



IAW

REPORTS FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETING 2015

Compiled by | Lene Pind

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

Joanna Manganara

Last year was marked by the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform of Action. Regional meetings took place to review progress and obstacles of implementation as well as an international meeting at the CSW in New York in March 2015. IAW has been very active at both levels.

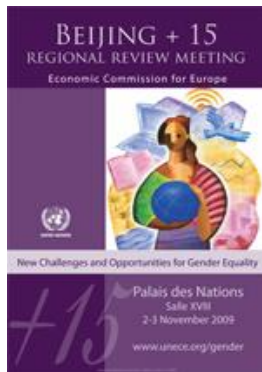


1. Beijing +20 UN ECE Regional Review

The first important meeting that IAW participated in after the Sion Board was the Geneva NGO Forum Beijing +20 UN ECE Regional Review. I led a IAW Delegation of 12 members.

Two members of the Board, Margunn Bjornholt and I, submitted abstracts under the proposed themes to be discussed by the review process organized by NGO/ CSW in Geneva and were selected to participate in the interactive round table on “Women and the Economy”. The subject of Margunn’s contribution was feminist economics and gender responsible budgeting and of mine was the impact of austerity measures on women in Europe.

IAW submitted its recommendations on a number of fields: A) Economy, B) Stereotyping, C) Violence, D) Access to Justice, E) Health, F) Peace and Security, G) The Effects of other kinds of Conflict on Women and H) Women and Climate Change.



The Forum adopted a Declaration and Recommendations. IAW submitted amendments to the recommendations of our round table. We added “and women as well as men” at the end of the sentence “reduce women’s unpaid work by redistributing care and services between households and governments”. We also added “and pensions” at the end of the sentence “increase efforts to close the gaps between women’s and men’s pay”.

We have been invited by Autism Women Matter during the Forum to moderate a session concerning challenges that autistic women and girls face concerning gender discrimination. Lyda Verstegen did the moderation. They emphasized discrimination experienced with the diagnostic support, misconceptions on parenting, transition support from child to adult services and relationship with professional services.

2. CSW 59

In March, I led a delegation of 21 IAW members to the CSW 59 where we organized four very successful side events: by Senior Researcher Torild Scard on lessons learned from women Presidents and Prime Ministers worldwide and by Margunn Bjornholt, on “Why the Future of economics and economic development must be feminist”.

By Anje Wiersinga, on “Implementing CEDAW and UN SC Resolution 1325 Women-Peace-Security” with the support of Karama with key note speaker Prof Marilou Mc Phedram and a second one by Anje Wiersinga on the same subject with the support of the government of Austria and Rosy Weiss as keynote speaker.

I have presided over all four side events. They were all very interesting and stimulated a lot of discussion.

The CSW 59, which had as its mandate to review the BPfA, 20 years after its adoption was a backlash. The Declaration adopted by CSW the first day of its session was negotiated before the opening of the meeting of the Commission, giving no real space or opportunity to women’s groups and networks to participate. The Declaration is weak and general. It does not go far enough towards the kind of transformative change necessary to truly achieve the promises made in Beijing two decades ago on the indivisibility of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Commission also brought forward a resolution to enhance its methods of work. But again, civil society voices were largely excluded from the working methods process.

During our stay in New York, the delegation had one meeting in the press office of the Permanent Mission of Greece where a number of subjects were discussed. Those who stayed on for the second week had a meeting in the lobby of the Hotel POD 51. In that meeting, we discussed the new logo designed by Sonia Mitralia which most people approved of, the Newmann project, the Commission on Violence, etc.

Apart from our statement to the CSW 59, we have signed a number of other statements by the Centre of Women’s Global Leadership, Equality Now, NGO/CSW Vienna.

In NY, thanks to the help of Soon Young, we met a representative of UN Women, Mr Mohammad Naciri, to help us organize the IM Meeting in Kuwait. He has been very supportive of the whole process.

3. New Secretary General

In her email of March 8th 2015, Mmabatho announced that she resigned as Secretary General of IAW. She felt frustrated by what had happened in the process of producing the minutes from the Board Meeting in Sion. I asked her a number of times to reconsider her decision, but to my regret, this has not happened. We tried to find a new SG – with no success as there was no candidate for the post (Article VIII of the Constitution). So we opted for a Plan B that is not constitutional, but is able to work. We asked Allison Brown, SG 2002-8 to take over as acting SG until we can get this problem solved.

On 6th July 2015 Seema resigned as Treasurer because she had difficulties in working with the accounts of the IAW.

4. IM Kuwait

On April 30th 2015, I received a message from Shaikha Al Mezen in which she informed me that the situation in the region is getting worse as the Gulf Arab Military Alliance has started a military escalation phase. They also announced that they will start attacking Syrian forces and Daesh camps in Iraq. Kuwait is one of Daesh's targets.

Shaikha informed us that under these circumstances this year, Kuwait is unsafe and very risky. It is better to make another choice in holding the conference in another country.

We thanked Shaikha a lot for the work of her organisation and wished we will be able to organize in the future another meeting in her country.

Monique and Danielle have offered to host the meeting in Paris and they have done an excellent job - the same they did years ago. They have worked very hard to find a very good hotel for us to stay, IBIS, and meeting rooms close to the hotel that we will not have to pay.

5. New Secretary General of the UN



Mary Robinson

The UN, an organization grounded in the principle of respect for equal rights and with a self-prescribed goal of achieving gender equality, particularly at the professional level, has never seriously considered a woman for its top post as UN SG, although the post has historically rotated to ensure that every geographical region gets a turn.

On 27 April, discussions will begin on the nomination process for next year's election – a process that is overseen by the UN Security Council.

NGO/CSW Geneva has asked its members to vote for a woman SG. Most votes have gone in favour of Mary Robinson, for whom IAW has also voted for. IAW has also voted for Micheline Calmy- Rey from Switzerland. I have presented a portrait of Mary Robinson that was posted on our website.

6. IAW and the Geneva Conventions

Lucy Ash and Dorothy Feaver, presenters of Foreign Affairs Documentaries of the BBC in London, informed us that together, they are researching a programme on the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Berlin and the mass rapes which took place at the time. They are also looking into the development of Article 27 of the Geneva Conventions. The IAW has been very important in the drafting of the pioneering legislation against sexual violence and in particular, for the entrance of rape into international law.

The journalists sent us the names of two Swiss members of IAW that had played an important role in the process and asked us to trace their relatives - which we did - so that they could look

for letters, documents and narratives that could help tell the story of the how and why Article 27 came into being.

The documentary on the rapes in Berlin is out and has been sent to us. We are awaiting the second documentary about the IAW and the Geneva Conventions.

7. Petitions Signed and Statements Endorsed by IAW

We have endorsed a **statement by ARROW** on the Resolution on the Protection of the Family at the 29th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. This is the second Resolution in two years following two decades in which the family has been treated as highly controversial at the UN. In 2014, the Resolution passed with 26 votes in favor, 14 against, 6 abstentions. This year, the resolution passed with 29 votes in favor, 14 against and 4 abstentions. The statement states that the family needs to be discussed beyond narrow ideas of marriage or marriage between a man and a woman alone, so as not to exclude all other forms of families.

We endorsed the **response of ARROW to the post-2015 Summit Zero Draft document**. According to ARROW, the document needs a lot of work to reflect a truly ambitious and transformative Sustainable Development Agenda. Achieving gender equality in all realms has to be considered integral to achieving sustainable development. Member states should adhere to the spirit of participation, accountability and report regularly. The process should ensure that critical feedback is given by civil society at all levels.

We endorsed the 2015 **Women's Coalition Vision Statement**. According to this statement, the post-2015 Development Agenda must ensure the universal realization of all women and girls' human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights, as recognized in international human rights instruments.

We have endorsed a **statement of the Post-2015 Women's Coalition on the CSW59 political Declaration**.

We endorsed the **New Treaty Alliance Statement** elaborated by Treaty Alliance, Treaty Movement.com, stopcorporateabuse that demands strong regulation of corporate human rights abuses, new strong systems of remedy for affected people. They also demand since 2014 the development of a new Treaty to stop corporate human rights abuses. In July 2015, countries will begin to negotiate what this new Treaty will contain and how it will operate.

We have signed an **urgent call for action to Paraguay to immediately implement the Inter-American Commission's precautionary measures to save 11 year old Mainumby's life** who needs emergency medical attention. The Paraguayan girl's life is in extreme danger following a pregnancy caused by repeated sexual abuse, allegedly at the hands of her stepfather. Paraguay denied her the urgent medical attention she needed.

We have signed a **Petition about LGBT people in Iraq** who have long been persecuted and targeted with violence and death penalty and who have virtually no communal safety and protection, even from family, tribal and community members. The petition is urging the US

Congressional LGTB Equality Caucus to help expedite resettlement of at risk members of the Iraq LGBT community to the US and other Western countries through the UN Refugee Agency and the IOM. It also reiterates Iraqi government's obligation to provide protection for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

We have signed **Post-2015 Women's Coalition appeal for the appointment of High Level Gender Advisors to the South Sudan peace process.**

We have signed a **petition demanding that justice is served in the rape and subsequent murder of Osebe in Kisri County, Kenya.**

We have signed a **petition by Change.org to strengthen laws against sexism in EU media** in line with the views of the European Parliament and treat sexism in the same way as racism or xenophobia. For too long, the representations of women have been misused by the media advertising.

We signed a **petition by the EWL to the 28 EU governments**, asking them to pay attention to a number of challenges for the future of women's human rights and of the younger generations and to take action in the forthcoming Council Conclusions and UNECE regional meeting as well as in next year's CSW and post-2015 negotiations to make sure that the voice of women's organizations is included in their commitments.

We signed a letter of the **Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors** to the 28 EU governments that are involved in the negotiations of the post-2015 Development Agenda to seek their support for the inclusion of universal protection systems and floors in the post-2015 Development Framework.

We have signed an **open letter by Post-2015 Women's Coalition to President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria** asking him to ensure that the hundreds of Chibok girls who are still at the mercy of Boko Haram one year on are immediately rescued and reunited with their families. The letter also asks him to rebuild damaged schools, reaffirm the girls' right to safety, security and education, and prosecute the responsible for the girls' abduction amongst other demands.

We have signed a letter by EWL to President Berzins of Latvia with which we ask him not to promulgate the amendment adopted by the Parliament of Latvia concerning morality education as this would violate human rights and constitute a threat to the democratic development and the long term security of the Republic of Latvia.

8. Input of IAW to the Final Draft Agreement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda The IAW has submitted its input electronically on the 20th of July 2015 during the Conference that was held in New York on 20 – 24 July. The input has to do with comments on goals/ targets 5.4, 5.a, 8.5 and 8.8 of the Draft Agreement.

9. EWL

I was invited by the **EWL to participate in the Forum on the future of gender equality**

organized by the European Commission on 20 – 21 April 2015 in Brussels as member of the EWL.

I have contributed feedback to the **EWL Strategic Planning Process**. My comment features in the Member's Bulletin of 11.2.15 and has to do with feminist leadership. Many feminists argue for a reconceptualisation of power as a capacity or ability to empower and transform one's self and others. This is a type of power over – but is distinct from domination because it aims at empowering those over whom it is exercised.

10. Euro Mediterranean Women's Foundation

The IAW has joined **the Euro Mediterranean Women's Foundation**, including its association network, a common place where civil society, academia and public institutions dedicated to equality between men and women are represented to share knowledge and successful practices related to equality.

11. A Woman's Day

Liz Neumann of Palisades Media Ventures proposed to us a project called "A Woman's Day", a global user-generated, storytelling project that would help us define what it means to be a woman in the world today. A Woman's Day will ask women around the world to make a video on the same day answering a number of questions.

After gathering the videos Palisades Media will weave together important narratives and common themes across continents to help paint a picture of the global woman and define both the progress that has been made and the challenges that women still face in their own societies and the world at large.

Liz Neumann sent us a Memorandum of Understanding to sign which has a liability clause that is risky and dangerous. I have studied the matter with the help of Greek lawyers and have sent back to her our comments.

12. President's Newsletters

I have circulated 6 President's Newsletters with the following subjects: President's Newsletter of December 2014 on the jobs of the Board as well as Prostitution and Trafficking; the President's Newsletter of January 2015 on the timing of the Adoption of a Political Declaration of the CSW59 and of a resolution on its working methods; the President's Newsletter of May 2015 on an evaluation of CSW59; the President's Newsletter of July 2015 on the Post-2015 Development Agenda Negotiations, the President's Newsletter of August 2015 on Women Human Rights Defenders and the President's Newsletter of September 2015 on Femicide.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

NEW YORK

Commission on the Status of Women 59

IAW statement:

A forward looking approach to the Beijing Platform for Action

The International Alliance of Women is of the view that Beijing+20 is taking place at a historic moment when major international efforts to advance human development and human rights converge.

This review of the Beijing Platform for Action is important because it will inform the Post 2015 Development Agenda process. Trends will be identified at the regional level as well as obstacles and progress in its implementation.

It will also strengthen the case for transformative goals on gender equality, women's human rights and women's empowerment and call for gender mainstreaming across all other goals.

Although the normative force of the Beijing Platform for Action has repeatedly been reaffirmed there is still a long way to go to realize the full promises of the Beijing Agenda.

One of the reasons has been that the Millennium Development goals did not tackle structural issues and macroeconomic and financial policies which affect the realization of human rights in particular women's human rights.

To this end, a post 2015 framework must ensure that the international financial system works to advance gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights.

However, the proposed Sustainable Development Goals are still not sufficiently transformative, ambitious, or rights based. There are only a few explicit mentions of human rights in the targets and human rights are not, as was hoped, the framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. Particularly disappointing is the lack of commitment to the full realization of women's human rights in goal 5.

Another challenge concerning the implementation of Beijing+20 has been the ongoing financial, economic and social crisis which has affected most regions of the world and has had particularly adverse effects for women.

Women workers in the developing and the developed world have been paying a heavy price as the global economic crisis unraveled their rights, including their right to decent work, their livelihoods and their families' welfare, with knock on effects, which will last a generation.

The economic crisis has led to a slowdown of progress by directing attention away from gender equality objectives towards seemingly pressing policy imperatives, such as establishing austerity measures.

Equality between women and men should be an inherent part of recovery plans including the direct involvement of women in financial and economic decision making and of feminist economists in the definition and implementation of policies related to recovery.

The International Alliance of Women has major concerns in relation to the unfulfilled promises of the Beijing Platform for Action. The most important of these are gender inequality and the

feminization of poverty, both of which have been exacerbated by the ongoing economic/financial crisis. In addition, they have been deepened by the current development model based on growth that has failed to address the concentration of power and wealth within and between countries.

Women comprise the majority of the world's poor. The majority of workers in the most vulnerable sectors: domestic work, garment, workers in subsistence farming, are women. Women also suffer from climate disasters that they are least responsible for.

A post 2015 Development Agenda should address the structural factors that perpetuate crisis, inequality, insecurity and human rights violations.

Other concerns for International Alliance of Women are the conditions for the realization of women's rights, which are crucial in addressing the structural causes of gender inequality and poverty. These include pandemic of violence. Violence against women has become an epidemic in some countries. Women are not only raped, they are also killed. It appears that in many of the cases the state and its administration are not concerned and on occasions culpable. Femicide is the ultimate form of violence against women and girls. To end femicide we need to end impunity and bring perpetrators to justice.

Violence, in particular sexual violence, in situations of armed conflict and in post conflict contexts is perpetuated as impunity for these gross violations of human rights persists.

Despite their increased participation in the workforce women are disproportionately represented in informal work, which is generally precarious, poorly paid and not covered by labour legislation.

The promotion of decent work in the post 2015 Development Agenda will need to identify and change the structural factors that have been contributing to the rise of precarious and informal employment.

Women still subsidize the entire economy by performing most of the unpaid domestic and care work derived from the sexual division of labour.

Discriminatory gender stereotypes, as well as the financial crisis, are perpetuating and deepening the unequal distribution of care work, thereby impacting on women's equal enjoyment of a wide range of interlinked rights. Unpaid work must be recognized in statistics and policies, reduced by public investment and redistributed, so that it is shared equally between women and men, thus eliminating inequalities in resource control and ownership.

Equal participation of women in decision making has been an area where the pace of change has been slow and uneven across regions. In the area of economic decision making women are consistently absent from key decision making bodies influencing the distribution of resources in both public and private sectors.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights for all have not been realized nor has the provision of comprehensive sexuality education to all young people in and out of school. These rights need to be a clear priority in the post 2015 Development Agenda.

The rights of women to participate in peacekeeping, peace building and reconstruction have also not been realized, as well as the protection of women human rights defenders. We regret that the goal on “peaceful and inclusive societies” of the Sustainable Development Goals does not include these targets. Governments should be asked to implement Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and to report under the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.

Finally, we would like to put an emphasis on the most important reason for the lack of fulfillment of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals, which is their lack of a framework of participatory monitoring and accountability mechanisms to evaluate commitments of duty bearers.


Accountability refers to the obligation of those in authority to take responsibility for their actions, to answer for them to those that are affected and to be subjected to some form of sanctions if their conduct or explanation is found wanting.

Accountability is about empowering people in particular women to articulate their priorities while taking more control over their lives.

Accountability is about monitoring the effectiveness of local national, regional as well as international policies and providing data to improve the policies.

The International Alliance of Women will work for the adoption and implementation of participatory monitoring and accountability mechanisms that will make possible the fulfillment of promises held in the Beijing Platform for Action and the post 2015 Development Agenda hoping that this time commitments by duty bearers will prove credible.

Side events



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
EQUAL RIGHTS—EQUAL RESPONSIBILITIES
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DE FEMMES
DROITS ÉGAUX—RESPONSABILITÉS ÉGALES
www.womenalliance.org

Lessons Learnt from Women Presidents and Prime Ministers Worldwide

During half a century
73 women came to power in 53 countries.
How did they succeed?
And did they make a difference?

Senior Researcher Torild Skard, IAW, Norway, presents her new book.
"Women of power – half a century of female presidents and prime ministers worldwide" (Bristol: Policy Press).

Skard analyses the careers all women national leaders from 1960 to 2010 to find out how women managed to go to the top, and if their role as top leaders made a difference to women?

Discussion:
The findings of the book and policies to increase the number of women in the top leadership worldwide will be discussed by

Randi Davis, Director of Gender Team, UNDP
Mona Lena Krook, Associate Professor at Rutgers University, New Jersey, US,
A Caribbean Prime Minister (tbc)

Moderator: Joanna Manganara, President, International Alliance of Women (IAW)

March 10 - 4:30 pm - CCUN Boss Room



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
EQUAL RIGHTS—EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES
DROITS ÉGAUX—RESPONSABILITÉS ÉGALES
www.womenalliance.org

DEEDS – NO WORDS
IMPLEMENTING CEDAW & UN SC RESOLUTION 1325
WOMEN – PEACE – SECURITY

Key note speaker:
Prof. Marilou McPhedran, Director Institute for Internat. Women's Rights, Winnipeg.
Legal Framework CEDAW & UN SC Res.1325

Discussants
Co-sponsor:
El-Karama, Cairo

March 11 - 6:15 pm - CCUN 10th Floor

Social Media, Technology and Activism Beyond 2016

Speakers to be confirmed
Co-sponsors:
ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY
"We're the People on the Street!"

March 10–2:30pm - 4:00
Salvation Army Auditorium

WHY THE FUTURE OF ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MUST BE FEMINIST.

This side-event gathers a panel of feminist economists to reflect on how can insights from feminist economics inform policies and contribute to the realization of women's social and economic rights?

Speakers:
Edith Kuiper, New York—Marilyn Power, New York—Jennifer Olmsed, New Jersey—Tulay Atay Anasar-Turkey—Margunn Bjørnholt, Norway

WOMEN – PEACE – SECURITY
IMPLEMENTING UN SC RESOLUTION 1325 and following resolutions

Key note speaker:
Prof. Marilou McPhedran, Director Institute for Internat. Women's Rights, Winnipeg (tbc)
Legal Framework: UN SC Res.1325 and CEDAW

Discussants
Co-sponsors: Austria, Karama

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW main representative to UN New York

During the Beijing + 20 campaign, High Level Political Forum and preparations for the GA summit, the IAW in New York participated actively in events related to gender equality and



human rights, sustainable development, health including non-communicable diseases, climate change, older women, urban settlements and rural women and girls. Separate reports are submitted on older women and climate change.

Members participated in the women's major group preparatory meetings for the Post-2015 Agenda and helped to ensure communications with other constituencies and CoNGO committees. It is important to note that the draft document to be adopted by the General Assembly in September has many forward-looking provisions. It is also important to note that-- unlike the MDGs-- Agenda 2030 on the SDGs is “universal”. Developed as well as developing

countries must fully commit and participate in achieving its 17 goals. Work on indicators continues and the process included active NGO engagement.

During the World Health Assembly, the IAW participate in a civil society dialogue related to global partnerships and the Prevention and Control of non-communicable Diseases. Speakers included representatives from the Danish development ministry and ministers of health. At this meeting, the IAW spoke concerning the importance of gender and tobacco as a sustainable development issue, noting the potential for a “win-win” strategy to raise taxes for revenue while discouraging early uptake by youth. A follow-up meeting is planned for November 2015.

The IAW in NY has actively followed preparations for [Habitat III](#) on human settlements, including communications with the Secretariat on civil society participation. Comments were submitted to Habitat III on 22 issues papers that cover 6 themes such as social inclusion and housing. Hopefully, the IAW Board can discuss possibilities to be a lead partner to the World Urban Campaign—the official civil society body. See: <http://www.worldurbancampaign.org>

On September 24, the IAW is invited to a Civil Society dialogue with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Ex. Director for UN Women. The IAW has also been invited to participate in the planning committee for the civil society event on 27 September that will be held in parallel with the UN Commitments day convened by China and UN Women at the CUNY Graduate Center. All NGOs attending the GA are invited to attend this parallel event that will include a webcast of the UN event that will include an Innovative Ideas Marketplace, opportunities for civil society to make commitments and networking.

The 2030 Agenda: Report on Activities 2014 to 2015, New York

Natalia Kostus, Board Member, Representative to the United Nations, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, International Alliance of Women (IAW),



Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

I contributed to the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, including informal consultations and the High Level Political Forum; working with the Women's Major Group, together with over 600 women's organizations and activists around the world.

The draft outcome document—Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development— negotiated through informal consultations under the General Assembly, co-facilitated by H.E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya) and H.E. Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland), under the leadership of the President of 69th Session of the General Assembly H.E. Sam Kutesa (Uganda); will be adopted during the High Level United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, 25-27 September, 2015 in New York. The draft 2030 Agenda is a strong and ambitious outcome, a transformative plan of action setting high aims for people, planet and prosperity, seeking to: eradicate poverty and protect the planet; foster well-being, prosperity, peace, and justice; strengthen solidarity and partnerships; mobilize financial means; and pursue human rights and gender equality. The main component of the 2030 Agenda is a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets, including Goal 5 on gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. Language on gender is strong and gender equality is recognized as a cross-cutting issue in all parts of the 2030 Agenda. There is a reference to Beijing Platform for Action, however no reference to CEDAW. I, IAW, with the Women's Major Group, were striving to further strengthen the language on gender and women until the end of the negotiations.

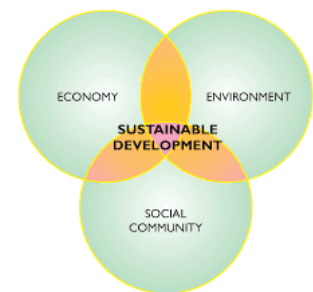
Post 2015 Negotiations Informal Consultations

I covered the following post 2015 process informal consultations during this reporting period:

- Stock-taking, 19-21 January 2015, New York: Member States recognized the Proposal of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed on a process for technical proofing of agreed goals and targets, and recognized the need for indicative global indicators. The process and substance of the declaration, means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development, and follow-up and review were discussed. Many member states stressed the importance of reaffirming core principles on equality and human rights. UN Women Jan. 19 side event, reached conclusions on the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women for the post-2015 development agenda. Three women from developing countries had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Women's Major Group during the Jan. 21 interactive dialogue with stakeholders, highlighting their priorities and key gaps in the agenda.

- Declaration, 17-20 February 2015, New York: Member States discussed their views on the discussion document for declaration, including title, vision, structure, underlying purposes, principles, and challenges. Gender equality and the empowerment of women were included as critical for sustainable development. Feb. 19 interactive dialogue with major groups featured the Women's Major Group feedback on and recommendations for the draft of the declaration to prioritize full realization of human rights for girls and women. The intervention from the Women's Major Group focused on follow up and review in the post-2015 process calling for: visionary scope; transparent, inclusive, and participatory monitoring mechanisms and indicator framework; and mandatory, universal global accountability mechanism, building on CEDAW and other existing mechanisms.

- Sustainable development goals and targets, 23-27 March 2015, New York: Member States discussed two studies: on the targets in the proposed SDGs framework (featuring proposed changes and revisions in SDGs, specifically ensuring measurability or consistency with international agreements; no revisions were proposed to goal 5 gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls) and a technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the process of developing an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda (detailing various stages of the technical process on indicator framework set to conclude in 2016; initially assessing the proposed provisional indicators to measure targets proposed by the Open Working Group on SDGs; and rating 50 indicators AAA feasible, suitable, and very relevant, representing 16% out of 304 proposed provisional indicators; only 3 indicators have received AAA rating in goal 5). The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) consisting of national statistical offices and observes has been established. The Women's Major Group 24 March side event, hosted jointly with many women's civil society organizations, featured a dialogue with civil society on indicators for the post-2015 development agenda. Four interventions on behalf of the Women's Major Group called for: both qualitative and quantitative indicators, number of indicators determined by need without limits, gender-sensitive indicators across the goals, including sex-disaggregated data, reflecting age, economic and social inequalities, as well as, structural and systemic barriers.



- Means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development, 21-24 April 2015, New York: Joint meeting of the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the preparatory process of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development was open to delegates from both processes, and focused on the relationship between the FfD and post-2015 processes, follow up, review, means of implementation, coherence between respective outcome documents, outstanding issues and way forward. The 23 April interactive dialogue with major groups and other stakeholders, including Women's Major Group and various women's organizations focused on global partnership and possible key deliverables and transformative ideas such as in relation to capacity building, infrastructure, energy, social floors and agriculture. Furthermore, Member States discussed possible arrangements for a Technology Facilitation Mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, and other science, technology, and innovation issues. The Women's Major Group 21 April side event, focused on

the right to development establishing linkages between human rights and development cooperation, as well as, on women's perspective on means of implementation. The Women's Major Group 22 April side event, hosted jointly with UN-NGLS, UNCTAD, among others, focused on integrating a gender perspective in barriers to technology access, and women's role in innovation, technology, and generating knowledge. Three interventions on behalf of the Women's Major Group called for: synergies and complementarity between FfD and post-2015 outcomes integrating human rights; recognition of importance to women of goal 17 on means of implementation, and global partnerships, data monitoring and accountability, affecting the five dimensions of autonomy for women: economic, political, sexual, reproductive, and freedom from all forms of violence; increased public financing crucial for realization of women's human rights; strict precautionary principle, technology assessment of gender impacts, and gender equitable technology facilitation.

-Follow-up and review, 18-22 May 2015, New York: Member States agreed that implementation of the SDGs depends on and is actually the main purpose of- a well-functioning and effective follow-up and review framework in the main global platform HLPF—that will keep track of progress towards the SDGs, identify shortcomings, gaps, and countries' needs, make recommendations for global partnership for sustainable development and means of implementation, and address challenges relating to the measurability of targets and indicators. Member States discussed interplay, coherence, and linkages between the various dimensions of follow-up and review framework: vertical at local, national, regional, and global levels; and horizontal between Governments, non-state actors, including civil society organizations, and private sector. It is crucial to point out, that the national level is fundamental in implementation and accountability. The OWG Proposal on SDGs states that “targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition, but taking into account national circumstances” (A/68/970). Furthermore, Member States addressed selected follow-up and review processes and platforms for all of the SDGs, including cross-cutting Human Rights Council and specifically for goal 5 on gender CSW and CEDAW. The Women's Major Group 20 May side event, focused on accountability and gender equality for the financing for development and post-2015 agendas. May 20 interactive dialogue with Major Groups and other Stakeholders addressed how stakeholders can best contribute to national progress reviews. Three interventions on behalf of the Women's Major Group called for: participatory review mechanism, driven by qualitative and quantitative data disaggregated by sex, gender, geography, income level, and race; increased public financing; and gender and participatory budgeting at all levels.

-Intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document, 22-25 June 2015, New York: Member States discussed the zero draft: political declaration, goals and targets, follow-up and review, and means of implementation. The Women's Major Group 23 June side event, hosted jointly with many international women's organizations firmly stressed that there will be no sustainable development without equality. Three interventions on behalf of the Women's Major Group called for integration in the zero draft provisions for: achievement of women's human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, right to food and nutrition, and right to development; reduction of inequalities in income, economic, social, and political opportunities; and incorporation of disaggregated data; among specific text recommendations.

- Intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document, 20-24 July 2015, New York: Member States further discussed the revised post-2015 draft. A group of countries: United States, Germany, France, Iceland, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Cabo Verde, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Cambodia, Palau, Peru, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Israel, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Bulgaria, and Albania, delivered a very strong joint statement on 21 July calling to fully achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the fulfillment of their human rights, as a prerequisite and driver for sustainable development: “If the Post-2015 Development Agenda is to be truly transformative, it must transform the lives of women and girls as well as the structures that perpetuate gender based discrimination, and enable them to reach their full potential.” The joint statement called to include principles on gender equality in all elements of the revised post-2015 draft. Three side events (20 July, 21 July, and 24 July) and many statements from major groups and civil society organizations called for strengthening commitments on gender equality.

- Intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document, 27-31 July 2015, New York: Member States finalized the post-2015 draft titled: Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Five interventions on behalf of the Women’s Major Group called for further strengthening of women’s priorities in the draft text including realization of sexual and reproductive rights, redistribution of unpaid care work, elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

HLPF 2015 (under auspices of the ECOSOC), 26 June – 8 July 2015, New York: HLPF 2015 focused on “Strengthening integration, implementation and review – the HLPF after 2015” and included high level segment ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review, 9 - 10 July 2015, which contributed to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The main focus of the HLPF discussions was to plan how to best deliver on its mandate to implement, communicate, and review the ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda. The 2030 Agenda provides broad guidance, however, further discussion on effective follow-up and review mechanism is necessary for successful implementation. HLPF needs to provide political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for action, review of progress, and accountability for implementation of the SDGs. HLPF will strengthen the science-policy interface by bringing together diverse information and assessments, including in the form of a Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) developed through a multi-level, multi-stakeholder process. The program of HLPF was very intense featuring sessions, discussions, and side events; however gender equality and the empowerment of women were missing from the agenda with no specifically devoted sessions or side events. The Women’s Group made several interventions throughout.

Recommendations:

- A set of recommendations for IAW to elaborate a program on sustainable development and climate change will be presented during the IAW International Meeting in Paris, 7-10 October 2015

Report on the task force on older women

Judith B. Gordon, Ph.D. UN Representative on Older Women.).

The Task Force has completed its first year. Given our experiences this year, we make the following Recommendations:

1 CONTINUATION OF THE TASK FORCE: Given the attention being paid to the protection of the human rights of older persons and the creation of a independent expert who has been charged to address this issue by the Human Rights Council, our task force carries on IAW's historical commitment to the protection of equal human rights for all including older women. In this the 70th anniversary of the UN, IAW has much to contribute to the UN as we link our past and present to the many events that are now taking place that set forth ideas for the future of the UN in this most complex Here and Now. Our Task Force builds on the work of past UN Task Forces on Older Women in which IAW has participated.. Our work is timely and needed. Therefore, we recommend the Task Force be continued. .

2. PARTICIPATION IN THE 7th GA High Level OEWG re THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS.. We recommend that IAW register for the 7th OEWG working group; . At the 2016 meeting, the independent expert on the enjoyment of human rights by older persons appointed by the Human Rights Council has been asked to give a full report re what human rights for older people are now protected by existing human rights instruments. We recommend that IAW both its self and names of its representatives to the 7th meeting of this working group.(this year, we had the possibility of naming 10 IAW reps to this meeting). .



3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS.. Latin American members of the OAS have adopted the Latin American Convention to Protect the Rights of Older Persons which can be modified or adopted by other regions or countries if desired. At the time of this meeting, 9 members of the OAS had ratified it within two weeks of the date when ratification became possible. However, Member States and NGO's do not all agree that a new UN treaty is needed or necessary. The Independent expert re the enjoyment of human rights by older persons has been asked to give report on the rights older persons currently have taking account of the claim a new treaty is needed for older persons to enjoy full human rights.. She will give a progress report in Sept in Geneva.. This gives us the opportunity to ask that specific attention be paid by her to CEDAW's role and working procedures that are used to address the combination of discrimination on the basis of sex, gender. Given the pros and cons of a new convention,, we recommend that our task force be charged to make a recommendation to the IAW as to the position IAW should take on this issue at our 2016 meeting. At that time, we will have had the opportunity to consider all the input into this matter taking account of the information that is currently being collected by member states and the Human Rights Council., NGO's in consultative status and civil society representatives who both support and oppose such a convention.

4..MADRID PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING. The evaluation and implementation of this plan

is addressed by the the UN Commission on Social Development which has set in motion a variety of means including conferences during 2016-2018. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the Madrid Plan of Action will also reflect the context now being shaped by the adoption of the new Development Goals that will take place during the coming GA Meeting. Some countries argue that this non-legally binding document is more effective than a new treaty. Others reject that idea because it is non legally binding. We recommend that IAW in consultation with its affiliates, its commissions and task forces including ours address the issues that arise during this process in the coming year.,

5.. **INTER-GENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES..** IAW has historically taken a leadership role in bringing generations together. Our inter-generational mentoring side events at past CSW"s are case in point. We also have shown that people of all ages matter by the inclusion of speakers of all ages, men and women alike, at our side events as our well received event on Peace at the UN last year illustrated..We recommend therefore that IAW plan appropriate side events at the coming CSW.

6.. **National and Regional Activities ..** During the coming year, explore varying ways in which our affiliates can take account of the impact of age and gender upon the lives of their citizens making it possible for their suggestions and concerns re ageing, sex and gender roles to also inform the continuing work of this Task Force and IAW.

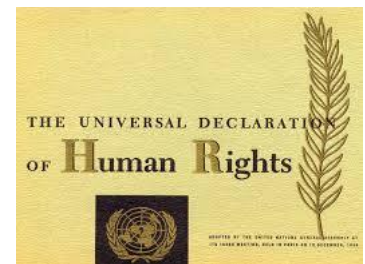
GENEVA

Human Rights Council

Lyda Verstegen, IAW main representative to Geneva

After Sion I attended the Geneva NGO Forum on What Women Want at the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. Joanna reported on the website.

I want to congratulate Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, president of the NGO/CSW Committee for her leadership. At the end of the conference she called for the youngest and the oldest participant to come forward, and who came running: our Monique Bouaziz, who celebrated her 80th birthday around that time.



In March I stayed for 10 days in Geneva to attend the 28th session of the Human Rights Council. I wrote on the birth registration side event and resolution on our website.

I went to side events on The right to food, desertification and women's rights, that was a sad subject. The Wilpf session on Disarmament and women's rights was hardly more joyful, and a side event on women's housing, land and water rights did not bring anything new either.

I went to the University of Geneva where our intern Melanie Lopez Castro with her class mates presented a case study on Discrimination of women by the State of Geneva. They really had a case. Melanie did very well, and I am sorry to lose her. She went to Australia for some time and preparing her stay there she did not have time for IAW. However, I met Marie-Claude Julsaint

who was recruited by Joanna. She is a very intelligent young woman and would be an asset to our team if she did not have a full time job. Esther Suter, Seema Uplekar and I seem to be the constant members.

There was an important statement of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on ‘Social protection floors: an essential element of the right to social security and of the sustainable development goals’ (54th session 23 Feb.- 6 March, 2015).

The Committee in some of its Concluding Observations to States Parties on the realization of the right to social security has recommended the establishment of a SPF, according to the ILO’s Recommendation no. 202 (2012). In this statement a paragraph is devoted to women. “They are often not entitled to social security benefits and pensions, either because they are in the informal economy, or they experience greater difficulties complying with the eligibility criteria, or simply because they are engaged in unpaid work that is not recognized as an economic contribution to their communities and societies. An additional obstacle is that women are not considered as individual rights holders. The Committee highlights that several of the basic guarantees included in the national SPF’s, such as maternal health, child care and maternity benefits and pensions, contribute towards establishing universal benefits. These benefits decrease gender inequalities also by alleviating the burden imposed on women who continue to shoulder a disproportionate part of household responsibilities.”

In a side event on the occasion of 7 years UPR in June at HRC29 it was noted that economic, social and cultural rights were often not furthered because the recommendations were too vague, they were not measurable.

Inequality is a theme that also comes back in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s).

A side event on inequality was very welcome:

“Extreme inequality is a human rights problem: injecting rights into the inequality debate,” was the title. And it was all about social protection again, however this time from a human rights perspective. During this event it was proposed that the HRC monitor the SDG’s. I think that would be a very useful contribution, so I sent my article on the proposed SDG’s compared to human rights conventions and the Beijing PfA (see website) to the organizers.

The 70th anniversary of the United Nations was celebrated in Geneva with a workshop on ‘The UN and civil society- 70 years working together: how do we make a difference from Geneva?’

Seema, Esther and I were in the audience. This was in the invitation:

‘The 70th anniversary of the UN is at the same time the anniversary of the UN and civil society actors working together. Civil society actors are individuals and groups who voluntarily engage in forms of public participation and action around shared interests, purposes or values that are compatible with the goals of the UN: the maintenance of peace and security the realization and development, and the promotion and respect of human rights.’

‘The Post-2015 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals: building a future for all’ was the panel of the most interest to us. The panellists were: Ambassador Yvette Stevens of Sierra Leone, Mr Joakim Reiter, Deputy secretary General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), Ms Bineta Diop, the President of Femmes Africa Solidarité and Ms Nyaradzayyu Gumbonzvanda, SG of YWCA.

Ms Stevens said that the MDG’s were not very qualitative. The SDG’s are universal, and they are about human rights. The question is if there will be enough money allocated to their realization (The A.A.A.A.: the Addis Abeba Action Agenda, gives not much hope).

The role of Civil Society is important at country level, and also in developing indicators, developing minimum standards and monitoring the SDG’s.

Mr Reiter said that in September the General Assembly will define ‘what’ has to be done.

‘How’? Optimistically it would mean the growth of China over the last 10 years without leaving a carbon footprint.

NGO’s have a role in monitoring and information about grass roots.

Unctad is co-leading with the World Bank on goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for SDG’s). In March 2016 Unctad 14 will move to ‘how’.

Ms Diop spoke as the President of the African Committee for women and peace. They have made some progress, thanks to Civil Society. Mostly about protection in conflicts. The special rapporteur on the conflict in the Central African Republic has produced gendered reports; election monitoring looking at violence in election time has been replicated by UNWomen. Africa is rising, she said, but not in an inclusive way, infrastructure is lacking.

Ms Gumbonzvande says this 70th anniversary is a time to reflect upon our work. We, civil society, were there when the UN were formed. CSW was there from the beginning, later UNIFEM, still later CEDAW. It is not necessary to discuss ‘what’ - it is in CEDAW and the Beijing PFA. We are negotiating the prioritization. The SDG’s need monitoring from a Human Rights point of view, so civil society must intrinsically be there.

Certain aspects of ‘how’ are not in the open. There is no accountability frame work. It is political. SDG discussion is not about uncomfortable issues such as globalisation. It needs an intergenerational approach and there is a necessity to talk about violence, displacement, technology.

The exclusive language has to be changed. Recognize migration as a resource, not a problem.

Nyaradzayi concluded that the decision makers had to look at the specificity of each region. And that if people didn't apply for partnerships, maybe they did not have the tools to make bids.

But everyone agreed: the SDGs are a huge achievement, people centred: every person counts.

ROME

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATION

Jessika Kehl-Lauff, Executive Vicepresident of IAW-AIF, candidate for alternate to Bettina Corke



An intergovernmental organization, FAO has 194 Member Nations, two associate members and one member organization, the European Union. Headquartered in Rome, Italy, FAO is present in over 130 countries.

FAO is convinced that hunger and malnutrition can be eradicated in our lifetime. To meet the Zero Hunger Challenge, political commitment and major alliances with key stakeholders are crucial.

Partnerships are at the heart of FAO's mission to help build consensus for a world without hunger. Only through effective collaboration with governments, civil society, private sector, academia, research centres and cooperatives, and making use of each other's knowledge and comparative advantages, can food insecurity be defeated.

FAO has defined five Strategic Objectives to eradicate poverty and food insecurity. To achieve this, the Organization is seeking to expand its collaboration with CSOs committed to these objectives.

Bettina Corke represents IAW – AIF at FAO. At the World Congress in London 2013 she already presented a book „How to end hunger in a time of crises“ co-authored by Ignacio Tru Ebo and Andrew McMillan. And as well a small booklet, which has a 2nd edition since 2014: „How to end hunger NOW! A handbook to facilitate the work and activities taking place to end hunger & poverty.“ The focused concern of IAW on the whole question and its impact on the empowerment of women shows in the words of former IAW President Rosy Weiss, Austria, at the beginning of the booklet and the letter of Hon.President Lyda Verstegen, Netherlands, with a request from IAW-AIF to work on hunger and poverty programmes together with FAO in countries where both have representatives. ,

Unhappily the earthquake in L'Aquila has reduced the activities of Bettina Corke, but not her great commitment to the ongoing fight against hunger and poverty. So she was able with her

statement at the Board Meeting of IAW-AIF in Sion 2014 to persuade me to visit her in southern Italy. We had a three - day meeting on the subject of a follow up.

Bettina Corke wants IAW-AIF to serve as a link between the U.N. Commission on food security, the FAO Committee on food security and the national and regional member organisations of IAW-AIF.

As well there is an important connection to do between WHO request for Health for everyone and FAO demanding Eradication of poverty and the human rights situation of women in the world, specially in the rural world. It is not only „humanitarian aid“, as important this field can be, it is the right of women as producers of food and mothers with children to be healthy to get a better knowledge of how and when the United Nations and their institutions can help them in the two major fields they are challenged each day.

Bettina Corke and I have identified during our meetings a third field, specially in the rural areas, which is closely linked to the two big challenges: women demand their children to get education!

So one of the actual activities of IAW-AIF could be to link producers of food and hospitals and schools with day-care in countries where FAO and IAW-AIF have representatives.

So back home, I asked our President Joanna Manganara to become an alternate representative to FAO in Rome. With her consent I got in contact with the Ad hoc group of international NGOs which Bettina Corke gave over to the BPW-representative in Rome, Ms. Cristina Visconti, the actual convenor since 2010. At our meeting in Ancona/Italy Cristina Visconti invited me to the next important meeting of FAO, taking place the next week in Rome and Milano.

For a better preparation of this first time visit to a FAO meeting, I actually got in contact with the FAO office in Geneva, and the Swiss representative to FAO.

PARIS - UNESCO

Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy, IAW UNESCO team

As we explained before, the International Conference of INGOs meets every two years to examine the partnership between UNESCO and INGOs as defined by the new Directives, and to elect the new Liaison Committee and its Chairperson. The meeting: *International Conference of INGOs* was held from 15 to 17 December 2014.

For this two-year term (2015-2016) a woman is elected: Mrs Martine Levy, presented by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), Mr Patrick Gallaud, outgoing Chairperson remains in the Liaison Committee as Vice-chairperson



The new liaison Committee includes organisations from Africa, Asia,, Eastern Europe and Latin America in accordance with the new directives, which, as Mr Falt, Assistant Director for External Relations and Public Information, expressed, "confirm UNESCO's commitment to extending and strengthening UNESCO's partnership with NGOs

worldwide."

Mr Falt also "wanted to reiterate UNESCO Secretariat's support to the new Committee and especially of his sector in the fulfilment of its mandate»

During the meeting, the subtitle of which was: *Re-enchanting the world with the Post 2015 Development Agenda*, a review of the Forums and international days that the NGOs working in official partnership with UNESCO had prepared and presented last year as well as those to be prepared during the new two-year term, was made. During the meeting Mr Falt stressed the importance of the "Appel de Yamoussoukro" (Yamoussoukro Call) issued at the end of 2nd Forum and the Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire confirmed that he is involved in actions for following-up the recommendations made by NGOs during the Forum. This stands as a demonstration of excellent cooperation between NGOs and member States.

As customary this year we were invited to attend as observers, UNESCO's formal important meetings such as the session of the executive board (8-22 April 2015). Its Committee on Non-Governmental partners will, now on, only meet once a year instead of two. This year it will meet at the autumn session.

We recall that according to the new UNESCO directives, NGOs have to organise events in order to demonstrate their capacity to mobilise their forces on the ground and this through the organisation of 4 forums to be held during each term of two years, and of international days." Five Forums have been held up since the new directives and they all have been very successful. Our team was involved and very active in the working groups preparing the programs and organisation of the Forums, some taking place at the UNESCO Headquarters and some in foreign countries.

Forums:

On 28/30 September 2014 the 3rd forum was held and as participants to the group that presented it, Monique and Danielle were invited to Bulgaria (Sofia and Sozopol) for a forum *on the role of youth in the safeguarding of tangible and intangible cultural heritage*. The forum focussed on the role of youth in safeguarding the cultural heritage. The forum was a real success. We were welcomed by the Sozopol foundation that had prepared a trip including visiting archaeological places, visit of museums, folk art and music presentations and conferences. It started and ended in Sofia the Capital of Bulgaria and took us through Bulgaria by coach to Sozopol on the Black Sea, a region extremely rich in archaeological remains.

During the forum presentation of "good practices of young people" IAW had three minutes to present the development of Lod's old city. Lod is situated in Israel and a group of young people have decided to help the residents, Jews and Arabs who, being of very low socio-economic status, suffer from exclusion, which has led to violence and many years of neglect preventing them from managing a decent lifestyle. To give them a sense of belonging and of responsibility for their town, these young adults (aged 27-35) have decided to improve the quality of life of the city's inhabitants in renewing and upgrading the housing, public spaces and infrastructure of the

city with the help of the inhabitants themselves, allowing the two communities to get to know each other and cooperate.

On 29/30 June 2015 the 4th International forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO on the theme: *The Role of Women in fighting poverty* was held in Paris. The Forum discussed the obstacles encountered by women (lack of education, discrimination, violence) but also the factors enabling them to rich empowerment (education, training, leadership for economic empowerment and communication). IAW was able to present the work of SOFEDEC as they help women and children in the Republic of Congo, a region devastated by the violence of the war. We only had 3mn's time to speak, but were happy to be able to do so. For the law aspect of the program we had suggested to speak of resolution 1325, but this was not retained, unfortunately.

On 27/28 July 2015 the 5th International forum on the theme: *Rapprochement of cultures: One Humanity beyond Diversity*" was held in Beijing in China, Since the team was in the working group of the forum, and Renée had been asked to participate in the writing of the conceptual note, and as the Chinese Government was offering the accommodation there, we were asked to participate, but the cost of the trip, had to be supported by the participants. Due to the high cost, we had to abstain. We have received news that it was a great success but we will only have a report on it after the holidays.

International days:

IAW team also contributed to the celebration of International days:

For the Day on Literacy, we prepared an *International Conference on literacy and lifelong learning for all*, which was held on 8 September 2014. Among other recommendations it asked that the goals that have not been reached yet should be included in the Post 2015 Agenda and to insure that by 2030 " all youth and at least X% of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy" as proposed by the Open Working Group on the UN Sustainable Development Program, and in charge for the Post 2015 Agenda. It also asked for a lifelong framework of learning for all.

For the International Day of Peace (19 September 2014) held at UNESCO Headquarter in Paris, there was a round table on *how to work for the Rights of people to peace? A universal peace through culture, dialogue among civilisations and the exercise of the right of people to peace*. This was followed by a film: *Marionettes engaging for peace*, presenting the works sent by NGOs from all over the world, and made with puppets on the theme of peace. The day finally ended with a very moving concert by the groups Vives Voix and the Ensemble Calliopée, which bring together singers with autism or psychological/mental disabilities along with their medical/ educational teams from ten French specialised Institutes and residences; and the vocal ensemble A Fleur de Voix.

France will host the COP 21 on Climate Change in December 2015 With the NGO working group we are preparing for the 6 October 2015, a questionnaire that should be sent to all NGOS to create recommendations to be sent to the COP 21

For the International Day of Migrants (6 December 2015) we are preparing an event where we will present the work of La Colombe in Togo.

We must underline that UNESCO is more interested in Forums than in international days so the international day of migrants had to merge with the celebration of migration fixed by UNESCO on 6th December.

Follow-ups:

To these we can add the follow up to forums I and II, presented last year: "so that they don't remain single events, but will show the Conference of INGO's involvement in these matters". We, NGOs, have decided that voicing a subject during a forum was good but that we had to continue working with the people met during the forums. Then, we keep contact with the Côte d'Ivoire NGOs and we work at helping them, in making them know the international laws that they can use to continue their fight about water. This will perpetuate the forum entitled: "*Access to water for all - women and youth at the source of this objective*" that was held in Yamoussoukro in Côte d'Ivoire on 30-31 July 2014. We can recall that a member of IAW, "*Survie de la mère et de l'enfant Association*", from Benin in Africa, attended this Forum and that a project on water economy in association with the Embassy of Israel "*Techno-Agriculture Innovations for Poverty Alleviation*" (TIPA) , set up by *Handisables* a French Association that works with handicapped people in Senegal, and whose Président is a WIZO member, was included. We are also preparing mails, letters and all that is necessary in the search of sponsors to help 200 African students find schools and become hydrologists.

As a follow up to the day of peace NGOs have prepared a World Puppet March *puppets for peace and intercultural dialogue*. It is envisaged that a world puppet march will be launched by the National Centres of UNIMA to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of UNESCO, the concluding official ceremony taking place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

We have worked on these follow-ups but don't know if they all will be put to an end since all this needs money that UNESCO doesn't have and sponsors are difficult to find especially for this type of work. Forums are helped by Member States, but not International Days (UNESCO may lend us a room but the costs that go with it, are high).

IAW beyond UNESCO

Out of UNESCO, IAW was also made visible by our participation in other activities. Among others:

CSW 59: Beijing +20

The Team participated with the French delegation in the 59th CSW. Monique and Danielle the first week but Renée stayed longer and followed the difficult negotiations regarding the political

declaration and the working methods. She wrote a report stressing that the political will seems to have faded during the last years and that the feminists have to be aware that governments are looking at other issues as priorities treating sometimes the woman's issues from the angle of diversity.

CEDAW Shadow Report of the French Government by the NGOs

Renée wrote a large contribution for article 10 (education and higher education) to the Shadow Report that the French Coordination of the European Women Lobby (CLEF) made, as a parallel to the French Government report to the CEDAW Committee. The French Government must be audited in 2016.

Council of Europe (CoE)

Renée member of IAW, although belonging also to another CoE Association is a member of the working group on sustainable development that issued a position paper on Climate Change and Human Rights. She contacted Natalia Koskus for sending comments, so that IAW was made visible and was involved.

The Team, also as members of other Associations, work in the Conference of INGO CoE Taskforce on women.

Population Growth and Sustainable Development

Ida Kurth, UNESCO for Sustainability and Climate Change

Population control has been ignored in MDG programs for Sustainable Development and Climate Change and the battle cry "Women's Empowerment" of the IAW, has a hollow ring when women still do not have control of their own reproductive system and this in the 21. Century. There has been no feedback from Affiliates and Associates over birth control management, the same with WHO.

Progress for women lies in free decision making i.e. responsible planning of family size, which leads not only to maternal health, the wellbeing of the family but also of society.

Dr. Reiner Klingholz, Director of the Institute for Population and Development in Berlin has, together with other authors, evaluated the ambitious huge project of the United Nations: The UN - Development Agenda. The programme embraces 8 millennium development aims as well as 21 further targets upto the year 2015.

He comes to the conclusion that the rapid rise of global population is counterproductive to sustainable development. The poorest countries have the highest population rate and are notorious trouble spots where civil war, terror and dysfunctioning governments are in power. The young grown-ups living in poverty and hunger and with no perspectives whatever, find their way to the terror camps where they are recieved with open arms. Young women, according to Rashid Manju from Cape Town, S.Africa, are enslaved, raped if virgins and sold.

Overpopulation is an environmental danger and would lead to a sustainability crisis, a more balanced population growth has a sustainable future.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMISSION ON DEMOCRACY

Anje Wiersinga

Introduction

This report will list the activities and describe the work that has been done by IAW representatives at the Council of Europe (CoE) and IAW commission convenor on Democracy Anje Wiersinga. It will report on the most important events that have taken place since Congress in London in 2013. The report will list the action that can be taken by Affiliates and Individual Members to follow up on the work that has been done over the past period.

The **objective** of the IAW Representatives at the Council of Europe is to influence the policies of the Member States of the Council of Europe by making their expertise on gender issues available.

Meetings attended

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) four annual sessions of one week each in Strasbourg (reports made of several sessions) including meetings of PACE Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and of PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and its sub-committee on Women Free from Violence. PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination in Paris twice yearly.
- Ministerial Gender Equality Commission in Strasbourg annually. Report available.
- Hearing on access to justice for victims of violence, organized by the French parliament in Paris.
- International Conference on the North-South process for the Empowerment of Women on the: “Participation of women in political life in the Southern and Eastern Mediter-ranean Countries: Challenges and Opportunities” in Rabat in 2014. Report available
- CoE World Forum on Democracy in Strasbourg, November 2013 and 2014.
- CoE INGO Conference and its committees in Strasbourg twice yearly.
- ECE meeting in Geneva in November 2014.
- UN 58th and 59th CSW in New York in 2014 and 2015. Report available.
- Expert meeting on the “De-legitimization of war” in The Hague. Statement available.

Meetings organised

- As chair six annual meetings of the INGO taskforce on “Including Gender Perspectives in Democratic and Political Processes particularly during and after Conflict” in Strasbourg and Paris. Reports available.
- As facilitator four annual meetings of the INGO Freely Constituted Equality Group (FCEG) in Strasbourg.
- CSW 58 Side event on “Gender-based Violence as a Political weapon” with Karama

- CSW 59 two Side events on “Implementing UN SC Res.1325 & CEDAW” in New York in cooperation with Rosy Weiss : one with Karama in Church Centre on “Deeds – No words” resulting in 5 statements presented to the 2nd in the UN Building hosted by the Austrian Government on “Women–Peace–Security”
- INGO Side event on “Gender based Violence as a political weapon” in Strasbourg

Results : INGO Resolutions - Recommendations, Amendments to Parliamentary Resolutions, Discussions and Reports, Awareness raising among INGO’s and politicians

- INGO Conference Recommendation on “Gender based violence as a political weapon”
- INGO Position paper on “Climate change and Human Rights” prepared by the working group on climate change for which an addendum is requested on Gender aspects.
- Adopted Amendment to Parliamentary Resolution on Situation in Tunisia
- Adopted Amendment to Parliamentary Resolution on Situation in Syria
- Adopted Amendments to Parliamentary Resolution on “Prostitution, Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Europe”
- Several contributions to Parliamentary Reports & discussions a.o. on Tunisia/Syria/Egypt

In the Netherlands Anje is supported by an international working group of the Dutch IAW Affiliate Vrouwenbelangen and the Dutch Gender Platform Wo=men and she is a member of the NAP 1325 Working Group and its MENA subgroup on Middle East and Northern Africa, whereas Febe Otten assisted in writing reports.

Anje is convinced that without the participation of men, gender equality will never be reached. She tries to involve men in her activities and works with the International Organisation MenEngage.

THE FREELY CONSTITUTED EQUALITY GROUP AT THE CoE (FCEG)

About 1/3 of its members are male. This group meets 4 to 6 times yearly. Apart from the specific topics (see below), it has discussed how the INGO representatives can contribute more effectively to the work of the politicians of the Council of Europe and how the INGO Conference can reach its full potential and what is needed. See under INGO Conference below.

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 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and urge them to implement these.
The website >www.coe.int< provides information on CoE policies and activities. Each of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe have an appointed Gender Expert in their Government who communicate directly with the Gender Expert Group

of the CoE. These National Governmental Gender Experts can be contacted for consultation.

2. They can promote the ratification, implementation and monitoring of conventions, Trafficking. Only 5 of our European Affiliates's countries have so far ratified. So there is a lot to do.
Anje has made available example letters in English and French to be used to promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.
The CoE Parliamentarian Network Women Free from Violence has in each of the 47 member States a Contact Parliamentarian, who is available for NGO's to work with. The CoE has offered to assist in organising seminars for Parliamentarians and Politicians on the issue. For further action see below under Violence against Women.
3. They can take part in the ongoing campaign to combat sexual exploitation of children with its Lazarotte Convention. Again there exist a Network of Contact Parliamentarians with members in 47 countries, who are available for cooperation on the national and local level.
4. They can raise awareness of these issues and Conventions, including in the media. Recently it is announced that the 25th of each month should become an VAW action day.
5. They can make shadow reports of their government's reports as done for CEDAW. Governments do report on several CoE treaties such as the Social Charter, the Convention on Trafficking and on the Istanbul Convention. Shadow reports are welcome.
6. Find a case to file a complaint under the Social Charter on Unequal pay for Equal work.
Recently the Social Charter's Committee renewed, on IAW's request, IAW's listing as a INGO allowed to lodge a collective complaint under the Social Charter. See below under Equal pay for Equal work.
7. 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. On the website you will find his agenda: which countries he will visit when: UK in October 2015.
8. Assist in updating the IAW Publication on Wishes, Demands and Priorities of National and Regional Women's Organisations in the MENA Region. See below under Gender-perspectives in Democratic and Political Processes.



DEMOCRACY

- The IAW Congress in September 2013 in London adopted a Resolution on the CoE World Forum for Democracy in which the IAW named the continuing underrepresentation of women speakers in those fora as unacceptable. This resolution was sent to the CoE Secretary-General and he responded with a letter saying that he was aware of the problem. To our delight the final program of the World Forum in November 2013 suddenly included more women, particularly on places of cancellation of speakers. At the CoE we are continuing to press this point for the annual World Forum for Democracy.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. Preventing and Combating Violence against Women is one of the priority themes of the CoE. The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the **Istanbul Convention**, is declared by the UN as the most comprehensive so far. The IAW Congress resolution on the Istanbul Convention recognises this and has been made known by IAW Representatives to the CoE Parliamentarians. The convention came into effect on the 1st of August 2014.

2. **After ratification it is the monitoring of the implementation** which is important to follow, first of all on the national level and secondly on the international level. The monitoring will be done by the expert group (GREVIO), which has been appointed in May 2015 by the Committee of State Parties and will meet in September 2015 to decide on the rules and mechanism. At the CoE in Strasbourg we promote the involvement of NGO's in GREVIO's work and the appointment of an INGO Representative on the Committee of State Parties as is done for the Trafficking Convention.

IAW Affiliates and Associates can take part in this monitoring process at the national level and may send information to GREVIO; they are encouraged to keep the IAW Representatives at the CoE informed, so that they can take this up at that level.

3. We also advocate to get the national news media involved particularly around the 25th of each month. During one of the sessions in Strasbourg there was a hearing during which five stories of female victims who did not survive domestic violence were read by actors. These stories are very effective and available to be used in national campaigns to raise awareness of the problem and the necessity of the implementation of the convention.
4. PACE adopted a report and a Resolution 2054 (2015) on equal access to justice including for victims of gender-based violence.
5. More systematic collection of data on VAW is the next issue for the CoE Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence. The results of a recent EU wide survey on domestic violence was presented by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency

in the PACE Committee on Equality. The survey was held among 42000 women in 28 countries and the results are shocking, 20-30% of women have experienced acts of domestic violence; see publication on (http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-results-apr14_en.pdf).

6. Further reports under preparation are
 - Promoting best practices in tackling VAW
 - Protecting women against violence in the armed forces
 - Female genital Mutilation

PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING

The CoE Parliamentary Assembly 2014 report on the subject (doc. 13446) is a balanced report and it is recommended to read it. Although it acknowledges that some women do choose prostitution by their free will, they constitute a small minority. It concludes that the scale effect prevails over the substitution effect when prostitution is legalised, leading to an increase in trafficking. “While each system presents advantages and disadvantages, policies prohibiting the purchase of sexual services are those that are more likely to have a positive impact on reducing trafficking in human beings”

The European Union Parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality also published in 2014 its report on sexual exploitation and prostitution and the impact on gender equality. It also attaches great importance to the link between prostitution and trafficking for sexual exploitation. The report takes a clear stance in favour of the Nordic model of prostitution regulations, presenting it as the most effective tool both to counter trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation and to improve gender equality.

