Dear members and subscribers.

The Women’s March on Washington and its Sister Marches throughout the world were an impressive manifestation of opposition to the values of the new US administration. IAW was part of the marches from Washington DC to Australia.

At CSW61 (March 15 to 25) IAW will have a parallel event on sexism.

We have news about the work of IAW following the board meeting in Zimbabwe and from some of our international representatives.

Koulla Koumides invites us all to join our Cypriot member organization for Congress in Cyprus.

Finally news from around the world  ENJOY!

The Women’s March on Washington January 21

The day after the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the USA, 500,000 people—mostly women—marched in Washington to protest against the new president’s disparagement of women, minorities and immigrants.

Sister Marches took place all over the US and throughout the world.

January 21 was a historic day. Now the energy, solidarity, pressure must be kept up.

We may all contribute to this, among other things by supporting the initiatives of The Women’s March Movement or following The Women’s March on facebook.

IAW was present in several marches:

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW main representative to the UN New York has sent this message from Washington DC :

"The IAW was at the Women’s March on Washington DC. We chanted, "Welcome to your first day. Trump, we will not go away". There were more than 600 marches worldwide, 3 million people involved, nearly half a million in DC and marches in all states. Soon-Young Yoon said "My voice is hoarse but guess what? We could be heard at the White House"."
Susanne Riveles, IAW representative to WICC, Washington, reports from Washington DC:

I have demonstrated many, many times in my life but never in a crowd of that size. Close to 500,000 women and men from all walks of life, of all colors and ages, particularly many young people, spilled into the rented buses from far and close. We, in Baltimore, started at 5:30 in the morning in a chartered bus. Regular means of transport were booked out.

I marched with my friends from Seattle, Toronto and Boston and an additional group of good friends from Bosnia, who are living in Baltimore since they exiled from Srebrenica (former Yugoslavia).

The message of all the women was about women’s rights to choice, health care, not to be grabbed by the "p", liberal immigration laws and peace. Trump was laughed about, and the whole atmosphere was one of solidarity and joy among the people demonstrating. The weather was a constant drizzle but nobody cared, wearing these silly pink knitted woolen hats. There were a good number of men marching with us, and at least 3 groups of independent women film makers. At 13:00 o’clock the march was to start but we did not fit into the march route and so the police cancelled the march and at the same time opened all the downtown streets surrounding the White House and the Washington Monument. The ruly and chanting crowd spilled, with the help of the police, into the downtown city, and for 2 hours there was NO traffic, buses or cars anywhere near.

Everyone marching was aware of the historic event and people came up with the most extraordinary chants.

Here are a few: "a woman’s place is in the resistance" (W.de Bois), HO,HO, no fuss- the real men are anyway with us", "this pussy fights back", "democrats pick up the slack- we will never go back" 'we don’t want your tiny hands- anywhere near our underpants", "the future is female"

In my analysis this march will be the start of a movement that will not go away, and as you have seen women around the globe marched in solidarity. We, as IAW, should find ways to connect and support this still fledgling international movement. It is a place where IAW fits well.

Alison Brown, former Secretary General of IAW, was in Indianapolis:

The Indianapolis sister rally to the Women’s March was wonderful. Whereas Trump delivered his inaugural speech in the drizzle, we women had balmy sunny days. Reports are that half a million women converged on downtown DC today. More than twice what had been expected. 5000 of them were from Indiana.

I would guess at least 2-3 thousand were at the sister rally in Indianapolis. We were late, spent half an hour trying to find a parking spot in a nearby garage - the streets were all full and the parking garages filled up as well! The Indianapolis Star (not a liberal newspaper) reported "Thousands attend the Women's March Indianapolis rally, a sister rally of the Women's March on Washington, on the west side of the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017" Some of my favorite signs were: "Girls just want to have fun-damental human rights", "Girls just want to have fun-ding for Planned Parenthood", and a picture of the Statue of Liberty with the caption "I'm with her" which was the Clinton campaign slogan, which I had on my car. There was also a picture of the iconic statue from the Indianapolis War Memorial on Monument Circle: with the slogan Hoosier Women Unite.

