

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
EQUAL RIGHTS – EQUAL RESPONSIBILITIES



IAW

REPORTS FOR CONGRESS 2013, LONDON



Compiled by Secretary General | Lene Pind

Table of Contents:

1. President	p. 3
2. Africa	p.5
a. Arab Region and Arab League	p.5
b. Bali Women's Union of Farming Groups	p. 13
c. Mmabatho Foundation for Women's Development	p. 15
d. Women's Comfort Corner	p. 17
3. Asia	
a. South East Asia Region	p. 20
b. All India Women's Conference	p. 21
c. All Pakistan Women's Association	p. 26
d. Bangladesh Mohila Samity	p. 28
e. POWER, Bangladesh	p. 29
4. Europe	p. 45
a. European region	p. 45
b. EWL	p. 47
c. Adf/svf	p. 52
d. AFEM	p. 55
e. Danish Women's Society	p. 56
f. Deutscher Frauenring	p. 61
g. Fredrika Bremer, Sweden	p. 67
h. Greek League for Women's Rights	p. 68
i. WIZO Israel	p. 73
j. Vrouwenbelangen – Netherlands	p. 78
k. Lithuanian Women's Society	p.80
l. Norsk Kvinnesaksforening; Norway	p. 82
m. SriLanka Women's Association in UK	p. 83
n. Josephine Butler Society	p. 83
5. The Pacific	p. 84
a. Women's Electoral Lobby	p. 84
b. Union of Australian Women	p. 88
6. Commissions	p. 89
a. Health Commission	
7. International representatives	p. 93
a. New York	p. 93
b. Commission on the Status of Women	p. 100
c. WICC	p. 103
d. UN Vienna	p. 104
e. UNESCO	p. 107
f. Council of Europe	p. 113
8. Administration	
a. Newsletter	p. 119
b. Membership Secretary	p. 120
c. Secretary General	p. 121
Back page:	
Lyda Versteegen's 10-point plan – CSW 2013	

President Lyda Verstegen's report

In the last report I cautiously mentioned that Inga and I hoped to have opened a bank account in Geneva. Well, there was a mysterious phone call and nothing happened. So when I went to Geneva next, in December, I went to the Postfinance office in the main post office and asked what the matter was. They had read our constitution and decided that it was the President alone who was able to sign. So I applied again and this time got an account number. In February I went back to Geneva to finalize matters with the bank and I am pleased to say that we have a Euro account, working for both me and Inga, and into which Rosy paid the Euros that she had in her account.

In January Barclay's bank was solved in so far that our Executive Vice President Bashan Rafique was allowed to handle the account, together with Helen Self. We are grateful to them but hope that with the new treasurer things will be normalized.

I took advantage of my presence in Geneva to have lunch with Hélène Sackstein, whom I convinced to stay our main representative till Congress. I also met the President of CoNGO, Cyril Ritchie, who brought me up to date on the officials threatened to take NGO's in the UN building a lot of talk the room was another two years.

We had our International 12 October 2012. Priscilla edition of the International The Women's Electoral 40th birthday. We did not Meeting, but had a very We saw a wonderful film, who got the vote in 1902. famous one, was also Women's Suffrage League in



office affairs in Geneva. UN-away the resource centre for because of a renovation. After reserved for the NGO's for

Meeting in Melbourne from 8-reported on that in the last Women's News.

Lobby (WEL) celebrated its have a quorum for the Board interesting and enjoyable time. Utopia Girls, about the women Vida Goldstein, the most secretary of the International 1902 in Washington.

Melbourne was alive with the fight of women in politics: A TV host lost his sponsors because of his sexist remarks about the prime minister Julia Gillard, and she took off her velvet gloves to make a speech attacking the opposition leader, saying among other things: 'If he wants to know what misogyny looks like in modern Australia, he doesn't need a motion in the House of Representatives, he needs a mirror.' Meanwhile, there has been a coup in the Labour Party, and Julia Gillard has lost her mandate.

The first ever International Girl's Day was celebrated on the 11th of October, the invited schoolgirls had worked on posters that said: 'Human Rights never Age' and 'We are voting for Senior's Rights.'

I wrote a thank you letter to the presidents of WEL, the League of Women Voters Victoria and the Union of Australian Women, our hostesses. We have to thank the dynamic Sheila Byard for the organization of this memorable meeting.

In January Marion Sawyer, who was the guest speaker on the first night in Melbourne, came to stay with me. We had lunch at the Peace Palace, that is celebrating its 100th anniversary on the 28th of August.

After Melbourne, Lene and I started preparing for CSW 57. 20 members had to be registered, side events thought of, statements sent. Though Lene does most of the work, I help thinking and encouraging the NGO/CSW commission. IAW had three side events, organized by Anje Wiersinga, Susanne Riveles, and Mmabatho Ramagoshi. I spoke at the side event of the All India Womens's

Association about the outline of a plan against violence against women. Soon-Young put that as an ad in the CSW booklet.

I attended the Consultation Day and the Reception. We were pleased that there were agreed conclusions, as violence is a plague, from which too many women in all countries suffer. There was a frightening discussion about sovereignty and human rights, which was resolved by the statement in the agreed conclusions that 'human rights are universal, interdependent and interrelated' and that countries would refrain from invoking customs and prejudices as an excuse for violence. I reported extensively on this on the website and on Ning.

In March I went to London and talked with Bashan about the preparation of Congress, and saw where it would be held. It is a splendid hall!

In June I visited Geneva again, to attend the 102nd Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council. I was particularly interested in the 'Social Protection Floor'. It includes basic income security and universal access to essential affordable social services in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education, housing and others defined by national priorities. I'll talk about it at Congress.

The day against Child Labour was celebrated with colourful streamers in the conference hall. The ILO estimates that about 15.5 million children are employed paid or unpaid in the home of an employer. The vast majority (72%) are girls. 47% of all child domestic workers are below the age of 14, with 3.5 million aged 5-11 years.

There was a side event by Plan International showing a film: Girl Rising about girls changing their lives by getting an education. Very moving. And a side event by the Netherlands' permanent mission about the plight of Syrian refugees and their Jordanian hosts. All this I wrote about on Ning. .

The other subject I did a study of is 'birth registration'. More than 50 million babies born each year are not registered, that problem too I will talk about at Congress. I wrote a president's letter on it for the website.

When in Geneva I went to Basel for the annual meeting of our Swiss affiliate, where I was most cordially welcomed. They had a very interesting panel on Fundamentalism versus Women's Rights. It is all the fault of patriarchy, was the conclusion.

I also visited Lausanne where Simone Chapuis had organized a meeting with among others Cosima Schenk, the president of the International Women's Council. She proposed that IAW and IWC have a side event together at the next CSW. I think that after more than 100 years that ought to be possible!

As always I spent my afternoons reading and forwarding e-mails, corresponding with members and representatives and working with Lene. I signed lots of petitions. The last one to the Secretary General of the UN about Equality a stand-alone goal after 2015.

As I am not standing for a second term as president – I will be 80 by the end of the next triennium- I want to thank everybody with whom I worked. In the first place Lene PInd and the executive committee, and then all the representatives with whom I was in contact , who sent me statements and I forwarded e-mails to. Soon-Young was very productive and the other New York reps, and the Geneva reps, so were Rosy Weiss and Anje Wiersinga, I commiserated with Horeya. No, I don't go on, I'll thank you all at Congress with a special gift that Lene and I are preparing. I'll go and see Lene at the end of August.

Bank data:

Account number: 918249694 Alliance Internationale des Femmes NL-den Haag

Iban : CH9609000000918249694

Bank BiC (Swift Code)POFICHBEXXX

This is a Euro account.

Registration of IAW/AIF at the Etat de Genève:

Responsable du service ONG:

anastasia.outkina@etat.ge.ch

www.ge.ch/protocole

www.cagi.ch

REPORTS FROM REGIONS, AFFILIATES, AND ASSOCIATES

AFRICA

Arab Region and Arab League Report 2013

Prof. Horeya T. Megahed

Arab women have witnessed several challenges and developments during this year. Politically, women's representation in the governmental positions remained modest; while, in the legislative assemblies, women have been struggling to ensure effective implementation of quota. On the other hand, the state of war in Syria has deadly impact on Syrian women inside and outside Syria.

Despite all of these challenges, most of the Arab countries have carried out serious national strategies and projects aiming at eliminating and preventing all forms of violence against women and children in compatibility with the international calls to end violence against women.

In Algeria

- The Algerian government targeted schools to raise the awareness of women's rights. On the occasion of the International Women's Day, the Ministry of Youth organized a study day in schools that aims at raising the awareness of girls about their role in participating in NGOs and youth-led organizations as well as their role in the public life.
- In March 2013, The Ministry of Endowment announced that there is no discrimination against women in the Ministry, as there is about 150 women working as preachers. Additionally, women constitute 40% of the total number of officials in this Ministry.
- Also in March 2013, The National Center of Trade Registration announced that there are 116,474 women working in the trade sector; most of them (109,771) are individuals. This number has increased about 12% from 2006 to 2012. This achievement was supported by facilitations offered by governmental organizations such as the National Agency for Developing Investment and the National Agency for Unemployment. In this regard, the Minister of National Solidarity, Family and Women Affairs declared that 10,000 projects moderated by women were registered in 2012 with the National Agency for Supporting Youth Employment.

Furthermore, about 60% of projects got loans from the National Agency for Supporting Small Loans, and they are run by women.

- In August 2012, the UN General Secretary, Ban Ki Mon, appointed Laila Zarwaky as the Deputy to the UN Special Envoy to DRC. Laila was a judge in Algerian courts and was a legal consultant in the Ministry of Justice; she is an expert in the UN on human rights issues.

In Egypt

After a year of systematic marginalization and disgrace in the name of religion and contrary to all religious values and teachings, came the nationalist revolution of June 30th which reached its apex with the massive demonstrations of 33 million calling upon the army to intervene as a savior to transfer the power to a civic government and to put an end to the highly authoritarian system. This was reinforced by the demonstrations of 35 million in July 26th in support of the army and the fight against terrorism. Women played an active role as citizens to save the country in this regard, and to restore their rights and image that were challenged under the rule of the Moslem brotherhood, as well.

The recent developments in Egypt can be considered as a turning point in the whole Arab region.

- The legislative committee of the Upper Council – which is dissolved after the 30th June uprising - adopted the election law without considering the measures needed to support the participation of women. As the law stipulates that the list of candidates should have at least one woman, this was stated without identifying the women's place in the list, while the previous quota system was dropped.
- The Presidency initiated in March 2013 the initiative in supporting the rights and liberties of Egyptian women. The initiative held various workshops covering different aspects (legal, social, political rights and duties). Most of the participants were from the Islamists and the chair was the President's assistant.
- In June 2013, Al Azhar released the document on Women's Rights after a year of discussion. The document contains seven main themes: the value of women's human and social development, the legal personality of women, women and the family, women and education, women and work, women and personal security and women and political participation.
- In July 2013, the National Council for Women prepared a draft law that addresses all forms of violence against women and the Council sent it to the Presidency and to the Minister of Justice as well. It includes the definitions of the crimes of violence against women that are criminalized as well as the denial of the right of inheritance to women, the marriage of a female against her will and the denial of work to women and breaching the principle of equality in the workplace, in addition to the crimes of sexual exploitation and corrupting the morals; together with the protection of victims of violence in the crimes that are committed by the state apparatus and calling for carrying out the necessary measures and means to assist female victims of violence without charge.
- The general provisions, tackle the judicial proceedings, as well as the obligations of the State to ensure the effectiveness of the application of this law and the achievement of its objectives, together with guiding the State to support and encourage civil society to create associations that aim to raise awareness against violence, rehabilitation of victims, as well as providing legal assistance to them.

- In this regard, the Ministry of Interior established in June 2013 a specialized Unit in police stations to follow up crimes of violence against women and to combat the phenomenon of sexual harassment. The members of the unit, which includes policewomen and specialists in psychology and social services, will receive a training course in the United States.
- On the civil society level, different initiatives and campaigns were formed to fight sexual harassment; particularly in demonstrations as the harassment was used to prevent women from participating. For example, women organized a strike opposite to a police station (in Naser City) urging to activate the police role in this issue. Additionally, the initiatives of 'Against Harassment', 'Stop Harassment', 'Harassment Map' and other civil initiatives have been playing a major role during the demonstrations and strikes in raising the awareness of the various forms of harassment and providing legal and physiological support for the victims. It is also worth noting that on the 30th of June demonstrations, activists formed a secured zone in Tahrir Square for women to protest without any annoyance and to encourage others to join the demonstrations.
- What is remarkable during this year is women's participation in demonstrations in governorates; for example, in Monofeya, a governorate in Lower Egypt, women protested against appointing a governor who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood.
- Most striking, was the demonstration by women activists and mothers of revolution's martyrs, which reached the presidential residence in New Cairo and raised the red cards that they carried in the face of the ousted President, shouting at him to step down.
- The efforts of young women that led to the creation and success of the sudden rise of the grassroots youth movement "Tamarod" (Rebellion), are remarkable and historical. The movement was the trigger for the revolution and was behind the mobilization of the masses around the target of ousting the president on the same day he was sworn into office a year before. The campaign that they launched succeeded in getting over 22 million signatures with Id's in a few weeks. The Tamarod activists were equally running in the streets all over Egypt. Young women shared responsibility in the supreme executive committee and as spokespersons for the Movement.
- The consequences of the 30th of June uprising on women's affairs are significant: the interim President appointed a famous activist journalist as the Presidency's advisor for women's affairs. Moreover, six women were nominated for ministerial posts, yet, some of them declined at the last moment, and the new Government that was formed in 17th of July included three women in the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of State for Environment. Though the number is still low, it is the first time women are selected for such Ministries; as women were usually selected for the Ministry of Social Solidarity mainly.
- Regarding the impact of Syrian war and with the flooding of Syrian refugees to Egypt, the phenomenon of marriage of Egyptian men and Syrian female refugees exploiting their poor living conditions has appeared. This phenomenon is considered as human trafficking; therefore, the National Council for Women alerted the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice to take legal actions against those Egyptians.
- The battle against the forces of darkness and abuse of religion has not come to an end with the revolution of June 30th. In fact, with the aftermath of the revolution, the country is

witnessing some peculiar practices of women and child abuse for political purposes. Such practices are attracting growing internal and external condemnation. Most importantly, is the use of women and children in the sit in demonstrations by supporters of the ousted president, which have been extended for weeks. The innovation is that women and children are used as human shields. A shocking image is to see the children wearing shrouds and carrying the logo of the martyr's project. They are mostly recruited from orphanages run by the Muslim Brotherhood as well as street children. This act alarmed the UNICEF, the National Council for women as well as human rights organizations.

- The advocacy by a former MP, who labeled herself as the women's leader in the whole Islamic World, is illustrating the issue as if it is considered as a holy war. She believes that it is compulsory on every woman, even a married one, to be subjected to what she called "Jihad Marriage" to any man of those present in the sit in demonstrations. Places were provided for this as well as timing. The resentment to such form of adultery is unlimited, especially that adultery is forbidden in Islam, and that these destructive ideas pretend to have Islamic justification.

In Iraq

- In February, the Electoral Commission amended article 3 of the law of Provincial Councils upon the request of the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs to ensure women quota (not less than 25%) in each council. This amendment came after the refusal of the Cabinet because quota is not consistent with the principle of equality.
- In March, the Cabinet approved the national strategy to combat violence against women in Iraq (2013 - 2017) which was submitted by the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs. The Strategic Plan consists of four chapters: elements of building a strategy against negative discrimination and violence against women, the reality of negative discrimination and violence against women in Iraq, causes of violence against women and the legal framework and institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the strategy.
- In March 2013, the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs inaugurated in Bagdad the first center for the empowerment of women in Iraq. The Center aims to provide training programs, as well as rehabilitation and education for women.

In Jordon

- The political participation of Jordanian women is challenged as the new government, formed in March, had a number of women ministers that did not exceed 5.5%, although the Prime Minister adopted in January the National Strategy for Jordanian Women for the years (2013 - 2017), which identified the proportion of female representation in the field of political participation as (30%) in order to ensure an effective and efficient participation.
- While women's participation in municipal elections, which would be held in August, is still weak due to the time of election after the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims are more preoccupied with worship and social duties. The Law identifies women quota in the local assemblies as not to exceed 25% of total seats. To overcome these challenges, women's organizations are trying to provide the women with logistical and technical support.

In Kuwait

- In May, Kuwaiti Supreme Council appointed 22 women as prosecutors, for the first time.
- The parliament approved to raise the monthly allowance for non-working women from \$ 922 to \$ 2100. Additionally, it's intended to amend a number of laws, such as financial indemnity retirement age for working women.
- The number of women candidates for parliamentary election in July was very weak. Out of 409 candidates, only 8 women were candidates. Therefore, only two of them became MP's out of 50 members.

In Lebanon

- The number of women candidates in the parliamentary election 2013 was 43 women, which is four times the number of women who ran in 2009. This increase is a result of efforts carried out by the Coalition of Women for 2013 Parliament, which includes more than 150 women's associations, representing all Lebanese regions. More importantly, the coalition works to get women quota up to 30% in the parliament. At the same time, there is a national call to include women in the new government that should have been formed in April, but till nowadays, it is not formed.
- In February, The National Commission for Lebanese Women, in collaboration with public and private institutions concerned with women, launched the draft of the National Action Plan 2013 - 2016 of the "National Strategy for Women's Affairs in Lebanon 2011-2021". The action plan includes: the adoption of a civil law for personal status; adoption of a law protecting women from household violence, canceling the reservations on CEDAW, the development of the law of equal citizenship between the citizen, citizenship rights and duties and women's quota legislation.

Following to the National Action Plan, civil society organizations agreed to demand the recently-formed government to work on eight items: The adoption of the draft law to protect women from household violence; the right of Lebanese women to give their nationality to their husbands and children; the elimination of discrimination in the labor law and social abolition of all discriminatory articles in the Lebanese Penal Code; the rejection of the exploitation and distortion of the image of women in the media; the right to political representation; implementing CEDAW and canceling reservations; the criminalization of sexual harassment against women and unification as well as raising the age of custody and demanding equality in personal status law.

In Libya

- In June, a group of women activists called 'Woman's Voice' protested outside the Libyan National Congress (an interim parliament) asking for more women's representation in the committee drafting the country's new constitution to 35% instead of 10%. Furthermore, a group of Libyan women in the city of Benghazi demonstrated in January demanding confirming the right of women to expression and participation in the formulation of the new Libyan constitution.
- On the other hand, women in various Libyan cities participated in demonstrations and sit-ins demanding abandoning armed manifestations and the abolition of the armed formations.
- On the occasion of the International Women's Day, the first conference of Libyan women was held in Sabha. The conference discussed many issues including the ways of implementation of

article XI of the Code of Libyan Nationality, issued in 2010, which provides the right to Libyan women who are married from non-Libyan to grant citizenship to their children.

However, in April 2013, Mufti Sadiq Ghiryani, sent a letter to the Ministry of Social Affairs, requesting to stop the procedures for marriage to foreigners, pointing out that the resolution will include gender, after the increase of the number of cases of marriage of Libyans from others who belong to different nationalities and religions, and then, leaving the Libyan spouse after a short period.

In Mauritania

- The government focuses its efforts to fight FGM through holding conferences and awareness campaigns as the percentage is still high 64% (in the 15 to 45 age category) though it decreased 4 % within one year.
- In March 2013, a network called 'Media in the Face of Violence Against Women' was established and it includes Mauritanian journalists in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and Family, acting under the supervision of the Ministry of Communication and Relations.
- In December 2012, a Mauritanian human rights organization called 'Advocate for Women's Issues' demanded allocating one-third of parliamentary seats for women in order to increase the presence of women in decision-making, though women by law have 20% of seats in the parliament and local assemblies.

In Morocco

- Various symposiums were held discussing the status of Moroccan women and Arab women in general. For example, the Euro-mid conference was held in Fez in June 2013 discussing the challenges facing women under Islamist rule.
- In December 2012, activists from 22 associations gathered under the motto "Spring Dignity", condemned physical, verbal and moral violence as well as harassment of women. This gathering was followed by a national campaign titled 'Society Against Violence Against Women' that extended to include the year 2013, which will be the year of combating violence against women.
- In December 2012, Moroccan writers announced that March 9th will be the day of Moroccan women writers and that they seek to make it a global event.
- In spite of women's status in Morocco, women activists in the Western Desert announced in the 23rd UN Human Rights Assembly that there has been a suffering from bad treatment from the Moroccan government against the people in the Western Desert and against women in particular.

In Palestine

- The recently-formed government (in June) includes only three women while the previous one had six women.
- The struggle of Palestinian women against Israeli occupation is continuous; the Palestine Studies mentioned in a study launched in May 2013 that the recent policy of the Israeli occupation is to arrest Palestinian women and girls, which increases the number of women in Israeli jails to 19 prisoners and 15 of them are imprisoned since 1967

- However, different programs targeting Palestinian women have been carried out; a remarkable program is "the Documented Memory of Palestinian Women". The program aims at documenting woman's life in all sectors through producing fifteen documentary films focusing on women in Jerusalem. The program started in July by providing training to 18 women who will work in this program.
- The Women's Affairs Center in Gaza City provided in July a training course on managing women's civil institutions. The course targeted representatives from the grassroots organizations from all areas of the Gaza Strip.
- On an economic level, the government launched a project to strengthen the role of women entrepreneurs through their enrollment in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The number of registered women entrepreneurs has been increased; for example, in the North of Hebron, 75 Palestinian businesswomen were registered. On the other hand, women farmers who cannot reach their farms due to the Israeli occupation and the continuous shooting of farmers and their families, shifted to become working on livestock in their homes.

In Sudan

- In July, the General Union of Sudanese Women organized the Project of the Feminist Alliance for the Home under the banner of 'the Sudan First'. The project aims at women's fundamental role in the economy.
- The young Sudanese scientist Dr. Sahwa Adel Nourien was awarded in April 2013 the global annual grant provided by the "L'Oreal UNESCO" for distinguished women in the fields of science for the year 2013. The award's criteria are based on achievements in scientific research and influence in the community,
- In Darfur in April 2013, the General Union of Sudanese women in North Darfur in collaboration with the government applied a joint action plan aims to build the capacity of women in the state in the areas of productivity so that they can increase their income and contribute to the relief of living for families. Additionally, a conference of Shoura Council of the General Federation of Women launched in Fasher, capital of North Darfur state discussing ways to enhance women's conditions.
- In March, the Arab Organization of Agriculture Development participated in implementing the project of 'Rural Women School' that aims at raising the capacity of women in rural areas.
- In May 2013, a human right activist Asmaa Ahmed was arrested due to her role in defending political prisoners and her political positions against the regime.
- In Jan 2013, The Second Conference of Muslim Women Parliamentarians elected Ms. Samia Ahmed Mohamed President of the Conference.

In Syria

- The Syrian crisis is causing the displacement of thousands of Syrians; the United Nations Population Fund mentioned that 75% of refugees are women and children.
- 'Refugees not Slaves', is the title of a campaign launched in February by Syrian activists to alert against the dangers of marriage of a Syrian refugee from Arabs or foreigners in these circumstances.
- On the other hand, the number of Syrian women who volunteer in the Free Syrian Army is increasing due to the intensity of the battles and the escalation of violence.

- The Syrian National Council established the Women's Bureau to represent the role of Syrian women in the revolution.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- A remarkable development occurred in Saudi Arabia when 30 women were appointed in the Shoura Council in January. However, Tens of Saudi preachers and Sheikhs protested outside the Royal Palace against this decision.
- Furthermore, in April, the Ministry of Justice gave a license to practice law to women for the first time.
- In May, Saudi Arabia began its first campaign against the phenomenon of household violence. Furthermore, the Shoura Council discussed a project that provides women and child victims the right of compensation in court besides the various sanctions against the perpetrator of abuse, including a fine, imprisonment and dismissal from work. Additionally, the project provided for the termination of the contract if the domestic worker suffered abuse at the hands of the employer and was deprived of the payment of dues.

In Tunisia

- In the International Women's Day, women protested against the procedures that the Islamist government intended to conduct in the constitution regarding women's rights; mainly, the right of equality, as the government representatives would change it to 'man and woman complete each other, but are not equal'.
On the other hand, the women's rights activist Amena, 18 years old, was arrested because she belongs to Femen movement and protested using ways and symbols of this movement. Furthermore, the Femen European activists protested topless to support her, but they were jailed and sentenced to four months.
- The celebration of International Women's Day was under the slogan “ Promise is a Promise: the Actual Time to End the Violence against Women”. The activities of this celebration were held to raise the awareness about this issue such as: awareness campaigns, dialogue sessions and art galleries. Additionally, the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs held a roundtable discussing the issue of the "prisoners of conscience" as part of transitional justice and preserving human rights.
- In December 2012, the Tunisian President (Munsif Al Marzouky) inaugurated the first formal hostel for women who are suffering from violence.
- On Child issue, criminal networks were uncovered in Tunisia that worked to recruit children and teenagers through intellectual and ideological mobilization, as that led to the disappearance of children. Accordingly, the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs alerted all families and NGOs to combat any attempt that aims to recruit children.
- After the revolution in Egypt, Tunisia is witnessing more demonstrations against the Islamist rule and a Tamarod Movement was established there, inspired by the successful pioneer movement in Egypt.

In The United Arab Emirates

- The new government, formed in March, included four women, two of them are Ministers of State, the third woman for the Ministry of Development and International Cooperation and the fourth for the Social Affairs.
- In February, Dr. Sheikha Saif Al Shamsi was appointed as the executive director of the Arab Women Organization, which is the first Emirati woman to hold this position.
- In October 2012, a new regional women's organization was established in the UAE; it is called "The Gulf Women Organization". The organization aims at raising the awareness of women's issues, support the mutual cooperation in the women's aspects, building a consensus among Gulf women regarding the Gulf issues, discussing the paths to embed women issues in the national priorities, and building the capacity of Gulf women. And the organization works to be affiliated to the GCC.

In Yemen

- The Yemeni Center for Public Opinion prepared a study conducted between April and June 2013 in five provinces. The study pointed out that 27% of males and 30.2% of females believe that the situation of Yemeni women has been deteriorated after the revaluation and 36.7% of males and 32.1% of women believed that the conditions of Yemeni women remain as they are with no change. Nevertheless, the study mentioned that women's participation in political parties became better.
- In May, UNICEF announced the approval of the Global Partnership for Education
- to grant Yemen \$ 82.6 million to improve the quality of education for children.

Finally, an important development for Arab Women is the establishment of UN Regional Office Arab States in Cairo.

Women Issues in the Arab League

- In May, Department of Women, Family and Children of the Secretariat of the Arab League, the Arab Women Organization-a wing of the Arab League- and the United Nations for Women, launched the regional strategy "Protecting Arab Women: Peace and Security". The strategy seeks to develop a framework to protect women from all forms of violence based on gender, especially in times of war, occupation and armed conflicts.
- In April, the Conference of the Second Regional Forum of Arab Women with Disabilities, which is titled: "Women with Disabilities between Rights and Norms," was held in Cairo. The Conference aimed to shed light on the problematic relationship between the rights of women with disabilities and community traditions.
- In April, the General Secretariat of the Arab League held the first preparatory meeting of the conference of the Arab family in light of the contemporary changes.
- In February, The Department of Women, Family and Children of the Arab League participated in the first Conference organized in Oman discussing the situation of children and the future prospects. Furthermore, the conference aimed to prepare a national strategy for children for the work and planning for future programs to improve the situation of children's rights.

- The activities of the Arab Women Organization have focused on youth; for example, the Organization held the Arab youth dialogue training course in June 2013.

Bali Women's Union of Farming Groups (BAWUFAG), Cameroon

Greetings from Cameroon to the dynamic women of IAW during your conference in London. We are excited about this conference but unfortunately we cannot send a representative this time. We hope to be in attendance during the next upcoming conference.

Report

Land and Poultry farming: BAWUFAG has continued her work on the empowerment of women and to continue to secure the rights of women and educating them on how to gain financial independence and property rights. Through the production of poultry farms we acquired land for the women and they could access it and do farming as a group without questions from their husbands. They are able to harvest and sell produce and can use the funds to support their families and their lives. We have greatly reduced violence in the families through our educational programs and improved self-esteem to the women. Women are thinking positively and taking a pride in doing their own work and taking decisions that will help them and their children through hard work, instead of expecting from their husbands.

Organic Agriculture:

Considering the importance of having a healthy community, we have worked this year in collaboration with the BIO farmers of Austria to acquire a shredder for compost manure processing. This helps us to assemble house hold waste, shred grass and mix with poultry droppings to process for organic farming practices. This is going to help the population from depending too much on artificial fertilizer which is not very healthy for the population.

Harvesting: This is harvesting season for the women. We are doing harvesting of maize, beans, potatoes, yams and soya beans. The problem with harvesting is that we lack storage facilities so we continue to sell at give away price or do dumping during this season since everyone is harvesting at the same time. This greatly reduces our profit margin every year. Acquiring storage facility to sell our produce throughout the year would serve us much loses.

Credit facility is still a problem to individual women since we are still working to increase individual income generating activities for the women and looking forward to acquiring funds for those activities

Another problem which we have is the issue of an incubator for day old chicks. We have continued to buy from suppliers and they offer whatever specie they have and some of these species simply are weak and die during the growing period and creates lots of loses to us. We will be looking forward for any funder who could support us to acquire any of these needs.

We are confident with our mother Organization IAW and are happy to have been working with you for all these years on behalf of the women of the world and children. Have a happy deliberation in London and we hope to read about it from Lene Pind.

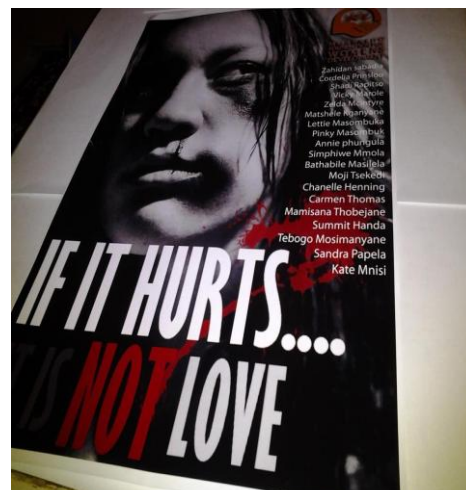
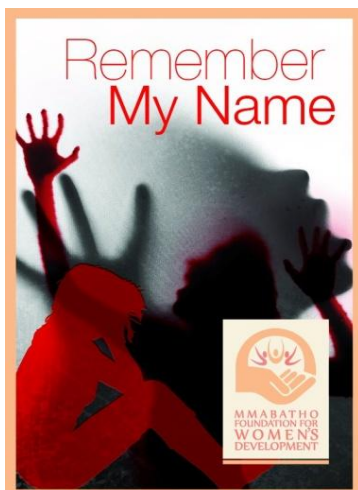
Yours, Rebecca B. Juga

Mmabatho Foundation for Women's Development Report

Remember my Name Campaign

The Foundation has a 365 days campaign which focuses on educating communities about violence against women, and strategies to eradicate it. The focus on reminding communities to never forget the victims of Femicide, is to ensure that what happens to them should not happen to any other person. The message is very clear that Femicide can be stopped and that it is everyone's responsibility to stop violence against women and children.

The Foundation identified different platforms where they will spread the message and educate masses of people and the Church and traditional houses were identified as key to the campaign. We then started going to churches to talk about religion and violence against women and everytime, these meetings have highlighted the need to engage with congregations as they had so much problems in their relationships and families and did not know what interventions are in place to address them. We also targeted the rural areas as some of the survivors that we worked with blamed the harmful traditional practices and the reason for the escalation of violence against women and children



Awareness Campaigns at Churches



Campaigns in rural areas: Culture and Abuse

Awareness campaigns at funerals



The Foundation lost one of their own through abuse during women's month in August 2012. Agnes Mogoboya-Ramagoshi was brutally killed by her partner and we raised awareness at the memorial service and the funeral to ensure that this is not repeated in the community. We urged all those who came to the funeral to speak out against violence against women and children and for the Justice system to investigate properly to ensure that perpetrators are sent to prison for their barbaric actions.

Commission on the Status of Women

Mmabatho Foundation for Women's Development has adopted a strategy of education, raising awareness and engaging in dialogue with women from all over the world. This strategy is to be achieved by continuously participating at the Commission on the Status of Women where women of the world meet to discuss and lobby on issues affecting them. Since the last Congress, the Foundation has annually organised round tables through IAW and all have been very successful with regards to attendance and the papers being presented and the ensuing discussions and recommendations.



As part of supporting families of victims of femicide, the Foundation goes to court to oppose bail for the perpetrators and also to raise awareness of the case to the community so that the case will be given attention and perpetrators will be sent to prison. Recently, one of our members who have been advocating against a long sentence for a Femicide, won. The perpetrator was given a life sentence. This is the type of sentences that we believe will be a deterrent to other perpetrators

Mandela Day

As part of our Mandela Day, the Foundation went to five Orphanages and homeless people and provided them with food and gifts. The members cooked soup and served it to homeless people in very cold winter day. We also gave them blankets to keep warm as they are exposed to the harsh elements. These were very successful and we could not have achieved that much success if we didn't have so many people volunteering and contributing as part of their contribution of their 67 minutes.



WOMEN'S COMFORT CORNER, ZIMBABWE

Name: Rita Marque Lunga-Mbatha

Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust

Date: 04 July, 2013

Email: wccf.trust@gmail.com

Email: womenscomfortcorner@yahoo.co.uk



Highlights (maximum 3 points) preferably relating to the IAW Action Programme, CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals.

1. IAW ACTION PROGRAMME – JUNE 2012 SPECIAL RAPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE
2. CEDAW – RIGHT NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE OR TO CRUEL DEGRADING PUNISHMENT
3. BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION – STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – D (113)

Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust created and operates the National Rape Hotline for women and children in partnership with rape centres across the country. Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice. We have created a national network of survivors willing to stand up and speak out about sexual violence. Violence against women and children are strongly intertwined, as violence against women is often seen as legitimate considering that women are seen as inferior in numerous societies. Sexual violence is considered as normal and it is therefore necessary to fight against these social norms and empower women.

A 9 year old girl from Hwange, Village Four in Jambezi, Zimbabwe suffered a huge opening on her privates after the skin separating her organ and anus was "ripped" after being raped by her 39 year old step father who has two wives. Her organ and anus turned into one and was profusely dripping pus. The girl had difficulties walking, suffered blinding headaches and persistent stomach aches emanating from sexual abuse. The rapist stepfather alleged that the treatment of the girl required traditional herbs and going to the local clinic would be of no help. The mother confided in our volunteers who encouraged the mother of the rape victim to report to the police leading to the arrest of the father. Hwange provincial magistrate, Mrs Dambudzo Malunga charged him with rape as defined in section 65 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act Chapter 9:23. Although

the rapist pleaded not guilty wasting the court's valuable time he was convicted and sentenced to ONLY 20 years in jail after the State found overwhelming evidence that he committed the heinous crime. In passing the sentence, the magistrate took into consideration the fact that a long sentence was appropriate to send a message to society that the court will continue to protect young girls from sexual predators.

