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Commission on the Status of Women



CSW 2013

You can find Lyda Versteegen (now Immediate Past President) and Lene Pind (now former Secretary General) wearing the distinctive green and yellow IAW scarves

Feminist Perspectives on the post 2015 development agenda

by Joanna Manganara

A basic shortcoming of the MDGs has been that they did not acknowledge structural and policy constraints that limited the achievement of the MDGs.

One such basic constraint has been the global financial and economic context and its impact on their implementation.

The MDGs were realized in the context of orthodox neoliberal economic policies of privatization, deregulation and reduced government spending that they did not challenge.

These policies have increased inequalities and violations of human rights, particularly of women's human rights, and have made it significantly more difficult to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. This policy orientation has also undermined the capacity of the nation state to serve the needs of its citizens.

Effects of economic crisis

The global financial crisis has demonstrated the crucial role that macroeconomic policies and the macroeconomic environment play in realizing human rights and, in particular, women's human rights. Economic crises tend to have a highly gendered impact, exacerbating already existing inequalities. For example, in many developing countries women dominate sectors such as garment manufacture and agriculture and are therefore more likely to lose their jobs when there is a decline in consumer spending.

The crisis response policies such as the implementation of austerity policies adopted in the aftermath of the global financial crisis emphasized growth over development and led to an erosion of social and economic rights and more generally failed to prioritize the protection of the population.

The impact of austerity measures in the labour market, especially measures that target a reduction of numbers or wages of workers in the public sector, has

disproportionately affected women as they constitute the majority of workers in that sector. Austerity measures have also intensified care needs in the home through cuts in community services, health budgets and care services for the elderly, children and persons with disabilities.

Women carry the main responsibility for care in the family and therefore these measures have disproportionately affected them. Moreover, research increasingly suggests that in times of crisis violence against women tends to increase.

So there is **an ethical framework needed to set global economic policy**, including austerity measures. Macroeconomic policies, in particular monetary, trade, investment and financial policies, should be in compliance with globally agreed human rights obligations, the principle of non discrimination and gender equality as well as environmental standards.

Compliance with human rights needs to be clearly stated throughout any development agenda.

The 2008 crisis is evidence that governments need to reform the financial regulatory system, set the needs of people at the centre and prevent new economic crises.

A multilateral mechanism should be adopted in order to hold governments, international financial institutions, private philanthropy organizations, investors and transnational corporations accountable for human rights and environmental sustainability norms and standards.

The leadership and participation of women's rights and feminist organizations in reforming dominant economic policies must be promoted at all levels including the development, implementation and evaluation of policies.

What ought to be central to the post 2015 Development Agenda is attention to the kind of growth generated and its overall contributions towards wellbeing and sustainability for all. We need a development model that confronts the injustices of the neoliberal economic model of patriarchal society that will enable social and gender justice and be sustainable.

Another shortcoming of the MDGs has been the absence of a human rights approach in its goals.

In particular the MDGS did not reflect the recognition of women's human rights as well their indivisibility and interdependence. The reduction of the broad goal of gender equality into limited targets has ignored the multiple dimensions of women's human rights including civil, political, economic, social, cultural, sexual and reproductive rights.

The MDGs failed to include key areas from reproductive and sexual health and rights to the recognition of unpaid work as well as gender based violence. They also failed to include women's diversities and compounding oppressions. Gender intersects with other identity dimensions and together they create unique expressions of oppression.

More important, the MDGs did not recognise that gender equality is not just an objective by itself but also a key to achieving the other development goals.

Positive results

However, there have also been positive results. With MDG3 on gender equality and women's empowerment, governments recognised the importance of these issues and feminist and women's organisations recognised that they had to put pressure on governments to take action and hold them accountable.

Another important shortcoming is that the MDGs did not address the root causes of poverty, most especially

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Another important shortcoming is that the MDGs did not address the root causes of poverty, most especially women's inequality, which made it impossible for the goals to be transformative.

Women represent the majority of the world's poor as they are more likely to be living in poverty due to gender based violence and gender based discrimination.

It is recognised that unless the structural causes of power such as power relations are addressed, poverty eradication will be impossible to achieve.

Gender inequality is not just one of many inequalities. It is one present at the very foundation of how we organise our societies and economies. Thus no development goal can be achieved without addressing it seriously.

The post 2015 Development Agenda should tackle structural barriers to gender inequality. Notably structures which reproduce or even compound gender inequality over time and across generations.

In order to end gender inequality globally the following barriers should be tackled together:

1. Elimination of violence against women and girls.
2. Reduction of the unpaid care work of women and girls within the family.
3. Equal access to and control over land and other natural resources.
4. Equal participation of women in decision making.
5. Completion of quality secondary education for young women in safe school environments.
6. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.
7. Access to decent work on an equal basis to men.

Other targets aimed at tackling poverty and inequality, including universal social protection and universal health care, should also support the above issues.

The post 2015 Development framework should also address the impact of militarism and conflict on the perpetuation and deepening of gender inequality as well as the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification on women.

