



IAW

REPORTS FOR THE BOARD MEETING 2016

Victoria Falls

Zimbabwe

Compiled by
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IAW/IAF is in consultative status, category general, with the United Nations Economic & Social Council
Enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe & is a member of the European Women's Lobby

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President Joanna Manganara's report

Initiatives by the President



Initiatives by the President

In September 2013, I was elected the 14th President of IAW in London during our 36th Congress there. One of the priorities of my Presidency has been to attract new organizations and members that are doing good work concerning women's human rights, in order that IAW becomes more influential within the international women's movement.

I also believe a lot in capacity building of our members. In Sion, in October 2014, during our board meeting, I invited WILPF to give a training concerning the process of the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) and how NGOs can participate in it. In Paris, in October 2015, during our international meeting, I invited EWL and CLEF, the French national coordination of EWL, to organize a seminar on Surrogacy Motherhood. A number of French academics were invited who delivered very interesting presentations.

I have started circulating a President's Newsletter which each time focuses on a different women's human rights issue about which we gather information from different sources: the UN, Specialized agencies, scientific articles, research studies etc. The aim is to inform our membership and help them understand better women's human rights issues so they can get ideas and undertake initiatives together with other interested women and feminist NGOs.

I have circulated a President's Newsletter on a number of themes: Prostitution and Trafficking, the Evaluation of the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda, Women Human Rights Defenders, Femicide, the Evaluation of the 60th Session of CSW, FGM, Refugee Women and Girls, women in top leadership positions.

I have also tried to modernize our Journal, the International Women's News which is a hundred years old, in which we publish many interesting articles. I asked a Greek graphic designer to design a new layout and a logo which some of our members like very much.

I asked the previous Secretary General of the EWL, Cecile Greboval, who has a lot of experience with NGOs, to work out a new structure for the content of the Journal with the aim to produce an international feminist Journal focused on issues largely debated by the international feminist movement. This new form of our Journal is thematic and has a number of new columns. Each time, it focuses on a different theme and discusses its different aspects, like for instance, feminist economics.

We hope that by asking new people to write for our Journal we will make new friends and allies in our fight against gender inequality and the violations of women's human rights. The next issues will focus on different themes like: Corporations, Globalisation and women's social and economic rights, Prostitution and Trafficking, Women and Climate Change.

In March 2016 I led a delegation of 20 of our members that participated in the 60th session of the CSW. During the NGO forum, the IAW organized only one parallel event, which was chosen among the six that IAW had submitted. This was the event organised by Torild Skard "Getting women to the top". The NGO/CSW New York gave permission to all NGOs participating in the forum to submit only one parallel event as the total number of all those submitted to the NGO/Forum during this session was very high and there was lack of space. I organized a side event at the UN with the support of the Permanent Mission of Greece on Corporations, Globalization and Women's Social and Economic Rights. Both events had a lot of success and many participants.

During CSW60, I participated as a speaker in a workshop organized by CLEF, the French national coordination which is member of the EWL, as well as by the EWL itself with the support of CNIDFF. My intervention focused on the right of women to have full control over their own bodies.

Pancyprian Movement, Nicosia, event on violence against women, November 2015

On the 25th of November 2015, I was invited to Nicosia by the Pancyprian Movement to deliver a speech on violence against women and domestic violence in the context of the campaign 16 days of activism on violence against women. It was a great success. The event was very well organised. I also spoke on the national TV and gave a number of interviews.

Election of the future UN Secretary General

IAW has participated in the selection of the future Secretary General of the UN in a process open to civil society by formulating a question to be asked to the candidates on the issue of refugee women and children. Our question was selected by a Committee of 22 civil society representatives from around the world to be on a short-list of 30 questions for the dialogues with the candidates – from among more than 1500 questions submitted from 70+ countries. The question I asked was the following: “What initiatives are you going to take to help with the current refugee crisis, in particular with the needs and rights of refugee women and children?”



Jobs of the Board

Following a decision by the IAW Board in Paris in October 2015 I circulated once more the list of the Extended Board and asked each one of them to write next to her name or to correct information already existing concerning the job she is doing or the one she would like to do in the future.

Message from the President concerning jobs in the IAW

In May I circulated a message requesting everybody to look around, to find members or would be members willing to share the work and concerns of IAW. We need members who are interested, committed, and qualified, who would want to work for gender equality and women's human rights within IAW. We need members from a wide range of countries and different areas of expertise and experience. There are many different kinds of jobs to be done in IAW: being a member of the Board, an International Representative, a member of a Commission, helping with Treasurer's work, helping with the Secretary General's work, fundraising, working with the International Women's News, the website, the newsletter, the database, recruiting new members, and doing press work, campaigns. The Dutch have looked around and found Erica van Engel who has expertise in social entrepreneurship and would like to get implicated in our work. She now represents us at UNIDO. I have also asked Lea Boergerding from Germany who has an MPhil from Oxford University to work with Priscilla and me for the IWN.

New Action Programme 2017-2020

At Congress, a new Action Programme covering the period 2017-2020 is going to be adopted. It is important that the action program is as broadly based as possible among Board members, International Representatives, regional coordinators, etc. The procedure that I proposed to be followed was the following: The Programme of Action will have as pillars: justice/human rights, democracy (women in decision making), peace, economy, elimination of violence against women, health, climate change. Under each pillar there will be strategic objectives and actions to be taken. The pillars of course reflect the commissions of the IAW. I have created working groups based on the pillars and appointed as members people working with the relevant commissions. I have also asked the working groups to appoint coordinators. The working groups have been open to anyone interested to work in their field. Most of the coordinators of these working groups have finalized their draft texts of the Action Programme.

Database

I have informed our extended Board that the only way to keep continuity with Pat Richardson who has been doing a marvelous job was to modernize, that is to create a database. Louise Deumer has undertaken this work and has invested a lot of money in it. We are grateful to her for that.

I have always been in favor of modernizing IAW and I have supported the proposal of Louise since the beginning. I would like to congratulate her for her commitment to this project, despite the fact that no decision was taken in the Boards of London, Sion, Paris. The facts that Louise presented in her database summary did not reflect what was written in the minutes of the Boards.

No decision was taken in London. People were not supportive. To the contrary, her proposal was strongly contested. So we will have to take a decision in our Board in Zimbabwe. Concerning who will be running the database there are two proposals. The first one is in favor of a volunteer with skills, who is a member or would become a member of IAW. The second proposal is the one by Louise who is of the view that an expert from outside should run the database. According to Louise, two hours of work per week would be sufficient to run the database. Our treasurer is prepared to put 3000 euros in 2017 and 2500 euros in the 2018 budget for updating, maintenance and hosting the database.

EWL project on Women Voices

We have participated in the project Women's Voices that the EWL has worked out together with the Women's Refugee Commission in order to give visibility to the situation and the protection risks faced by women and girls, refugees and asylum seekers in Europe.

For that reason we have filled in some questions of the questionnaire elaborated by the EWL to get the broader picture of the situation, to develop joint advocacy messages as well as efficient national fact sheets. IAW was one of the organizations that the Women's refugee Commission interviewed in Athens on the situation of migrant and refugee women and girls in Greece.

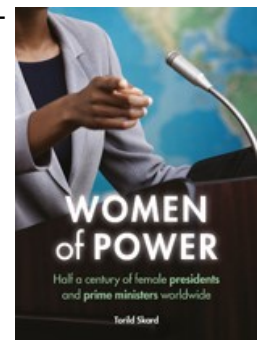
Registration with the Swiss authorities in the canton of Geneva

In December 2015 IAW was registered with the Swiss authorities in the canton of Geneva as a voluntary organization and has got exoneration of taxes since 2015 and for 5 years onwards. The exoneration is actually for an unlimited time but the criteria will be checked in 5 years.

Lecture by Torild Skard organized by IAW and WCC on October 3rd 2016 in Geneva

On October 3rd 2016 the IAW organised together with the World Council of Churches an event and invited Torild Skard for a lecture on her book 'Women Of Power'. The lecture was followed by panel presentations and interactive discussion on the subject of women in top leadership and decision-making positions. The panellists were:

- Dr. Catherine Bosshart, Executive Secretary International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Intl.)
- Dr. Fulata L. Moyo, Programme Executive for Women in Church and Society WCC
- Rev. Dr. Elaine Neuenfeldt, Secretary for Women in Church and Society, Department for Theology and Public Witness, LWF
- Sara Llot, Interim Secretary General, World YWCA



Moderation: Dr Isabel Phiri, Associate General Secretary, WCC

Joanna Manganara, President of IAW made a closing statement and elaborated on her position on this issue which is going to be posted on the website of the Alliance. She also thanked the WCC for hosting this event and offering a number of services that facilitated its realisation (free Hall, lounge, press work, invitations, photographer, and printing). The bulk of the work for this event was undertaken by Esther Suter with the help of Arielle Wagenknecht. The city of Geneva offered a reception that took place in the Hall of the Ecumenical Centre. The invitation to the city of Geneva was extended by Arielle Wagenknecht. Mohinder Watson and Esther Suter elaborated the background information to the event. The event was attended by all the members of the IAW delegation in Geneva (Esther Suter, Arielle Wagenknecht, Mohinder Watson, Marie-Claude Julsaint, Seema Uplekar, Mary Balikungeri, and Helene Sackstein, with Lyda Verstegen at the head).

Letters, statements and petitions signed by IAW

Letters

International Service for Human Rights

A) We have signed a joint civil society letter by the International Service for Human Rights together with the Civic Space Initiative and other NGOs in Geneva defending a strong Human Rights Council resolution on protecting and promoting Civil Society Space proposed by Chile, Ireland, Japan, Sierra Leone and Tunisia at the 32nd session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Despite the important normative standards set out in the resolution, several governments presented adverse amendments seeking to undermine the core international human rights principals articulated in the resolution.

