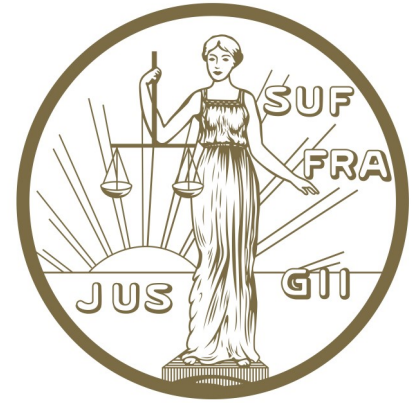


# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities  
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



## Newsletter November 2017 No 5

In this issue:

1. Congress
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*Dear members and subscribers.*

*The 37th Congress of IAW was successful. It was a small congress, but important decisions were made and IAW is moving forward.*

*Participants have brief evaluations of Congress. Their contributions are in the grey boxes*

*Climate Change is a key issue—in particular for women. We have a report from COP 23 in Bonn*

*CSW 62 is coming up. Members who wish to participate must contact the Secretary General*

### Congress



**Koulla Koumides**

### Congress 20—28 October 2017 Nicosia, Cyprus

#### Welcome

*The PANCYPRIAN MOVEMENT Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities* headed by President Koulla Koumides offered a very warm welcome to IAW delegates from about 11 countries. In addition to the business sessions, the programme for the meeting included a seminar, two excursions and congress dinner. This programme gave us all a very comprehensive introduction to the rich culture of Cyprus.

*As a first time visitor to an IAW event I really appreciated the welcoming atmosphere in the organisation. It was particularly inspiring to learn that IAW has a strong focus on engaging young feminists and that discussions on how to apply an intersectional feminist perspective were held. I look forward to working together and strengthening IAW as an intergenerational and international feminist platform!"*

**Miriam Limås-Kollberg**



#### New member organisations:

8 organisations were admitted as members of IAW. They are:

**Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (France)**

**Canadian Federation of University Women CFUW-FCFDU - Canada**

**General Arab Women Federation GAWF - Egypt**

**Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN) - Uganda**

**Association Féminine Songmanégré pour le Développement, A.F.D - Morocco**

**ntengwe for community development - Zimbabwe**

**Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development of India - India**

**Ladies Circle of Cameroon – Cameroon**

We hope to introduce the new members in the following issues of the Newsletter.

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has already described why they have chosen to join IAW. [Read more](#)



Joanna Manganara-



Arielle Wagenknecht

**The new board** (from the left)

Danielle Levy, Ester Suter, Horeya Megahed, Natalie Kostus, Arielle Wagenknecht, Joanna Manganara, Signe Vahlun, Ruhi Sayid, Evgenia Tsoumani, Monique Bouaziz.

Unfortunately, a number of newly elected members were absent from the meeting.

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### New Board

As always at Congress a new board is elected. The new IAW Board consists of the following:

President Joanna Manganara, Greece

Treasurer Rosy Weiss, Austria

Secretary General Arielle Wagenknecht, Switzerland

### Other elected members:

Monique Bouaziz, France

Danielle Levy, France

Kalyani Raj, India

Manju Kak, India

Ruhi Sayed, Pakistan

Cheryl Hayles, Canada

Signe Vahlun, Denmark

Christina Knight, Sweden

Eugenia Tsoumani, Greece

Horeya Megahed, Egypt

Johanna Sterbin, USA

Natalia Kostus, USA

Eleni Christodoulou, Cyprus

Melina Georgiou, Cyprus

Anuarite Siiriwuba Muyuma, DR Congo

Ester Suter, Switzerland

Arthie Schimmel, Netherlands

Rita Marque Mbatha, Zimbabwe

KG Vijayalekshmi, India

Rivka Lazovska, Israel

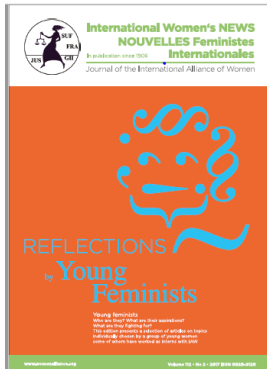




Lyda Verstegen—convener  
of Constitution Committee

## Revised Constitution

A revision of the IAW Constitution was adopted at Congress. One major change is the reduction of the number of board members from "up to 20 members" to "up to 15 members" in addition to the President, Treasurer and Secretary General. Hopefully this smaller number will allow for a more effective and efficient Board. The new Constitution is available [here](#).



## International Women's News (IWNews)

IAW's treasured journal, International Women's News, which has been in publication since 1906, has undergone a great change in recent years. The issue that was published during Congress has as its theme *Reflections by Young Feminists*. This new format where each issue focuses on one theme has received much positive response. However, in order to find out how the IAW membership in general views IWNews, Congress decided to proceed with an evaluation of IWNews. Do members find the journal interesting? Relevant? Worth reading? Is this what members need?



Natalie Kostus

## Action Programme 2017—2020

Six groups have been working on a new action programme for the next triennium. The action programme has six pillars or themes: Human Rights, Peace, Women in the Economy, Elimination of Violence against Women, Health and Climate Change. It was unanimously adopted by Congress and will be available on the IAW website when a final editing has taken place.