Another powerful structural barrier that limits the achievement of the MDGs has to do with social norms and stereotypes that permeate societies and emanate from traditional gender roles. These roles should be challenged, not only women's roles but also men's roles and identities and forms of masculinity that strengthen inequality and oppression.

For example, the gendered division of unpaid care work which is based on discriminatory gender stereotypes of men as breadwinners and women as carers should be dismantled in order to achieve equal distribution of care within the family between women and men and promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Concerning the approach to be taken to promote gender equality, IAW together with other women's organisations is calling for a twin-track approach, with a stand-alone gender equality goal plus gender equality mainstreamed across the entire post 2015 framework.

Women's organisations should participate in all development, policy making and agenda setting processes on the post 2015 Agenda in order to be able to achieve all gender equality goals.

Feminist and women's organisations are catalysts for realising women's human rights.

The presence of autonomous and active feminist organisations in a society is a precondition for translating global priorities on women's human rights into concrete policies at the local and national level. Even at the regional and international level these actors are important for bringing about paradigm

shifts, as in the past with the extension of human rights across the public/private sphere.

However, the diminishing funding for women's rights and gender equality has limited the achievement of the MDGs.

Although governments have acknowledged the importance of gender equality as a precondition for development they have not translated this interest into funds for feminist and women's organisations. So it is necessary for them to commit themselves beyond rhetoric and set specific financial benchmarks and be accountable for them. Gender responsive budgeting should become the norm to ensure that countries' expenditures for sustainable development contribute to gender equality.

Finally there is **the issue of accountability** which is very important. The post 2015 Development framework should ensure accountability by establishing mechanisms based on an accountability approach that includes different development actors, including civil society organizations, thus ensuring participation of women's rights organisations. All governments should be accountable for their commitments to gender equality and women's human rights.

In conclusion, IAW is of the view that any post 2015 framework should be explicitly grounded in human rights norms and agreements including the principles of equality and non-discrimination and that gender equality, women's human rights and empowerment should be at its core.



Joanna Manganara
President, IAW
Chief Representative
to the United Nations

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights constantly under attack

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) at the European Parliament

The SRHR report, a non-binding document, authored by the Portuguese MEP Edite Estrela, member of the Socialists and Democrats Group, calls in 90 substantial and constructive recommendations for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights throughout Europe including safe and legal abortion services, accurate information about contraceptive methods, comprehensive sexuality education and prevention and treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases, among many others.

Already presented to the Plenary in October 2013, the report was referred back to the committee after intense lobbying by right-wing religious and political conservatives (351 in favour, 319 against—see voting record <http://www.votewatch.eu/en/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-motion-for-resolution-request-for-referral-back-to-committ.html>)

On December 10, International Human Rights Day the amended report was again presented to the Plenary. What happened there is worth recording. The vote was again preceded by a well-funded and deliberately misleading defamatory campaign. The European Women's Lobby (EWL) and 11 NGOs note in a joint statement: "A first motion tabled by the Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group, which proposed greater restrictions on access to safe abortion and other retrograde anti-choice measures, was rejected by an overwhelming 548 to 95 votes. A second resolution tabled by the by Christian Democrats (EPP) and the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) finally won by a majority of seven votes. It reaffirms the existing legal framework by underlining that the competence to develop policies on SRHR and sexuality education in schools rests with the EU member states". See voting record: <http://bit.ly/10Rq29>

On top of that it has emerged in the meantime that the voting results were seriously affected by several technical errors. Again according to EWL (and 9 NGOs) "a number of votes were recorded incorrectly, or not recorded at all. Had these votes been correctly recorded, the EPP/ECR resolution would have been rejected, enabling a move to vote on the Estrela Report. In addition, as reported by several MEPs and the recording of the plenary session, the simultaneous interpretation of the statement of Edite Estrela calling to vote against the EPP/ECR resolution prior to the vote was misleading!

EWL concludes: All this is all the more regrettable as there is "broad support for SRHR across many political groups in the European Parliament. This support was further evidenced during an unrelated plenary vote on December 11, when MEPs adopted a resolution on EUs external human rights policy with a comfortable majority.

IAW as member of the European Women's Lobby stands ready for joint action because women's rights deserve another battle, indeed!

Report from Rosy Weiss

Restraints on legal abortions in Spain - a violation of women's rights

Since 2010, Spain has allowed women to seek an abortion up to the 14th week. Planned changes to the law would make the procedure illegal, except in rape cases or where two doctors independently certify that a failure to abort would damage the women's mental or physical health. The governing People's Party – backed by the Catholic Church – wants access to abortion curtailed. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy says this is party of his party's electoral manifesto— to reinforce protection of the right to life for the foetus.

IAW President Joanna Manganara has written to the Spanish Prime Minister expressing concerns that the proposed bill can seriously undermine women's reproductive rights. Activists say this would be a huge step backwards for Spain, putting the law on par with some of the strictest anti-choice legislation in the world and would violate women's rights over their own bodies.

IAW members are urged to support Spanish women in their stand against this restrictive legislation.

Zoe's Law - New South Wales, Australia

A controversial foetal rights bill known as *Zoe's Law* has been passed in the Lower House of the New South Wales Parliament by 63 votes to 26. MPs were allowed a conscience vote. The bill will now go to the Upper House.