The letter asks governments to stand in solidarity with civil society by supporting the draft resolution on the protection of Civil Society Space.

B) IAW has signed a letter by the International Service for Human Rights to the ECOSOC commit-

tee on NGOs regarding NGOs rights.

The letter is accusing members of the committee for using the body to subvert its purpose by further restricting civic space at the UN and blocking or deferring NGO applications on non substantive grounds.

Letter to Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission and Mrs Fotini Kouvella, Secretary General for Gender Equality in Greece

In this letter we expressed on behalf of our two organizations IAW and EWL our concern about the announcement made during the EC advisory committee on equal opportunities on 26th November 2015 that the European Commission will downgrade the strategy for equality between women and men to a staff working document with the time frame 2015-2019. A staff working document does not bind all EU institutions whereas a strategy under the form of communication is discussed and adopted by the College of Commissioners. A strategy provides a long term vision, constitutes an overarching policy framework and sets out monitoring and accountability mechanisms to reach the objectives inscribed in the strategy.

Global network of Women Peace Builders

We have signed a letter by the Global Network of the Women Peace Builders to the UN Secretary General Ban ki Moon and President Kabila to stop the escalating violence, demand justice, and immediate assistance to the victims in Eastern DRC.

International Planned Parenthood Federation

We have signed a letter by International Planned Parenthood Federation to the President of UNGA and the Secretary General of the UN Ban ki Moon urging them to call on Member States to account for their progress towards achieving SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Special Rapporteur on the right to education

We have put our signature on the letter of support for the nomination of Professor Luisa Ribolzi as Special Rapporteur on the right to education.

Statements

Swedish Women's Lobby

IAW has signed a statement by the Swedish Lobby on women and the refugee crisis that has been submitted to CSW60.

African Civil Society call to UNCTAD

We have signed a statement of an African Civil Society call which reclaims UNCTAD to uphold Africa's structural, economic transformation. Governments at the 40th session of the United Nations conference on trade and development must rise up to the fundamental challenge of equitable development in and for Africa within the global order.

Graduate Women International

A- We have signed an oral statement to the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council by Graduate Women International on "The promotion of gender equality through equitable lifelong learning opportunities".

B- We have signed the oral statement of Graduate Women International on violence against indigenous women and girls at the 33rd Session of the HRC.

IAW statement on violence against women

On the 25th of November 2015 I circulated a statement on the international day for the elimination of violence against women.

Zonda International statement on Women's rights and non-state terrorist groups

We have signed a statement by Zonda International which is asking the international community to join

efforts to stop the systematic violations of women's human rights perpetrated by ISIS and other non-state terrorist actors.

Statement by NGOs / CSW Vienna

IAW has signed the oral statement to CSW60 sent to us by Lory Richardson, UN liaison secretary of NGOs CSW Vienna.

Soroptimist International

We have signed the oral statement of Soroptimist International to CSW60 'Addressing the Underlying Structural Causes and Risk Factors of Violence against Women and Girls'.

International Federation of University Women

We have signed the oral statement by IFUW to CSW60 on quality education as a critical factor in women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development.

Petitions

Equality Now

IAW has signed a letter by Equality Now that was sent to the new Secretary General with a feminist agenda for the first 100 days of its office.

Change.org

We signed a petition by Change.org concerning the election of a woman in the place of the new Secretary General of the UN. The petition had the title "It is the time for a feminist UN Secretary General".

Center for Reproductive Rights

We have signed an accountability petition by the center for Reproductive Rights calling on the UN member states to match their bold promises in the SDG's with robust plans for monitoring and reviewing progress in order to protect the human rights of all, especially of women and girls.

All governments must match their bold promises to leave no one behind with real progress by: Providing the entire spectrum of sexual and reproductive healthcare services, information and education including safe abortion and birth control methods so that all women can make choices about their sexuality and the number, timing and spacing of their children free from force. Taking steps to eliminate early and forced marriages and other harmful practices and to tackle gender based violence.

Human Rights Council resolution on the protection of the family

IAW has supported the call of AWID which urged all countries from all regions to vote against the resolution on the protection of the family tabled by a group of states at the 32nd session of the UN Human Rights Council.

This damaging resolution does not protect families and is itself anti-family in nature. I have sent a letter to the Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN in Geneva Ambassador Anna Korka urging her not to support this resolution which needs to at a bare minimum reaffirm that in different cultural, political and social systems various forms of the family exist.

NAZRA for feminist studies

We supported the feminist activist and woman human rights defender Mozn Hassan which was banned from traveling from Cairo to Beirut to attend and participate in the executive meeting of the women human rights defenders' regional coalition for the Middle East and North Africa.

Mozn Hassan is one of the founders of NAZRA for feminist studies and its executive director. This procedure comes within the context of steps taken for a long time by the Egyptian government and which escalated in the recent few months to close the public space for civil society organizations.

Congratulation letters

IAW has sent a congratulations letter to Ludmilla Alexeeva a Russian human rights defender that has been awarded with the Vaclav Havel Prize. The IAW has also sent a congratulations letter to Svetlana Aleievich who has been awarded the Nobel Prize 2015 for literature.

Secretary General Lyna Castillo-Javier's report



I was appointed to this post last October. Immediately, my main task consisted of conducting the pre-registration of our members, local and international, for the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held this past March 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York via the UN CSO Civil Society Network.

During the UN 60th Commission on the Status of Women, I ensured members obtained their UN grounds passes and that international members had the required paperwork for a visa to enter the United States. Also, I kept IAW members updated as relevant information became available in terms of UN registration deadlines, parallel events, IAW meetings and other CSW60 related news.

Aside from that and as a representative, I attended events related to human rights and gender equality at the UN and other venues in New York during CSW60 and throughout the year.

As IAW Secretary General, I regularly write letters nominating members as delegates or observers to attend diverse meetings, conferences and forums in New York and abroad. I routinely monitor the influx of emails, and respond accordingly. I also handle IAW correspondence, and prepare reports such as this one among other things.

Membership Officer Pat Richardson:

At the Congress in London in 2013, I indicated that I would like to be relieved of the burden of the com-



puter master files and it was decided to investigate the possibility of a Database being instituted as a matter of urgency. The work on this was very kindly funded by one of our Board members, Louise Deumer in the Netherlands. I continued to update my files for the next two years and provided comprehensive reports to the Board meeting in Sion in 2014, and Paris in 2015, with breakdowns of various categories of membership as I have done for the last twenty years. The Database team is now ready to take over the computer work and I wish them well from now on. I am still happy to 'meet and greet' new members and will send all the details to the Database team for processing.

Up to our changeover to email journals, I was also in charge of sending the labels to our printers, and having at least ten or twenty copies of the International Women's News sent to me to replace those lost or strayed in the post to members.

As part of my handover, I have been slowly going through twenty years of paper files in my large archive boxes and decided to begin by sorting and listing copies of 'The International Women's News' journals... if anyone wishes to contact me about any they are missing, I can send them a copy or get it photocopied. I can also send a list of the issues of the journal I have found. I have multiple copies of some editions and sometimes only one copy left of others...I am only missing six issues...and hope to find them as I go through the big boxes. They are Vol 99/1 2004, cover page heading '100 Years'; Vol 102/3 2007, Photo 'IAW Board 2008' following Congress in New Delhi; Vol 103/3 2008 'Amsterdam'; Vol 104/1 2009 'Kuwaiti women vote'; 104/3 2009 Violence against Women; Vol 105/2 2010 'IAW 35th Congress, South Africa'. If anyone has a copy of any of these if they could email it to me or scan or photocopy it and send it to me at Pat Richardson, IAW membership, P.O.Box 380, Nambucca Heads. 2448. N.S.W. Australia. I have no idea where the IAW archives can be lodged eventually....although the leftover journals may be accepted by either the State library of NewSouthWales or by the Jessie Street National Women's library in Sydney.

I continue to work with Joke Sebus in the Netherlands, who holds our email lists and sends out our main correspondence, newsletters and journals. Lene Pind, as the IAW Communications Officer, has been marvellous in keeping both of us up to date with new members and any other changes she receives, espe-

cially payments made via the new Donate button on our website....many of our individual members and affiliates and associated societies now find it easy to pay their subs by credit card.

I am pleased that those who join as individual members at a Congress, now pay for three years, which has worked out very well.

I am sorry I can't be with you this year in Zimbabwe. All the best with your deliberations at your meetings there.

ADMISSION COMMITTEE by Jessika Kehl - Lauff

What the Admission Committee needs to decide on the membership of a Member-organization:

- the Constitution
- a report on activities or/ minutes from the last meeting where activities can be seen
- a listing of the Executive and / or officers and / or headquarters
- a letter to confirm that you are applying for affiliate membership (Euro 110 p.a. /national organization) or associate membership (Euro 55 p.a. /local organization)
- IAW has no form, we rely on the creativity of the applying organization.

IAW is an international network funded by membership fees and private donations, not a funding institution.

In 2016 we had several applications, some of them are not yet finalized.

At the Board meeting in Paris 2015 we accepted the organization "Ladies Circle of Cameroon" as a new associated member organization.

The Constitution of the "ASSOCIATION D'AIDE À L'EDUCATION DE L'ENFANT HANDICAPÉ (AAEEH) CAMEROUN" has no paragraph concerning the situation of girls and/or mothers. Therefore the Admission Committee asked the President, Ms Ernestine Ngo Melha, to add their engagement for women and girls before the next World Congress, as she explained it in Paris orally.