According to the narration by the mother the rapist came home drunk deliberately provoked the victim's mother and then assaulted her. The mother sought refuge in a neighbour's home and during her absence the father raped the minor and threatened her with death. When the mother went to Hwange the rapist ravished the minor on several occasions, when the mother returned from the latter town and upon bathing her she discovered that there was no demarcation between her organ and anus but it was just one big hole discharging pus. The matter was reported to the police leading to the arrest of the accused person.

CHIEF IN BUHERA, ZIMBABWE RAPES AND INFECTS TEENAGER WITH HIV/AIDS

Buhera's Chief Chitsunge - Magaya Gunguwo (83) - raped a 13 year old teenager from February 2012 – August 2013 muzzling her mouth and threatening to kill her each time he forced himself on her in his bedroom where she was sent to collect maize-meal. The victim was scared to report the abuse at the hands of the Chief because he was a powerful man and she believed that the traditionalist would carry out his threat. The traditionalist chased her away after she had refused to accompany him to an unknown place, fearing that he would be raped again or be killed as he had been intimidated by the Chief on several occasions after raping her. The Chief would rape her when his wife was just outside the bedroom and ask the girl to wipe herself after the cruel act. She developed severe stomach cramps and sought sanctuary at her mother's house. When she disclosed her stomach ailment to her mother, her mother's intuition was that there was something seriously wrong with her daughter and was taken to the nearby Pokoteke Clinic, where she was given pain killers. An examination by the nurse revealed that the minor had been sexually abused by Chief Chitsunge on several occasions and was referred to a counselor at the clinic for psychological therapy. In her defence the Chief further demeaned the minor by alleging that she had a history of sleeping around and his intention had been to stay with the girl temporarily and then get a birth certificate for her, to counter the Chief's false assertions a birth certificate was availed to the court. Prior to that the abuse was reported to the police and no action was taken until Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust intervened and our volunteer communicated with Zimbabwe Broad Casting Corporation and the matter was aired on radio prompting the police to act. During the trial it was proved beyond reasonable doubt that the Chief had raped the young victim and was sentenced to 15 years. The girl has been traumatised so much and is suffering from mental problems. The girl has been subjected to ridicule at school for taking HIV tablets and she is labelled the Chief's wife. Unfortunately her mother is also living with HIV/AIDS. The Chief appealed to the High Court and managed to get bail. The mother and the daughter were terrified of what the Chief would do. The victim's condition is deteriorating, traumatised, confused, tearfulness, nervousness or seemingly inappropriate laughter, numbness, nightmares, flashbacks and overwhelmed with fear a medical report has since been obtained as proof of the trauma and mental challenges that she now suffers. Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust is not sponsored and have to use personal resources to help the survivors of rape.

We have since written to the Attorney General's Office to fast track the appeal pending at the High Court to enable the victim and his mother to obtain justice. It has also come to our notice that the Chief once raped a seven year old child who died as a result of the latter and we have been told that because of our intention to fast track the appeal the Chief has approached his Doctor to write him a note certifying that the rapist Chief was allegedly impotent from last year February, 2012 when he

began raping the minor. A docket was opened and closed without bringing the culprit to justice and the criminal matter was settled out of court. The mother of the Rape Victim said: *"I am thrilled that the Chief has been brought to account most villagers advised me let go of the matter because I would never win against the powerful rapist, but you proved them wrong. Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust you are our heroes"*. As Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust we will not rest until all rapists are brought to account. Our involvement in the latter case was highlighted in the newspapers.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Documenting Rape

The year 2012 – 2013 was a milestone year for Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust as we celebrated fifteen years of service planting seeds of hope and change. Rape is a form of gender-based violence which violates a number of principles enshrined in regional and international human rights instruments. Rape survivors' stories have power and purpose, which is why *Rape Survivors' Project* launched End Rape Epidemic Inspire a SeaChange, the Zimbabwe's first filmed documentaries for survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence. The stories will be used to change minds, hearts and public policies on gender-based violence. CEDAW states that women's fundamental rights include: the right not to be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the right to the highest standard attainable of physical and mental health. On one occasion of the our sponsors who had promised to donate food for a function at the American Embassy Public Affairs, pulled out an hour before lunch because the company was made aware that we had supported the survivor who was raped by an Executive of the said Company. We also suffered a set back when our cameras and all the accessories worth almost USD10,000-00 were stolen at gun point, but this has not deterred us. We have bought a simple camera and documented the story of the girl who was raped by the Chief in Buhera, Zimbabwe. Listening and watching young girl raped by the Chief is moving as it is powerful: As a call to the general public for greater action, and compassion we want to share with the public their traumatic experiences. According to the Victim Friendly Sexual violence impacts one in three girls are raped in Zimbabwe. Yet many in the media continue to perpetuate damaging myths about rape, while blaming the victim. We are changing perception by initiating a strategic and creative dialogue with editors, journalists, and opinion shapers which is critical to impacting media coverage. Using "real-world" case studies and examples of what works (and what doesn't) when responding to high-profile media cases, and exploring how "new media" vehicles -- and user generated content -- can "change the game" for the anti-violence movement, the documentaries will provide "tools that can be used" by advocates, allies, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel dealing with the media in their work. One of our highlights in was when rape survivors shared their personal experiences, at Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation Programme where the focus was on rape survivors. To hear the rape survivors tell their stories to an approximately over 600 000 listeners on Tuesdays weekly has been empowering for them and for those who heard them speak, a living testimony of women and children who years prior could not tell anyone their secret. Our hotline saw a 501% increase in usage following airings of the rape survivor's experiences in our partnership with Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation.

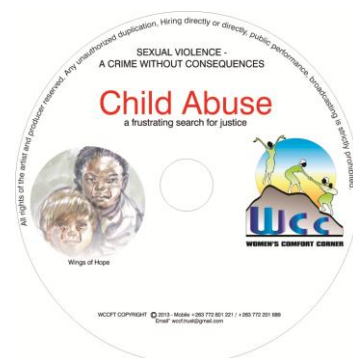
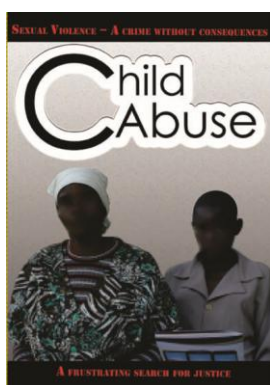
Online Training Institute

Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust partnered with End Violence against Women International an NGO based in the United States of America which offered our organisation free online training an excellent resource state-of-the art training on the topic of criminal justice response to sexual assault. Participants in the **On-line Training Institute** can work through the various training modules to learn and review new information and then apply this newly acquired knowledge in realistic and interactive scenarios, as well as assessment methods such as quizzes

tests, and case studies.

Our Services

We offer one-on-one counselling, bilingual advocacy, community outreach, offer assistance to women and children living with disabilities, alternative therapies – dancing for justice, sexual assault – advocacy and helping women get maintenance from defaulting fathers. From June 2012 – June 2013 we have been overwhelmed with phone calls and reports in connection with sexual abuse, 17 women reported that their husbands had deliberately infected them with HIV/AIDS. We encouraged them to issue summons to offenders but 15 of them were reluctant because of the stigma attached to living with HIV/AIDS. Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust provided services to 7043 survivors and reached 11,831 people through education throughout the country. We provided bilingual advocacy services to 853 clients and individual counselling to 367 women and children. 2800 survivors of rape sent messages via face book requesting for assistance. We are proud of our many accomplishments in 2012 - 2013, which are highlighted throughout this report but unfortunately due to limited space we are not able to cover everything. We are proud of our 15 years of progress, but a lot more needs to be done.



"Cover of documentary and CD done by WCCFT of minor raped by Chief in Buhera in Zimbabwe. The minor is now disabled and has mental problems because of the rape."

ASIA

South East Asia by regional coordinator Asha Deshpande

I am very glad to submit the Report as a Board Member & co-ordinator for South –East Asia

It is my experience that it is very difficult to increase member-ship for any organization.

For the first year I contacted all the individual members and member organisations of IAW in South Asia Region, but it is unfortunate to mention that they had not replied to my mails and not shown interest in keeping contacts.

But as a board member I continued the work and glad to inform, that I could make at least 10 -15 new members from India and this year some of them they are ready to make their organisation as member of IAW. few other members from AIWC are also ready to become member of IAW and I shall try my level best to see that they will come to IAW.

Suggestions to be made

The first question from any of member is what benefit they would get after membership.

Hence, we have to make sure that we have to design attractive programmes for implementation.. Further to add that to attend any meetings, as delegate it is very expensive hence we have to think about how we could reduce the cost or whether we are in a position to reimburse the fees or provide accommodation etc. so that members would attract and we can increase membership . Though we represent organization, the organization also does not support any financial help. Hence to increase the strength we have to see that our financial strength should be increased. This is the important issue which has to be discussed in the Board Meeting and find out the solution.

All India Women's Conference

During this year, besides running the regular programmes, the focus of our activities was on the following issues-

1. Empowering rural Women
2. Setting up of Health units for mother and child and Day care centres for the old
3. Violence against women
4. AIWC's Trusts in the field of –Health, Education, and Old Age

1 Empowering rural Women

AIWC believes that women, especially from rural areas need more attention as they do not have easy access to services like health, education, technology, legal etc. Its focus now is for overall development of rural women. Through its programmes geared towards income generation activities, it is trying that women do not migrate to urban areas and at the same time preserve the dying art and culture.

Exhibition-Women artisans Craft bazaar

A women artisans craft bazaar was organized at AIWC's premises in New Delhi. Over 60 women artisans across 15 states of India hailing from 20 villages, towns and cities showcased beautiful handicraft products and got an opportunity to sell them. The objective was "Empowering women artisans and elimination of middle man." Wider publicity was given to the event to attract a large number of buyers. It was also a step in the direction to keep these traditional skills alive.



Adoption of Villages

Activities for empowerment of rural women were intensified under the programme 'Adoption of Villages'. It is visualised that this approach would benefit the community as a whole and women in particular and general conditions of the village will improve.

- AIWC's objective for rural development is to discourage migration of rural women to cities and encourage them to stay there by participating in the developmental activities
- The programmes introduced in these villages aim at mobilization of poor women and convergence of services, by offering them a range of economic and social options, along with necessary support measures to enhance their capabilities.
- It has around 3000 Women self help groups in the rural and the semi-urban areas, monitored and facilitated by the branches.
- These groups are formed keeping in view the interests, and needs of the women.
- Knowledge on health, nutrition, literacy, women's rights, child care, education, adoption of new agricultural practices, farm and non farm sector economic activities etc. is provided (Photo No. 3).



Growing Medicinal Plants-A livelihood for Rural Women

A TOT programme was conducted at AIWC head office, New Delhi for training of our members. Now, we plan this to be replicated in other states .



Leadership Training Programme-

Since education has been the main concern of AIWC, the participants are selected on the basis of their education and from rural areas and small towns where resources are limited. The objective is that these young women recognize themselves and attain success right from home to nation building. They live with dignity and pride and help others.

The success of the programme was visible from the increased confidence level among the participants and change in their attitude towards life.



2 Setting up of Health units for mother and child and Day care for the old Health units have been set up in few branches. The features of the units are-



- Mother and child care (caters to the health and nutritional needs of pregnant and nursing mothers, 0-6 year old children)

- Day care centre for the aged (provides services like general health check –up and recreational facilities to old people)

Objectives-

- To cater to the Health and nutrition needs of pregnant and nursing mothers along with children in the age group of 0-6 years of age.
- To motivate pregnant women to go to hospitals for deliveries.
- To cater to the Health and social needs of elderly residing in the area. General purpose is to provide an opportunity for the older people to interact with like-minded people in old age so that they do not feel depressed due to loneliness and at the same time feel better as their minor health problems are taken care of.

3 Violence against women-whose concern?



A condolence meeting was held by the All India Women's Conference on 2.1.13 to pay homage to the brave soul of Damini who was gang raped in a most brutal manner in a moving bus in Delhi on 16th December, 2012.



Finally fighting bravely, she lost the battle of life on 29.12.12. This incident has shaken the whole nation. The meeting was attended by AIWC members, the staff of Canara Bank & Syndicate Bank, 200 girls of the Working Women's Hostel, Aga Khan Foundation, inmates of Bapnu Ghar (Short-stay home for distressed women) Mobile helpline, and Family Counselling Centre, AIWC Community College who lit candles in memory of Damini and reaffirmed their demand for stringent action against the culprits of this case and fast tracking of all the cases of rape and crime against women.

Concerned on the issues of its prevalence, causes, and prevention focusing why in spite of all the efforts from govt. and voluntary sector, it is increasing and for this who is to be blamed since causes of the problem differ from state to state. AIWC organized seminars in eight states with the following objectives-

- understand the pressing factors responsible for violence against women in different states and interventions at the community level
- discuss various issues related to violence against women in a holistic manner from the point of view of experts in the field of research, psychology, religion, media, policy framing, law, and NGOs,
- provide a platform for sharing the best practices by encouraging the grass root level workers who are the implementers of the programmes to share their views
- constitute a core committee for formulation of action plan by integrating the best approaches

Recommendations to Justice Verma Committee-

On the basis of suggestions received from our branches, the following recommendations were forwarded to Justice Verma Committee-

The situation demands instant change in approach of the government and the law enforcement departments as most of the perpetrators of the crimes against women go scot free because of absence of immediate police action and delayed trial

Immediate action:-

- Deployment of police force in proportion to the residents of Delhi.
- More frequent police patrolling with women constables in the PCR vans. The PCR van should be well equipped with First aid box, 2 bed sheets, blanket and police attendant having knowledge in providing first aid for any emergency.
- Special Fast track courts Courts to deal with cases on violence against women should be set up for speedy action. The accused should be given rigorous punishment to act as deterrent for future. The accused should be convicted within a fortnight and punishment should be highly publicized on all electronic & print media
- Women Courts with Judges must be created to deal with cases of sexual assault.
- Youth voices should be heard and reassured since their issue is of a common man & not politically motivated.
- Since remarks made by religious leaders and political persons leave impact on the minds of people, those giving objectionable remarks against women should not be given coverage in any of the electronic and print media.

Besides taking measures like framing of law, death sentence for rape, fast track courts etc. The law should include preventive measures to counter the problem of violence

2 Preventive measures should include-

- **Migration from other states should be restricted or some measures for the verification should be taken.** It has been witnessed that in most of the crimes the culprits especially drivers, cleaners, domestic helpers, and labour class etc. in unorganised sector do not have any identity proof. They easily commit the crime and slip away.
- **No person with criminal background should be inducted in any decision making committee** formed to deal any type of case right from panchayat to central level.
- **Sensitisation of the police personnel should start at the training level.** They need to be more vigilant so that such crimes do not take place. In case of any incidence, they should show concern and should provide all the necessary and timely help rather than discussions on deciding the jurisdiction of the crime.

As action points the following tasks have been accomplished-

- Gender Sensitization programme launched
- Core committee at head office constituted
- Watch committees at branch level formed, self defense prog for young girls organized
- Toll free helpline for women introduced in few branches.



AIWC attends CSW-57 –UN

All India Women's Conference, International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, New York and Women and Memory Forum organized a side event on "Fighting violence against women: strategies and partnerships" under NGO CSW Forum Consultation. The event was held at Drew Room Church Centre for the UN 777, New York on 4th March, 2013. The hall was packed to its full capacity with more than 100 delegates from UK, Russia, Egypt, Kenya, California, Netherland, Congo, South Africa, Canada, Iran, Pakistan, China, etc.

Protocol on Intentions was signed between All India Women's Conference (India) and Interregional Union of Life Help "Sail of Hope" Russia.



Alliance of Strategic Development BRICS-NGOs

Participants exchanged their opinion on joint participation in realization of priority directions of civil initiatives in the field of sustainable (socially-focused) development of India and Russia. This includes areas like-empowerment of women, programs against drugs, Advisory support in technology of employment of women with disabilities, carrying out socio-cultural festivals for youth, support of voluntary movement as basis of civil consciousness etc.

The sides have agreed-

- 1 To begin negotiating process with objective of formation of partnership between AIWC and Sail of Hope to the solution of related questions mentioned above
- 2 To plan seminar of Alliance of Strategic partnership AIWC-Sail of Hope as the first step in setting up cooperation between the organizations.

Alternatives need to be found to protect the most vulnerable groups who no longer can depend on extended families or communal links for survival.

4 AIWC's Trusts in the field of –Health, Education and Old Age

Health Trust-

Health services are provided to needy people who cannot afford treatment for diseases that require surgery, costly medicines etc.

Education Trust-

Scholarships are provided for further studies to students from weaker sections of society.

Old age Trust-

Under this trust, services are provided to old persons from deprived sections of the community. Services include health care, food etc.

ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

By Syeda Ayesha Javeri

A brief history and a cursory survey, of APWA's founding and its goals, is a necessary introduction. In 1949 the Prime Ministers wife Begum Raana Liaquat Ali registered the All Pakistan Women's Association with the mission to empower women. For this aim offices were opened, on allotted land areas, in nearly every large hamlet and a town. APWA has the most numerous space centers in Pakistan, so APWA can influence rural and urban populations.

Till 2001, APWA received funding for these goals from Government and International Organizations. Unfortunately the tragedy of 9/11 stopped all that, now aid money is flooding other NGO's and APWA has been, unfortunately. Sidelined APWA is a non-political secular association and has built up a passive, non-violence reputation, so that its members are respected in all localities. This makes it easier to channel help to far flung and obdurate communities, especially in clinics for family planning and polio eradication.

The burning issue of today is Population Control which takes into its connotation women's primary natal health, family planning, child mortality, violence in marriage, the girl bride and of course education.

All these themselves, depend on good governance, to be successful, we don't have that due to several reasons, which will be expressed, from a layman's point of view – in the following pages.

Geographically Pakistan sits in the cradle valleys of the Hindukash Mountains and the Himalayan Ramparts. Its provinces of Baluchistan and Pakhtunkhwa are the quickest way to channel goods from the cold north to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. For this paramount reason it has been regarded as a prize by the great empires of that Asian land locked area.

And its the political strategy of the Western Powers to stop this passage from being used because they feel that the balance of power will be disturbed. Pakistan is therefore geo-centric to all these manipulations.

In the 70's .. The Russians entered Afghanistan on the call of its communist president. The Western Powers with this premise of unbalance, backed the rebel Pakhtuns of that area as Mujahidin who must fight a Jihad against unbelievers. The land was torn apart. The Russians left, and the American's help left. Chaos entered all over Afghanistan in the form of and War Lords. Injustice reached the limit and a movement arose for equality. The Taliban was born, slowly they introduced a most terrifying regime of discipline unheard of in Muslim history. The Woman became an unseen figure, helpless, worthless, silent and subdued. Pakistan had hosted millions of refugees in this period. They were reluctant to go back. The West gave aid but that did not take into account the Kashnakof and opium culture that invaded our poor land. Osama-bin-Laden came to Afghanistan and fused into its fabric by marriage and mindset.

The tragedy of 9/11 brought the West in militarizing might to this ravaged land Afghanistan and the War on Terror, overnight pulled us into its votex.

What is this re-accounting of history to do with the burning issue of family planning. You may ask? Well in a country which diverts its greatest assets to a huge army, where is there money

enough to make dams to create energy? Experts had warned the Pakistan Government that a water crisis will soon be the most devastating problem if small dams are not built. The Government had more to occupy their time and the political scenes was torn by party personal. So all was delayed and we came to the present scenario. No energy, no factories, no workers, no payers and violence in streets and frontiers. And then a burst of population. Home is the place the man loiters and fulfils his dreams out the marriage bed. How he will feed, clothe, educate these innocents be refused to even contemplate in his befuddled, frustrated mind, poor governance gives poor hospital care, thousands die in child mortality. The figures are astounding. 3:10 insecurity leads to child brides being parceled off, so the parents can relax their diligence. These themselves cause infant deaths. The violent unsafe streets keep girls at home, few parents have the courage of Malala's father and even if they had, the poor brave child was attacked! She proudly held her head high and addressed the U.N. Body on her Malala Day even declaring education as the right of every child, girl or boy. Ironically in Pakistan, Swat and NWFP had the highest literacy percentage earlier. But war and this closed, terrible philosophy of silence for the weaker sex has torn our land into smithereens. Yet the Pakistani women is not so, she is vibrant vivacious and voluble. No amount of alien suppression will make her succumb to this idea. There are so many young girls doing business, teaching, organizing fashion shows and projecting women's issues on media and management. It is the rural women who suffer most, where all the clinics and hospitals do not aggressively project the Family Planning courses. There is no money for the Marina or the Copper T, IUD. No Condoms for the men if they even deign to use them, No counselor to guide the reactions that the pill often creates and no one to treat the young couples that multiple births can occur if the pill is not taken wisely. So Education is great and necessary but concurrently family planning must move at an accelerated speed. It will take 20 years to see the result of education. There are millions of graduates without jobs, but population control will move now, just now. All we need in APWA is funding for the medical purposes. We have venues, most health workers, but no income for the IUD's to prevent their terrible tragedies of child deaths.

This is a paper addressed to a world body of women for a women oriented non-profit N.G.O. I could flood this thesis with records of facts and figures that abound in the google presentations written by world experts and survey geniuses. But IAW asked for a synopsis of our burning question and to me this is the one. Population control. If we focus on this, as well as education, we give women the **"voices of the choices"** to decide their family commitments. To be free to have as many children as they wish with their economic budget. To plan the intervals, to enjoy their lives, to have health as wealth and to help Pakistan also. The miracles of nature are finite, this realization of Malthus is valid, for even if we use the most advanced technology to obtain much from little it will remain true as it was in 19 century analysis. By the next every yard of land will hold a person. Population must be limited now.

Education itself, with the monitoring help, will face a great number of obstacles, especially in the rural areas. We pin our hopes on this new Government. May they be fulfilled APWA's empowerment hopes.

APWA Recent activeties:

1. The Collison Trust did the IT program. Helen Self granted this to APWA. Its results have helped our 45 young women and our schools 16 teachers.
2. The Maple project from APWA Toronto granted through President elect Meher Afroze gave 7 scholarships. One of the Montessori teacher has completed, the other students are still attending.

3. The Pfizer foundation project to create awareness of smoking's harmful effects, under National Alliance of tobacco control. In 5 months APWA field workers visited 18,398 households, held seminars, organized street theaters, taught in women's jails. Significant health awareness in low income communities.
4. The SIUT – APWA medical centre for kidney dialysis was set up. A complete free enterprise helped by Pakistani philanthropists having its own water purification plant. In the densely populated area with 20 dialysis machines and highly qualified doctors the brain child being Dr. Adeeb Rizvi and Dr. Anwar Naqvi.
5. The Legal Aide centre is now directly under APWA management and the working are free. It is a crisis centre for women especially with those with domestic violence. Lawyer incharge .
6. These are the important events of the least year or so. APWA continues working on her half century old programs; colleges, industrial homes, health clinics, 34 primary schools, 12 secondary schools, 1 college, 47 industrial homes, 23 maternity homes clinics and of course its emergency helps and its numerous projects that come to it.

Thank you for your attention

Syeda Ayesha Javeri

BANGLADESH MOHILA SAMITY

After independence in 1971 East Pakistan branch of All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) was reconstructed as Bangladesh Mohila Samity, by government notification no. SID/C2/72/66 dated 28 February 1972. Founder president and the general secretary were Dr. Neelima Ibrahim and Mrs. Ivy Rahman respectively.

Though the head office of Bangladesh Mohila Samity (BMS) is in Dhaka but it has branch offices all over the country. BMS is created with the vision to empower women at every level. Different projects and programs aims to improve the socio-economic, educational and health status of the less fortunate women in the society. BMS Provides training to the women and also provide marketing facility for the beneficiaries. It provides legal assistance for the distressed women. The organization is a non-political and secular institution giving stress on the welfare of women at every level.

Following are the status of the different programs conducted by BMS:

1. Neelima Ibrahim Primary Education Program

Two primary schools were run in Dhaka city for both boys and girls coming from less fortunate community. One school is situated in the premises of the head office and the other is the old part of the city. BMS provides nutritious food to the children of both the schools. Health cards are maintained through regular health check up of the students of the head office primary school only by Dhaka Community Hospital. Number of students in both the schools is 150 girls and 130 boys.

2. Ivy Rahman Training program

Two mothers' clubs were formed with the members mostly are the mothers of the students of BMS primary school. Services like formal education, basic health care and legal support. Program also includes special care to prevent their children from initiating harmful unsocial activities in slums, awareness on human trafficking, drug padding, water-borne diseases, and HIV/AIDS. BMS also offers them free IGA training on sewing & tailoring, block & batik printing, handicrafts, paper packet making for local bazaar, machine embroidery, etc.

Another part of this program is to introduce new training with commercial value for the beneficiaries. At present a cooking training on international cuisine has gained popularity among the trainees. The trainings are provided on payment. A training course on fashion designing will start very soon.

3. Renu Ahmed memorial training

Courses on English language and Computer programming are administered under this program. Participants of these courses are the female students of different colleges and universities. Special English language course is offered for the nurses of different hospitals in Dhaka. BMS intends to offer a course titled "Education and Service Management" to the nurses to improve their nursing quality of international standard in the country.

4. Sitara Ahsanullah breast cancer detection & care program

Considering breast cancer as a significant health issue for the women in Bangladesh BMS started an awareness program in 2003. During 2006-07 with the financial help of Country Women Association of Tasmania, Australia BMS organized free medical camps all over the country. Early diction is very increases hope for survival of a patient. Later, with the help of the civil society and the members of BMS the program is continued. There is a clinical set up in the head office where detection is done by a qualified physician three days a week.

5. Health and Family Program

Through family planning advice and reproductive health support, BMS is also serving women in the health sector. Demonstration classes are held to educate women on nutrition. motivation for breast feeding and personal hygiene. This program also includes awareness on sexually transmitted diseases.

In collaboration with Dhaka Community Hospital, BMS provides free regular health check up for the students of the schools run by BMS. Those children are mostly coming from under privileged group of the society.

6. Inclusion Initiatives of Autistic Children Program

BMS strongly believes that autistic children should be included in the mail stream in education and nation building. Since 2004 BMS is supporting organizations who deal autistics children by sending their trainers for international training abroad. BMS has set up a club named "Uttoron", where the parents of autistic children share and communicate their problems with other parents, counselors and trainers of the project.

7. Relief and Rehabilitation Project

During natural and manmade disasters, BMS members undertake relief operation mostly with the donations from the members themselves.

8. Publicity, Publication and Documentation Program

This department takes care of publicity relating objectives and programs of BMS. Special publications are published on the occasions of different activities of the organization.

Record on stakeholders of different program like legal assistance, breast cancer non-formal education are kept regularly by this department.

Conclusion:

With the help of the People's Republic of the Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Mahila Samity will have a new building build on their own land; This will help BMS to increase their activities nationally and internationally. BMS is planning to organize international conferences to improve communication and share experiences with other sister organizations in the region and in the world.

POWER, Bangladesh

Platform of Women's Empowerment & Rights

[A platform of women empowering to promote their rights as local volunteer services organization]

CONTENTS

CHAPTER-I

POWER- AT A GLANC01-08

Introduction

Vision

Mission

Goal

Objectives

Values

Commitment

Legal Authority

Management Style

Role of Executive

Chief Executive

Development Approach

Implementation Strategy

Core Program

Our Slogan

Target Group/Clients of POWER

- ❖ Hardcore Poor
- ❖ Ultra Hardcore Poor
- ❖ People with Disabilities (PWD's)
- ❖ Child with Disabilities (CWD's)
- ❖ Micro Entrepreneurs

Operational Area

Major Activity

Strength of POWER

CHAPTER-II

SECTOR WISE BRIEF NARRATIVES09-15

01. Institution Building and Development
02. Human Resource Development
03. Education Program
04. Legal Aid Support Program
05. Family Planning Pregnant Mother Program
06. Safe Drinking Water/Arsenic Mitigation
07. Agriculture and Forestry Development
08. Micro-finance Project portfolio of Micro-finance
09. Disability Development Program
10. Disaster Management and Relief Program
11. Fishery Program
12. Nursery Development Program
13. Disaster Management and Relief

CHAPTER-III

ONGOING PROJECTS/PROGRAMS AND DONORS16

AFFILIATION WITH POTHER AGENCIES16

CHAPTER-IV

FUTURE PLANNING OF POWER17

FOREWORD

POWER has been putting its relentless efforts since its inception for the empowerment of poor women and deprive people through poverty alleviation and capacity building. The Annual Report 2011-12 which presented here, will provide the readers with relevant information about our project activities carried out during the reporting period.

We have been advancing gradually through trial and errors and its is a strong guidance for us. In view of the impediments faced in the past as were evident from the last year's report the management could diagnose the defects and prescribe panacea for the removal of those defect and this is an achievement for our organization. We expect that our Annual Report for 2011-12 has depicted lots about out project/program activities in brief, which may provide the reader with ample information.

We express our sincere note of thanks and gratitude to the Donors, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Patrons and Well-wishers, Executive Committee Members, Consultants and Staff-members of POWER who extended their financial, technological, official and moral supports to POWER for the socio-economic development of the under privileged poor rural women members/beneficiaries of POWER. I do also like to take the opportunity for seeking ceaseless wholehearted co-operation from all concerned in the future.

Moreover, I am thanking all of my colleagues who have taken untiring efforts in preparing this Annual Report. Any suggestion or advice from any corner for the improvement of the report will be highly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Mst. Momtaj Mohol

Executive Director

POWER.

MESSAGE OF CHAIRPERSON

POWER was established only for the empowerment of women socio-economic condition development of the poor women and destitute people through Poverty Alleviation, Social improvement, Human skill and conceptual development. In course to time, by the continuous assistance of POWER, women, Poor and destitute people are not the burden now a days to their social lives rather they are development partners of their family members.

They have proved their worthiness in various fields of activities and got recognition in the family for their significant contribution made in economic growth and efficient family holder management. It is a remarkable success of POWER and for this reason. I feel proud to be a part of POWER's development endeavors. I congratulate all concerned that whole-heartedly helped POWER in achieving this success by providing their resources, suggestions, moral supports, acts and deeds. Our Annual Report for 2012-13 has been prepared and I hope the distinguished readers and our development partners will get a clear picture of our endeavours.

Our all out prudential efforts and guidance shall be made ceaselessly in flourishing people felicitated POWER's client/members-oriented benevolent development approaches in the long run. I wish to have much more sincere cooperation and assistance to POWER from every one in materializing the vision of our organization and effective exercise of the concept *"Let destitute women be the able person to get their rights"* by all concerned.

Ms. Selina Khatun, Chairperson

CHAPTER-1

POWER-ATA GLANCE

Introduction:

In Bangladesh, especially in its northern zone, where Bogra district is situated, nearly 60% of the people live in below poverty-line, and the plight of women, adolescents and children are most distressful. There is a historically backward with the respect of education, employment, housing, agro-production, health-care and sanitation. The area is also vulnerable from environment destruction, health-care problems and natural disaster points of view. The whole body of the organization observe that Bangladesh is a densely populated and one of the poor countries of the world about 80% people live in rural area where the destitute and distressed people. In rural remote area, a large number of people are violating and victims by vulnerability situation and human rights. Many of them are lands less, exploited neglected and deprived from their rights and minimum opportunities. People with disabilities, poor women, children and slaveries are not outer part of the victimized. All of these community people would be empowered and want to raise the condition of the poverty level. It could be possible to bring about changes step by step applying various methods and techniques, like group formation, Skill development training, Education, Leadership development and Local resource mobilization.

Realizing the above statements, some dedicated women youth make a roll play to stand a Platform of Women's Empowerment and Rights.

Mission:

Vulnerable and less skilled people especially adolescents, women and children that have to establish their rights, empowerment and quality of life through social justice, ecological balance and economical development.

Vision:

Improving Socio-economic status and dignity of life for the under privileged people emphasizing adolescents, women and children in the society.

Goal:

Ethological imbalanced, injustice and poverty free society where prevails a dignity of social life.

Objectives:

To launch all type of social welfare and development through special technical resources and some mandated organization are the main objectives of POWER. But also the organization emphasis some immediate objectives.

1. To build some instructions with the poor and vulnerable adolescents, women and children.
2. Transferring skill to the all targeted people.
3. To improve earning capacity for all of the vulnerable adolescents and women.
4. Ensuring rights for the all destitute people specially adolescents and women.
5. To ensure health for all.
6. To ensure sustainable development for the Persons with Disabilities(PWDs) those who are poor, vulnerable and distressed.
7. To give support and services for the period of pre and post disaster.
8. To improve primary education and mass education.
9. To create job opportunities providing Occupational/Vocational Training.

Core Values:

- ❖ Accountability.
- ❖ Transparency.
- ❖ Creativity.
- ❖ Strengthen existing structures and systems.
- ❖ Gender responsive.
- ❖ Honesty.
- ❖ Focus on the needy.
- ❖ Respect to all participants.
- ❖ Encourage environmental soundness.
- ❖ Promote people-centered development.

Strategies:

- ❖ Utilization of local resources.
- ❖ Diversification.
- ❖ Capacity building of staffs and organization.
- ❖ Ecological development.
- ❖ Expansion of qualitative programs.
- ❖ Mainstreaming gender into all program.

- ❖ Building alliances with the civil society, awareness raising, advocacy and networking.
- ❖ Focus on the disabled people, their families, the community and other vulnerable groups.

Commitment:

- ❖ Member's/Beneficiaries satisfaction through timely, efficient, qualitative and effective services/product delivery.
- ❖ Reflection of Organizational values in all activities of POWER.
- ❖ Self-reliance of members/Beneficiaries and sustainability of POWER.

Executive Committee:

At the first stage of the organization, 5(five) persons are agreed to take initiative for making a group and put their opinion to setup an organization. The following persons are committed and devoted to continue some activities against the problem of the society through this organization. They want to put their contribution towards the organization. The members of the Executive Committee are as follows:

Name	Educational Qualification	Designation in EC	Profession
Mst. Selina Khatun	H.S.C	Chairperson	Social Work
Md. Saikhul Islam	B.Com	Co-Chairman	Social Work
Mst. Momtaj Mohol	B.A	General Secretary	Social Work
Mst. Anumonowara Begum	B.A	Treasure	Social Work
Md. Moniruzzaman	M.Com	Member	Social Work

Advisory Council:

Executive Committee has selected an Advisory Council of five members whose execute the Advisory Council for 5 (Five) years. Every after 5 (Five) years, the Advisory Council reviewed by the Executive committee. The Advisory Council reserves rights to minimize any of the complication or any others of inheritance of the organization through participatory discussing among the Board Members. This Advisory council always gives advice to the executive committee. The members of Advisory Council are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Advisors	Position	Qualification
01.	Dr. M. Shamsul Haque	Chief Advisor	Ph.D, MBA, M.Com
02.	Dr. Shariful Islam	Advisor	H.S.C & Village Doctor
03.	Mst. Monjuara Begum	Advisor	M.A.
04.	Mst. Chandni Begum	Advisor	M.A
05.	Mst. Shamima Akter	Advisor	M.Sc

FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Chief Executive:

The Chief Executive of POWER is the Chairman, who is elected by the Executive Committee. Chairman gives consent to all executive decisions and responsible for overall administration and program implementation. Chairman is responsible for keeping contact with the Govt. and the Non-Government agencies and donors. The Chairman is accountable to the Executive Committee.