This bill was prompted by the stillbirth of Brodie Donegan's daughter, Zoe, after Mrs Donegan was hit by a car while she was 36 weeks pregnant. The bill recognises a crime of grievous bodily harm against an unborn child as a person.

The NSW Greens Status of Women spokeswoman, Mehreen Faruqi, described the law as unnecessary and dangerous, a law which would restrict women's rights and access to reproductive health. She said "It is extremely disappointing that so many MPs would support a law that has been opposed by many legal and health bodies, such as the NSW Bar Association, the Australian Medical Association NSW, and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists".

Women's organisations are lobbying strongly against this draconian legislation.

IAW Events

CSW58

President Joanna Manganara will lead a full IAW delegation to CSW this year. Everyone goes with the hope that the deliberations will be inspiring and that the outcomes will lead to a better world for women.

The Alliance is hosting three side events at CSW this year

Gender Based Violence as a Political Weapon

The objectives of this session are to:

- draw attention to the widespread use of gender-based violence as a political weapon in violation of International Human Rights Conventions.
- discuss what Governments/NGOs could and should do to combat and prevent this through the implementation and monitoring of UN SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and its subsequent resolutions.
- formulate a recommendation on the outcome of the discussion.

This session will emphasise how empowerment, participation and leadership of women can protect against and prevent violence.

The impact of MDGs on rural women

Speakers will include **Hibaaq Osman**, global political strategist, with a specific interest in the Middle East and Africa, Director KARAMA*;

Dr Horeya Megahed, Member of the Hoda Charawi Association, Egypt. Doctor of Political Science with a career in academia at Cairo University, appointment to the Supreme Administrative Court of the State Council and author of numerous publications;

Representatives from South Africa, Cameroon and India.

**KARAMA is a Cairo based organisation (with 9 Arab partner organisations).*

Karama is the Arabic word for dignity, as well as a growing movement, fueled by a coalition of national, regional and international partners, to end violence against women and to promote their full and equal participation in the Middle East and North Africa.

Anje Wiersinga, IAW Representative at the Council of Europe, advises that Hibaaq Osman was a guest at the recent Council Session. She addressed the INGO Commission on Democracy.

The financial crisis, recession and women

Speakers:

Radhika Balakrishnan, director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University and co-author (with Diane Elson) of the book *Economic Policy and Human Rights: Holding Governments to Account*, on the effects of the economic recession on women, financial institutions, and human rights.

Cephas Lumina, the UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights, on his report on the crisis in Greece.

Joanna Manganara, President of IAW, on the recession and women in Europe.

Margunn Bjørnholt, sociologist, Director of Policy and Social Research in Norway, IAW board member and acting President of the Norwegian Association for Women's Rights, on the Norwegian "Oil Fund," creditors' responsibility for the financial crisis and the debt management from a human rights perspective.

Chair: Dr Jocelynn Scutt, barrister and human rights lawyer, filmmaker and historian.

IAW Board Meeting 3-5 October 2014

Association Suisse pour les Droits de la Femme will host the IAW Board in Lausanne. The programme includes a visit to the United Nations in Geneva and other places of interest.

Alliance members who attended the International Meeting in 2009 remember with pleasure the wonderful *Tour de Suisse*.

The Editor, Priscilla Todd, would like to record thanks to those members who regularly provide content for IWNNews. Let's hear from more of you with news and articles.

I'd also like to thank Olivia Spree who has sourced and/or translated material for this edition and the previous one. Olivia is from the UK and completed her first degree in French and Spanish. Through the Erasmus programme she spent time in Granada, Spain and Bordeaux, France. She then worked in the francophone central African country of Gabon. From 2012 she has been at the University of Melbourne, Australia and will complete her Masters in International Relations in mid-2014.

UN Women

NGO CSW Geneva

“We have to think of a very bold goal – one that can be



On 15 January 2014 the UN Women Executive Director, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, met with members of NGO CSW Geneva.

Seema Uplekar, IAW Treasurer and Representative at UN Geneva, attended the meeting.



After giving a briefing on the UN Women priority areas, Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka spoke on a number of issues.

Lifting women's economic empowerment

UN Women's overriding objective is to mainstream the priority areas within all UN agencies. **Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka's personal goal for her term** is to lift women's economic empowerment: “given greater voice and empowerment, women are stronger in the fight against violence against women.” Rural women will, as a result, be strengthened, as it is “necessary to start from the bottom to empower women.”

Older women and women with disabilities

Unfortunately, UN Women is overstretched and does not have the resources to strengthen all women's groups equally. Two such groups are older women and women with disabilities. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka appealed for the help and collaboration of experts in the field of these particular issues.

Post 2015: violence against women needs to be high on the agenda

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka stressed that “we need to use all experience gained - what we learn from Beijing+20 and what we learn from the MDGs as input for the post-2015 agenda,” in order to position priority issues. “Violence against women needs to be high on the agenda.”

destiny changing.”