There was one more funny sign (alongside all of the serious ones about
Women's Rights = Human Rights) and it read "Melania, if you need help, blink twice - we pussycats got your back!"

Lyda Verstegen—IAW Honorary President, was in The Hague:

There were over 500 women to march in the Hague. These are the remainders. I arrived at 3, but it had started at 1 o'clock.

The Hague

Joanna Manganara, IAW President:

I participated in the demonstration that took place in Syntagma Square. There were many people, the majority women. There were also refugees and their children asking to go to school.

Athens - Greece

Margunn Bjørnholt, former chair of the Norwegian Association of Women's Rights, former chair the Norwegian Women's Lobby and former board-member of IAW

In Oslo, 2000 attended the March, a varied crowd of old and young Norwegians of different colours and genders, and a considerable share of Americans. The initiative came from Brit-Agnes Sverri, and she was soon joined by others, individuals as well as organisations. In addition to showing solidarity with the American people, the cold winds are felt in Norway, too. The march comes at a time when members of the Norwegian government actively target and try to discredit feminists and environmentalists. The minister of integration, Sylvi Listhaug, the Norwegian Progress Party (Fremskrittspartiet) has fiercely criticized opponents of the Norwegian refugee policy, which is now among the most restrictive in Europe, using derogatory labels like “goodness tyrants” against those who argue for a more generous policy. She has lashed out against the “feminist elite”, and minister of finance Siv Jensen, also from the Progress Party, recently also elite-bashed the environmental movement in an eulogy to the oil industry. Another sign of the trumpisation of politics is the appointment just before Christmas of Terje Søviknes as minister of oil and energy, fifteen years after he admitted to having sex with an intoxicated 16 year old girl at the annual meeting in the Youth of the Progress Party that he attended as a representative of the Progress Party, and then lying about it in agreement with the party leadership. Upon taking office in December 2016, Søviknes claimed to be more worried about the low oil prices than global warming. As has perhaps now become clear the Progress party is a right wing, populist party, which holds central positions in the conservative coalition government in Norway. Their former party leader Carl Ivar Hagen has also made a political come-back recently. Last autumn, he publicly defended Trump's pussy-grabbing as just normal men's locker room talk. He also publicly rejects human made climate change.

In conclusion, in Norway, too, gender equality, immigration, diversity and integration and the environment are intertwined and demand broader alliances. So far the resistance has been weak and fragmented, but hopefully the women’s march marks the beginning of a stronger resistance here and all over the world.

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Oslo - Norway
Louise Lindfors, President of Fredrika Bremer Förbundet, speaking at the march:

Signe Vahlun, IAW Board member and Vice President of the Danish Women’s Society, reports:

In Denmark the Danish Women’s Society joined in the Women’s march together with 5000 other engaged feminists and citizens choosing to demonstrate their concern publicly on this cold Saturday in January. The march started at the American Embassy and walked through the streets of Copenhagen ending up at Parliament. Here speeches condemned Trump’s sexist, homophobic and racist presidential campaign, and there was a collective concern about how his politics would affect negatively on women’s right.

Signe Vahlun expressed her concerns live on national television.

Renée Gérard, IAW representative to UNESCO, sends this report

In France an appeal for a march in solidarity was made by forty women’s associations. Many other associations and individuals, men and women, joined spontaneously. The crowd was estimated to have 7000 participants and the march was dignified.

It started at Trocadero on the "parvis des droits de l'homme" and marched towards the Wall of Peace across the Seine river.

Posters demanded respect for all women’s human rights, but also stated that democracy and equality of women and men are basic values. Some ironically claimed that pussies have claws, some being presented as tigers. Lots of posters in English demonstrated that a lot of Americans abroad were there, but also people from Asia and the Middle East, all voicing their concerns about everything from abortion to climate change.