After the CSW session 2016 on demand of the President and after having seen the Constitution the Admission Committee welcomed the Canadian Federation of University Women. Unhappily till date, there is no written confirmation of the new member concerning membership as affiliate or associate member.

Communications by Lene Pind

Everything is about communication nowadays. Communication, communication, communication! It is so important that IAW realizes that – and acts on it!

The Communications Unit consists of Priscilla Todd (IWNews), Pat Richardson, Membership officer, Joke Sebus, who sends out the Newsletter and IWNews and me, Lene Pind, who is responsible for the Newsletter, website, Facebook and Twitter, and who has also done work as a friend of the Secretary General. Danielle Levy works on the French section of the website

Together we try to keep track of members, their addresses and emails. This is a continuous process, and hopefully the new database will help make this less complicated.



Internal communication in IAW

I still think that the communication in IAW leaves a lot to be desired. We hear far too little from our members, which I think is a major problem. Maybe we have too little to offer to our members. On the other hand, I think that an effort can be made both in relation to the Newsletter and to the website.

Similarly, communication within the board is insufficient. There is too little response to questions, initiatives, ideas etc. This is evident all the time, but was particularly striking when we tried to do some crowdfunding.

External communication

- website, Facebook, Twitter

I am happy to say that it is my clear impression that IAW has become more visible in the world in recent years. This is due to the fact that Joanna Manganara writes many statements, articles etc. Joanna is extremely active, and it pays off.

Website:

It is also because we have a website and other media. I am glad to say that I receive more contributions to the website than before. There are of course the contributions of the President, but other people contribute as well: Lyda Verstegen, Gudrun Haupter are among the most active. This is a good development. Usually we have between 100 and 150 views per day. The best we have ever had was 807. Altogether we have had more than 100.000 views. I think this is a lot for IAW, but we can do much better.

On the website IAW also recruits new members, not many, but still ...

Our Norwegian webmaster has stopped, so we only have me, and that is not enough. We need somebody who is technically skilled and familiar with WordPress. It is urgent, because it is time we revise the website.

However, we need more people who can write for the website, i.e. members or others with a good command of English who would like to be involved in our work and who want to write about current feminist issues.

I am really pleased that Danielle Levy continues to work on the French section of the website.

Facebook

The interest in our facebook account is also rising. We now have 1500 'likes' of the page, and of course 'likes' of individual postings. The number is steadily growing, but not fast enough. By comparison Equality Now has 80.000 likes.

On facebook I publish IAW news, but also news from other sources, organizations etc.

The different media can be used so that they support each other. An example is when the IWNews on Globalization, Corporations and Women's Human Rights was published, I uploaded it to the website, then shared it on facebook and tweeted about it. I then paid 20 US dollars to have this post on Facebook promoted, and in this way this issue of IWNews reached more than 20.000 people and we got a number of new 'likes'. When a new Newsletter is issued, I publish it on the website, facebook and twitter.

Twitter

Twitter is a different media from facebook. One tweet consists of max 140 characters. Twitter is not used as much as facebook, but it is my impression that it is often used by journalists, politicians and others who are influential.

Members can support our efforts by sharing or retweeting. Too few members do that.

The Newsletter

The Newsletter is both internal and external communication. I believe it has close to 500 readers I try to focus on IAW news, but it depends on what information I receive from members of IAW, international representatives, commission conveners, board members. Again, a number of people contribute on a reg-

ular basis, thank you for that. That is really important if we can call it an IAW Newsletter. My ambition is to get more news from member organizations, our international representatives and to include more news about women in different parts of the world. I would also like to focus on interesting books, films and events.

What are the major challenges for IAW when it comes to communication?

First of all we must remember that IAW is one small organisation in an ocean of organisations that send out messages all the time. That is why we have to make an extra effort.

In the second place, the problem is that one person takes care everything - of the website, the Newsletter, facebook and twitter. We need one person for each media: one for the website, one for the Newsletter, one for facebook and one for twitter. Come and join me so that we can form a group.

In the third place, IAW as an organization does not support the initiatives. Many members have a facebook or a twitter account, but they never or rarely share, like or retweet. This is a huge problem. I would like to thank especially Ursula Nakamura, Switzerland, Sheila Deaves, Australia and Arina Angerman at EWL for their solidarity with IAW efforts.

Friend of the Secretary General

As Friend of the Secretary General I have assisted Lyna Castillo-Javier as new Secretary General. It was obvious that helping our host in Zimbabwe organise a congress would be a huge task for a new secretary general. Consequently I promised to take care of that particular event including the booklet.

Organising the meeting in Zimbabwe has indeed proved to be a difficult task both for Women's Comfort Corner and for IAW. The economic situation in the country, which worsened after the decision was made in Paris to have the meeting in Victoria Falls, has made it very difficult for Women's Comfort Corner to raise the money that they had expected. This has delayed planning esp. of the regional conference, which was to be the major attraction of the event.

The hotel in Victoria Falls is apparently not used to dealing with individual bookings, but with groups, probably with travel agents. This meant that IAW delegates had to register and pay very early in the process. This is not the usual procedure for IAW meetings, and it has to be avoided in the future. This circumstance, the price of flights to Zimbabwe and probably also – for some members the political situation in the country- has reduced the number of participants considerably. This led to a decision by the executive to cancel congress and instead have a board meeting.

I am afraid very few people realize how much work is involved in being secretary general. Fortunately we have a description now or guidelines, which hopefully will make it easier for future secretary generals to take on the work and to share it with a friend of the secretary or somebody else.

Final remarks

In Paris I said that I wanted to reduce my work in IAW. This has not happened. On the contrary, this year has been very difficult. Therefore I repeat: My IAW work will have to be reduced. I will not do any more secretary general work. I will answer Lyna's questions when she has any or assist when she asks for help, but that will be all.



International Representatives

New York

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

It would be an understatement to say that the Sustainable Development Goals are in full swing and on everyone's agenda. IAW members participated in the women's major group and NGO major group meetings for the sustainable development goals and helped to ensure communications with other constituencies and CoNGO committees. Given the vast scope of the 17 goals, this means that meetings from the CSW to the High Level Political Forum and General Assembly have brought together more diverse NGOs and ministries than ever before. Mainstreaming Goal 5 on Gender Equality into all of the other goals is constantly on our minds.

During the High Level Political Forum and the General Assembly, 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. During last year's General Assembly, Soon-Young Yoon, main UN representative moderated a panel on NCDs organized by the Russian Federation and the WHO. She emphasized the importance of more accurate data on women and NCDs and combatting myths that surround heart disease and gender. IAW also hosted a WHO strategy lunch on NCDs during the High Level Political Forum in order to make recommendations on mobilization of civil society in support of the NCD Global Action Plan.

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 six 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>. IAW will be represented in Quito, Ecuador and will also attend the Climate Change Conference of the Parties meeting in Marrakesh in November 2016. IAW will also participate in helping to organize the Women's Assembly on 15 October in Quito that will have 9 themes related to Gender, Cities and the SDGs.

Separate reports will be submitted on climate change and ageing and supplement on Habitat III.

Irini Sarlis

I have been following the High Level Political Forum on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, GA Summit sections, the preparatory process for Habitat III, where I made a contribution during the interactive session with civil society, the first Science, Technology & Innovation Forum, Peace issues, and the selection process of the new Secretary-General.

Natalia Kostus

Commission on Climate Change, and Commission on Fundraising:

Natalia Kostus, Board Member, Representative to the United Nations, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, and Chair of the Commission on Fundraising, International Alliance of Women (IAW) will distribute her report at a later date.

Geneva

Lyda Versteegen, main representative to Geneva

I attended a week of the 31st and 33rd sessions of the Human Rights Council. In March I enjoyed the hospitality of Arielle Wagenknecht. In September I stayed in a hotel in France, Gaillard, much more affordable than Geneva. I reported on the website about the 31st session.

As there is an article about the 32nd session on the website I add the outcome of that resolution.

Human Rights Council 32nd session

The draft resolution which caused so much concern in civil society was finally adopted without a vote. It was orally revised. 31 states voted for it, 7 against and there were 9 abstentions.

At the end of the 33rd session the President of the Council spoke about intimidation. He said that the participation of civil society in the HRC was crucial and any act of intimidation and reprisal against individuals or groups who cooperated with the Council was completely unacceptable. He was saddened by the travel bans that some experienced.

Human Rights Council 33rd session

30 draft resolutions were adopted. I will mention a few. L6 on the protection of journalists was adopted without a vote. New this year was a paragraph about women journalists and sexual intimidation and violence, which was unequivocally condemned. Also it was considered not done to give up the protection of sources.

L9 on the human rights of older persons was also adopted without a vote. It extends the mandate of the special rapporteur and asked the special rapp to integrate a gender and disability perspective throughout the work of the mandate and look specially at intersecting forms of discrimination.

The EU was not against a resolution on unaccompanied migrant children and human rights, Mexico was, but the resolution (L13) was adopted without a vote.

L14 on local governments and human rights states that local governments have a role to play in HR and especially in the Sustainable Development Goals. The Council decided to have a panel discussion on the subject on the day of the organizational meeting of the 36th session. (that would be begin september 2017).

I think this is good news for the Parliament of Mayors that had its first meeting in the Hague in August, and also for the efforts of our New York representative Soon Young who advocates for Cities for CEDAW.

A resolution on preventable maternal mortality was adopted without a vote.

FAO, Rome Jessika Kehl-Lauff



In October 2015 Bettina Corke asked me to come to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to assist at the session of the Committee on Food Security (CFS). This October 2016 I will attend the CFS again and I hope to report thereon during our meeting in Zimbabwe. Prior to this session I intend to visit Bettina Corke in L'Aquila.