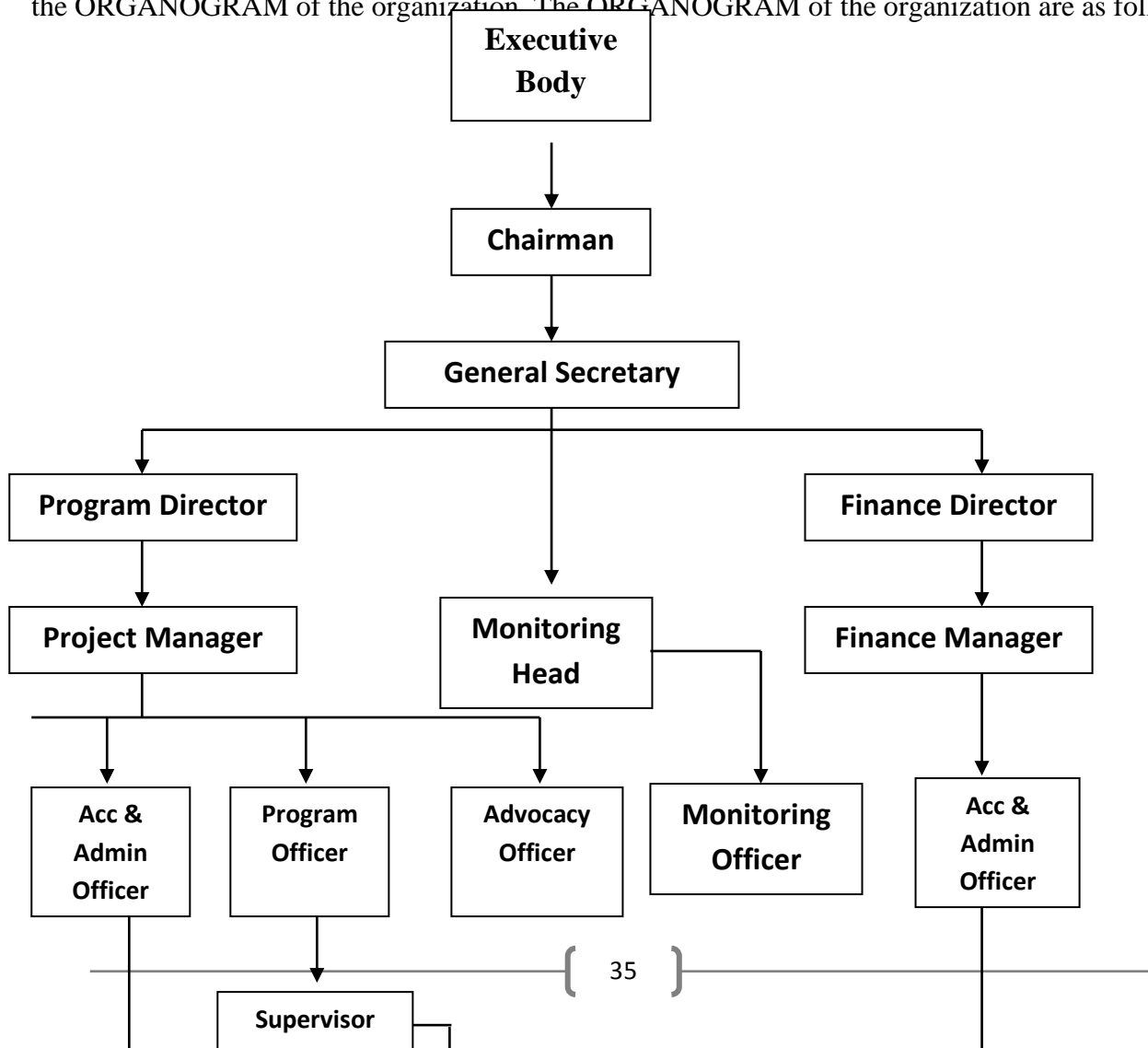
Staff of Organization:

Some recruited and some voluntary staffs of the organization are putting consents and transferring their skill to do the all sorts of activities in the targeted areas of the organization. As social well wishes the voluntary staffs are continuing expanded their hands to allover the programmatic activates. Recruited staffs are responsible for performing sector wise activities and well as their service roles. Project's head always controls all of the subordinate staff as per the project's guideline. All of the Project's heads are reportable to the Chairman consequence the project status.

Management Policy:

The organization has its own Management policy that was established by the Executive Council. The Executive Council always developing advances organizational policy and strategy where Chairman plays role as a Team Leader. Every after three months the Executive Committee organized a meeting to look after their progress and making decision for all sorts of ongoing activates. Also they organize a meeting within short notice for any of the impotence issues, Chairman always looks after the progress of Program activities though responsible staffs.

All sorts of activities are done by the recruited staffs both field level and management level follow the ORGANOGRAM of the organization. The ORGANOGRAM of the organization are as follows:



Financial Management Policy:

The organization has its own Financial Management policy that was approved by the Executive Committee. Every after 3(three) months the Executive committee check over the accounts through collecting financial report for all over the program. The Head Accounts Officer and Projects of Branch Accounts Officer jointly perform these financial activities according to the financial guideline. In this connection, the Chairman plays role as a Team Leader. In the meeting of Executive Committee, Chairman represents the Financial Report of Income and Expenditure. The Committee approves the Income and Expenditure and making decision for all sorts of financial activities.

Professional Staff of Organization :

Designation	Regular		Temporary		Voluntary		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Chairman	01	-	-	-	-	-	01
Chief Executive	-	01	-	-	-	-	01
Coordinator	01	-	-	-	-	-	01
Monitoring Officer	-	-	01	-	-	-	01
Program Manager	-	01	-	-	-	-	01
Field Officer	-	02	-	-	-	-	02
Upazila Manager	01	03	-	-	-	-	04
Accounts Officer	01	02	-	-	-	-	03
Supervisor	03	02	-	-	-	-	05
Master Trainer	-	-	01	-	-	-	01
Trainer/Teacher	07	19	-	-	-	-	36
Field Organization	01	02	-	-	05	05	03
Peon	01	-	-	-	-	-	01
Ayah	-	01	-	-	-	-	01
Total	16	33	02	-	05	05	61

Operational Area:

Sl.No.	Name of District	Name of Upazila
01.	Bogra	1. Bogra Sadar 2. Gabtoli 3. Sariakandi 4. Shajahanpur Upazila

		5. Adamdighi
02.	Rangpur	1. Taragonj
03.	Lalmonirhat	1. Sadar 2. Kaligonj

Major areas of activities

POWER strives for creating innovative and variable of the myriad of problems related to socio-economic conditions of the poor and destitute women encountered in to-day's emerging Bangladesh. As such POWER identified the following areas of activities to attain its goal and objectives.

List of Ongoing Projects:

Sl. No	Name of Projects	Financed by (Partners/Donors)	Project Duration	Participants/ Beneficiaries
01.	Non-formal Education and IGA Project. (Drop out children, has to be achieve education by this program)	Hope for children, U.K. and POWER	2008 to Continue	Drop out children of the community
02.	Destitute and Victimized maid servants education (Non-formal education for developing the skill of victimized amid servant and involving income Generating Activity)	WICC Canada	2012-2013	Adolescents and maid servant of the Society
03.	Clean water and sanitation (Providing Right Slave for suitable latrine and clean water supply proving tube-well as credit based).	WICC, ILLC	2012-2013	Disadvantaged people of the community
04.	Tailoring and IGA Project (Vulnerable Women's and adolescents has to be developed their skill and empowered).	POWER	2012 to Continue	Poor women, dowry, divorce women and adolescents.
05.	VGD/VGF Program: (Vulnerable Women's Group has to be developed and empower by this program).	Women & Child Affairs Directorate of Bangladesh.	2012 to Continue	Vulnerable and land less poor women.
06.	Pregnancy Poor Mother and Child welfare Project: (Vulnerable pregnant mother has to be benefited and covered mal-	Women & Child Affairs Department of Bangladesh.	2012 to Continue	Pregnancy poor mother and child.

	nutrition by this program).			
--	-----------------------------	--	--	--

Portfolio of Savings and Micro Credit:

01.	No. of Group/Samity	300 group
02.	No. of Borrower Member	-
03.	No. of Field Worker	36
04.	Total Member	9000
05.	Total Savings amount	25,19,625/-
06.	Total Loan Disbursed	-
07.	Total Loan Recovery	-
08.	Total Outstanding Loan amount	-
09.	Loan Recovery Rate	-
10.	Per member average Loan size	-
11.	Per member average savings size	2500-2800

Monitoring and Evaluation:

POWER aims to provide benefit to the target people and groups through working with equal opportunity. Also it wants to meet objective.

- ❖ Identify strengths and ongoing challenges of existing development program in the working areas.
- ❖ Arrange monthly and quarterly staff workshop on critical issues on the development activities.
- ❖ Developing M&E Systems and techniques for development activities in the project context.
- ❖ Developing standardized tool(s) in screening and assessing whole development activities.

International Networking:

International Alliance of Womens(IAW)
Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)
VHSS
CDF
Nari Uddog Kendra (NUK)

Strength of Organization:

- ❖ Fair, honest and close minded member of the Executive Committee.
- ❖ Registered with the three department of Bangladesh Government.
- ❖ Dedicated, efficient and hard worker staff.
- ❖ 1 Motor bike and 05 numbers of Bi-Cycle.
- ❖ Well Brick Build Office (Rented).
- ❖ Necessary furnisher of the office.
- ❖ 01 Desktop Computer and 01 Laptop Computer.
- ❖ A reputed training center and its necessary materials.
- ❖ Good Relationship with Local people, Local Govt. and Local Govt. Authorities.
- ❖ Good communication with other NGO officials.

CHAPTER-II

SECTOR WISE PROGRAM NARRATIVES

01. Institution Building and Development:

“Unity is strength”- this age-old proverb was chosen up by POWER as its first fundamental elements to reduce poverty. It was felt that unless a combined force of the poor & destitute people the removal of social barriers for their socio-economic development and emancipation is not possible. Keeping this is view POWER developed the following long term strategic planning.

- 1.1 **Self-help Group:** 30 Numbers of groups where continuing member 600 are working in the char area at Sariaikandi Sadar, Hat sherpur, Kajla, Chaluabari, Kornibari and Bohail union under Sariaikandi upazila, Bogra.
- 1.2 Village Development Committee (VDC).

02. Human Resource Development:

Human Resource Development it aimed at fostering resource management & Business/Entrepreneurship development activities of POWER. In order to develop human resources. POWER has been implementing different types of training. Generally, these training re arranged for all level staff/members of professional trainers of POWER who have mastered themselves in the art of imparting training and gained proficiency in technology transfer conduct of all the training courses. Human Resource Development Division emphasizes on to develop carrier plan of staff to increase their capacity and qualitative training at centre and field level, residential and non residential program.

2.1 Training: POWER started training activates since 1999 with limited training program. In order to develop resources, POWER provides 2 types of training courses: (i) Human Development Training (ii) Skill Development Training.

Human Development Training: Human development means a positive improvement & advancement of participant’s personality, dignity and creativity. The objectives of the training are to make participants conscious about his/her society and surroundings, clear conceptuality on development, develops his/her analytical power, assists them to go in-depth of a problem and to expose his/her latent potentialities strengths in order to attain his/her confidence and self-respect.

Skill Development Training: Occupational skill development training courses are designed for those who like to start project or income generating & tactical activities. These courses are offered with a view to enabling the participants with relevant knowledge and appropriate skills so that they can take appropriate decisions in the selection and implementation of various income generation activities. The skill development training courses are imparted to field-based staff-member so that they can extend their services to the beneficiaries. Like human development course, the skill development training courses are organized both informal and non-formal settings.

The objective of the program is to make the people literate by providing life-oriented education through acquiring skill of Reading, Writing & Numerical knowledge and awareness on Health care, Hygiene, Cleanliness, empowerment, leadership, Human rights etc and make them self literate human resource.

POWER began Non-Formal Education since its inception with own initiatives in its operating areas but since 2008 it began adult functional literacy activity with the assistance of DNFE of Bangladesh government initially at Gabtoli upazila under Bogra district.

Non-Formal Primary: Age group between 5-8 years. Total centers 05& Learners 150, Teacher 05, Supervisor-01, Duration-2 years.

Continuing Adult Literacy : Age between 13-25 years, Total Centers 05, Learners 900, Teachers-30, Supervisor-02, Duration-9 months.

Reaching Out School Children (ROSC): Age between 07-14 years, Total Centers 44, Learner : Boy-784, Girl-751, Working Area- 3 Unions of Gabtoli Upzila Teachers-44, Supervisor- 03,Duration-5 years.

Literacy for the street Children : Age between 08-14 years, Total Centers 40, Learner: Boy- 784, Girl- 751 Working Area-Bogra Sadar, Teachers – 42, Supervisor- 03, Duration- 5 years.

03. Legal Aid Support Program:

Organization always takes initiatives for the betterment of the poor and vulnerable people of the area. Some people always neglected from their support of legally in social legislation and other victimization. So that POWER have been continuing the program for the poor and vulnerable people all over the working area by their own initiatives of the organization since 2000.

04. Family Planning & Pregnant Mother Program:

Lack of Health Education, Malnutrition, Prejudice, Unhygienic dwelling Condition and inadequate health Care Services the rural poor people of Bangladesh frequently became victim of various diseases, which result in high morbidity and mortality rate. Among the rural poor people the condition of women and children are much more deplorable due to unsafe motherhood and malnutrition. This scenario is confident even in the operation areas of POWER. Since POWER is a Non-government deprived man and women organization the Top Management included Family Planning Pregnant Mother Program in its development activities in 2009 as per constitutional commitment and organizational values. The main objectives of this program are.

- ❖ To strengthen Primary Health Care Services for poor Women and Children.
- ❖ To ensure Women's Reproductive Health and Rights.

- ❖ To ensure women's rights and access to good quality physical health care and nutrition at all levels of women's life-cycle.
- ❖ To reduce maternal and child morbidity & mortality rate.
- ❖ Providing support service to the pregnant mother.

At the first stage, the health care services program was confined to 2 unions of Gabtoli Upazila under Bogra district and only for the group member of POWER and their infants were beneficiaries of this program. One Medical Graduate Doctor and 3 health workers were engaged in this program.

During this year POWER have provide the following health and family planning services among the target beneficiaries.

- ❖ Have conducted 4 Health session among 350 beneficiaries in the community
- ❖ Have given 1225 nos. of birth control peal among the women beneficiaries in the community.
- ❖ Have completed the 4 Health orientation where were present 150 participants.
- ❖ Have completed the 5 Birth Attendance Training among 50 women participants.
- ❖ Have provided support services to 1200 pregnant mother at the end of the project.

05. Safe Drinking Water/Arsenic Mitigation:

To reduce the water borne diseases POWER, with the assistance of NGO Forum have installed 59 numbers of Sanitary Latrine in Gabtoli Upazila, 6 numbers of Sanitary Latrine in Sariakandi upazila and 360 numbers of Sanitary Latrine in Sonatola Upazila during 2006-2007. 70 numbers of hand tube wells have been tested arsenic, 31 number of Tube-well Plat-form have been re-constructed in the rural areas of Sonatola upazila and aware community people of the danger of Arsenic sis and identification of the source of pure drinking water by putting green paintings and putting red paints on the arsenic contaminated.

06. Agriculture and Forestry Development:

During this year, with the financial & technical assistance and co-operation of Agriculture Department POWER started this activity to establish more awareness and motivational work in order to produce more in agro-economics income of beneficiaries through providing necessary skill development training to the conceded stakeholders. At present POWER has been implementing this activity in 32 villages, 6 unions of Gabtoli upazila under the Bogra district and till now produced 12000 saplings through developing 5 nurseries.

07. Micro-Credit and Support Project:

Platform of Women Empowerment & Rights (POWER) came into being in 1995 by the efforts of a few local people. They organized poor men and women into small groups and their main activity was savings money and to do something. Their accumulated savings money became an asset and they became perplexed conceding its use. In this situation, all of those poor men and women approached and made a request to the present Executive Director of POWER. He accepted this additional responsibility very cordially, in order to materialize his long cherished philanthropic desire. Moreover a decision was taken for building up of savings habit among women members. These accumulated savings of the members were used as revolving loan fund with effect from 2000 to 2008. During that period the highest per head loan was Tk. 500/- only.

This activity was started with effect from 1985 by POWER own fund it was expanded in 3 unions of Gabtoli upazila under Bogra district. A total amount of Tk. 8,25,500/- had been disbursed as loan among 25 female and 45 male members of POWER.

This activity is being implemented by 12 number of staffs of POWER and the recovery rate is 98.75%.

- ❖ Loan range: 2,000/- to 10,000/- among the hardcore poor and poor.
- ❖ Period: 1 year.
- ❖ Repayment: 46 installments.
- ❖ Rate of yearly service charge: 15%.

Portfolio of Micro-finance:

01.	No. of Group/Samity	300 group
02.	No. of Borrower Member	-
03.	No. of Field Worker	36
04.	Total Member	9000
05.	Total Savings amount	25,19,625/-
06.	Total Loan Disbursed	-
07.	Total Loan Recovery	-
08.	Total Outstanding Loan amount	-
09.	Loan Recovery Rate	-
10.	Per member average Loan size	-
11.	Per member average savings size	2500-2800

08. Disability Development Program:

It is the core program of the organization for developing of the differently able people of the society. The project is assisted by the welfare of National Disability Development Welfare, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The welfare has been financial support for developing in disability like as providing assistive devices, mainstreaming to the income Generating Activities in the respective areas of the disable people.

During the last couple of years the cases of acid throwing and physical tortures to women & girls severely culminated in the working of areas of POWER which resulted in enhancement of physical & mental disability. In addition to these number of physically incapacitated women & girls increased on account of illness, malnutrition, wrong treatment by quacks and various types of accidents. These physically and mentally retarded women and children are gradually becoming burden to their families on the ground of non-productive element. Since 2000 POWER is devoted for the empowerment of women it came forward for the salvation of these disabled women and children form a subhuman & undignified life. For their rehabilitation POWER arranges various types of occupational skill development training's

pertaining to handicrafts so that after completion of training they can either start income generation activities by their own or be absorbed by nearby interested entrepreneur. However, POWER provides financial supports, working opportunities and shelters to these disabled women and children considering their needs.

During the year of 2012-13 POWER have provided under mentioned services among the persons with disabilities in the respective working areas.

Sl. No.	Name of Service	Quantity (From the beginning)	Remarks
01.	Wheel Chair	07 nos.	
02.	Crutch	14 nos.	
03.	White cane	18 nos.	
04.	Educational Material	38 Students	
05.	Financial	15 Persons	

09. Disaster Management and Relief Program:

POWER started Disaster Management Program since 2000 with natural calamities like Flood, Tornado, Draught, Extreme Cold etc are prevalent in Bangladesh in the form of disaster. To meet all these sated natural calamities, to create awareness and to stand by the side of the affected people in distress, POWER has actively started its disaster activities. In 2007 & 2008 when flood and winter jeopardized the life and properties of the rural poor, POWER stood by the side of the distressed and extended its help in the form of kind and cash. It is of course, well-known to all while disaster occurred due to flood. POWER helps the distressed out of its own resources and solicited help from the philanthropic Aid giving agencies to extend their support in the district of Bogra. POWER with its skilled manpower tried to overcome the sorrows and pangs of the affected people.

During 2011-12 DMP of POWER with the help of NGO Forum and World vision was working in Bogra by forming upazila and union level Disaster Management Committee duly approved by the government. The Disaster Management Committee at different levels is imparting training to the people awareness them of the causes of disaster and their prevention and after effete. The awareness and motivation through training have been proved very successful and the people have become benefited through the preparation of Risk and Resource Map and gained practical experience of Disaster Management through simulation exercises during training.

CHAPTER-III ONGOING PROJECTS/PROGRAMS AND DONORS

Sl. No	Name of Projects	Financed by (Partners/Donors)	Project Duration	Participants/ Beneficiaries
01.	Non-formal Education and IGA Project. (Drop out children, has to be achieve education by this	Hope for children, U.K. and POWER	2008 to Continue	Drop out children of the

	program)			community
02.	Destitute and Victimized maid servants education (Non-formal education for developing the skill of victimized amid servant and involving income Generating Activity)	WICC Canada	2012-2013	Adolescents and maid servant of the Society
03.	Clean water and sanitation (Providing Right Slave for suitable latrine and clean water supply proving tube-well as credit based).	WICC, ILLC	2012-2013	Disadvantaged people of the community
04.	Tailoring and IGA Project (Vulnerable Women's and adolescents has to be developed their skill and empowered).	POWER	2012 to Continue	Poor women, dowry, divorce women and adolescents.
05.	VGD/VGF Program: (Vulnerable Women's Group has to be developed and empower by this program).	Women & Child Affairs Directorate of Bangladesh.	2012 to Continue	Vulnerable and land less poor women.
06.	Pregnancy Poor Mother and Child welfare Project: (Vulnerable pregnant mother has to be benefited and covered mal-nutrition by this program).	Women & Child Affairs Department of Bangladesh.	2012 to Continue	Pregnancy poor mother and child.

AFFILIATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES:

❖ International Alliance of Womens (IAW)
❖ Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)
❖ VHSS
❖ CDF
❖ Nari Uddog Kendra (NUK)

CHAPTER-IV FUTURE PLANNING OF POWER

In order to various participatory discussion and findings that the total areas of population are not skill and adapt in significant daily life. Also the adolescents of this areas are not advancement with the functional education. Because of that the adolescents and poor women can't earn such as money living peacefully in the society. Illiterate adolescents and women's poverty and uncertain difficult life is closely linked to issues such as low pay, lack of access to work, low facilitation living in the house, technological facility and social safety or security. Poverty is also concentrated particularly in household run by women alone. The Top Management of

POWER feel that some of the most urgent initiatives have to be taken for implementing the following works.

- ❖ To take more skill development training for the adolescents specially maid servant.
 - ❖ Income Generate Technical Education for the adolescents and women.
 - ❖ To setup short type of technical training institute in the rural area.
 - ❖ Mini Garments setup for the adolescents specially maid servant.
-

EUROPE

Report on the European Region 2013

Joanna Manganara

I will briefly describe the most important actions that the Alliance has either supported or launched at the European level.

European Women's Lobby

The IAW organized a seminar on the effects of the economic crisis on women in the South of Europe during the General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby in June 2012. The EWL decided to monitor the impact of austerity on women and in 2012 elaborated a first study on the issue based on information provided by member organizations and recent research from a range of sources. The study revealed that austerity policies in Europe undermine women's rights, perpetuate existing gender inequalities and create new ones and hamper the prospects of sustainable and equal progress in Europe.

The 2013 report will look deeper into the real lives of women across the EU in the throngs of austerity and as well as weaving common issues and concerns will also focus on how women are resisting and the recommendations they are proposing to move towards recovery.

ELMIEPO

I was invited together with the other members of the issue group I organized in the context of the EWL GA in Brussels in June 2012 by the Spanish Association "Women for Dialogue and Education" in collaboration with the representation of the European Commission in Spain to participate in the IV Euromediterranean encounter of women leaders in enterprises and politics (ELMIEPO) that took place in Madrid in April 17, 2013.

The IV ELMIEPO analyzed the gender impact of the crisis in the South of Europe. In particular it analyzed how measures of austerity have negatively affected women. It organized a round table on the vision of women's associations in the South of Europe.

In my intervention I put an emphasis on the economic policies that are leading the world today and I expressed my concern that they are increasingly disconnected from the real lives of women and men in the EU. Such policies are not sustainable for the present and future generations and they hit women particularly hard.

The European Commission should replace EU level policies aiming to achieve short term fiscal stability with policies that will provide equality and solidarity driven prosperity in the long term and safeguard the economic position of both women and men.

CLEF French coordination of the EWL. Seminar on the relations of women with Europe.

I have been invited by Ms Olga Trostianski President of CLEF the French coordination to the European Women's Lobby as an expert to speak to a seminar on the relations of Europe with

European women on 25 September 2013 in Paris. I will focus on the contribution of women to the European economy and the effects of the economic crisis on them.

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

I have contributed to the forthcoming thematic report to the 68th session of the UN General Assembly (October 2013) of the special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona on unpaid care, poverty and women's human rights. We have added and analyzed the effect of austerity measures on these issues.

The European Parliament has adopted a non-legislative resolution on the subject based on the report of Elisabeth Morin Chartier EPP MEPS initiated in December 2012. In the resolution MEPS call on the European Commission to stop budget cuts in the public sector, in social security benefits and social welfare, education and childcare services. They also call for greater female entrepreneurship.

European 2020 Strategy

There is urgency of including a headline target on gender equality in the European 2020 Strategy on equality between women and men that cuts across all policies including economic policies.

Europe 2020 and the European Semester are now in the third year and continue to have an increasing role in shaping socioeconomic and environmental policies at national level.

The EWL published its first edition of ticking clocks report which aims to provide input for the European Commission annual drafting of recommendations to the member states in socioeconomic policies. The report has been drafted with the input of the EWL member organizations.

Women in sports

I have signed the petition "Lift the ban on women's canoeing at the Olympics for Rio 2016".

The International Canoe Federation and the International Olympics' Committee are not adding women canoeing events to the 2016 Olympics because the sport is not developed enough.

By not having the sport represented at the Olympic Games whose adage is that the practice of a sport is a human right, how can this do anything but discourage the development.

Violence against women

I have signed the EWL petition that calls on European Commission President Barroso to establish a European Year to end violence against women and girls.

Five members of the European Parliament have initiated a written declaration calling on the EU to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on violence against women.

Trafficking in human beings

The EU Civil Society platform on trafficking in human beings an initiative from EU Commissioner Cecilia Malstrom and EU Anti-trafficking coordinator Myria Vassiliadou has put the demand side for sexual exploitation on the political agenda of the platform.

Sexual and reproductive rights

I have signed the petition of Amnesty International demanding world leaders to live up to their commitments to make sexual and reproductive rights real now and for the next generation.

Revision of the pregnant women's directive

EWL has been working to unlock the negotiations on the revision of this directive. Together with ETUC they have sent a letter to EU heads of state to that effect.

Women in decision making

More than 50 MEPS have signed the 50 / 50 Declaration for gender balance in European decision making from five political groups and from all over the EU.

Women's human rights and gender equality in the post 2015 Development Agenda.

The IAW has sent a model letter elaborated by the EWL and adjusted by President Lyda Verstegen, to the Secretary General of the UN concerning the UN General Assembly special event in September 2013 on the Millenium Development Goals and post MDG framework.

The letter is asking: a) for a standalone goal on gender equality and the rights of women and girls in the post 2015 Development Agenda. b) a cross cutting gender equality perspective throughout the post 2015 agenda: gender mainstreaming in all goals, targets and indicators.

EWL GENERAL ASSEMBLY Zagreb 31 May-2 June 2013

Finances

One of the main issues for discussion during the GA was finances. The President said that we face 3 challenges: funding by E Commission post 2014, co-financing, accumulated loss- deficit which nearly halved in the last two years and is due to ineligible costs. The halving is due to the hard work by the secretariat in particular concerning cash flow covering costs of travel.

Now it is the responsibility of members to do something. Ideas that were put forward were the following: Members commit to 500 Euros per year / To subscribe 12 friends per year / Shared events and activities / Donations / Contribution to costs / Merchandise / Shared skills.

The treasurer Mrs Law emphasized that by reducing the costs of the lobby we will not reduce the deficit. This will only be done by attracting new funds. Moreover ineligible costs may once again create a deficit in the future but it will be more manageable.

Membership issues

The membership committee proposed that the network from Serbia be accepted as full member. The proposal was unanimously adopted.

It also proposed an increase of the membership fee for the European Wide organizations from 400euros to 700.

Most European Wide organizations including IAW were against this proposal which meant a 50% raise of the fees, while the EWL paid only one delegate from these organizations and two for national coordinations. So the argument that the raise was to avoid discrepancies between national coordinations and European organizations did not stand. Also the proposal came too late so there was no time for consultation. A number of European Wide Organizations including IAW made the proposal for a raise of the membership fee to 500euros. The proposal was adopted with 92 votes in favor, 4 against, 11 abstentions.

Revision of EWL statutes

The President said that the process of revision has been a long one and that the majority of the members were in favor of keeping a full board and shifting powers from the GA to it. There were 25 articles and 45 amendments that should be voted separately.

Concerning European Wide Organizations the following amendments were adopted:

Article 5, Amendment 9 which proposes to reduce the number of countries where European Organizations need to be present and to refer to the European Free Trade Association instead of the European Economic Area in order to include Switzerland.

The European Wide Organization should have representative organizations in at least one third of the countries in membership of the European Union, the European Free Trade Association and countries in the formal process of acceding to the EU (previously 50% plus 1).

Article 11.3 Each European Wide Organization will have the right to nominate one delegate to the GA. Each European Wide Organization will have one vote.

Amendment 22 No change of substance only clarification: 1 delegate/ 1 vote for European organizations.

Article 18 The number of members making up the board of Administration is determined in such a way as to achieve a balance of three national co ordinations for one European Wide nongovernmental Organization. The number can nonetheless never be less than ten or more than forty five.

The number of seats attributed to the European Wide Organizations is determined by the ratio set out in para1 of this article.

Amendment 34 It is proposed to include the ratio of the national/European full member organizations represented in the board in the statutes and not in the internal rules (no change in the ratio itself). Many European Wide organizations voted against amendment 34 including IAW.

Amendment 37 It is proposed that a European member of the board who wishes to resign is replaced by her alternate as is the case for board members representing national coordinations and not by the representative next on the voting list of nongovernmental organizations elected to the Board of Administration by the GA.

Article 20 The executive committee comprises at least one representative of European Wide full member organizations.

Amendment 41 sets the guaranteed representation to at least 1 (currently 1.6)

Report of Activities 2012

Strategic objective 1: Influence EU level policies relating to equality between women and men.

The EWL continued to put the issue of male violence against women on the EU and national political agenda. One example in this area is the work on the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women both by the EU and its member states.

The EWL campaign together for a Europe free from prostitution continued to be highly successful. The EWL issued a statement to welcome the EU strategy on trafficking in human beings. It also pushed for the issue of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights to be on the European agenda.

Promoting the equal participation of women and men in all areas and at all levels of decision making.

The EWL launched a report on women on boards in Europe 'from a snail's pace to a giant leap'. The EWL as well as many EWL members also contributed to the public consultation 'Gender imbalance in the EU'.

Further steps were made to revive the EWL 50/50 campaign for Parity Democracy. The EWL pilot mentoring program entitled minority women- equal votes-equal voices that started in September 2012 is a practical implementation of the 50/50 campaign.

Ensuring a feminist perspective in EU economic, employment and social policies.

The EWL worked to integrate a woman's rights and gender equality perspective in the EU 2020 strategy. EWL members provided alternative country specific recommendations on the basis of their National Reform Programs which were submitted by governments in February 2012.

On December 2012 EWL launched a new campaign '2 years overdue' to advocate for the second reading phase by the Council of the European Parliament's position on the revised maternity leave directive which grants women full pay and protect them on return to work.

The EWL continued to monitor issues pertaining to the effects on women of the financial, economic and social crisis and published a new report ‘The Price of austerity- The impact on women’s rights and gender equality in Europe’.

In March 2012 the EWL organized a meeting with women representatives of civil society organizations from Tunisia and from EWL member organizations. This was an exchange of best practice concerning the integration of women’s rights in constitution building and in democratic transition processes based on the experiences of EWL members from countries which have recently gone through a transition period for example southeastern European countries.

Draft Program for 2014 Strategic objective 1: Influence EU level policies relating to equality between women and men!

Activities to combat male violence against women

Advocacy for a European year and strategy to end violence against women as well as advocacy on the new EWL position paper on women’s sexual health and rights.

It also continued its work on prostitution and trafficking in women.

Activities on women in decision making

Develop the EWL 50/50 campaign for parity Democracy in view of the European elections and the renewal of the European Commission in 2014.

Activities on European and international gender equality and antidiscrimination policies and legislation

Monitor and influence European gender equality and antidiscrimination policies to ensure progress including in relation to gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting. Promote strong legislative measures in relation to work life balance, notably the adoption of the revised European maternity Leave Directive.

Start working on the 20 years review of the Beijing Platform for action including the EWL Beijing +20 report. Link with the Greek and Italian EU Presidencies, the European Institute for gender Equality and the Fundamental Rights Agency in order to promote women’s human rights.

Activities on women’s economic independence and social policies

Influence the different aspects of the EU 2020 strategy in order to ensure the integration of a gender equality / women’s rights perspective.

Monitor the effects of austerity measures on women and on gender equality and organize activities with members on the topic.

Transversal issues

Activities on women and migration, integration and asylum

Follow up activities in the integration of a strong gender equality perspective as well as specific measures for women in immigration and integration policies and legislations.

Follow up activities related to gender – sensitive asylum policies.

Issue groups

Surrogacy motherhood initiated by the Swedish women’s lobby.

Discussions about surrogacy and its consequences for the surrogacy mother are relatively new. Most European countries do not have regulations or legislation on the issue. There is a need for exchange of information to strengthen our arguments and to come to a common position on feminist grounds. Surrogacy is all methods of medically assisted procreation where the embryo is implanted in the uterus of a third woman.

Differences in legislation and freedom of movement of persons have created a reproductive tourism. The introduction of surrogacy in some countries has trained drifts and social regression (India, Ukraine).

The arguments in favor of surrogacy mark a vision supporting the blossoming of the individual through the implementation of a parental project organized around the sublimation of the genetic

link even at the cost of the exploitation of women. Moreover these agreements confine women in a traditional role which is unfortunate.

Feminization of poverty in Europe Initiated by Germany

The objective of this issue group was to disseminate the lobbying work that is currently being done in some EU countries. To share and work on common ideas and future perspectives on the feminization of poverty. To consider the results of the issue group as a contribution to the preparation for the Third Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty. The presentation tried to show the gap that arises concerning gender experiences of poverty which are different from those of men and often are invisible. Austerity measures affect women disproportionately.

I supported the conclusions of Mr Lumina UN independent expert on foreign debt and human rights who visited Greece in April 2013 and is going to publish a report on the situation that he will submit to the Human Rights Council in March 2014. His conclusions are that austerity measures violate human rights in Greece.

The group concluded that we should:

Keep working on capacity building especially concerning the European semester./ Lobby actors./ Develop credible arguments./ Show negative consequences of policies./ Develop communication tools on how women experience poverty./ Participate in the platform against poverty and exclusion./ Develop a comprehensive European antipoverty strategy

Safe, secure, sustainable – maximizing income initiated by the EWL Finance working group.

The group's belief is that the EWL's work is essential and that in looking to the future we must ensure EWL is safe in its values, priorities and ways of working, secure in its funding base and sustainable, meeting needs and demands for as long as is necessary.

