

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter December 2017 No 5

In this issue:

1. Presentation of the Editorial Committee
2. New organisations
3. CSW 2018
4. Water and Pads Project
5. Board meeting 2018
6. EWL
7. 16 days campaign
8. #MeToo Campaign
9. UNHCR

Dear members and subscribers.

We have a new editorial committee! Welcome to Cheryl Hayles, Christina Knight and Miriam Kollberg.

New organisations joined IAW at Congress. We plan to make a presentation of each of them in this and the following Newsletters.

NB! There is very important information about CSW62 in the Newsletter

Christina Knight has written an article about the #MeToo campaign. We would very much like to hear from our readers about the #MeToo campaign in their countries. We welcome photos, reports, information about events and effects.

Happy Holidays and may all your celebrations prepare you for a Happy New Year.

New editorial committee

The new editorial committee consists of the following:

Cheryl Hayles is a newly elected board member. She is fully bilingual (English/French), and has been an educator in the Public Education System. She is skilled at networking and accessing resources to advance the feminist agenda.

[Read more](#)

Christina Knight has over 30 years experience of working in the communications industry as a copywriter and creative director

[Read more](#)



Miriam Limås Kollberg has a B.Sc in Strategic Communications and an M.Sc in Sociology with a focus on gender studies from University of Amsterdam. She is currently working full time as Political Advisory Press Secretary at the Fredrika Bremer Association in Sweden. Prior to that she worked as a PR-consultant in London and Stockholm. Beside her professional career she has been engaged in several civil society organizations and is currently chair person at Tamam Stockholm, a local NGO that organizes activities for immigrants.

IAW welcomes new members

Canadian Federation of University Women:

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), a new Affiliate member of IAW, is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 CFUW clubs, located in every province across Canada. Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace. It holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Sub-Commission to UNESCO.

More new members will be introduced in coming Newsletters

CSW 2018

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Each delegate for CSW must register herself for CSW

Online video series for new comers to CSW

CSW 2018

The Commission on the Status of Women 62nd Session (CSW62) will be held at UN Headquarters in New York March 12 to 23, 2018.

Information can be found here: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw62-2018>

A new system for registration (Indico) has been introduced. It directs that first, each delegate must create her own personal account in the UN system. After she has created the account and received an email where she is told to activate her account, she can register for CSW62. The way to do all this is carefully described here. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/ngo-participation/registration>.

If members need more information about this, contact Lene Pind at lenepind@gmail.com

NGO CSW/NY has created an online Orientation video series for those who are new to CSW. A new video covering different topics will be released every week. These videos contain helpful information, advice, and how to instructions to prepare you for CSW62.

Look for videos on the [NGO CSW/NY Youtube Channel](#).

New Action programme

At the 37th Congress in Cyprus a new action programme was adopted. Prior to Congress, comprehensive work had been carried out by the commission conveners and their working groups.

The Action Programme has seven pillars: Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, Human Rights, Climate Change, Health, Peace, Women and the Economy, and Democracy.

The Action Programme is available on the [website](#)

Natalie Kostus has written an article on the [Climate Change section of the AP](#)



Reusable pads in the UNHCR emergency kit for women refugees

Make a donation to the project. Go to the website, click on the donate button in the top menu and follow instructions



The Junior Mayor of Harare giving his speech on the Million Pad Campaign.



Water and Pads for School-Girls –Empowerment for Life

Gudrun Haupter and Ursula Nakamura report:

As mentioned in the November Newsletter, the IAW Congress decided to carry out a project called “Water and Pads” with the purpose of providing sanitary pads for schoolgirls. Before taking full action, the specific needs in the developing countries have to be known. Therefore the steering group has sent a questionnaire both in English and French to all IAW member organizations working in the relevant regions. The first part of the paper deals with the current situation in their country e.g.: Can all girls get some basic information about health in school? Is menstruation regarded as a taboo preventing girls from attending school? Is the access to water difficult resulting in poor or non-existing toilets?

The second part of the questionnaire addresses the IAW member organizations directly: Do they already have experience with similar activities or projects? Can their organization collect more background information about menstrual health or establish direct contacts with schools and / or official authorities?

Most importantly- will this IAW organization actively participate in the “Water and Pad Project”?