Bettina has been an individual member of IAW since 1964, and she has been our representative to FAO since 1996. She instantly joined the ad Hoc Group of international NGO (www.ahgingos.org) as IAW has been a registered member of this important institution of the UN. Last year she introduced me to this major NGO group, and, although a newcomer, I immediately felt accepted by the group and got help whenever needed.

It was in 2004 when I met Bettina at IAW's Jubilee Meetings. She presented a photo-exhibit together with a short history of IAW. In 2010 she gave me the first edition of her booklet 'How to end hunger now!' - a handbook to facilitate the work & activities taking place to end hunger and poverty, thus taking forward an issue I am very engaged in. And finally, at the Board meeting in Sion/Switzerland, with the second, revised edition 2014 of her brochure in hand, Bettina asked me to join her in Rome.

And now I am looking forward to meet Bettina, to discuss new ideas in this fight where women and children are often the front-line soldiers. Together with our member organizations we have to give them the knowledge and network for successful work with the decentralized offices of FAO – “where knowledge becomes action”!

Benefits of partnering with FAO (www.fao.org):

Give a voice to stakeholders, particularly the world's poor and ensure that their views and opinions are taken into account;

Increase the effectiveness of FAO field projects and programs by building on experience in participatory approaches, poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture, as well as their capacity to act quickly and flexibly targeting the most vulnerable groups;

Build public support and political will to attain food security objectives.

FAO can provide Civil society (CSO) with:

Technical and institutional support In the scaling up of successful approaches which benefit the poor;

Access to information and Government and other decision making bodies;

Greater influence on public policy, service delivery, finances and human resources development;

Improved mobilization of resources for food security

Email: FAO-CivilSociety@fao.org

UNESCO

Monique Bouaziz, Daniele Levy, Renée Gérard

As usual, the NGO year is punctuated by a series of events the most important of which are:

-The General Conference, which is held every two years. In November 2015, it gathered more than 300 representatives from 103 NGOs. During this lapse of time, an OPEN SPACE was dedicated to NGOs, who, as usual could receive heads of the Sciences, the Human and Social Sciences and the Culture Commissions as well as Mr Falt, Mrs Colombo and Mrs Guibert from the Secretariat of the External Relations, who are in charge of NGOs at UNESCO; this Open Space becoming a privileged space for exchange and interaction, where NGOs have been able to present their associations.

- The Executive Board, which is held twice a year, with its Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) that evaluates the work of NGOs and their participation and which will now only meet once a year.

We can remind also, that every year, according to the directives, the NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO have to prepare two forums and that, on the very day of our members' arrival at the IAW Board Meeting in Paris, on 6 October 2015, a day of work had been organized to prepare the United Nations Conference on the Climate (COP21). That event was very successful. It presented notably a roundtable, where 'Renée GERARD represented IAW contributing in the expert panel with a speech on Social responsibility at the UNESCO NGO side event organized by the UNESCO GO Conference for the COP 21, (COP21 held in Paris from November 30th to- December 11th, 2015)

The UNESCO NGO declaration that was produced can be read on the NGO UNESCO site < www.ngo-unesco.org >. During the Cop 21 a side event was held by the NGOs at le Bourget in the NGO space and IAW was present

The idea of preparing a follow up science-oriented forum came out at the November 2015 INGO Conference where the NGOs and the INGO Liaison Committee decided to organise a follow up forum to the COP 21 NGO side-event. This forum, scheduled for September 2016 would focus on oceans, on Climate Change and on the impact the change in the climate will have on the environment and on societies, on the cultural heritage and on the biosphere reserves.

Two NGO forums had been planned to take place in 2016 with respect to the different regions:

Latin America, forum of QUERETARO Mexico :from promoting to building peace with NGOs that will take place in Querétaro, Mexico on 3 and 4 November 2016 : "education throughout life is a sine qua none to achieve a lasting peace for the good of mankind."

Morocco(?) The International INGO Forum, on Climate change, previously scheduled in September 2016 is now postponed to be held at the beginning of 2017

International Days:

An international day on migrants had been scheduled on December 16 and the NGOs had worked steadily for preparing it. However, Considering the evolution of the international situation and the new problematic due to the massive influx of migrants from countries in conflict in the Middle East a new strategy had to be adopted, and in agreement with the UNESCO secretariat it was decided that two working groups Education and Migration have should decided to join, to prepare, if the new Liaison Committee that will be elected in December 2016 agrees, a forum for 2017, where they want to introduce the notions of ethics, education and rights.

Follow-ups to the preceding forums:

Our INGOs groups have judged that preparing and presenting forums is a good thing but that ensuring follow-ups is a must (delete should be much better, so) Consequently the INGO workgroups are currently working on a Follow-up to the Yamoussoukro forum that took place in July 2014 in Ivory Coast on Water. IAW was and is still very much involved with a project that came as a follow up of the Forum "Formation d'hydrologues, techniciens/techniciennes de l'eau en Afrique" (training for hydrologists, technicians of water in Africa). This idea derived from the observation by experts that there was a need of 200 hydrologists in Africa, and after the call launched in Yamoussoukro and the commitments taken there to increase access to water in Africa - an objective that totally fits into the sustainable development goals. A group of eight INGOs decided to prepare a project that relies on local NGOs. It is not easy to get funds as sponsors are getting increasingly rare and we had to lower our ambitions to 15 candidates among which 5 are members of IAW.



NGO against terrorism

So, IAW's contribution to this project this year is to allow 5 women presented by one of our member NGO (SOFEDDEC From the Democratic Republic of Congo) to follow a training session for hydrologists, technicians of water at the 2IE Institute in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. We hope we will be able to get the funds and if we succeed, we plan to continue the search for funding, to allow other members to access these trainings, including English-speaking Africans.

Other follow-up groups are planned, such as the group which worked on women's fight against poverty (see preceding booklets or the site of the Liaison Committee: <ngo-unesco.org

European Women's Lobby

Arina Angerman



Sharing information of IAW in EWL by digital tools.

During the General Assembly of European Women's Lobby (EWL) in Brussels, June 2016, Arina Angerman (Photo 1) from Amsterdam was reelected as IAW representative to Board of Administration and Marion Böker from Berlin was reelected as alternate.

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. EWL membership extends to organizations in all EU member states and candidate countries. IAW is one of 10 European-wide non-governmental organizations on this Board. My preparations for General

Assembly & Board Meetings of EWL were done together with Joanna Manganara (by mail) and Marion Böker (by Skype).

Sharing information and spreading knowledge

My goal representing IAW in EWL's Board was to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter or Facebook in order to strengthen the visibility both 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. Now both IAW & EWL are more visible at Facebook & Twitter. They increased their social media presence. EWL has 30.000 Likes at Facebook and almost 10.000 Followers at Twitter (2016.09.28). Do you want to share information and spreading knowledge too? You can follow me at Twitter @ArinaNoel I have 900 Followers.

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

1. Women's leadership in Peace (Webinar), he's a feminist (You Tube) and Action

A webinar is a seminar that takes place on the Internet, allowing participants in different locations to see and hear the presenters ...” In my opinion a webinar is a nice to know initiative to inform, share and connect different generations of feminists. In the EWL webinar you hear i.a. Rada Boric on the women's tribunal in Sarajevo, Elizabeth Law on the implementations of UNSCR 1325 in Northern Ireland, Magda Zenon on the inclusion of women in peace negotiations in Cyprus and Borbala Juhasz from Hungary on the gender dimension of the current refugee crisis.

2. Women as agents of change: no climate justice without gender justice

EWL demands in *From Words to Action. A EWL's review of the activities of the EU 1995-2015 20 years of the Beijing Platform for Action (September 2014)* “Systematically include a women's rights and gender equality perspective in the definition, implementation and monitoring of environmental/climate/transport/energy policies at all levels, including research activities and data collection ...” (page 29)

3. Politics and friendship

One of the strategic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action '95 is ‘Promote women's economic rights and independence ...’ Social entrepreneurship can be a promising avenue through which women can empower themselves and others. The EWL published a Synthesis report WEstart. Mapping Women's Social Entrepreneurship in Europe (September 2015).

4. Step it Up for Gender Equality in EU

The Netherlands is in the first half of 2016 President of the European Union. Minister (and feminist) Jet Bussemaker at the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women “*We need to fully implement SDG5 ... For the EU, it's of paramount importance to strengthen civil society organizations' role as advocates for gender equality and women's empowerment in the 2030 Agenda ...*”

5. Empowering women in the digital age with more eSkills in EU?!

The adopted Resolution in the European Parliament (2016.04.28) on 'Gender equality and empowering women in the digital age' calls a.o. on the Commission and the Member States *"to support lifelong learning as well as training and schemes which help prepare for a better adaptation or potential change of career path in accordance with the growing demand for e-skills in many different sectors ..."*

6. Womensvoices on the move & in decision-making

One of the demands to the EU and its Member States: *"The EU and all member states and acceding/ candidate countries must ratify and implement, without bias to migrant, refugee and undocumented women, and without reserve, the Istanbul Convention..."* 14 member states of the EU have ratified! (16.10.05)

7. Intergenerational exchange & financial independence for women

I shared my experiences as a feminist for 37 years in a personal letter with 50 participants of the Young Feminist Summer School of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) as a small step in developing an inter-generational exchange process.