The group suggested that we should secure the right structure for the EWL and make it more efficient and sustainable in order to have long term financial security.

It also suggested that we should try to find corporate sponsorship for events, publications. We should also try to raise money not directly linked to an activity / project that can be used for the functioning of the organization.

EWL 50/50 campaign and strategy towards 2014 European elections initiated by the EWL Secretariat

The objectives of the issue group were to share information and develop strategies to ensure a strong impact in terms of gender equality in the European election process and to link with the EWL mentoring program. The group concluded that people are looking for change and we should present women to meet this need

Emergency Motions

Motion 1: Urgent Need to Ensure Enabling Environment for the Operation of Civil Society and Women's Organizations in Turkey and elsewhere.

Organisation proposing the motion: European Women's Lobby, Coordination for Turkey

Organizations seconding the motion:

Women's international League for Peace and Freedom, Czech Women's Lobby, Hungarian Women's Lobby, the International Alliance of Women, Lithuanian Women's Lobby, Spanish EWL coordination CELEM, Belgian Coordination NVR/CCFB, BPW Europe, Luxemburg Coordination for EWL, the National Women's Council of Ireland, Swedish Women's Lobby, the Federation of Romani and Traveller Women and the French Coordination for the European Women's Lobby.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

Text of the emergency motion:

Canan Ann, a prominent lawyer and an activist in Turkey is currently facing legal proceedings as a result of protesting early marriages through striking cases in a statement she made in a conference.

Women's organisations and women human rights defenders (WHRDs) continue to face significant challenges, threats and pressure from governments, notwithstanding the vital role they play in promoting gender equality and women's rights. In the same token independent women's organizations such as VAKAD, iStar, UmutiŞigi, Kibele are under the threat of being closed and some members are detained without any concrete justifications. We are calling on EU governments and the Turkish government to ensure an enabling environment for freedom of association with non-discriminatory laws, regulations and implementations and that they act in a democratic manner to allow and support the work of civil society and WHRDs. We ask EWL to take action by making an urgent call to all EU member States and Candidate Countries by sending a letter of concern.

Motion 2: Urgent Call for Solidarity and Support in Ensuring that Ireland first abortion legislation is accessible and practical for women and that it provides for the full decriminalization of abortion

Organisation proposing the motion: National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI)

Organizations seconding the motion: European Network of Migrant Women, International Alliance of Women (Greece), CELEM, BPW Europe, UKJCW, Cyprus Women's Lobby, Hungarian Women's Lobby, EWL Turkey Coordination, Estonian Women's Association Roundtable.

The text was adopted with three abstentions.

Text of the emergency motion:

Ireland's first draft abortion legislation, introduced in April 2013, aims to give effect to the existing constitutional right to an abortion in life threatening pregnancies including the risk of suicide. The draft legislation provides for the continued criminalisation of abortion with a maximum penalty of 14 years if a woman or doctor have an abortion in Ireland outside the very restrictive boundaries of the Bill. The procedures for obtaining an abortion in life threatening pregnancies are onerous, inaccessible and will be totally unworkable for women in Ireland. We call on the EWL and its members to put pressure on the Irish government to make the necessary changes to the draft legislation to provide for the full decriminalisation of abortion and to ensure that this legislation is accessible and practicable for women as required by the European Court of Justice in the A, 8 and C case (2010).

Motion 3: Urgent Call for Solidarity and Support in Ensuring that current Spanish abortion legislation doesn't experience a clear backward step.

Organisation proposing the motion: Spanish coordination for the European Women's Lobby (CELEM)

Organizations seconding the motion: EWL Coordination for Turkey, Czech Women's Lobby, Cyprus Women's Lobby, Women's Network Croatia, National Women's Council of Ireland, Women's Council Denmark, Coordination for Greek Women NGOs for the EWL.

The text was adopted with two abstentions.

Text of the emergency motion:

The Spanish Coordinator for the European Women's Lobby (CELEM), ask for the EWL members signature to the next Statement, to send it to the Spanish Parliament and European Parliament Equality Commission, Spanish Government and European Commission. Moreover the EWL should write to all EU governments asking the same: "We support the Spanish associations in their request to Spanish government of not abrogate the current Organic Law 2/2010 on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Voluntary Interruption of Pregnancy, which defends the right of women to choose their motherhood".

Motion 4: Surrogacy motherhood- a global trade with women's bodies

Organisation proposing the motion: The Swedish Women's Lobby

Organizations seconding the motion: Polish Women's Lobby, EWL Coordination for Turkey, Women's Lobby Slovenia, the French Coordination for the EWL, Netherlands Council of Women, Hungarian Women's Lobby.

The text was adopted with twenty-four abstentions.

Text of the motion:

Surrogacy motherhood is a trade with women's bodies and children, as well as a threat to women's basic human rights and bodily integrity. An end needs to be put to the industry of surrogacy that reduces the female body to a container. We are calling on the members of the EWL General Assembly 2013 to oppose surrogacy motherhood and to declare our common support for the European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2011 on priorities and outline of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women (2010£2209(INO)). The resolution adopted states that surrogacy is an exploitation of the woman's body and her reproductive organs. We urge the members of the EWL to take a collective stand against a legalization of surrogacy motherhood in the European countries. The rights of women and children, not the interest of the buyer, must be the focus for the issue of surrogacy motherhood.

Motion 5: Women and Precarity

Organisation proposing the motion: The French Coordination for the EWL (CLEF)

Organizations seconding the motion: Women's Lobby Slovenia, Coordination for Greek Women NGOs for the EWL, CELEM (Spanish Coordination), Women's Network Croatia, EWL Coordination for Turkey.

The text was adopted unanimously.

Text of the motion:

We, European feminists are very sensitive to structural reforms in the European Union that impact the situation of women, particularly women in Southern countries and we want show them our support. We demand equal representation of women in decision-making, financial empowerment and economic independence while fighting against stereotypes. We appeal to candidates in the 2014 European elections that our demands are taken and subsequently transcribed into law.



**Association suisse pour les droits de la femme
Schweizerischer Verband für Frauenrechte**

Recent activities and projects 2012-2013

Thanks to the new organizational structures ADF-SVF Suisse could pursue very well all its various activities. Because now the ADF-SVF sections take turns in presiding ADF-SVF Suisse we have a better understanding among the different regions and their languages (German, French and Italian). So from 2010-2011 the ADF-Section of Neuchâtel naturally did emphasize on some of their important cultural points whereas ADF-SVF Basel now being the presidential section brings in its own touch.

Yes, even if Switzerland is a very small country, we never should underestimate how much the difference in the cultural and language background, may influence political decisions and even the everyday life of women.

Therefore it was one of our main goals of ADF-SVF Suisse as a national women's organization to improve the communication among women on all levels, particularly at a time when mass-medias may even enhance these "gaps".

So we started by mailing newsletters in German and French to all members having a mail-address. We try to inform regularly about our activities and plans, about current political problems and last but not least we give hints about regional interesting women's events.

By now this "channel" is well established, and we get often good feed-backs from our members. So we have got an excellent tool to get in touch with each other and exchange ideas.

Of course we have also intensified the relationship with other women's organizations and political parties in Switzerland. Thanks to intensive contacts by mail and our presence at national meetings we can act and react very quickly – e.g. when last November ADF-SVF Suisse did mail its sharp protest against a planned higher retirement-age for women within the social security system then right away other women's organizations followed us and were issuing similar statements!

Since particularly for young people the internet is one of the main sources of information we decided to renew our website www.feminism.ch. Fortunately we could keep one of our symbols, representing sunshine for all women on the globe, and of course we have also a direct link to IAW on the front-page. Now we can see that a well updated website is crucial for "marketing".

Recently ADF-SVF Suisse was mainly taken up with the organization of our national conference on June 8th 2013 in Basel: **Fundamentalism versus women's rights**



In the wake of the extremely difficult UN-Women Conference 2012 (CSW-Session) we saw, that also here in Switzerland we should talk about the worldwide increasing influence of fundamentalism threatening women's rights in many aspects of their life. So it was clear that we also were joining IAW in this struggle.

Since the topic might be very controversial we wanted to have very competent feminist speakers. Luckily our co-president, Dr. Ursa Krattiger, being an experienced journalist and historian, took care of the moderation. It turned out to be an excellent event with many new insights. Looking back now

some weeks later we hear the words of Jasmine El Sonbati, originating from Egypt and living in Switzerland, who was already in June quite pessimistic about the future of her country...

All documents can be found on our website:

<http://www.feminism.ch/fran%C3%A7ais/actuel/>



In the morning of June 8th 2013 ADF-SVF Suisse had invited its delegates for the **yearly assembly of the delegates.**

Round table with Doris Strahm, Lilo Roost, Ursa Krattiger, Anita Cotting and Jasmine El Sonbati

The slogan on the poster brought by our colleagues from ADF-Neuchâtel was perfect for the day. Everybody was convinced that we have to go on and fight together for women's rights.

Then – just as we were adopting a resolution to the medias the door opened, and we could greet our special guest – IAW president Lyda Versteegen! We were so happy that she did join us.



Later on we all went to the garden for an official picture.



Also Carola Meier-Seethaler, a very well-known critical feminist philosopher and author of several books, joined us for the conference in the afternoon. This wonderful and fully inspiring day ended up with a joyful get-together in the park.



Lyda Versteegen, Carola Meier, Jasmine el Sonbati, Ursa Krattiger, Lilo Roost, Doris Strahm and Aite Ursa Tinga (playing the harp).

Of course now we are again taken up with “business as usual”.

This means one of the main topics will be our fight for the preservation of our liberal abortion right, which is being attacked by extremely conservative rightist people.

As mentioned ADF-SVF Suisse also will not accept a higher retirement-age for women, unless all other discriminations be it the gender wage-gap, the unsatisfactory situation combining professional and family life, the discrimination of migrant women, the underrepresentation of women in the important decision-making boards...well there is a lot to do.

Let us tackle it together!

Ursula Nakamura-Stoecklin
Co-President ADF-SVF-Suisse

AFEM

Les actions de l'AFEM pour 2013

Cette Année pour la première fois l'AFEM a participé au Forum méditerranéen de la Fondation ANNA LINDT : Citoyen pour la Méditerranée au Palais des congrès à Marseille (4-7 Avril 2013.), dont Esther Foucher, membre de l'AFEM est l'administratrice et où elle participe en tant que déléguée du Forum des Femmes de la Méditerranée. Un des thèmes du Forum était *Changement Social et droits des femmes* ». Une de nos Vice présidente Sophie Dimitroulias était participante.

La représentante de l'AFEM a aussi participé au colloque Euro-Méditerranéen « *Crise actuelle et enjeux démocratiques en méditerranée à l'Epreuve du Genre* » dans le cadre du réseau universitaire et scientifique Euromed sur le genre et les femmes (RUSEMEG)

Encore en partenariat avec le réseau Euromed France (REF) l'AFEM a participé à une Table ronde euro méditerranée / *L'égalité entre Hommes et femmes : un impératif démocratique en région euroméditerranéenne*

Il faut rappeler aussi le 6eme Forum Mondial sur l'urbanisme qui c'est déroulé à Naples à l'Université Frédéric II, dans le cadre des Nations Unies et était présidé par notre Présidente de l'AFEM, Teresa Boccia, en sa qualité d'Expert en septembre 2012 Voir www.unhabitat.org/wuf-lupt.unina.it

Comme par le passé l'AFEM soutient les campagnes de solidarité pour les pays de la Méditerranée tels *Solidarité contre les violences pour le respect des libertés et des droits de l'Homme en Tunisie*. L'AFEM poursuit sa participation dans le cadre du Conseil de l'Europe suite à l'engagement de la Vice présidente de la conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe (CoE) Sophie Dimitroulias qui est Vice présidente Grecque de l'AFEM

L'AFEM a apporté sa contribution au Forum mondial de la démocratie du CoE en Octobre 2012 « *La démocratie à l'Epreuve. Entre modèles anciens et nouvelles réalités* ». Ce Forum préparé avec l'aide de l'AFEM où une autre de nos membres Mme Sophia Spiliotopoulos, Experte auprès de la Commission des Droits Fondamentaux a présenté une contribution importante « *Une démocratie inclusive par les Femmes* »

Une autre de nos représentantes, Nelly membre de la plateforme Portugaise qui réside à Bruxelles participe pour l'AFEM à toutes les réunions de l'Union Européenne et de la Plateforme Sociale. Silvie Ulrich, Notre Présidente d'Honneur de l'AFEM, participe à plusieurs Tables rondes dans sa région et privilégie le travail des femmes

On peut aussi rappeler que notre représentante Monique Bouaziz, qui participe à la Commission du Statut de la Femme à New York, depuis 1994, n'a pas manqué de suivre les travaux de la session cette année où les propositions de la Ministre Française des Droits des Femmes Madame Najat Vallaud Belkacem ont été très appréciés

Dans le cadre de l'UNESCO notre représentante, Monique Bouaziz, participe à tous les forums et journées spéciales de l'Institution ainsi qu'à tous les travaux des groupes de travail qui préparent 5 forums pour la biennie 2013-2014. Le premier à Paris *Education de Qualité pour une citoyenneté Mondiale* (23 septembre 2013). Les Autres: en Asie « *Femmes et Eradication de la Pauvreté* », en Afrique : « *L'Eau, les Femmes et les Jeunes* », en Bulgarie *Les Jeunes et la préservation du Patrimoine*, ainsi que des journées internationales en lien avec les journées Internationales Onusiennes.

Du refus de la misère (Octobre 2013)

Des Droits de l'Homme (Article 31 Agir pour les droits de l'Homme (2 Décembre 2013)
De l'Education à la paix :les Marionnettes s'engagent pour la paix
Des Migrants
De l'Alphabétisations et l'Education Pour tous tout au long de la vie

Chacune de nous, essaie de participer le plus possible à des réunions ou le travail de l'AFEM est évoqué, rappelons notre Secrétaire Générale : Anne Bui et notre trésorière Lyliane Cochet

Pour suivre tous les travaux de notre Organisation il vous suffit de Contacter l' AFEM
Contact@afem-europa.org et de cliquer sur le drapeau de votre pays.

Rapport Monique Bouaziz vice-présidente pour la France

**Dansk
Kuindesamfund** 
Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, 3
1153 København K
Tel.: 33157837
www.danskkvindesamfund.dk

DANISH WOMEN'S SOCIETY

Prostitution and trafficking

Danish Women's Society (DWS) considers prostitution as part of male violence against women and has since 2005 called for the abolition of prostitution. This means demanding a criminalization of the buying of sexual services in addition to a strong effort to support persons in leaving prostitution whether they are Danish citizens or foreigners who have been trafficked for the purpose of prostitution. The latter should in DWS' human oriented approach to victims of trafficking obtain a residence permit in Denmark.

The Danish state considers prostitution a social problem. Gender and power inequalities in the system of prostitution are not recognized and addressed at all by the state. The social discourse has been under hard pressure from lobbyists from the sex industry as well as from conservative and neoliberal political forces and in the spring of 2013 a proposal to legalize pimping and procuring was discussed in Parliament - the proposal fell

DWS is very worried about the tendency to politically demand a normalization of prostitution as a job and to separate trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation from prostitution. All forms of legalization of pimping and procuring will be a threat to women's security and a severe violation of all treaties signed and ratified by the Danish state to secure women's rights and combat sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Demand for prostitution

A research study of more than 7.000 Danish men recently showed that the percentage of sex buyers has risen by 2 percent since 2005 and in addition sex buyers are getting younger and younger. One third of the respondents actively supports or silently accepts buying sex from victims of trafficking (VOT) and the buying of sex is generally accepted by Danish men. According to the respondents one of the reasons for buying sex is a craving for power over women, despite this prostitution and trafficking is not addressed as a gender problem in the national action plans.

Despite that buying sex from a VOT is considered rape in Denmark, the minister for gender equality does not want to publically condemn men accepting or committing these rapes. Instead an information campaign, one in a long row of campaigns without any impact, will be carried out to, once more, inform Danish men about the conditions and lives of VOTs. One of the most severe forms of violence against women – raping sex slaves - is still widely accepted in Denmark – also on government level. Criminalizing the buying of sexual services has been rejected by the government in November 2012. Next to nothing is done to reduce prostitution and trafficking by reducing the demand side in Denmark.

Pimping and procuring

In the spring of 2013 the criminal code, the chapter on sexual offences, was altered. Now procuring covers all prostitution arenas. DWS strongly supports this amendment, as criminalizing pimping is a vital tool in the fight against the trafficking of women and against the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

Exit programs

DWS welcomes the efforts from the Ministry of Social Affairs carried out in the first national ‘Exit prostitution programme 2012 - 2015’ to support persons in leaving prostitution. However the programme is much too unambitious since it only supports and rescues a maximum of a hundred Danish prostitutes in 4 years. Although the prostitution market is based on more than 50 percent of foreigners, the exit programme doesn't offer non-danes including trafficked women any help to leave prostitution.

Trafficking in women

Victim status

In 2011 Denmark was strongly criticized by the GRETA expert group evaluating Denmark's efforts in combating trafficking in human beings. According to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings Denmark is not securing the rights of the victims and proper victim identification processes.

Today – 2 years after - potential victims of trafficking are to a large extent still treated as illegal immigrants and are imprisoned instead of being brought to a shelter for protection. Most foreign prostitutes are still expelled directly while arrested by police. Even persons identified as potential victims by Immigration Service or CMM are kept in prison – many from 20 to 40 days - before they are transferred to a safe house. Protests from women's rights organizations and human rights organizations against these gross violations of the rights of the victims have not yet had any impact on the Ministry of Justice.

Victim identification

The identification of a potential victim of trafficking has to be executed within 3 days by either the Center against Human Trafficking (CMM) or the Immigration Service, and only very few obtain the status of a potential victim of trafficking, a status, that only allows them a maximum of 120 days in a rehabilitation program.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is only focusing on a prepared repatriation. During 2008 – 2010 only three victims of trafficking obtained a residential permit in Denmark. The repatriation program allows victims to obtain financial and other forms of support in their home countries for half a year.

Almost no victims accept repatriation. In 2012 half of all victims of trafficking in women at Reden International (safe house for VOT) fled from the safe house during their reflection period. The assumption is that the conditions in the victim's home countries are so dangerous and the links to very violent trafficking networks so close that the risk of repatriation is too high. The victims choose to be re-trafficked rather than to return home. The Danish repatriation programs have shown to be counterproductive in relation to securing women's fundamental human rights and safety.

Solutions

- Instead of imprisonment victims should be brought directly to safe houses.
- The victim identification process should be put in the hands of NGO's in the safe houses after a trust building period and not in the hands of immigration services or GO's interviewing victims while they are imprisoned and deciding the status of the person within 3 days.
- Access to permanent residence permits should be given if a person is identified as a victim of trafficking as a consequence of the violence and exploitation committed to VOT by Danish sex buyers, pimps and traffickers.

–

Police investigation

Traffickers, pimps and sex buyers have an easy life in Denmark. The risk of being caught by the police is very low and the profit high. Only few traffickers and pimps are being charged, sentenced and imprisoned. No sex buyers are charged, sentenced and imprisoned for raping VOT's.

Combating trafficking in women for prostitution is not prioritized by the police, not even in Copenhagen where street prostitution with foreign prostitutes and brothel prostitution is taking place at a large scale.

The police mainly treat victims as illegal immigrants and not as victims of serious human rights violations.

Violations of the victim's right to protection and rehabilitation in safe surroundings are an exception and not a rule. The intention set forth in the national action plan to combat trafficking is simply not implemented at a wider scale by the police force:

The police force does not allocate enough resources to do proactive investigations into the sex industry.

Traffickers and pimps are to a high extent working transnational with organized cross border crime, but transnational cooperation and investigation do almost not take place.

Investigations into especially escort services and other grey zones where minors and victims of trafficking can easily be sold are not carried out.

One of the effects of these questionable practices is that almost no VOT bear witness and give police valuable information about traffickers, pimps and sex buyers.

NGOs under pressure

Services for both national and foreign prostitutes run by NGO's are underfinanced by authorities. This is a growing and worrying tendency. Especially foreign prostitutes and victims of trafficking are hit very hard by the fact that no projects are focusing on supporting them to leave exploitation in the sex industry and by the fact that the projects offering shelter and outreach work have to spend much of their sparse resources hunting for financial support fighting for their survival.

New trends and methods developed by pimps and traffickers to exploit prostitutes are discovered first by NGOs. And NGOs are and have always been on the forefront developing social methodologies to support prostitutes to obtain a life without exploitation. GO-support systems cannot and must not stand alone.

NGOs in especially the capital area are in an ongoing process developing exit houses, exit support groups and preventive programs that are vital in the process of developing strategies that can stop the growth in the sex industry and the growth in sexual exploitation and trafficking in women in the long run.

The Labour Market

Ban on discrimination

Denmark has several laws protecting the individual against discrimination. But since 2008 the courts of law and the Board of Equal Treatment have only dealt with a few cases regarding equal treatment. DWS sees this as a symptom of what could be called problems concerning citizens' access to justice. From the view of an employee these include problems such as unclear formulation of antidiscrimination law, low knowledge of other employees' salaries, uncertainty regarding the reasons for obtaining higher pay on the job and the high personal cost of taking a case to court. We call on the government to look into these problems.

The Gender-segregated labour market and pay differentials

For the past 10 years the wage gap in Denmark has remained the same, and DWS would like to stress that 17 percent is a huge gap in a country where both women and men participate actively in the labor market. Educational level and work experience can no longer be used as some of the factors explaining to this gap, since Danish women today are better educated than Danish men and the level of work experience is practically the same for men and women.

DWS welcomes the initiatives taken by the different Danish governments such as renewing the law on gender-segregated pay statistics (2013), the state equalization scheme (2006) and the extension of this scheme to include self-employed persons (2013). Also, we hope that the government will renew the law concerning parental leave in such a way that part of the leave (e.g. 3 months) is allocated to the father.

However, if Denmark is to minimize the wage gap, even more needs to be done. The gender-segregated market is one of the most important reasons for the pay differentials between women and men. We do not appreciate the fact that the government has not – and still does not – list any concrete plans regarding how to deal with this problem. The gender-segregated labor market constitutes one side of the coin. The fact that the pay is much higher in the trades dominated by men than it is in the trades dominated by women constitutes the other side. For example, 86 percent of the social workers, who are employed in the Danish municipality, are women and 83 percent of the

constructors, who are employed in the Danish municipality, are men. Both groups deal with municipal case work (one regarding human beings and the other regarding buildings) and their education is at the same level. However, the constructor earns 34 DKK more per hour than the social worker does, or more than 65,000 DKK a year (1924 hours x 34 DKK). This example illustrates a general trend in the Danish labour market, and DWS finds that these trends are problematic in regard to rights concerning “*equal pay for work of the same value.*”

However, even though the Danish government is internationally obligated to make sure that this right is not violated, different governments have not dealt with the problem. For example, contrary to Sweden, which has a labour market that is quite similar to the Danish one with regard to the strong role played by the social partners, the Danish government has not made any attempts to clarify what is meant by “work of the same value”. Nor has it made any attempts to develop job evaluation schemes of any sort. DWS regrets this, and we stress the fact that it is the job of the government to ensure that the rights of its citizens are not violated. An important part of this means ensuring that the rights are understandable and that citizens have access to the tools needed to test whether their rights are being violated.

Maternity care

Denmark has previously been known for its strong traditions with regard to midwifery and a low intervention rate at childbirth. This has changed significantly during the last 10 years where we have seen a steep rise in interventions such as caesarean section (from 13.1% in 1997 to 21.3% in 2011) and inducing of labour (from 7% in 1997 to 23.3% in 2011). It is fair to say that there is currently less possibility for a spontaneous birth in the Danish hospitals than ever before in the history of Danish health care.

In contrast to Norway and the UK, the subject is rarely discussed in Denmark. However, in spring 2013 there has been widespread debate about the use of the off-label drug “Misoprostol” to induce labour at Danish hospitals even though it can have significant side effects (among these uterus ruptus, heavy bleeding and death of the unborn child). The debate has not only been about the use of Misoprostol itself but also about patients’ right to receive appropriate information about possible side effects and to refuse treatment.

As labour and birth with few interventions is best both for the woman and the child, DWS finds the above mentioned points concerning and has initiated a debate about them. It is important that these issues are further debated at all levels of society.

Violence against Women

On the whole, the government’s efforts to reduce violence against women have had a positive effect. DWS is especially pleased that the Minister for Equality has taken action to establish a Danish branch of White Ribbon in Denmark. The Danish branch is now part of the international campaign of men who actively say NO to men’s violence against women. It is, however, still important to raise awareness about the problem with continuing information campaigns, for example in schools and work places.

Denmark can improve even further for the benefit of the 29,000 women who are exposed to violence in Denmark every year. If Denmark wants to make substantial progress in the prevention of violence, a whole new concept for the treatment of battered women is needed.

First of all, there is a wide discrepancy between the offers for treatment that the victims of violence and the perpetrators are entitled to. Today the perpetrator can get free treatment, often lasting for several years, either at ATV (Alternative to Violence) or at Dialog mod Vold (Dialogue to Prevent Violence). This is a very good system because it can help prevent future violence. However, the battered woman is only allowed four free hours of psychological treatment, and that only applies until the end of 2013. If she wants more she has to pay herself. Most of the women cannot afford that. These women are often the victims of years of violence and abuse, both physically and psychologically. Over the last ten years Denmark has improved in this area since we now recognize the violence that the women have been the victims of, however we still do not recognize the consequences of being exposed to violence. Living in a violent relationship can create trauma – a traumatic crisis that must be dealt with by a psychologist. It is generally known that many of these women end up in a new violent relationship. Therefore it is important that battered women have the rights to receive treatment until they feel free of the violence, and until they understand what makes them fall in love with a violent man. An offer of such treatment is necessary if we want to have a marked decline in the number of battered women.

Furthermore, creating a follow-up offer for the woman after she has been staying at a crisis center/shelter for battered women is another initiative that would make a great difference in the efforts to minimize violence against women. Today the crisis centers have no further contact with the women when they have left the centers despite evidence that if women are to be helped in the best possible way, they must also receive support after their stay in a shelter. The ideal solution would be to start preparing these women for their future life – a new life on their own - already before they leave the shelter. It is important that such an offer is established by the staff at the shelter because the women have often built up a close bond of trust with their liaison person. It should be part of the budget at any shelter and be paid via the fee that the municipalities pay for the stay of their citizens. In this way the offer could be standardized all over the country. Quality standards are important to ensure that women are supported in the best possible way in their new life.

Lisa Holmfjord
President

Deutscher Frauenring, DFR,
Marion Böker/Gudrun Haupter



Violence against women and girls

A lot has been done at the prevention, sensitisation, assistance and legislative levels. Insisting on the magnitude of the problem in all groups of the population, targeting risk groups and working to reduce the extent of special forms of violence, and lobbying for the means to carry out necessary action, are considered to be important issues. Refugee girls and women or asylum seekers cannot access their rights and protection and are not informed in an equal way like other groups of the population. Though Germany has a NAP on VAW the state does not **operate any indicators/benchmarks for the elimination of the various existing forms of VAW/GBV¹**. VAW and GBV are an important factor for later marginalization and discrimination of women of all ages.

Other forms of GBV against LGBTI are not included in the overall strategies (NAP) against VAW - and had not been negotiated at CSW57 and 58 by Germany or the EU: **LGBTI must be included!** Moreover, GBV against transgender girls and boys and transgender wo_men is rarely addressed and counteracted by measures. Although facts are currently better known, torture and cruel treatment (according to CEDAW e.g. session 43 Germany and the interim follow up 2011 see their reports, CESCR, CAT, SR HRC on VAW and SR HRC on CAT) of intersex people are an ongoing harmful gender based practice, and a violation of CEDAW,..., and the human rights of these people in Germany. **Forced unnecessary "[sexual reassignment surgery](#)" of intersex babies around the age of two (too early to let themselves give their consent) has to be banned.** Still many types of GBV and abuse against this group exists. The Principle 18 of [The Yogyakarta Principles](#) is not implemented as Germany does not respond to CEDAW, CAT et. al. The German Ethical Council's advice to allow them to chose the category X for a third sex in passports instead of F/M, is ignored.

Improving the frame conditions of the balance between family life and work life

Starting this summer families have a right to day care for their children aged 1 - 3 years. Communities had to expand their nursery and kindergarten facilities and private day-care capacities. Qualification of the personnel is often not adequate.

Quota for the advancement of women, and the concept of mixed leadership

In April the Deutscher Bundestag (National Parliament) voted against fixing a quota for women at the highest level of companies. For the time being setting goals remains voluntary. Among women the issue remains controversial, with some fearing the stigma of "quota woman". Although Germany is a state party to CEDAW the Government does not clearly back up 'quotas' as a tsm (4.1. CEDAW) and acts inconsistently.

Equal pay for equal work - To counteract Gender Pay Gap & Pension Gap

In Germany, annual campaigns are led by the *German Business and Professional Women*. Other members of the umbrella organization *Deutscher Frauenrat* join in. The main argument against the request is that it is often difficult to assess the equality of work. The German Pay gap is among the highest in the EU, and around 21-23 % in the private sector. A gap exists as well in the civil service sector, due to lower ranks, (involuntary) part time work and the high extend of parental leaves of women (2011: parental leaves by men 27 %, men only take a few months, women mainly the full paid 14-months leave). Labour market trends confirm the shift of highly qualified women into low qualified/low paid jobs, and their discrimination. Women with the status of Asylum seekers and refugees are still not allowed to work. If they are not deported (refoulement) their status often stays

¹ Gender-based violence

unchanged for decades. The **Gender Pay Gap** is a major factor of individual and overall financial losses in a society (see "European Added Value Assessment EAVA 4/2013"<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/studiesdownload.html?languageDocument=EN&file=93430>) and is diminishing the potential and status of women. DFR works too, on the direct impact of the pay gap, the **pension gap**. We are an active partner in the FAP (M.Böcker), a working group on labour market policy advice in Berlin, with a focus on international labour market impacts and on women's human rights according to CEDAW, CESC and ILO. The increasing **poverty among elderly women** is but one alarming issue. DFR is following activities of HELPAGE (UK/Germany) and the UN OHCHR and GA on a new UN Convention for the rights of elderly women.

Sexual and reproductive health rights for all

Anti-liberal and sectarian forces are increasingly powerful, staging pro-life demonstrations and agitating online. As to information and access to contraception girls and women with migration background living in marginalized/ marginalizing traditional settings are a group of concern. Other groups whose rights are often not respected are handicapped women, and transsexual/ transgender and inter-sexual people.

Implementation of a systematic gender mainstreaming & gender budgeting

DFR supports and lobbies for a systematic approach based on a transparent methodology: Not only gender responsive budgets (with resources for girls/women or acc. 4.1. CEDAW as tsm) but also a gender budgeting analysis and evaluation in the budget cycle as a due two-folded approach.

UNSC 1325

DFR is a member of the NGO Alliance for 1325 (M.Böcker) and as such gave language advice as input to the first NAP 1325 of Germany in Oct. 2012 (release in UNSC 19.12.12). It continues and took part in a dialogue on the follow up on 4th July 2013 (see recommendations generated in the -> International Seminar).

UN WOMEN

DFR asked the government repeatedly to support UN WOMEN esp. by **allocating financial resources**. Via its representative functions in IAW DFR participated in July in an informal meeting with Ms. Lakshmi Puri.

B. Conferences/ Seminars/ Events

a) National Seminar "**Green Economy- Intelligence for the future**", (19-20/10/2012). Participants had been prepared over months by five information sheets about Green Economy issues, DFR's focal theme for 2012. Fundamental socio-economic changes throughout our society are urgently needed, especially in the light of the financial and economic crisis. In preparation of Rio+20 and its follow up global initiatives of women raised their voices defining urgent economic, social and ecological objectives for the framework of the Rio-process and its implementation. DFR joined the Rio+20 discourse on the strengths and weaknesses Green Economy concept and highlighted gender responsive alternative concepts and integrate women's objectives and needs. [Papers and documentation brochure are in German; an English presentation of the papers was tabled at EWL GA].

b) A seminar on „**Lobbying for women – focused PR work of DFR**” gathered multipliers following the annual reception at the Berlin premises in April.

In this context, every two weeks “**DFR – Kurz gesagt** (DFR in brief)” is mailed to our membership, with news, developments, results of studies, trends in politics for women.

c1.) “**Starting a success story – Women as actors in international processes on war crimes**” – a public round-table in Dec. 2012 on the role of UNSC 1325, 1820, 1880, in the Cambodian War Crimes Tribunal took place featuring its success, challenges, gaps and short-comings. The round table was a pre-test for the Conference under c2.)

c2.) The '**International Seminar**' of the AIA² of DFR was a 3-day vibrant conference on "**The missing gender-link: Justice and reconciliation processes after war crimes and human rights violations against women**" with 80 international participants of all ages, activists, experts and NGOs, 30 June – 2 July 2013 in Berlin.



Opening with video message of Ms. Lakshmi Puri, UN WOMEN



Panel with Rada Boric, Croatian Women's Center Zagreb, Ute Scheub, WSC, Mr. Enders, Foreign Office, Dr. Monika Hauser, medica mondiale

Participants worked hard on sensitive issues with a view to a set of important policy recommendations around shaping the implementation of UNSC 1325, 1820, ..., strengthening its approach of prevention and ideas of new joint strategies e.g. to address the so called “comfort women's” issue under the international law (DFR AIA works actively in the network COURAGE KIM HAK-soon). **URGENT issue: the participation of women of all groups in Syria in peace talks must be ensured!** The implementation of UNSC 1325 must be engendered: in future documents the language shall include men, boys and LGBTI persons since they become increasingly victims of GBV in conflicts and wars. All personnel of peace missions must get better and continuous gender training with components of inter cultural and human rights trainings. Training needs to be continued regularly on site, and by local women's NGOs and local gender experts. Engendered peace education and training in conflict prevention from kindergarten age is needed. NAPs 1325 must be linked to Gender Budgeting, as a state's evaluation and proof that financial (and human) resources and measures have a positive impact on gender equality. The upcoming Croatian war crime tribunal staged by women shall be supported. ICC must expand and improve definitions and investigation in gender based war crimes to make ICC more accessible for all victims.

² International Committee



World Café - methodology at its best



Third days participants-work done!

More recommendations will be soon available in the documentation. For documents and upcoming information on the follow up see: <http://www.deutscher-frauenring.de/aktuelles/nachrichten/aktivitaeten/seminare/2013/internationales-seminar> The video message of L. Puri (UN WOMEN) <http://www.deutscher-frauenring.de/aktuelles/nachrichten/internationales-seminar-des-dfr-beginnt-heute-mit-einfuehrender-grundsatzrede-von-lakshmi-puri>

d) DFR (AIA and the Berlin section) held an event on "Women in retirement, but still needing to be part of the labour market", 24-04-2013 in Berlin, **about the increasing reality of elderly women in poverty**, how to change this, and about their rights.

e) DFR (AIA and the Berlin section) gave a briefing in the House of the German Press Conference, Berlin 29-05-2013, on the **CEDAW Optional Protocol** case of the submission of former GDR divorcees, as an example for women's rights under CEDAW and other Treaty Bodies.

