind@gmail.com

International Women's News: iawiwn@womenalliance.org

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