Besides using Twitter & Facebook & IAW digital Newsletter I published 3 blogs on angermaneuro-pa.blogspot.com The following blogs have 1680 pageviews (2016.09.25):

Do women social entrepreneurs use IT and social media in EU? #eSkills 2015.12.11

Step it Up for Gender Equality in EU #EU2016NL 2016.04.19

Empowering women in the digital age with more #eSkills in EU – lifelong learning 2016.08.22



Important Actions by IAW in EWL policy making

On request IAW was involved in several important actions in EWL policy making:

1. Follow up of Adopted Emergency Motion 'Banning of small arms must be part of European Year on Combating Violence Against Women' proposed by IAW in EWL General Assembly on 2015.05.31

"The year 2016 has not been established as EU Year to end violence against women. However, during its meeting with EU Commissioner Jourova in February 2016, the EWL Executive members were informed that the European Year on Combating Violence Against Women might occur in 2017 (TBC). If this is confirmed, the EWL will follow-up on the inclusion of the banning the small arms in its advocacy on ending all forms of VAWG."

2. In the EWL Board Meeting (October 2015), the Financial Resilience and Sustainability Plan (FRSP) 2016-2020 was approved. This plan is specifically designed to support the organization to raise funds and carry out priority activities. This plan is the fruit of a participatory process and in-depth exchanges that EWL members had during the Executive in September 2015 and the Board meeting in October 2015. The FRSP not only develops financial growth projections and possible funds based on a scenario of diversification for 2020, but it also outlines actions, timescales and resources that will be needed to implement it. According to 2015 Final Annual accounts EWL has only 4% income from membership fees. These fees are very important in terms of cofounding.

3. IAW filled in the members Survey (December 2015) From words to action! in order to participate in developing the Members' Engagement Strategy that will be launched by end 2016. This Strategy will be one of the corner stone's for the successful implementation of EWL's Strategic Framework 2016-2020 'Our Future Starts Now!'.

4. IAW comment on EWL's Summary Report of activities June 2015-May 2016

"IAW was pleased to know that under the title III: STRENGTHEN THE EWL MEMBERSHIP, priority "NEW WAYS OF WORKING TO INCREASE MEMBERS' ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITIES IN THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT", the strengthening of the capacity of the women's movement also includes new forms of activism to resist new and old threats linked to new far-right political movements."

5. IAW nominated in August 2016 an expert to the Observatory on Violence Against Women. The list of nominated experts was approved by the EWL Executive in September 2016 and also by the Board for final approval at 2.10. Jocelynne Scutt (Board Member IAW) is representing IAW in this important EWL Observatory!

6. As a Board Member of EWL and an 'experienced' feminist activist I shared my experiences in a personal and 'beautiful' letter with 50 participants of the Young Feminist Summer School of EWL in September 2016 as a small step in developing an intergenerational exchange process.

7. Together with EWL IAW asked for a STRONG EU Strategy on Equality between Women & Men. See inspiring "I'm a feminist, but ... YouTube with Vice-President Frans Timmermans of the European Commission". Instead the European Commission adopted a Strategic Engagement = an EC staff working document.

GOALS or concrete doable actions for the coming year:

GOAL 1. My plan is to continue social media mobilization to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter and Facebook in order to strengthen the visibility of IAW and EWL on social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week.

GOAL 2. And to inform members of IAW by writing a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL in every IAW digital Newsletter.

GOAL 3. IAW is focusing on AIM 7 of Our Future Starts NOW! of approved EWL Work Programme 2017: "To position women at the heart of political, social and economic participation and decision-making. i.a. Develop a campaign strategy to achieve parity democracy – meaning 50% women elected to the European Parliament in the 2019 elections."

I want to thank Marion Böker, Joanna Manganara, Jocelyne Scutt, Lene Pind, Joke Sebus, Anje Wiersinga, Lyda Verstegen and Louise Deumer for their support, feedback and suggestions. They supported me by sending or answering mails, by listening & advising in (Skype) conversations and by stimulating to act; cooperation leads to success & as a group we are more powerful!

As you probably know 'most successes come from repetition, not new things. I have endurance, patience and a long-term view'. So I stay calm & carry on as one of the agents of change and know 'democracy is not what we have, democracy is what we DO'.

International Criminal Court

Deirdre Exell Pirro, IAW Member, Italy

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



**Cour
Pénale
Internationale**
**International
Criminal
Court**

On 28th August 2015, the International Criminal Court (ICC) presented its Eleventh Annual Report to the United Nations, covering the period covering the period from 1st August 2014 to 31 July 2015. During this time several important institutional changes were made to the Court. Seven new judges were elected and Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (Argentina) was elected President of the Court. The Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute also elected Sidiki Kaba (Senegal) as

its new President.

The newly elected judges were: Chang-ho Chung (Republic of Korea), Piotr Hofmański (Poland), Péter Kovács (Hungary), Antoine Kesiya-Mbe Mindua (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Marc Pierre Perrin de Brichambaut (France) and Bertram Schmitt (Germany) for nine year mandates beginning on 11 March 2015. To fill a vacancy left by the resignation of judge-elect Miriam Defensor Santiago, the Assembly elected Raul Cano Pangalangan (Philippines) to serve for the rest of Ms. Defensor Santiago's term, until 10 March 2021.

Registering another busy year for the Court, the Office of the Prosecutor's workload included carrying out activities related to preliminary examinations in 10 situations - Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Nigeria, Ukraine and State of Palestine and began a new investigation into the situation in the Central African Republic.

Overall, the ICC is currently dealing with 21 cases and eight situations (Central African Republic I and II, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Darfur (the Sudan) and Uganda).

In its first appeals judgments on the merits, the ICC's Appeals Chamber upheld the verdict and sentence

against Thomas Lubanga for the war crimes of enlisting and conscripting of children under the age of 15 years and using them to participate actively in hostilities, and the acquittal of Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui, both in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Charges against Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé of the Côte d'Ivoire were also confirmed. With regard to Uganda, Dominic Ongwen was the first suspect to appear before the Court following his transfer to the Court on 21st January 2015.

Unchanged from last year's report, arrest warrants remain outstanding for 12 individuals:

- (a) Côte d'Ivoire: Simone Gbagbo, since 2012;
- (b) Democratic Republic of the Congo: Sylvestre Mudacumura, since 2012;
- (c) Kenya: Walter Barasa, since 2013;
- (d) Libya: Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, since 2011;
- (e) Darfur (the Sudan): Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, since 2007; Omar Al Bashir, since 2009; Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein, since 2012; and Bahar Idriss Abu Garda, since 2014;
- (f) Uganda: Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti and Okot Odhiambo, since 2005

During the year, the Court admitted 4,002 victims to participate in proceedings before the Court. It also received 1,669 new applications for the participation of victims and 1,017 applications for reparations.

On 2 January 2015, the State of Palestine acceded to the Rome Statute, becoming the 123rd State party.

In 2015, several important documents have focused on gender issues and justice which are of particular interest to IAW and its members. Although the Gender Report Card on the International Criminal Court for 2015 had not yet appeared (at the time of writing this review), the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice has produced an important document, the December 2015 issue of *Legal Eye on the ICC* - <http://4genderjustice.org/publications/eletters/december-2015-issue-of-legal-eye-on-the-icc/> which looks in detail at the termination of proceedings in the Kenyatta case. Just to refresh your memories, 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.

Of special significance, 2015 has been the publication of Louise Chappell's *The Politics of Gender Justice at the International Criminal Court: Legacies and Legitimacy* (Oxford Studies in Gender and International Relations Paperback). This analysis of gender justice assesses the Rome Statute (the charter of the ICC), and the effectiveness of its implementation in the first decade of the court's operation. As Professor Fiona Mackay of the University of Edinburgh says in her review, "*this pioneering book offers a riveting account of the struggles of the ICC - and gender justice actors in and around the Court - to put its innovative gender mandate into action....The book exposes a complex of institutional, cultural and political obstacles that stand in the way of gender justice, but also the small wins, green shoots and future opportunities for positive change*".

Yet again, what IAW and its members can do if they have direct experience of the issues within the ICC's mandate, is to provide the ICC's Prosecutor's Office with that information. If not and their country is not State Party to the Rome Statute, then they can campaign and lobby for it to become one so that the iniquitous impunity gap between heinous crimes within the Court's jurisdiction and punishment can finally be closed.

To find out the status of your country in regard to the ICC, go to the Coalition for the International Criminal Court's website at: <http://www.iccnw.org/?mod=home>. Help promote the ICC by providing your members and friends with up-to-date information on its important work. Let's make those "green shoots" become tall trees.

Commissions

Health

Gudrun Haupter, Liaison Officer 2 at WHO



A. Burning issues are covered in the Commission's draft for the IAW Action Program 2017 to 2019.

1. The draft Proposal – most commission members were involved, in particular new member Ursula Nakamura – is specific on physical and mental health risks for women due to both structural and personal violence they experience.

In this context Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) continue to claim urgent and continued efforts from the Commission. Less known forms such as Mass sexual aggression have surfaced and need to be addressed in addition to well-known concerns of IAW like Ending female genital mutilation /cutting; Ending sexual violence and exploitation; Ending child marriage; Improving access to family planning, education and services to prevent, inter alia, Maternal deaths and Maternal morbidity; Providing access to safe and legal abortion; Providing rights-based comprehensive sexuality education for

girls and boys.

Motivate – Advocate, Activate, the theme of next IAW meeting, is what the Commission intends to do, with help from Member organizations, Individual members, other IAW Commissions, like-minded NGOs/Individuals, and our Communication Unit.

At national levels Commission members will use their expertise on women's health and women's rights, to cooperate for press releases and public statements, with the member societies and like-minded NGOs in their countries.

The short discussion paper for the board meeting I wrote, with a view to the Implementation of the IAW Action Program and the work of commissions, lists obstacles which prevent the Commission, and maybe other Commissions as well, to obtain and present world-wide results as requested, e.g. in the reporting template of the WHO.