C. PR work; initiatives at political level; networking; membership information

Examples:

Endorsing petitions at the national and European level to request a quota for women at the highest levels of companies.

Requesting visibility for women including in the use of correct non discriminating language, in a press release called "Language informs consciousness", for 8th March, 2013.

Since 2011 and in 2012 DFR communicated shortcomings of the **Reform of the law on maintenance entitlements of divorced women**, to the national minister of justice asking her to redress shortcomings and fill gaps by taking up comments from CEDAW CO 2009

In a letter to the national minister of justice dated 12-11-2012 DFR reacted on the new outline of the EU funding policy 'Rights & EU citizenship': it subordinates the former focus on *the advancement of women* PROGRESS and DAPHNE II. The new design requires a new thematic focus for every year. DFR urged to maintain the former format since under the newly designed program NGOs – esp. those who combat trafficking in women – have no planning security. And: the exclusion of national NGOs from access to the program is a serious drawback because it jeopardizes urgently needed work.

DFR commented on the focus Germany as a member of the UN Human Rights Council had published 13-11-2012. We criticized that the Foreign Office mentioned to plan work on the rights of the child and 'its' human rights but did not mention the human rights of women and those of LGBTI

except under the item of trafficking in girls and women. DFR called on the FO to include women's and LGBTI's human rights issues into its focus for the HRC.

Press releases for 25-11-2012 in reaction to the “Not guilty” sentence of a German court in a rape case, on the grounds that the then 15-years old girl had not shown enough resistance. DFR supported the requests of the Federation of German women's and emergency hotlines, for recognizing the right to sexual autonomy, in a re-worded Penal law paragraph, in accordance with international standards derived from the CEDAW.

In our PR with the heading “NO is NO – or isn't it?” With reference to the criteria of rape contained in the Convention of the Council of Europe (May 2011) on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women, we asked for a totally different approach in dealing with rape and a change of public opinion

After the gang rape in India end of December DFR sent a widely disseminated letter of protest to the Indian Embassy in Berlin. We also requested the Foreign Office to undertake a continuous dialogue with the Indian Government on the protection of Indian women. Impact: June 2013 a public human rights dialogue was held, with the Indian Ambassador to Germany (and other guests) dealing with the issue among other.

We followed IAW's Secretary General urgent call for action of Sept. 2012, lobbied our government on the HRC draft resolution on “Protection of the family” and made an intervention by *twitter*. By *twitter* he German Foreign Office confirmed its stand on the biased text and the withdrawal by the countries that had tabled it.

DFR joined the German Alliance on Female poverty in old age.

DFR is an active member of INTEGRA, the German network for ending female genital mutilation, FGM, in Africa and in Germany. We attended a one-day experts conference in Berlin 27/11/2012. We closely followed the end of a long political process of recognizing FGM as a criminal act in an own sub-paragraph of the Penal code. In June the law was finally voted, and FGM will be punishable as a special form of dangerous bodily harm, with up to 15 years of jail.

In the reporting period DFR's exhibition “Female Genital Mutilation – What does this have to do with us?”, on tour for presentation by local DFR groups since March 2011, was successfully shown in four cities accompanied by events on the issue. It gives a broad picture of this persistent violation of the right to health and other human rights that are denied to girls in the name of tradition – last not least that of controlling women's sexuality. A selection of the boards can be viewed at <http://www.deutscher-frauenring.de/aktivitaeten/ausstellungen/weibliche-genitalverstuetummelung/tafeln>

As to our projects for women in Burkina Faso and Togo, DFR promoted them by PR actions like printing a colourful poster “Women help Women” and presenting them on www.d-fr.de thus supporting The Project Committee for West Africa coordinated by Gudrun Haupter, the group responsible for keeping them going and providing funding



FREDRIKA BREMER

FÖR JÄMSTÄLLDHET MELLAN KVINNOR OCH MÄN

Report from The Fredrika Bremer Association, June 2013

We highlight the partnership between men and women as we believe that collaboration is needed if in the future we will reach an equitable society. This shows in our logo. The website has continued overhauled, Facebook / twitter started. Additionally, we are now increasingly being approached by journalists who want to write about our business. Feminism and equality have once again become a hot topic!

During the year we also expanded cooperation with the Swedish Women's Lobby. In addition, we have initiated, completed and launched an extensive project with UN Women on CEDAW and des significance out of local governments. To reach younger women, we will continue our cooperation with the magazine Passion for Business. We are invited to speak in schools and asked for action / information to the papers at all levels, both high school and university.

Hertha is the oldest journal women. The 150 th anniversary, it was taken up an extra-thick anniversary issue, now is a release of the year on 48 sidor/A4 rule. *Hertha* in 2013 was launched at a release breakfast with editor Anne Jalakas well as some of the contributors to the magazine. The magazine, printed in 2500 copies, has received much attention. We have professional writers, delicious layout plus exciting content. The material is of such quality that the journal can be used throughout the year. A reviewer named *Hertha* to feminism union newspaper. Some articles builds on discussions from Apelrydsseminariet the year before, a way to further deepen and continue the discussion. The question of the hidden quota of men to include board seats rose also in the magazine and has continued since then.

In 2012 was organized Apelrydsseminariet for the fourth time on Apelrydsskolan with about 170 participants from all over the country. This year's theme was "Power and Equality". The seminar has now found its form, where we strive to provide a holistic experience in the stunning environment that offers Apelryd while presenting the latest in the field of gender equality. The contributors are prominent scholars, opinion leaders and politicians - young and old - men and women. Participants are gender-conscious women and men of all ages and from all over the country. The teachers at Apelrydsskolan participate in a day, which means that gender issues and Fredrika Bremer operations become more relevant for them. This year sent the Swedish Television the entire seminar program in Knowledge Channel / Education Radio

In recent years, mentoring has been identified as a significant achievement to guide young men and women forward in their careers. The need for female role models is another need that is constantly updated. Fredrika Bremer uses both in his work - this is possible because we have members of all ages and professions/positions. Our "power breakfasts" have become successful and well attended. The starting point for them is that we want to show that women leaders have different profiles and different backgrounds. By getting the opportunity to meet and discuss with a female leader in her environment becomes the insights and experience of leadership, understandable and achievable.

The road to the "fantastic job" turns out not usually is straightforward. Professional experience mixed with the personal. With great clarity, we could show that Swedish women found the leaders throughout society from the conductor and governor to IT manager and mayor.

Wendela Zetterberg, Secretary General

Greek League for Women's Rights (GLWR)

Lili Kourakou, President

1. *Legislation for the elimination of discrimination against women in all sectors of political, social and economic life (IAW Action Programme-Democracy and Art. 2, 3 & 7 of CEDAW)*

i. Political Life

a) Quotas system in public services councils and national and municipal elections

In September 2013 we intervened in the political scene, when the then newly appointed Secretary General for Gender Equality was reported to have taken a stand against quotas, a matter for which we strongly believe is the cornerstone for the advancement of women in political life, and for which the GLWR was in the fore-front in the fight of the Greek women's movement to achieve. We immediately addressed a letter to the Secretary General, underlining the importance of the quotas; the letter was communicated to the competent Minister of Interior, political parties, women's organizations, all former General Secretaries for Equality as well as to the press. The Secretary General answered by a letter saying that "it was not in her program to abolish quotas", but saying nothing about her personal beliefs; however, no reference against quotas was made ever since.

b) Abolition or downgrading of the General Secretariat for Equality (GSGE)

As a result of the austerity measures imposed on Greece, a general restructuring of the public sector services is in process. In February 2013 the Ministry for Administrative Reform and Electronic Governance issued a draft Charter of the main functions and responsibilities of the Government, wherein the GSGE did not appear as a separate entity, but as a mere "Division for Equality and Equal Opportunities" under the Ministry of Interior. At the same time the employees of the GSGE kept issuing appeals asking our support in saving the Secretariat's present status, and their jobs. We immediately reacted, since the GSGE is the only official institution responsible for the promotion and advancement of gender equality, and should, from the nature of its mission, be an autonomous organ with intergovernmental competence and authority, able to represent the country to international fora, the UN, Council of Europe, EU, etc. We addressed a letter to the Government (including the Prime Minister and 4 competent Ministers), co-signed by 21 other women's organizations, in support of the present status of the Secretariat, arguing that: (i) in all countries the responsibility for gender equality is entrusted to either a separate Ministry or other strong and in any case autonomous entity as General Secretariat, Council, Authority or Mechanism. The necessary data were provided by the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, which conducted a special research for this matter. (ii) That the Committee of the CEDAW, in its concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Greece, discussed on February 19, 2013, among others "encourages Greece to maintain and strengthen the independent status of its GSGE and provide it with adequate human, financial and technical resources for it to coordinate and work effectively for the promotion of gender equality...". The CEDAW Committee had been informed by the GLWR of the danger of the GSGE's downgrading.

Not hearing any encouraging news, we addressed a new letter to the same addressees, with new strong arguments. Both letters were communicated to women members of the Greek Parliament, the European Parliament, women's sections of political parties, Unions and the media. The first good news came on March 20th, 2013, when the Deputy Minister for Interior in an official document addressed to the Parliament recognizes, among others, that "the GSGE is the only government institution for the planning, implementation, follow up and securing the enforcement of policies for the legal and substantive gender equality in all sectors of social, political and economic life of the Country and that it is the Ministry's priority to upgrade its institutional role, and not downgrade it". Up to the time of this writing, we have not heard anything further on the matter, either in favor or against the GSGE retaining its present status.

c) CEDAW: Intervention at the discussion of the 7th Periodic Report of Greece

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its meeting on 19 February 2013, considered the 7th Periodic Report of Greece on developments in the front of gender equality for the period 2008-2010. The GLWR submitted to the Committee a detailed and well documented Shadow Report, with observations per article (and cluster) of the Periodic Report on specific issues, i.e.: Elimination of discrimination, Legislative and judicial protection, special measures, social and cultural matters, violence against women (domestic violence, human trafficking), participation of women in decision making organs, equal rights, nationality, employment and social security, health and family planning, equality before the law, discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations (surname, children born out of wedlock), and other issues. On the issue of employment and social security, our Shadow Report touched upon such important issues as the deregulation of labour relations and its prejudicial impact on women's already weak position in the labour market, all resulting from austerity measures imposed during the last 3 years. These concerns were confirmed by decisions and reports of international and European Treaty bodies, i.e.: (i) the ILO Committee of Experts, expressing "deep concern at the drastic alterations of labour law through measures which go to the heart of labour relations, social dialogue and social peace", underlining "the disproportionate impact of these measures on women", commenting upon high unemployment, cuts in unemployment benefits, and many other important issues (ii) The European Committee of Social Rights, which by two decisions upheld complaints of the Greek trade unions regarding contract termination without notice and redundancy pay, the employment of workers aged 15 to 18 under "special apprenticeship contract" which excludes them from the scope of various labour law benefits, and cuts of minimum salaries and wages. These decisions condemn provisions concerning young people. As young women are disproportionately hit by the crisis, including the unemployment, they confirm the direct and indirect adverse effects of austerity legislation on women (iii) The ILO Committee on Freedom of Association, calling on Greece "to bring its labour relations system back to fundamental rights".

The Shadow Report was co-signed by the National Council of Greek Women. It was prepared by Sofia Spiliotopoulos, member of the GLWR, representative of the latter to the "Greek National Commission for Human Rights". From what we conclude from the Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee, it was taken seriously into consideration.

ii. Social life

(a) Fact-finding visit of Independent expert Mr. Cephas Lumina on effects of foreign debt and austerity measures on human rights.

From 22 to 27 April 2013, UN expert on human rights and foreign debt Mr. Cephas Lumina visited Athens, on mandate from the OHCHR, to investigate the effects of foreign debt and related austerity measures on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. The visit involved meetings with a wide range of Government officials and agencies, as well as consultations with non-governmental organizations, academics, and others. The GLWR

was invited, together with other civil society representative, to take part to a roundtable discussion, and share information about our work relating to above mentioned issues or mission objectives. The GLWR was represented by its President Lili Kourakou, who handed over to Mr. Lumina a brief report titled: “Greece: Gender impact of austere measures” outlining the dramatic socio-economic situation, affecting all Greek citizens (drastic cuts in salaries and pensions, heavy direct and indirect taxation, massive dismissals, high unemployment, reduced social benefits, violations of Constitutional stipulations protecting fundamental rights, drastic changes of the labour law, deterioration of education and public health services, closing down of small businesses, young educated people leaving the country in search of decent occupation abroad, increasing violence and crime, already 70% of the population living below the “at risk of poverty” level, and many others), but focusing on the part of the population for whom the impact of the economic policies imposed by the loan agreements and memoranda is even worse, i.e. women, whose position is getting worse on a number of issues. The first such issue is female unemployment, which at the time was 31.4% against a general index of 27,7% and male at 23,9%. Female long term unemployment is at 15,9%, with male at 10,4%. According to ILO, “a large part of women had joined the ranks of “discouraged” workers who are not accounted for in the statistics”. Unemployed women, not only miss out on unemployment benefits support, but also lose their financial means and become dependent on others, stay home to care for other members of the family thus turning to unpaid work, losing health and pension insurance coverage and going back to traditional housewife duties. Salary and pension cuts deepen the feminization of poverty (women being 60% of the poor), and make things very difficult indeed for elderly women, for those who live alone and for those trying to sustain a one parent family. The raising of pensionable age at 65 and the increase in length of service requirements will further affect women’s financial situation. Sweeping employment and social security law reforms (drastic social spending cuts and tax increases, the exponential growth of part-time and rotation work, unfair dismissals due to pregnancy or maternity leave, sexual harassment, reduction of employment in the public sector where the vast majority of workers are women, closing of small and medium sized enterprises which constitute the vast majority of female employment, disproportionately affect women as the ILO Committee of Experts pointed out. Gender equality issues, such as participation of women in decision making receive small attention and are not on the agenda. Budget cuts on care services and benefits for children, the elderly, sick and handicapped result in care being undertaken by families, particularly women. Increase of crime and violence, including domestic violence, a direct effect of economic distress, affects women heavily, since they are the majority of the victims. A further effect of economic distress is that women become more vulnerable for prostitution and trafficking. Last but not least, women’s organizations, a natural and best ally and advocate for women’s rights, are losing influence and power because of lack of financial means.

During the roundtable discussion, Ms. Kourakou referred briefly on the impact of the crisis on women, as above.

The findings from the visit will be presented in the Independent Expert’s report to the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2014. Before leaving the country Mr. Lumina issued an “End of mission report”, whereby he stated that Greece has assumed various international obligations through ratification of a number of core international and regional human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. He made special remarks on women’s unemployment and human rights violations. Finally, he called upon the Government and the Troika to adopt a human rights-based approach to design and implementation of the fiscal reform policies in Greece to ensure that these policies are consistent with the obligations for the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights that the country has assumed through ratification of core international human rights instruments.

(b) KE-TE-ME, our “Centre of the documentation and study of women’s problems” continues its operation. It collects, classifies and elaborates clippings with articles and news from newspapers and magazines, research papers, books, book reviews, laws, legal precedents etc. KE-TE-ME is every day at the disposal of students, researchers and any interested party at our Offices. League members work for KE-TE-ME on a voluntary basis as usual.

(c) The League appealed to the State Council against an act of the Ministry for Education, discriminating against women candidates for the post of school counselor. The State Council accepted our appeal, thus eliminating a discrimination against women.

(b) Elimination of prejudices and stereotypes

- The GLWR has obtained approval to execute a Programme on “Fighting gender stereotypes as these appear on mass media”, financed by the European Council. The Programme will be materialized in two years starting September 2013, and will extend not only to Athens but also to other major cities of the country. It provides for seminars to target groups (journalists, media owners and managers, students, interested public), as well as for the production of a printed guide on fighting gender stereotypes and other printed material useful for the purpose.

(iii) Elimination of violence

(a) A “Free Legal Counseling and Social Support Service” is made available by the GLWR since 1980 to all women, members or non members alike. In spite of the loss suffered by the League when Elia Kolokytha, head of this service, died in January 2013, the Vice President Irene Fereti continues to operate this important function, on a weekly basis, addressing as always problems of family conflict, domestic violence, divorce, child custody, alimony and other problems involving family conflict.

(b) Protest for the mob rapes in Egypt: Following reports from Egypt of fierce violence and mob rapes against women demonstrators in Tahrir Square, during protests against an oppressive muslim regime, the GLWR issued a press release calling on the interim Government of Egypt to immediately deal with the problems and stop sexual violence. The protest was forwarded to the Government of Egypt, Greek and International Women’s Organizations and the media.

(c) Female genital mutilation (FGM): By a landmark resolution against FGM, officially passed by the UN General Assembly on October 2012, after years of advocacy by the “Ban FGM Campaign”, an ordeal experienced by more than 3 million girls a year was condemned. The 194 Assembly members approved the resolution, considered a victory for human rights and in particular women’s and girls’ rights. Upon announcement of this significant victory at the UN, the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights and the GLWR, together with Greek women’s organizations, rejoicing over this success, congratulated the African Group of Women, who saw their years of struggle against FGM vindicated.

(d) Female genital mutilation (FGM)

By a landmark resolution against FGM, officially passed by the UN General Assembly in October 2012, after years of advocacy by the “Ban FGM Campaign”, an ordeal experienced by more than 3 million girls a year was condemned. The 194 Assembly members approved the resolution, considered a victory for human rights and in particular women’s and girls’ rights. Upon announcement of this significant victory at the UN, the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights and the GLWR, together with Greek women’s organizations, rejoicing over this success, congratulated the African Group of Women, who saw their years of struggle against FGM vindicated.

(iv) Local developments

(a) Award to journalists

During a festive gathering to celebrate the coming of the New Year, the League welcomed friends, members and partners in gender equality, and presented, as is our tradition, awards to journalists of the press and electronic media who during the previous year supported gender equality. This year the first award went to the writer of a book titled “Stories of shame”, which narrates the often cruel and inhuman confrontation of women throughout the centuries, while exposing the causes of such cruel phenomena as well as the source of modern time stereotypes. The second award went to the Greek National Television for presenting the Danish serial “Borgen”, which projects a useful role model of a woman participating in the political arena.

(b) International Woman's day

Acknowledging woman's social achievement, the GLWR dedicates each year the 8th March (Woman's day) to women who voluntarily and disinterestedly have given themselves to social work, such as in the social, scientific, educational or other sectors. The prize, of moral value only, bears the name of Alice Yotopoulos Marangopoulos, and for 2013 was awarded to Maria Sotiropoulou, physician, member of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Maria, mother of 4, is also a well known writer, and is distinguished for her interest and participation in social movements for peace and civilization. At the public discussion organized for the event, well known scientists in the fields of nuclear research, environment, and medicine gave very interesting presentations.

(c) The GLWR often invites its members to attend lectures given by experts on various subjects (history, literature, science, art etc.), in a friendly get-together atmosphere over a cup of coffee. This year two such events were organized, with members of the Board presenting interesting subjects.

(d) - “The Struggle of Woman” is the GLWR's journal, totally dedicated to promoting gender equality, safeguarding and advancing women's rights, fighting gender stereotypes and prejudices and disseminating news and information on women all over the world. Due to lack of financial means, our journal has not been issued for two years. We do hope that as from autumn this year we will be able to issue our journal again, since a provision for its financing is made in the budget for the programme against stereotypes we will be materializing.

(e) Responding to a programme of the General Secretariat for Equality to chart all records and files relevant to women's issues and create, a complete electronic record thereof, we contributed a full catalogue of all our records and files for the purpose. In another programme aiming at creating a record of “oral evidence of distinguished women and information on issues and the history of women's struggle for equality”, three distinguished members of the Board were interviewed.

(f) On the occasion of the National Broadcaster (ERT) being closed down by Government decision, we issued a strong press release of protest. ERT was not just another TV Channel, it was the only quality broadcaster, which apart from serious news bulletins, supported selected high quality programmes with music, literature, art, science, human rights and others of similar content.

(V) Local activities

- A woman MP, responsible for women's problems in her party, visited our Offices for an up-date and discussion on equality problems of today.

- On behalf of the GLWR, members of the Board attended many events/presentations etc. organized by various parties, such as:

- Conference of Women Bank employees
- Institute of small size enterprises of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants
- Association of Greek Women in Legal Professions

- Soroptimistic Union of Greece
- Institute Friedrich Ebert.
- General Secretariat for Gender Equality
- Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights: Three presentations on i. violence, ii. corruption, iii. environmental protection.
- “Committee for Equality, Youth and Human Rights of the Greek Parliament” where Board members took the floor on two occasions: one on violence, one on political rights.
- IAW and Greek Centre for Social Research on the effects of austerity on the rights of women, gender equality and peace.
- At AFEM the GLWR is represented by its member Sofia Spiliotopoulou, Lawyer, Independent Expert of the European Commission.
- At the “Greek National Commission for Human Rights” the GLWR is also represented by Sofia Spiliotopoulou.
- At the Greek section of the EWL the League is represented by two of its Board members.
- On various occasions, we issue Declarations or press releases, as the need arises.
- Finally, we were glad and proud to see the portrait of Alice Yotopoulos Marangopoulos on the calendar of EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality) for 2013, among 12 other “distinguished women inspiring Europe”.

Athens, July 20th, 2013

WIZO Israel

COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THE WIZO WAY

ISRAEL

High awareness and advanced legislation on one hand coupled with insufficient law enforcement on the other characterizes the state of events in Israel

Notwithstanding, even in the 21st century, there are still communities in Israel where there is not sufficient respect towards women and girls, due to these communities being patriarchal, traditional and/or militant, dominated by male values.

To encourage education to gender equality from early age. Education to honour human and civic rights

Legislation in Israel is very advanced and the Law relating to the Prevention of Domestic Violence (1991) has been amended to impose harsher restrictions on the abuser from the time of the first arrest. The provisions restrict release on bail and allow the Courts to issue warrants forbidding the abuser from carrying any form of arms/weapons – whether privately owned or issued to the abuser by any Security Authority or any other Governmental Authority. The Law against Threatening Harassment of 1996 has also been amended and its definitions and provisions expanded to address more eventualities.

More practical measures include 14 Shelters for Battered Women in Israel including 2 for Women from the Ultra Orthodox sector; 2 for women from the Arab sector and 2 Shelters operated by WIZO. One of WIZO's shelters located in the Centre of Israel is the largest Shelter in the Country. In the beginning, it was quite difficult to find an authority to allocate locations for the Shelters or neighbourhoods prepared to have such facilities within their borders. The establishment of each shelter was the joint effort of a social organization, a government ministry, a brave mayor and compassionate residents in the near vicinity.

The sectorial shelters were opened after practical experience showed that the rehabilitation was easier for women and children when in a shelter with others from the same background.

In 2012 610 referrals were directed to the shelters, out of which 85 were rejected due to lack of space or unsuitability.

WIZO PROJECTS

Shelters for Battered Women and their children

The WIZO shelters provide a residential refuge for battered women and their children for up to one year.

The two WIZO Shelters, whose location is privileged information, currently house **24 Women and about 38 Children**. The harder cases of domestic violence with the highest levels of risk are channeled to the Shelters.

With the help of a multi-professional staff, WIZO addresses the mental, emotional, functional and legal aspects of both the women and their children. This allows the woman to summon the willpower and ability to take control of their life and build a non-violent home for themselves and their children. The supportive and rehabilitative therapy they receive assists them during their stay at the Shelter and during the transition to independent life in the community. I remember hearing one of the Shelter's graduate's speaking of how **"the Shelter gave her the option and ability to start a new life, remarry and have children"**. She takes nothing for granted and the most significant moment of her day is sitting with her family around the supper table.

Their children also bear scars and WIZO addresses their special needs through intervention on several levels: Therapeutic intervention guided at the emotional dimension; Educational – guided at the cognitive dimension; Health –guided at the physical developmental dimension. At the Shelter the children are able to meet benefactors and be entitled to diagnosis, treatment and study reinforcement.

For the first time they can live with no fear of abuse towards them or their mother, leaving them available to study and socially integrate at kindergartens and schools. In the WIZO Shelter in the South of Israel, additional funds allowed the purchase of a caravan to serve as a DCC for the children staying at the Shelter.

Centres for The Prevention and Treatment of Violence in the Family

Treating the problem is only one kind of solution. Another is prevention.

WIZO currently operates three Centres for the Prevention & Treatment of Violence in the Family.. The centres are unique as they treat the entire family - the battered woman, the abusive spouse and their children within the community framework. They receive individual, family and group treatment. Many women and men after receiving treatment and continuing with normative lives, stay on as volunteers to help others from their personal experience.

One of the Centre for the Prevention & Treatment of Violence in the Family conducts workshops for police staff and doctors of Emergency Rooms. In addition, its volunteers frequent the schools to talk to children about Domestic Violence, Bullying and Anti Social Behaviour.

TEENAGE GIRLS

Girls Clubs

Girls Clubs are designed for teenage girls in distress aged 13-18 who have been referred by the Welfare Services Bureau. Some Club activities are held in WIZO branches and are supervised and supported by volunteers. The aim of the activities is to provide a social, educational, value-based

framework that enables the girls to contend with their difficulties by reinforcing and building a positive self-image. The Department is involved in operating 30 Girls Clubs around the country.

In the course of summing up a belly-dancing workshop, D. stated: "I learned to accept myself, to know my body and become confident".

Warm Homes

Warm Homes are designed for 14-18 year old girls suffering from emotional neglect and damaged self-image, who are liable to fall into delinquency and be excluded from normative frameworks. The girls attend the Homes several times a week, where they receive a hot meal, therapy, emotional support, and scholastic and social assistance.

At the Warm Home in Ramla the girls were asked to draw 'their safe place'. One of the girls who has been attending the Warm Home for about 18 months drew a large, colorful frame with the WIZO logo inside it... This is her safe place...

Following an arts activity of the Warm Home girls and artists, Z. expressed her gratitude: "Thank you for enabling me to discover my talent... This is the first time I have managed to draw something so beautiful..."

"Otzma Tzeira" (Young Power)

An empowerment program for teenage girls who are on the brink of distress and risk, and do not benefit from the support of Welfare Services Bureaus. The program is designed for groups of 15-20 girls aged 13-15 who have been identified by educational counselors in the schools. The girls have personal potential and abilities, but face the risk of deteriorating if timely preventive action is not taken. The program provides content pertaining to self-image, empowerment, couple relationships, family, violence prevention, and much more, and is operated at WIZO branches. The branch serves as a social club for the girls, and the supervising volunteers provide support in all non-formal matters. Ten such groups have been active around the country this year.

MENTORING

"Girls helping Girls"

The Programme seeks to empower and strengthen the "mentors" in Advanced Rehabilitation Procedures through University studies and integration as role models, support and help for girls in the system and service treatment. The "mentors" are given aid to shed the role of the needy for the role of the mentor. The Programme allows the development of manpower able to improve and upgrade the work with girls at risk and in distress, in the various frameworks.

Girls at risk who have managed to escape the cycle of despair have a deeper understanding for girls who still haven't. Such adolescents can serve as role models and as a source of power and hope for young girls at risk or in despair, as a motivating factor proving that change is possible, and as a resource for the professional staffs – as they have the ability to easily identify dangerous situations, to spot distress, to commentate on and decipher situations and sometimes serve as a bridge between the professional staff and the girls in the first stages of deterioration.

45 girls at risk of 17-20 who have received therapy or are in Advanced Rehabilitation Procedures, that express the ability, interest and motivation to study and are ready to take upon themselves commitment to learn and experience attend the Programme. The programme is compromised of theoretical studies, experiencing and application.

During the second year, those interested and found suitable can carry out an internship. The "mentors" will be able to help define where and how they can best assist girls at risk. The "mentors" undertake to be in touch with a Social-Educational-Rehabilitation Service that commits to continue being in contact with the girl and the Programme throughout the study phase.

Alternatively instead of internship they can carry out National Service in the same format.

PROJECT FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – FILM: HE'S CRAZY ABOUT ME

The Department for the Advancement of Women's Status has produced a film aimed at identifying early signs of a potential violent partner. The film is distributed at senior high schools all over the country and is also screened for soldiers in regular service. Screenings are accompanied by a discussion to raise the awareness of young people to this issue.

THE RELATIONSHIPS WITHOUT VIOLENCE PROGRAMME

This preventative programme is for students of 10th-12th grades conducted at the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family in Jerusalem..

The programme was initiated and mostly written by Malca Genichovski, the Director of the WIZO Jerusalem Centre for the Prevention of Domestic Violence in partnership with the Counseling Psychology Service.

The programme is comprised of 10 ninety- minute meetings that educate towards the development of healthy normal relationships and the prevention of pathological ones.

PREPARATION FOR COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS PROJECT

A Preparation for Couple Relationships Project operates in WIZO branches all over the country for couples who are about to be married or are in their first year of marriage. The aim of the project is to provide young couples with tools for constructive communication in marital life in order to enhance successful couple relationships in times of crisis as well.

WIZO Legal Action

WIZO operates a network of over 30 bureaus throughout the country, staffed by 80 lawyers, mediators, psychologists, social workers and 160 para-professional volunteers that provide advice and Legal Aid on family issues such as : divorce, alimony, wills and inheritance, custody of children, financial agreements, couple mediation with the goal of rehabilitating the marriage, ongoing support services for women during and after the divorce process, drawing up divorce agreements during the mediation process and dissemination of information material outlining women's rights and services.

Over the years, the Department for the Advancement of Women's Status has been active in the parliamentary arena with the aim of advancing women in all spheres. Representatives of the Department attend the various Knesset committee meetings, initiate debates and submit position papers on women's issues. Enforcing existing legislation is one of the challenges with which the Department contends through petitions to the Supreme Court and representing precedent cases in the courts.

Attached is a list of laws WIZO has initiated, promoted and lobbied for.

MEN COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WIZO decided this year to do just that through the "Come out of the Shadows" campaign, where WIZO calls upon men to take responsibility for the physical and emotional violence they inflict on their spouses/partners

The project includes a hotline manned by volunteers and a trained therapist. The project is accessible on website and facebook.

LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT WOMEN

WIZO has proudly succeeded in promoting and supporting several laws in the Knesset which empower women in Israel that include:

- A law for equal rights of women when dividing common property as part of a divorce settlement.
- Thanks to WIZO it is obligatory for the husband to pay alimony during divorce proceedings, if the husband does not pay, the National Insurance will pay, but then claim the money from him.
- Law forbidding the dismissal of women, from their places of work, during fertility treatments.
- And today, thanks to WIZO, battered women in the shelters now have the right to vote in a poll station close to the shelters.
- The extension of maternity leave from three to four months. ***Women's Labor Act (Amendment No. 46) (Extension of Maternity Leave) - 2010***

Pursuant to the Women's Labor Act, a female employee who gives birth is entitled to a 14 week maternity leave. During this period a woman is entitled to receive maternity payments, and the employer must continue to make payments to her pension fund. The amendment to the Women's Labor Act extends the maternity leave period to 26 weeks. According to the amendment, a woman may receive her maternity leave payments only during the first 14 weeks of her maternity leave, and she is entitled to shorten her maternity leave so long as it is not shortened to less than 14 weeks.

- A woman cannot be dismissed during maternity leave nor for sixty days after giving birth. The employer can request special permission to fire an employee upon her return to work, after proving that termination of employment has nothing to do with birth, or maternity leave or related absence .
- WIZO was also active in many other realms of legislation such as the changing of the National Insurance Law which determined that the grant for families with large numbers of children would be given to the mother, and therefore used for its intended purpose, rather than being squandered by the abusive partner
- **Amendment to the Penal Laws-prison sentences for sex offenders and offenders of violence in the family-5761-2000.** The proposal to the law was made in order to amend the Penal Laws so that today the courts are obligated to give prison sentences to sex offenders and offenders of violence in the family, if there is no reason not to do so.
- **Prohibition to dismiss an employee who is undergoing fertility treatment – amendment to clause 9 (e) in the Women's Work Laws-** following the application of the Status of Women Department to Members of the Knesset in which we explained the severe reality of women being dismissed from the place of work when they are undergoing fertility treatment, an amendment was made to the law. The amendment stated that workplaces cannot dismiss women who are undergoing fertility treatment without special permission from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The amendment was proposed by M.K. Eli Goldshmidt. **It is now forbidden to dismiss a man/woman who is undergoing fertility treatment, without a waiver from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.**

PROMOTING NEW LEGISLATION

- ✚ The recognition of sexual harassment as a working related accident (the original law proposal was written by a student from the Management College, redrafted and promoted by WIZO – at this time thought is being given if to continue promoting it.
- ✚ Amendment to the National Insurance Law to the effect that women in Shelters for Battered Women who were entitled to receive guaranteed minimal income prior to entering the

Shelter – will continue to receive it during her stay at the shelter instead of their abusive husband.(2012-3)

- + Calculating childbirth allowance for self employed women.
- + Amendment to the Law to prevent the employment of sex offenders in certain institutions.
- + Amendment to the Women Employment Law whereas if a worker resigns because of mobbing by employer the resignation will be regarded as dismissal and contrary to the Women's Employment Law and entitle the employee to all legal remedies.
- + Battered women may give evidence in court behind closed doors to prevent further humiliation of the women/girls (2012/3). Minors are entitled to the same due to age status.

Hana Elroy

VROUWENBELANGEN, The Netherlands

Leonie Gils, President

Implementation of CEDAW

Vrouwenbelangen is very much concerned about our government's interpretation of the CEDAW. Good news is the integration of gender equality in the foreign policy and the policy intensification on trafficking and violence against women. But there is no comprehensive policy for implementation of the Convention in the Netherlands. There is no sign that the government feels responsible for the elimination of discrimination of women, for women's advancement, and the combating of stereotypes. There is no systematic approach to acknowledge and eliminate regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women. Still nothing has been done with the cabinet's opinion on gender mainstreaming and no follow-up has been given to the experiments on gender responsive budgeting. In the policy papers on emancipation – still the name for the policy that from 1985 was geared to developing an egalitarian society – no mention has been made to gender equality or the relation between this policy and the CEDAW.

Members of Vrouwenbelangen took part in follow-up sessions of the 5th cycle of Reporting to the CEDAW Committee. We gave input to the Coordinating Minister for the 6th report that is due before mid 2014.

Vrouwenbelangen took part as well in the preparations and the follow-up for the 57th session of the CSW.

Vrouwenbelangen contacted the Parliamentary Committee on Emancipation and individual MPs in writing on these matters and offered suggestions to promote a more serious and systematic policy. Upon invitation the Secretary of Vrouwenbelangen presented our concerns and recommendations to this Committee in a Round Table Meeting in preparation of their discussion with the Minister on the Cabinet's emancipation policy. However not much use has been made of the suggestions of the representatives of the NGO's that were present at the Round Table Meeting. We are very much concerned that this might be caused by a lack of basic understanding of the CEDAW.

Women's economic independence

Numerous specific issues have been discussed in regional meetings of Vrouwenbelangen. Women's economic independence is one of these. In the Netherlands 52% of the women from 15-65 years is still not economically independent. They earn less than 70% of the minimum wage. They are dependent on social security benefits, on parents or a partner. Research showed that many women do not seem aware of the potential risks if their 'sponsor' does not pay, leaves or dies.