The team of EUROPOL officers working on cases of trafficking amounts to six people. In view of the large and increasing number of cases of trafficking in Europe is this clearly insufficient.

PACE Resolution 1983 (2014) on Prostitution, Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Europe calls for better data collection and more resources for combating trafficking. It proposes for the different legal systems measures, which can be taken leading to a reduction in trafficking, such as raising the minimum age. a ban on advertisement for sexual services. The resolution includes two proposals by Anje : “require that information on the rights of sex workers as well as contact details of anti-trafficking services be clearly displayed in prostitution establishments” and “raise awareness of the need to change attitudes towards the purchase of sexual services and to reduce the demand, including by countering social encouragement, particularly in the workplace”.

Affiliates and Associates and IM are encouraged to use the recommendations in these reports to promote the implementation of these at the local and national level.

THE SOCIAL CHARTER AND EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The Social Charter of the Council of Europe (1961) includes the right of equal pay for equal work. The European Union included in its Rome Treaty (1957) the need for equal pay for equal work.

The UN included this in article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Recently the UN stated that the pay gap worldwide is around 20% and that no country has equal pay. The EU European Commission has recently repeated the necessity to close the still existing pay gap, but states that National Governments are responsible. The EWL has taken this up in its program.

Nevertheless, during a CoE Parliamentary Hearing the proposal was made to appoint more women in high positions as a solution to curb corruption, “which would also be cost effective since women earn less than men”.

In 1996 it became possible to be listed as an INGO which could lodge a collective complaint under the Social Charter. The FCEG at the CoE decided to work on the subject of unequal pay, to find a case, and facilitate the filing of a complaint. They found an organisation willing to provide legal assistance once a case was found, whereas the IAW could be the INGO lodging the collective complaint. In spite of many attempts since 2011 (!) it proved to be difficult if not impossible to find a person or a group who was willing to stand up and complain – being afraid to lose their job.

My Conclusion is that either we find a CASE and lodge a complaint or we stop complaining and stop writing nice statements and policy papers which are never implemented.

GENDERPERSPECTIVES IN POLITICAL & DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

The **objective** of the INGO Taskforce at the CoE, which Anje chairs, is the implementation of UN SC Res. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; to include women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace building and democracy building. Presently we concentrate, first on the situation in the MENA Region, and second on that in the countries of ex-Yugoslavia by supporting the wishes, demands and priorities of women from these regions. In order to learn about these wishes, demands and priorities we talk to our contacts in the region, such as Karama, the Arab Network on Women, Peace and Security, the Libyan Women’s Forum for Peace and the Syrian Women’s Forum for Peace.

We invite representatives of these organisations - Hibaaq Osman, director of Karama, Mouna Ghanem, Coordinator of Syrian Women’s Forum for Peace - to Strasbourg, as speakers for side events and for face to face discussions with politicians.

Anje is one of the 2 authors of the IAW publication “Wishes, Demands and Priorities of National and Regional Women’s Organisations in the MENA Region” in which the results of the gathering of information were published. Our request to place the full text of the IAW publication on IAW’s website has not yet been fulfilled. The necessary up date of the publication is our present goal. It is a huge task for which the IAW Democratic Commission is responsible. The working group Gender-perspectives in Democratic and Political Processes has also adopted this as one of its objectives.

This publication is used to bring the subject to the attention of the parliamentarians of the CoE and other politicians. So far it has resulted in the adoption of amendments to Parliamentary Recommendations and Resolutions, often suggested by Anje Wiersinga as IAW Representative. One example of this are two amendments to the Recommendation on the situation in Syria on the need to address the issue of the widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence. It also led to more discussion on this subject during the following Parliamentary Sessions.

We cooperated with the first Council of Europe South Programme (2012-2014) and will do so with the second Council of Europe South Programme (2015-2017) “Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean” These programmes use the specific CoE experience from the transitional democratic processes in Central and Eastern Europe to apply in the MENA Region. The Programme states: Cooperation will be on demand, whereas principles of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law should be valued. It emphasises as Ms Battaini, Deputy SG said “we do this on demand, we do not judge and we do not impose; it is their way - not our way”

We attend the PACE debates on the issue and I like to mention the adopted PACE Resolution 2012 (2014) and PACE Recommendation 2053 (2014) on Women’s Rights and prospects for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

In April 2015 the IAW nominated together with 6 other International Organisations Salwa Bugaighis for the Vaclav Havel Prize 2015. Salwa Bugaighis was a Human Rights activist and initiator of the Libyan Women’s Forum for Peace. Salwa was murdered in June 2014 in Benghazi for these activities while her husband was taken hostage and never heard of again. The Libyan Women’s Forum for Peace started an International Campaign to end Impunity for such crimes, which we support.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The INGO Conference adopted a Position paper of the Working Group on this subject. A seminar is planned later this year. IAW is requested to produce an appendix on Gender and Climate Change.

INGO CONFERENCE

Anje has spent a lot of time finding candidates for the vacancy of the **Gender Equality Expert**. Rosy Weiss was so kind to put her name forward. In the end Anne Negre was elected in January 2015 and has been very active; she has done more in 3 months than the previous Expert in 3 years.

See the **Gender Equality Expert’s Action Plan 2015 – 2017**. She also organised in June 2015 a side event on the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW.

Due to a severe cut in its budget the INGO Conference and its Commissions meet only twice yearly. It meets at the same time as the Parliamentary Assembly and since 2010 in a different

building. This makes it difficult to attend both the INGO activities and to follow the CoE Parliamentary Assembly.

Moreover the procedures of the INGO Conference take so much time that contributions to the work of the Committee of Ministers and that of the Parliament become irrelevant by the time the procedures have been completed. Moreover the INGO Conference often looked like the old men's club, whose members are forgetting that we are there to influence the other bodies of the CoE : the Committee of Ministers and the PACE. This became obvious to many after a conflict last year on such an issue.

The good news is that a new Standing Committee – the governing body – has been installed and has already taken measures to improve the working methods. In June 2015 members of the Committee of the Ministers were invited for a dialogue with the INGO Conference members on future cooperation. Indeed they were not aware of the INGO Conference meetings and its work.

I have suggested to do something similar next time and invite Parliamentarians of PACE.

The INGO Conference Action Plan 2015-2017 was adopted in June 2015. Although it is a mayor improvement of previous working methods the IAW abstained since – contrary to the official rules - the proposal was not available until a few hours before the discussion and voting and there was no way to consult or inform members of the IAW Board or even to have a discussion among its own IAW Representatives at the CoE.

IAW did vote in favour of the Action Plans of the thematic committees.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY

Gender Equality has been part of CoEurope's Human Rights agenda, as it is of the UN agenda.

There is a dangerous tendency to water this down at all levels and it is important to be aware of this.

At the CoE meeting last June Anje was allowed to bring this forward in the INGO Human Rights Co.

The 1948 UN Declaration on Human Rights mentions four principal aspects of Human Rights:

Dignity – Equality – Freedom – Security.

The 1994 Vienna declaration states Women's Rights are Human Rights.

The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action uses the word Equality after a year long international battle against the replacement of equality with the term Equity.

Equity is again used instead of Equality; it is used by politicians in outcomes of meetings (including those of UN) where most participants are not aware of the implications and later in

other settings it is claimed by those politicians to be “adopted language”; it is also used by NGO’s who are not aware of the danger, such as during the Rio Conference on climate change..

Dignity is used instead of Human Rights. However dignity is only one aspect out of the four mentioned by the UN Declaration of Human Rights and for some people does not include equality. This tendency is one of the mayor discussion points between the EU and the G77 group at the annual UN CSW.

At the CoE Gender Equality work has been transferred from the directorate of Human Rights to the directorate of Democracy. Moreover and worse, it has been included as the third subject with Social Cohesion and Dignity into one Committee (CDDECS).

In the CoE Parliamentary Committees the conservative members are also active. One of these is the chair of one of the Committees. They are proposing reports on borderline SRHR subjects such as the Family, the Rights or the Role of Fathers and are appointed as rapporteur, knowing very well that everybody is in favour of happy families and the involvement of fathers and mothers in the upbringing of their children depending how it is formulated. The most recent example is the report on Surrogate mothers, which might divide the women’s movement and lead to the claim of the pro life right of every foetus and make abortion illegal. It was therefore extremely important to have the right rapporteur appointed and the INGO’s involved. The FCEG will follow this up and report on this.

Ban Ki-moon summarised the problem in his speech to PACE in June 2015 as follows: essential freedoms are curtailed due to raising conservatism and fundamentalism, starting with curtailment of women’s freedoms; the acceptance of these first curtailments of women’s freedom with the excuse of culture or religion will lead to further curtailments, which will be more difficult to stop.

EUROPEAN WOMEN’S LOBBY

Arina Angerman, IAW representative to the EWL



Connecting feminists by social media and sharing information: EWL Policy Committee

During the General Assembly of European Women’s Lobby (EWL) in Lisbon, October 2014, Arina Angerman (Photo 1) from Amsterdam was elected as representative to new Policy Committee / Board of Administration and Marion Böker from Berlin is alternate. Arina continues the representation at EWL

of Joanna Manganara. Joanna was a Board Member of EWL since 2004. European Women’s Lobby is the largest umbrella organization of more than 2000 women’s associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women’s rights and equality between women and men. IAW is one of 10 European-wide non-governmental organizations in the Board of Administration.

A. Share information and spreading knowledge

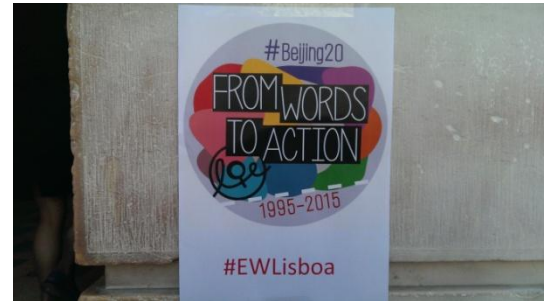
My goal representing IAW at EWL's Policy Committee was to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter or Facebook in order to strengthen the visibility of IAW and EWL at social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week (social media mobilization). These doable social media actions I did every week.

Another way to inform members of IAW is to write a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL. I published five stories in the IAW digital Newsletter:

1. Connecting generations of feminists by social media: IAW and EWL
2. Beijing+20 EWL Economy: gender pay gap and pension pay gap
3. World Wide Women in power and decision-making
4. Women and the Media & Beijing+20
5. Equal education of women and girls. Lifelong learning: eSkills

The content in these stories is linked to

- Ad 1. Celebrating the Beijing+20 event in Lisbon I got inspired by 'Phenomenal Woman'. The author of this beautiful poem is Maya Angelou. Marion Böker and I attended as IAW representatives the launch of EWL's Beijing+20 report 'From Words to Action' in Lisbon (Photo 2)



- Ad 2. Austerity measures have a huge effect on women, both as workers in the public sector and users of public services. Moreover, women bear a disproportionate share of tax burdens, as they use larger portions of their income on food and basis goods for the household. Did you see the European's Women's Lobby (EWL) video-clip "A she-(re)cession. What does austerity mean for women?" (2013)

- Ad 3. The (inter)national communities celebrated worldwide the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action at 08.03.15 My contribution was a blog 'Do World Wide Women connect and share at social media?'

- Ad 4. One of Beijing '95 strategic objectives is 'Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and the new technologies of communication'. Roughly half of social media users are women. Feminist hashtags - # - that have added to global conversations on gender inequality are #Beijing20 #HeForShe and #EverydaySexism. The # symbol, called hashtag, is used to mark keywords or topics in a Tweet.

- Ad 5. Results of the Gender Equality Index research by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). "The EU-28 (member states) achieved an average score of 53 out of 100 points (2012 data) showing that Europe is only halfway towards a gender-equal and cohesive society." The domain of power shows the greatest progress in the Gender Equality Index rising from 31 in 2005 to 40 points in 2012. Concluding: women, compared with men, are underrepresented in political and economic decision-making.

I do not know who read these stories in the IAW digital Newsletters. I received few comments.

B. Important Actions by IAW in EWL policy making

- 1. As a follow up of EWL Beijing+20 Report IAW by Marion Böker, Vice-President for IAW European Membership, and in agreement with IAW President Joanna Manganara and Arina supported and signed the written EWL Statement for CSW 59 2014.10.21

- 2. By mail IAW gave three times points of reflection and feedback on the internal Developing Strategic Framework of EWL. Out of mail 2015.05.25:

* "IAW misses role of tax evasion & buying (small) arms on public spending in times of austerity. Women bear a disproportionate share of tax burdens, as they use larger portions of their income on food and basic goods for the household."

* "How many members of the more than 2000 organisations EWL is representing are digital migrants? How many - % - of the 21.000 likes at Facebook or 5.000 followers at Twitter are active members of these organizations?"

Since '95 these members – as within IAW – learned how to use internet and e-mail. In EWL Draft 'We will need to strengthen our capacities for strategic learning ...' Is this capacity building inclusive of lifelong learning of new digital skills / eSkills by women over 45 and 65?"

- 3. Adopted proposed emergency motion by IAW in EWL General Assembly on 2015.05.31. Title 'Banning of small arms must be part of European Year on Combating Violence Against Women.'

"Violence against women (VAW) is the most widespread violation of women's human rights: one out of three women is a victim of sexual and/or physical violence in the EU. VAW is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality. The most unsafe place for women and girls is at home. Small arms like knives (which are classified as small arms), pistols and rifles are easy to buy and conceal. They give a sense of power to a partner, ex-partner, family member or acquaintance and are threats to the safety of women and girls. Preventive measures saves states and civil society a great deal of money!"

This motion was seconded by Coordination of Greek Women NGOs for the EWL, Dutch Council of Women (NVR), Hungarian Women's Lobby, Czech Women's Lobby and Malta Confederation of Women's Organisations (MCWO).

During the EWL General Assembly I got not nice to know information about Finland = the gun country in Europe; Scotland first question in risk analysis: does he has a weapon (gun/rifle) in his position; Serbia #1 cause of femicide / femicide is by small arms. And very, very important No European Year to Combating Violence Against Women in 2016!

C. Plan / concrete doable actions for the coming year

My plan is to continue social media mobilization to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter or Facebook in order to strengthen the visibility of IAW and EWL on social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week. And to inform members of IAW by writing a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL in every IAW digital Newsletter. One other doable action is writing a blog – at least four times in the next year.

As representative of IAW in EWL Policy Committee I want to focus on capacity building / lifelong learning

- 50/50 parity of F/M at all levels of political and economic decision-making positions within EU (members) = improve the gender equality in decision-making / highlighting overrepresentation of men in panels.

Goal: 10 weeks as part of social media mobilization in support of EWL Work Programme for 2016 'To position women at the heart of political, social and economic participation and decision-making'.

- Raise funding in order to improve the social media skills (i. a. Facebook) of the extended board members of the women's associations of IAW who are represented in EWL by using IAW website. **Goal** \$ 1200 or 1000 Euro's in support of EWL Work Programme for 2016 'To raise more, better and sustainable funding for women'.

- Lifelong learning of new social media eSkills by extended board members of IAW and their member associations. Their social media skills have to improve in order to remain agents of change in political decision-making!! And enhancing eSkills can improve women's economic independence and diminish violence against women.

Goal: 10 weeks as part of social media mobilization a.o. around International Day to End Violence Against Women and EWL's campaign A Europe free from violence against women in November 2015.



I want to thank Joanna Manganara, Marion Böker, Lene Pind, Joke Sebus and Anje Wiersinga. They supported me by sending & answering mails, by listening & advising in Skype / telephone conversations and by stimulating to act: from Words to Action!

Nice to know information in links

* European Women's Lobby new website <http://www.womenlobby.org/?lang=en> EWL has 22.913 likes (2015.08.28) at Facebook. You can register for the bi-monthly EWL newsletter with feminist news from around Europe and beyond!

* EWL Video-clip '[A she-\(re\)cession. What does austerity mean for women in Europe?](#)' (2013)

* 4 Blogs at <http://www.angermaneuropa.blogspot.com> got a total of 1775 pageviews [2015.08.28]

1. Connecting feminists by social media; IAW Board Meeting, EWL Policy Committee and #Beijing20 (October 2014) Pageviews 854

2. Women's economic independence and austerity measures: Economy #Beijing20 & EWL (February 2015) Pageviews 488

3. Do World Wide Women connect and share at social media? #Beijing20 #IWD2015 (March 2015) Pageviews 235

4. Equal representation of women in (Online) Media? #Beijing20 (May 2015) Pageviews 198

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT REPORT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT ICC



Deirdre Exell Pirro, IAW Member, Italy

IAW representative to the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) since 2005

On September 18, 2014, the International Criminal Court (ICC) presented its Tenth Annual Report to the United Nations, covering the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014. According to the Report, during this period, the ICC was currently dealing with 21 cases in 8 situations at different stages of proceedings whilst the Office of the Prosecutor was carrying out 8 different investigations and judicial proceedings related to the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur (Sudan), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Libya, Mali and Uganda. It was also continuing to gather information and conduct preliminary examination activities in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Comoros, the "Gaza Freedom Flotilla" incident, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Nigeria and Ukraine.

Among the former, a landmark decision was reached on March 7, 2014 when Trial Chamber II at the ICC convicted Germain Katanga, the alleged commander of the Force de résistance patriotique en Ituri (FPRI) in the Congo as an accessory to one crime against humanity (murder) and four war crimes (murder, attacking a civilian population, destruction of property, and pillaging). On May 23, 2014, Katanga was sentenced to 12 years in prison which will be reduced by approximately seven years, the time he has already spent in the ICC detention centre before and during his trial (since October 2007). On June 25, 2014, Germain Katanga dropped his appeal against the judgment and sentence against him which makes the trial chamber decision final.

The Court has also so far issued 30 warrants of arrest against individuals, with nine suspects or accused persons already in custody. Nine summonses to appear have been outstanding since 2002. Of the cases before the Court, three trial verdicts were delivered and appeals are pending in two of them. One verdict, that in the Katanga case, became final in June 2014. Six cases (involving seven persons) are at the trial preparation or trial stage, and in two cases, confirmation of charges proceedings are expected to come to a close in 2014.

There 12 arrest warrants still outstanding:

- (1) Uganda: Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okut Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen, since 2005;
- (2) Democratic Republic of the Congo: Sylvestre Mudacumura, since 2012;
- (3) Darfur: Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, since 2007; Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir, two warrants, since 2009 and 2010; and Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein, since 2012;
- (4) Libya: Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi since 2011;
- (5) Côte d'Ivoire: Simone Gbagbo, since 2012;

(6) Kenya: Walter Osapiri Barasa, since 2013.

It is a matter of considerable concern that some of the summonses to appear have been outstanding since 2002 and that some of these arrest warrants have been outstanding since 2005. This tends to indicate that the problem of full State cooperation with the ICC still exists and must be addressed.

The Court, during the reporting period, received 3,106 applications from victims for participation and 2,524 for reparations. Nineteen defence teams are working before the Court, 14 of which are funded by the legal aid scheme, and another 24 teams of legal representatives of victims, of which 16 are funded by the legal aid scheme.

No new State ratified the Rome Statute during this period but the Ukraine, a non-State party, accepted the jurisdiction of the Court.

Another promising step was also taken in that, for the first time in 2014, on the basis of the 2006 Agreement between the International Criminal Court and the European Union on cooperation and assistance, a joint EU-ICC round table was established to consult and to ensure regular exchange on matters of common interest, including cooperation, complementarity, diplomatic support and mainstreaming, as well as public information and outreach.

Recently, two documents have focused on gender issues and the ICC which are of particular interest to IAW and its members. They are:

1) The Policy Paper on Sexual and Gender-based Crimes, June 2014, by the Office of the Prosecutor

<http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/otp/OTP-Policy-Paper-on-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Crimes--June-2014.pdf>

2) The Gender Report Card on the International Criminal Court, 2014: Anniversary Edition

<http://www.iccwomen.org/documents/Gender-Report-Card-on-the-ICC-2014.pdf>

The Policy paper looks at general policy issues, describes the regulatory framework of the Court, reviews preliminary examination, investigations, prosecutions cooperation and finally institutional developments.

The effective investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes, is part of the Office of the Prosecutor's key strategic goals in its Strategic Plan 2012-2015. It is committed 'to integrating a gender perspective and analysis into all of its work, being innovative in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes, providing adequate training for staff, adopting a victim-responsive approach in its work, and paying special attention to staff interaction with victims and witnesses, and their families and communities'.

As part of this, the Prosecutor's Office also recognises the crucial role that civil society plays in preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based crimes and seeks to support and strengthen cooperation with these organisations, particularly those which have experience in documenting sexual and gender-based crimes and working with victims of these crimes. Particular emphasis is placed on the roles played by the Gender and Children Unit (GCU) and the Special Gender Adviser to the Prosecutor in enhancing its institutional capacity to investigate and prosecute sexual and gender-based crimes.

Secondly, on December 10, 2014, the tenth Gender Report Card on the ICC for 2014, corresponding with the ten year anniversary of the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice was published.

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice works with more than 6,000 grass roots partners, associates and members across multiple armed conflicts and has in-country focal points and offices in strategic locations. The purpose of its Gender Report Card is to assess the implementation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of the Rome Statute, Rules of Procedure and Evidence (RPE) and Elements of Crimes, and in particular the gender mandates they embody.

The Report is long and very detailed with invaluable final recommendations for the ICC relating to the activities of the State Parties, the Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Registry.

Forgive me if I repeat the plea I made in my IAW Report on the ICC last year because IAW and its members can make a difference. If you as an IAW member organisation have direct experience of the issues within the ICC's mandate, you can provide the ICC's Prosecutor's Office with that information. If not and your country is not State Party to the Rome Statute, you can strongly campaign and lobby for it to become one so that the iniquitous impunity gap can finally be closed. If you are not sure where your country stands, you can find out on the Coalition for the International Criminal Court website at: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=home>. If your country is a State Party, you can promote the Court by providing your members with up-to-date information on its work – just as IAW does and will continue to do.

COMMISSIONS

Climate Change

Natalia Kostus, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, Board Member, Representative to the United Nations, International Alliance of Women (IAW),

As the Convener of the Climate Change Commission, following my mandate from IAW Congress in London and IAW Resolution XI on Women's Rights and Climate Change, I am pursuing the observer admission with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for IAW. Last year, I have successfully prepared and submitted the application with the approval of Joanna Mangamara, IAW President. I have to report that this year our application is delayed and I am currently working with Jessika Kehl-Lauff, IAW

Executive Vice-President, to obtain necessary documents from the government of Switzerland to move forward with the UNFCCC and obtain observer admission later this year. Because of this situation, I was not able to register any IAW representatives to the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris (30 November – 11 December, 2015).



As the Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, I am focusing on IAW preparations for and leading the IAW delegation to the Paris COP, where the Paris Agreement on Climate Change will be adopted. I covered and contributed to intense UNFCCC negotiations leading to Paris deal. I am working with Renée Gérard, Monique Bouaziz, and Danielle Levy, IAW Representatives to UNESCO in Paris and Commission Members to obtain accreditation for IAW delegates, as part of a government delegation or one of our civil society organization partners and joining French NGOs in Paris.

As the Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, this year I am focusing on developing an IAW program on sustainable development and climate change, including conducting informal consultations with Commission Members and partners. Both outcomes of 2015 on climate change and sustainable development will have significant impact on the future of women's rights and international development. I plan to conduct preliminary consultations on some possible actions for IAW and IAW member organizations and gather first-round of input during the International Meeting in Paris, 7-10 October, 2015. Specifically, lead a discussion on how IAW and IAW member organizations can have an active role in the processes moving forward, exchange information on how IAW member organizations already incorporate or would like to incorporate issues of sustainable development and climate change, and how can IAW lead and support member organizations. I would like for this program to be adopted during the IAW Congress in 2016 and to have the possibility of attracting funding in the future.

Furthermore, I am contributing to a women's project developed jointly with a media corporation and I am hoping that this project will make more visible women as actors of change on climate change and sustainable development. I conducted analysis and elaborated recommendations for Joanna Mangamara, IAW President, including research and considerations on the media corporation: background, leadership, partners, political affiliations, and other projects; as well as, strategic considerations on this partnership and what it would mean for IAW moving forward. I also provided recommendations on negotiations with the media corporation and I contacted, applied, and conducted extensive follow up with several international firms and a nonprofit to find pro-bono partnership. None of the contacts were able to provide assistance for free. I also contributed my suggestions for the new IAW logo.

UN Climate Summit 2014: Catalyzing Action

UN Climate Summit 2014, 23 September 2014, New York: Hosted by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the Summit brought together over 100 Heads of State and 800 leaders from government, private sector, and civil society. The Summit laid solid foundation for successful negotiations under the UNFCCC, catalyzing concrete commitments for action on the ground, and

raising political support necessary to reach a universal agreement on climate change in 2015. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stressed: “Climate change is a defining issue of our age, of our present. Our response will define our future...That is why I have asked you to be here today. Thank you for your leadership. I’m asking you to lead.” Ahead of the Summit, the People’s Climate March in New York on 21 September 2014, gathered 400,000 women and men from all over the world. On the same weekend, 2646 climate change events were organized in 162 countries, including marches in Kathmandu, Melbourne, Sydney, Jakarta, and London. Mary Robinson, called the people’s climate justice movement “a revolution,” and called on us to keep it up, because political leaders respond to pressure from the people. IAW along with women’s groups marched in solidarity to spark a momentum for climate change action, and now we have to keep this passion for change and to make sure that leaders keep their promises for COP 20 in Lima later this year and COP 21 in Paris in 2015.

Women leaders discussed in roundtables—using traditional learning circles methodology—their commitment to ambitious climate action and gender equality, recognizing the power that women have, taking ownership and responsibility, demanding accountability and access to decision making. “Women need to be empowered, it means that they need to be at the decision making table. Women are working on the grass-roots level, where on the daily basis they are facing impacts of climate change, so there is no viable solution if they are not at the decision making table” said former Prime Minister of Senegal Aminata Touré. One of the thematic discussions during the Climate Summit, “Voices from the Climate Front Lines”, Co-Chaired by President of Bolivia H.E. Evo Morales and Prime Minister of Tuvalu H.E. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, focused on giving voice to women, young people, children, and indigenous people, highlighting their leadership for climate solutions and resilience. Organized by UN Women, UNFPA, and UNICEF, the session included young women panelists and agents of change from Nepal, Solomon Islands, and Uganda.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Negotiations 2014-2015

I have been closely covering the UNFCCC negotiations, including COP 20 in Lima. The negotiations process on the new universal agreement on climate change to be adopted at COP 21 in Paris at the end of 2015 started in Durban in 2012 and has been especially intense this past year, following the Lima-Paris Action Agenda. The agreement is expected, which after the failure of Copenhagen agreement on climate change in 2009 will be already a huge success; but the final ambition and precision in goals set remain to be seen and it is likely to be non-binding and include voluntary commitments. However, given the revolutionary movement around climate change since 2014, it is likely that the level of ambition will improve over time, the agreement will be long-lasting, and will lay the foundation for a credible process and more accelerated climate actions in the future. The agreement is set to: cover both: mitigation and adaptation, as well as, means of implementation (finance, technologies, capacity building); be transparent in actions and support; include periodic stock-taking of aggregate efforts (every five years) and updates of nationally-determined contributions (every five to ten years); capture the 2°C or 1.5°C temperature limit goal; reaffirm sustainable development goals; ensure that there is no backtracking that the strong action by some countries will not result in weak action by others; reflect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in

the light of different national circumstances; mobilize the necessary means of implementation to assist developing countries, with clarity on fulfilling the 100 billion USD goal by 2020. The latest round of UNFCCC negotiations resulted in a mandate to produce the first comprehensive draft of the Paris agreement on climate change that will present clear options and ways forward on all elements of the agreement and the decisions that will operationalize it from 2020.

UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima (December 2014) concluded with a strong outcome on gender equality, a decision that further strengthened UNFCCC mandate on gender, establishing Lima work programme on gender. The Lima COP decision references CEDAW and Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, striving to achieve gender-responsive climate policy, advancing gender balance, and improving the participation of women in delegations and all the bodies established under the Convention. The Lima work programme on gender will support training and awareness-raising for female and male delegates on issues related to gender balance and climate change, and building the skills and capacity of female delegates to effectively participate in UNFCCC meetings (negotiation skills, legal drafting, and strategic communication). Most importantly, the Lima work programme on gender establishes a UNFCCC process to clarify “gender-responsive climate policy” from an implementation perspective, and improve the development and effective implementation of gender-responsive climate policy. Furthermore, the Lima outcome requests the UNFCCC Secretariat to appoint a senior gender focal point and organize a series of in-session workshops on gender climate policy, including in years 2015 and 2016 on mitigation, technology development and transfer, adaptation, capacity building and training, and other themes in the future. The Gender Day during COP 20 in Lima (December 9 2014) included high level dialogue and many events organized by women’s groups and other stakeholders that featured women’s leadership role in climate action.

Commission on Status of Women 59th Session (CSW 59): Beijing+20

Ahead of the CSW 59, I wrote a contribution on women and climate change to the IAW Recommendations for the ECE NGO/CSW Forum Geneva Beijing+20 Review, working with Joanna Mangamara, Rosy Weiss, Lyda Verstegen, Esther Suter, Margunn Bjørnholt, Torild Skard, Gudrun Haupter, and Jessika Kehl-Lauff (IAW).

During the CSW 59, I focused on applying commitments from Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to sustainable development and climate change. The outcome of CSW 59, political declaration, recognized the importance of Beijing implementation, and opportunities on gender equality in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Women’s Movement events at the CSW 59: UN Women Planet 50-50 by 2030 celebration (with Excellencies Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Hilary Clinton, among others) and the New York City march for gender equality were a strong call to action. Global leaders’ meeting on gender equality is planned on 26 September 2015 during the High Level United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, when the 2030 Agenda will be adopted.

