Dear members and subscribers

Since this is the first Newsletter in 2016, we wish members and subscribers a Happy New Year.

This Newsletter focuses primarily on IAW at CSW 60 and on other IAW activities.

The Treasurer reminds us all that now is the time to pay your annual membership fees.

Preparations for Congress in Zimbabwe continue.

Deadline for contributions to the April Newsletter is March 15.

Happy reading!

News from IAW

IAW at the Commission on the Status of Women 2016

CSW is taking place in New York March 14—24. A delegation of about 18 IAW representatives headed by President Joanna Manganara. Hopefully all delegates have received the documents necessary to obtain a pass. If not, please, contact IAW Secretary General Lyna Castillo-Javier at iawsec@womenalliance.org

IAW parallel events at CSW

As in former years IAW had applied for a number of parallel events. This year one and only one has been accepted. All NGOs who have applied for parallel events have been allowed a maximum of one slot in the NGO CSW/NY Committee programme.

The NGO CSW writes:
Due to record-breaking applications for parallel events (over 500!), we were unable to give every NGO an event. NGOs that were awarded an event, were limited to one event. If you registered for more than one event, please email us at info@ngocsw.org to let us know which event you would like to be listed in the handbook.

IAW will hold the following parallel/ side events, the second of which has been sponsored by the Greek Mission:
1. **JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION ON WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING:**
   Getting women to the top

   The international community has promised to ensure women's full and effective participation in the political leadership worldwide. How can we increase the number of women top leaders? And how can they promote women's issues? What can we learn from the experience of women national leaders and from ours in support of women's leadership?

   **Speakers:**

   **Torild Skard**, Senior Researcher and author of "Women of Power": What can we learn from 73 female presidents and prime ministers in 53 countries worldwide during half a century: how did they manage to rise to the top and did they make a difference as female top leaders?

   **Laura Liswood**, Secretary General of Council of Women World Leaders: Lessons of leadership of women heads of state and government and challenges of women at the highest levels.

   **Brenda Carter**, Director Reflective Democracy Campaign in America: Strategies to create a cultural shift and break down structural barriers for a more representative democracy.

   **Antonia Kirkland**, Esq., Legal Adviser Equality Now: How can we translate women's needs into international law, policy and practice and get a female UN Secretary General?

   **Discussion**

   Sponsored by
   All India Women’s Conference
   Council of Women World Leaders
   International Alliance of Women, IAW
   Equality Now
   Reflective Democracy Campaign

2. **Corporations, Globalization and Women’s Social and Economic Rights.**
   **Opening Remarks:** Ambassador Catherine Boura, Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations.

   This side event will reflect on the impact that multinational corporations (MNCs) have on the social and economic rights of women and girls in the Global South. The goal of the discussion is to highlight innovative opportunities for advocacy and partnership to advance women's economic rights in a global climate of free-market economics.

   **Chair:** Joanna Manganara, President International Alliance of Women.

   **Speakers:**

   **Kate Donald**, Director of the Human Rights in Development Pro-
gram at the Center for Economic and Social Rights and founder of the Women for Tax Justice collective.

What makes corporate tax a feminist issue?

**Hester Eisenstein**, Professor in Sociology at City University of New York: *Have free market ideologies seduced mainstream feminist groups?*

**Sara Blackwell**, Legal & Policy Coordinator, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR): *How can women's groups use National Action Plans (NAPs) on business and human rights to advance their goals?*

**Gregory Tzeutschler Regaignon**, Research Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Center: *What makes corporate transparency and corporate legal accountability important for realizing the human rights of women?*

**Moderator:**

**Maria Hengeveld**, M.A in Human Rights (Columbia '15) and B.Soc.Sc. in Gender Studies and Sociology (University of Cape Town '12).

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**Meeting for all IAW delegates:**

Joanna Manganara has called a meeting for all IAW delegates Friday March 18 2—4 p.m. at the Greek Mission, 866 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10017 13th floor

**Congress 2016**

- **Eliminate Violence Against Women: motivate— activate— advocate**

Congress will take place in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe November 8—16 2016. Preparations are in full swing. Our hostess will be Women’s Comfort Corner headed by Rita Marque Mbatha

Participants in Congress are all members of IAW. Invitations and registration forms are in the process of being finalized and will be sent out to members organizations and the board soon.

At Congress IAW will deal with the traditional agenda for Congress: Elections for President, Treasurer, Secretary General and Board. The IAW Constitution is up for revision, there will be resolutions to be debated and adopted.

**Regional Conference**

Congress will include a regional conference/ seminar. On the occasion of the African Union having declared 2016 African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women, Women’s Comfort Corner will invite a representative of the Department of Women. Similarly NGOs from other African counties will be invited together with representatives of one or more NGOs covering several African countries.

And there is good news for travellers from abroad. From June/ July there will be direct flights to Victoria Falls.

More details will follow in the April Newsletter.