The growth of the women that are economically dependent, albeit on a very low level, might stop or be reversed by the austerity measures that the government considers in order to come out of the financial and economic crises. A regional working group listed measures and actions that municipalities can take to promote further economic independence of women, like awareness raising of civil servants and women, extending childcare provisions for better reconciliation of care and work, executing ex ante gender impact analysis (GIA) of policies and monitoring of the effects, disaggregated for gender and diversity.

Nearly 120 years – How Much Longer?

Next year Vrouwenbelangen will be 120 years. The average age of our members is quite high as well. These members possess lots of wisdom and knowledge, but diminishing energy. We cannot see yet when we shall reach the aim that we share with all IAW affiliates and members: equal rights – equal responsibilities.

If we want to succeed we need to find ways to counteract the many gender stereotypes that still exist and the myths that are built on them. Vrouwenbelangen invests on that by attending and intervening in public debates on democracy and on measures for balanced representation for stronger democracies and for more quality of life for women and humankind everywhere.

In addition Vrouwenbelangen has to attract new members, younger women and younger men who understand the importance of gender equality and gender sensitivity, who are willing to invest in a democratic society in which men and women in all their diversity have the same power to shape society and their own lives. opportunities to can invest and of gender balanced We have to acknowledge their interests, their concerns, their methods, their language. We just started the process. We are very happy that we could welcome some younger members.

We need joining with other groups and individuals as well. That is why we organise open Platform sessions on gender and politics for people who are eager to make an end to gender inequalities, to make an end to violence against women that can occur where economic, political and social inequalities between women and men prevails. For people who understand that to realise gender and diversity sensitive decision making - on political, economic and social matters – it is necessary to stop the *over*representation of men in representative bodies that make decisions that impact the lives of women as well. The only justifiable form of representation is here:

equal representation: M/F 50/50. The open platform is an invitation to share and built on the best of recommendations from our foremothers and fathers, of long or just some decades ago. To generate new questions, new insights, breakthroughs.



Left to right: Elena Cason (intern Master Women's Studies), Rabia el Morabet Belhaj (Secretary of Vrouwenbelangen) and Lisa van Midde (Board Member)

LITHUANIAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION



President Ms. Nijolė Steponkutė

Lithuanian Women's Organization (LWO - www.lmd.lt) was founded in 1990 as a non-governmental, non-political organization that unites women of different nationalities, faith and views interested in equal rights, education, ecology and spiritual perfection issues. Our goal is to ensure women's involvement in decision-making in political, economic and social spheres, to help women become active members of society through their education and development of their skills. The symbol of our organization is a woman with a child in her hands because we pay a lot of attention to women raising children. LWO unites 32 organizations in towns and regions of Lithuania, including 6 women's clubs. Common to all of our projects is a concern for improving the social and economic status of Lithuanian women. We have over 20 years of experience in increasing women's access to information - the spectrum of issues ranges from psycho-social trauma to leadership skills and integration into labor market. We have completed a vast majority of projects training women in the form of seminars, workshops, conferences and consulting the goal of which is to improve the quality of women's lives, to ensure economic freedom for women and help them become leaders. Activities were organized in different regions of our country. It is extremely important for women residing in distant rural areas, as often they do not have access to such counseling.

Since unemployment among women is one of the major problems in Lithuania since 2007 we completed some projects which were funded from the European Social Funds. The target group of these projects was unemployed women. In 2007-2008 we completed the project "Developing Women's Knowledge and Skills in Order to Increase Their Participation and Influence in the Labor Market". In 2009 -2011 m. we completed the project "Integration of Women into the Labor Market by Forming the Skills of Success". Trainings of unemployed women were carried out in Alytus, Joniškis, Marijampolė, Utena, Šalčininkai, Švenčionys, Tauragė, Visaginas. The participants got legal, psychological and employment counseling. More than 300 women participated in the project. After the efficient training in seminars and forming purposive skills at workshops more than half of the participants found jobs or started their own business.

In 2012 autumn – 2013 winter collaborating with Vilnius Municipality we started a project cycle „Public Health through raising the competence of Specialists‘, Teachers ‘and Parents ‘and Providing Assistance to Children with Behavioral and Emotional Disorders and Children with Special Needs”. Its goal is to develop public expertise in working with the pre-school and school-age children with special needs, encourage recognition of behavioral and emotional problems and their elimination. Both specialists and parents participate in this project, studying the following:

- Preventing children's activity and attention disorders (September, 2012)
- Recognizing children's autism, social integration of autism children and assistance to the families (October, 2012)
- Children's depressions and composure disorders (October, 2012)
- Fear of school and how to overcome it (November, 2012)
- Aggressiveness in children and how to deal with it (November, 2012)
- Assistance to children who have experienced sexual abuse (December, 2012)

In October 2012 we participated in a conference which was organized by the Union of Russian Women with a speech on our work with women coming and residing in rural areas.

In May 2013 project “Progress for Woman – Progress for Society” took place in Trakai – Kaunas – Vilnius. Educational seminars and workshops on building leadership qualities, time planning, strategic goal rising, and public speaking were organized for women of Russia (representatives from Russian Women Organizations coming from various regions of the Russian Federation). The project helped the participants in acquiring useful experience such as team work, organizational skills, etc.

In June 2013 we participated in the International conference in Minsk with a report on XXI century family problems in Lithuania. Moreover we renewed the cooperation contract with Belarus Women’s Organization on the basis of which we will prepare projects on democracy, equal rights and equal opportunities issues. We will form the groups of women and discuss the goals of every woman taking into consideration her family duties and career aspirations. Due to that training programs how women can become leaders and improve the quality of their lives without losing the connection with their families will be adapted for women leaders so as they could recognize what main traits of character they have to develop.

Our established center in Kretinga, which successfully operated for 12 years, collaborating with foreign partners (Gdansk, Karlshamn, and Kaliningrad) realized regional projects on stopping violence against women. The current 2007-2013 project „The South Baltic Area – Violence Free Zone“ according to South Baltic Cross-Border Co-operation Programme is supervised by NGO “The Network of East-West Women NEWW-Polska” already involves women in the biggest west regions of Lithuania. The project participants could get free legal advice, psychological and social support.

Now we are working on the following projects:

1. Together with the Polish Audio-Psycho-Phonological Centre in Warsaw and Vilnius city Municipality we are continuing education on children having attention deficit disorder (ADD) and their integrating in to the society. We are paying a lot of attention to this problem since it is usually women who have all the responsibility for their children and if children have health problems the mother’s life becomes very complicated. The goal of this project is: to develop the impaired children’s ability to concentrate, to read, speak and write, to improve their motoric skills. As a result this should enhance child’s self-confidence, improve communication skills, and have a positive impact on psychological well-being of children and their families.

2. Cooperating with KUN (Centre for Gender Equality) operated by the Northern Feminist University we are planning to organize distance learning courses for women leaders in Lithuania. They will study via Internet but individual counseling and meetings with mentors will be arranged. We expect to get methodological support from the Norwegian organization.

Report prepared by Lawyer - Project Coordinator Ms. Jovita Kliukaite



Norsk Kvinnesaksforening er Norges eldste kvinneorganisasjon. Vi jobber for at kvinner skal ha de samme rettighetene og mulighetene som menn på alle områder av samfunnet.

Norway –backlash during celebrations of 100 years of women’s suffrage



This has been an extremely busy year for The Norwegian Association for Women’s Rights (Norsk kvinnesaksforening, NKF) as we celebrate 100 years of Women’s suffrage this year. In 1913, Norway as the first independent nation passed universal suffrage for all men and women. The centenary has led to a lot of activity nationally, and there has been a number of events, exhibitions, academic conferences and publications. Our organisation as one of two remaining

organizations from this time, has played a central role and our chair, Torild Skard has been on the board of the planning committee for the national celebrations.

NKF has arranged a number of meetings and events all over the country, including a parade in Oslo on 11.June when the act was passed in parliament, which was also celebrated in parliament. Torild Skard and the chair of another organization, OTTAR, representing the old and the new women’s movement, held a joint speech as part of the official celebration in front of the Storting (parliament). The whole event was broadcast in Norwegian television. The main claims in the parade as well as in the speech were:

- Men dominate in politics and the media - we want half of the power!
- 100 years of patience is enough – we want equal pay now!
- In the power elite four out of five are men - the women’s movement requires more resources!
- Violence against women and children is an acute problem – we demand effective measures against violence and oppression of women all over the world!

NKF, represented by Chair Torild Skard and Vice chair, Margunn Bjørnholt, also participated at this year’s Commission on the status of women (CSW) in New York, as part of the IAW delegation. Prior to the CSW, we contributed to a common NGO statement to the Norwegian official delegation, in which we were able to incorporate the statement on women and the economic crisis, submitted to the CSW by IAW, which had been prepared in Melbourne by Joanna Manganara, IAW Regional Vice President Europe, and Margunn Bjørnholt, Vice President of NKF Norway

Despite the successes and celebrations, this year has also been busy because of a series of reforms and policies, which we have actively opposed, and which we see as serious back-lashes to gender equality in Norway. Among them, amendments of the antidiscrimination laws, including the Gender Equality Act, which weakens women’s protection against discrimination, the introduction of military conscription for women, discriminatory immigration laws, further re-allocation of parental leave from mothers to fathers resulting in a reduction of the total leave available to women, withdrawal of support for the Nordic Women’s University, and lack of support for women’s organizations in general.

We have also had the rather paradoxical experience of having our (very small) funding substantially reduced in the middle of the celebrations this year, leading to further strain on our scarce resources. The lack of support for women's organizations like ours is a strong contrast to the generous support of a men's organization, which receives ten times of the total funds of all women's organisations. We have actively opposed the budget cuts and argued that a strong women's movement is a prerequisite for a vital democracy.

Margunn Bjørnholt

SRI LANKA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN THE UK



History of the Education Scheme

The Education of girls and women in Sri Lanka has been a high priority from its inception. In 1976 Mrs Casinader established an Education Scheme to help financially disadvantaged girls of secondary school age and, women aged over 18 years who wish to follow a short course in Education leading to a career. The latter was called the "Laurel Casinader Career Scheme".

SoceA committee of 5 Trustees chaired by the Education Officer makes decisions and operates a strict selection policy guided by well defined criteria when allocating grants to the categories mentioned above. Advertisements are placed in January of each year in the Sri Lankan national newspapers in English, Sinhalese and Tamil, inviting applications from all ethnic groups. Funds are collected through annual and monthly gift aided donations and covenants to the Education Scheme. In addition, specific events are organised every year to increase the funds such as coffee mornings, dinner dances and other fund raising events.

In 2010, the career scheme was further extended to offer spoken English tuition to women to further enhance their career prospects at the job interview stage. A pilot project was started in October 2010 in the Sabargamuwa Province in Sri Lanka and 30 girls were selected to follow a one year course in spoken English. To oversee this project we were fortunate to get the assistance of a female member of the International Rotary Committee. Of these students, 23 completed the course. Four students entered University, two girls gained entrance to a medical faculty, two girls went to further education and seven girls were successful in obtaining gainful employment. We hope to conduct similar projects this year in other rural areas of Sri Lanka.

A gift aided donation scheme payable by standing order was set up in 2001 while individual donations are always welcome and are encouraged.

President: Mrs Indira Wimalasena

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Kumari Ratnayake



JOSEPHINE BUTLER SOCIETY

In the late 1990s, the Association of Chief Police Officers in the UK, ACPO, recommended that children found on the street in prostitution should be treated by police as abused children: not criminalised and labelled as a common prostitute. A year later the UK Home Office followed with this same recommendation. This was essential as the label was for life and meant that the child was forever so described. What chance had she of a different life after that? As JBS had campaigned since Josephine Butler's time in the C19th for the removal of this labelling we were

encouraged and continued to press parliamentarians, with others of course, for the need for the removal from adults. It was removed in the Policing and Crime Act, 2009.

We now move on to consider a move by France, Scotland, Northern Ireland, maybe others, to introduce a law to prosecute the buyer of sexual services, as did Sweden in 1999. However, we at JBS have reservations about this. We are not convinced that this will stop trafficking for sexual purposes as the proponents suggest, but could be a cheap way for the politicians to appear to acquiesce to the demand of the populace to 'do something' about the trafficking. This proposed new law, the politicians hope, would show they were trying to 'do something'. It would also be an easy way for the police to tick another box without eating into their recently much reduced budget. An undercover operation to detect traffickers is costly in manpower and finance. The non violent man who perhaps thinks he is a 'friend' of the prostituting person, would be prosecuted, with all the turmoil this might cause his wife and family. And what about women buying men? We remember the wise words of Josephine who said that what went on in the bedroom of consenting adults was of no concern of hers. JBS is very much against the coercers and enslavers, but there are already laws to tackle these crimes.

We are supporters of the UK Network of Sex Work Projects Ugly Mug Scheme; this is proving to be very useful to both those in prostitution and also the police. We hope the scheme will win finance to continue well into the future.

As time and energy permit, members continue to attend conferences and seminars and report back to the committee. Our magazine, News and Views, is produced once a year. Our AGM this year on 23rd October, will be followed by 2 speakers; one from the London School of Economics Library, and the other a university student to talk about her research into prostitution. It will be the first AGM at which our new President, Baroness Sue Miller, will preside, subject to her Parliamentary duties.

Valerie Gore, Chair

THE PACIFIC



IAW Pacific report – July 2013

Sheila Byard

Dominant issues in the region remain the great human challenges of the day: from zones of war and oppressive regimes come the *vast movements of people trying to escape impossible living conditions*, and from the *relentless hunger of the world's people not just to subsist but to consume* come the many sustainability challenges.

ESCAP the UN Commission for Asia and the Pacific <<http://www.unescap.org/>> remains an invaluable source of information about the region, provides policy options for governments to overcome challenges and maintain the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development. The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013 *"Forward-looking Macroeconomic Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development,"* looks at long term sustainable development policies for the Asia-Pacific region. The Survey was launched in nearly 40 locations worldwide, with the main launch taking place in Beijing, China.

Refugee crisis: Has the time come for revision of the UN Refugee convention? Quite apart from the Syrian catastrophe, the Asia Pacific region has its own appalling refugee sites. Some countries in the region are signatories to the convention, others are not. Malaysia is not a signatory but attempts with difficulty to meet the humanitarian challenges of detaining the many who cross its borders in hope of a better life. Indonesia offers a one month visa to those who come from Islamic nations and some of these seek to use this facility to travel on un-assessed to Australia. Australia, a signatory, is a receiving country, but both government and opposition are determined that seems unable to accommodate all those who seek to come, preferring to take only those who have been assessed by the UN process, in an orderly intake process. Mandatory detention and the long term incarceration of children are reprehensible but wide spread practices.. Off shore solutions adopted by Australia, now include agreeing with its nearest neighbor Papua New Guinea to take individuals and families lifted from the boats of people smugglers by the Australian navy. Meanwhile PNG has its own failures to deal with refugees while many folk fleeing from Irian Jaya (West Papua) languish in squatter settlements including in the capital Port Moresby.

Environment: Recent severe climate episodes remind us of the inter-connectedness of our lives and need for international and bi-partisan agreements to secure the future of the regions people. At the beginning of July 2013 fires across Indonesian giant rainforests which caused Southeast Asia's worst *air pollution crisis* in years led to shut-down of activity in Singapore and parts of Malaysia due to wind born air pollution. Sea-food exports from Vietnam found to be carrying dangerous levels of anti-biotics a issue for both Vietnamese consumers but the countries dependant of imports from Vietnam. Despite decades of international collaborative work with countries in the region, resistant strains of disease are becoming more prevalent including the mosquito-borne dengue fever variants and its new partner *chikungunya*. *Smaller island nations in the region face particular challenges because of the importance of maritime*

Regional activism in the wider Pacific region: *It is to be hoped that Board and Individual members who came to Melbourne last October have followed up on the contacts they were able to make especially through the presenters on the Asia Pacific Regional Day forum 'Ending Violence' from the Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) Group , Sepali Kottegoda (Sri Lanka) and Carole Shaw(Australia). APWW is a regional network of women's groups that aims to monitor and collaborate with the United Nations, national governments and non-government organizations (NGOs) in empowering women and advancing their human rights. APWW is represented by five (5) sub-regions – Central Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia and South East Asia and is also joined by representatives of each of the three major international women's networks: APWLD (Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development), Isis International*

and ARROW (Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Center for Women). As the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, there are a growing number of processes, preparations and debates on what a post-2015 agenda and framework will look like. These are occurring both within and outside of the UN system.

IAW social media work for the region: Since the visit of the IAW Board to Melbourne October 8-12 2012, a small group of members have continued to work with and encourage younger women, including the IAW media intern group, to continue with promotional work using blog, facebook and twitter. These young women, like their contemporaries world-wide, are a mobile group moving since last October for work or further study to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Malaysia, but they use the new media to remain in contact with us including email and skype and have been assisting with topical reports for the IAW News. Some of the IAW Board members do follow the work of the IAW Melbourne media group especially when there are posts linking to directly to IAW activity and we are grateful for this interest. When you visit <http://iawmelbourne.wordpress.com/>, please leave a comment!

WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY Australia

Given the impending election (date still to be announced) at the Federal Government level, WEL has launched its Federal Election platform.



For this election WEL has 'five asks' aimed at improving the lives of women:

- 1. Support sole parents:** Reintroduce the Sole Parents Payment for all single parents with children under 18.
- 2. Make Super fair:** Investigate introducing a 'Carer credits' system, crediting an individual's super while they are out of paid work providing care; and super contributions to be paid on government funded paid parental leave.
- 3. Enforce equal pay:** adequately resource the Pay Equity Unit.
- 4. Improve children's services:** additional funding for out of school hours care.
- 5. Choice for all:** increase the Medicare rebate for abortion by \$200.

Since our recent Federal Election Campaign Launch, WEL members and supporters across the country have been sending letters to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd calling on him to reinstate the sole parents payment for all single parents with children under 18. Almost 1000 members and supporters have signed WEL's petition calling on Kevin Rudd and Tony Abbott (Leader of the Opposition) to commit to this ask.

The lobbying capacity of WEL for the forthcoming Federal elections has been enhanced by the engagement of a part time Co-ordinator for WEL NSW who is also working with WEL Australia on our overall campaign. WEL has also launched a brand new website at www.wel.org.au which aims

to encourage member engagement through active use of networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter. Our weekly *e-Update*, covering feminist news, events and actions, has a rapidly growing subscriber list.

During the year, WEL also focused on working with other women's groups, particularly through the ERA network, to increase our lobbying capacity. Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) is a national non government network of women's organisations and advocates which brings together over 50 organisations.

WEL responded to an invitation from the Minister for the Status of Women, the Hon. Julie Collins, to comment on new reporting matters under the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012. WEL welcomed the passage of this legislation as an important development in workplace gender equality. However, WEL indicated that standardised reporting is desirable and will only be achieved by requiring organisations to report in terms of the Australia and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). WEL members in NSW and Victoria attended follow up meetings to provide further feedback on the data measures.

During the year, WEL wrote to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to express grave concerns about the cancellation of its 2013 Work Life and Family Survey (WoLFS). Time use surveys offer a window into people's lives. It is unique in that it measures both paid and unpaid work using the same metric and WEL indicated the importance of continuing to record the division, intensity and amount of labour between men and women to highlight current inequities.

WEL ACT put forward a pre-budget submission to the ACT government, particularly concerned with housing stress for women. The submission acknowledges the financial constraints on the ACT Budget as a result of reduced revenue from the Commonwealth due to the poorer economic outlook. These constraints are likely to have an effect on both the cost and supply of private housing in Canberra, and the availability of funding for public and community housing.

For their State election, WEL WA canvassed Liberal, ALP, Greens and National candidates with a series of questions that focused on housing, children's services, country and rural women, and gender related violence.

The draft bill to reform Tasmania abortion laws was released and a submission was made by WEL Australia on this issue.

A meeting was convened by WEL NSW with a number of women's advocacy groups earlier in the year aimed at coordinating a response to the *Women in NSW 2012* Report released by the State Department of Family & Community Services. The Report aims to provide an annual evaluation of gender equality and gender difference in NSW, so that the baseline data presented now and in subsequent years can be used by decision makers in all spheres to drive change. A *Women in NSW 2013* Report has since been released.

Our review highlighted both weaknesses in the metrics used in the Report and areas where policy changes are critically needed to improve women's position in NSW. WEL is currently discussing the holding of a forum by the State Government to discuss these issues of concern.

On other fronts, WEL lodged a submission to the government inquiry on the implementation of the Paid Parental Leave scheme. WEL welcomed the overdue introduction of this scheme. We called on the government to extend paid parental leave to 52 weeks, to pay super on government paid parental leave and to bring in line provisions of the Fair Work Act in relation to access to unpaid parental leave.

WEL lodged a submission regarding the *Social Security Amendment (Supporting More Australians into Work) Bill 2013*. WEL welcomed this Bill implementing initiatives introduced in the Federal Budget 2013-2014 to address some of the issues of sole parents being moved on to Newstart (financial help while actively looking for paid work). This included increasing the amount Newstart recipients can earn before their payment is reduced. However, the changes do not go far enough; WEL is continuing to lobby the government for further welfare reform.

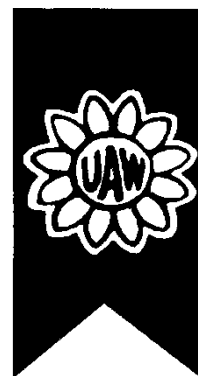
July 2013

UNION OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

Report to the IAW International Conference, London, September 2013

Since the successful 2012 International meeting held in Melbourne October 2012, the Union of Australian Women has continued to pursue the issues that engaged us then.

- We supported Australia's first female Prime Minister in the face of unprecedented and unwavering attacks against her, her position and democratic institutions on the basis of gender and misogyny. She has had a relentless media campaign against her and relentless undermining from within her own government. Let's hope that it will be easier for future female leaders.
- We continue to campaign, with other organisations and individuals, for a humane treatment of asylum seekers. We are outraged and saddened at the recent appalling government deal with Papua New Guinea and shall continue to work for a policy based on regional co-operation and decency in the face of human suffering.
- We are concerned to ensure that funding and programs that support action on family violence in Victoria continue. Currently, family violence accounts for 84 percent of the rise in recorded assaults.
- We are aware that women's reproductive health and rights is an issue in rural and regional Victoria.
- We have taken action on behalf of bees, and for the sustainable development of housing that protects and extends environmental safeguards and green spaces.
- We continue our campaign for peace, nuclear disarmament and a greater role for women in peace negotiations.
- We continue to support an independent public broadcaster, indispensable for open debate and access to information and ideas.



The UAW collaborates and networks with other women's groups and organisations that support peace and human rights. We publish a monthly newsletter that covers a broad range of topics and we hold regular public discussion meetings with speakers to inform ourselves and possibly take action. Historian Morag Loh has added an update chapter to the UAW history *Left Wing Ladies, 1950 – 2012*. We aim to have a celebratory launch later this year.

Anne Sgro

President 2013

COMMISSIONS

HEALTH AND WHO

Name: Gudrun HAUPTER Convenor Commission on Health Main Representative at WHO Date: 18 July 2013	Email: haupter@t-online.de Email: iaw.health@womenalliance.org
A) Most burning issues for women with a view to a new Action Program B) Description of the commission's activities	

A. Most burning issues

The overarching goal of IAW should be to promote women's right to health and to work for ending discriminatory attitudes towards women and girls condoned by governments and/or society, as well as traditional practices harming their health and development. We also need to bear in mind the new WHO slogan "HEALTH IN ALL", which refers to the impact, good or bad individual and community health has on a whole range of challenges individuals and societies face.
Photo At WHA plenary sessions NGOs are relegated to a small gallery



A1. In line with this, **Sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR)** should remain IAW's priority on Health. For a number of years the SRHR of women and girls have been the main focus of the Commission and, unfortunately, the work is far from being done. With regard to MDGs 3, 5, 6 let us follow the recommendation of a discussion paper by the Dutch feminist platform WO=MEN, in the context of the post 2015 Development Agenda: "Do not allow sexual and reproductive health and rights or gender equality to become fragmented among general principles: SRHR and gender equality deserve a **prominent place of their own** within the post-2015 framework, as well as their own set of indicators, accountability mechanisms and budgeting."

Based on several Congress resolutions IAW has agreed positions on

- The need to cover the huge unmet need for contraception of all women of childbearing age (currently estimated at 222 million in developing countries).
- The support of campaigns for decriminalizing abortion.
- The need for harmonization of traditional and customary norms with legal norms derived from International conventions, standards and decisions.

A2. Another burning issue debated at this year's World Health Assembly and supported by a wide range of NGOs is **Universal Health Coverage, UHC**. Key principles are equity, solidarity and accountability. It is evident that due to income differences between women and men, women are the largest group that would benefit from UHC.

A3. At WHO, and the UN level as a whole, much attention has lately been given to tackling **Non-communicable diseases, NCD³**. These had been neglected by low- and middle-income countries' public health systems. These had spent their scarce resources for the control of **Communicable diseases** (vaccination campaigns, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and a wide range of infectious diseases that can be communicated). With rising life expectancy and changing life styles in almost all countries, the urgency to act on prevention and treatment of the 4 main categories of NCDs had built up.

These are: Cardio-vascular diseases, Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, Cancer, Diabetes. Though Mental health is not a separate category its dimensions and cross cutting nature and importance have been recognized. Let us continue advocacy - in Geneva via the NGO Forum for Health and in New York, with a focus on mental health issues of women of all ages - bearing in mind our limited human resources.

B. Description of main activities on behalf of the commission and at WHO, since the International Meeting

– **Writing an input for the *WorldWeWant* discussion** on Priority issues of a human rights and gender-responsive approach in addressing population dynamics (the input is also on www.iawomen.ning.com)

– **Participating in the Stakeholder consultation** on the WHO Draft twelfth General Programme of Work (2014 – 2018), in areas of our competence and involvement.

– Commission member Soon-Young Yoon spoke on **Gender, tobacco and human rights** at a WHO High-level meeting on "Global Governance and Tobacco Control", at Harvard University.

– **Oral Statement** (attached) at the World Health Assembly in May (endorsed by the Business and Professional Women, BPW) and delivered by Seema Uplekar (photo), on agenda sub item **Follow-up actions to recommendations of the high-level commissions convened to advance women's and children's health**. One of the commissions is the UN Commission on Life-saving Commodities for Women and Children.



In this context the delegates of member states had to approve a resolution drafted by the WHO Executive board in January 2013 referring to list of priority life-saving medicines for women and children updated 2012. Modern contraceptives belong to the list, with two comments on their health benefits⁴ and did not provoke dissent. The contentious item was Misoprostol, which is used to stop post-partum haemorrhage and combined with Mifepristone, for the provision of safe abortion. Delegates from Turkey, El Salvador and other like-minded countries requested to amend the resolution to include that medical counseling and close supervision were needed. The aim: prevent free access for women in times of online offers of these medicines and hamper the help offered on <https://www.womenonweb.org/pl/media/inline/id/6881> for "settings where there is no access to safe services."

– **Input describing a successful NGO – Government cooperation** to improve the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents in Togo, following a call for submission of good

³ This year's World Health Assembly dealt with a Comprehensive global monitoring framework and targets for the prevention and control of NCD, as well as the first Action plan on NCDs, for 2013 – 2020, and the Mental health action plan for the same period.

⁴ Family planning through provision of modern contraceptives is one of the most effective strategies for reducing maternal death. Reducing the unmet need for family planning and thus, preventing unintended pregnancies, is estimated to reduce a third of maternal, and up to 10 % of infant death. (We have used these arguments in oral and written statements.)

practices to inform and complement review and analysis for the 2nd report of the independent Expert Review Group, iERG. The report "Count-down 2015 on maternal, neonatal and child survival" is out. It features country profiles based on a set of core indicators selected by the UN Commission on Information and Accountability for the health of women and children (the other of the High-level commissions mentioned above).

– **News items** for the IAW Newsletter and an article in French for IWNews No. 1 2013, on "How to end Female genital mutilation".

C. Collaboration with WHO

The IAW reporting for 2011 – 2013 was due and I was grateful for the help of commission members. In January 2014 the WHO executive will decide whether we keep our status as an "NGO in official relations with WHO".

In close contact with president Lyda Verstegen we drafted the following **Proposal for Collaboration for 2014 – 2016:**

" IAW considers internationally agreed human rights instruments and legal norms and corresponding national legislation as the only source of guarantee for protecting the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls and as crucial to leading a life free from all forms of violence.

We will continue to work on these issues, and would like to collaborate with WHO.

IAW is networking and lobbying for the recognition of women's sexual and reproductive health rights in all relevant international negotiation processes including the Rio process.

As an active member of the gender task force of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, IAW provides technical input into FCA papers including those submitted to the COP. Listed in the data base of organizations IAW is ready to provide expertise to countries for their reporting on the WHO FCTC in the categories information, education and communication.

IAW is organising an event on a health topic crucial to women during the IAW Triennial Congress, if possible, with a speaker from WHO.

IAW is disseminating WHO products on women's health and, as appropriate, providing information on issues of women's and girls' health and rights, in our news organs and on the website www.womenalliance.org."

Our Designated technical officer - contact person - at WHO left the Gender, Equity and Human Rights Team and we are awaiting the appointment of a successor.

D. Collaboration and activities of commission members

Seema Uplekar assured the on the spot representation including events organized by the NGO Forum for Health, Hélène Sackstein kept providing suggestions and background information. Georgette Taku, Re NATA, Cameroon, started the campaign on the responsibility of fathers for all their children. She writes: "we go to radios and TVs and share our testimonies on our experiences as single mothers and also call on the attention of all the men that they have to be responsible fathers. We intend to organize a nationwide campaign where we will invite some ministers and other authorities to reflect on the issue." Mary Balikungeri intends to use French IEC material on issues of growing up, specifically on empowering adolescents to avoid pregnancy and HIV, in the Rwandan network she directs.

66th World Health Assembly Agenda item 14.2

IAW, an international women rights organization, along with BPW,* commends WHO's for facilitating the establishment of an independent Expert Review Group as recommended by the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health.

IAW subscribes to each and every paragraph of the statement the iERG published on International Women's Day 2012.

We welcome that most of the 75 countries where more than 95% of maternal and child deaths occur carried out a systematic self-assessment of their current situation concerning accountability for health. Countries that lag behind should be encouraged to join the majority without delay.

Among the areas assessed IAW has long been calling for civil birth registration since girls are the ones most disadvantaged by lack of vital registration systems. The self-assessment shows these systems as a whole need to be urgently improved in most of the countries.

As to maternal death surveillance and response to the current situation IAW denounced the scandal of persistently high maternal mortality and morbidity on many occasions and in various settings. We early insisted on the importance of family planning as a highly cost-effective intervention for the way forward.

We also welcome the activities of the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children including the Abuja Ministerial Communiqué of October 2012, on the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission, with WHO having a focus on assuring the quality of life-saving commodities and on ensuring their effective provision.

Our expectation is that scaling up access to contraception including emergency contraception (and other life-saving interventions) will be fast so that the benefits become visible in terms of reduced maternal mortality and morbidity, better health of women in general, and more gender equality.

According to the WHO Fact Sheet on Maternal mortality, of May 2012, maternal deaths per 100.000 live birth declined between 1990 and 2010 by only 3,1% per year. This is far from the annual decline of 5,5% required to achieve MDG 5. Moreover, the decline is spread unevenly in the regions and countries mostly affected.

Countries with high rates of sexual abuse, particularly of adolescent women, need to improve information and accountability throughout all layers of society. Where appropriate, by harmonizing traditional legal norms with international human rights tools and frameworks.

In our view accountability for women's and children's health and well being starts at community level. We also hold that women's empowerment through formal and informal education must include sex education for both girls and boys.

For all these reasons we expect that concerns of gender equality and sexual and reproductive health will remain clearly visible, and even move higher up, in the international development agenda beyond 2015.

* BPW = Business and Professional Women,

May 2013

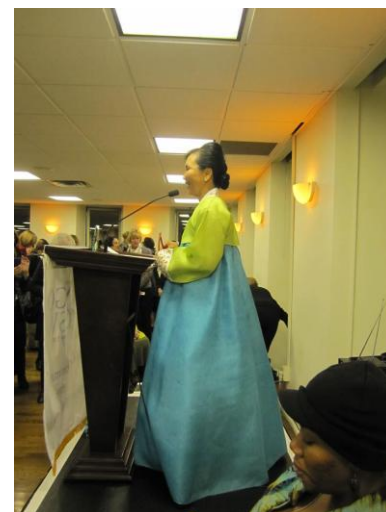
INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

NEW YORK

Reports for the International Alliance of Women – 2013

Submitted by *Soon-Young Yoon* on behalf of the New York team

This year the IAW New York Team continued to work at the UN on issues of Human rights, Older Women, Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Women and Tobacco and violence against women and girls. Activities where IAW make statements and interventions included participation at the UN Women Expert Group Meeting held in preparation for CSW 57 held in Bangkok, September 2013. IAW also participated in a series of regional consultations related to the CEDAW General Recommendation on women in conflict and post-conflict situations held in Amman, Bangkok, Addis, and Guatemala City. The New York team made significant contributions related to women's leadership and climate change including at the UN FCCC negotiations in Doha, US Department of State meeting of Women Climate Leaders in Washington DC, events at the University of Poland and the NYC Womensphere conference—a gathering of private sector young professionals.



At New York UN headquarters a number of events required IAW NY team's inputs and expertise including participation in the Women's Major Group during the UN Commission on Sustainable Development Meeting, Rights of the Disabled and Older Women, Human Rights and Development, special events of the General Assembly, as well as the UN Women Executive Board meeting. The activities related to women and tobacco includes technical inputs into the Framework Convention Alliance working group on gender and tobacco and global conference on "Human rights and tobacco" held at the Institute for International Health, Berkeley, California. Soon-Young Yoon, team leaders gave a special lecture at a WHO global meeting on "Governance and Tobacco" at Harvard University. The special contribution of the IAW/NY to the Congress 2013 includes the draft resolution on climate change prepared by Natalia Kostus which we hope will be adopted.

Report on Activities 2012-2013 for IAW

Natalia Kostus, Representative to the United Nations, IAW

Report on Activities 2012-2013 for Natalia Kostus, Representative to the United Nations, IAW

During 2012-2013, Natalia Kostus has served as the Representative to the United Nations for IAW, focusing on climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC, developments in the other two Rio Conventions CBD and UNCCD, and follow up from Rio+20 and the post 2015 development framework.