I moderated an IAW and El Karama March 11 CSW 59 NGO Forum event: “Deeds- No Words: Implementing UN SC Resolution 1325 and CEDAW: Women- Peace- Security,” organized by Anje Wiersinga and Rosy Weiss, IAW Commissions Conveners on Democracy and Peace. I elaborated draft recommendations based on the presentations and discussions to inform the second IAW and El Karama event, co-hosted with the government of Austria.

Furthermore, during the CSW 59, I contributed to meetings and events organized by IAW and partners, including the Women's Major Group, All India Women's Conference, and Rural Women's Network Nepal, among others.

Recommendations:

- A set of recommendations for IAW to elaborate a program on sustainable development and climate change will be presented during the IAW International Meeting in Paris, 7-10 October 2015

Health Commission

Gudrun Haupter, Convener

My report wishes to show that during the last 12 months the convener and commission members have been active at various levels:

A. The UN level

B. The International NGOs/Civil society level

C. The National level

D. News items for IAW publications

E. The internal level - Communication with commission members

A) The UN level

1.1 Prepared by Seema Uplekar and myself, we made a statement at the World Health Assembly, WHA, in May 2015 on "20 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Chapter 5, Women and Health". It mentioned the outcome document of Beijing +5 which corroborated the PfA everybody knows about (or should know). Our topic was once more "Women's Reproductive Health Rights". Lacking achievements in many countries and uneven progress made for mixed results. We included sexual violence and asked for resolute action on the part of governments and civil society.

During the WHA, commission members Helene Sackstein, Seema Uplekar, Mary Balikungeri and I met and discussed health and IAW matters.

1.2 Encouraged by past president Lyda Verstegen, I endorsed on behalf of IAW the Indicator statement of PMNCH (*Maternal, Newborn and Child Health*) "Health and the next global development agenda placing healthy women, children and adolescents at the heart of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Indicator Framework". The Framework was the outcome of a Working group of approximately 40 partners working across constituencies and sectors towards improving women's, children's and adolescents' health. The Indicator statement was made at the Third International Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa.

It aims at streamlining advocacy for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health indicators

for inclusion in the Post 2015 framework.

B) The International NGOs/Civil society level

1.1 A written statement on the “BPfA critical area of concern: WOMEN and HEALTH”, for the ECE NGO/CSW Forum 3-5 November 2014 in Geneva, on the Beijing + 20 Review had been drafted by Commission member Soon-Young Yoon. The statement was submitted by IAW and MWIA (*Medical Women's International Association*). The statement deals with health topics of crucial interest to women in the ECE Region and elsewhere:

- . Universal health coverage (*for example, the latecomer USA*)
- . HIV/AIDS - differences among the disadvantaged
- . Non-communicable diseases - the missing target.

The text is on pages 43 to 46 in the 2014 Reports brochure, and I highly recommend reading it, in particular "the Recommendations".

1.2 At the request of the Executive, I drafted the text on Health of the IAW Recommendations for the above Forum:

- . All women worldwide, including girls, should be ensured access to family planning in order to reduce preventable mortality and morbidity.
- . Countries with restrictive abortion legislation should lift the ban, or at least allow for exceptions, including social grounds.
- . Women who resort to unsafe abortions should receive post-abortion medical care as needed.
- . Emergency contraception should be available and affordable.
- . Women must have choices!

1.3 NGO Forum for Health, Geneva: As a follow-up to last year's presentation on the violation of health and human rights discrimination of intersex children, the Forum Newsletter included my information that WHO is expected to no longer classify physical characteristics of intersexuality as DSD - disorders of sex development but as differences. This was a crucial request of my presentation to the Forum.

C) The national level

1.1 Proposal for two press releases of IAW member Deutscher Frauenring e. V.

Child marriage must end. (International Day of the Girl child, October 11, 2014). A French and English translation is on www.womenalliance.org.

FGM/C must be banned unconditionally. (International day of Zero tolerance for female genital mutilation, February 6, 2015). This PR focused on non-African countries, e.g. the Autonomous Kurdish Region of Iraq, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

1.2 A letter to the editor in response to a German newspaper's article on the UN World Population Day, annually observed on July 11, reaffirmed the human right of family planning. It encouraged activities, events and information to help make this right a reality throughout the world.

The article focused on the well-known, long-term effect of women having less children if they get a chance to go to school but left out the importance of getting access to family planning. My letter put the accent on the immediate benefits of birth spacing for the health of the mother and child and on the cost-effectiveness of closing the unmet need gap of 220 million women who do not wish to become pregnant, but for various reasons, have no access to modern contraceptives.

A major new UN report finds that in order to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger, an extra investment between 2016 and 2030 of 267 billion US dollars per year is needed; whereas it would cost an estimated 4 billion US dollars per year to help 220 million women have only the children they want. This sum includes the overhead cost level.

D) News Items for IAW publications

1.1 Universal Health Coverage, UHC and adolescents (from the WHO bulletin 10-2014)

Excerpts:

Adolescence is often a period of experimentation and of risk taking. Mortality for those aged 10 to 19 years is now greater than that in children aged 1 to 10. Though it is impossible to quantify the extent of unmet need for adolescent health services on the whole, we know that adolescent girls who want to avoid pregnancy are more than twice as likely to have an unmet need for modern contraception than women aged 20 to 49 years. Each year an estimated 6.1 million unintended pregnancies and 2.5 million unsafe abortions occur in adolescents in low and middle



income countries - not to mention risks such as fistulae which hit adolescents giving birth at an early age much more frequently than adult women. In countries without functioning insurance systems it is the poor segment of the young population which is left behind. In addition, an unsupportive environment may bar adolescent women and men from getting the services they need.

Illustration based on artwork from ©iStockphoto.com/Julian Bastide

1.2 Underuse of modern methods of contraception and undesired pregnancies

15 million unwanted pregnancies per year could be avoided in 35 developing countries according to a study published in February 2015 in the scientific magazine *Human Reproduction*. Such pregnancies increase the risks of maternal deaths and morbidity. Poor and less educated women are most hit, they are most likely to lack access to modern methods of contraception. However, the most frequent reasons quoted for not using them were fear of side effects, religious opposition to their use, and underestimation of the risk of getting pregnant.

The WHO fact sheet with recommendations to governments says the requirement to get permission from the husband or any third party should be eliminated. This is of particular importance to sexually active adolescents. Emergency contraception is included in the modern methods to avoid an undesired pregnancy.

1.3 Civil registration and vital statistics

At a conference in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, the ministers committed to systematically document the vital events over the next ten years. While Lyda Verstegen advocates at the Human Rights Council for the IAW Congress Resolution, "The invisible child in the world", the issue impacts on the health and wellbeing of girls and women too.

1.4 International Family planning day September 26, 2015

I proposed IAW write a letter to Melinda Gates who co-hosted the London Family Planning Summit in 2012 and was one of the invited speakers at this year's World Health Assembly. The object of the letter will be to congratulate the Co-chair of the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation for her decision to devote the rest of her life to improve access to family planning all over the globe. The Foundation invests heavily into progress for long-term solutions. The letter has yet to be drafted, and I hope it gets off in time on behalf of IAW.

- E) The tradition of writing **Letters to the Commission members** was continued as a means of providing information and of asking members for country information.

Finally here are Recommendation to member organizations and individual members:

- Form alliances or join existing alliances in your country if you wish to lobby for the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls, or for any other health issue. Health rights are part of Women's rights and IAW as a Women's rights organization could and should make its voice better heard that way.
- The discussions on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda often linked Women's health and Gender equality, and this offers plenty of opportunities for IAW to become involved right from the start.

Commission on Feminist Economics

Margunn Bjørnholt, convenor

The main activity of the commission has been contributing to the Beijing+20 process, including the planning, funding and hosting of side events on the financial crisis, the global recession, and women, and feminist economics during the 58th and 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

Gender responsive budgeting – knowledge production and implementation

We submitted two abstracts and proposed an event on feminist economics at the ECE NGO/CSW FORUM in Geneva 3-6 November. Joanna Manganara and Margunn Bjørnholt participated as panelists in a round table on women and the economy. and Margunn Bjørnholt contributed in retrospect to the input text that was sent from the meeting to UN Women/the CSW.

Side event CSW 2015 Why the Future of Economics and Economic Development Must Be Feminist

Marilyn Power, professor of economics at Sarah Lawrence College, BA, PhD, University of California-Berkeley, presented *Social provisioning as a starting point for feminist economics* Jennifer Olmsted, Professor of Economics and Director of Middle East studies at Drew University gave a talk on *Challenging the Humanitarian/Development Divide Through a Feminist Economics Lens*. Edith Kuiper's presentation was titled *Women and Gender are Core to the Field*. Kuiper is Assistant Professor at the State University of New York at New Paltz. Regrettably she was caught in traffic and arrived late. The side-event was well visited and the presentations stimulated vivid discussions among the participants.



An article on the event was published on IAW's and NKFs websites. The side-event will be followed by a special issue of International Women's News on feminist economics.

Constitution Committee

Lyda Verstegen, convener

Lene Pind and I spent 4 days halfway between our countries, in Berlin, to talk about the Constitution. The result is in the IM package. We felt the need to modernize the language of the objectives of IAW without changing the meaning. We recommend a discussion about the International Meeting.

We sent the results of our work to our committee members for comments.

The bylaws will be changed in accordance with the new wording.

There is a necessity to change the article about dissolution to meet Geneva obligations.

Lene and I took advantage of our presence in Berlin to visit the Deutsche Frauenring. We were most heartily welcomed by Marion Boeker and the staff of FDR.

REGIONS

The Arab Region – Arab League

Prof. Horeya Megahed

The year of 2015 can be called the year of challenges for the Arab women. Many difficulties have encountered conditions and activities of women in the region that hinder, in many cases, the progress made in previous years.

The assassination of Libyan women activists, killing Syrian and Iraqi women by ISIS, increasing numbers of illegal migrant women, and other challenges have stigmatized women's status this year. Nevertheless, Arab women still participate in the public sphere that shed light on this hard reality. Additionally, the regional activities under the Arab League or crossing women organizations have reflected the continuing efforts for women in the region.

Challenges

- The status of Syrian and Iraqi women this year is a strong stigma in the history of Arab women. The brutal violence by ISIS reached women, reports confirmed killing women in Syrian villages after releasing unjust and illegitimate provisions. The situation with Kurdish women in Iraq is not different. ISIS is killing and raping women. Most alarming and frightening is the news of using captured women, especially Yazadi Kurdish Christians, as concubines and selling them to the fighters. In response to the brutality and unhuman and unprecedented conduct of ISIS, about 7000 Yazadi women were trained as fierce warriors representing Kurdish YPJ and YPG women fighters who were joined by others, especially from Europe. It was reported on March 19, 2015 the killing of a 19 year old Ivona Hoffman from Germany, as the first European female fighter to die for this humanitarian cause.
- Moreover, the hard condition of some Syrian refugee women in Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan is misery; some of them are forced into marriage, and reports mentioned that some are accusing working in brothels. It is worth noting that the UN is making great relief efforts to the needy refugees in Egypt, providing them with coupons to cover substances as well as providing humanitarian medical aid. Meanwhile, the Egyptian government is exempting students at all levels from any tuition and providing assistance to those men or women who develop their own business.
- To escape from the aforementioned conditions, some of Syrian Women with their families decided to take the track of illegal migration. However, this track is full of risks that cause their death at European shores, or the brutal treatment at the borders.
- The war in Yemen has increased in women suffering through displacement, the effort they do to reach food and water and keep their children surviving. Therefore, the Yemeni Women's Federation and civil organizations and activists protested in July 2015 in front of UN Mission

in Sana'a demanding to stop the military aggression and to open, transparent international investigation into the crimes of aggression against women, children and unarmed civilians.

- In Mauritania, the women trafficking is still an important issue, but it is masked by domestic work. That led "l'Association des Femmes Chefs de Famille" to organize a march to highlight forms of exploitation occurred to 200 young women.
- The economic challenges hit Tunisian women as the percentage of unemployed women has increased. On the other side, under the occasion of Women Day in March, 12 women organizations, including Tunisian General Labor Union, and the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women, issued a statement against government hesitation in active implementation of constitution articles of women's equality. Politically, the absence of women in local level due to the president selects that chose men only, led to anger and opposition of Tunisian women activists.
- In March 2015 on the occasion of releasing the status of women around the world, the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) adopted a resolution singling out Israel in its report - titled "situation of and assistance to Palestinian Women"- for the treatment of Palestinian women. It refers to that the Israeli occupation causes the deterioration of Palestinian women's status due to structured violence and discrimination, and that hinder any efforts to improve the status of Palestinian Women and their development. This report contributes to passing the CSW resolution of ranking Israel as the world's most violator country of Women's rights. E/CN.6/2015/5.

Lighting Actions

- The Arab Women Forum (Kuwait) launched in July 2015, the first specialized printed newspaper in women's issues. The newspaper aims to cover various women cases and challenges across the Arab region in addition to set a partnership with regional women organizations and women- based think tanks.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched a strategy for the empowerment of Emirati women 2015-2021.
- On contrary to migration disasters of Syrian families on European shores, the General Union of Sudanese Women with other Sudanese institutions organized the 13rd forum of migrant Sudanese women in August 2015 under the theme of "the migrant women support the dialogue and development". Participants discussed the current status and challenges of migrant women and the possibility of conducting economic projects support them. Additionally, providing health support for children.
- On January 2015, the Algerian government passed a law of creating an Alimony Fund of divorced women. The fund aims to protect minor children and divorced women incubator through the allocation of a sum of money in case of abandoning the ex-husband to pay alimony and he has to repay the fund later.
- Furthermore, the Algerian Parliament approved in March 2015 the amendments of the law against sexual harassment of women. The amendments include increasing custodial sentence of one year to 20 years in the right of "all of the latest deliberately injured or beaten by her husband," while confined to life imprisonment in the case of the death of the wife as a result of violence. While the sentences of sexual harassment are ranging from two to six months

imprisonment, as well as fines. In Morocco, participation will be increased obviously (from: 12% to 27 in municipalities and from 2.9% to 37% in regions).

- Another forward step was taken by the Moroccan government in April 2015 that increased the percentage of women representatives in the Supreme Scientific Council, which is considered the highest religious institution in the country.
- In Saudi Arabia, women will participate for the first time in municipal election that will be held in December 2015. Saudi women have the right to vote and run the election. Therefore, civil society organizations have organized different workshops for candidate women.
- In Egypt, the NCW, the Egyptian Women Union and different NGO's have been working seriously for training and preparing women candidates for the elections that will take place on October 18th, 2015. According to the constitution and the electoral law women guarantee 75 seats (representing about 12% of the total seats), but the efforts are made for the target of 25%. Needless to say that, with some few exceptions, the percentage of Egyptian Women in Parliament was fluctuating around 2%. Meanwhile, women have a quota of 25% of the seats at the local level according to the constitution. In short, there is a considerable progress in Egyptian women's participation in the representative councils.
- It is obvious that women's empowerment has been taken seriously in Egypt under the new Constitution and the new President. For the first time women have been appointed as Deputy Governors (in Cairo and Alexandria), on Feb.9, 2015.

In July 20, twenty six new female judges swore, in the largest appointment of women to the judiciary since 2007, which brings the number of female judges in Egypt to around eighty. Followed by another win for Egyptian women in the judicial field, the appointment of judge Saly el Saidi as the first female to become Deputy Chairman of the Court of Appeal, which is the peak of the judicial hierarchy in Egypt and finally, the last gain is the appointment of the Judge Ghada el Shahawy as the first woman to become Deputy to the Minister of Justice on the first of September.

- In July 2015- on the occasion of the Biram- many Egyptian initiatives conducted by civil society organizations in participation with the government to pardon all indebted women, pay their debts and create jobs for them.

Arab League efforts and international meetings

- A big International meeting took place in Bibliotheka Alexandria, May 13-15 2015, organized by the Center for Democracy and Social Peace Studies of the Bibliotheka (CDSPS), Women's Business and Development Center (WBDC) of the National Council for Women (NCW), PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG) and UN Women, the theme was about "Egyptian Women Empowerment: the move from the challenge toward strategic implementation". It was in the framework of the National Dialogue Forum, which was launched in 2012 by PWAG with the aim of the democratization process, institutional reforms and women's participation. Prof. Horeya Megahed was invited and she participated actively in the workshops, as well as in the preparatory meeting that preceded the big event in Cairo which was organized by the NCW. It was a chance to refer to IAW and its objectives. The Forum was attended by many dignitaries from all over the world, including Mrs. Ruth Gaby, the Director of the PWAG and the initiator

of the Forum. The emphasis was on action and on suggesting a national strategy that ensures women empowerment in all spheres, especially in decision making levels.

- The UN mission in Libya organized political dialogue forum in April 2015 for Libyan activist women. The forum was held in Tunisia with participation of 40 Libyan women reviewed the draft document that discussed in the Libyan political dialogue meetings in Morocco to end the political and military conflict in the country.
- Djibouti hosted in August 2015 a training course for Somali women on the issue of combating discrimination against women in Somalia, and the application of CEDAW. The representative of Somali government participated in this course; on that occasion, the Minister of Women Development and Human Rights announced that the Somali government aims to release the law criminalizing FGM.
- The Arab Women Organization of the Arab League, with the cooperation of the Ministry of youth and Sports of Egypt, held the first forum for Arab Girls (4-10 August, 2015). The prolonged event took place in Cairo, Ismailia- where the participants had the chance to attend the biggest celebrations of the opening of the Suez Canal on the 6, 08- and finally in Sharm Al-Sheikh. The sessions were on: women and national security, mass media, development and the mechanisms of initiative making and their role in societal development. In addition to several workshops on the different experiences from the Arab Region on women and development.
- In June 2015, the Arab Women Organization and the Department of Women, Family and Childhood (DWFC) in the Arab League in cooperation with UNDP and French Center in Egypt organized a conference about "Women Judges in the Arab World: challenges, obstacles and achievements". The conference discussed the status of women judges and interchanged experiences in the Arab region.
- The Arab League has paid more attention to the status of children this year. In this regard, the DWFC, organized different conferences and workshops discussing various aspects affect children, such as, violence, child rights, orphan children and innovation education. Some of these events were: "workshop for the media to spread the culture of children's rights and combating violence against them (March 2015)"; "the regional workshop on Juvenile justice and children's rights in the Arab world (March 2015)" and "the 5th regional meeting on Protection of children and the elimination of violence against them (June 2015)".
- On international cooperation, the Arab league and the African Union organized in February 2015 the conference of "Strengthening relations between women parliamentarians in the Arab and African regions". And in April 2015, with the Chinese government, the Arab League held the Arab - Chinese Women's Forum that aims to provide a platform of dialogue for the exchange of experiences in the field of political and economic empowerment of women in the two regions in addition to strengthening the role of women and girls in leadership and entrepreneurship.

The Gulf Countries

Shaikha Al Mezen, Union of Kuwaiti Women, Regional Coordinator

This is a very critical year in our area: socially, politically, security situation and financial situation. As you know from daily news the situation in Yemen, Syria and Iraq and Libya are disturbing all Arab countries. It takes our Governments efforts, time and money. We lost victims of young people, children, women, elderly and a number of Arab armies. Beside, the explosions every day in different areas: Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Libya and daily threats from terrorist, this situation found general emotional confusion.

Now the most serious conflict that worries is the Syrian and Iraqi refugees. They are increasing in and out of their countries and all the surrounding countries are not safe. For this reason they find themselves forced to go to Europe. Unfortunately, in Europe they faced with shameful situation, they were strongly rejected, murdered, harmed and this is not expected from friendly European countries. Most of these people are highly educated, rich, mainly business people and they love their country. They already stayed 4 years under the air and ground bombardment. This makes them to head towards safe places.

I wish and ask IAW to do something for them in the European Union and U.S.A. and Canada to receive them safely till their problems are solved. I hope you can help them in some way. However, life does not stop, there are many other events happened this year. I will mention in brief some of them :

- Our Union activities this year is in continuation to the usual activities. We make two charity markets for the orphans and celebrated the international children's day. Also some members attended seminars and lectures in Kuwait.
- The most important women event was in last October when Kuwaiti government hired for the first time 22 women prosecutors, and this is a step to reach Kuwaiti women in judicial field.
- United Arab Emirates took wonderful step when they started training and employing the Police Women in Emirates.
- Kuwaiti Woman "Shaikha Al-Majed" invented writing nails for the blind. This invention is registered and patent in the office of innovation in U.S. It is now presented in the Expo 2015 in Milan. It asks a great interest of the exhibition visitors.
- Kuwaiti government paid several donations all over the world, I select some of them :
 - o In 30/8/2015 donation to Mexican Founder one hundred thousand U.S. dollars to care for orphans and poor children.
 - o In 18/8/2015 Kuwaiti government donated Gaza in Palestine through Onuroa 15 million U.S. dollars to build and renovate schools demolished by the Israeli authorities, to be started in the beginning of next study year.
 - o In 15/7/2015 donation to Serbia Republic 20,000 Euros for developments. The third international donor's conference in support of the humanitarian situation in Syria, Kuwait's donation of \$ 120 million is the largest and accounted for 20 percent of total contributions (118 participants from Gulf, Arabs and Islamic organizations).
 - o In 11/6/2015 Kuwait provided Iraq and Yemen 300 million U.S. Dollars as aid for food and treatment.

Finally all Gulf countries are preparing for the pilgrimage season to secure the health status by providing health education from now onwards to all Muslim countries and providing necessary vaccinations and medicines and providing all security and safety measures.

AFFILIATES

ADF-SVF Suisse Swiss Association of Women's Rights

Activities and projects 2013-2015

Ursula Nakamura-Stoecklin

Co-President ADF-SVF Suisse 2012-2014

ADF-SVF Suisse was presided over from 2012-2014 by the section of Basel, frauenrechte beider basel, and since January 2015 ADF Vaud is in charge of the organization.

Networking at the national level

ADF- SVF Suisse has been very active in networking on the national level. The non-party voice of ADF-SVF Suisse concerning women issues is often very much appreciated by other organizations.

NGO Post-Beijing -Swiss office for equal rights -CSW

ADF-SVF is represented within the national coordination for women's and human rights organizations. This NGO works very closely together with the Swiss office for equal rights and the international NGO's, also IAW, in Geneva and New York.

The cooperation was excellent, when preparing a common platform for the UN Commission on the Status of Women CSW in New York. The exchanges became more intense regarding the CSW Conference in New York 2015, where besides of Esther Suter, Swiss IAW member, this time also Ursula Nakamura, delegate of ADF-SVF Suisse, could attend. Already during the preliminary NGO Forum 2014 in Geneva one realized how women's rights requests made by ADF-SVF Suisse and other NGO's were also actively supported by the Swiss government. Thanks to these mutual efforts some of the massive backlash-tendencies at CSW 2015 fortunately could be stopped.

Maya Graf, President of the Swiss Parliament (lower chamber)

Maya Graf, a member of the Basel section of ADF-SVF, was presiding the lower chamber of the Swiss parliament during 2013. She had mastered this very demanding and difficult job extremely well.

ADF-SVF Suisse was very thankful to Maya Graf for positively promoting women's rights.

ADF-SVF activities

October 2013 ADF-Meeting in Lausanne

The members of ADF-SVF Suisse went to Lausanne, being invited by ADF Vaud. Besides of

talking about the IAW Congress in London we could watch an interesting movie about the history of women's voting rights.

November 2013 Role-stereotypes in Swiss television

ADF-SVF Suisse had to protest against a series about Swiss history produced by the Swiss National television SRF. It was called "We the Swiss" but except for some minor roles as maids, wives and daughters etc., the whole saga was figuring only well-known men! Ursa Krattiger, Co-president of ADF-SVF Suisse, wrote right away an open letter of protest to the director of SRF. Finally it became an important topic in the media!

14th June 2014 Assembly of delegates ADF-SVF and City-Tour in Berne.

The annual assembly of the ADF-SVF-delegates took place in Berne. Everybody enjoyed the exchange of ideas. Later on a city-tour about women's history in Berne was offered. At the end all ADF-SVF delegates were standing in front of the Federal Palace remembering the permanent struggle for women's rights.



Votes on the National Level

Whenever the topic might touch the situation for women then ADF-SVF Suisse issues a recommendation and very often joins other women's organizations for a statement in common.

24th November 2013 Family Initiative

A broad alliance of progressive organizations refused clearly an attempt to reinforce an outdated family pattern in the constitution. Thanks to a lot of spontaneous «last-minute» actions we were successful.

9th February 2014 Abortion Financing Initiative

The "abortion financing initiative" endangering the Swiss progressive law on abortion was fortunately rejected by a huge majority at the polls.

A long time before already the Swiss women's organizations and some political parties had built up a very strong alliance against this assault. ADF-SVF Suisse was very active in the committee, promoting the networking among the different linguistic regions of Switzerland and working for general PR.

18th May 2014 Initiative for statutory minimum wages

Here again SVF-ADF Suisse joined a broad alliance of organizations, saying yes to better minimum wages.

ADF-SVF focussed on the point that mostly women have to struggle each day with an insufficient income. Unfortunately this initiative was rejected.

Consultations

ADF-SVF Suisse has formulated its position several times when consulted by the national authorities, be it on topics like breast-feeding at work, new migration laws etc.

With a joint effort so many women's organizations try to protect the actual social security law by preventing a higher age for women for retirement (from 64 to 65 year). The whole issue is still in

progress.

Activities of ADF-SVF

9th September 2014 Charge in common and child support:

Is it an issue about the child's welfare or rather a matter of power?

The patterns of family-life have changed a lot. After separation or divorce in Switzerland most of the times the mothers take care of their children, and cannot work in a well-paid job, this being a great risk of poverty. Many interested people listened to speeches of the two well-known women being experts.

4th October 2014, Sion IAW Board and ADF-SVF

Because the section of Basel was already fully occupied preparing its centenary in 2016 (!) it was ADF Vaud who had invited the Board of IAW to Sion Switzerland. All interested members of IAW were invited for a wonderful festive gathering on October 4th at Sion.

7th January 2015, Lausanne Handover of mandate

The ADF-SVF section of Basel, frauenrechte beider basel was officially handing over the mandate of presidency to ADF Vaud.

7th March 2015, Berne National demonstration for equal pay

ADF-SVF Suisse was a long-standing member of the organizing committee. For the first time the well-established women's organizations, almost all political parties, professional associations and unions were standing up together for equal pay. ADF-SDF Suisse having advocated women's voting rights since more than a century now played an important role.

6th June 2015 Annual Assembly ADF-SVF, Yverdon-les-Bains

The annual assembly of the ADF-SVF-delegates took place in Yverdon-les-Bains near Lausanne.

Besides of the official agenda one enjoyed being together in a very nice ambiance. Later on one could visit an exhibition on embroidery.



Our goals at present

On October 18th there will be national elections. In a joint campaign the Swiss national women's organizations, also ADF-SVF Suisse, are fighting for a better representation of women: Now lower chamber (Nationalrat) less than 30%; upper chamber (Ständerat) less than 20% female representatives!

Online-media

ADF-SVF could enhance the presence of ADF-SVF Suisse on the online-medias. The newly created website was well received and in fact is now an incentive for young women to become

members of ADF-SVF Suisse. Thanks to their creative ideas there are lots of improvements, e.g. now being present on facebook.

All India Women's Conference

Summary report

Veena Kohli, President

1. Programs Conducted by AIWC

• Health Camp	91
• Violence Against Women	29
• Environment	20
• Gender Sensitization	15
• Consumer Awareness	10
• Waste , Water & Sanitation	9
• Communal Harmony	5
• Disaster Mgt.	2
• Others	3
• Total	194



TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES JAN - DEC 2014.

• Health Camps	11,620
• Violence against women	2228
• Environment	1711
• Gender Sensitization	1345
• Consumer Awareness	758
• Waste, Water and Sanitation	587
• Communal Harmony	498
• Disaster Mgt.	200
• Others	177

2. Programs By Branches

1 Health Camps	1620
2 Violence against women	2228
3 Environment	1711
4 Gender Sensitization	1345
5 Consumer Awareness	758
6 Waste, Water and Sanitation	587
7 Communal Harmony	498
8 Disaster Mgt.	200
9 Others	177
10 Gulmohar Mahila Mandal-	9
11 Human Touch Foundation, Noida	
12 Nathencode Vanitha Samithi	5

6

Commendable work done by the branches –

- Health Camp- GEMM Odisha Branch, Allahabad , Bhagini Samaj, Mangalore , Kalwan Mahila Mandal , Darjeeling , Kurseong , Moradabad, Sharadha Mahila Mandal, Amritsar Branch , Dehradun, Gandhi Peace Center, Vanitha Vidya Samithi.
- Legal Awareness – Kalimpong branch, Patan Branch, Shradha Mahila Mandal,
- Environment- Meerut Branch, Haldwani- Nanital Branch, Raijang Branch.
- Consumer awareness- AIWC Chowringee Branch
- Waste, water & Sanitation- Katnalu Branch (K.R.Nagar)
- Communal harmony- Saharanpur, Manipur State Branch, Haridwar , Bhopal Branch
- Disaster Mgt. - WEDA Imphal.

Integrated Literacy And Skill Development-

- Moradabad branch –managing 3 centres within the funds of one centre
- Muzzafanagar branch-Giving maximum income generation opportunities with follow-up
- K. R. Nagar branch-Running the program effectively with good response for literacy and skill training
- Samyuktha- innovative skill of paper jewellery linked with literacy

ANEMIA FREE SOCIETY-

- Chowranghee constituent branch-maximum program outreach
- Haridwar branch,Indore branch,Sanjeevani(well conducted program with illustrated material)
- Bhagini Samaj,K.R. Nagar branch

Enhancing life Skills of Adolescents-

- Trivendrum branch- maximum no. of programs
- Saharanpur,Katnalu,Anaswara,Ujjawal,Gandhi NariKalyan Samithi- Use of v.good interactive methods and beautifully conducting the program

Rural/Urban rural Resource Centre-

Samyuktha for conducting the program effectively as per the objectives of the program and taking maximum community support

The year 2014 was declared as the year of the Girl Child. Branches were sanctioned awareness programs on this subject. They were specially told to include men and middle aged women in their programs, as these two age groups were very instrumental in taking decision. States chosen for this program are the ones which have the lowest sex ratio.

This year too we will continue emphasizing on the ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ as it is the dire need of the hour. Along with this we will add the environment slogan which again needs to be given special attention and more awareness needs to be created.