2. Women's Health Rights often fail to be met in those Non-communicable diseases (NCD) that hit only women, such as Cervical cancer. There exist other women-specific health problems, but we feel the issue needs to be addressed urgently. Prevention and early detection tools exist but are not available to women in countries that lack the required medical infrastructure. A less demanding alternative to regular pap smears exists and research results published on using VIA (Visual inspection with acetic acid) in poor-resource countries, are available. They show the method seems recommendable for pre-menopausal women, and the Commission intends to advocate for VIA.

3. Most NCDs affect women and men alike. However, mostly for social and/or economic reasons, there exist women-specific aspects which tend to be overlooked. The Commission holds that the Tobacco issue, in particular all forms of passive smoking and protection from aggressive marketing, deserves continued attention. Women and children suffer most from passive smoke, and young women are a favorite target group of the tobacco industry. Dealing with tobacco control as a burning issue also helps IAW to remain among the few women's NGOs with observer status at the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the WHO Frame Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

4. The Commission will use basic current information on Maternal health and on HIV/AIDS, available on <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/> to keep track of the SDG 3 targets related to SRHR, and watch out for updated news on Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Referral to WHO positions and publications will help to strengthen IAW's collaborative activities with WHO, a must to keep our status of an NGO in official relations.

5. The Commission has two new members:

Ursula Nakamura, Switzerland, who joined at the International Meeting in Paris is a highly knowledgeable adviser on the health of women of all ages.

Mohinder Watson, IAW representative in Geneva and President of *Action on Child, Early and Forced Marriage*, will soon start to contribute her expertise.

B. Description of main activities of the commission since the International Meeting

Responding to WHO requests

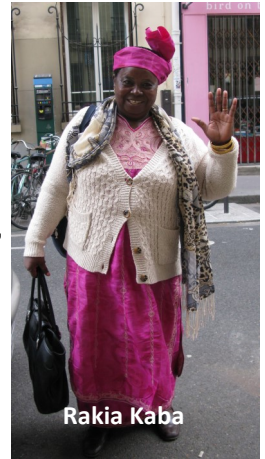
° The report on IAW activities 2014 - 2016 has been acknowledged, a decision for approval will be taken in 2017.

° Registering IAW as a Non-state actor in a new electronic system – a rather complex profile of IAW has been communicated by Seema and me, the Liaison officers No. 1 and No. 2.

° Updating our Plan of Collaboration – discussing our ideas with the new designated technical officer has been put off until 2017. Traditional medicine is one of the ideas, and the organizations of several Commission members are working on the issue.

News items for the IAW Homepage or for the Newsletter

° Commission member Rakia Kaba from “Femmes Juristes du Tchad” (FJT), with many awareness raising programs on violence against women, wants to reflect on the plight of rural domestic workers who encounter lots of problems, one of which is linked to reproductive health. They are victims of rapes at work, often resulting in unwanted, frequently unrecognized pregnancies. How can rural girl domestic workers get out of their situation? Alternatively: How can they be kept in their surroundings?
FJT would like IAW to integrate this subject in their program and help them establish a project, which FJT would like to present.



° On Climate Change and Reproductive Health and Rights I wrote two items:
– **“SPREAD THE WORD!”** with a quote from the advocacy brief prepared by the Asian-Pacific Research & Resource Centre for Women (ARROW) for the Post 2015 Women's Coalition: “Evidence from the ground demonstrates how climate change will not only exacerbate already challenging developmental contexts which form the basis for SRHR, but also how climate change continues to erode gender equality and the advancement of SRHR.”

– **Personal opinion** on the intricacies of concentrating all efforts to mitigate Climate change on the fight against overconsumption while

leaving aside population growth. The article concludes with “I do hope many of my readers go along with David Attenborough: “Efforts to develop scientific solutions to persuade people to consume less and waste less are certainly welcome, but only go so far. Increasing the proportion of people opting for smaller families and for a decrease of the number of unintended pregnancies, is the easiest, cheapest and safest approach to limiting our ecological footprint on the planet.”

° During the annual Forum of the Global Coordinating Mechanism (GCM/NCD) on NCD at the WHO Commission member Soon-Young Yoon moderated the session on reporting from the caucuses and testimonials. In her remarks she congratulates the GCM/NCD for recognizing that it cannot succeed unless it reaches far beyond the health system to enlist the cooperation of other stakeholders and civil society. And she recalls “the first WHO conference on women and tobacco held in Kobe, Japan, in 1999, a meeting of more than 500 scientists, health professionals, political and thought leaders including those from the international women's movements that helped set the stage for a WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.”

° January 2016 I answered a 6-page questionnaire on IAW activities on the WHO FCTC requested by Secretariat. If approved by the COP 7 in November our activities report will be published on the WHO FCTC homepage.

° May 2016 Oral Statement (attached) at the World Health Assembly on ZIKA and Pregnancy delivered by Seema Uplekar (photo), on agenda item WHO response in severe large-scale emergencies. The IAW statement took up the ZIKA infection and possible consequences for women's health, in particular to the SRHR of women. IAW requests action on the SRHR of women in the context of ZIKA.
To commemorate May 28, the International Day of Action on Women's Health, the statement was put on the IAW Homepage.

° June 2016 Supported by Seema I asked African anglophone and francophone IAW members if they were involved in Traditional medicine in any way. A response received from Burkina Faso is on the Homepage, French section. Cameroon, Chad, Zambia responded as well.

° July 2016 Mohinder Watson was a panelist at the Graduate Institute in Geneva to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council, and spoke on Child, early and forced marriage.

° Also in July I proposed to the DFR a Press Release on Child marriage in Germany, published at the *World Refugee Day*.

° August 2016 IAW endorsed the campaign for women's right to safe abortion and for the institution of the International Safe Abortion Day on 28 September. This has been requested in an open letter to the UN.

° August 2016 News item on FGM/C and Family planning in the context of women refugees and female asylum seekers in Germany. One of the problems for NGOs ready to assist thousands of newcomers with counseling is that the obligatory questionnaire which is part of the central registration system does not ask if the woman has undergone FGM. Thus for the time being little information is available at the administrative levels or for NGOs. Women and their families who believe in the necessity of FGM may negatively influence compatriots ready to abandon the harmful practice. I also referred to the WHO Fact sheet on FGM/C updated this year, with a view to the inherent violations of the SRHR of women, defended the IAW standpoint of **Zero tolerance**, provided information on FGM/C in regions outside

Africa, on the possibility and availability of repair surgery, and mentioned the cost of countless individual initiatives to put an end to the harmful practice. At the receiving end are project partners specializing in the issue.

Letters to the Commission in January, June and August 2016 provided information on concerns like Bleeding disorders in women, Traditional medicine, Early marriage, and took up the old concern of sexuality and reproductive health education at school. To get information from the source, I asked members to describe the situation in their countries. I wish to thank everyone who responded.
And I wish to thank Lene Pind for her continuous cooperation.



Seema Uplekar

Oral Statement for 68th World Health Assembly

IAW, an International Women's rights organisation, commends WHO on the response to the challenges arising from the ZIKA virus which has spread to as many as 55 countries and territories.

This recent health emergency of international concern has many facets and IAW would like to voice concern on one of them – ZIKA and pregnancy.

Mothers bear the brunt of caring for children born with microcephaly and other neurological disorders which may show only later. According to Dr. Sonja Rasmussen of the US Centres for Disease Control what we see now could only be the tip of the iceberg. Few countries have care infrastructures to cope with this emergency. Thus for women who already have children this burden means additional mental and physical stress.

Women including adolescent women, who would rather delay a pregnancy often cannot access modern contraceptives let alone safely terminate a risky pregnancy.

This means their right to health and to development is severely thwarted in all countries where the threat of ZIKA infection exists but Governments and Society disregard these essential reproductive health rights.

Women either have to carry unwanted pregnancies to term or resort to unsafe abortion.

In March 2016 women's and girls' right to sexual and reproductive health has been strengthened by General Comment No. 22, on the article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The introduction reads "Due to numerous legal, procedural, practical and social barriers, people's access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health facilities, services, goods and information is seriously restricted, especially for women and girls."

May the ZIKA emergency prompt countries to revise restrictive laws as appropriate, and abandon traditional norms which make for unequal power relations between women and men. Governments who act now can count on healthier and empowered women who will contribute to their country's development.



Report of the Task Force on Older Women **Judith Gordon, Marion Böker**

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

1 CONTINUATION OF THE TASK FORCE: Our Task Force has completed its second year As the upcoming activities within the UN such as the regional review processes MIPAA 2017, UN global review process, possible changes to the Charter which may impact the role of NGO's, and an optional Convention. we recommend that the task force continues for a third and fourth year..

2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES. We strongly request that IAW register and send representatives to the 7th GA OEWG on the protection of the rights of older persons which will take place in December 2016 and upcoming regional reviews (Geneva and UN global review processes). As this year's meeting was scheduled in December 2016 in order to focus explicitly on the current human rights of older persons as reported by the Independent Human Rights Council independent expert and the Human Rights Committee own considerations. IAW can also take account of subsequent reports and actions such as the one that will be given by the Human Rights Council this year, WHO's position paper re the elimination of Ageism and DESA's program which call attention to the impact on social and economic development on the human rights of people of all ages.. We can also plan to take account of subsequent reports and actions that turn attention to the implementation of the recommendations and reports such as WHO's position paper re the elimination of Ageism and the recommendations of the UN Commission on

Social Development which turns attention to the political and social contexts which currently impact the ability of the UN to protect the human rights of persons in countries large and small in this Here and Now..