For IAW, Natalia Kostus has prepared the following reports, articles and contributions:

IAW Draft Resolution on Climate Change for Consideration at 36th Triennial Congress of IAW, in London September 9– 13, 2013

UNFCCC Articles: Status of Climate Change Negotiations before COP 19 in Warsaw, Tunisian Woman to be the First Boss of the Green Climate Fund, and Updates on the ‘Doha Miracle’ Gender Decision and Report Launch

IAW Contribution to the Global United Nations Post-2015 Thematic Consultation on Environmental Sustainability Discussion Note on Gender Equality

UN Post 2015 Development Agenda Articles: Initial good news for women from the High Level Panel, Composition of the Open Working Group on the SDGs, Gender focus in the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and Article “Strategizing on Green Economy for IAW”

During 2012-2013, Natalia Kostus has been invited and spoke at the US Department of State, Jagiellonian and PWSW Universities in Poland. In 2013 the Eastern European Group takes turn in hosting the UNFCCC Conference of Parties: COP 19/CMP 9 will be held in Warsaw, Poland from 11-22 November 2013. This is a unique opportunity to increase the number of women and young people from Poland and Eastern Europe, who participate in the conference and get involved in shaping the climate change policy, as well as, increase their capacity and the quality of their involvement.

Natalia Kostus was invited Women Climate Leaders Department of State in panelists included USAID, Global Alliance for Wangari Maathai’s Green presentation focused on tools, and normative policy equality and the The participants were perspective in their work on



and spoke on a panel for the Luncheon at the US Washington DC. Other representatives from the Clean Cookstoves, and Belt Movement. Natalia’s climate change policy and frameworks on gender empowerment of women. interested in including gender climate change, making

contact with women groups in their counties, and accessing national resources on gender mainstreaming and budgeting. The panel ended with an engaging discussion over lunch on local perspectives and lessons learned.

Natalia Kostus was invited and conducted a series of lectures on climate change and sustainable development at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. The Jagiellonian University is the oldest and most prestigious University in Poland, one of the oldest in world; it was established by King Casimir the Great in 1364. This opportunity was a good exposure for IAW in Poland and Natalia became an external stakeholder for the institution. The University covered travel expenses, arranged for accommodation at the historic Professor’s Guest House, and hosted dinners and a private tour of the historic grounds and a private collection. The profile of students at the Jagiellonian University is very strong and throughout history it has educated the Polish elite (among them Nicolaus Copernicus and Pope John Paul II). The lectures were very successful. Students were most interested in gender issues and climate change, legal issues concerning the future of island states, offset mechanisms, and financial implications of the climate change international agreement

post 2015 for Poland. Natalia Kostus was able to meet with a select group of climate scientists and had discussions on the scientific uncertainties of the IPCC research. Overall the lectures were received as a great opportunity for the students to get an international perspective and a broad view on climate change policy. Many students are interested in attending COP 19 in Warsaw and now have the tools to become engaged with international climate change policy.

Natalia Kostus was invited and conducted a series of lectures on climate change and sustainable development at PWSW- East European University in Przemyśl, Poland. PWSW, located in Eastern Poland, on the border with Ukraine, is important hub for international cooperation with Eastern Europe. Sustainable development and climate change issues are important for local priorities, so Natalia's lectures were very well received and attended by over one hundred participants, including students, academic community, and local leaders. Students were mostly interested in the future of the Kyoto Protocol, clean energy alternatives for Poland, and implementation of the sustainable consumption and production framework in Eastern Poland. The local leaders were interested in learning how to integrate sustainable development principles and strategies into social and economic development plans for the region. It was a great opportunity to reach this often excluded community and provide them with a global perspective and a valuable international policy context.

Natalia Kostus is currently reaching out to Polish women's organizations to introduce IAW and its work; seeing if there is interest in joining as IAW members. It is also important to involve Polish women's organizations in climate change and build their capacity ahead of the Warsaw COP. Polish EU Parliamentarians were outspoken on gender and climate change following the adoption of the EU resolution on the issue in 2012. The head of Polish delegation and SBI Chair was one of the speakers at a recent Mary Robinson Foundation event on the empowerment of women in the UNFCCC process in Bonn in June, 2013.

REPORT TO BOARD: OLDER WOMEN

JUDITH GORDON, PH.D.

In January 2013, at the request of Soon-Young, I became the main IAW UN representative to the Subcommittee on Older Women (SCOW) which is now housed in the NY NGO Committee



on Ageing. (NGO COA) I was very pleased to do so as when I was vice-chair of the COA I learned about IAW from Paul Fitzgerald who represented IFA. He had organized with Kay Fraleigh, then chair of the NGO CSW and the main representative of IAW, a consultation on older women to implement the Nairobi Forward Strategies which asked that attention be given to elderly women as a special concern. That consultation was well received.

In 1989, Dr. Diane Tendler, who was then chair of the NY COA asked that I co-chair a second consultation on older women with Kay Fraleigh and Virginia Hazzard who was a new representative of AARP. She introduced me to Kay who suggested that I also join the NGO CSW. and gave me a copy of the NFLS. which is still relevant today. She also mentioned that IAW had a long history in regard to the rights of women of all ages noting that IAW participated in the development of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing 1982.at which attention was given to older women. This fact is mentioned in paragraph 3 in the 2010 introduction to CEDAW's General Recommendation no 27 on older women and the protection of

their rights. I also knew that the NGO Committee on Ageing at the UN was created by an older woman, Maggie Kuhn of the Gray Panthers, who became actively engaged in fighting for the full enjoyment of human rights by young and old alike. Maggie Kuhn had arranged for a meeting of people interested in the UN at the UN in conjunction with a professional meeting I attended.. There she introduced us to the work of International NGO's and the role of the NGO Committee on Ageing which she suggested we join. She herself had been forced to retire from the National Council of Churches. Because of this experience, she focused attention upon older women as a resource, through out her life time to counteract what she called the "poisonous" use of demography to suggest that old people in general and older women in particular live so long that they can impoverish countries by their needs for medical care and social support. The International Labor Organization representative to the NGO COA also mentioned that, in 1980 ILO had recognized that its Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention and Recommendation of 1958 did not include age and issued R162 recalling the provisions of Article 6, para 3 on the equality of opportunity and treatment of women workers adopted at the ILO International Labour Conference in its 6th session in 1975. In 1980 ILO, considered it desirable to supplement the existing instruments with standards of opportunity and treatment for older workers, on their protection in employment and preparation for retirement adopted certain proposals on older workers, work and retirement and determined these proposals will take the Form of a Recommendation. IAW has actively participated in the ILO since its inception. The CEDAW General Recommendation on older women therefore reflects the contributions of IAW whose behind the scenes work needs to be more fully acknowledged. In Paris, at the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights a meeting was organized to address older women's rights in which IAW members made important contributions. This is a partial history of what went before. But it is enough to demonstrate that those who claim that older women's rights have been ignored until their organizations recently made them known in light of the current demographic predictions are not the first to do. The issue before us is not the recognition that older women have rights, it is the failure to protect older women's full enjoyment of such rights that confronts today as the four issues I wish to call to attention demonstrate.

1. Implementation of CEDAW resolution 27.. CEDAW's general recommendation was also intended to provide guidance to Member States on the inclusion of older women's situation in the reporting process. . IAW affiliates in countries that have ratified CEDAW can monitor the implementation of the CEDAW convention by paying attention to the reporting process of their own governments. Moreover, the CEDAW general recommendation also calls attention to specific actions that can be taken to remedy existing discrimination against women which can be monitored in countries that have not ratified CEDAW.

2. The GA High Level Open-Ended Working group on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons. The 4th meeting of this OEWG will take place on August 12-15 in UN HQ NYC 2013. The mandate of the group is both to review the protection of older persons rights in existing instruments and to consider the possibility of the development of a new instrument such as new convention on the rights of older persons. However, given the complexities, cost and time that is involved in ratifying such a convention we need to consider that the lives of living older persons are being threatened via reductions in monies allocated to health care, including mental health care, retirement benefits and social security in the fullest sense of these words in both developing and developed countries.. I will report more fully after the 4th meeting concludes. I am on the planning committee for a parallel event at this OEWG that SCOW with the is co-sponsoring with the International Association To Prevent Elder Abuse which is not yet finalized.. SCOW is also planning to propose a parallel event at the Commission on Social Development which pays attention to Ageing and the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing.

3. Women of All ages. SCOW has recommended that the words of all ages be included in UN resolutions Commission reports and NGO statement and recommendations.. IAW has contributed to bringing the generations together in the Caucus held at the CSW led by our Youth advisor. on mentoring. However, women are of all ages in IAW. Bringing Young and old together is of great importance.. But recognizing the complexity of women's lives throughout the life-course also matters..

RECOMMENDATIONS

1, The Board create a Task Force on Older women charged to review and create ways in which IAW as an organization can contribute to the creation of a world in which women of all ages enjoy full human rights.

2.. The Board create a planning committee for a parallel event at the CSW in 2014 in co-operation with SCOW and Argentina whose ambassador will chair the 4th meeting of OEWG. This event will highlight the contributions older women can make when treated with dignity and respect and by so doing illustrate the high cost of age-discrimination.



In conclusion, IAW is a human rights or Rosy Weiss, Marijke Peters, Olive Bloomer, Kay Fraleigh, Sachiko Okomura creeds, faiths and skin colors throughout the globe who realized and recognize that the enjoyment of women's rights require equality, peace and development.. As we know, suffrage is a means, not an end in itself. The consideration of the rights of older women in and by IAW raises issues of concern to people of all ages as we continue to shape the role of this organization in the 21st century.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE IAW AT THE TRIENNIAL CONGRESS

BY IRINI NIKE SARLIS, IAW REPRESENTATIVE

In keeping with the IAW's aim to extend its outreach to the younger generations and with its commitment to peace, we may consider inviting our affiliates to promote the participation of local schools in their area—particularly girls' schools—in the United Nations Art for Peace contest, organized by the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and the Harmony for

Peace Foundation. It is for children of 5 to 17 years, with 12 top awards, this year from 6,620 entries, 92 countries, and over 50,000 votes. A group of the finalists has been exhibited at UN Headquarters each year in the Spring.

The IAW Congress may want to consider also the recognition of outstanding initiatives reported by its affiliates, by bestowing an Award, possibly with a symbolic sum as a ‘micro-grant’ at its Triennial Congress, or its annual meeting. The citation alone would benefit these endeavors. This would highlight exemplary activities, and encourage and inspire emulation and further improvements. In recent side-events sponsored by the IAW, remarkable women’s enterprises were presented in farming, cottage industries, and entrepreneurial ventures which may serve as prototypes to others.

NGOs are invited to recommend themes for the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, which is expected to materialize at UN Headquarters, in New York, in September of 2014. The newly-elected NGO/DPI Executive Committee will decide, based on these recommendations, with UN DPI. The last five of the annual conferences have been “Climate Change: How It Affects All”, in New York, 2007; “Human Rights”, Paris, 2008; “Disarmament”, Mexico City, 2009; “Health”, Melbourne, 2010; “Sustainable Societies - Responsive Citizens”, Bonn, 2011. There was no conference in 2012 and there will not be one in 2013, for lack of offers by host cities, as the UN Capital Master Plan proceeds with renovations.

The IAW in its leadership of the Science & Technology NGOs has been at the forefront of the NGO movement to green the UN. A “Words Into Action” campaign, organizing panel discussions, and meeting with government representatives attending UN CSD sessions, culminated in the 50th General Assembly Resolution which mandated the policy, now followed in the renovation of Headquarters and “Greening the Blue” throughout—at 63 UN entities, over 221,000 staff and over 100 locations. Other women’s organizations have joined us, and it may be a cause some in IAW may want to pursue until all operations are optimal work environments, ostensibly of particular interest to women. See: “Moving Towards a Climate-Neutral UN: [Greening the Blue](#)”.

NOTES for the H-L Segment, EcoSoc Substantive Session, on Science, Technology & Innovation, & the Potential of Culture, for Promoting Sustainable Development & Achieving the MDGs

The IAW has an extensive background on the subject, having co-founded the NGO Science & Technology Caucus for UNCED and led it for over a decade, and welcomes the focus of this EcoSoc High-Level Segment.

As the impact of science and technology on society worldwide, during the end of the last, and beginning of this current century has been unprecedented, we share the hope that it can be harnessed toward the greater common good, of human welfare and prosperity in harmony with Nature.

All of the Millennium Development Goals and now the Sustainable Development Goals will depend on scientific and technological means for their achievement, best accomplished under the proper cultural milieu. We support the thesis that heretofore sustainability in its tri-partite (social, economic, environmental) constituents will be an imperative, not a choice, and therefore advocate Sustainable Science & Technology.

As we confront not only Climate Change, but the Toxification of the Earth, which will affect our survival by water and food scarcity, and the increasing toxic burden borne by our species, we advocate the use of tools and metrics such as the Ecological Footprint, the Metabolism of Cities and a Global Ecological and Resource Assessment or Inventory.

The communications revolution has globalized knowledge and has also affected fields as commerce, health, food production, energy, perhaps equalizing many inequalities and globalizing coordination; and with initiatives as ICT community or village resource centers it can realize the 'technological leapfrogging' which accelerates development in remote, inaccessible or underserved areas, and it can develop the human capital that ensures progress.

Furthermore, it is very important to ensure Environmental Impact Statements are conducted and evaluated with the best scientific tools before undertaking projects. Similarly, we advocate Gender Impact Statements, as we had jointly proposed with SID WID in 1975. Since women are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation, pollution, and natural and man-made disasters, it is even more critical now to assess the ultimate ramifications of even our best-intentioned plans on them; and to ensure that their vulnerability is moderated, and measures are taken which eliminate these threats.

We believe that all should participate in scientific and technological affairs to the extent relevant, and that half the population, women, should be allowed equal access to the knowledge, research and application of science. Therefore, the education of girls in science will guarantee the access by women to scientific fields, lead to their participation in decision-making, shape the culture's zeitgeist, and increase the pool of innovation and creativity. In addition, such universal education will enrich the culture, yielding additional benefits. Organizations where women share leadership have been proven more successful.

The advent of a 'knowledge society' and 'high tech' rapid distribution globally, should not obscure the wisdom and importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge and reliance on local resources, sanctioned by generations of successful practice. Thus, the concept of Appropriate Technology should enlighten our approach in achieving the MDGs, as it adjusts to local particularities, and fosters stakeholders' and planners' creativity. Many ingenious examples of shelter-building, often by women, and infrastructure projects exist in Africa and South America, providing healthy habitats while expounding cultural expression, and reflecting common values.

In the field of energy, the recent designation of the Year and subsequently the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, we hope will elicit more innovative solutions, by encouraging a wider participation of the population, and inspiring young scientists, male and female, to contribute their ideas. The sooner we expand education in the sciences and their applications, the richer the yield will be. An example of needed intervention is in the indoor air pollution caused by cooking stoves, which kills 4 million women annually; better stoves, and proper ventilation, better forms of solar cookers for specific habitats may come forth, if challenged by awards, or grants.

Regarding livelihoods, and employment, it seems clear that the green economy which was a focus of Rio+20, will be fueled by a green mindset, green technologies, green products, green infrastructure, green building--the latter accounting for 40% of energy consumption--and net zero eco-cities.

Education for all in sustainable science and technology with emphasis on innovation will transform the culture and shape the zeitgeist, so that unsustainable solutions will be unacceptable to the public, and therefore to politicians, and it will yield the achievement of the MDGs and the SDGs for the benefit of people and planet.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 57 – 2013

The effects of the economic crisis on gender-based violence

(written statement)

Gender-based violence is a phenomenon of epidemic proportions prevalent in many families, communities, societies and cultures across the globe.



Ending violence against women is not a luxury for times of growth. It is even more crucial in times of crisis when women are hit very hard.

The ongoing financial crisis which has engulfed almost the entire world in an economic recession poses threats to gains in gender equality, poverty, in fact to all the Millennium goals.

There is evidence that women and girls are exposed to a greater risk of violence during economic crisis which increases gender inequalities in the economy, since economic equality is a key factor in preventing gender-based violence, in particular domestic violence.

The current crisis has a higher differentiated impact on women because their economic position at the start of the crisis was not equal to that of men. Women are more likely than men to be in vulnerable jobs, to be underemployed or without a job, to lack social protection and to have limited access to and control over economic and financial resources.

There is strong evidence that there are clear links between violence and unemployment, violence and homelessness, and violence and inadequate housing.

There is also strong evidence that as resources become scarcer due to greater demand, relations among household members and also within neighbourhoods become strained, and the social fabric is often torn by increased crimes, family abandonment by households heads and rising domestic and community violence.

Economic crises increase particularly harmful forms of violence against women namely trafficking and prostitution. They increase existing pressures on poor women to enter the sex trade in order to support their families.

If the crisis increases school dropout, children/their families may resort to prostitution as a livelihood strategy.

In addition to increased levels of violence, austerity measures which encompass public budget cuts affect support services leaving women victims of violence even more vulnerable than usual. Such cuts have led to reduced police, legal, health and other essential services for victims.

There is therefore urgent need to analyse the deep-rooted causes of the crisis and work for advancing an alternative vision of development grounded on human rights and gender equality.

The current financial crisis is a consequence of the failure of the governance of finance. Finance has been allowed to grow too big compared to the real economy. Money and returns on money and not the provision of goods and services has become the ultimate purpose of the economy. This governance is gendered because there is a large under-representation of women in financial decision making.

Recovery plans and structural adjustment programmes have not integrated a gender perspective.

In light of the above considerations, we call upon UN, national governments and regional governing bodies to evaluate the global financial architecture and its actors, on the basis of the human rights framework, taking into account all relevant human rights conventions.

We further call upon UN, national governments and regional governing bodies to take immediate action and implement the following measures in order to rectify the gender impact of the crisis:

- Systematic gender sensitive analysis of the causes, and impact of the financial crisis on women and the responses thereof.
- Gender budgeting as a standard methodology of all public budget processes.
- Implement measures to combat the ongoing process of feminization of poverty which is exacerbated by the recession.
- Create jobs especially in the public sector by investing in social infrastructure (education, health, child and dependent persons care), which would also ease the disproportionate burden on women to enable them to participate in the labour market.
- Take measures concerning the equal participation of women at all levels of decision making in the political, economic and financial sectors as well as in private companies.
- Take strong measures to combat all forms of violence against women including the financing of support services for women victims of violence.
- Implement CEDAW and the landmark Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1828 and more recently 1888 and 1889 on women, peace and security. Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the prevention and combating of violence against women and domestic violence.

Women of the World should become more vocal on the need to move towards a justice-oriented economic order that would promote gender equality and human rights, and put an end to the constant search for unlimited growth and maximising profits to the detriment of the survival of humanity in a human way.

Joanna Manganara, IAW Regional Vice President

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Submitted by the International Alliance of Women, Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities, an international non-governmental umbrella organization of women's associations and individual members in general consultative status with ECOSOC.

Despite Art 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, women all over the globe are living in an insecure, dangerous world. And this only for being women. Is humankind slaughtering Eve? And what is the role of the United Nations under these circumstances?

Firstly, what are we talking about when we say slaughtering Eve? We talk about gender-based murder, rape, sexual slavery, trafficking, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, so-called honour crimes, boy preference, neglect and infanticide of females, breast ironing and many more. Yes, indeed, humankind is slaughtering Eve, at a horrible scale! Only one example: According to estimates by the United Nations, up to 200 million women and girls were demographically missing in 2005. Given the biological norm of 100 new-born girls to every 103 new-born boy, millions more women should be living amongst us. If they are not, if they are “missing”, then they have been killed; they have died through neglect and mistreatment⁵.

Secondly, the role of the United Nations is indispensable in advocating respect for the human rights of the individual, woman or man, girl or boy. To name only the most important documents:

65 years ago, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by 48 votes to none, with 8 abstentions; 20 years ago, 171 Member States adopted by consensus the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights. In 1953 the United Member States adopted the Convention on the Political Rights of Women- one of the core documents for the International Alliance of Women /Equal Rights-Equal Responsibilities, featuring women’s active and passive voting right, the right to hold public office and to exercise all public functions. In 1999, with the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), individual women and groups were granted the right to lodge petitions and complaints⁶. In 2000, the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Each of these texts represents a milestone in the efforts to empower women and to address and eliminate violence against women.

What has happened since then? Is the United Nations system adequately responding?

Here are only few examples:

Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals 2000 “Promote gender equality and empower women” clearly encapsulates the token woman identification. According to IAW none of the MDGs can be reached without the active and equal participation of women and the respect of their human rights.

The Commission on the Status of Women in 2003 (47th session) failed to adopt draft agreed conclusions on violence against women. In 2012 (56th session) it also failed to reach conclusions which should have outlined the fundamental guidelines for gender equality policy for the coming years. Given CSW’s role to set global standards for all member states of the UN any failure to comply with this mandate hampers the implementation of national governments to comply with human rights requirements.

⁵ Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces: “Women in an Insecure World”, 2005

⁶ A proposal to add this protocol to the Convention made by former IAW President Alice Marangopoulos at the 1993 session of the Commission on the Status of Women in Vienna,

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Control failed to confirm the principle of good governance in its most recent deliberations. The absence of good governance thwarts the efforts of women to attain such rights and protection from their governments⁷.

IAW members note that international rules for gender equality are not lacking. What is lacking is the implementation of these rules including adequate budgeting and monitoring, interlinked with good governance and the political will of the rulers. Furthermore: In line with the recently adopted Vienna Declaration on Femicide⁸, IAW emphasizes that traditions and culture cannot be used as justification for the violation of women's human rights, in particular the right to life and the right to be free from violence.

We, the members of the International Alliance of Women, in the light of the above, therefore urge governments to ratify and implement existing international instruments for the protection of female victims of violence, including monitoring and adequate funding for this purpose. Moreover, we urge them to collect and publish reliable data on the dimension of the issue.

In particular:

We call on governments

- > to revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice
- > to recognize femicide as a crime and its costs.

We call on UN Member States to amend the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1946, in order to include the gender dimension.

We call on governments, international organizations and private initiatives to establish rules guaranteeing the participation of women in peace-building and reconciliation programmes.

We call on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider violence against women's human rights through religious and traditional practices, such as FGM, in the framework of General Recommendations 12, 14 and 19.

And finally, IAW members are determined to work toward a post-2025 outcome based on the vision of peaceful and non-violent societies and the fulfilment of human rights and, in particular, women's human rights.

WICC

2012-2013 Board Member Activity Report for Susanne Riveles, Baltimore, July 19, 2013

I represented the IAW throughout the year at the monthly meetings of the "Washington Friends of the ICC" (WICC) and participated in advocacy work with the US congress and senate members in Washington DC. It enabled me to stay informed and to represent the IAW while participating in shaping/influencing issues related to the ICC and to the US government's ratification of the Rome Statute. The US government did sign onto but did not ratify the Rome Statute .

⁷ In this connection, IAW considers the widespread practice of decision-making by "consensus", applied in several UN bodies in recent years as primarily responsible for these failures.

⁸ Vienna Symposium on Femicide, 26 November 2012, held at the UN Office Vienna

The NGO members represented in the WICC include a good number of human rights and faith based organizations such as Amnesty International, American Friends Service Committee and the American Bar Association. As reported last year the group is well respected by members of congress as a serious advocacy platform. Congressional staff frequently seeks consultation and information from the group on matters relating to bills that touch on US policy towards the ICC. As the IAW representative in this group I raise the women rights focus /gender perspective that we bring to policy and human rights issues.

In March of this year I designed and organized one of the three panel discussions sponsored by the IAW at the UN-CSW. It was titled " Prosecuting Gender Based Crimes before the International Criminal Court". As a member of the Gender Justice Team of the ICC and as a member of the former IANSA women's network I provided a brief overview of the Rome Statute provisions targeting gender based crimes. My guest speakers Jelena Pia-Comella , the program director for the Coalition for the ICC at the UN in New York spoke about the inclusion of gender provisions in the Rome Statute defining rape in conflict as a crime against humanity. John Washburn , the convener of the American NGO- Coalition for the ICC, and also co-chair of the WICC, addressed the changing role US governments have played over the years, from the establishment of the ICC to the current role of the Barak Obama administration.

UN Vienna

Rosy Weiss

Vienna+20 – celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 2nd World Conference on Human Rights, 1993, Vienna.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA) adopted in Vienna in 1993 is a landmark document for the promotion and protection of human rights all over the world. 20 years later, there is reason to revive the consensus, to rebuild it where necessary and to face the new challenges in an environment of multiple crises.

The Vienna+20 Action Week, 24-28 June 2013 represented a bundle of gatherings:

- The Civil Society Conference “Human Rights in Crises” organized by an international coordinating committee⁹;
- The Austrian government’s International Expert Conference “Advancing the Protection of Human Rights”;
- The meeting of the United Nations Special Procedures Mandate Holders¹⁰;
- The Launch of a Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition, and
- A series of important special events¹¹.

⁹ FIAN International, Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Centre for Economic and Social Rights, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, InterAmerican Platform for Human Rights, International Union of Food Workers, International Indian Treat Council, Liga for Human Rights, World Organisation against Torture, Transnational Institute, World Fisher Forum, a.o.

¹⁰ Special procedures assumed by the Human Rights Council to examine, monitor, advise and publicly report on human rights situations in specific countries or major human rights violations worldwide. Currently there are 48 special procedures (36 thematic mandates, 12 country mandates). Persons appointed to the special procedures are independent experts, generally known as special rapporteurs, independent experts or working groups.

¹¹ Media Talks on the rights of persons with disabilities, and “European Migration Policy from a Human Rights Perspective”, Public Actions organized by the Women’s Group, A Film Screening „Bangladesh – The Hands that sew

The Civil Society Conference, after a bumpy start in its endeavour to get an international network of NGOs of different interests to organize itself in thematic groups, finally succeeded in presenting a 23 page substantial Declaration to the government's expert conference. The purpose of the Vienna+20 CSO Declaration is to show our concern **reclaiming the primacy of human rights in times of crises**.

Besides round table discussions on women's rights, violence against women, human rights in times of globalisation – extraterritorial obligations, human rights alternatives to austerity measures, human rights regulation of transnational corporations, torture, private security, human rights defenders, global networking on the right to food and nutrition, applying human rights to the post-2015 framework, migration, refugees, minorities, primacy of human rights, preamble and conclusion, indigenous people's rights, peasant's rights, fisher's rights, the right to remedy – human rights systems, world court, the two conference days were devoted to the finalization of the Declaration which was welcomed by acclamation¹².

From the Conclusions:

The conference calls for a Third World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 2018 that will:

- build upon the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993;
- respond to the concerns raised in the current declaration, including the establishment of a **World Court of Human Rights**;
- put in place an effective system for holding third parties, such as the private corporate sector, to account for human rights violations;
- operationalize the primacy of human rights and guarantee the full realization of human rights for all.

The International Expert Conference “Advancing the Protection of Human Rights”, 27-28 June 2013, was organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs in cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights, the European Training and Research Centre for Democracy and Human Rights of the University of Graz.

Interested NGO representatives were invited to participate in the opening session “Vienna+20: Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives”, the panel discussion on “The Legacy of the World Conference on Human Rights”, the expert panel “Vienna+20: The Way Forward” and the concluding plenary discussion “Vienna+20: Towards a Human Rights Agenda for the 21st Century”. The rest of the time was devoted to three parallel working groups to which only very few selected NGO delegates have been invited personally on the ground of special expertise. The following themes were discussion in the working groups:

your Shirt“, and discussions such as on „Harmful Traditional Practices and Accusations of Witchcraft“, „Women's Rights at stake“ (with and in the Austrian Women's Ministry), „Why Human Rights make a difference for post-2015“, “EU Austerity Policies undermine Human Rights?”, and a conference on “Extraterritorial obligations on the post Vienna+20 Action Plan.”

¹² See www.viennaplus20.org

- The rule of law: The right to an effective remedy for victims of human rights violations;
- Realising human rights of women universally: Tackling the implementation gap;
- Mainstreaming human rights: A human rights based approach for the post-2015 development agenda.

Speakers of the conference included high-level human rights stakeholders, human rights defenders, UN experts, including Special Procedures mandate holders and Treaty Monitoring Body members, as well as representatives of regional and national human rights institutions, academia and NGOs. Rolf Künemann, Human Rights Director, FIAN International presented eloquently the conclusions of the CSO conference. Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, delivered an inspiring keynote speech and concluding statement. The summary of the conference¹³ along with its recommendations will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly in autumn 2013.

The UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders gathering in Vienna at the time of the Vienna+20 Action Week presented an important statement in which they stressed i.a. that new challenges for the promotion and protection of human rights have emerged through

- the resurgence of advocacy for traditional values or cultural relativism;
- the financial crisis and the consequences of austerity measures;
- adverse impact of climate change;
- the impact of privatization on human rights;
- the impact of increasing use of intellectual property rights in free trade agreements on human rights;
- the impact on human rights of non-governmental actors, such as business enterprises or private military and security companies;
- threats to privacy, including through new information communication technologies and architecture;
- extreme and growing poverty;
- the prevalence and emergence of conflicts;
- the consequences of counter-terrorism measures on respect for human rights;
- racism, inequality, and all forms of discrimination;
- interferences in the administration of justice;
- limitation of public and democratic space as well as threats, attacks and intimidation on civil society by both States and non-state actors, and
- issues related to the increasing mobility of populations, including non-recognition of migrants as rights holders.

Finally, I would like to focus on one particular **special event** of this week: as it is in direct relation with the even on hunger, organised by Bettina Corke and on September 11:

The Launch of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition.

The network is an initiative of public interest civil society organizations and social movements (peasants, fisherfolk, pastoralists, landless people, consumers, urban people living in poverty, agricultural and food workers, women, youth, and indigenous peoples)

¹³ An analysis of the major parts relating to women will appear in one of the next editions of the International Women's News.

which recognizes the need to act jointly for the realization of the human right to adequate food and nutrition. The Network opens a space for dialogue and mobilization of its members to hold States accountable for their obligations to realize this right. It aims to support the struggles of social movements and groups fighting against the violation of this right and it will do its best to protect human rights defenders against repression, violence and criminalization. One its major concern is to end the impunity of state-condoned violations and of non-state human rights abusers.

The network calls on all interested public interest civil organizations and social movements to join. Maybe a point to be discussed in London.....

Femmes entre les ages – Women between the ages

Daniela Reiter – Younger Women Coordinator

At a side event I attended at the CSW in 2010 which I still think about a lot, the intergenerational dialogue within a women's organization was discussed. Young women and girls talked about their experiences and thoughts and so did older women from the same NGO. That organization offered separate groups for the respective ages and a common one to come and shape the present and the future together.

One woman stood up and raised the issue I am confronted with nowadays: She spoke about the women in between, the ones who are too old to be part of the "young women" group and not yet old enough for the other. She pointed out that women between the ages tend to get lost for organizations, due to either or both, unpaid care work for their children/ elderly relatives and their professional careers, which leaves less time for volunteer work in NGOs and women's organizations.

It is often stated that young women nowadays are not interested in women's politics and feminist work anymore, because they grow up in gender equality (subjectively). As we know, gender equality is still a far away goal in many fields, but the consequences are quite often experienced at a later stage. For many women the still existing inequalities are only realized when they see their younger, less educated male colleagues overtaking them on the career ladder. Or when they get children and suddenly their so far equal partnerships turn into old-fashioned ones where they do most of the unpaid work and get little recognition for it while their male partners work more in their paid jobs than before.

It lacks an offer for women who are confronted with gender inequalities for the first time only when they are "between the ages". Groups for mothers and their children where feminist issues can be discussed and concrete action is taken is one thing that comes to mind. Feminism is about autonomy, motherhood seems to be the contrary. Motherhood quite often means an interruption to a woman's own ambitions, it means losing team on the feminist agenda. Having become a mother myself, I see that it only changes the perspective; now more than ever I realize that the personal is political. The feminist issues are still plenty on the way to gender equality and I am happy to know that there are so many gifted women of all ages in the IAW working towards it.

UNESCO

Current Work of the UNESCO Team for 2013-2014 I ENGLISH:

Our team is currently working on the four Forums and International Days organized in different Regions, until the end of 2014, in the framework of the UNESCO New Directives relating to the partnership with NGOs.

Forums

The first International Forum of NGOs is organized in close cooperation with UNESCO on the topic "*Which Education Goals for Tomorrow's Citizens of the World: is Quality Enough?*" It will be held on 23 September 2013 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France)

The second forum on the theme "*Water, women and young people*" will be held in Africa in 2014.

Two more forums are planned one in Asia and one in Latin America

In accordance with the Liaison Committee Strategy 2013-2014, the Forums are widely open to all Delegations at UNESCO.

International Days:

International Peace Day: 21 September 2013 or 2014 - Theme: *Marionettes for Peace*

International Migrant Day: 2014 - Theme: *Highlighting migrant experience: Mobility, reception, dreams, hopes, difficulties, tenacity or discouragement; consider the person and not the migratory flow*

International Day for the elimination of poverty: 17 October 2013 - Theme: *Show that a sustainable world of solidarity cannot exist without the intelligence and experience of the very poor*

International Human Rights Day: 2 December 2013 - Theme: *Article 31: Acting Human Rights*

International Literacy Day: 21 September 2013 - Theme: *Literacy, essential stage on the way to Education for All throughout life*

UNESCO

Executive board 191th session

COMMITTEE ON NON- GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

11 April 2013

The day devoted to the Committee on NGP of the Executive Board, was held in two parts, with two reference documents 191EX/31: UNESCO relations with non-governmental partners, and 191EX/NGP/2.: Application of the directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organisations and the partnership with foundations and similar institutions.

The agenda provided that the **morning** would focus on the relations with the Partners in the implementation of the new directives, and **the afternoon** on water cooperation with NGOs.

Article 15 of document 191EX/31 endorsing the relations of NGOs and UNESCO in accordance with the new guidelines was to be voted at the end of the day. Point 8 of the article which had to decide whether two NGOs: B'nai B'rith International (BBI), and Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) should be admitted to associate status raised passionate discussions and finally ended on a positive vote.

The morning was devoted to a discussion of the two documents. We were also reminded that the work and conclusions of the International Conference of NGOs of December 2012, where NGOs had been numerous, had had a real impact on the elected Liaison Committee, giving it axes of work for a new strategy in

accordance with the priorities of the new directives. The committee has met twice since December, around its new elected President M. Patrick Gallaud (AFAL) and its new Vice -President, Mrs Aicha Bah Diallo (FAWE) to prepare this day,

M. Eric Falt, Assistant Director General for External Relations and Public Information, Representative of the Director General, highlighted the importance of the work of the day, which involved a tripartite functioning (UNESCO, State parties and NGOs) for the implementation of the new directives. He also underlined the new geographical diversity involving all the regions of the world and the new methods of work. UNESCO has implemented new communication instruments (contact sheets on the Internet and conceptual documents).

Patrick Gallaud presented the strategy set during the Liaison Committee meetings considering four forums and international days to be held during the biennium. The first forum will take place in France, and the three others in Africa, in Asia and in Latin America. The International Days will also be organised in co-operation with UNESCO taking into account priority themes selected according to the UNESCO priorities (quality education, Human rights, water, social inclusion, peace, youth...) Promoting diversity being crucial, Patrick Gallaud thinks that the forums organised in the different regions will allow NGOS active in those regions to participate, to support programs and even to integrate the ranks of the International Conference of NGOs at UNESCO.

The debate with the State Representatives and the NGOs, led to questions relating to the selection and transparency criteria for the admission and reclassification of NGO partners; to the diversity in the Liaison committee and to the difficulty some members will have to participate in the discussions because of the cost of journeys or the use of electronic instruments and video conferences.