Now I will talk about the permanent projects of the head office and the events that took place during the last six months –

Permanent Departmental Activities:-

The Aga Khan Hall as you are all aware is one of the main source of income for AIWC.

Hostel & Mess – the utility rooms of all the floors have been renovated. Inmates are allowed to prepare tea, coffee and light refreshments for themselves. Common rooms at all the floors are equipped with T.V Sets, Jimmies equipment and comfortable sitting arrangement. In K.D. And L.M. Hostel we have 30 single seater rooms with attached Bathrooms and independent Balconies. Old mattresses have been replaced where ever it was required .New admissions are done as and when the vacancies occur.

Future plans for the Hostel—Renovation of the Bathrooms of Sarojini Hostel and strengthening or reconstruction of the Balconies of KD and LM Hostel.

Bapnu Ghar – one of the AIWC’s most successful and prestigious project. Out of the 218 cases registered 198 cases were solved. At present there are 18 inmates in the Bapnu Ghar.

Textile Printing Unit – is functioning well and also introducing new products which are very popular. The textile unit participated at the AIWC Shilpkala Utsav which fetched them good revenue and also got them publicity.

Vocational College – a new Principal for the college has been appointed, Dr. Mrs. Ramesh Madan.

The vocational college is being promoted to be a multiple skill institute catering specially to the lower economic strata of the society. The courses are open for both boys and girls.

MCM Library & Roshni- After the completion of renovation work the MCM Library was reopened. The library is being modernized in a big way. The process of automation has started which involves computerization, cataloguing of books and documents using KOHA, an integrated library management software.

A grant of Rs. 5,60,000.00 from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has been received in the year 2014-15 for preservation and conservation of manuscripts, rare books, old & rare documents, record of history 2014-15. This work is going to change the very nature of the library set up as well shall ensure that the rich past of the organization is well preserved. The library is also looking at the possibilities of setting up of a woman’s and gender studies center in the near future.

Head Office- Important Events held during the last six months-

1. A seminar on the recommendations of the J.S. Verma Committee, was held at the IIC. This was organized by our Vice-President and funded by the head office. The purpose was to create awareness and educate the women about the amended criminal laws and the condition of women, even after the stringent laws recommended by J.S. Verma committee.
2. 14th August 2014 Independence Day was observed with Devaki Jain an eminent economist and women's rights activist, and family members of Freedom fighter Chameli Devi. Devaki Jain talked about her days spent with Chameli Devi, A rare documentary on the life of Chameli Devi, freedom fighter was shown. It was followed by flag hoisting and Independence Day celebration.

3. 8th September – International literacy day and sustainable development was celebrated with member's staff and students, president Veena Kohli talked about importance of literacy and education and how they can help advance sustainable development
4. International Peace Day was celebrated at AIWC headoffice on 20th September, 2014. Eminent poets Shri Lakshmi Shankar Bajpai, Shayar Kunwar Ranjeet, Mamta Shankar, and Vocalist Ritu Jain were invited to give a talk and perform.
5. AIWC took a pledge on 1st October, 2014 to get environment friendly and make 6-Bhagwan Dass Road, garbage free campus. This was in keeping with the Prime Minister's call of Swach Bharat.
6. To help the flood victims of Kashmir, AIWC contributed blankets, sweaters, food packets, utensils etc. Generous donations were also received from the branches in cash and kind.
7. An orientation program for the Zonal organisers was held in November, 2014 in which Vice-Presidents and Zonal Members participated. This program was held to apprise them of their responsibility and what is expected of them.
8. An Inter college debate was organised and held on 12th November at Aga Khan Hall. The subject of the debate was 'Traditional Values and Ideals are no longer relevant for Women's Empowerment'. Prizes and certificates were distributed to participants.
9. The debate was an introduction of AIWC to the younger generation. It is strongly felt at the headoffice that we need to prepare a second line of generation. Voluntary work needs to be promoted and more and more people should be encouraged to come forward.
10. Annual woman artisan's crafts bazaar is organized every year. Focused on empowering women artisans, eliminating middlemen and promoting crafts. 3rd edition was organized from 26th–28th November 2014, at Aga Khan Hall, Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi. AIWC sanctioned a budget for this project, and revenue was generated by selling stall spaces to NGO's and women entrepreneurs and we managed to get part support from the Office of Development Commissioner of Handicrafts, Ministry of Textile.
11. A talk on 'Meditation for Self Empowerment' was held on 3rd January, 2015 by Sister Sonika from Om Shanti Retreat Centre.
12. A lecture on Women and Lifestyle" was given by a Senior Cardiologist, Dr. K.K. Aggarwal , on 12th Jan 2015 in MCM Library. It was well invited by the students of the vocational college, Bapnu Ghar inmates and staff and members of AIWC.
13. A talk on 'Climate Change and Cities' was arranged on **5th Feb, 2015**. The Speaker was Prof. Usha Raghupathi, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi.

Our members have been attending the Climate Change COP meetings for the past 4 years and have been co-opted in their committees. Because of which funding has been received from WECF & WEDO for conducting Advocacy & mitigation program in our branches.

One of our members who is an expert in sexual harassment had been invited to Paris to take part in a conference and present her paper.

The Girl Child

Veena kohli, AIWC New Delhi

Introduction

National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on 24th of January as a national observance day for the girl child. National girl child day has been started as a national girls development mission by the Government of India. National Girl Child Day celebration was started by the Women and Child Development Ministry since 2008 to celebrate as the national observance.



The purpose of this day is to focus attention on the depleting female to male ratio and take a stand on issues of female feticide, domestic violence and malnutrition in children. It is celebrated to increase the awareness among people about all the inequalities faced by the girl child in the society, which includes many areas like inequality in education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care, protection, honor, child marriage and so many.

Various steps have been taken at national and state level by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to improve the girl child status through a range of schemes. The Women and Child Development Ministry had implemented a scheme called “Dhanalaksmi” to make cash transfer to the girl child family to fulfill the basic needs such as immunization, birth registration, school enrolment and maintenance up to the Class VIII. The Right to Education Act has made available the free and necessary education to the girl child.

India has one of the most unbalanced gender ratios in the world. How worried should we be?

This is one of the hot button issues for All India Women’s Conference and we have been battling with this issue since a long time. There is not an occasion where we do not talk about it and continuously have awareness programs on save the girl child. We have welcomed the slogan ‘Beti Bachao Beti Parhao’ and have spread it to all our 520 branches all over the country. Since January this year we have organized a number of programs based on this slogan. AT the function of ‘Samuh Lagna Mahotsav’ in Mumbai by our Mumbai branches, at the phera ceremony all the newlyweds took a pledge not to encourage Female Feoeticide” and take a pledge that no sex determination tests will be done.

Sadly we have to face the harsh reality that In our country the national sex ratio is 914 girls to 1000 boys. In some states it is even lower. This is the ‘,shame of India’ that we do not even

allow girls to be born. This is why organizations like you and us arrange these events to make aware of this cruel practice of feticide and infanticide and bring forth a urgent realization for a change in attitudes,

Sex selection abortions following ultrasound tests is misusing technology and although there is a ban on divulging the sex of the unborn child since 1994 this is not enforceable. Patriarchal society has a range of strategies to deal with unwanted girl children-female infanticide, denying them their fair share of nutrition, education and health care.

There are some persons or cultures that are biased against a girl child in their family. This is the most dangerous social evil that has deep roots in India. And the shocking fact is that there are high technologies and innovative techniques available for killing a girl child like ultrasound, scan tests and amniocentesis etc.

Unfortunately the most active part is being played by the women themselves -- why? Just for the mere want of a boy, mothers don't feel bad in strangulating their daughters in their wombs. Can anyone be crueler? Yes so it is because of the status of the girl as she is growing up to be a woman. It is a long struggle for her all her life against all kinds of discrimination. The mother does not want her to go through all she has had to and so she destroys her in her womb. For it is better for her not to be born.

After a survey of children in class 10 among girl students it was found that 78.8% of girls did not want to give birth to a girl child—because they cited the deplorable condition of their mothers at home and the restrictions and lack of opportunities imposed on the girls from the family.

Some of the other reasons for the boy preference are ‘Security in old age, carrying the family name, lighting the funeral pyre.

It is only when baby girls are genuinely wanted by their parents this bias will lessen and girls will grow up empowered.

Solutions

A natural correction might take place when India becomes a bachelor nation, but we are living in a civilized society and cannot allow this evil to continue. Some of the solutions are:-

Education:-

Make sure that every family in the whole country should be educated and know that the Girl Child is not a sin but she is a gift given by God to you, and that she is not in any way less than boys.

Today girls are competing with boys and making their name in every field and are excelling. But inspire of achievements like education, profession, legal rights or even the mixture of all these will not work out a solution - the only feasible solution is the change of mind, the change of attitude of the

men towards women. Till this is done, no amount of teaching, preaching or bargaining will help the girl child. At this juncture when we talk of attitude, I must add that even women have to change their attitudes towards the girl child/ women. She is often allowed to be born, and if she is born she has to face many hurdles at each stage of her life in order to make sure that she has the same rights as her male siblings.

To a large extent, women are themselves responsible for their position. It is women who pamper their sons and husbands till they begin to believe that they are really superior beings.

The Indian Medical Association should take a mandatory revision and action on the ethical standards among the medical professionals due to the practice of sex selective abortions just for making quick money. Although there is a law against this but it is not being enforced.

All births registration should be made compulsory by the Government and proper birth registration system be developed.

The community at large must take responsibility of this situation and change the prevalent social norm that under rates daughters in favor of sons. A country wide campaign must begin involving family, panchayat leaders, health workers, youth leaders, civil societies, government and everybody else to make a breakthrough on this issue.

In conclusion, let us all, men and women take a pledge that we collectively want to put an end to gender inequality and discrimination ,to change our attitudes in this regard and accept women as equal partners. Our generation does not have much time left so let us join hands, take action and create a network of constructive activities all over the country which will enhance our prestige and take us forward towards a dynamic change in our society.

14th July 2015

ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

S. Ayesha Javeri, executive Vice President & Vice President UN & International Affairs

EDUCATIONS

APWA concentrates on the Beijing MDGs concerning girl's and women's education. Schools are established in urban, semi rural and rural areas are nominal charged.

Baluchistan: APWA Girls High School: 758 girls now being upgraded to a college English Medium.

Islamabad: Nursery Montessori in F-72 Area Islamabad

Pakhtunkhwa: Vocational Education in Zari Community Centre. In the Vocational Training Centre English, Religious and Maths provided to the young girls. 52 children from APWA orphanage to Begum Bilour's established school were given free education.

Punjab: has 24 primary school's in 12 districts. It has a Youth College and Hostel in Lahore. Opening Adult Literacy Centres in Yateem Khana, Dharam Pura and Harbans Pura and 3 new

primary schools. Faisalabad School and College in Bahawalpur. One High School and 2 Schools in Sargodha. The APWA Youth college has got affiliation to the Punjab University for Masters Degree.

Sindh: In Sukkur two APWA schools high achievers, record results. Women's Law College Nawabshah, Girl's High School Hyderabad, Girls School Sanghar, Mirpurkhas middle school

National Headquarters, Karachi: **Ayesha Siddiqa School** 300 girls from a recognized AMI Montessori to government matriculation charges \$ 2 per month. **Yousuf Goth Semi Rural School:** 2 schools with DIL (Orangi & Sadiqabad). But retaken by APWA National to run themselves.

HEALTH

APWA is deeply concerned about women's primary and reproductive health. Basic clinics established in low economic areas, communities for primary and ante-natal, postnatal, immunization management of STD's and RTI's. There is ultra sound facilities while unsafe deliveries are referred to Government Hospitals.

Baluchistan: Mother and Child Care Centre not functioning progressively due to law and order situation in Karachi.

Pakhtunkhwa: In face of the law situation no APWA hospitals are functioning but there are projects in health awareness and medical camps for Eye disease and TB at the orphanage premises in Darul Awan. Here family planning and minor diseases are attended to. Doctor visits the orphanage every week.

Punjab: 12 working health centre for mother and child centres and opening a new one in Khaniwal and Gujjirmatta all have health immunization pre-natal and post-natal care and family planning.

Sindh: Six divisions in the Province, having health centres. APWA hospitals in Sukkur is doing very well

National Headquarters, Karachi: MCH Centres in Orangi 10, Sadiqabad Orangi 11½, Yousuf Goth and Malir Semi Rural, Malir Family Maternity Clinic, North Nazimabad.

EMPOWERMENT

All the schools have skilled development programmes.

APWA realizes that only sustainable financial empowerment will uplift the dignity of the women in the family and society. As a world today ecologies success in this field. APWA has opened programmes in all branches to empower women.

Baluchistan: Despite the volcanic law and order situation, APWA has a centre for 200 artisan, creating beautiful embroidery and handicrafts. This Adhara (Centre) have empowered women in the villages in the outskirts of Quetta Town. Together with SMEDA it is establishing women's incubating centre. It takes exhibitions to cities WAXNET, Lahore – Karachi and Hyderabad.

Pakhtunkhwa: Zari Sarfaraz Centre Peshawar empowered 200 girls in sewing, embroidery, beautician and computer training. Because of the tense atmosphere, only projects that are acceptable to the tribal male mind set can flourish and that also in the closeted atmosphere

Punjab: (1) Progressive Women Empowerment Package in Partnership with ILO, WDD, and COTHM. Training of 500 domestic workers by drafting a legal framework according to the ILO 189 convention so that they can get good jobs. (2) Capacity Building with Green Acre Associates Consultancy for training and technical assistance for women, help of British H.C. (3) Child Day Care at APWA premises with Pakistan Women Development Dep. (4) Assembling VP's and Solar Panels, great success here also (5) Auto Cad an architectural program with a Skill Development Centre.

Sindh: In the 22 districts of Sindh by upgrading science labs to cater to college levels. Events and celebrations to attract women's international events on media. Teachers Training Programmes. Skill Development in Computer Training funded by Collison Trust large number of girls were given computer classes.

National Headquarters, Karachi: (1) Teachers Training classes for APWA Karachi schools (2) To attending Church workshops by members for the uplifting the division and the outlook of communication (3) Two schools given for management to DIL and APWA pays all expenses to DIL. The project to be analyzed after three years.

Legal Aid Centre under Justice Nasir was not successful. It depended on physical presence before the lawyers. This was impossible as the aggrieved women are virtuous prisoners in their homes. APWA then sent legal cases to the Benazir Bhutto Centre which was free of cost. Now APWA proposes to open its own legal centres in rural and low income areas and but needs heavy finance.

Empowering women jail prisoners: The jail project provides approximately 600 women and their children with money for basic needs. APWA employs the daily teacher who goes to the jail to teach the inmates sewing and craft. 17 sewing machines are given by APWA at the premises in the jail. These women's forced by circumstances are usually unfortunate victims. They are given presents on celebration days with milk and biscuits provided by donors. The labour money is given by cash to them. Bedsheets are also given. They work was sold at IAW London and in the Lahore Wexnet under the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. APWA wants to take more to International and National events.

IBA Internship: APWA gives the IBA students the certificate on the syllabus which is set out by the university itself. This mainly concerns NGO projects and social issues.

Ms. Meherafroze Habib attended the Punjab APWA meeting where she signed an M.O.U. with the Punjab University Chancellor Sabiha Mansoor.

Affiliates: Rana Liqueat Craft Colony, Gul-e-Ra'ana Nusrat Community Centre, International Club, Gul-e-Ra'ana Industrial Centre. They all follow the man agendas of APWA. RLCC has

expanded greatly in school health and crafts projects. The Community centre has given 100 girls per month a three months training, unfortunately the Industrial Centre is not progressing and is handing it back to APWA National.

International Branches: UK APWA

Offices in LONDON, Manchester, Birmingham: 2013 hosted the IAW Conference in Lincoln's Inn 2013 attended by APWA National members. Also APWA attended ICW, IAW, UN Conferences in New York, Geneva, Johannesburg, Finland, Switzerland, United Nations. Their aim is to bring Pakistani born women into the mainstream of British life, by solving any prejudicial view points.

APWA Toronto Canada: To create bonds of International friendship between Pakistani born women in their new homes and their Canadian fellow citizens. Maple Project sponsors needy ambitious students.

APWA Dallas Committee: Collecting funds for education in rural schools. Project train to Pakistan, Musical evening followed by fashion show with clothes donated by top designers. Collected over 80,000 dollars for the flood victims and shared it with NGO Al-Zohra.

APWA North America Branch Newyork: This Committee represents the National Headquarters project and view points at all United Nations Assembly and Conferences. It representatives sits on UNICEF, UNESCO, NGOs Committee for UN.

International Conference Attended 2010 to 2014: BY APWA

PESEWA, IAW Melbourne 2012, IAW London 2013, ICW Seoul 2012, India 2011. Representatives from UK for Status of Women 2013.

APWA Problems: APWA's problems stem from a conflict with the philosophy and the modern day view points. APWA is a service oriented NGO where the entire Executive Communities in all National and International offices are honorary voluntary workers. Today to cope with the progressive Computer technology, professional paid personal must be employed. Where does this income come from? Seeing APWA is rich in land allotments, all over the country but they cannot be sold or made commercial, in fact money has to be spent to protect it from the land mafia. The schools are also non-profit, service oriented. APWA charges Rs. 250 i.e. \$2 a month for good teaching and good environment, whereas the smaller private schools charge \$30 and the prestigious private ones charge \$80 per month. The new President Mrs. Meherafroze Habib has attempted to make a computerized system of all work, so lawyers, assessors, audit officers, project managers, administrators have been employed. How this will affect the money saved over years of donations. Heavens above knows. Then there is a necessity to have APWA personal at International shows, a bonding of women, this also is an expense, as is the affiliation fees without government financial help.

APWA is the oldest, transparent organization or international passive but quietly active in empowering women. This monolith elephant must stay alive and active to carry the problems of our women folk on its shoulders and only the Almighty can help us carry out this ambition.

APWA continually is involved behind the scenes, to influence media, to condemn domestic violence against women, the murders call honour killings, the acid disfiguration and so projects justice for women and girl child.

APWA Punjab

Ruhi Sayed:

Advocacy on the right of education as a fundamental right with special focus on girl child



The most recent manifestation of constitutional development is the introduction of the right of education as fundamental right by the virtue of eighteen constitutional amendments in the constitution of Pakistan. The induction of the provision would have utmost significance for the promotion of the right of basic education to the children of the age of five to sixteen years. The education of every child would be the

responsibility of the state irrespective of the sex, caste and creed of the child. The State would have to provide facility of compulsory education free of cost and the financial status of the family of the child would no more be a hindrance in the way of getting basic education. Now, the right of education being the fundamental right, can be enforced through the orders of the courts in writ jurisdiction, meaning thereby that if a child is not provided basic compulsory education by the Government, he can approach the court and can have an order in his favor with direction to the concerned Government to provide him the mandatory right of education.

The imbalances and exploitations at all levels have always been the concern of the peoples striving for equality and equal opportunity amongst different segments of society. Human desire to overcome these inequalities has suggested numerous ways to bridge the gap and to promote peace and harmony in the society at large. Education is one of the effective solutions to the problem and has generally been agreed upon by the nations to achieve the destination of harmonious social environment. The best result for a better future can only be achieved by providing education to kids as they are the future of every nation and can play a role of catalyst for a real and long-lasting change. When it comes to denial of rights and discrimination in the concept of equal opportunities then we come to a conclusion that the girl child is more discriminated against due to different social, cultural and political reasons, therefore, the concept of compulsory free education ought to be focused more specifically for the girl child which

would definitely play a vital role in surmounting the obstacles and hindrances faced in the form of poverty, social taboos, cultural humps and economic restraints prevailing in society.

The recent constitutional development has its roots in past as numerous international treaties and texts have affirmed and guaranteed the right of education through legally binding and non-binding instruments. One of the basic international normative instrument address the right to education is UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960 (CADE), which, along with discrimination, deal with equality of opportunity, access to free primary education and the rights of minority groups. Articles 4 of the CADE, the legally binding clause, sanctions, inter alia, the following duties and actions for states to implement:

- i. To make primary education free and compulsory;
- ii. To make secondary education in its different forms generally available and accessible to all;
- iii. To make higher education equally accessible to all on the basis of individual capacity;
- iv. To assure compliance by all with the obligation to attend school as prescribed by law;
- v. To ensure that the standards of education are equivalent in all public educational institutions of the same level, and that the conditions relating to the quality of the education provided are also equivalent;
- vi. To provide training for the teaching profession without discrimination.



APWA PUNJAB FAMILY WELFARE CENTRES REPORT 2013-2014

HEALTH

Pakistan is a developing country and its women have to face a lot of health problems particularly in rural areas.

Because of pregnancy associated complications, it is estimated that about 1,600 women per 100,000 die during childbirth. One of the main reasons of this alarming percentage is lack of health care centres.

APWA FAMILY WELFARE CENTRES.

There is always lack of proper training centres for nurses in our country. APWA Punjab established 13 Family Welfare Centres since 1985. They are being run under trained qualified LHV'S. Equipment is provided to deal with issues like family planning, maternal health, and post natal care.

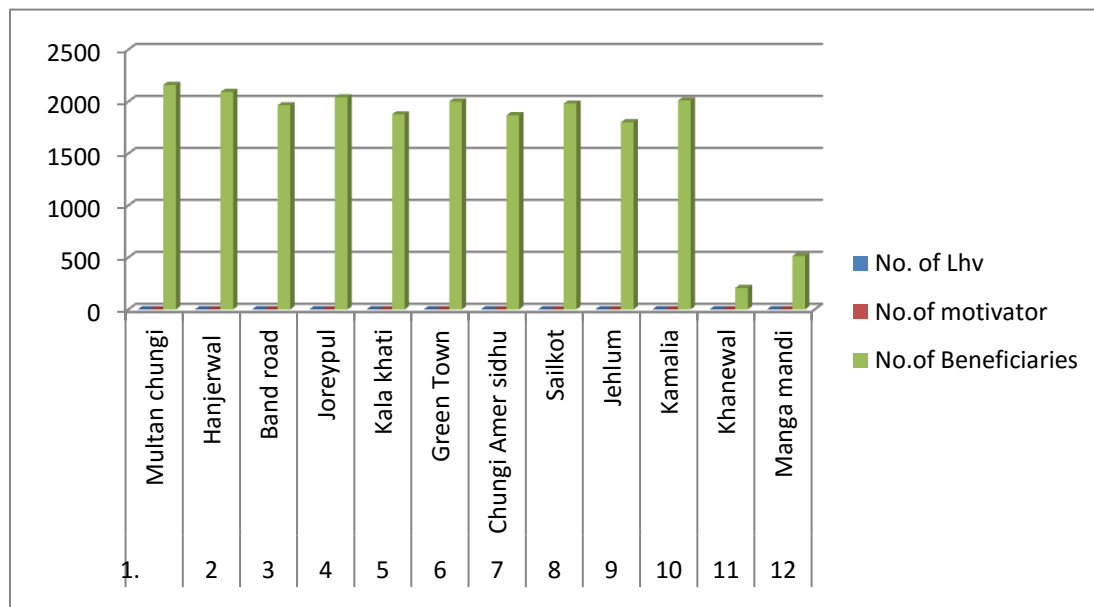
Informative lectures on health and women diseases are regularly delivered at these centres. APWA has also invited pharmaceutical companies to visit these

centres and raise awareness about the usages of medicines.

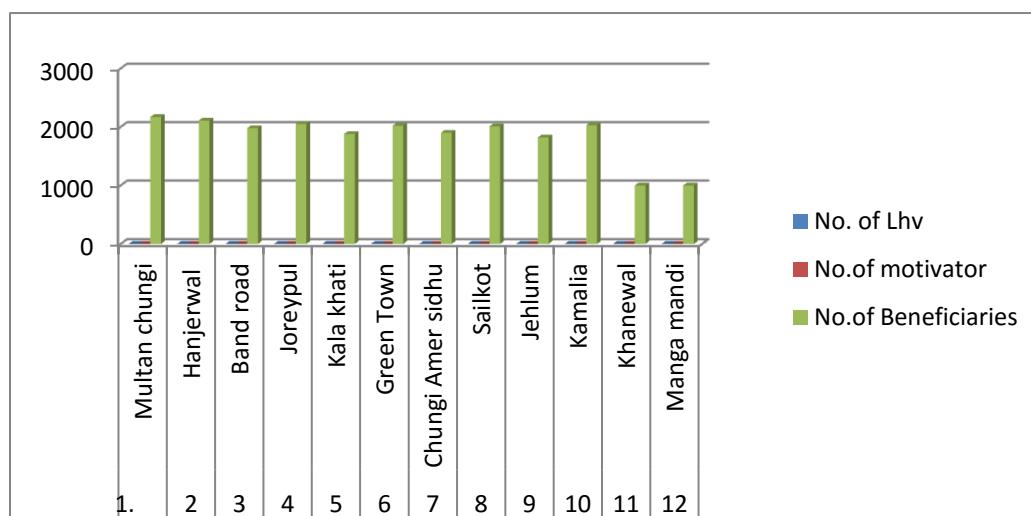
In 2013, the total health beneficiaries were 20510, treated at all health centres by trained LHV's of APWA whereas in 2014, this number increased to 21970. APWA Punjab

has also provided equipment and furniture for all 13 health centres

FAMILY WELFARE CENTRES BENEFICIARIES GRAPH 2013



FAMILY WELFARE CENTRES BENEFICIARIES GRAPH 2014



Reconstruction and furnishing of Apwa Health Centres in 2013-2014

The Chairperson APWA Punjab Mrs. Ruhi Sayid donated Rs.50.000 to furnish the Health Centres, other members donated Rs.30, 000 for the up gradation of the health centres APWA Punjab gathered all health workers and guided and urged them to make their ID cards. It will help them to build their proper documents and to maintain records of Apwa employees.

1. Apwa Health Centre Behari Colony, Sialkot.

Apwa Sialkot health centre is in rural area called Behari Colony .It needed a boundary wall to specify the Apwa property. This cost was borne by Apwa Punjab.

2. Apwa Manga Mandi Multi-Purpose And Family Welfare Centre.

Manga Mandi health centre was rebuilt in Dec 2014.The whole building was in dilapidated condition.5 rooms and 3 bathrooms were constructed. Out of this 1 room is being used as family welfare centre.

3. Launch Of New Health Centre At Nankana Saab.

Apwa health centre Theta Isa, has been launched in 2015 and there is a vast space for health centre that include office, a kitchen, 2 rooms with bathrooms built for staff. Lectures on family planning and family welfare are been organized by the health centre staff to .give awareness to the common women of the area.

APWA Punjab gathered all health workers and guided and urged them to make their ID cards. It will help them to build their proper

documents and to maintain records of Apwa employees.

5.Greenstar And Family And Maternal (F.A.M) Plant Health Programmes At APWA Health Centres

One major initiative taken by Apwa Punjab is to invite the family planning teams to train and teach the Apwa Lady Health visitor about the new products of contraceptives and give them training to control births and to promote the concerned information among the general public. The team visits 3 times in a month and arranges free medical camps for the women..



Furniture for Manga Mandi health centre



HEALTH ACTIVITIES AT APWA PUNJAB **H/Q**

Dengue Awareness Seminar on 4th Dec, 2013.

On 4th Dec, 2013, a seminar was organized by Apwa Punjab on the topic of Dengue Awareness. The chief guest was Mrs. Shakeela Rasheed Senior Vice Chairperson Awa Punjab. She explained the causes and reason behind the dengue virus .she stressed that, the cleanliness measures must be strictly followed to overcome the spreading disease .Further lectures were delivered by Mrs,Shazia Shereen and Mrs.Samreen who unfolded the ways of treatment and medical assistance.

Worlds Aid Day On 1st Dec, 2014

Apwa in a holistic and integrated manner made effort to organize seminars, conferences, and policy to achieve immediate result and benefits, HIV AIDS virus that infected people has doubled in the last 11 years. On 1st Dec, 2014 at Apwa Youth Degree College celebrated World Aids Day to educate and focus group discussions to develop awareness among women about the fatal results of this disease, its symptoms, and its preventions.



Youth on Seminar of

HIV/AIDS.AWARENESS CAMPAIGN **AMONG STUDENTS, WOMEN**

APWA has also started an awareness campaign on women's health issues through which girls, students and women are being made aware about different diseases, prevention, diagnose and treatment of these disease. Awareness seminars and workshops are part of this campaign at colleges, schools and APWA Family Welfare Centres.

APWA AWARENESS PROGRAMME **IN 2013 -2014**

1. Lecture on Dengue Virus
2. Awareness of Malaria
3. Protections from Measles
4. Awareness on Family Planning
5. Malnutrition
6. Awareness about Breast Feeding
7. Sanitation



Play presented by students on International day of HIV/AIDS.

Danish Women's Society

Signe Vahlun, board member of DWS and IAW

The political landscape in Denmark

Since 2011, Denmark has had a minority Government led by the Social Democrats and Helle Thorning-Schmidt and (the first female Prime Minister in Denmark). Although promises to act on several gender equality issues, not much happened during their parliamentary term. Of course, the Danish Women's Society (DWS) found this lack of action both concerning and infuriating.

In June 2015 General elections meant a power change when the Right winged party "Venstre" were voted in as a minority government. At the time of writing this report it is impossible to say, to what extent gender equality will be a priority of the new government.

The Danish Women's Society's work and projects

The year 2015 has been a very special one for Denmark, and the Danish Women's Society in particular. Leading up to the amendments to the Danish constitution in 1915 the DWS was one of the leading organisations fighting for women's right to vote and stand for Parliament.

Due to the organisation's historical importance in respect to women's right to vote, the organisation has been in liaison with several stakeholders wanting to celebrate the centenary.

The biggest celebration was on the 5th of June when the DWS just like in 1915, organised a parade through Copenhagen. The parade was received in a large ceremony at Parliament by the Royal family, the Prime Minister, the Government - and Parliament members.



As part of the centenary celebrations the DWS made a t-shirt in collaboration with the Danish fashion house Baum und Pferdgarten. The t-shirt, was sold in a limited edition in shops and in the DWS web-shop, which was launched in the autumn of 2014 (<http://shop-dk.dk/shop/frontpage.html>)

In addition to the centenary celebrations the DWS has had several other projects during the past year. One of these has been a Nordic IAW project on "Nordic Women's Economic Citizenship." Each of the participating countries hosted a seminar on the subject in order to help enlighten women on economics. Although a little challenged by the weather the Danish seminar had a rather good turn out with of 45 participants.