The march demonstrated that women can reach out making their voices heard when they speak about democracy and human rights. I participated with my French association CLEF, French Coordination of the European Women’s Lobby.

A delegation of members of Vrouwenbelangen headed by Artemis Westenberg went to Washington DC:

Artemis: I can’t believe I still have to protest this shit.
Women’s Electoral Lobby organised marches in a number of cities in Australia.

Afterwards they sent out the following message:

On Saturday 21st January millions of women united to support the Women’s March on Washington protesting President Trump’s inauguration and reconfirming that women will not be silent in the face of those who threaten our rights. Australian women joined over 673 sister marches across six continents to take a stand against sexism, discrimination and misogyny, to show our commitment to the progress we’ve made in the name of equality and equal rights.

'WEL' done to the women of Australia and women across the world.

IAW joins WEL in saying:

Now is the time for us to organise, to join together, raise our voices and use the momentum of the powerful marches held all over the world.

Join IAW now

Commission on the Status on Women 61

Good news for IAW: President Joanna Manganara is now a member of the Europe-North America Caucus at NGO CSW/ NY

24 members of IAW will attend CSW61, most of whom will represent IAW, while others will be members of their government’s delegation.

IAW parallel event:

NGO CSW/NY has decided that NGOs are only allowed one parallel event. IAW will be holding the following event: Sexism’s effect on women in the workplace, at the Church Center, at 2.30 on March 15.

More information about IAW activities during CSW will be circulated to delegates by Secretary General Regina Smit.

IAW Statement for CSW61

News from IAW:

Follow up on Board Meeting:

At the Board Meeting in Zimbabwe, President Joanna Manganara proposed that IAW sets up 3 working groups to look into how to improve the workings of IAW. The working groups have now been established:

1. Working group on the internal organization of IAW:
Regina Smit:

Last year in December 2016, I started as Secretary General for the International Alliance of Women. I traveled to Lene Pind’s in Copenhagen, Denmark. She explained a lot of things to me. Two days of hard work for both of us, but she explained it very well, and I am grateful for her help.

One item was the designation of representatives to the UN in New York, Vienna, Paris and Geneva.

The following IAW members are 2017 representatives:

**New York**:
- Ms Soon-Young Yoon as New York Main Representative
- Ms Irini Nike Sarlis as New York Additional Representative
- Judith Gordon as New York Additional Representative
- Natalia Kostus as New York Additional Representative
- Lyna Castillo-Javier as New York Additional Representative

**UN Geneva**
- Arielle Wagenknecht as Geneva Main Representative
- Lyda Verstegen as Geneva Additional Representative
- Esther Suter as Geneva Additional Representative

**UN Vienna**
- Rosa-Anna Weiss as Vienna Main Representative
- Daniela Reiter as Additional Representative
- Erica van Engel as Additional Representative for UNIDO

**UNESCO Paris**
- Monique Bouaziz Main Representative
- Danielle Levy
- Renée Gérard

**ILO Geneva**
- Arielle Wagenknecht as main representative
- Lyda Verstegen as Additional Representative
- Joanna Manganara President International Alliance of Women
- Regina Smit Secretary General International Alliance of Women

**FAO**
- Jessika Kehl-Lauff

**WHO**
- Seema Uplekar
- Gudrun Haupter

Joanna Manganara, President and Regina Smit, Secretary General represent IAW at all UN Offices.

I look forward to reading the reports from the representatives in the IAW Newsletter.

Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for IAW, moderated a panel on “Realizing gender equality: How can social mobilization empower women and girls and close the gender gap” during the WHO 9th Global Conference on Health Promotion held in Shanghai 21-24 November. Speakers included mirai Chatterjee, Director of Social Security, Self-employed Women Associ-
Under the watchful eye of Li Kiqiang, China’s prime minister, 14 million people living in Shanghai went smoke-free—keeping women and girls safer from second-hand smoke.

http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/9gchp/programme/shanghai2016-agenda.pdf?ua=1

http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/9gchp/en/

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to book in a four star hotel where a meal will be offered including a drink at a very good price and tea/coffee all the day long. The hotel is situated at walking distance from the old city of Nicosia. Therefore, when the conference work is over, participants could walk down the city alleys, buy souvenirs from “Laiki Gitonia”, visit galleries or enjoy a dinner in several restaurants and taverns. There, you can find a variety of different food like Asian, Chinese, Italian, American and of course the traditional delicious Cypriot food.

We are also organizing an excursion to Paphos, which is the European Capital of Culture for 2017. In Paphos there are the perfectly preserved mosaics in the huge archaeological site. We will visit Kolossi’s medieval tower and Kourio, where an ancient theatre has survived with excellent acoustics.

All Pakistan Women’s Association (APWA)

S. Ayesha Javeri, Executive Vice President, sends this report:

Alongside the running of daily projects such as education at our schools, health at our clinics and craft at our industrial centres, this year we reopened a training and selling shop on our premises in the heart of the city.

This shop called “Pink Building” has encouraged women to put up their home made wares for sale and from the money received, to leave 10% to cover our expenses of electricity, tax and the supervisor. We had an enthusiastic response from housewives who brought their jams and chutneys, from artisan women who exhibited their pottery and of course from our jail projects.

The Jail Project was started in the late 90’s by the APWA Youth Brigade, who were students and graduates. They empathized with the captive women, often completely innocent in a male dominated atmosphere, and APWA sent a teacher to instruct their sewing and handicrafts, with machines provided by APWA. Today it has grown into a fully fledged industry that puts up articles for sale at exhibitions. The proceeds and the stipends after expenses, are given to these women to use, and this encourages them to become entrepreneurs when they are released. So they are cared for and the world is cared for too, for if they are guilty they will now have an incentive to stay straight.

Continue reading

Trump reintroductes the Gag Band

One of the new US President’s first actions targets women of the world.

“This is much bigger than abortion,” says Musimbi Kanyoro, President and CEO of Global Fund for Women. “The global gag rule affects family planning, maternal health, HIV prevention and services, sex education for young people—it affects the whole of women’s health care around the world. Reinstating this policy directly targets the world’s women and girls, and rolls back reproductive health and rights globally.”

Occupy the Night Streets

In India women took to the streets on January 21 to protest against mass molestation of women.

Read more
In China local grassroots women challenge discrimination and violence
Read more

Afghanistan's worsening security has forced about 1000 schools to close this year

Geraldine Bridgewater, IAW member, is the author of a newly published book:

The Politics of Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom, - Difficulties in Transforming Government Policies into Projects at the Grass Root Level.

The book is available from Amazon, Waterstones and all other good bookshops.

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Arina Angerman writes:

In January many, many women and men joined the more than 600 Women’s Marches in USA and Sister Marches in other places … The first time I heard about a Sister March in Amsterdam was when Rosa Manus (1881-1942) The International Life and Legacy of a Jewish Dutch Feminist a collective biography edited by Myriam Everard & Francisca de Haan was presented. Rosa Manus was an intimate friend of Carry Chapman Catt, the 1st president of IAW, and a Peace Activist in the 1930s, who with her team, organized “a parade of representatives of the women’s organizations from the fifty-six petitioning nations that had collected over nine million petitions worldwide” to the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, February 6th 1932 (page 143). Rosa Manus a.o. was vice-president of IAW and became a member of the IAW International Committee of Women for Peace and the League of Nations (Peace Committee) when it was established in 1926.

Equal means Equal
- a documentary on the status of women in the USA

Now is the time to make a donation to the work of IAW:
DONATE NOW

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Membership Officer: iaw.membership@womenalliance.org