In the afternoon, a symposium was held on

UNESCO's co-operation with NGOs in the field of water

9 high level speakers, most of them hydrologists delivered their contribution, either from the floor or by videoconference.

They addressed the issue of projects, highlighted the problems arising, and talked about solutions. They spoke of:

Promoting making people aware of the importance of water (through teacher training, scholarships and support of youth towards leadership and professional careers, including in emerging and in transition countries)

Water resources (including groundwater and transboundary waters).

A wise use of water..

The risks in link with dry climate. Some NGOs provide water to those who don't have any, and deal with water related diseases such as polio.

The need to link groundwater and rivers.

Such management plans must involve local authorities, which in most cases acknowledge the work done by civil society and especially the work of NGOs.

For M. Shaminder Puri from the International Association of hydrogeologists (IAH) there is no shortage of water. The crisis is due to poor management.

Some speakers said that water could become a political problem when the resources are transboundary and dams in some countries, make it become scarce in others.

Among the questions asked by people in the room, we noted the question of the delegate of France **Mrs Claudine Serre** who reminded us that UNESCO encourages the involvement of girls in scientific fields, and

asked how many are engaged on issues related to water. She challenged the Representative of Rotary asking him how many awards have been given to women.

Renée Gérard (IAW/AIF) asked how many women engineer hydrologists have posts with responsibilities. According to the different speakers the percentage is about 17%. She also underlined that some desertified regions lack water. That all sorts of pollution, including industrial and agricultural pollution, endanger groundwater. The cost of depollution is not always imposed on polluters. It is not possible to separate the problem of water from the problem of waste.

Another NGO member, **Josette Rome-Chastanet**, welcomed the turn taken that day in the Cooperation UNESCO-NGO, but said that it showed ignorance of the work done for nine years by NGOs in the fields of water, and that she would be pleased to see the gap of this lack of communication filled for the benefit of all.

She also referred to the transformation of the role of experts. We can no longer leave the function of informing the public to them alone. Civil society must be involved at decision-making level, and this implies scientific literacy.

The day ended with the discussion on the vote of the resolution above mentioned in the agenda.

The UNESCO Team: Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Levy

191ème session du Conseil Exécutif

COMITE SUR LES PARTENAIRES NON-GOUVERNEMENTAUX (PNG)

11 Avril 2013

La journée consacrée au Comité sur les PNG du Conseil Exécutif s'est déroulée en deux parties, avec deux documents de référence le 191 EX/31: Relations de l'UNESCO avec les PNG et le 191EX/NGP2: Application des directives concernant le partenariat de l'UNESCO avec les ONG et le partenariat avec les fondations et autres organisations similaires

L'ordre du jour de la journée prévoyait que le *matin* serait centré sur les relations avec les partenaires, pour la mise en œuvre des nouvelles directives *L'après midi* étant consacrée à la coopération avec les ONG dans le domaine de l'eau

En fin de soirée devait être voté par les Etats parties du Conseil Exécutif l'article 15 du document 191 EX/31 entérinant les relations des ONG et de l'UNESCO en accord avec les nouvelles directives. Le point 8 de cet article qui décidait l'admission au statut d'association de deux ONG *B'nai B'rith International* (BBI) et *Observatoire des Politiques Culturelles en Afrique* (OPCA) a soulevé des discussions passionnées aboutissant à un vote positif.

La *matinée* a été consacrée à la discussion des deux documents, rappelant que les travaux et conclusions de la Conférence Internationale des ONG de décembre 2012, à laquelle les ONG étaient très nombreuses, a eu un impact positif en donnant au Comité de liaison nouvellement élu des pistes de travail pour une nouvelle stratégie en accord avec les priorités des nouvelles directives. Comité, qui s'est réuni à deux reprises depuis décembre, autour de son nouveau président, Patrick Gallaud (AFAL) et de sa vice présidente Aicha Bah Diallo (FAWE), pour préparer cette journée.

Monsieur Eric Falt (sous directeur général pour les Relations extérieures et l'Information du public, Représentant de la Directrice générale) a souligné l'importance des travaux de la journée, qui impliquent un fonctionnement tripartite (UNESCO, Etats parties et ONG pour la mise en

œuvre des nouvelles directives et mettent l'accent sur une nouvelle diversité géographique impliquant toutes les régions d monde, ainsi que de nouvelles méthodes de travail. L'Unesco a mis en place de nouveaux instruments de communication (feuille de liaison sur internet et documents conceptuels).

Patrick Gallaud a présenté la stratégie définie au cours des réunions du Comité de Liaison. Les ONG envisagent 4 forums ainsi que des journées internationales pour ce biennium. Le premier Forum: se tiendra en France et les trois autres en Afrique en Asie et en Amérique Latine. Les Journées Internationales seront également organisées en liaison avec l'UNESCO sur des thèmes prioritaires choisis en fonction des priorités de l'UNESCO (éducation de qualité, droits de l'homme, inclusion sociale, paix, jeunesse.)

La promotion de la diversité étant primordiale Patrick Gallaud pense que les forums organisés dans les différentes régions permettront à des ONG actives dans ces régions de participer, de soutenir les programmes et même d'intégrer les rangs de la Conférence Internationale des ONG à l'UNESCO.

Les échanges avec la salle ont amené de la part des représentants des Etats et des ONG, des questions relatives aux critères de sélection et de transparence de cette sélection; à la diversité dans le nouveau Comité de liaison et aux difficultés que pourront avoir certains membres pour participer aux discussions, au coûts des voyages, ou à l'utilisation des instruments électroniques et des vidéo conférences.

L'après midi eut lieu un colloque sur

- **La coopération de l'UNESCO avec les ONG dans le domaine de l'eau**

9 intervenants de haut niveau, la plupart hydrologues, ont donné leur contribution soit de la salle, soit par vidéo conférence.

Les intervenants ont abordé la question des projets, souligné les problèmes qui se posent et parlé des solutions. Leur exposé a notamment porté sur :

La promotion de la prise de conscience de l'importance de l'eau (formation des enseignants, bourses et accompagnement de jeunes, notamment de pays émergents ou en transition, vers le leadership et le parcours professionnel)

Les ressources aquifères (y compris eaux souterraines et transfrontalières).

L'utilisation sage de l'eau

Les risques liés à la sécheresse. Certaines ONG fournissent de l'eau à ceux qui n'en ont pas et s'occupent des maladies liées à l'eau, telle la poliomyélite.

La nécessité de faire le lien entre les eaux souterraines et les rivières

Ces plans de gestion doivent faire participer les autorités locales, qui dans bien des cas reconnaissent l'importance de la société civile et notamment le travail des O.N.G.

Pour Mr. Shaminder Puri de l'Association Internationale des Hydrogéologues (IAH) il n'y a pas de pénurie d'eau. La crise est due à une mauvaise gestion. .

Certains orateurs ont indiqué que l'eau peut devenir un problème politique lorsque les ressources sont transfrontalières et que des barrages dans certains pays, la raréfient dans d'autres

Parmi les questions posées par les participants de la salle, nous avons noté:

Une question de la déléguée représentant la France, **Madame Claudine SERRES** rappelant que l'UNESCO encourage l'engagement des filles dans les filières scientifique et demandant combien sont engagées sur les questions concernant l'eau. Elle a interpellé le représentant du ROTARY demandant combien de bourses ont été données à des femmes

Renée GERARD (AIF/IAW) a demandé combien de femmes ingénieurs hydrologues ont des responsabilités. Selon les différents orateurs le pourcentage est d'environ 17%. Elle a également souligné que certaines régions désertifiées manquent d'eau, que les pollutions diverses y compris industrielles et agricoles mettent en danger les nappes phréatiques. Le coût de la dépollution n'est pas toujours imposé aux pollueurs. On ne peut séparer la question de l'eau de celle des déchets.

Une autre membre d'ONG, **Josette Rome-Chastenet**, s'est réjouie du tournant pris ce jour, par la coopération UNESCO ONG, mais qui montre la méconnaissance du travail fait depuis neuf ans dans les domaines de l'eau par les O.N.G et aimerait voir combler cette non communication au bénéfice de tous.

Elle a aussi évoqué la transformation du rôle des experts. On ne peut plus laisser à eux seuls l'information du public il faut que la société civile soit associée au niveau des prises de décisions, ce qui sous-entend une alphabétisation scientifique.

Finalement a eu lieu la discussion pour le vote de la résolution susmentionnée dans l'ordre du jour.

The UNESCO team: Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy.

UNESCO supports a Research Project conducted by the Senckenberg Institute for Natural Sciences in Frankfurt, Germany on Climate Change and Biodiversity Patterns. 12 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia e.g. Burma, Thailand, Laos etc are involved and UNESCO also open doors to countries like Iran and Iraq. I was able to meet the Director as IAW member and he outlined the aims of the Project - what systematic regulatives and steering systems nature holds for climate changes by studying the earth for 400 million years. The Project and financial support is limited to 5 years, 2011 - 2015. The main drawback is the failing awareness of the gravity of the situation despite natural catastrophies and so in schools and universities, sustainable watermanagement, agriculture and tourism has been put in the curricula.

In this context I was informed about the link www.gendercc.net, a network of women for climate change and justice and the Int. Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD which describes achievements in its programme of work and highlights in particular the efforts of IFAD to support

the empowerment of poor rural women and work towards gender equality. Financial support comes from Germany.

Ida Kurth, 15.August 2012

COUNCIL OF EUROPE 2011-2013

ANJE WIERSINGA

**In cooperation with
MONIQUE BOUCHET and BETTY DOORNENBAL**

INTRODUCTION

The **objective** of the IAW Representatives at the Council of Europe (CoE) is to influence the policies of the Member States of the Council of Europe. This report highlights the results of their activities and concludes with that which National Affiliates and Individual Members can do.

At present the IAW Representatives are focussed on two to three subjects:

- I. Equal Participation of women, particularly in democratic and political processes
- I-A Supporting women in the MENA (Middle East and Northern Africa) Region.
- II. Violence against Women

They follow closely the work on these subjects by the Parliamentary Assembly and that by the Committee of Ministers and contribute to that work by providing information and by proposing amendments to its Recommendations and Resolutions.

For you to understand this the so called “4 pillar” structure of the Council of Europe is explained.

STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE (CoE) AND GENDER EQUALITY ISSUES

1. The Committee of Ministers as the decision taking body with Steering Committees.
2. The Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) with Committees.
3. The Congress of Regional and Local Authorities (CRLA) with Committees.
4. The INGO Conference with Committees and Working Groups.

In 2012 a reorganisation of all four pillars took place due to financial constraints, resulting in merging or dissolving committees and returning to the core subjects of the Council of Europe:

Human Rights - Democracy - the Rule of Law.

GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN THE NEW STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

Ad 1. The Gender Equality Commission with 16 elected experts replaced the Steering Committee on Equality. Each remaining Steering Committee has an appointed Equality Rapporteur. At National level there are National Equality Rapporteurs in all 47 Member States.

Ad 2. The Parliamentary Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination is the result of a merger, as is the Parliamentary Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy.

Ad3. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities appointed two Gender Equality Rapporteurs in its European Committee.

Ad4. The INGO Conference limited its meetings to two per year and merged its 7 Committees and Transversal Groups into 3 Committees. The Transversal Equality Group - which replaced in 2008 a much stronger Equality Committee - was finally abolished in spite of fierce resistance. The adopted policy paper stated that “to ensure gender mainstreaming a ‘Freely constituted Group’ will see to this and an elected representative will sit on the Standing Committee” (June 2011).

The Freely Constituted Equality Group started in June 2011 and is facilitated by Anje Wiersinga. Betty Doornenbal was elected the Gender Expert on the Standing Committee in January 2012.

THE FREELY CONSTITUTED EQUALITY GROUP (FCEG)

Its **objective** is to ensure together with the Gender Expert “that gender equality cut across all activities of the INGO Conference”, as decided by the INGO Conference in June 2011.

It meets together with the Taskforce (see below) 7 times a year: in Strasbourg (4) and in Paris (3).

Speakers of PACE hearings are invited to participate in the meeting and its dinner. Those from Libya, Egypt and Yemen responded positively and our Round Table Egyptian speaker Karima Kamal was guest of honour, leading to lively discussions.

The FCEG is a success and is set up and facilitated by Anje Wiersinga. See for activities below

Ad II. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW)

The first **objective** has been to promote the ratification of the “Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”, which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in Istanbul in 2011.

It is open for signature and ratification by Member and Non-Member States. It will only come into effect after 10 ratifications.

Two side events were organised to discuss “what NGO’s can do” to promote the ratification and implementation of the Convention: one during the 57th CSW, sponsored and prepared by the IAW, one in Strasbourg for the INGO Human Rights Committee.

Example letters in which National Governments and Parliamentarians are urged to ratify this Convention were drafted and distributed.

We work closely with Representatives of the Committee of Ministers who designated Violence Against Women as one of the Council of Europe priority subjects, with the General Rapporteur on VAW Mr Mendes Bota and with the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence. This Network includes 47 National Parliamentary Contact persons on VAW.

One of Mr Mendes Bota’s proposals is to set up an Observatorium for Murdered Women. He found the Mmabatho Foundation Posters excellent and will use these as examples.

This Istanbul Convention recognises violence against women (VAW) as a violation of Human Rights. It is one of the most comprehensive international treaty on VAW. It includes a monitoring mechanism for which the criteria are presently developed. We intend to follow this closely and if relevant to comment / advise on these criteria.

Until June 2013 the work was carried out by the FCEG and Anje Wiersinga.

In June 2013 a Working Group VAW started its work, facilitated by Betty Doornenbal.

Unfortunately we did not have enough time to participate actively in the ongoing (till 2015) CoE “Campaign to Combat Sexual Violence Against Children”, although we attended Parliamentary side events on the campaign progress. See Website.

Ad I TASKFORCE “INCLUDING GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN DEMOCRATIC AND POLITICAL PROCESSES, PARTICULARLY DURING AND AFTER CONFLICT”

The **objective** is the implementation of UN SC Res. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The Taskforce functions as a Working Group of the INGO Committee on Democracy.

It was set up in 2011 and is facilitated by Anje Wiersinga, meeting together with the FCEG with one agenda.

Presently we concentrate, first on the situation in the MENA Region, and second on that in the countries of ex-Yugoslavia.

AD I-A.SUPPORTING WOMEN IN THE MENA (MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA) REGION.

The **objective** is to support the wishes, demands and priorities of women from the region.

DECLARATION, RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE INGO CONFERENCE.

The taskforce prepared, 3 Recommendations, 3 Resolutions and one Declaration for adoption by the INGO Conference These can be found in the annex and on the website.

In its resolutions the INGO Conference decides to promote the wishes, demands and priorities as expressed by women's human rights organisations from the MENA region.

In its recommendations the International Community is urged to listen to women and their representatives from the MENA Countries and to support their views, demands and priorities and to bring these to the attention of authorities in those countries.

WISHES, DEMANDS AND PRIORITIES OF WOMEN IN THE MENA REGION

We learned about the wishes, demands and priorities through international and national meetings building a network of contacts in the Arab World and by cooperating with members of Dutch NGO's working on the same subject and using their contacts and networks. We like to mention particularly Hibaaq Osman and Karima Kamal from Karama in Egypt, and the Dutch NGO's Wo=Men and Hivos, through which IAW also received a grant for the publication (see below).

Anje Wiersinga and other members of the taskforce attended / participated in

- Hearings of Representatives of Women Organisations from the MENA countries organised by PACE Co. on Equality and by PACE Co. on Political Affairs and Democracy;
- Hearings held by the EU Committee on Equality Opportunities in Bruxelles;
- The North-South Centre Euro-Med Women network and its Conferences on "The role of women in the democratic changes in the South of the Mediterranean" in Rome in 2011 and on "Political and Socio-economical Empowerment of Women" in Istanbul in 2012;
- ISIS Center for Women and Development Conference on "Mediterranean Women's Rights in the aftermath of the Arab Uprisings" in Fez, Morocco in 2013;
- World Forum for Democracy in Cyprus in 2011 and in Strasbourg in 2012;
- Arab Caucus and the Network of Egyptian Women's Organisations at the 56th & 57th CSW
- Karama (Regional Arab Women's Organisation) and other workshops at 56th & 57th CSW;
- Meetings at national level on National Action Plan UN SC Res.1325.

PUBLICATION

"WISHES, DEMANDS AND PRIORITIES OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL WOMEN ORGANISATIONS IN THE MENA REGION"

Rabia El Morabet Belhaj together with Anje Wiersinga researched the wishes, demands and priorities of 30 national and 3 regional women's organisations in 8 countries and compiled these into a publication to make this information accessible to politicians / others.

To prevent further delay the booklet was published as a IAW publication and was presented at the Round Table in January 2013 in Strasbourg. The 2nd edition was available in March 2013. Thanks to Danielle Levy, Monique Bouaziz, Celine Verdier and others parts of the 50-page book are translated into French and the rest will be translated as the revised 3rd edition is completed.

ROUND TABLE

“SUPPORTING THE WISHES, DEMANDS AND PRIORITIES OF WOMEN IN THE ARAB WORLD”

In January 2013 the INGO Conference organised this round table on the initiative of the Taskforce and with the support and participation of all pillars of the CoE.

An enormous amount of work went into ensuring the participation of politicians. In November 2012 Anje Wiersinga went to the North-South Centre Conference in Istanbul and obtained the support of Ms Bergamini, President of the Centre. In December Anje went to Paris and obtained the support of the Parliamentary Committee of Equality. She also lobbied the parliamentarians in the Political Affairs Committee. In January she went to Bruxelles to meet Jean-Marie Heydt, President of the INGO Conference, who decided that the event should take place. To get Egyptian speakers with visa at such a late moment was another success story thanks to the assistance of Jetteke van der Schatte Olivier, Hibaaq Osman, Fabienne Deyrolles and many others. Unfortunately Horeya Megahead, IAW Board member, could not get her visa in time.

The Round Table was chaired by the Turkish Parliamentarian Ms Bilgehan and the INGO Conference President Mr Heydt. Speakers included the Deputy General of the CoE Ms Battaini, the President of the North-South Centre Ms Bergamini, two Parliamentarians: Ms Brasseur of the Political Affairs Committee and Ms Gafarova of the Equality Committee. From the INGO side: Ms Karima Kamal, Egyptian journalist, Ms Belhassen, Tunisian President of the FIDH and finally Rabia Morabet Belhaj, main author of the publication.

RELEVANCE OF THE INGO WORK TO THE CoE POLICIES.

This work is particularly relevant for the Council of Europe. Gender Equality has been named as the first of 3 priorities under Human Rights by the Committee of Ministers in its in 2011 adopted Southern Neighbourhood Co-operation Policy. The CoE has allocated € 4.8 million to the policy. Unfortunately it is not clear how it is ensured that assistance by this fund will benefit women equally with men thus honouring CoE policy priorities.

Long before the Arab revolutions there existed formal relations between the CoE and Northern African States through the CoE North-South Centre and through the Venice Commission for Democracy and Law, both of which are open for membership by Non-European States. Contacts also exist between Parliaments of Arab countries, which have obtained “Partner for democracy status with the Parliamentary Assembly” and PACE.

Since the Arab Revolutions the contacts intensified. The Venice Commission assisted in the democratic transition period by advising on Constitutions and electoral laws using its experience with the democratic transition processes in Eastern and Central European countries in the 1990’s.

LOBBY TO INCLUDE THE SUBJECT INTO THE CoE DEBATES AND POLICIES AND ITS OUTCOME

Members of the Taskforce do this by

- Explaining to politicians the wishes, demands and priorities of Arab women and distributing the INGO Recommendations and the IAW publication on the subject.
- Introducing proposals for PACE reports and amendments to its Resolutions and Recommendations, some of which have been adopted.

Examples of proposals which were adopted:

- Suggestions for the report by Ms Fatiha Saidi of Belgium on “Equality between women and men: a condition for the success of the Arab Spring”
- Suggestions for the report by Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto of Monaco on “Gender equality in South-East Europe”

- The proposed 8 amendments on women's human rights to the Resolution by Ms Anne Brasseur on "Political Transition in Tunisia" were submitted, debated and voted on in the Assembly in the presence of the Tunisian President. Which led the Tunisian President to take up the issue and explain at length his position on women's rights, which he said to fully support and he elaborated on the difficulties he met with implementation.
- Anje Wiersinga was given the opportunity to explain in the Political Affairs Committee the importance of her Proposed amendments to the Resolution and Recommendation on "Cooperation between the Council of Europe and the emerging democracies in the Arab world" which amendments were taken over by the rapporteur Mr Gardetto and adopted.
- At the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament in Strasbourg in 2012 Mr de Graaf, President of the Dutch Parliament - following a discussion with Anje Wiersinga on the situation of Women in Arab countries - decided to deliver an intervention on the subject in the Session on "Arab Revolutions: Challenges and Opportunities", which he did with a perfect summary. The text is also placed on the Website of the Dutch Parliament.

III. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE FREELY CONSTITUTED EQUALITY GROUP

III.1 GENDER EQUALITY

Betty Doornenbal as Gender Expert is participating in meetings of the Standing Committee and in those of the Gender Equality Commission; she is a board member of the Euro-Med Women Network of the North-South Centre.

Monique Bouchet is representing the IAW at meetings in Strasbourg in between session, such as that on "Poverty and Inequalities in the Societies of Human Rights"

III-2 EQUALITY AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

PACE President said on International Women's day in 2012 referring to the Arab Spring "There can be no democracy without respect for women's rights" and "it takes more than words to achieve true equality".

The CoE Equality action plan "Making Gender Equality a Reality" implies a similar message: do as you say, implement what you decide.

Notwithstanding these beautiful words the 2012 World Forum for Democracy "Bridging the Gap" showed a preponderance of male speakers with 15 men and 1 woman in the opening session. Anje Wiersinga protested in PACE Co.Equality and Non-Discrimination.

Subsequently the FCEG endorsed and distributed a poster proposing 15 women and 1 man for 2013. The poster is said to be the most widely distributed document within the CoE.

In spite of this there are no women, only men in the opening session of the 2013 Forum with its topic on Democracy in the Digital age with a prominent place for the media.

The FCEG decided to try to correct this by starting a campaign and spreading the information through the social media. Questions are also prepared, to be raised by Parliamentarians in the October Session, prior to the Forum in November 2013.

Betty Doornenbal and Anje Wiersinga participated in the GEC Conference on "Media and the image of women" in Amsterdam in July 2013. They collected names of Women experts on this subject and will send these to the organisers of the Forum.

III.3 HUMAN RIGHTS

The INGO Conference adopted a Recommendation, prepared by the Human Rights Committee, on "**Gender Equality: a universal value, principle and human right to be respected and promoted in all fields**" CONF/PLE(2012)REC5. The FCEG made several essential amendments to this recommendation, which were adopted.

Each year Anje Wiersinga together with Renée Gerard and others report on the UN CSW to the INGO Human Rights Committee and the INGO Conference, which appointed them "to represent its interests and promote the CoE values at the CSW".

Women at the Arab caucus at the 57th CSW expressed their expectations – demands – that the International Community will protest about the public and sexual violence against women, particularly in Egypt, with the tacit acceptance of local and national authorities and which violence is used as a political weapon to eliminate oppositional democratic forces. The Taskforce has prepared a statement on this issue.

CONCLUSION: HOW CAN IAW AFFILIATES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS RELATE TO THIS WORK WITH ACTIONS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES?

1. They can remind their government of policies adopted by the Committee of Ministers and urge them to implement these.
2. They can promote the ratification, implementation and monitoring of conventions, such as the Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women and CAHTEH on Trafficking.
3. They can take part in the ongoing campaign to combat sexual exploitation of children with its Lazarotte Convention.
4. They can raise awareness of these issues and Conventions.
5. They can make shadow reports of governments reports as done for CEDAW.

Governments do report on several CoE treaties such as the Social Charter, the Convention on Trafficking and after ratification also on the Istanbul Convention. Shadow reports are welcome.

6. The CoE Commissioner of Human Rights reports on the Human Rights situation in each member State. The Human Rights Commissioner often consults (national) NGO's during his visits, often before he listens to the government. IAW Affiliates can use this opportunity and could also comment on the reports of the HR Commissioner.

31 July 2013

ANNEX TO REPORT ON IAW REPRESENTATION AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE 2011-2013.

RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, DECLARATION ADOPTED BY THE INGO CONFERENCE.

These can be found on the website >coe.int/t/ngo<

Leveraging Women's Equal Participation during and after Conflicts and Revolutions from the onset.

Declaration CONF/PLE(2011)DEC2 of 22 June 2011

Gender perspectives in political and democratic processes in the MENA Region

Resolution CONF/PLEN(2012) RES2 of 27 January 2012

Gender perspectives in political and democratic processes in the MENA Region

Recommendation CONF/PLEN(2012) REC4 of 27 January 2012

Gender Equality: a universal value, principle and human right to be respected and promoted in all fields

Recommendation CONF/PLE(2012)REC5 of 25 June 2012.

Gender Equality – a Condition for success of the Arab Spring

Resolution CONF/DEM(2012) RES1 of 26 June 2012

Gender Equality – a Condition for success of the Arab Spring

Recommendation CONF/DEM(2012) REC1 of 26 June 2012

Gender Equality – a Condition for success of the Arab Revolutions
Resolution CONF/PLEN(2013) RES2 of 24 January 2013

Gender Equality – a Condition for success of the Arab Revolutions
Recommendation CONF/PLEN(2013) REC1 of 24 January 2013

Report IAW Newsletter September 2013

Joke Sebus



In October 1998 IAW composed its first electronic newsletter, as an introduction and a warming-up of a soon-to-be installed IAW website. Both were new items for women's organisations at that time and proudly we collected 25 Board members from the IAW Congress in Malmo, Sweden, with an e-mail address. Now, 15 years later, we have been mailing the IAW Newsletter every month to approximately 500 IAW members and IAW friends from more than 50 countries.



Media-land has changed in those 15 years. We now have social media; there is the GSM, the notepad, the I-pad and lots of apps. Big crowds can be assembled in only a few hours or days by individuals to enjoy music festivals or to cheer national sport heroes, but also to join as angry citizens aggressive protests against authorities.

And, since 1998 we have lots and lots of newsletters circling around in cyberspace, some very interesting and useful.

What stayed mostly the same in those years are women's issues, like equal pay for equal work, equal positions for women in leadership positions, violence against women and girls in all its forms, the implementation of resolution 1325 and the position of women in peace and security processes, the role of women in the environment and in sustainable development, and the demand for reproductive health and reproductive rights. In short, the implementation of women's rights and the wish for gender equality.

With the newsletter we have followed during those 15 years CEDAW, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Council, the Security Council and other important UN institutions, all with the valuable help of IAW representatives. There is more understanding of women's issues now, which is great. There have been some small steps forward, which are fine, but sometimes decisions are taken by countries without any financial backing or facilities. Those decisions are no more than paper promises. IAW members are still needed and their work in monitoring the implementation of decisions promoting women's rights is highly appreciated.

For me there is a time for change. I have enjoyed doing this voluntary work on the newsletter all those years, but I like to have more time for my family and for my other activities. So, I am handing over the IAW newsletter to a successor. With warm recommendations! It was a privilege working as a team with head editor Priscilla Todd, membership officer Pat Richardson and secretary general Lene Pind.

Priscilla Todd is a marvellous editor. She has patiently edited the IAW newsletter all those 15 years and she also looked after my Dutchy expressions. We Dutchies can be very direct in our speech and writing. It is like wearing wooden shoes without noticing the toes of others. The language on UN level on the other hand is very courteous. I learned a lot!

With membership officer *Pat Richardson* I have shared many e-mails looking for disappearing e-mail addresses of IAW members. We call them Pimpernels. I will miss her jolly e-mails.

And I certainly will miss secretary general *Lene Pind*. She was at the start of the newsletter in 1998 (see the picture above) and has been at the core of communication in IAW ever since.

And then there is Sanja Scharf who always diligently put the newsletter on the IAW website. And content manager of the IAW website Alison Brown, who has installed most of the data. I have often visited the IAW website, looking for correct names and data. It is all there.

I also kindly thank all the IAW members who have been sending us interesting articles and actual news. In particular I like to thank Anjana Basu from India, who has been sending me several interesting articles every month. Thank you all warmly!

With my best wishes, Joke Sebus

IAW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2013.

FOR THE IAW TRIENNIAL CONGRESS LONDON 9TH-14TH SEPTEMBER, 2013.

Pat Richardson, P.O.Box 380 Nambucca Heads. 2448. N.S.W
AUSTRALIA. law.membership@womenalliance.org

It gives me great pleasure to present my Seventeenth Annual Report as Membership Secretary.

As most of you know, the administration of the IAW is done by volunteers working from their own computers, photocopiers, scanners and homes at different ends of the earth. Our President, Lyda Verstegen is in The Netherlands, our Secretary General, Lene Pind, is in Denmark, & our Treasurer Inge Jonsdottir is in Iceland.. I work very closely with our email newsletter editor, Joke Sebus in The Netherlands and Priscilla Todd, the editor of our Journal, 'The International Womens News' in Melbourne. My duties keep me very busy, answering requests and enquiries, mainly by email. As I am online all the time, I endeavour to answer requests immediately. Over the last few years I have also been required to collect the IAW annual subscriptions at the Board meetings and Congresses. I have also been the temporary Collector for Australian subs for the last three years...

I keep the IAW master files, plus the printer's Excel address files and endeavour to keep them up to date...I send copies of them to the Executive at regular intervals for their information and for their work. I send back-up copies to Priscilla Todd as well... and also to my own Hotmail address. I have just installed a new backup external disk with a larger capacity on my new computer.

I would like to thank all those Individual members and the Collectors in countries with a large number of members, who keep me up to date on who has paid and also any changes of address of our members or organisations...I like the journals to reach their new homes safely and also, Joke and I see it as our business to keep the lines of communication open, especially in the delivery of our monthly email newsletter. We have worked together since the inception of the monthly email newsletter in 1998 following our Board meeting in Malmo...we had a handful of email addresses then but now reach all around the planet with hundreds of email addresses...which are kept on a very confidential basis.. Technology has come a long way in the past seventeen years. **Joke is also**

standing down as email newsletter editor, a job she has done every month without fail since 1998...A huge commitment of time and energy on her part...

I would like to thank Alison Brown, our wonderful web content manager, who stores the back-up Excel Printers file...Also, to Rosy Weiss, my heartfelt thanks for her help and advice over many years. I will be updating my auxiliary reports on membership status for the Board...but FYI, **we are mailing out approx. 750 copies of the journal now once a year and sending the other two issues in PDF by email to our members...this is why it is now vital that all our members be contactable online.**

Also, I would like to thank my assistant Membership Secretary & IAW Board member, Sheila Deaves, for taking over the administration of our seventeen Subscription libraries...although there are not many of them, they are reasonably complicated...as they pay through Subscription agencies and involve a lot of paperwork. We both invoice any other libraries to pay IAW directly or request an invoice to do so. **We are both willing to keep looking after the libraries.**

However, I feel the time has come to hand over my position as Membership Secretary to someone younger and more proficient on the computer....who can 'ning', tweet, blog, facebook and Link in!!! I have enjoyed the work and I have enjoyed my email contact with all of you around the world for so many years...I will miss this contact more than I can say, but the work is never ending and the computer files are a bit much for me at my age...as we say in Australia I have received my 'O.B.E.' Over Bloody Eighty Medal!!!! Nonetheless, the work has kept me abreast with technology...perhaps if I had not had to do the IAW work, I would still be playing Bridge on my old Apple, instead of answering emails from you all from seven o'clock every day on my very modern PC. I would suggest it is imperative that the Board approve the setting up of a Database...which may cost money initially to set up but will make the administration of our organisation less of a burden.

I hope, however, to stay on as the representative for Individual IAW members. I will be hoping to meet as many Individual members as possible in London...and we can organise an informal occasion such as we had in South Africa...when we had drinks in the bar!!!!

Kindest regards, *Pat Richardson*,
IAW Membership Secretary
and Individual Members' Representative



Secretary General Lene Pind's report

Having been secretary general now for six years has been a rewarding time and a rewarding task. I have enjoyed it – at least most of the time. Sometimes it has been frustrating: people not answering your emails, not observing deadlines, not checking iawomen.ning.com – but that is life.

The work consists mainly in keeping the communication lines open in the organization, sharing information with relevant groups in the membership, registering our international representatives with the UN and other international bodies, and updating information on iawomen.ning.com when relevant.

Another important part of the job is to plan and in cooperation with the hosting society organize the annual meetings: Board Meeting, International Meeting, and Congress. In connection with these meetings the booklet of membership reports must be compiled. This is long-term planning – and must be.

Getting IAW organized for CSW in New York and attending the meeting is also part of the job of the Secretary General. It involves encouraging members to go to New York for the event, organizing meetings among the delegates, helping and supporting the process of organizing side events.



In my time as Secretary General I have attended most meetings and all CSW sessions. It has been very interesting and given me a large international network.

Being responsible for all these things is very time consuming. I have worked many hours per week over the past 6 years. I do not regret it. It has been worth it.

Once I had learnt the ropes of the job, my ambition became to develop IAW as an organization. I developed the idea of the booklet and have compiled it now 5 times. I think it has improved communications in IAW. I have encouraged the use of social media e.g. www.iawomen.ning.com, which is not yet success, but will be if we really try to go for it. I have tried to keep the organization together through communications and by organizing events, meetings etc.

I do hope that my successor will continue the work and develop IAW further in a way that she sees as necessary. Any organization must develop continuously – or die.

There is one thing I want to emphasize. The job of secretary general must be shared by two people. It is too much for one person, esp. if that person also has a job and a family. Similarly, the President needs to be relieved of some of the work. The Constitution talks of two executive Vice Presidents, and we also have the concept of “friend of” e.g. the secretary general. We must find a way, by which the Executive shares the work better than is the case now. If we want to work in a more strategic way, it is necessary that the top level of our organization is not flooded in minor, every day details.

Finally I want to thank you all for the fun, the friendship, the many experiences, the hospitality in many countries etc. Special thanks to Danielle Levy for her translations into French.

And last, but not least, many thanks to Lyda for being so easy to work. We have been on the same wave length, which has made also the more difficult times worthwhile.





Since 1979 the International Alliance of Women has used its influence to stop violence against women and girls. At the occasion of the 57th session of the CSW, IAW presents the Member States with a **10-point plan** to eradicate this crime.

1. Define who is responsible for the plan--the minister of family law, of justice, of education, of health, of women.
2. Invite opinion leaders and NGOs to contribute such as popular singers or television personalities and religious leaders or traditional chiefs.
3. Collect data, especially on vulnerable groups such as women living with disabilities, migrant women, sex workers, lesbians or transgender women.
4. Agree on causes such as prejudice, patriarchal norms and stereotypes, and poverty.
5. Set a timeline and build in evaluations.
6. Revise legislation in the areas of family, labour, criminal, and education law.
7. Provide gender sensitive training of professionals, i.e. teachers, health workers, police, judges.
8. Teach women and girls their rights and launch campaigns to teach respect in schools as well as campaigns in the media and on public transport.
9. Protect women with shelters and punish perpetrators.
10. Celebrate each improvement because this generates confidence and publicity.