Another project for the DWS has been the "Stop Sexism" project which has been going on for about two years. The project started of as a facebook group where people could share stories

of sexism. The project has helped put sexism on the agenda in Denmark, where the word is now commonly used both by the media and politicians. The project received an award (Susanne Giese Mendelegat) in September 2014 and is continually creating debate in the Danish society while helping women and men fight and put focus on sexism.

During the autumn of 2014 the DWS hosted three seminars at a public library in Copenhagen. The subject was “children and gender” and the turnout for each one was overwhelming, showing a general interest in the subject.

In September the DWS released a book called “Voices” (Stemmer) with different authors contributions on feminism the last 100 years.

A big part of DWS’ work and interaction with its stakeholders is through facebook and Twitter with 9 000 and 3 000 followers respectively. Both platforms allow the organisation to both help set the agenda but also go into debates with its followers, private as well as public persons.



The DWS is frequently asked to attend political hearings, submit the organisation’s views on certain subjects and to meet with different stakeholders for both public and private meetings. In addition there has been an increase in articles by DWS and It’s supporters .

Feminism in Denmark

Overall the Danish Women’s Society has been doing rather well the past year. That being said the organisation is relying on financial support from its members, donations, the new web-shop and fundraising for specific projects. Although the organisation has managed to hire a temporary employee this year, most of the work is done on a voluntary basis.

There seems to be an increasing interest in feminism and gender equality. The Danish media pick up on certain matters, more people are joining the DWS and still more facebook pages focusing on feminist subjects appear. However there is still an opposition which increasingly shows itself in the shape of trolls on the internet. In addition to entering into debates in the printed media and in panels, still more supporters and members of the DWS have to deal with trolling when uttering their opinion on both open but also private social media forums.



Deutscher Frauenring

Birgitt Purschke in cooperation with Marion Böker

Conception and organization of congresses and seminars:

- *The missing gender-link: Justice and reconciliation processes after war crimes and violations of human rights of women.* International Seminar of the Deutsche Frauenring e. V. (DFR) in the European Academy Berlin (EAB), June 30 to – July 2, 2013 (Documentation DFR - Grüne Reihe No. 73/2013; partly in English).
- *"Living in a surveillance state" – the tension between security and civil liberties* (24 till 26 October 2014, national Seminar of the Deutsche Frauenring e.V. The discussion traced the development from the start of the Federal Republic of Germany, presenting the German security legislation, surveillance by foreign secret services, the German intelligence services, etc. The focus was on the question of how many freedom rights of the citizens should be sacrificed to gain a high degree of security (e.g. against terrorism) as is currently implemented and under discussion, including internet surveillance and the role of whistleblowers like E. Snowden.
- *Five-part workshop series* (December 2014 until April 2015) *"Municipally Active - women into politics"*: it was a success and ended in April 2015 with a public panel discussion. It was funded by the Federal Women's Ministry and can, as a model project, be multiplied with the help of a manual which the DFR provides.
- *"Gender Role Forward"* – a series of workshops on role stereotypes in seven German Cities with the goal of raising awareness on gender role stereotypes and how to overcome traditional role limitations; men and women should be able to develop their strengths and talents regardless of their gender, so that individuality does not disappear behind role stereotypes (March- October 2015).
- *The state of the human rights of elderly persons, with specific focus on elderly women:* What is planned by the United Nations - How can we contribute to a possible new human rights treaty? Lecture in Berlin, June 2015.
- *"Gender Clichés in Focus"* - national Seminar during the constitutional meeting in October 2015.

Meeting with Lyda Versteegen, chair of the Constitution Committee, and Lena Pind, head of the Communication Unit of IAW in May 2015, in the DFR head office. Both had chosen Berlin as a temporary working place. They learnt about DFR's "Gender Role

Forward” and other projects. Young active DFR members enjoyed meeting with IAW representatives.

Substantive work: Core issues of the DFR

1.1. Equality between women and men, anti-discrimination, CEDAW

Equality between women and men is the cross-cutting theme of all events, position papers and publications of the DFR. To achieve this goal the following activities were implemented:

- *Position paper* about the **elder-care** in Germany: there is a need for improvement with regard to the training and payment of care workers. Especially dementia patients are in need of specific care.
- Project “*Municipally Active - women into politics*” Women are underrepresented in local governments. With our five thematically diverse weekend workshops we wanted to encourage and empower women to become more involved in politics. It is planned to continue the project on a local level.
- On the first of January 2015, the DFR launched a one-year project called “Geschlechterrolle vorwärts” (Gender Role Forward) in cooperation with the men’s association Dissens e.V. With a series of workshops across Germany this project tries to break up traditional role patterns and to raise awareness for the topic.

Male and female role stereotypes need revisiting and new aspirations have to be



negotiated for both genders. Our approach is that men and women need to work together in order to overcome role stereotypes. According to our contribution to the [German CEDAW Alternative Report 2009](#), 43rd session, achieving equality in the society is closely linked to a broad process of overcoming gender role (and other) stereotypes. It is therefore necessary to adopt strategies to outgrow pervasive stereotypical and conservative views of the roles and responsibilities of women and men ([CEDAW/ C/DEU/CO/6, Para 27/28](#)).

1.2. Participation in the (UNSC RES.) 1325 meetings of the *German NGO alliance* and its meetings with the Inter-Ministerial 1325 Working Group of the Federal Government: the NGO alliance monitors the 1325 NAP and lobbies for a better implementation. Currently our representative develops with two other members, a paper on 'New settings and inclusive mandating for peace negotiations' to progress in the challenge to include women and CSO at peace tables.

1.3. International Action Day: „No” to violence against women (25 November 2014)

Press Release of the DFR: demanding increased attention to **gender stereotypes and sexual violence in video games**.

1.4. International Day of Zero **Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation** (6.2.2015)

Press Release of the DFR on: FGM/C must be unconditionally banned.

1.5. **International Women's Day (8 March 2015)** Press Release of the DFR: to demand a more critical dealing with gender stereotyping, measures to increase the low current percentage of German women at executive levels (below the EU average) and to eliminate the gender pay gap.

1.6. The DFR welcomed the New Delhi Supreme Court ruling recognizing transsexual and intersex* persons as a "third gender group". In Germany "intersex" children are still subjected to forced surgery without consent, to fix them into a girl or a boy. And trans* persons must consult with so called experts before they can decide upon their sex and gender identity. These harmful practices have been firmly criticized by the CEDAW, CAT, CRC. Both groups face a lot of discrimination. We asked the legislators to end all harmful practices and add to the dual gender norm a third possibility which would give everybody in Germany the freedom to choose sexual identity and end torture as practiced now.

1.7. Letter of claim in July 2014 in follow up of an EWL information and on behalf of the upcoming EU-Commission: The DFR appealed to the new President of the EU- Comm. Jean-Claude Juncker to adequately promote gender parity including among the EU Commissioners. We requested the EU Parliament not to confirm the Commissioners unless gender parity was adequately taken into account and we reminded him to finalize and adopt the unfinished maternity leave guideline.

1.8. The DFR is represented in many UN WOMEN NKD meetings on the CSW, the Beijing +20, the SDG process, the G20 meeting; the DFR participated in the huge UN WOMEN celebration in Berlin; in the award ceremony for 5 female peacekeepers in the Ministry of Interior, and in an informal exchange with UN Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka in Berlin.

1.9. The DFR, as its contribution to the **IAW GLOBAL CAMPAIGN**, took part in a meeting of German NGOs with the UNSG Special Representative on Violence in Conflict, Ms. Bangura in July 2015. In cooperation with the Yezidi Women's Center HEVI in Celle (Lower Saxony, the biggest Yezidi community in Germany) we forwarded a written statement, information and concern on the Yezidi girls and women who are enslaved by D'aesh in Iraq from the Qandil mountains, and those who escaped the endless violations against them; on their traumata



and recovery; In July the DFR chair person for international affairs held a seminar in Celle with the Yezidi women of HEVI. Future networking was discussed . The local DFR section is in close contact with Hevi since. This contact shall now be strengthened on national and international levels.

Editorial work

- 2.1. **Newsletter “briefly told”**. Every two weeks news on women's issues, results of studies, trends in politics for women, are electronically sent to members and friends.
- 2.2. Twice a year each member receives **INFORM**, a bulletin with news from the federal level as well as the regional and local DFR levels.
- 2.3. Updating our Facebook- and Twitter account as well as the DFR-website
- 2.4. Documentation of our seminar “*Living in a surveillance state*”
- 2.5. Documentation of our project “*Municipally Active - women into politics*”
- 2.6. In addition the DFR published and widely disseminated a flyer in an appealing layout, on

"Beijing + 20" achievements since 1995 and remaining challenges.

In preparation for the coming months:

- ☐ *November 2015*: final event in Berlin “Geschlechterrolle vorwärts” (**Gender Role Forwards**)
- ☐ *October 2015*: National seminar on the topic of Role stereotypes and inequalities in our society, with contributions from authors, media and science.

Some Plans for 2016

- ☐ New project about **gender stereotyping** in schools
- ☐ Seminar about old-age poverty
- ☐ A Berlin based offer: a regular women's meeting for victims of the pay gap to identify options for complaints (may be in cooperation with other women's organizations)
- ☐ Participation in the alternative reporting to the 7./8. German CEDAW state report
- ☐ Activities for the preparation, participation & mobilization for the 2017 regional Conference (PreCom) and for the 2018 3rd Global Follow-up Conference on MIPAA (*be alert & ready for input to a new UN Convention on the Human Rights of Elderly People and especially Women*)

Some Plans for 2017/18

- ☐ We currently try to identify how we can bring together one of the next IAW Board Meetings or/and a minor meeting of ICW to Berlin, to enable all IAW/ ICW representatives to participate in the next DFR International Seminar. A theme of mutual consensus shall be discussed, e.g. in the context of *peace/security* (1325) or *economics which empower women*? [We are open for suggestions].
- ☐ In 2018 Germany celebrates 100 years of women's vote! Recommendations for IAW and its member's future work
- ☐ To continue with IAW's active participation in the OEWG and the task force
- ☐ To follow up and monitor closely OEWGs (Open-ended working groups) mechanisms in the Human Rights Council (reports and activities of the independent expert Rosa Kornfeld -Matte in Geneva)
- ☐ In particular be active in the 2017 regional Conference (PreCom), and the 3rd Global Follow up Conference on MIPAA in 2018, *and lobby for a new UN- Convention on the Human Rights of Elderly People, especially those of Women*, as a great chance to develop human rights further and create new and better instruments
- ☐ Secure and strengthen the internal structure, personnel, growth and an inclusive and cooperative communication of IAW (incl. recruitment of new and young

Frauennetzwerk für Frieden – Germany

Heide Schütz

The organization was founded on February 3rd 1996 as an immediate result of the 4th World Conference on Women. During meals in the hotel and long trips on the bus a group of women among the German NGO delegation, among them IAW member Inge Heyl, discussed the founding of a women's national network for peace to promote a different strategy from focusing on violence against women only, the focal points of all four World conferences on Women being "Equality, Development and Peace" The awareness rising for as well as the implementation of the interdependence of these highly important values has been the ongoing agenda for the Women's Network for Peace, Germany throughout all those years. During the period of 2012 to 2015 several projects were carried out on the international, the national and the local level. Most of the work was done on a volunteer, non-profit, basis, thus resources were limited.



Since Germany had been very reluctant on working out a National Action plan to ensure the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 on women's participation in peace processes on all levels of politics and societies - passed unanimously in October 2000 - the ongoing lobbying for such a NAP was a very important part of our work. It was done in close cooperation with

other mainly women's organizations in Germany, especially the Coalition on UNRES 1325, but also in close contact with those women and institutes who worked on the same issue or had been successful in other countries already. At the end of the year 2012 the official German policy changed. The Coalition on UNSCR 1325 was asked to make written recommendations for a national action plan which had to be done in a short time frame. But since the coalition was well prepared it could be carried out. The proposal to make the NAP a working paper including regular meetings with civil society was included. These meetings have been carried out and The Women's Network for Peace has been participating throughout with critical or innovative contributions. Next year a new NAP will be due. It must be said, however, that the important goal of the resolution to bring women – I should say peace women – to the negotiation table to end war and to construct a new society thereafter has not taken place on the international level ever up to now. Neither has Germany promoted such a change within the area of conflict solving, peace negotiating and peace building.

Another focus has been the work on ending gender blindness among peace groups and NGOs. There has been some success already, which, of course, is partly owed to the slow changing of society as such. A working group on Gender & Peace was founded in 2012 which is reaching out to society and the academia by papers, workshops etc. A symposium with international panelists is planned for next year at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Women's Network for Peace in Bonn. The principle of gender balance among members of the working group has been realized. The intern learning process is most fascinating, especially since its membership is divers in matters of age, milieu (community) and sexual orientation. Gender sensibility and gender justice in all peace processes is closely linked to the goal of equality, but the access is different. It needs awareness raising and a change of attitude which is the basis of change. It is not primarily based on changing laws but we are convinced that it will be effective in the long run to give women an equal place in society and politics. The fact that 15 years ago a UN Security Council resolution 1325 was passed that still has to be implemented is part of the picture.

The Women's Network for Peace is a member of the VENRO Gender working group, a very potential German NGO development organization which is a network of more than 50 organizations. There is a close contact to the department on Promoting Women's Empowerment and Gender issues of the German federal ministry on Economical Cooperation and Development. In this working group the task of our peace organization is to bring about the close interdependence of development and peace. No need to say that there is no development without sustainable peace and sustainable peacemaking. Everything is lost in the destruction of war. However, the intersectionality of the work of governments and even NGOs very often leads to a neglect of this interdependence. We were very happy to learn about the letter that the Major Women's Group sent last year to UN Secretary General demanding the implementation of peace into the SDGs and we are even more happy that now peace is included in SDG 16.

In 2004 The General Assembly of the United Nations agreed upon an International Day of Peace on September 21st each year. The Women's Network for Peace has been promoting the

idea to use this day as a momentum and international networking for peace. Since 2006 a coalition of peace NGOs and foundations mainly located in Bonn organize the Bonn Peace Week each year around the 21st of September with great success thus being linked to the international peace community. This year the topic is the implementation of the SDGs on the level of the municipality, especially SDG 16.

Last but not least I would like to report on our work on promoting the memory of Bertha von Suttner and her outstanding work for international peace and understanding. Although her novel “Arms Down” was spread all over the world in a short time after its publication 1889, not to mention her work in the Austrian and German Peace Societies and the International peace Conferences in Den Hague and many more, the fact that she was donated the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905 as the first women whosoever she became mainly forgotten. There is a central place in Bonn for public transportation that is used by ca 10.000 people per day. It was deliberately given the name “Bertha von Suttner square” right after the war, but when we interviewed people there hardly one person out of 50 knew who she was. When we started to contact people in the municipality and potential donors it was the same situation. Thus we started the project to erect a monumental piece of art in the public sphere with her life data and information about the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905. It was set up as the first sculpture in a public place in Germany on the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21st in 2013, created by the Finnish artist Sirpa Masalin. It had become a joint project of many people and the media in the city of Bonn, especially since we arranged many events to support it: the Austrian exhibition (available in the internet for downloading in 16 languages) was shown in the city hall, there were recitals, a film and a historical homage.

By the way: Bertha von Suttner’s bust was not to be found among the busts and monuments of celebrities in the Peace Palace in Den Hague until summer 2013. Again she was the first woman to be honored in this way, 99 years after she had died. In 2015 Aletta Jacobs followed her. The bust was revealed during the 100 anniversary of the foundation of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in Den Hague, April 2015, whereby Lyda Versteegen and Joke Sebus played an important part.

I do not want to list up the many conferences and workshops that the board members of the Women’s Network for Peace participated in but I would like to mention a local project that was started twelve years ago. It is the co-organization of a sponsored walk for peace of roughly 2000 school children in Bonn. Our share of the money is partly used for organizing further training and exchange of experiences among teachers and students who work in the project of peer mediation at schools, rather widely spread but not always supported wholeheartedly by colleagues and peers. We trust in the skills of non-violent conflict resolution and want to support the actors of this program since they will be the agents of change in their societies in their later life. The overall goal of our Women’s Network for Peace, Germany is the strengthening of the many aspects of a culture of peace, initiated by the appeal in the Peace Tent in Huairu during the fourth CSW 1995 in Beijing:

Change the culture of War to a Culture of Peace.

Thus the FNF has also become a member of the national network to stop Germany's harmful arms trade (2012).

War is waged by people, so is peace.

Fredrika Bremer Forbundet, Sweden

Loiuse Lindfors, President

Operating statement 2014



FREDRIKA BREMER
FÖR JÄMSTÄLLDHET MELLAN KVINNOR OCH MÄN

The board:

The following people were on the board 2014

Louise Lindfors, chairwoman

Per-Henrik Magnusson, vice chairman

Torbjörn Messing, board member

Karin Wikström, board member

Emma Victoria Nilsson, board member

Margareta Nord, board member

Carina Wellenius, board member

Christina Knight, board member

Kawa Zolfagary, substitute member

Carin Holmquist, substitute member

Aase Smedler substitute member

Economy and accounting

Accouter: Christina Lundman- Lagerstedt

Authorized signatory: Louise Lindfors and Christina Lundman-Lagersted

Bookkeeper: Marie-Louise Brunell, Calmia HB.

Certified accountant: Pernilla Varverud, Grant Thornton.

Office

The office of the Fredrika Bremer Association is located on Hammarby Allé 93 in Stockholm. Wendela Zetterberg was employed as chief secretary until June 2014. Starting in September 2014 Erika Eriksson is employed as gender equality expert and manager of public relations. During the spring semester Caroline Carneros (former internship student) was interning for the association and employed during June – August 2014.

Local groups

The main objectives for our local groups are to, through their operation, inform and work towards "The Fredrikas" main goals; increase the knowledge of the members throughout

different fields and build connections between the members. This is being done through activities, local committee meetings, seminars, lectures, study visits and excursion, but also through monitoring local matters and participating in local media. The Fredrika Bremer Association has local groups in Arvika, Avesta, Båstad, Göteborg, Karlstad, Landskrona, Linköping, Stockholm, Sundsvall, Uppsala and Örnsköldsvik.

Bra Pension! (Better Pension!)

The project Bra Pension! (Better Pension!) is led by the chairwoman Louise Lindfors. During 2014 the association received project funding from MUCF to continue the project year two of three. The grant was used to arrange an event in Stockholm in January 2014, three national lectures and to participate at the Nordic Forum in Malmö in June 2014. The project Bra Pension! (Better Pension!) aims to create public opinion and increase the interest in questions regarding pension, as part of accomplishing the bigger political goal of economic equality between men and women.

Individualized parental insurance

The project individualized parental insurance is led by the board member Torbjörn Messing. The association has applied for grants at different sponsors and built alliances with actors sharing the same interest, such as Rädta Barnen, Män för Jämställdhet and Stiftelsen Friends.

The hidden affirmative action in corporate governance

The project hidden affirmative action in corporate governance is led by the board members Christina Knight and Aase Smedler. The work refers to address the problem with unequal gender distribution in corporate governance quoted on the stock exchange in Sweden.

Hertha the magazine

Hertha, the oldest feminist magazine in the world, was published in March 2014. A release party was arranged on the 6th of March at Medborgarplatsens library in Stockholm. Over 50 people attended the event. As a way of further improve the Fredrika Bremer Association's brand and communication work, Hertha will from now on be published twice a year instead of once.

Communication and opinion

During 2014 we have developed and strengthen our communication channels in social media such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram in agreement with the association's aim to strengthen the work with political influence. Being active on social media makes it possible for us to quickly reach out with our message to our target audience, follow and communicate with our members and influence public opinion.

The Apelryd seminar

In 2014 the Apelryd seminar was held on the 8th – 9th of August at Apelrydsskolan. The theme was action and equality. The seminar was filmed and broadcast by SVT during September

2014. Among the participants was Mona Sahlin, Birgitta Ohlsson, Ida Östensson, Inti Chavez Perez and Kawa Zolfagary. In total 119 people participated.

Fredrika Bremer meets

The series of seminars called Fredrika meets continued during 2014. The seminars were arranged at, and in collaboration with, Medborgarplatsens library in Stockholm. During 2014 five different seminars was arranged with the following guests: Golnaz Hashemzadeh Bonde, Lou-Ann Wejke, Gertrud Åström, Katarina Wennstam and Bengt Westerberg. An average of 20 people attended each seminar during 2014.

The Fredrika Bremer Association 130 years the Bra-price

The Fredrika Bremer Association's Bra- price 2014 was awarded Ulrika Rogland and the project "Frihet från våld" ("Freedom from violence") run by Män för Jämställdhet. On the 14th of November around 70 people gathered at Nalen in Stockholm to celebrate both the Bra-prize winners and the Fredrika Bremer Association turning 130 years.

The Fredrika of the year

The 2014 Fredrika of the year was appointed Wendela Zetterberg, chief secretary at the Fredrika Bremer Association during many years and up until June 2014.

Nordic Forum

The Fredrika Bremer Association was one of the initiators and project owners of Nordic Forum in capacity of membership organization at Sveriges Kvinnolobby (Swedish Women's Lobby). The 12th – 14th of June 2014 close to 20000 feminist gathered in Malmö to set the agenda for the future of gender equality policy. Apart from being active in the preparation and mobilization work before the conference, The Fredrika Bremer Association participated with a well-attended stall.

Foundations and scholarships

The Fredrika Bremer Association administrates a number of foundations and scholarships distributed to vulnerable women with higher education. The association is also represented in the following organisations and networks in different ways; Båstad Chamber Music Festival, the Swedish Cancer Society, The Fredrika Bremer Association Scholarship Foundation, Hultenheim-Wernstedska Foundation, International Alliance of Women (IAW), NGO advisory board for gender equality in the government, The Fistula Hospital Foundation, The Crown Princess Margareta Memorial Fund, The Nurses Memorial Fund in Gothenburg, The Swedish United Nation Association, The Swedish Women's Lobby, CSW, The CEDAW network, The 15:56 Movement, UN Women National Committee Sweden, Vackstanäs high school.

Fredrika Bremer Association 2015

During the first half of 2015 the association continued to develop and straighten our communication channels and influence public opinion. We did this through continuing the

project Better Pension in cooperation with the Swedish Pension Agency. We have also started up the project “Svenne på Banan” in an effort to address both inequality and racist structures in public schools. This project is also an anti-violence project based on an American model.

Greek League for Women’s Rights

Lili Kourakou, President

Activities Report 2014-2015

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

i. Political life

a) In view of the 2014 elections for the European Parliament, the GLWR supported a 50/50% participation of each gender in the electoral tickets of each political party. This demand was in line with an EWL relevant campaign, and was a step forward in the equal participation of women in decision making centers, which we strongly believe. We put forward this demand by letter to the Prime Minister, the Leaders of all political parties and the competent Minister of Interior, asking for the 50/50% participation to be officially enacted by the Parliament. The Ministry of Interior answered back that the Draft Law concerning the European Elections, provided for the participation of each gender by 1/3 of the number of candidates in each electoral ticket, an arrangement equal to the one existing for national elections. Our request therefore for the 50/50% participation at the tickets for the European Parliament was rejected.

b) The Municipality of Athens organized a Meeting on March 8th, 2015 (International Woman’s Day), in support of the UN and EU campaign” **He for She, Gender equality is an issue for men too**”. During the Meeting, all male members of the Athens Municipal Council, and many individual men volunteered to sign in support of the campaign. The GLWR, invited to contribute, participated with two presentations, one by the President Lili Kourakou and one by the First Vice President Irene Fereti.

c) The Greek Parliament in an official ceremony, honoring the International Woman’s Day, awarded prizes to women having made significant contribution to society, science, justice, trade union movement and other fields of activity. First of all women honored was the GLWR Honorary President Alice Yotopoulos Marangopoulos, for her huge contribution to Science (Professor in Criminology, President of the Hellenic Society of Criminology, Board member of the International Society of Criminology, Lawyer at the Supreme Court, Vice President of the Bar Association of Athens, President of Panteion University etc,) and her work in the social field, with lifelong struggles for human rights and women’s rights in Greece and abroad (President of the National Commission for Human Rights, 10th President of the International

Alliance of Women, President for 30 years of the Greek League for Women's Rights, Founder and President of the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights)

Sofia Spiliotopoulos was also awarded an honorary prize. Sofia is a distinguished jurist, member of the GLWR, Lawyer at the Supreme Court, EC Expert, member of the Greek National Committee for Human Rights and its European counterpart. A well deserved award, in view of her work in advancing human rights and especially women's rights in the international, European and Greek law.

ii.Social life

a)All our interventions and protestations mentioned in our Activities Report for 2012-2013 (Shadow Report to the CEDAW Committee discussing the 7th Periodic Report of Greece, presentation to the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and foreign debt, of effects of foreign debt and austerity measures on human rights and especially on the social and economic position of women during the Greek economic crisis, etc.), were published in the Issues 91 and 92 of our Magazine "The Struggle of Woman". These two issues came out late, and had a large distribution and a positive response.

b)The General Assembly of the GLWR of May 29th 2014 issued a resolution protesting against the Ministry of Finance for not complying with justice ruling (decision of the court of First Instance of Athens) to revoke the dismissal of women cleaners of the Ministry. Our resolution was sent to competent European and international organs. The new Government of 2015 finally settled the matter and the cleaners returned to their work.

iii.Elimination of prejudices and stereotypes

For the period 2014-2015 the GLWR is implementing an NSFR (National Strategic Framework Reference) program, co-funded by the European Social Fund and national resources. The Program is "Contribution in combating gender stereotypes as they appear in Mass Media", and the whole of the Board, spearheaded by a Scientific Committee of Board member experts (L.Maratou Alipranti, I.Fereti, Ch.Karayannopoulou, Th.Papadopolou, and our economics expert K.Anagnostopoulou-Kourakou) are working hard on making this program a success.

The scope of the program is to combat gender stereotypes in Mass Media. The main focus is on informing and sensitizing students and graduates in Mass Media, journalism and advertising, as well as professionals and the wider public, on gender discrimination, gender stereotypes and attitudes portrayed by Mass Media, the overall aim being the promotion of gender equality. The Action Plan involves various activities, such as counseling seminars, workshops, production of information material, including a Guide of good practices, as well as open discussions in both the Athens and Greater Athens areas, as well as in two towns in Central Greece, with the involvement of local journalists and media organizations. It also involves information material and announcements appearing on both the



GLWR web-site (www.Leagueforwomenrights.gr) and in 4 issues of our Magazine (The Struggle of Woman) in a specially devoted section.

Since the program is nearing its end (end September) most part of it is already completed, with only a few actions, but significant ones, remaining, for which we will have to work hard for the rest of August and the whole of September.

iv. 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. This important function is offered on a weekly basis, addressing as always problems of family conflict, domestic violence, divorce, child custody, alimony and other problems involving family conflict. Since Jan. 2013, when Elia Kolokytha, who headed this service since it first started, died, this service is provided by the Vice President Irene Fereti, Sociologist/Criminologist.

(b) By letter addressed to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the GLWR brought up the question of the ratification by Greece of the Convention of the Council of Europe for the combating of violence against women and violence within the family (Constantinople Convention). In this letter we stressed the need for our country to ratify this Convention, which Greece has signed but not ratified as yet. The latest development on the matter is that the General Secretariat for Equality has already set up a Committee (the GLWR participates) to quickly promote the ratification and study all matters pertaining to its implementation.

(c) By a Declaration issued on November 25th (Day for the elimination of violence against women) the GLWR underlined the need for political leaders to be sensitized on the phenomenon that all forms of violence against women and children are increasing. We included proposals for measures to be taken, as for instance the strengthening of support mechanisms provided by Law 3500/2006 (Law against violence in the family), the incorporation of the principles of human rights and gender equality in all levels of education etc., so that violence against women can be prevented.

(d) A letter of protest for the kidnapping of young girl students in Nigeria by an Islamic terrorist organization was addressed to International Organisations. By this letter we condemned the atrocious criminal act of abducting the girls, asking at the same time the organizations to exert pressure so as all children , irrespective of gender, receive obligatory education, and for the Declaration of Human Rights to apply to all children, boys and girls alike.

v. Local events

(a) Awards to Journalists ...and beyond

At the beginning of each year, at a traditional festive gathering to celebrate the coming of the New Year, the GLWR welcomes friends, members, and partners in gender equality, and presents awards to journalists of the press and electronic media who during the previous year

supported gender equality. For 2015, we found support not only in the media, but in an extraordinary school theatrical performance. Indeed, the Leondio Lucee of New Smyrna, Athens, presented for the first time in Greece the play “Blue Stockings” by Jessica Swale, having obtained the right for six performances. The play deals with the struggle of girl students to acquire a degree from the Gerton College in Cambridge, where they were studying. The performance was entirely staged by professors, students and graduates of the school. During our New Year gathering, scenes of the play were presented. We found the meaning of the play to constitute an advocacy for women’s rights, and decided that for the first time the GLWR’s award for supporting gender equality should go to this pioneer school, so much more because this valuable message for the women’s struggle to achieve equality in education was coming from young persons and was addressed to young persons. The School responded to this award, dedicating the performance on 8th March to the League for Women’s Rights.

(b) Honoring the 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 solely moral value, bears the name of Alice Yotopoulos Marangopoulos. For 2014 the Social Achievement award “Alice Yotopoulos Marangopoulos” went to “Anoixti Agalia”, a very special case of NGO, mainly consisting of volunteer doctors and medical attendants, acting on a voluntary basis on two critical fronts: children’s health, and preventive medicine for children and adults in far away and economically weak districts. They visit these areas once a year to examine, recommend treatment and medication, keep medical records, inform, advise, educate, support these lonely forgotten people. The name “Anoixti Agalia” means “Open Arms” “Friends of Social Paediatrics/Medicine” and they are a true and very special case of manifesting human feelings and solidarity, impressive for the spirit in which it is done, the magnitude of the effort and the social benefits resulting. The Award was given to the President and initiator of “Anoixti Agalia” Mrs. Yolanda Vlachou. For 2015 social work done in elementary schools captured our attention. Two elementary school teacher are doing an amazing work in their corresponding schools, in which, it should be noted, 75% of the student population come from poor immigrant families, often having language problems. The one of the awards was given for the work done “in cultivating a democratic and humanitarian spirit in the school”. The other “for struggling to create a spirit and conditions of social solidarity in the school”. Two truly exceptional cases, excellent work, well deserved awards.