**Time to pay your membership fee**

Dear members, affiliates, associates and individual members.

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**Wednesday 23 March 2016, 6:30-8:30 PM**

GA Building - Conference Room 6

**Membership fee:**
Now is the time to renew your membership. Soon IAW Treasurer Rosy Weiss will send out invoices to our member organizations and national collectors.

If you are an affiliated organization, the membership fee is 110 €, for associates it is 55 €, and individual members pay 20 € per year.

You can pay in different ways. A bank transfer is a possibility, but usually expensive, depending on where you live (loss on exchange of currency and bank charges amount to 530 Euro in 2015!).

Bank account;
Alliance Internationale CH15 0900 0000 1488 7557 3 for CHF
CH96 0900 0000 9182 4969 4 for EUR

Please do not send cheques.

You can also pay via the donation button on the website using a credit card. To do this go to www.womenalliance.org, find “donate” in the top menu and click. This will take you to the donate page of the website. Choose the amount by clicking 20€ or by using the “specify any other amount”. Fill in the form with your name etc or the name of your organization if your payment is for your organization. Find the scroll down menu connected to the text “I would like to pay…..”, click ‘membership fee’, ‘agree to terms’ and then ‘Donate Now’. This will take you to a page where you choose which credit card to use. Click and follow instructions.

This is a very secure way of paying.

If you have any questions concerning this, contact lenepind@gmail.com

New York
General Assembly

Bixian Lin, our new member and representative to the Department of Public Information (DPI) sends this information from the UN General Assembly:

On December 3rd, 2015, General Assembly adopted, without a vote, two resolutions, A/70/L.20 & A/70/L.24 that stressed the advancement of a culture of peace and non-violence based on education, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation and emphasized the involvement of women in enhancing a culture of peace.

On December 4th, 2015, Second Committee called for mainstreaming gender in agricultural policies.

On December 10th, 2015, General Assembly addressed the important need to tackle sexual violence and reinforced the role of women in humanitarian action.

On December 16th, 2015, General Assembly recognized a significant digital divide between women and men.

Welcome to IAW, Bixian and thank you for wanting to work with us!
CEDAW

Important news from WURN (Women’s UN Report Network)

Opportunity to nominate for new members of the CEDAW Committee -
elections 21 June 2016

The term of 11 CEDAW members will be expiring in December 2016.

March 7th 2016 is the deadline for submission of nominees by our govern-
ments to the OHCHR, for consideration by states which have ratified CEDAW
in their meeting in June

What can NGOs do?

1. Identify women and feminist experts with a strong understanding and expe-
rience in promoting and protecting women's rights and who are willing and
able to be Committee members
2. Start lobbying your government to nominate these women for the post.
3. Share these names with us so that we can coordinate lobbying our govern-
ments for their election onto the Committee at the elections in June 2010.

The Timeline for this process is:

1. Now until 7 March 2016: Time for women's groups to lobby their gov-
ernments and suggest names of good candidates from their own country to
be elected to the Committee. You may also wish to facilitate this process
by reminding the relevant office in your government of the deadline, and
forwarding the form and contact details for nomination which can be
downloaded here: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/
ElectionsofTreatyBodiesMembers.aspx see Annex 3) You may also
campaign for an open transparent process for selection so that any candi-
date faces an open process for selection to ensure their women's human
rights track record.

2. 7 March 2016: Nomination list closes. A list of candidates will appear
on the website

3. Between 7 March - 21 June 2016: Women's groups lobby govern-
ments and missions to vote for their candidate and candidates that best
fulfill the criteria. CVs and bio details will be made available on the
OHCHR website so you find out more about the other nominees. http://

4. 21 June 2016: CEDAW States Parties Meeting: Where states parties
will vote through secret ballot to either re-elect committee members
whose terms expire in 2008 or elect new members.

5. New members take office on 1 Jan 2017

Further information about the election process can be found here: http://
www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/ElectionsofTreatyBodiesMembers.aspx

Habitat III

“Habitat III” is shorthand for a major global summit, formally known as
the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Develop-
ment, to be held in Quito, Ecuador, on 17-20 October 2016.
The United Nations has called the conference, the third in a series that began in 1976, to “reinvigorate” the global political commitment to the sustainable development of towns, cities and other human settlements, both rural and urban. The product of that reinvigoration, along with pledges and new obligations, is being referred to as the New Urban Agenda. That agenda will set a new global strategy around urbanization for the next two decades.

Soon-Young Yoon, in her capacity as UN representative of IAW and Interim Chair of the Board of Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), has submitted comments on the Policy Paper frameworks

Arina Angerman—IAW representative to the EWL sends this:

Politics and friendship

Women’s history

On 3 December 2015 I attended an international conference celebrating the 80th anniversary of IAV (now ATRIA) with a special focus on gender equality and women’s history in Amsterdam. (Note 1) This special event reminded me of visiting the exhibition ‘Suffragettes in the Purple White & Green’ in the Museum of London in 1993. And when attendees of the Board Meeting of International Alliance of Women in 2008 visited the IAV archive in Amsterdam. “The IAV collection began with a gift from Rosa Manus: 300 books, among them books which originated from Aletta Jacobs (1854-1929) a leader in the (inter)national campaign for women’s suffrage.”