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka culminated her remarks by saying that we need to identify a bold, transformative goal for women in the post-2015 agenda. She appealed to civil society, as the experts on the ground, to lend expertise and give input in order to generate a complete picture of all of the issues impacting women.

Geneva Beijing+20 NGO Forum

The meeting ended with a very, fruitful, open and candid discussion including specific areas of support and collaboration between UN Women and NGO CSW Geneva, as well as, UN Women's participation in the Beijing+20 UN ECE Regional Review NGO Forum, which will take place in Geneva, 3--5 November 2014, and will be hosted by NGO CSW Geneva.

Relevant links:

www.unwomen.org

www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58---2014 www.un.org/millenniumgoals

www.ngocsw---geneva.ch

This article has been compiled from a report by Sara von Moos, FAWCO UN Director

We at [UN Women](http://www.unwomen.org) are proud to join [Greening the Blue](#), a movement to reduce the UN system's environmental footprint! Read how we ensure to protect our environment while we fight to protect women worldwide. “In much of the world, women are managers of household resources such as water, fuel, and food, and play a key role in farming. This places women and girls on the front line in facing the impacts of climate change, but also in a unique position to make a difference. That's why, for UN Women, working to achieve gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment goes hand-in-hand with efforts to address climate change.”

Militarism and Gender Violence

by Rosy Weiss

Some IAW peace herstory

Up to the Geneva Congress in 1920, the Alliance was guided in its activities by its Charter drafted in Washington in 1902 and the goal adopted at the Congress in Berlin in 1904. Accordingly, it concentrated on the right of women to vote, the political empowerment of women, persuaded that this would bring about the power of decision so much needed for women in every political field. In 1914, however, 10 years after its inception, the Alliance (at the time the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, IWSA) saw itself “faced by the disruption, the animosity, the misunderstanding caused by war”. The Manifesto drawn up by the IWSA and delivered on July 31, 1914 to the Foreign Office and Foreign Embassies in London speaks for itself and remains one of the pillars of IAW’s policy for peace and international understanding. In this forthcoming year – the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI, today’s IAW still upholds the principles of “conciliation and arbitration for arranging international differences.”

A first sign of changing positions was the new title of the Alliance adopted by the Paris Congress, 1926: International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. This indicated its wider, more comprehensive aims, including peace and support for the League of Nations. The resolution adopted at Paris that a permanent peace committee should be formed led to the establishment of the “Committee for Peace and the League of Nations”. In 1927 this committee proposed holding a study conference in Amsterdam the same year on aspects of the maintenance of peace and the study of the economic and political causes of unrest. It is interesting to note that IWSA organised a further peace conference in May 1931 in Belgrade. This conference passed three resolutions: on disarmament, on international economic co-operation, and on participation of women at the forthcoming multilateral disarmament conference.

At its Jubilee Congress in Berlin in 1929, the resolution on “Peace and the League of Nations” declared “that it is the duty of the women of all nations to work for friendly international relations, to demand the substitution of judicial methods for those of force, and to promote the concept of human solidarity as superior to racial and national solidarity”.

Starting with the first International IAW Congress after WWII in Interlaken, August 1946, peace continually remained on IAW agenda. (Here another important change of title took place: International Alliance of Women – Equal Rights-Equal Responsibilities).

Congress adopted an important peace resolution “protesting against the use of atomic energy as a weapon of war”, urging “that the sources, scientific development, manufacture and use of atomic energy for all purposes be under the control of the United Nations” and “calling upon its members to unite in a common effort so that full support may be given to the new organisation (UN) and the principles upon which it is based”, and thereby ensuring “through national and international co-operation that the professed ideals of a community of nations, the unity of mankind and the universal brotherhood of man, may be translated into a living reality”. Congress participants also signed a petition addressed to the multilateral Paris Peace Conference of the same year. They express their hope that the treaties coming out of this conference might build a world order based upon justice and the right of people to live in freedom and harmony, protected against all forms of aggression.

Since then, IAW never ceased its efforts to “conciliate and arbitrate”, at national and regional levels through its member organizations and individual members, and through its advocacy in cooperation with the United Nations and other multilateral organizations. It was therefore with great enthusiasm that IAW welcomed Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and its following resolutions, forming the backbone of today’s efforts towards reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction – including the full participation of women – after conflicts and humanitarian crises.

Military versus social spending

“There is no business like the arms business”. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), total world military expenditure in 2012 was USD 1.75 trillion. This is equivalent to 2.5 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP). Do we have any idea what 2.5 of the global GDP would represent for social spending? Fortunately, the *Campagne tegen Wapenhandel* (www.stopwapenhandel.org) gives us some ideas when asking how many jobs could be created with a USD one billion investment.

Militarism and Gender Violence

by Rosy Weiss

The answer: 8,555 in the military, 10,779 in personal consumption, 12,804 in construction, infrastructure, 12,883 in health care, 17,687 in education, 19,795 in public transportation.