(c) Miscellaneous

- Board members represent the GLWR in International and European organizations:
- . Greek Branch of EWL (K. Anagnostopoulou-Kourakou and L. Maratou-Alipranti)
- .EIGE (L.Maratou-Alipranti)
- .AFEM (S. Koukouli-Spiliotopoulos)

.National Committee for Human Rights (S. Koukouli-Spiliotopoulos)
.Greek Economic and Social Committee (Il. Sakka)

- The present President of IAW Joana Manganara is a former Board member of the GLWR, and in the latter capacity represented the League to the IAW.
- General Secretariat for Gender Equality: 3 Board Member participate in study groups dealing with gender equality issues (L. Kourakou, Female unemployment and participation in decision making centers, I. Fereti Education and Health, Ch. Karayannopoulou violence against women and ratification of the Constantinople Convention).
- Members of the Board attend conferences, public discussions, events etc. pertaining to gender equality, often with active participation.
- The GLWR is planning to start an effort, seeking the collaboration of other women's organizations, to promote gender equality policies which do not imply financial cost. It is the only thing we can ask for at the time of crisis, in the middle of which we still are.
- University students are practicing at the GLWR in gender equality issues, at the same time giving us a helpful hand in our everyday work. This package is part of the Program ATLAS for four trimesters, each consisting of four persons.

(d) The sad news.

Suddenly, unexpectedly, in early August 2014, our beloved former President Soula Panaretou, passed away. Early in her life Soula became involved and was totally devoted to the fight for human rights, especially women's rights. She joined the "League for Women's Rights" in 1995, and was soon elected member of the Board. She immediately won the recognition, appreciation and love of all of us. In November 2000 was elected Vice-President and in post for health reasons. She is one of a series of great women, who through the League made great contribution to the advancement of equality of men and women and the improvement of the lives of Greek Women. The Greek League for Women's Rights, wishing to honor her memory, invited her friends who had worked with her in fair and righteous causes, to pay tribute to her memory through the pages of our Magazine "Woman's Struggle", a special issue of which was dedicated to her. We will always cherish her memory, and she will always remain in our hearts.

WIZO

Tova Ben-Dov, President, World WIZO



The **Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO)** was founded as a *voluntary international social movement* in 1920, in London, and is committed to providing for the welfare and education of children, and to advance the status of women in Israel. In 1959 WIZO was invited to gain consultative status on UNICEF and in 1960 WIZO was granted consultative status on ECOSOC (United Nations Economical, Social and Cultural

Organization).

As a leading women's social organization, WIZO shares the same issues, problems and challenges pertaining to women and children all over the world. WIZO believes it can *contribute to finding solutions for new challenges that arise, through sharing it's professional know how, expertise and experience that has been accumulated in nearly 100 years* and that is constantly adapted to the reality in which we live, in educational and social related issues, including the advancement of women.

EDUCATION – THE PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE

WIZO sees equality as a basic value and right afforded to all and therefore, in all its 800 projects, programmes and services, it strives to give every child, woman and man the supporting, professional and advancing environment in which to achieve this – irrelevant of gender, origin, age, residence, circumstances, religion or social status (native, new immigrant or minority). Through its many projects, WIZO enables every member of society receiving its services, to obtain the tools and skills they need to achieve equal opportunities to better their lives, thus helping to reduce gaps and differences.

Equal Education is implemented in all WIZO Educational Facilities.

World WIZO operates over **180** Day Care Centres attended by approximately **15,000** babies, toddlers and children for the early age – where in the most important formative years of their development and personality, the children receive education, enrichment and care, allowing their mothers to pursue studies and careers, certain that their children are in the best possible environment. WIZO also operates **20** Multi-Purpose Day Care Centres that address Children/Parent problems and provide parental guidance. World WIZO operates **2** facilities for babies and toddlers that have been removed from their parental home until the authorities find suitable solutions for them -

In its **8** WIZO schools and youth villages that provide an equal education with a broad curriculum combining general knowledge, science, applied science, technology, applied technologies, and the arts - that allows academic & professional advancement that can break the cycles of illiteracy and poverty. It also instills in its students of all ages the values of social awareness, voluntarism and help to the surrounding community. Special care and attention is provided for children at risk from dysfunctional families or victims of domestic violence; for children with handicaps and special needs; and for new immigrants that in addition to the language barrier also have to overcome cultural differences and mentality difficulties.

The WIZO educational concept allows the pursuit of an academic career in any field and we are especially proud of our programme "Heading to the Technion" - a programme to encourage young girls (8th – 12th grade from Municipal Schools in Haifa, whose population is heterogenic including those from middle and low income and religious families) to pursue science and technological studies at the Haifa Technion.

The Programme is multi field on an academic level. Girls in the junior high school receive enrichment and reinforcement in Science, English and Mathematics - the three basic topics required for higher studies. For the 10th graders onwards there is coordination between the

girls chosen topic (physics, chemistry, biology, computer science) and researchers at the Technion and other researching facilities.

EQUALITY – A BASIC RIGHT FOR ALL

In addition, **the WIZO** movement is committed to increase equality in all fields and on all levels of society, (1) through initiating and lobbying for advanced legislation; (2) through practical measures – raising awareness and providing empowerment and enrichment to women from all walks of life to improve their lives and those of their families; (3) through public diplomacy – sharing our accumulated know - how with women from all over the world.

By promoting and lobbying for the equality of women's civil rights in a wide spectrum of fields, WIZO is working towards improving women's legal, social professional and financial status that lead to better working opportunities and better lives for them and their families.

In its WIZO Centres all over the country, empowering courses are carried out to allow women to better themselves socially, culturally and professionally. Women can learn to read, operate PC's, or even take courses in Entrepreneurship so that they can open their own business. WIZO also operates courses that allow professionals in the civil service to advance to executive positions

COMBATTING VIOLENCE – THE NO. 1 SOCIAL MALADY

In its work, providing for the welfare of women, children and youth in the Israeli society, WIZO is faced with the two main forms of violence – Domestic Violence and Child Related Violence. Throughout the years WIZO has done everything possible to combat these forms of violence and help the women and children, victims of this social malady – such as raising more awareness to the phenomena, demanding intervention by the authorities, promoting and calling for implementation of stricter legislation and punishment against offenders, and more consideration and support for the women and children.

The majority of abused women is unemployed or earn minimum wage, have low self esteem, may have experienced this type of relationship as daughters and not only as wives and therefore cannot perceive that it is possible to live differently. WIZO believes that in order to break the cycle of violence, a comprehensive long term multi-faceted solution is required.

By promoting and lobbying and for stricter punishment for sex offenders and children abusers, WIZO is combating these social maladies and giving the victims a second chance to pursue normality and happiness. As do the laws in regard to children's rights.

In August 1991, the State of Israel became one of the first countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In recent years, Israeli legislation has begun to recognize that children have rights and are not just objects of protection. For example, the right of a child to voice his opinion and participate in proceedings that significantly affect his life; an Amendment to the Youth Labor Law, in respect to youth work; the 1995 Amendment to the Treatment and Supervision Youth Law, where minors were given the right to oppose forced hospitalization for mental illness, and the right to be represented by a lawyer. However

advanced legislation has to be accompanied by sufficient re-enforcement by the relevant authorities.

World WIZO also acts on the *practical* level. WIZO has always been able to identify and analyze current problems – when domestic violence came to the public awareness, WIZO as one of Israel's leading Women's organizations took practical steps to assist, by opening two Shelters for Battered Women and their children. The Shelters address all the problems the women experience with emphasis on their mental, social and professional problems. Assistance is also extended to the children who also bear scars - mental and/or physical - of the domestic violence. WIZO also operates two residential facilities for babies and toddlers removed from their parental homes by the courts. They stay in WIZO's care until a permanent solution is found for them (return to parent(s), foster care, adoption).

WIZO also operates over 30 legal advice bureaus throughout the country to assist women in family matters and employment law; 3 WIZO Centres for the Prevention of Domestic Violence – where both the abused and the abusers receive individual, group and family unit treatment and counseling. WIZO operates a hot line for abusive men and offers treatment. **WIZO Girls Clubs** for Adolescent Girls in Distress have prevented many girls from deteriorating to a life of drugs and crime.

Lithunianian Women's Society

Nijolė Steponkutė, President

The Lithuanian Women's Society focussed on getting ready for the new EU financing period. We contacted our partners, discussed the ideas for common projects, were looking for new project partners in Norway, Sweden, Belarus, Georgia and other countries in projects which could get financing. With this end in view we organized an international conference about father's role in a family in Druskininkai. Members of Women's Union of Belarus participated in it. The most important problems for the both neighbouring countries were highlighted during the conference. We agreed that the cross boarder cooperation is very important since the political situation is tense and people who have been linked by common history and culture for centuries and were a part of the same Grand Duchy of Lithuania are being made enemies today. Women participating in the conference expressed a wish for future common projects and were very enthusiastic about the future cooperation. To this end, the Lithuanian Women's Society joined the National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organization's Platform. This gives us good chances in finding partners for international projects, for participating in conferences, seminars and various trainings which are very important for the LWS volunteers.

We continue working on the projects meant for the most marginalized Roma community leaders. In the course of the projects it became clear that Roma women are under double discrimination – due to their nationality and due to their gender. They also suffer from domestic violence. On our initiative the Ministry of Culture included paragraphs about



reducing the discrimination of Roma women into the state program which was prepared by Roma leaders got individual counselling which helped them to enhance their self-esteem, taught them the skills of team work and helped in resisting the stereotype that women are inferior beings. They were told that girls must be encouraged to attend school and acquire professions.

In 2013-2014 the Lithuanian Women's Society in cooperation with the Lithuanian Children's Fund has been working on the project „We and the Roma - NGO coalition“. Representatives of the LWS participated in conferences, discussions and seminars meant for the social involvement of the Roma. We participated in preparing the Lithuanian National Strategy of Roma Integration and in making the action plan. We expressed our opinion about the guidelines of the public policy and put a special stress on the issues of gender equality.

Kretinga Women Information and Employment Center which was established by the Lithuanian Women's Society 16 years ago is counselling unemployed women and women who suffered from domestic violence. They provide psychological assistance, hold various trainings, seminars and lectures, arrange meetings with influential people. They speak about the regional women's problems. They also have women's clubs according to their interests.

The Lithuanian Women's Society is an active member of the Lithuanian Women's Lobby. We try to make good relations with the Government and the Parliament members so that women's problems would be solved in high levels. We participated in preparing the Government Program for Women's Advancement and will work on its further realization. Alongside with the Women's Lobby we spread the information about the EU politics and various international organizations in the sphere of gender equality, inform our people about the national and international cooperation, provide the information about various researches on gender equality.

In September 2014 the General Assembly of the European Centre of the International Council of Women was held in Vilnius. The seminar topic was „Women and Work: Economic Empowerment of Women“. It was excellently evaluated and the delegates got to know the problems of the Lithuanian women and visited the European Institute on Gender Equality. The gender equality index was presented. This is the first research of this kind and it shows that inequality still exists.

Now the Lithuanian Women's Society is working on a project “Recognize the Faces of Discrimination” the goal of which is to develop the fight with intolerance and discrimination in the society on the whole, the educational institutions, the NGOs, the schools participating in the project and the day centers for children by analyzing the existing stereotypes and using the creative forces to destroy them. We shall also work with journalists and mass media as well as the social networks. The methods created will be presented to the society so they can be used for reducing the discrimination and developing tolerance.

Vrouwenbelangen

Artemis Westenberg

Vrouwenbelangen organized this year two meetings. On the general assembly President Leonie van Gils requested the members to look for new Board members as she was stepping down due to health problems. Paula van der Knaap was appointed assistant- treasurer. Artemis Westenberg, president of the region South-Holland/Sealand and acting as president on behalf of Leonie, and her team organized the celebration of 120 year jubilee of Vrouwenbelangen. Lectures by 3 powerful and interesting female Dutch leaders, followed by a dinner led to animated discussions on the subject of emancipation of women in the labour force. The celebration took place in the Royal Sailing and Rowing Society smack in the middle of Rotterdam at the river Maas, where all witnessed an enormous cruise ship leaving its berth en route to its next port of call. Surrounded by Rotterdam landmarks (like the Erasmus Bridge in the image) commanding the Rotterdam skyline the attendees celebrated 'Women's Lib' and promised each other, and Dutch society as a whole, to keep striving for an equal opportunities society. The meeting was open to all members, plus any interested parties as their guests. As always the season found its closure with a Speaker's Corner at the lovely garden of one our Rotterdam members playing host to all.



A workshop in Surinam

For the second time the region South-Holland/Sealand organized training-workshop in Nickery, Surinam, on 'Women & Empowerment'. This four day training was attended by 30 local participants. The program was a success which will hopefully help the local women to find equal footing with men. The Dutch trainers received many compliments on their effort. You can find a report on this training by [clicking here](#).

Flash Mob, and IAW Suffragettes in 1915



During the First World War, in April 1915, over 1200 brave suffragettes from twelve countries crossed oceans and war borders to attend a Peace Conference in The Hague. Their aim was demanding international and permanent peace for the world. On April the 25th 2015, at the gate of the Peace Palace in The Hague, members of the International Alliance of Women and WILPF paid respect to these brave suffragettes of 100 years ago. We held their portraits high, we cheered and there was music. You can find the story of the suffragettes, in English [by clicking here](#)

The website

Vrouwenbelangen has a website with pages written in Dutch and English. It also has a charming widget of Facebook. On a page: 'Readers are writing', we publish news send to us by members.

IAW - Every two months we mail an IAW newsletter round and once or twice a year IAW Board member Louise Deumer organizes an informal well attended lunch. No agenda or reports, just telling each other what has happened in this complicated political world.

We end this report in the harbour of The Hague, where in June an all female crew on a 'round the world sailing trip' stopped by in their sailing boat during the Volvo Ocean Race.



Happy boarding to all of you in Paris, from Vrouwenbelangen the Netherlands!

The Norwegian Association of Women's rights (Norsk kvinnesaksforening)

Margunn Bjørnholt, Chair*Regional Nordic IAW initiative on Women and the Economy*

Together with our IAW sister organisations in Denmark, Sweden and Finland, Dansk Kvindesamfund (Danish

Women's Society), Fredrika

Bremer Förbundet, Sweden and

Naisasialiitto Unioni –

Kvinnosaksförbundet Unionen

(Feminist Association Unioni) –

Finland) we received funding

from Nordic Information on gender (NIKK) for a regional IAW initiative on women's

economic and social rights in our respective countries. In Norway, we started with a meeting

on the economic situation of lone parents on 19 January 2015. Norway used to provide relatively high and universal support for lone parents, but the period of eligibility was

substantially reduced and there has been a sharpening of conditions for the lone parents benefit which in particular hits women with low education and women of ethnic minorities.

We have engaged against a new reform with further reductions, but we must admit, however, that we were unsuccessful in influencing policies, as the suggested reforms were passed.

On the 25 August 2015, we co-organise a seminar in Oslo on women in business together with the think tank Agenda. Norway still ranks very low with regard to women in top management positions in big companies, and this seminar will focus on the need for enhanced action, a.o. the use of quotas to increase the share of women in decision-making positions at the top of big companies.

National seminar on the pioneer Katti Anker Møller

On the 10 October we organise a seminar in Fredrikstad on the Norwegian pioneer for maternal social and reproductive rights Katti Anker Møller. In Norway women obtained



social rights as mothers from an early stage, and, today, family law researchers conclude that Norwegian maternalism was effective in promoting equality and in securing Norwegian women civil rights at an early stage, too. Norwegian women obtained the vote in 1913. KAM was a very important pioneer in the development of family law and child law. She also strongly influenced her brother in law, the MP Johan Castberg, who was behind the most radical child laws in the world, the Castbergian child laws in 1915, giving children born outside of marriage equal rights to children born within wedlock. Today the importance of the Castbergian laws on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is increasingly recognized. 1915 was also the year when KAM gave one of her most famous talks, openly defending women's rights to control her fertility, including abortion. NKF has also taken the initiative to a celebration of the Castbergian Child laws in the Norwegian parliament.

Beijing+20 regional NGO-meeting Geneva November 2014

We participated with other IAW-members at the regional NGO meeting in preparation of Beijing+20 in Geneva. Margunn Bjørnholt participated, along with IAW president Joanna Manganara on a panel on women and the economy, and Margunn also contributed in retrospect to the input text that was sent from the meeting to the CSW. Former president of the Norwegian Women's Association and IAW-member Torild Skard gave a presentation on Women in power, based on her book on all female state leaders since 1960, which has just been published in English.

CSW 2015 in New York

We participated in the IAW delegation to CSW. We also participated in the official Norwegian delegation as part of the Norwegian Women's Lobby, which was established in 2014 at the initiative of The Norwegian Association of Women's rights and other women's rights organisations focusing on women's rights in Norway. During the CSW, we participated in and co-organised several side-events through IAW and the Norwegian Women's Lobby: a.o. :IAW side-event on Feminist Economics, IAW side-event on Women State Leaders, Norwegian Women's lobby side-event on the role of women's organisations in advanced democracies.

Ongoing struggles

NKF and other women's organisations in Norway are busy with mobilising against several law reforms that may represent backlashes for women's rights. In addition to the aforementioned changes in economic rights for lone parents, we have engaged against proposed ***changes in family law*** increasing fathers rights at the cost of mothers and children in the name of gender equality. We have participated in a large mobilisation against increased restrictions for family immigration. Further, we have mobilised in defense of a ***continued ban on the purchase of sex***. A unilateral ban on the purchase of sex (but not on selling) was introduced in 2009, and a recent evaluation has revealed that the law is a success, but the issue is still brought up now and then. We also engage against a new, common ***antidiscrimination law*** that is going to replace the separate discrimination laws, among them the gender equality law. We argue that we need a separate law on gender equality and separate anti-discrimination laws for other grounds, rather than one "one fits all".

We have *municipal elections* this year and we have updated and distributed a small folder on how to support women by giving them extra votes.

Another ongoing and neverending struggle is the *continued economic discrimination of women's organisations* and most recently the lack of funding of our new umbrella organisation The Norwegian Women's lobby.

Women's Electoral Lobby



Extracts from WEL Facebook - August-September compiled by Priscilla Todd

A Woman's Right to visit Reproductive Health Services without harassment

The Women's Centre for Health Matters call for the creation of privacy zones around reproductive health services in the **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**.

Over the past sixteen years, some women accessing health services in the ACT have had to [pass Right to Life](#) protestors. This is because they are entering a health facility that offers termination of pregnancy, among other reproductive health services. Termination of pregnancy has been legal in the ACT since 2002 and is regulated like other health services provided by a medical practitioner to their patients. There are no other health services in the ACT for which patients and health professionals are subject to such public commentary, protest and condemnation.

Protests at the location where termination of pregnancy services are provided do impede access. Women and their families can feel considerable distress when exposed to anti-choice protestors as they enter clinics. Even silent vigils convey disapproval and judgement, and contribute to distress in women and their families. By staging their protest outside a health service, the Right to Life protestors engage in behaviour that violates others' rights to unimpeded access to health services and to privacy.

Over the past sixteen years, some women accessing health services in the ACT have had to [pass Right to Life](#) protestors. This is because the women are entering a health facility that offers termination of pregnancy, among other reproductive health services.



Tasmania introduced similar zones in 2013. Its legislation created a 150 metre access zone around premises at which termination of pregnancy is provided. It was recognised in the Tasmanian parliamentary debate that the access zones did not limit the right of protestors to express their views, but simply ensured that they had to do so outside of the access zone.

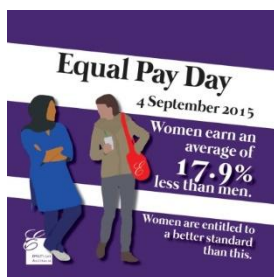
Protesters will be banned from harassing women on the steps of **Victorian** abortion clinics before the end of the year. The Victorian government has agreed to a deal with Sex Party MP Fiona Patten to put protest exclusion zones outside fertility clinics. The government will introduce the legislation before the end of the year. The Greens have indicated they will vote for it, and the Liberals will have a free vote, meaning the bill will pass. Patten said she had support from a number of Liberal women MPs who supported the right of women to go to fertility clinics without being harassed.

New focus in Victorian schools to help address gender stereotypes and discrimination

The Victorian State Government has ordered that the weekly 30 minute religious instruction program move to lunchtime and before and after school in 2016 to make way for new content on world histories, cultures, faiths and ethics. Classes that address domestic violence and respectful relationships will also become compulsory for all preparatory to year 10 students from 2016. This follows a pilot study that ran in 30 Victorian schools, and will focus on challenging attitudes and behaviours that can lead to violence against women. It also coincides with the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Prevention of Family Violence Minister Fiona Richardson said this new focus would help address gender stereotypes and discrimination. "Respectful relationships education is key to combating prejudice and preventing violence – we're including it in the curriculum so that every Victorian school teaches students these important skills and content." Domestic Violence Victoria chief executive Fiona McCormack applauded the government for incorporating domestic violence prevention into the curriculum. "The time has come, we've got to start intervening earlier, and educating children at a young age about respectful relationships," she said.

Emily's List



The gender wage gap is sitting at 17.9% and it's growing. Share this graphic to remind others of this issue, talk about in your workplace today. Because we are entitled to a better standard than this!

[Equal Pay Day](#) marks the period of extra days in the current year which women need to work to achieve the same wages that men earned during the previous financial year.

Minister bans school from screening gay film in class

27 August 2015 The NSW Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, banned every public school in the state from screening a documentary about children with gay parents during school hours. He issued a memo to the State's school principals ordering them not to show the film *Gayby Baby* so as "to not impact on the delivery of planned lessons".

Up to 50 schools across Australia, including 20 in NSW had organised a simultaneous broadcast of the film as part of a nationwide Wear it Purple day campaign of sexual inclusion in schools.

This has provided tremendous publicity for the film and it is playing to large audiences.

National Spotlight on Domestic Violence

Women's Electoral Lobby, Australia [September 10 at 10:35pm](#)

"Men's violence against women is not a passive act. It's not an unfortunate incident that women stumble into. It doesn't share the unavoidable, unpredictable nature of the weather. It is premeditated, calculated and entirely supported by a society which uses passive language to dismiss it and make it invisible. No more."



If we want to bring an end to the shocking statistics of murdered women, we have to be willing to name the problem. It is men's violence against women. It is tangible and devastating, and it isn't something women stumble into accidentally."

Victorian Government plans to introduce family violence leave for public servant

The crimes of family violence and child abuse first hit the headlines in the 1970s and 1980s when political feminist waves exposed the issues within Australian society. For the first time, sexual and other forms of abuse and violence were publicly named, personal stories were told and power imbalance and control were identified as key factors in the perpetration of such violence.

Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence will conclude hearings after weeks of evidence from victims, advocates and support services. It has learned that the impacts of early experiences of family violence and child abuse are often both significant and long-term. It has heard that victims often have trouble remaining in paid employment as they struggle to cope with physical and psychological trauma and deal with legal issues.

Tens of thousands of Victorian public sector workers will for the first time be entitled to family violence leave to help victims maintain stable employment. Nurses, teachers and other public servants facing family violence will be able to apply for the new form of leave under a clause to be built into all future Victorian public sector enterprise agreements.

Family Violence Prevention Minister Fiona Richardson said it would send a clear message that victims were supported in their workplace and need not suffer in silence. "Victims need to attend things like medical appointments and legal proceedings," Ms Richardson said. "This will give them the support, financial independence and wellbeing that they need during what are extremely difficult and stressful times."

“

TWO **WOMEN** HAVE BEEN **KILLED** EVERY WEEK THIS YEAR BY THEIR PARTNER OR THEIR FORMER PARTNER.

IF WE WERE SEEING TWO **SOLDIERS** **KILLED** EVERY SINGLE WEEK ... COMMANDERS WOULD BE HELD TO ACCOUNT AND BE ASKED TO EXPLAIN.

RETIRED LIEUTENANT GENERAL
DAVID MORRISON

www.wel.org.au Think **WEL** before you vote

“

WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** SO PREVALENT IN SOCIETY, IT, BY DEFAULT, IS A **WORKPLACE ISSUE** AND YOU CANNOT IGNORE IT.

FORMER TELSTRA CEO
DAVID THODEY

www.wel.org.au Think **WEL** before you vote

Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines

NORMA J. LOZANO, President

A: WRMP October 2014 – September 2015 Activities

Women's Rights Movement in the Philippines (WRMP) initiated seminars on Women Empowerment Through Social Protection, focusing on special laws on women particularly the RA 9710: the Magna Carta of Women; RA 9262: the Anti-Violence Against Women, RA 9208 and RA 10364. The Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines had a series of activities, to wit:

1. Seminar Workshop on Empowerment of Women thru Laws and City Ordinances: Osaka Japan and Quezon City, Philippines.



Philippine delegates to Osaka, Japan on Women Empowerment touring the city.

2. Livelihood Training in Antipolo City teaching women and out of school youth making liquid soap, dishwashing detergent, Tiles and Toilet Bowl cleaner, etc.
3. Attending the Commission on the Status of Women / Beijing +20 on March 9 – 20, 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City;

“REPORT: In very cold winter weather, we arrived at the United Nations, New York City on March 8, 2015. It was International Women's Day March in New York . Happily , we caught the tail end of the Women's March. We were billeted at the POD Hotel, 51st street, New York City, a few blocks away from the United Nations where the conferences were held.

Our attendance and participation in CSW 59, Beijing+20 was vastly enriched by our amazing sisterhood moments with the officers of the International Alliance of Women (IAW) who were also we billeted at the same hotel and we attended most of the NGO organized events at the Church Center, United Nations.



Norma Lozano with Joanna Manganara

4. Feeding Program for Deaf and Blind Children in the province of Zambales;
5. Fund Raising Program (Dancing Galore) in Metro Manila;
6. Providing rice, canned goods, school supplies to the indigenous people (Aetas) in Olongapo, Zambales;
7. Conduct Gender Sensitivity Training and Development in Club Filipino, San Juan City to women, youth and men during the International Women's Day Celebration;
8. Women Empowerment for Leadership and Good Governance in July at the Highway Hills Integrated School in Mandaluyong City;
9. Conducted Empowering Women on the UN Post 2015 Development focusing on the Climate Change, Local Governance and Laws on Women on August 12 – 14, 2015.
10. WRMP also conducted Gender Sensitivity Training on Women, Men, LGBT, Single Parent and Persons With Disabilities (PWD) of Barangay Fil Am, Quezon City and Violence Against Women and Children Seminar for the women of Barangay Roxas, Quezon City

B: WRMP Plans for 2016 – 2017

For 2016, WRMP will conduct conferences, seminars in the barangay level on Human Rights and Women's Rights that will include the Family Code of the Philippines. WRMP plans to: 1) assist strengthen the Barangay Judiciary System and the responsibilities of the "Lupon Tagapamayapa" (Barangay Court); 2) disseminate educational and information campaign to stop trafficking of persons by way of conducting seminars, forum theatre and film showing for the community along coastal area all over the Philippines; 3) print comics in Filipino language that contain the experiences of trafficking victims.

At the National level, WRMP plans to continue conducting national conferences and monitoring on the Gender And Development (GAD) budget, the Magna Carta and other laws on women. We can provide quarterly trainings on these laws.

At the international level, we hope to strengthen linkages and advocacy in the United Nations Conferences such as assisting in the conduct of side events in partnership with other international non-government organizations with the same advocacy on women's rights. WRMP hopefully will always send delegates to the UN Conferences/ conventions and at the International Alliance of Women conferences.

“PAN CYPRIAN MOVEMENT EQUAL RIGHTS - EQUAL RESPONSIBILITIES”

Elli Christodoulou, board member, Cyprus

Introduction

It is an honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to talk to the IWA about the Cyprus Organization.

In 1978, a group of progressive Cypriots founded the “Pan Cyprian Movement Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities”. Our organization aims the promotion of true equality between all people in all areas of life and the Protection of Human Rights. In addition, we target the elimination of all forms of violence, poverty, drugs, human trafficking and exploitation as well as the equal participation of women in decision-making.

Our Goals, in accordance with the constitution are:

- To claim substantial reforms to ensure real equality among men and women in regards of their rights, responsibilities and legal status as well as their personal opportunity development for beneficial upbringing.
- To encourage the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus to exercise their rights and their influence on public life (e.g. Women in decision making centers).
- To defend human rights and to ensure the respect of the individual personalities regardless of gender, religion or race.
- To cooperate with other women’s organizations, political or not, designed to ensure the preservation and safeguarding of moral, intellectual, social and professional rights of Cypriot women.
- To collaborate with international organizations that aim similar ideas in order to improve understating between Nations.

Our organization seeks to achieve the above aims through lectures, seminars, public discussions, announcements, informational materials and other events via which the existing inequalities can be emerged and targeted for abolishment.

Our movement is an organization without any political orientation or affiliation, which accepts as member’s adult women and men who are interested in promoting equality and justice.

We have been actively involved in almost all changes and improvements made since the organizations establishment. During the years we have been involved in various legislation amendments that involved among others the promotion of gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women, the maternity protection as well as the establishment of laws in regards of family violence.

The accomplishments of our Movement and its actions over the years are numerous. A few of them are the following:

1. The establishment of the “Centre for Emergency Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence” in 1988 to protect the Victims of Violence.
2. The subsequent establishment of the “Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family”.

3. The promotion and reinforcement via parliament voting of the Family Law modification that involves mandatory pension for housewives and equal pay for work.

The Pan Cyprian Movement Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities is a member of the “National Mechanism for Women's Rights”, under the umbrella of the Cypriot Ministry of Justice and Public Order. The movement participates in all meetings, events, sub-committees and general overall efforts of women’s associations that aim to achieve real equality between men and women. As a result of our efforts the National Mechanism is currently working to achieve and implement the National Strategic Action Plan for Equality for the years 2014-2017.

The participation of our organization in the bi-communal project sub-committee is of particular importance to us. Independent of political discussions and beliefs, it provides the opportunity to Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot women to cooperate in creating awareness of each others culture and mentality, ultimately aiming the familiarization of our communities and establishment of friendly relationships.

As a member of the World Association of Women "International Alliance of Women" our movement supports the campaign to raise public awareness for women's rights worldwide. Despite our achievements and advances throughout the years, we recognize the need to further progress and challenge prejudices. Our work does not cease until we reach a time in which people are respected and treated as equal members of society.