Hopefully, a significant number of positive answers will have reached us before the end of 2017.

As a next step fundraising will be in the focus. This is where IAW members in developed countries could get involved. Through their networks they might approach private foundations or other donors for a financial support to the “Water and Pads Project”.

Spontaneous contributions, however small, are very welcome: On the IAW website just click on the button “donation” and indicate “Water and Pad project” – thank you very much in advance!

Million Pad Campaign

In Zimbabwe two of our members, **Cleo Matimbe and Tunica Miranda Ruza-rio** worked together with Zimbabwe UN Association to commemorate the Orange Day campaign. Hopefully the Million Pad Campaign and the Water and Pads Project can come together

[Read more](#)

Board Meeting October 23 to 28 2018

Berlin

The Deutsche Frauenring e. V. is looking forward to hosting the next IAW Board meeting in the City of Berlin.

The meeting will include a regional seminar on crucial aspects of the UNSCR 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" and will be a great chance for members to discuss how to improve and accelerate the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

UNSCR 1325 is mainly seen as a success. But, there are some critical aspects. Wars and armed conflicts including violence against women as a war crime seem to be increasing. The German Foreign office is invited to discuss plans at the international level. At a 'Peace Table' women who are engaged in peace processes (Iraq, Syria, Columbia, Ukraine) will present their views on the provisions of 1325, their needs and demands.

The program of the week includes a reception by the Berlin Land Parliament's ruling parties in honour of IAW on occasion of "100 years of women's vote",

The European Women's Lobby



A room with a view

Feminist with a To-Do List

Arina Angerman, representing IAW in Board of European Women's Lobby (EWL)

After writing my report for the IAW Booklet, preparations started for the Board Meeting of EWL in Vienna in October 2017. Nearly 40 Board Members from all over Europe met. After opening this link you can read about Austria as EU president in 2018. Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria - holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, presented a trio declaration on gender equality on 19th of July 2017. Bulgaria cooperates with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) with a focus on the topic of 'Women in the digital world.' (in the first part of 2018)

The new EIGE Index 2017 (3rd edition) was published in October 2017 and "shows progress in gender equality is moving forward at a snail's pace". In the EU, in 2015, the domain of power has made the biggest progress of all domains of the Gender Equality Index since 2005. "The domain of power measures gender equality in decision-making positions across the political, economic and social spheres. The sub-domain of political power examines the representation of women and men in national parliaments, government and regional/local assemblies." The EU28 average is 53. Greece has 35 and Sweden has 94. [Link http://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2015/domain/power](http://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2015/domain/power)

Beyond December 10th

By Cheryl Hayles , Vice President North America



The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, November 25th, launched the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. Civil Society is paying attention to the trauma that is inflicted on women just because they have the two X chromosomes. While the campaign ends on December 10th, Human Rights Day, the attention to gender based violence must continue beyond 16 days.

Did you know that in Canada...

\$7.4 billion is the economic impact of violence against women <http://www.awhl.org/violence-against-women-stats>

4,000 Missing or murdered Indigenous women and girls (1980 – 2012)
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/mmiw-4000-hajdu-1.3450237>

87% sexual assault victims are women <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54866-eng.htm>

80% assault victims are women and girls <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/54842-eng.pdf>

- 73% women & children turned away from shelters due to lack of capacity
<https://globalnews.ca/news/2668480/73-of-canadian-women-and-children-who-seek-emergency-shelter-are-turned-away-survey/>



Cheryl Hayles

0.3% of all founded sexual-assault reports lead to conviction <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/sexual-assault-rate-stays-steady-in-canada-despite-dropping-rates-of-other-crimes-study/article35662317/>

Every 6 days, a woman is killed by her intimate partner <https://crcvc.ca/2015/10/16/every-6-days-a-woman-in-canada-is-killed-by-her-intimate-partner-action-is-needed/>

Unfortunately the Canadian statics are not unique. The United States of America has a current list of stories which embody similar statics. The more infamous ones make it to the evening news. We have heard of the news anchor who had a switch under his desk to lock the door so he could prey on women in his office, a powerful Hollywood producer who for years had been sexually abusing women, and a politician who targeted under age girls from a position of power.