Another important source of information, published by the World Council of Churches in 2005, is a compilation of data and facts related to military spending, education and health. In its Foreword mention is made of “a silent deadly disaster taking place every day in the starvation of 24,000 people, many of whom could be saved if the world had not gotten its budget priorities so utterly wrong”. An international and interfaith “Global Priorities Campaign” (www.globalpriorities.org) states that “one half percent of the world’s military spending would save 6 million children from death each year”. Finally, the World Game (www.worldgame.org) has calculated that one third of the world’s military spending would satisfy budgetary needs for addressing all global problems, from deforestation to HIV & AIDS, from clean water to illiteracy.

For a feminist organisation such as our Alliance, it may be interesting to note that it was a woman, Ruth Sivard, who first published a comparison of military and social spending by world governments. Ms Sivard had been a high-ranking economist for the US State Department and the Arms Control and Disarmament Administration. She was able to find reliable sources for the detailed statistical information she published.

Militarism, masculinity, violence

Militarism is normally understood as the preponderance of military values and interests in politics and society based on the concept that wars are inevitable. It is a way of thinking about a proper hierarchical division of the world, based on order and obedience. “It is built through the construction of the “enemy”, the indoctrination of children, and the creation of myths about the nation and the other” (Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University, meeting 2011 on “violence against women and militarism.) “As a result, militarism is linked to nationalism. It is about control and the power relations that buttress militarism and exposes the ways in which male violence is constructed as a legitimate form of control”.

In the end, it is about control and power of definition.

In an important joint NGO statement to the CEDAW Committee submitted on the occasion of the General Discussion on Women in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations, July 18, 2013, endorsed by IAW, it is stated that “peace at home and peace in society are interlinked. A culture of militarism intimidates women from asserting their collective and individual rights, including the right to vote and participation in political decision-making. Families with ex-combatants often experience increased levels of violence”. According to CWGL “Domestic violence becomes even more dangerous when guns are present in the home” According to the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), women are three times more likely to die violently if there is a gun in the house. “Conflicts everywhere”, as it was stated at the Nobel Women’s Initiative conference, May 2013, Belfast, “target young men – and especially ‘alienated’ young men”. For Madeleine Rees (WILPF) the key problem is also – in part – one of masculinities. “War necessitates and reproduces a type of masculinity that is prepared to go and fight – and even kill – for something. Dominant models of masculinity, in turn, draw on a militarised idea of the nation.”

According to the joint NGO statement, prevention is a high priority, including first and foremost the “regulation of possession, sale, trade and criminal use of legal and illicit small arms and light weapons”... “Best practices to contain widespread harm to girls and women during conflict require further study and financial support. These include engendering early warning systems...for instance, as has been proposed by the African Union, through women’s networks serving as sources of information concerning conflicts.” Investment in education (instead of in arms manufacturing) is regarded as one of the most strategic measure to ensure personal security.

Both prevention and education are in no way new strategic goals in IAW policy making. Their application in the context of IAW’s Peace Commission policy as reflected in our Action Programme 2008-2010, could trigger innovative interlinkages and unexpected results. Please become part of safety-voices-choices by contacting: iaw.peace@womenalliance.org

*Rosy Weiss - Convenor, IAW Commission on Peace
IAW Main Representative, UN Vienna
President of IAW 2004-2010*

L'AIF et la SOFEDEC

par Lyda Verstegen

Pendant le dernier Congrès l'AIF a accueilli un nouveau membre associé, la SOFEDEC. C'est une petite organisation Congolaise avec des gros projets.

La raison pour laquelle des gens bénévoles se sont associés est que la population Congolaise est confrontée à beaucoup de problèmes d'ordre économique, surtout dans les milieux ruraux, même si cette situation n'épargne pas la population urbaine. Les problèmes sont d'origine conflictuels: la population des milieux ruraux s'est réfugiée des champs de bataille, ce qui a diminué les revenus des ménages.

Ceux qui ont subi les conséquences des guerres sont les femmes et les enfants, car elles sont victimes de plusieurs cas de violations de leur droits alors que ce sont elles qui supportent la grande charge de la famille. Les enfants, en outre sont privés de leur droit à l'éducation.

C'est dans cette optique que la SOFEDEC s'est décidée de promouvoir les femmes et les familles à travers ses différentes activités..

Pour 2013 le Conseil de Gestion a décidé de

- concevoir un programme d'accompagnement des femmes traumatisées ;
- relancer le poulailler de la SOFEDEC en achetant 15 poules des races différentes et 3 chèvres ;
- tenir un accord entre quelques responsables de confessions religieuses enfin de nous doter des salles pour encadrer les analphabètes
- élaborer un nouveau projet pour les AGR (activités génératrices de revenu) ;
- acheter 4 machines pour la coupe et couture.

Les activités réalisées :

Sensibilisation au genre et à l'autopromotion.

Cette activité s'est déroulée en faveur des leaders féminins dans les églises et au sein des groupements accompagnés.

Apart de la sensibilisation au genre et les relations hommes/femmes plus respectueuses, on a donné une formation technique sur les AGR, un séminaire pour les membres de JPE et l'équipe SOFEDEC sur l'accompagnement psycho-morale des femmes traumatisées,

et une formation des femmes sur leurs rôles dans la participation en tant que composante de la société civile.