In a special session, **Natalie Kostus**, convener of the Commission on Climate Change, presented the main elements and implementation of the action programme on climate change in the context of international climate change negotiations and experiences from IAW member organisations.



*A passionate group of inter-generational women from diverse racial and geographical backgrounds engaged in the exchange of ideas for a Better and more Just world for women.*

Manju Kak— India

*I have been a witness to a meeting of about 45 women working enthusiastically but very peacefully on trying to make a better world for women: equal rights - equal responsibilities.*

Anne Marie Bleckmann, Germany



**Alison Brown— moderating**

## Stretch– relax — stretch relax

Sitting in a conference room all day concentrating on a long agenda is tough—even when it is interesting. Fortunately Alison Brown had a very good gymnastics programme for us which we tried out in the short breaks between agenda items. Alison also took the new board through a heavy agenda at the Post-Congress Board Meeting.

*As to our own performance, I was very encouraged and touched by the spirit of sisterhood and compromise felt during the whole week and left Nicosia in good spirit. There is hope for IAW. The kindness of Koulla and her team as well as of the hotel staff was also remarkable and certainly contributed to this success story.*

*Rosy Weiss Treasurer*



## Resolutions

10 resolutions were adopted by Congress. Among them was this one:

### **New tools to support and educate girls in emerging markets: from microentrepreneurship to labour rights and corporate accountability**

#### **IAW**

Having noted the private sector's growing influence in the international gender and development field, and that it is critical that we push back against corporations' growing influence over girls' empowerment agendas

Asks member organisations, in particular in the Global South, to examine whether they are interested in implementing a project which will use the experiences of economically active women themselves to investigate what kinds of lessons and information girls in emerging markets need to make the private sector beneficial to them.

The goal of this project is to use the experiences of economically active women in countries across South-East Asia and East Africa to create a new girls' empowerment guide for NGOs and institutions that focuses on the economic advancement of young women in emerging markets on human rights terms.

#### **Moved by**

Joanna Manganara, IAW President

#### **Seconded by**

Monique Bouaziz, AFEM, Ursula Nakamura, AdF, Manju Kak, AIWC

[All resolutions are available here.](#)

**The booklet** with reports from members is [available here.](#)



"New" IAW logo

## Logo

At long last the question of a new logo for IAW has been settled. The decision was to use this old logo as the new and authorised one. Natalie Kostus presented to IAW a high resolution version of the new logo.

*I am happy that the discussion about our logo came to an end. It is marvellous that Natalia Kostus acted so swiftly on that decision.*

*Lyda Verstegen*



## Water and Pads for Schoolgirls –Empowerment for Life - an outcome of Congress 2017

### Ursusla Nakamura reports:

Unexpectedly Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa, from DR Congo could not attend the congress. But thanks to her and delegates from other IAW member organizations we now know about the precarious situation of school-girls in poor rural areas of developing countries regarding menstrual hygiene management.

Due to various taboos, the lack of menstrual pads or water or toilets protecting privacy, these young women out of shame may stay at home up to five days each month resulting in a poor school performance or even drop-out.

Now a new project by IAW, which will build on solidarity among all its members, has been unanimously adopted by the IAW congress. The purpose of the project is to provide sanitary pads for school girls. It will be up to the respective IAW member organizations to find out about their local or national needs, exchange information with the Project Steering Group (StG) or Fundraising Group. The necessary steps to address official authorities or foundations can be planned together. Of course it is all embedded within a regular monitoring by the IAW Board plus the dissemination of the information by the various excellent IAW media channels. The time-line for the project is set for two years.



#### **Steering Group:**

U. Nakamura, G. Haupter,  
R.Sahid and S.Vahlun.

Absent: A. Siirewabo and S.  
Uplekar.

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### Seminar

**Pancyprian Movement Equal Rights-Equal Responsibilities** organised a very successful and inspiring seminar on *Women ,Peace and Security: Silenced policies, invisible aspects, promising perspectives*

Keynote speaker was Prof Dr Kalliope Agapiou Josiphedes. Other speakers were Niovi Georgiade, Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombudsman) and Signe Vahlun, Danish Women's Society.

The seminar will be reported in detail in the next issue of the IAW journal: International Women's News (IWNNews)

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### President Joanna Manganara evaluates Congress in her [November Newsletter](#)

*Many participants contributed to the developmental process of Congress very well! I liked reading Booklet of Reports for 2017 very much. Participating in this 'Living Legacy' with a focus on women's human rights & equality between women and men was very inspiring. My personal focus remains develop quality of democracy and social media visibility using a powerful feminist lens .*

Arina Angerman

*IAW Congress 2017 was very impressive by its organization and especially the warm hospitality of the Cypriotes. Alarming aspects: -The shrinking number of members and participants and the election in absentia of about 40% of the board members. - Instead of strengthening the universal nature of IAW as the oldest feminist international NGO, it is turning itself into a European organization as manifested in the randomness of the choice of the executive committee, esp. the vice presidents .*

Horeya Megahed

## Excursions—A Warm Cypriot Welcome

Miriam Limås-Kollberg reports:



On the day after our arrival, our hosts invited us to a full day excursion to Paphos. On the bus ride through the rugged Cypriot landscape our guide for the day introduced us to the history and culture of Cyprus. Our first stop, the Kourion archaeological site, is an ancient city on the southwest shores of Cyprus with an amphitheatre overlooking the Mediterranean. Surrounded by stunning sites and majestic views, professional opera singer Alison Brown gave us an incredible memory as she sang a short piece for us.