Adele Patrick, Lifelong Learning and Creative Development Manager at Glasgow’s Library (GWL), UK, and discussant in the first panel ‘Visions for the Future’. On the GWL: “Women bike couriers help to distribute information and girl scouts help to map memorials of women. Services as apps and heritage walks are developed as well. All driven by our motto: Sisterhood is powerful.”

Promote women’s economic rights (Beijing’95)

One of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action ‘95 is ‘Promote women’s economic rights and independence …’ Social entrepreneurship can be a promising avenue through which women can empower themselves and others. The European Women’s Lobby (EWL) published a Synthesis report WEstart. Mapping Women’s Social Entrepreneurship in Europe (September 2015). You can read more on the 10 studied countries and an electronic database containing information about 1,000 women-led social enterprises at http://www.WEstarteurope.org and in my blog (Note 2).

In 1995 17,000 participants and 30,000 activists attended the Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Forum in China. According to UNwomen ‘they were remarkably diverse …’ For me attending the NGO Forum was also about Politics and friendship. (Note 3)

Goal of 2016 is to Step it Up for Gender Equality and reaffirming women’s rights are human rights!

Note 1 At the website of ATRIA, Institute on Gender Equality and Women’s History more on the 80th anniversary of IAV

Note 2 Blog ‘Do women social entrepreneurs use IT and social media in EU?’
IAW around the world

Adf/svf Switzerland:

**SUFFRAGETTE and a centenary in Basel, Switzerland**

How surprising! Just when we as members of frauenrechte beider basel, the Basel section of ADF-SVF Suisse, were starting to prepare the festive activities celebrating our centenary in 2016, it happens that at the same time a movie is being produced about the fight for women’s voting rights in Great Britain!

Of course we are very happy about this wonderful coincidence, and so now we shall have a very special movie-performance on March 13th. We are also inviting some well-known guest-speakers for a talk about women’s rights in the past and at present. This event will be also extraordinary, because – another coincidence! – 50 years ago the women’s vote was accepted by the male voters in the city of Basel in 1966!

This shows that in Switzerland where the women’s political parity on the national level was only accepted in 1971 there had been more progressive districts (cantons) especially in the francophone region. The canton Vaud adopted it already on the cantonal level in 1959 and was soon followed by Neuchâtel and Geneva. In 1966 Basel-Stadt was the pioneer canton in the German speaking region of Switzerland.

Read more on the IAW website

**Interesting reports**

**TOWARDS A FUTURE WITHOUT FUNDAMENTALISMS – ANALYZING RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALIST STRATEGIES & FEMINIST RESPONSES**

In today’s complex and volatile world, the word “FUNDAMENTALISMS” is pervasive, and clearly has an impact on women’s and girls’ rights, dignity, justice, and peace. This publication printed a few years ago, resonates the impacts of religious fundamentalisms local and global, across regions and religions. Looking at the multiple root causes, the core issues of fundamentalisms, can help us as women address fundamentalist-related obstacles, and strategies.

Direct Link to 207-Page 2012 AWID Publication:

**The World’s Women—trends and statistics**

This collection of data from the UN Statistical Division is extremely useful.

The way it is structured makes it possible to find information on exactly what one is interested in.


**Denmark is opening its first female led mosque:**
Mosques are “male-dominated and patriarchal places, where a man is at the speaking platform, a man leads prayer, a man is in focus and dominant”, says Sherin Khankan, an academic and one of four female imams in Denmark. It is for this reason that she has set up Copenhagen’s first female-led mosque, a “feminist project” designed to facilitate worship “on women’s terms.”


Investigation into the international commercial surrogacy business

https://www.byline.com/project/43

A note from Arielle Wagenknecht, IAW representative to Geneva:

BOARDS WITH MORE WOMEN DO 36% BETTER

In the Financial Times of December, we learned with satisfaction that companies with more women on their boards have delivered a 36% better return on equity since 2010 than those groups lacking board diversity (index provider MSCI).

MSCI examined the 1,643 companies that make up the MSCI World benchmark and found that groups with strong female leadership delivered a 10.1% return on equity, compared with 7.4% for those companies without strong female leadership.

The chief executive of Newton Investment Management – a leading activist for gender equality in the workplace said: “It seems pretty obvious to me that companies that have more women at the top are also likely to have inclusive cultures and be forward looking about the needs of their customers and threats and opportunities from competitors”.

International Alliance of Women is funded by membership fees and private donations. We are grateful for any contribution to our work to promote women’s equal rights throughout the world.

DONATE

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
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Membership officer: iaw.membership@womenalliance.org