La guerre a laissé beaucoup d'enfants orphelins, la SOFEDEC a en pris en charge 32.

Elle paie leur scolarisation, pour ce trimestre seulement, et des uniformes.

C'est comme l'eau sur un plateau brûlant, le groupe prolifère, les enquêteurs de SOFEDEC en ont repérés encore 86. Mais la SOFEDEC ne peut pas les aider plus faute de manque d'argent.

En agriculture on a loué un terrain d'un hectare et récolté 300 kg d'haricots, 250 kg de maïs et 500 kg de manioc.



Dans des sessions avec les communautés locales ils ont essayé d'intégrer l'alphabétisation dans les horaires de travail des filles analphabètes et de redynamiser l'alphabétisation dans certains districts.

Ils ont recommandé aux communautés locales de

- obliger toutes les filles employées par eux de participer aux séances d'alphabétisation;
- discuter du problème d'analphabétisme dans le conseil local et intégrer l'alphabétisation;
- sensibiliser la population féminine en passant par la société locale.

La coordinatrice de tout ce travail est une jeune femme, elle s'appelle Anuarite Siiirewabo Muyuwa. Je suis en correspondance avec elle depuis 2010 et j'ai honte de pouvoir l'aider que très peu. Tout l'aide que nous pouvons lui donner est le bienvenu. Le courriel est Sofedec@yahoo.com. Même un mot d'encouragement serait apprécié.

Lyda Verstegen

IAW President 2010-2013

Convenor, IAW Commission on Human Rights

Le Parlement européen, la fragilité de la démocratie et les droits sexuels et reproductifs à l'exemple du rapport sur la santé et les droits sexuels et génésiques (SDSG), dit rapport Estrela

Le projet de rapport sur les SDSG, édité par Edite Estrela (S&D, Portugal) a été préparé dans la commission des droits de la femme et de l'égalité des genres (FEMM). Il a reçu un vote positif en commission avant d'être soumis au Parlement en séance plénière.

Dans l'exposé des motifs, le projet de rapport évoque l'importance des droits sexuels et génésiques, fait état de la mortalité maternelle, du taux de natalité et grossesse non désirée chez les adolescentes, de l'avortement ainsi que des violences liées aux droits sexuels et génésiques et souligne l'importance de l'éducation sexuelle.

Soumis pour la première fois, le 22 octobre 2013, le projet de rapport fut renvoyé à la commission FEMM avec 351 votes en faveur du renvoi et 319 contre après une campagne enragée de la droite (religieux et conservateurs politiques).

De retour à la commission, le projet de rapport a été amendé pour tenir compte des points critiques les plus importants. De nouveau il a été soumis à un vote favorable en commission et à la plénière le 10 décembre 2013, Journée Internationale des Droits Humains. Un appel du Lobby Européen des Femmes (dont l'Alliance est membre) aux membres du Parlement européen (MPEs) à soutenir ce projet évoque justement que « les droits sexuels et reproductifs sont une partie intégrée des droits humains que tous les Etats Membres de l'Union Européenne se sont engagés à respecter, protéger et réaliser ». Le projet amendé est considéré « équilibré et juste » parce qu'il « n'impose aucune obligation aux Etats Membres, mais recommande que les gens aient accès à l'éducation sexuelle, la contraception et l'avortement sûr quand il y a besoin. Il prend en considération la violence basée sur le genre et se réfère également à la prévention et au traitement des infections sexuellement transmissibles, y compris le VIH/SIDA ».

Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé le 10 décembre ? Après l'échec d'une première tentative EFD de remplacer le rapport par une résolution alternative, rétrograde, restrictive concernant l'accès à des avortements médicalisés, une deuxième motion pour une autre résolution alternative introduite par EPP et ECR a été adoptée par 334 votes en faveur contre 327 contre et 35 abstentions. Une majorité de 7 voix a donc remplacé l'excellent rapport Estrela contenant 90 recommandations et observations substantielles et constructives par une résolution d'un seul paragraphe opérationnel.

Le voici :

Le Parlement européen,

– vu l'article 168 du traité sur le fonctionnement de l'Union européenne relatif à la santé publique, et en particulier son paragraphe 7, en vertu duquel "L'action de l'Union est menée dans le respect des responsabilités des Etats membres en ce qui concerne la définition de leur politique de santé, ainsi que l'organisation et la fourniture de services de santé et de soins médicaux",

– vu le programme d'action de la conférence internationale sur la population et le développement (CIPD) qui s'est tenue au Caire en 1994 et le programme d'action de la conférence mondiale sur les femmes qui s'est tenue à Pékin en 1995,

A. considérant que le programme d'action de la CIPD du Caire donne une définition de la santé et des droits sexuels et génésiques (SDSG);

1. observe que la définition et la mise en œuvre des politiques relatives aux SDSG et à l'éducation sexuelle dans les écoles relèvent de la compétence des Etats membres;

2. note que, même s'il appartient aux Etats membres de définir et de mettre en œuvre les politiques relatives à la santé et à l'éducation, l'Union européenne peut contribuer à promouvoir les meilleures pratiques au sein des Etats membres;

3. charge son Président de transmettre la présente résolution au Conseil et à la Commission, ainsi qu'aux gouvernements et aux parlements nationaux des Etats membres, à l'Agence des droits fondamentaux de l'Union européenne et au secrétaire général des Nations unies.