3. Continued Consideration of the proposed new convention on the Rights of Older Persons.(put in caps) At this point in time, there are countries who have signed on to the convention that the OAS has adopted that can also serve as a model for other UN regions and member states. Some countries would like to modify this convention or amend it. Members of the OAS who support this convention also support the passage of enabling laws and policies in their own countries. Other regional bodies can modify or use this treaty as a model for one in their regions. However, not all member states, regional bodies, member states and citizens agree as to whether or not there is a need for a new treaty especially if member states do not act nationally to implement existing human rights treaties they have ratified. The knowledge of what and what is not addressed in existing human rights treaties, monitoring procedures, and country reports is very important in the coming discussion that will take place in the Dec. meeting of the OWEG. Moreover, there is a lack of awareness and differences of opinions on the upcoming events and new challenges about this UN process in the Countries and among civil society which itself is a term that needs more definition as those who speak in the name of civil society do not in fact represent the diversity of opinion that can be found among the world's peoples at this point in time. These and other related issues arise also in the context of the actions and recommendations of the UN Commission on Human Rights. We therefore recommend that IAW find ways for careful consideration of the human rights of women of all ages this consideration provides.

4. Intergenerational Activities We have called our Task Force a Task Force on Ageing rather than older women because we want to model the ability to bring generations together in our programs and side events at the UN meeting and conferences. We, if IAW chooses to do so, can insure that members of all ages are treated with equal dignity and respect. We recommended an IAW side event last year that would be an intergenerational event at the CSW. It was not scheduled. We ask that be scheduled in the coming year.

We could also plan an event with a government during the Commission on Social Development. We have many opportunities to generate side and parallel events in co-operation with other NGO's that include speakers of all ages in all the locations in which the UN and/or conferences take place.

5 Taking a stand against. Ageism. IAW can take a stand against ageism in its own practices by scheduling events or workshops on awareness of ageism and age discrimination. For example, All too often we are finding that older women UN reps are denied the needed secondary pass to participate and contribute to events at the UN which would not have taken place without their courage and advocacy through the years. To take a stand against Ageism, we need to develop procedures and practices which encourage members of all generations to come together in our organization. The MIPAA review processes 2017-2018 and the possible drafting of a new convention on the rights of the elderly and possibility of drafting a new convention or modifying existing human rights conventions and procedures to monitor or suggest language that reflect on ageing women's needs and demand.

6. National, regional and local activities. Marion has provided a model for us in the meeting she helped organize in Berlin to discuss ageing and social justice in a city where some live in choice, some by birth. some by choice . Others as the consequence of violent wars, age in places they never expected to be in, Current attention being paid to Habitat and urban environments by the UN has also turned attention to urban sociology and ethnography. IAW could use Network News as a way to make known the possibilities its organizational structure varying initiatives, needs and ways to address ageing in time and space.



7. Possible publications and events.. The IAW has developed new on-line publications that can be utilized by this task force. Our President's newsletter is case in point.. We can also organize side and parallel events which will result in publications of books and article as well as shorter contributions to Network News. Perhaps one publication can grow out of our response to the World Health Organizations statement re the ending of Ageism. This provides the Task Force as a Task Force opportunity to reflect together on the relationship between ageism, social justice and peace by taking account of the complex social contexts which shape the future of our organiza-

tion and the world's peoples in this Here and Now.

8. Changes in the UN Charter and in the role of NGO's in consultative status. .. As the Secretary General designate has now been appointed, the UN is paying attention to the rewriting of the Charter. We too have the opportunity to consider the problems and possibilities at hand. For example, the future of NGO's which hold general and special consultative status with Eco-Soc is cloudy indeed. As this is a year when the new Secretary General will take office, as the UN turns to its charter, we too have an

opportunity to plan programs and publications that turn attention for an our organization's ability to take its history into account as we and our affiliates made up of people of all ages also have the need and opportunity to shape the future by bringing generations together through the existence and activities of Task Force on Ageing like ours.

In conclusion, we invite IAW members of all ages to become members of this Task Force ,which we request be continued in 2017—18.

Associates and Affiliates

There are very few reports from member organisations this year, probably due to the fact that the meeting was changed from being Congress to being a board meeting



AFEM Monique Bouaziz

Cette Année 2015 - 2016 a permis à l'AFEM de recevoir le CA de l'AIF suite à la défaillance du Koweït. Nous avons reçu le Board, avec 55 personnes des organisations mondiales, du 6 au 11 octobre 2015 et lors de ce CA, l'AIF a accepté l'invitation pour son congrès au Zimbabwe, (chutes Victoria). Hélas l'AFEM ne sera pas représentée physiquement, le voyage étant trop cher et du fait du manque de participantes ce Congrès devient un CA.

L'AFEM, représentée par une de ses Vice-présidentes, Catherine Sophie DIMITROULIAS, membre du Bureau du Réseau Euromed France, en charge de l'égalité femmes/hommes, a contribué à l'organisation de la rencontre intergénérationnelle sur le thème de la jeunesse en Méditerranée des 9 et 10 octobre 2015 à Paris. Cette rencontre, articulée en ateliers et en un débat public a eu lieu à l'Université Panthéon Sorbonne Paris 1.

Ce projet a eu le soutien de la Région Île-de-France, de l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), de l'UNESCO et du Secrétariat d'Etat au Développement et à la Francophonie du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et du Développement International (MAEDI) qui étaient représentés à l'événement. La Vice-présidente a animé un atelier portant sur la mobilité des jeunes et a présenté une contribution en session plénière, introductive du débat portant sur la condition actuelle des femmes en région euro-méditerranéenne.

L'AFEM en partenariat avec la Chambre Professionnelle de la Médiation et Négociation (CPMN) a organisé une action conjointe d'information dans le cadre de la Décennie de la Médiation institutionnelle européenne

L'AFEM a été co-leader pour la 2ème fois consécutive de la Conférence ONU Habitat III, et a aussi co-organisé la rencontre « ENGENDERING THE CITY WE NEED » le 18 Mars 2016, à Prague, sous l'égide de sa Présidente, la Professeure Teresa BOCCIA, experte auprès de ONU HABITAT, coordinatrice du Gender Hub UNI, ONU-HABITAT, plateforme de la société civile impliquée dans le processus mondial HABITAT III et dans son suivi, notamment du point de vue du genre.

La Vice présidente espagnole de L'AFEM, La Professeure Inès Sanchez de Madriaga, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Chair of gender STE. a organisé la Conference Engendering Habitat III organisée en collaboration avec le Madrid City Council. <http://engenderinghabitat3.genderste.eu/> Européenne de

l'Agence ONU Habitat

La Vice présidente pour la France de l'AFEM, Monique Bouaziz, a participé entre autres, aux réunions du Haut Conseil à l'Egalité. Elle participe aussi à la Commission Europe et International de la CLEF, et par ce biais au travail sur le Shadow Report présenté en juillet à Genève au comité CEDEF/CEDAW et au travail des ONGs en participation avec l'UNESCO (voir AIF booklet)

A l'occasion de la journée Internationale du Droit des Femmes Nous avons participé au lancement du Tour de France de l'Egalité, à l'Auditorium de la Mairie de Paris. Ce tour est un moyen d'aller présenter la CEDEF/CEDAW, insuffisamment connue, dans 9 grandes villes de France.

Un débat s'est instauré avec nos Députées et Sénatrices au sujet du problème des termes « Droits de l'Homme » qui ne rendent pas bien compte de la notion de « droits de la Personne Humaine ». Débat soulevé aux Sénat et sur lequel les hommes sont encore bien loin de vouloir changer. Notre débat à conclu qu'en attendant un changement officiel, il faut faire confiance à l'usage et utiliser les termes « Droits humains » ou « droits de la personne humaine », car l'usage souvent donne raison à l'habitude.

Comme à l'accoutumé nous avons été invitées par la Ministre du Droit des Femmes, Mme Laurence Rossignol à préparer notre présence à New York lors de la CSW (Commission du Statut de la Femme) et nous avons été incluses dans la délégation française, puis reçues de nouveau à Paris pour un bilan de cet évènement.

60ème CSW:

Notre ministre a formidablement porté la voix de la France et de ses ONG, lors des différents événements qui ont lieu à la CSW à New York. Tout d'abord, lors de la plénière, elle a réaffirmé que l'égalité femmes/hommes est un prérequis au progrès. Que, si les avortements sont interdits, de toute façon ils ont lieu, donc qu'il est nécessaire d'assurer aux jeunes femmes des avortements sécurisés. Le droit à l'avortement est une réalité, a-t-elle ajouté, notamment en cas de viol ou d'inceste. Mais, même en temps de paix les jeunes femmes doivent avoir accès à un avortement légal.

Lors du dialogue interactif entre ministres et société civile de la CSW – une nouveauté cette année - dont le but est de créer des alliances pour une mise en œuvre, sensible au genre, de l'agenda 2030 pour le développement, Mme Rossignol a salué ce nouvel événement car, a-t-elle dit, la France intègre les associations dans sa délégation puisqu'elles participent pleinement à la mise en œuvre. Elle a souligné qu'elles insufflent une force toute particulière et organisent toutes sortes d'évènements. Le Président de la Commission a émis le souhait que les autres états suivent cet exemple.

La ministre a aussi participé à l'évènement – co-sponsorisé par la France – sur les réfugiés et les personnes déplacées victimes des groupes terroristes. Évènement qu'elle a salué parce qu'il place l'exploitation sexuelle dans la lutte contre la violence envers les femmes. Il faut se mobiliser pour faire partager que la prostitution est une violence faite aux femmes – (il est à noter que la France vient de faire passer une loi pour la pénalisation de la demande). On est incapable d'identifier le parcours d'une femme prostituée, il est donc impossible de savoir si son "choix" est volontaire.