While the world is shocked at the behaviour of these once trusted men we must remember they did not operate in isolation. Their community knew what they were doing. It is possible the people in the aggressor's inner circle, like the victims, may have been afraid to report the cycle of violence. While fear of repercussion is a deterrent to reporting a gender based crime, it does not excuse the bystanders who turned a blind eye or offered no support to the victims. Making a difference in the statics of gender based violence is as simple as looking out for your colleague or friend at work. When women have each other's back it makes it more difficult for men to isolate and exploit them.

However, being vigilant and supportive is not enough. There must be laws that protect women, accessible treatment centres specific to gender based violence and victim blaming must stop. If we are to create safe communities that are free of gender based violence, the entire community must be vigilant. Creating safe communities must be a local effort as well as national and international in its scope. I encourage everyone to continue the campaign

against gender based violence beyond December 10th or we will never be safe nor can we wait until next year to pick up the gauntlet!



Christina Knight

#MeToo You will remember this as a revolution!

By Christina Knight, member of the editorial group

Ever since early October, when The New York Times and The New Yorker first shared the stories of the Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein's decades-long abuse of women, the hashtag #MeToo has exploded on social media worldwide, as a means for women to share their stories.

Originally, the term was coined by the social activist Tarana Burke in 2006 as part of a grassroots campaign to promote "empowerment through empathy" among women of color who have experienced sexual abuse, particularly within underprivileged communities. The phrase was then picked by actress Alyssa Milano, who encouraged women to tweet their experiences and thereby show how widespread misogynistic behavior is, not only in Hollywood: "If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too.' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem."

The hashtag has spread like wild fire to at least 85 countries, using variations on the phrase, like for example "BalanceTonPorc" (Denounce Your Pig) in France. It seems as if the country where the MeToo-revolution caught on the strongest is Sweden, which might be surprising as Sweden is also rated as one, if not the, most gender equal society in the world.

[Click here to read the rest of the article here](#)

The editorial committee urgently invites IAW members to us [at lenepind@gmail.com](mailto:atlene-pind@gmail.com) articles on the experiences with the #MeToo Campaign in their countries.

"SCARED GIRLS TIPTOE TO NOWHERE. EMPOWERED GIRLS LEAP TO STRENGTH, INSPIRATION AND GREATNESS ~ Sylvia Baffour



Tunica teaching hygiene and sanitary disposal

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 11 October 2017

Report by Cleo Matimbe and Tunica Miranda Ruzario, Zimbabwe

Furamera High School is located 70km outside of Harare the capital city of Zimbabwe. Members of IAW Cleopatra Matimbe and Tunica Miranda Ruzario volunteered at Zimbabwe UN association and embarked the girl child campaign.

On the 11th of October we went to Furamera high school for the international day of the girl child. This rural school has over 500 students. We had a turnout of 270 girl students. The girls were taught about violence against women and young girls, the rights of the girl child and about hygiene and sanitation. Cleopatra focused her teachings on dangers of early child marriages the importance of staying in school. The health risks associated with getting pregnant at a young age as well as sexually transmitted diseases.

On a one on one session with the students they pointed out poverty as the main reason of dropping out of school and getting married early. The extent of poverty in that area was so extreme that during their monthly period some girls do not come for classes because they do not have sanitary wear. Some use leaves, maize cobs and even cow dung.

Tunica taught on hygiene and sanitary and had a tutorial on how to use and dispose of pads during one's monthly cycle.

To increase the interaction between the volunteers and the students, we had a question and answer segment, which lead to giving out prizes in form of pads, soap and bathing sponges.

International Safe Abortion Day

On the occasion of International Safe Abortion Day (September 28) a group of United Nations human rights experts* issued the following statement:

"Women's ability to make free choices for themselves and their families should not be privileges reserved for the rich, but should be the right of every woman and girl around the world. The same is true of the right to health and to freedom from discrimination.

Too many women around the world still continue to suffer from discriminatory laws that restrict their access to adequate health care and limit their abilities to make the best choices for themselves and their families.

To mark this year's International Safe Abortion Day, we urge all States to end the criminalization of abortion and to ensure that all women are able to access all necessary health services, including sexual and reproductive health care, in a manner that is safe, affordable and consistent with their human rights.

We urge States to ensure that their laws, policies and practices are built on their human rights obligations and on the recognition of women's dignity and autonomy."

[Read more](#)

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