Tout ceci vous semble bien possible dans le cadre d'un processus parlementaire, démocratique ? Pourquoi donc évoquer la fragilité de la démocratie?

Dans son communiqué du 19 décembre dernier, le Lobby parle d'un « vote faussé ». Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé ? Non seulement il s'est avéré en recomptant les votes après la plénière en question qu'un certain nombre d'eux a été incorrectement comptabilisé, ce qui est déjà incroyable en soi. D'après une autre source le vote aurait aussi été faussé par un contresens de l'interprétation ! Il paraît qu'au moment du vote, l'appel de Mme Estrela en langue portugaise à **rejeter** les motions alternatives, celui-ci aurait été traduit en **Français** et **Allemand** comme un appel à voter **en faveur** de celles-ci.

Je pense que les droits des femmes méritent bien une bataille de plus. Il faut procéder à un nouveau vote sous des conditions irréfutables. A nos représentantes auprès du Lobby d'agir!

Rosy Weiss

¹À savoir : Lorsqu'un projet de rapport leur est soumis, les membres d'une commission parlementaire ont la possibilité de déposer des amendements dans un certain délai. Ces amendements font ensuite l'objet d'une discussion et d'un vote en réunion de commission. Après que le projet de rapport a été amendé et soumis à un vote final, il devient un rapport qui sera présenté en séance plénière.

² Le Parlement européen est composé de 766 députés élus dans les 28 pays membres de l'Union européenne élargie. Depuis 1979, les députés sont élus au suffrage universel direct pour une durée de 5 ans.

Groupes politiques

- Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) - PPE
- Groupe de l'Alliance Progressiste des Socialistes et Démocrates au Parlement européen – S&D
- Groupe Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe - ADLE
- Groupe des Verts/Alliance libre européenne – Verts/ALE
- Groupe des Conservateurs et Réformistes européens - ECR
- Groupe confédéral de la Gauche unitaire européenne/Gauche verte nordique – GUE/NGL
- Groupe Europe libertés démocratie - EFD
- Non-inscrits - NI

³ Vous pouvez lire le vote de vos députés ici : <http://www.lgbt-ep.eu/press-releases/religious-and-political-conservatives-block-vote-on-reproductive-health-and-rights-report/>

⁴Le vote: <http://bit.ly/1jRq29>

En médecine, les normes se réfèrent aux hommes.

Pourquoi en est-il ainsi ? Quelles en sont les conséquences pour les femmes ?*

par Gudrun Haupter

L'origine du problème: les vieux manuels tendaient à représenter l'homme comme un neutre ayant beaucoup de caractéristiques mâles. Convaincu que les patientes diffèrent des patients d'une manière significative vis à vis de maladies fréquentes, la médecine du genre essaie d'y apporter des correctifs. Le but est d'améliorer les traitements médicaux pour femmes et hommes.

Les définitions de l'OMS aident à mieux comprendre les arguments.

« Sexe » se réfère aux caractéristiques biologiques et physiologiques qui définissent l'homme et la femme. « Genre » se réfère aux rôles socialement construits, aux comportements, activités et attributs qu'une société considère appropriés aux hommes et aux femmes. Mâle et femelle sont donc des catégories du terme sexe, masculin et féminin relèvent du genre. Les aspects de sexe ne varient pas substantiellement parmi les différentes sociétés humaines, tandis que des aspects du genre peuvent largement varier.

Des exemples pour illustrer la situation:

- Dûs surtout à des différences métaboliques la prévalence, les symptômes et l'évolution d'une maladie ne sont pas égaux pour les deux sexes. Ils produisent des taux différents d'hormones sexuelles ce qui impacte sur toutes les cellules du corps. C'est pour cela que beaucoup de médicaments agissent différemment chez les femmes et les hommes.
- De même, l'influence de facteurs de risque varie parfois suivant le sexe : les femmes sont plus sensibles aux effets nuisibles de la nicotine et aux taux élevés de glucose dans le sang.
- Des cardiologues informé(e)s peuvent épargner de véritables Odyssées aux femmes avec des symptômes pas tout à fait semblables à ceux décrits dans les manuels. Un diagnostic correct dès le début, de toute évidence permet aussi de réaliser des économies dans le système de santé.
- Pour les médicaments anti-dépressifs et chimiothérapiques les différences sont particulièrement prononcées quant aux effets secondaires chez les femmes.
- Bien qu'elles souffrent plus fréquemment de rhumatismes ce sont les hommes qui profitent plus fréquemment de mesures thérapeutiques modernes et, en plus, quelques médicaments agissent mieux sur eux.
- Les réactions à une dépression diffèrent également, cela est connu. Les hommes, s'ils ne peuvent plus se passer d'aide médicale, ont tendance à évoquer des symptômes physiques comme des maux de tête.
- Dans la recherche et le développement de médicaments les femmes sont largement exclues des groupes de volontaires. L'argument principal est qu'il est difficile d'exclure une femme enceinte des volontaires féminines.