Activities 2014

Assuming that some problems originate from prejudices, stereotypes and the structure of the Cypriot family, all of our 2014 “**Rural Women**” events were dedicated in the identification and elimination of violence. During the year we visited various villages in Cyprus, where we organized informational events with the aim of acknowledging domestic violence and women encouragement to prevent and rebuttal any form of violence against them.

Activities 2015

- We found that Rural Women are in need of informative events to understand and handle the problems of violence. To that end our Movement has continued to organize informational events aiming the increase of awareness of what constitutes domestic violence and how to recognize, avoid and handle any type of violence.
- We attended meetings of the “Parliament Commission for Human Rights and Equal opportunities between Men and Women”. During the meeting we expressed our views on the national strategic action plan for equality for the years 2014-2017.
- We participated in workshops of the European Program “Gen-Div” Gender Diversity in promoting and empowering women in Decision Making Positions.

Regarding our upcoming planned in 2015:

- We are going attending the International Alliance of Women Conference 2015 in Paris.
- We will host Mrs. Joanna Manganara, Chairman of International alliance of Women to speak about the Violence within the Family.

Future Objectives

A lot more needs to be done in the area of raising awareness for human rights. In addition, we aim to continue finding innovative ways to succeed all of our goals.

ASSOCIATES

La Colombe

Introduction

L'ONG LA COLOMBE est une association Togolaise de développement créée le 17 mars 1990 et gérée par des femmes de professions diverses. Elle a été créée pour apporter une réponse à la pauvreté des femmes, la santé précaire des femmes, le taux d'analphabétisme féminin élevé, la déperdition scolaire chez la jeune fille, la violence à l'égard des femmes et des enfants.

Elle compte aujourd'hui une quarantaine de membres et dispose d'un conseil d'administration composé de cinq (05) femmes, d'un comité consultatif et d'une équipe technique.

LA COLOMBE a développé des actions dans différents domaines tels que ; la formation professionnelle, Violences à l'égard des femmes et des filles, Adaptation aux effets des changements climatiques, Agro écologie, Santé, Culture.

Le présent rapport couvre la période 2014-2015.

I- FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE (financé par Pain pour le Monde)

1.1-Formation des jeunes filles en couture, coiffure, cuisine, législation/hygiène, alphabétisation, gestion, entrepreneuriat.

LA COLOMBE gère un centre de formation des jeunes filles. Les filles suivent la formation dans différents métiers pendant 2 à 3 ans.

- 11 filles en coiffure passent le Certificat de Fin d'Apprentissage (CFA) en fin Aout 2015
- 27 filles ont passé avec succès en Aout 2014 à l'examen du CFA.
- Soixante-trois filles sont actuellement en formation dans le centre.

1.2- Suivi/accompagnement des ex apprenantes.

Après leur formation au centre, une soixantaine de filles ont été accompagnées pour s'installer ou améliorer leurs activités.

Il a été constaté :

- La fierté des ex apprenantes de devenir auto employeur.
- Prise de conscience des ex apprenantes vis-à-vis de leur travail
- Au niveau du suivi des ex apprenantes, une a particulièrement fait la différence. Il s'agit de Mademoiselle AKAKPO Adjaa Jacqueline installée à Pagala Gare dans la région centrale. Elle est une fille mère d'un garçon. Elle forme 12 apprenties dans son

atelier. Elle épargne 700 francs par jour. Elle prend en charge 5 membres de sa famille et scolarise deux enfants. Elle a 200 euros dans son livret d'épargne au 30 Juin 2015.

- 100% des ex apprenantes se prennent en charge parmi lesquelles 50% sont des célibataires.

II- VIOLENCE FAITES AUX FEMMES ET AUX FILLES (financé par ONU Femmes Dakar)

2.1- Formation des acteurs de relais

LA COLOMBE a formé une vingtaine de journalistes des radios communautaires et rurales, une vingtaine de pairs éducateurs étudiants, une centaine de pairs éducateurs élèves, une centaine de professionnels de métier de couture et de coiffure, une vingtaine d'accoucheuses et d'infirmières sur le phénomène de violence à l'égard des femmes et des filles, la prise en charge des victimes de violence et le leadership.

2.2- Réalisation de film documentaire sur la violence en milieu hospitalier

Un film documentaire a été produit sur les violences en milieu hospitalier afin de lever le voile sur le phénomène et susciter un débat sur la question.

Résultats obtenus

Environ 27 millions (cumul) de personnes sont touchées par les radios communautaires. Huit mille élèves et apprentis sont touchés chaque année par les Pairs éducateurs.

- 30 jeunes étudiants ont avoué avoir changé d'avis sur la perception des violences à l'égard des filles. Ce n'est plus un fait banal.
- Des émissions médiatiques sont organisées sur la violence en milieu hospitalier.
- Quelques filles (8) ont essayé de discuter de violences avec leur partenaire garçons sur les violences basées sur le genre, ce qui n'était pas le cas avant la sensibilisation.
- 2 établissements secondaires ayant entendu parler des activités de sensibilisation des pairs éducateurs dans certains cantons de Vo ont demandé à faire former des Pairs éducateurs dans leur établissement.
- Les femmes parlent de plus en plus des violences. Les violences ne sont plus taboues.
- Les parajuristes collaborant avec certains journalistes reçoivent plus de femmes pour des cas se rapportant à leur ménage (dans la Binah, pour les 2 parajuristes augmentation de près de 25% des cas de consultation juridiques)
- Dans les ménages accompagnés on note l'usage de plus en plus prononcé de dialogue pour règlement des litiges entre mari et femmes (cas de Radio la Voix de Vo à Vogan)
- 4 femmes ont été conseillées dans la procédure de droits successoraux dans la préfecture d'Anié par les parajuristes.
- Suite aux émissions de Radio Virgo Potens (Atakpamé), une dame divorcée a fait des démarches auprès des Affaires sociales et a obtenu le paiement de pension alimentaire pour les besoins de sa fille mineure.
- Les professionnels de métier (femmes) ont eu à traiter 17 cas (dont 5 à Vogan) de harcèlement sexuel portés à leur connaissance par leurs apprenties.
- Des parents ont fait appel à 3 professionnels de métier pour régler des cas de violences conjugales à Lomé.
- Des parents ont témoigné que leurs enfants ont changé de comportement suite à la formation sur le phénomène de violence et le leadership.

Josephine Butler Society

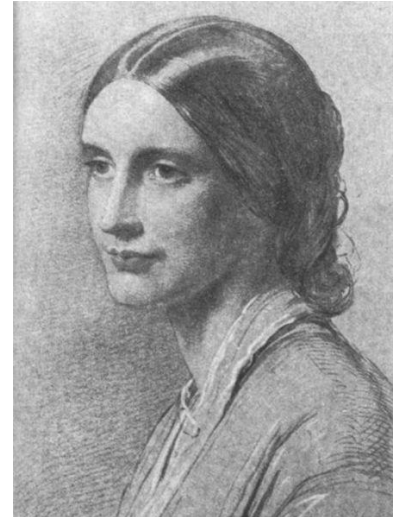
Sally Cass, President

The Josephine Butler Society is pleased to be a member of the IAW and wishes you all, all success.

The Society stands for social justice and equality of all citizens before the law. We have concern for marginalised groups and in particular, sex workers. We have been instrumental in the removal of the label "common prostitute" from the statute books with its lifelong implications. We also encouraged the Police to regard child prostitutes as victims rather than criminals.

The coercion, exploitation and sometimes trafficking of vulnerable people provides the source for prostitution. The trade is growing internationally and funding crime.

Contrary to popular opinion, current research strongly suggests that decriminalising brothels does not provide safety, justice and health for the sex worker or even clear prostitution from the streets.



We are against the current moves by the Scandinavian countries, and Ireland to criminalise the purchaser (known as The Nordic Model). Scotland also, championed by MSP Rhoda Grant is attempting to do the same.

Our view is that for reasons of security and well being, the Josephine Butler Society recommends that two women plus a maid should be allowed to work from the same premises. These premises should not be called a brothel, rather a "collective" or another non-judgemental description. Prostitution itself is legal in the UK and the Government has a duty of care to all its citizens.

We are a pressure group working towards changes in the law as well as attitudes in society. JBS has been consulted by MP Frank Field, author of the Modern Day Slavery Act.

We meet roughly half a dozen times a year. Our AGM will take place on 21st October 2015 at the House of Lords under the auspices of our President, Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Dormer. On that occasion we shall have talks by a chaplain who tends sex workers in Ipswich, a worker (and one of our committee members) from the Terence Higgins Trust on "the New Face of Prostitution" and an update from a researcher working with the Police.

Committee members attend appropriate conferences and seminars including Westminster Briefings and hold seminars. The last one addressed vital funding changes such that local councils in the UK are now in charge of health and social care budgets. This, of course, has enormous implications for both voluntary and statutory agencies.

We are a small but committed group, very ready to welcome new members.

For any further information, please do contact me

**Union of Australian Women
(Victoria)**

Union of Australian Women

Anne Sgro, President

During 2014/15, Australians have had to deal with a government that has no respect for the environment, no respect for scientists, no humanity for asylum seekers, has only two women in Cabinet, and a Prime Minister who supposedly acts in the interests of women. The gender pay gap is widening and violence against women continues unabated. The Union of Australian Women (Vic) has nonetheless continued to campaign, for a fairer, more equitable, more humane and just society.

- Violence against women is a scourge in Australia. At least one woman a week dies at the hands of a current or past intimate partner. Family violence is the greatest cause of homelessness among women and children. The UAW has a long history of campaigning for support for survivors, changes to the way that violence against women is dealt with, and in 2015 we made a submission to the Royal Commission on Family Violence called by the Victorian Government.
- We have continued to campaign for the humane treatment of asylum seekers by cooperating with and supporting organisations such as the Refugee Action Network and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. We lobby Government and Opposition parties, both of which have appalling policies of turning back boats, incarcerating refugees offshore on Manus Island and Nauru; both of which treat vulnerable people with calculated cruelty designed to break their spirits; and neither of which will seriously direct energy and policy to a regional solution to what is a world-wide situation. Many UAW members are also members of Grandmothers Against the Detention of Refugee Children.
- The UAW continues to campaign for action to address climate change. Unfortunately, the Australian Government refuses to support clean energy and is a fervent supporter of coal mining.
- During the Centenary of ANZAC and World War 1, and with the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the UAW has continued to speak out for peace and has supported ICAN (International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons) in its campaign to ban nuclear weapons.
- The proliferation of on-line petitions has meant that we have added our voice to a vast number of campaigns on a range of human rights issues.
- Australia has one of the most highly gendered workforces in the OECD, and the gender pay gap continues to widen for Australian women. As the Union of Australian Women was among the early campaigners for equal pay, this is an issue that has our ongoing attention.
- Housing insecurity. Australia is facing a housing affordability crisis with booming property prices putting pressure on medium to low income earners. The UAW is concerned at the increasing numbers of older women who are facing homelessness in their post-work years. As members of Equality Rights Alliance we have supported campaigns to promote national policies to improve access to affordable and appropriate housing for women. We have also written to politicians on this crucial issue.

The UAW collaborates and networks with organisations that support women, peace and human rights. We continue to publish a well-regarded monthly newsletter and to organise regular discussions with speakers. We are in the process of updating our Women's Map of Melbourne and on International Women's Day 2014 launched an updated history of *Left-Wing Ladies. The Union of Australian Women in Victoria, 1950-2012*.

Sri Lanka Women's Association (UK)

The Sri Lanka Women's Association (SLWA) is a non political, multi religious and multi cultural organisation.

When the SLWA was formed in 1949, it was primarily to help the first generation of Sri Lankan women who came to the UK to meet in a spirit of fellowship and goodwill. It helped to break down the isolation they would have felt at the time in coming to a new country to live. The Association was therefore a pioneer in the field of providing a forum for women to meet in a social environment to exchange views and provide mutual support. Since then the Association has evolved over the last 65 years and some important developments have taken place. It is undoubtedly a great achievement that the Association has been able to sustain itself all these years in the UK.

The Sri Lanka Women's Association in the UK (SLWA) reached a milestone in 2014 when it celebrated its 65th year at the House of Lords on the 7th of October 2014 at the House of Lords, hosted by the Rt.Hon. Lord Naseby.. The event was well attended and guests enjoyed a traditional English Afternoon Tea.

The Education Scheme of the SLWA in the UK has been in existence for nearly 40 years and a Charity since 1998. The sole aim of the Scheme is to facilitate the provision of educational grants to financially and socially deprived girls of secondary schools and young women living in Sri Lanka. Additionally, the Scheme has been engaged in career enhancing projects to offer spoken and written English classes to young women in rural areas. Currently, there is such a project underway in Kandy, in the Central Province of Sri Lanka and hopefully this will be extended to other areas in the country. Fund raising events are held throughout the year in aid these projects.

Both in April 2014 and 2015 the Annual Sri Lankan National New Year celebrations took place when members and well wishers were treated to a sumptuous Sri Lankan lunch and cultural entertainment.

The SLWA is also proud to be affiliated to international and national organisations such as the International Alliance of Women, the Women's Council in the UK, the Commonwealth Countries League and the Sri Lanka Women's Conference.

The SLWA also gives donations during the year to several charitable causes such as the Save the Children Fund, the Greater London Fund for the Blind, LEPR, the Mulleriyawa Hospital in Sri Lanka, to name but a few. The Association also responds from time to time to appeals for donations to help those who have been affected by natural disasters as for example the current earthquake in Nepal.

This year the SLWA has sent a donation to the Chronic Kidney Disease Hospital in Anuradhapura, to help people who are suffering from this disease in the North Central Province in Sri Lanka.

The SLWA is engaged presently in fundraising for two Charitable causes in Sri Lanka. These are: “**Giving Heart to poor patients**” sponsored by the “Heart to Heart Foundation Trust “. The Trust has been set up by a few leading Cardiologists to bring hope to impoverished people who are grappling with severe heart problems but cannot afford the expenses of cardiac surgery. The other project is sponsored by the “Inner Wheel Club “ called “**Water for Life**” to provide water purification systems to hospitals, schools and community centres to help those who are suffering from Chronic Kidney Disease caused by contaminated water in the dry agricultural zones in the North Central Province. Funds for these two projects will be raised from the Tea Dance and the Raffle to be held in October this year.

In keeping with technological developments, the SLWA has also set up a website “www.slwa.org.uk”

The SLWA continues to grow and is always looking for fresh ideas and new projects which will bring a beacon of hope and improve the welfare of disadvantaged people in Sri Lanka.

Women’s Comfort Corner, Zimbabwe

Rita Marque Lunga-Mbatha, President

End Rape Epidemic- Inspire a SeaChange



A major campaign to help protect children from sexual abuse is underway in all provinces of Zimbabwe, Line of Hope Program, the country’s only campaign solely dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse, is undertaking a 5 year long campaign to spread prevention messages and ensure the communities and adults are equipped with the right information to help them protect women and children from sexual harm. These are ambitious plans, but we are an ambitious campaign. We want as many trainees as possible to become aware of child sexual abuse issues, including warning signs to look for in children and adults, so that more children are protected. As long as sexual abuse persists, we will not allow pessimism and cynicism to disarm us.

Babies, children and women are raped daily this heartbreaking occurrence resulted in the genesis of **Line of Hope Project**. Research findings tell us that high school and university students like to learn with mobile technology and that use of technology for the prevention program can make a difference in **how** they learn. The prevalence of child sexual abuse demands innovative approaches to prevent further victimisation. The online environment provides new opportunities to expand existing child sexual abuse prevention trainings that target the community, high school and university students including adult gatekeepers and allow for large scale interventions that are fiscally viable.

We have made significant inroads in that we have assisted children two which we raped by their father and infected with the sexually transmitted diseases. We also helped a six year old child who was ravaged by the disease after being repeatedly raped. Unfortunately due to stigma and pressure from the relatives the mother of the victim disappeared. We were later informed that the family was paid 5 herd of cattle as reparation for the cruel act on the child. From January 2015 - July, 2015 we have assisted 323 victims [mostly children] of sexual abuse. Sadly, most victims are afraid to fight the perpetrators in court. With this in mind, Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust's advocates prepare the victims for humiliating cross examination in court and accompany them to court. There was one outstanding heartbreaking story where an adult woman was raped by her father in Murewa in the rural areas of Zimbabwe. The evidence against the man was overwhelming but the man alleged that because he was very angry and thus could not be erect and would not have been able to rape the woman he was freed! We advised the woman pursue the matter with our assistance but she was too traumatised to relent. But recently she communicated with us to pursue the matter.

We are using technology to transform teaching and learning. Further through our partnership with EVAW International an organisation based in Washington, USA we provide rich interactive content and resources, at no charge, to the trainees through the free online program. We are grateful to have the support of partners around the world who aid our causes and share our victories. The **Line of Hope Schools Program** is an initiative designed to reduce incidents of child abuse through the use of technology to improve student performance and drive student interest in to reduce sexual violence and its negative consequences through an engaging and efficacious learning experience. We have partnered with administrators and teachers in rural schools across the nation and provides them with a rich/comprehensive, year-long professional development around leveraging mobile technology for teaching and learning. The Line of Hope Schools Program also builds leadership in one educator at each school who serves as a technology coach, modelling and coaching his/her colleagues as they challenge themselves to grow professionally.



[Phone Recycling Program - Protection of the Environment](#)

Line of Hope from Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust phone recycling program puts the nation's most reliable Rape and Crisis Centre to work in communities by turning wireless

phone into support for victims of rape and domestic violence and protects the environment by



disposing of wireless phones in an environmentally sound way. Due to financial constraints for example lack of advertising the progress has been limited. In order for the program to be successful we need the support of individuals and business to donate their unused wireless phones and accessories.



Health - Ebola

The end ebola create sea change campaign is a project of communication and education reform that seeks to help its operation of implementing community development initiatives while simultaneously providing a platform to present traditional musicians fighting child abuse and celebrating our successes. We went to schools and the community educating them on the need to avoid handshakes which could be deadly and emphasizing on

precautions to be taken if anyone is suspected of having Ebola. We are very grateful for Toyota Zimbabwe who donated T Shirts for the Ebola Campaign to enable us to fight Ebola using one t shirt at a time. Happily to date there has not even a single case of Ebola in Zimbabwe.

The Hero/Heroine Visionary Award

The First Unsung Heroine/Hero Projects Certificates were awarded to Constance Zhou and Colleta Munyoro by the then Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Ms Thokozani Khuphe. The event which was hosted at the American Embassy was attended by the Mayor of Harare, Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian Embassy - Ambassador Ingebjørg Støfring and Sharon Hudson- Dean for Public Affairs US Embassy. The event was a great success and we joined hands with other stakeholders to create awareness and celebrate hard work with music, drama, delicious food and heartfelt presentations. One of the recipients of the award Ms Colleta Munyoro had chemical ingestion while attending a Food and Nutrition lesson at Badley High School in Zimbabwe. The caustic soda which she ingested was corrosive, medically speaking she could have died but instead she suffered a stricture on her oesophagus and trachea. This incident left her unable to breathe normally so she had a breathing tube inserted in her neck to help her breather normally. She also cannot feed normally as her oesophagus was damaged so she feeds with a jejunostomy (a feeding tube inserted on her stomach). But despite this she is now a graduate of the University of Zimbabwe in Sociology.

She is an active volunteer in Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust. She is an invaluable asset at Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Trust, she is able to communicate with physically challenged women and children who are sexually abused through sign language.

The award is designed to recognise individuals for their vision and leadership in ending violence against women and children. Recipients are thus honoured for their individual vision and dedication, rather than the work of the organisation. The award is given to an individual who has advanced the field through research and practice, which has increased public awareness of the problem of violence against women and children and improved the criminal justice and community systems. Recipients of the Visionary Award must have victim sensitivity and offender accountability at the centre of their professional mission and evaluating innovative solutions. Because of this type of vision, leadership and innovation is likely to have its detractors – both within society and in the professional disciplines – the award is designed to recognise the courage of recipients to challenge conventional wisdom and assume the personal and professional risks involved in pursuing these goals.

EXECUTIVE AND AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Membership officer

Pat Richardson, P.O.Box 380, Nambucca Heads. 2448. N.S.W AUSTRALIA.

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It gives me great pleasure to present my Nineteenth 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, Joanna Manganara is in Greece, our Communications Director, Lene Pind, is in Denmark. Our journal editor, Priscilla Todd is in Melbourne, and our trusty troubleshooter, Alison Brown is in the US.



I work very closely with our former email newsletter editor, Joke Sebus in The Netherlands, to keep the email address file up to date, and I ring Priscilla Todd, the editor of our Journal, 'The International Womens News', in Melbourne every few weeks. (We live 1600 kilometres apart!!!) 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. As well I have been the Collector for Australian subs for the last few years...

I keep the IAW master 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. Last year, I installed a new backup external disk with a larger capacity on my 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, changes of address of our members or organisations...I like to try and make sure the journals, PDF or otherwise, reach their new homes safely. As well, Joke and I see it as our business to keep the lines of

communication open, especially in the delivery of our Email communications on IAW matters, including the delivery of our Journal 'The International Womens News' in PDF format..

I would like to thank Alison Brown, our wonderful web content manager, who stores the back-up Excel Printers file...Also, to our two previous Presidents, Lyda Verstegen and Rosy Weiss, and our Communications officer and former Secretary-General, Lene Pind, my heartfelt thanks for their 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.** (However, the printed edition is now under review owing the the escalating costs of using 'snail mail'.)

Also, I would like to thank my assistant Membership Secretary, Sheila Deaves, for helping me with 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 did indicate two years ago, that 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... Nonetheless, the work has kept me abreast with technology...

I would suggest it is imperative that the Board proceed with the creation of a Database...which will cost money initially to set up but will make the administration of our organisation less of a burden. There is always an immense amount of work following a Congress, with new people, new Board members, changes of status of everyone in the Executive, new organisations, payments handled at Congress and all their details to be put up on two separate files....the Master files and the Excel Printers file.

I hope, however, to stay on as the representative for Individual IAW members. My suggestion that individual members joining at a Congress pay for three years was successful in London....it has been almost impossible for individual members from countries without a Collector to pay, as bank transfer fees were more than the subscription...**however, as of this week, August 2015, it is now possible to pay via the 'Donate' button on our website www.womenalliance.org which will now make it very easy for our individual members to pay their subs...'payment without pain!!!'**

Unfortunately, owing to cost and age I don't feel I can make it this year to the Board meeting in Paris in October...my granddaughter, Heather Walker attended in my place last year in Sion in Switzerland. However, I will be with you in spirit. I am only as far away as an email!!!!

BELLE THE BUSHIE RELECTS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN 'OZ'.

28TH AUGUST, 2015.

I met Belle the Bushie at her local café...she was doing her crossword, the easy one, and she took the opportunity to 'bend my ear' on the world in general and Australia in particular.

She said, "Every time I think that women are getting ahead, someone comes along and changes all the rules.... "

I replied, "Well, all the rules are made by men for their convenience, so I guess that stands to reason!"

"Yes," replied Belle. "And they design the world we try to live in too...all chairs are made to fit men, that's why we wriggle our way in acute discomfort all our lives!"

She continued, "After that spate of women being killed by their partners, or children by their fathers, Domestic Violence became the flavour of the month, Rosie Batty was made Australian of the Year...owing to her bravery in speaking out for all battered women after her nine year old son was killed by his father in front of her..... well, it seemed almost immediately, funding was cut back on all women's refuges, many specialist refuges were cut out altogether, and the remainder were given to the churches once again to run...and the reason the Refuges were started by feminists years ago, including our WEL group, was that the churches were sending women and children back home to be battered once again....it seems the older I get, the wheel keeps turning back to how it was."

I nodded, "Yes, you could be right there...However, our Conservative Federal Government is fighting putting in quotas to get more women into Parliament...although their numbers are dropping, if anything."

Belle replied, "They think women will rise to the top like 'self raising flour'...which is crazy, as men will never give women winnable positions on list systems or single member electorates unless they are made to!"

She ordered another cappuccino and surveyed the newspaper headlines..."Look at that," she said, "A report on women's wages. It seems that women are now earning 20 percent less than men once again....and their superannuation in retirement is right down as a consequence...I think for a while they almost achieved parity, but since so many jobs are part-time or casual these days and women have to negotiate for themselves, it won't get any better. Edna Ryan, would be turning in her grave over that...She was President of the

Municipal Employees Union all those decades ago, (unpaid, of course!). I guess we could do with another Edna Ryan to spearhead a campaign once again. I remember when she intervened on behalf of WEL in the Wages case in the 1970's and got a minimum wage for the lowest paid women in Australia...hundreds of thousands of cleaners and factory workers. (Men had always had a minimum wage, but not women).....All that seems to have gone by the board with individual bargaining....”

I looked at my watch, “I have to get off to Bridge.”

Belle laughed and said, “Well, even if we live in poverty in our old age, we still live longer than men..., which is some sort of victory I guess, as long as we protect our universal Health care system, we are still ‘The Lucky Country’!”

I replied, “As long as you aren’t an Asylum seeker coming by Boat I guess...when it becomes the most ‘unlucky’ country and you end up for years in detention on Nauru or Manus Island...a fate worse than death!”



‘Belle the Bushie’ is Pat’s fictional alter ego

An attempt to mobilize IAW in an international campaign

Susanne Riveles

Summary report on an attempt to mobilize the IAW membership in an international action /campaign with the goal and focus to raise awareness about the alarming increase and frequent impunity for gender based crimes around the globe, also highlighted by Joanna before the HR Council that year. (Attachment for the record)

At the Sion meeting the IAW board commissioned a draft for an international campaign. I mailed a draft overview November 16, 2014. The president endorsed the draft plan and it was send to the entire IAW mailing list.

I received 9 responses. 3 negative, 2 “may be” and 4 positive commitments from IAW members. They were committing to engage in some form/activity in their country during the designated week of May 10-17th, 2015.

An initial stream of email correspondence followed among the potential participating countries, USA, Germany, Greece, Kuwait, Nepal, Cameroon, later Netherlands, France, and India. Additional discussion and some new tentative interest was generated among the delegation members in New York during the March 2015 UN CSW. A new mailing was send out in April to all members who had previously and newly shown interest, encouraging the

members and providing further advise as to the minimum activity required. I also stressed the fact that IAW wanted to learn from this action how in the future communication and organization of a member driven action/campaign could work.

With the exception of Germany and US Baltimore, partially, no other member organization or individual participated. (Marion and Susanne attachments). The campaign did not succeed.

Some of the reasons for failure and lessons learned for any future plan for IAW to engage in an IAW initiated, globally concerted action:

1. From the outset, in Sion, it was extremely difficult to have the AD- HOC committee members agree on ONE issue. Though all embraced the idea of an action, almost every participant wanted a different issue to be the highlight of the campaign.
2. For that reason the focus of the actions to be taken by each country member was broadly defined (gender based violence) to leave each organization enough room to raise/specify gender based violence in the context of current local concern.
3. The eight months period (October2014-May 2015) was not enough to do research in each country and to plan well thought out actions.
4. From the outset we never reached momentum of doing something positive “Together”. No real consensus was reached and insufficient organizational support was provided.
5. On my end more frequent reminders and updates should have been sent to create a sense of common action. With the low response level I felt more like pulling teeth without little assistance/support from the IAW it was difficult to keep the already low enthusiasm going.

Lessons for a future action/campaign plan:

1. For an international action/campaign we need about two year’s preparation. Using the IAW meeting structure we could at one IAW meeting agree to engage in a global action. In the years’ time until the next board meeting each participating organization has to develop and present their in country action plan. The following year the action could take place and result in a report on the actions taken place in each membership country. The longer frame work provides time for the organizations to design /develop a well thought through strategy.
2. The chosen focus/ issue has to be endorsed by the entire IAW in a board session. Only after presentation and in the second year the coordination of the campaign will come to bear when the organizations who committed themselves will be held accountable.
3. As my example from Baltimore shows a focused campaign can serve as a fundraising opportunity. Lack of funds is a major issue of IAW and for an issue of concern but with an action component IAW can find funding!!!
4. We should develop an award program by which we acknowledge members success, in a campaign, for example. Each organization could pay into a campaign FUNDING BOX!!!
5. The uniqueness of IAW is our membership around the world. They have enormous country based knowledge/expertise other NGO’s do not have. The final account of a successful international action could be published as a brochure. A way for IAW to gain greater recognition among NGO’s worldwide.

6. Along with the campaign we could develop a "travel grant" rewarding successful campaign activists to present their project at the next board meeting. A campaign can also serve many ways.

These are some of my ideas. I hope to stimulate a discussion around this issue.

Communications

Lene Pind

As of today, September 19 2015, IAW has a total number of views on the **website** of 58,532. On an average we have between 50 and 100 views per day. On the best day we had 270. We have 838 likes on **Facebook**, and our postings usually reach 100 people upwards. On **Twitter** we have 385 followers. And we have women applying for membership via the website, and after we have got the online payment system, we actually recruit some new members in this way.

The last printed issue of **International Women's News** was sent out in app. 700 copies. The Newsletter goes out to 515 people and libraries.

The booklet is sent to all members and put on the website.

These are the figures.

Basically it is my conviction that we are moving in the right direction. But I am not satisfied with what we have achieved. We can do much better!

In the first place we need more people to work with me on these platforms, esp. on the website. We need members, commission conveners, international representatives and others to contribute with articles throwing light on IAW positions, deliberations, challenges etc within their field of work and area of interest. It would also be great and a step forward to have somebody to work on our facebook and twitter accounts.

So, please come aboard!

Last year I presented to you my ideas of how to use our different media. My views still stand, except that this year we are discussing the future of IWN. We need to be on as many modern platforms as possible, we need to embrace new means of communication to attract new and younger women.

Communications within IAW

I still think that we have too little contact with our members both organizations and individual members, and I suggest that we establish a working group whose task it is to develop a strategy for improving contact with our member organizations. I am especially worried about new individual members. For many people it is not enough just to pay a membership fee. We have to be able to offer something to them.

I wish to thank Danielle Levy for taking care of the French section of the website, Arina Angerman for giving advice on Facebook and Twitter, and last but not least Joke Sebus for sending out the Newsletter and for continual encouragement and support. Pat Richardson of course is a key figure in the cooperation between Joke, Pat and me when it comes to keeping track of email addresses.



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