After a taverna lunch we visited the mosaics of Paphos at the Paphos Archaeological Park. The sites and monuments date from prehistoric times through the Middle Ages. Among the most significant remains so far discovered are four large and elaborate Roman villas: the House of Dionysos, the House of Aion, the House of Theseus and the House of Orpheus, all with superbly preserved mosaic floors.

This guided tour gave us a great introduction to Cyprus. Equally spectacular was a tour of Nicosia and the Cyprus Archaeological Museum on the fourth day of congress. To cap the events, we were invited to a traditional Cypriot dinner on the last day of Congress. Our hosts organised a lovely evening with Cypriot treats, haloumi, Cypriot coffee, live music and traditional dancing.



*Thanks to the "Pancyprrian Movement" "Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities", who were super for us., everything was perfect...The team was very nice and friendly, Congress was well prepared and we enjoyed a wonderful tour of their land*

*Danielle Levy and Monique Bouaziz*

*All of us loved being at the Congress, meeting and exchanging views, were a reflection of how well informed all members were of IAW agenda thanks to the hard work done pre Congress.*

*I feel relevant and strong resolutions were adopted, the outcome of the discussion and conclusions was concrete for the upcoming Action program of I.A.W..... Ruhi Sayid*

*Democratically conducted, every member was heard & on all points of discussion.-.....Saima Zahid.*

*Good conference. Importance of gender equality was understood by all...Nadeem Akbar.*

*Pancyprrian Movment Equal Rights Equal Responsibility were excellent hosts...Zubaida Saleem.*



*Ruhi Sayid*

## UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn and the Gender Plan of Action (GAP)

**By Natalie Kostus**, Vice President, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, Representative to the United Nations, IAW, E-mail:

[natalia.kostus.iaw@gmail.com](mailto:natalia.kostus.iaw@gmail.com)

The twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), convened on November 6 until November 17, 2017, in Bonn, Germany, under the Presidency of Fiji. Parties worked towards the advancement of work on issues related to operationalizing the Paris Agreement, the “Paris Agreement Work Programme,” set to complete by COP 24 in 2018. On gender, Parties adopted the Gender Action Plan (GAP) to advance gender mainstreaming into all elements of climate action and to support the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates in the UNFCCC process. [For the full article, see IAW website link.](#)



*Soon-Young Yoon says that Beethoven was made about climate change"*

**Soon-Young Yoon**, IAW representative, presented “Cities for CEDAW” at a side event during COP 23 in Bonn on 13 November. The Pavilion was hosted by ENERGIE 2050, a French international NGO concerned with social justice, energy, and climate change. Stephanie Poufaye, founder and president, joined in a dialogue, strongly supporting women’s human rights to be implemented in cities. Yoon congratulated ENERGIE 2050 for reaching out to women’s groups in francophone Africa on issues of environment, stating that these women are often left out of UN negotiations because of language barriers. Yet, they suffer the most from lack of access to clean cooking stoves, unsafe public transport, air and water pollution. Yoon reports that women’s groups were successful at COP23 to get a Gender Plan officially recognized by governments as critical to combatting climate change. The next COP will be held in Poland in December 2018.



## Commission on the Status of Women 62

The sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018.

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are welcome to attend the session.

## Themes

**Priority theme:** Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

**Review theme:** Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);

## IAW Participation

Each NGO is allowed a maximum of 20 delegates for IAW. All members of IAW who wish to attend CSW either as IAW delegates or as members of the delegations of their governments are asked to contact IAW Secretary General Arielle Wagenknecht at [iawsec@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawsec@womenalliance.org). Members who are going as IAW representatives must be registered for CSW by the Secretary General.

Registration is possible from November 6 till January 27. It is urgent that you contact the Secretary General as soon as possible if you wish to attend CSW.

## Parallel events.

Members who would like to organise a parallel event should contact the President at [iawpres@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawpres@womenalliance.org) and the Secretary General at [iawsec@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawsec@womenalliance.org).

**Side events** may be organised in collaboration with governments. Members who are planning side events should also contact the President and Secretary General.

Anje Wiersinga informed Congress that she will be organizing one on UN Security Resolution 1325 concentrating on Syria and Cyprus.

IAW has submitted a written statement on the empowerment of rural women.

[Read more](#)

Useful links where preparations can be followed:

[UN Women](#)

[NGO CSW/NY](#)

IAW Editorial group: [ienepind@gmail.com](mailto:ienepind@gmail.com)

International Women's News: [iawiwn@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawiwn@womenalliance.org)

Membership Officer: [iaw.membership@womenalliance.org](mailto:iaw.membership@womenalliance.org)