Il est vrai que cela coûte, mais cela peut se faire. D'ailleurs les maladies populaires fréquentes tel le diabète, les maladies cardio-vasculaires ou les apoplexies frappent surtout au-delà de 60 ans.

De larges études pharmacologiques avec des volontaires des deux sexes pourraient donc être réalisées sans coût additionnel pour des tests de grossesse. Préférer choisir des hommes s'explique aussi par le fait qu'en général, ils posent moins de questions quant au protocole de l'étude et des effets secondaires éventuels. En plus, ils sont plus mobiles disposant souvent de la voiture de la famille et, plutôt flexibles étant fréquemment exempts des obligations familiales.

Les experts de la médecine du genre formulent les exigences suivantes:

La conscientisation systématique de la profession médicale concernant, surtout, les différences métaboliques ; inclure la matière dans la formation universitaire et, pour atteindre le but envisagé, en faire une matière d'examen. Le devoir de la politique sanitaire ne doit pas se limiter à des campagnes à l'égard de certaines maladies. Il faut plutôt investir systématiquement dans la recherche, avec l'objectif d'établir en quoi hommes et femmes diffèrent et en quoi ils se ressemblent.

Des résultats obtenus doivent découler des stratégies de traitement et de prévention, sans oublier le développement de médicaments.

Ces mesures aideraient à mieux focaliser l'attention sur les besoins des femmes dans le système de Santé et d'éviter des diagnostics et traitements discriminatoires.

Les femmes ne sont pas des hommes en miniature ! Des formules telles « la femme dévie des normes » en disent long.

Le progrès

Il varie de pays en pays. Aux Etats-Unis, il y a 10 ans, 30 % des généralistes savaient que les maladies cardio-vasculaires sont, chez les femmes, la cause la plus fréquente de mort. À présent, 60 % en sont au courant. Le développement est pareil en Allemagne. Le Canada, la Norvège et la Suède se partagent le rôle de précurseur. L'OMS œuvre à sensibiliser son personnel à tous les niveaux pour mieux prendre en compte les différences en matière de santé dues au genre et au sexe et, en même temps, promouvoir les femmes et les filles.

La page <http://www.who.int/gender/documents/en/> présente toute une série de fiches d'information à cet effet, mais seulement en Anglais

* Les arguments sont tirés d'une interview de la *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* du 5 Janvier 2014, de la Professeure Vera Regitz-Zagrosek, directrice de l'Institut pour la recherche du genre en médecine, à Berlin.

Gudrun Haupter
AIF, Commission Santé
Janvier 2014

Politique de l'égalité Femmes-Hommes: Des avancées en France

En France la question de l'égalité est redevenue une politique publique, à part entière, portée par tous les ministres. Parmi les "45 mesures qui changent la donne" du premier ministre de France, Mr Jean Pierre Ayrault, en voici quelques unes :

- L'égalité professionnelle devient pour les entreprises de plus 50 salariés une véritable obligation;
- Afin de lutter contre les mariages forcés et les mutilations sexuelles féminines, la France a inclus dans la loi du 5 août 2013 la convention d'Istanbul et prévu la répression des actes de contrainte au mariage et d'incitation à subir une mutilation génitale. Le projet de loi pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes a été pourvu de dispositions permettant à la France de ne pas reconnaître les mariages forcés contractés à l'étranger;
- 18 septembre 2013 : le Sénat a adopté, à une large majorité, le projet de loi pour l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes. De plus, le Sénat a enrichi le texte d'importantes avancées;
- 14 Octobre 2013 : la Ministre des droits des femmes, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem a levé les réserves de la France sur la Convention CEDEF;
- 17 Octobre 2013 : un palmarès, distingue désormais les entreprises selon la place qu'elles donnent aux femmes dans leurs instances dirigeantes;
- Un plan triennal de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes prévoit un doublement des moyens, y compris 1650 places d'hébergement d'urgence nouvelles d'ici 2017, 350 intervenants sociaux en commissariat et brigade de gendarmerie, et l'ouverture 7 jours sur 7 d'un numéro unique pour les victimes;
- 4 Décembre 2013 : La proposition de loi visant à renforcer la lutte contre le système prostitutionnel;
- Le 21 Janvier 2014 : Malgré les réticences d'un certain nombre de parlementaires hommes qui voulaient même que la Sécurité Sociale ne rembourse plus l'IVG (interruption volontaire de grossesse), la notion de "situation de détresse" pour justifier un avortement disparaît de la loi. "Une femme n'a pas à justifier sa liberté de porter à terme sa grossesse " a dit la Ministre des Droits des Femmes.

« Nous ne devons oublier aucun domaine de l'action publique » a dit le Premier Ministre. « Tous les ministres se sont ainsi impliqués personnellement dans la rédaction d'une feuille de route pour l'égalité femmes – hommes dans leur champ de compétences. Le suivi de ces feuilles de route a été confié à de hauts fonctionnaires en dialogue permanent avec le Ministère des droits des femmes ».

*Danielle Levy, Monique Bouaziz
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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS / NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

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