“L'achat du corps d'une femme est une hypocrisie. Nous combattons cette hypocrisie, car si on tolère que les femmes et les jeunes filles enlevées par Boko Haram soient traitées ainsi, cela signifie que nous tolérons la traite et la violence comme instruments de guerre. C'est la même chose pour les soldats au Sud Soudan pour lesquels un permis de viol a été accordé en plus de la solde.”

Nous avons aussi assisté à l'atelier proposé à la mission permanente de l'OIF (francophonie) par la CLEF sur le respect des droits sexuels et reproductifs des femmes et des filles et de leur intégrité physique, condition de leur autonomisation dans le cadre du développement durable

Cet atelier a été l'occasion de lancer un appel au respect du droit fondamental à disposer de son corps, car selon Madame Bousquet, Sénatrice Française, la condition première de l'autonomie des femmes est

l'autonomie des droits reproductifs, la maîtrise de son corps et de sa fécondité, droits humains fondamentaux sans lesquels on ne peut exercer pleinement ses droits. Le refus de donner ce droit, vide de son sens la notion d'aller vers l'égalité femmes / hommes. Coutumes et religions sont brandis pour refuser leurs droits aux femmes qu'on maintient dans l'enfermement domestique ou en servantes-objets.

En France on a arraché ces droits de longue lutte et il a fallu une modification récente de la loi pour faire de l'IVG une loi comme les autres. L'éducation à la sexualité bloque toujours: définir avec qui et comment est difficile à faire passer. Les jeunes générations pensent que tout est réglé. Elles ont tort car les sociétés conservatrices commencent d'abord par supprimer les droits des femmes.

Il est à noter que les jeunes filles sont les grandes oubliées. Elles ne relèvent d'aucun programme, ni de celui des enfants, ni de celui des adultes. Elles n'ont accès ni à la contraception ni à la santé, et peuvent se retrouver à la rue.

L'objectif 5 des OMD n'est pas atteint car bien des femmes n'ont pas les moyens d'accéder à la contraception et la mortalité est très forte, on peut ajouter aussi l'ampleur des mutilations génitales. Les droits sexuels et reproductifs et le droit à l'avortement sont les droits premiers et c'est ce qui doit sortir de cette Convention du Statut de la femme, Quitte à faire voler en éclats l'unité européenne a-t-elle ajouté en conclusion.

Pour Madame Ameline, ex-présidente de la commission CEDEF et toujours membre de la commission, le Lobby européen qui véhicule cet appel nous fait nous rendre compte que la société civile joue un immense rôle: rappeler à chaque État ses obligations.

La CEDEF a su rappeler que les mutilations sont un crime mais pour ce qui est du reste on n'a pas avancé. L'absence de droits reproductifs est une atteinte au droit à la santé, mais c'est aussi une atteinte à l'état car le développement des naissances peut être aussi un problème. D'autre part il n'y a pas d'effectivité des Droits s'il n'y a pas d'éducation à la sexualité

Il faut réaffirmer nos droits devant les conservatismes. Être libérée de son corps c'est être libre de son destin.

Guylaine Toutain de la fondation Jean-Jaurès, partenaire de cet atelier, a soulevé la situation en Europe où la Pologne par exemple veut revenir sur l'avortement

L'Europe parlait d'une seule voix, mais la position se fissure. Il y a progrès sur les droits sexuels et reproductifs mais dès qu'il faut le mettre dans les textes on utilise la subsidiarité. On donne des conseils mais on n'applique pas.

Le lobby va s'intéresser à l'éducation à la sexualité et demander que ça avance dans les pays.

Pour la Présidente de l'AIF, Joanna Manganara: On ne peut avoir de développement durable, car les femmes ne peuvent devenir membres économiques à part entière que si elles peuvent décider de la maîtrise de leur corps.

Parmi d'autres événements auxquels nous avons assisté, nous pouvons encore citer :

Celui de Regards de Femmes sur la déclaration des naissances – comment atteindre au développement durable si un enfant sur trois dans Le monde n'a pas d'État civil.

Un atelier pour préparer la conférence Habitat III qui aura lieu à Quito et où on désire voir incluses l'égalité de genre et l'autonomie des femmes.

Un appel, pour qu'on se souvienne des filles de Chibok, enlevées il y a deux ans par Boko Haram et dont on n'entend plus parler.

SI les conclusions concertées de la Commission ne sont pas encore à la hauteur de nos attentes, elles ont tout de même ajouté un langage nouveau: celui des droits sexuels et reproductifs, et de l'avortement sécurisé, même si c'est avec des restrictions. La société civile, qui commence à être reconnue, peut s'en

APWA –Punjab

All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) is the first and largest NGO of Pakistan. The founder of APWA was Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, the wife of Pakistan's First Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan. APWA is the pioneer volunteer women welfare non-governmental organization. It was established in 1949. APWA Punjab Headquarters Lahore has established 12 District Branches, 17 Primary Schools and 4 Adult Literacy Centres, 12 Health Centres, 8 Skill centres, Day care unit, APWA Cottage Industry, APWA Legal Free Aid Cell, APWA Zeenat Auditorium, APWA Youth College, 2 Students Hostels and 2 Career Women's Hostels.



AREAS OF WORK SKILL

APWA believes that the priority for women's empowerment at grassroot level and excess to credit opportunities that lead to economic independence, income generating sources and skills. Decent employment of a woman results in economic stability of the women

APWA PUNJAB SKILL CENTRES

The APWA Punjab Provincial Headquarters has skill Empowerment Department working for the vocational trainings for the women and young girls. It conducts short term courses for girls including stitching, sewing, handmade and machine embroidery, Crochet and Knitting, painting and sketching. Skill centre also organizes exhibitions time to time that generate orders. Designing and tailoring facilities are also available at reasonable prices.

Almost 400 students got admission to various courses in 2015—16

EDUCATION

Keeping in view the given facts and figures, APWA Punjab has always striven to better the status of girl child education in Punjab. APWA has initiated this Endeavour through a number of projects including schools, colleges and other informal education projects. APWA Punjab has built schools in urban, rural and suburban areas to provide the education facility to the children of under privileged families specially the girl child. APWA Youth Girls College is another initiative of APWA's vision to support women and girls education. Similarly, APWA Adult Literacy Centres provide education to the illiterate women who did not get a chance to study in their early years.

APWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS

APWA Punjab has established 14 primary schools in different urban, rural and suburban areas of Punjab which are providing quality education to the underprivileged children with special emphasis on girl child education. Students from these schools are now studying in different higher education institutions or working in the different fields. According to the Beneficiaries' Report 2015-2016 around 1,106 children completed their education in these 14 primary schools.

Success Stories of APWA Primary schools

Rubab Raheem studied in APWA Primary school from pre nursery to 5th class.

She had keen interest in studies, but her parents could not afford her educational expenses. Her father and grandfather are cobblers and due to their extremely meager income they were hardly able to support the basic economic needs of food and shelter for their family.

APWA supported Rubab's education. She completed her primary education at APWA Begum Pura School. Presently Rubab is a 1st year student of medical and has bright prospects to overcome the murki-



Free distribution of books

ness of her past. APWA wish her good luck in her future.

Belonging to a pathan family 3 girls namely Chandni Afroz Khan, Sumaira Salamdar & Sohana Afroz Khan braved against their family. Their mother was interested in educating her children and with mutual struggle they got admission in APWA Begum Pura Primary School. After completing their primary education Chandini was enrolled in Govt. Higher Secondary School Singh Pura. She has graduated from Govt. College Singh Pura. Sumaira has done M.A and Salma completed her matriculation exams. The elder sister is now working and has contributed to make their family financially stable.

Ruqayya Sadiq is another success story who took the initiative for her future to be stable and economically sound. She was enrolled in APWA school Kot Dhoni Chand in 2007. She was so committed that she worked and studied simultaneously. She worked in a Brick Klin and completed her matriculation from APWA School. She then got a job in Sri Lanka and presently she is residing abroad and has a good earning.

Health

Over a period of time, the statistics show clearly that there has been a change in the trend of thinking. The locals now believe that it is better to have few children and to provide them with a better quality of life. Every area has a running school where the local children are now being educated. More dispensaries, clinics and in some places hospitals have been set up close.

APWA PUNJAB HEALTH CENTERS

There are 14 Health Centres dispersed in the Province of Punjab. Mrs. Amina Syed, Executive Member, APWA Punjab accompanied the Lady Supervisor Health projects, Mrs. Munawar Sultana during the routine inspection to Centres in and around Lahore. The purpose was not only to check the facilities and records but also to give the new Executive an overview of some projects on ground; to engage with the LHV and where possible community members to gauge changing trends and needs for future initiatives.

Conclusion:

The APWA family planning health Centres are a testament to the strength and committed that is the hallmark of APWA. They are hubs serving the communities with integrity. They are stronghold serving at the grassroots levels, which are potential springboards for new initiatives. The total number of APWA Health centers beneficiaries 2015 to 2016 are 24087.

APWA'S PILOT PROJECT DECENT WORK FOR DOMESTIC WORKER (DW4DW)

APWA PUNJAB HAS A LEADING ROLE

Women's Development Department Punjab, as part of its Women's Empowerment Package, in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO), APWA and College of Tourism & Hotel Management (COTHM) aimed to train 1000 domestic workers, place them in decent work conditions and begin drafting a legislative framework for domestic workers according to the ILO convention 189 on domestic work.

APWA has the major role of implementing the training programme and in line with the needs identified by College of Tourism & Hotel Management (COTHM) refurbished the training premises and also arranged some sponsorship to bring necessary furniture/equipment for the training premises. They procured training consumables in line with agreed rules and regulations. APWA also supported COTHM to arrange group discussions/meetings with potential employers of domestic workers to identify their expectations and high demand skills.

DOMESTIC WORK, the sector having maximum number of female and child workers world-wide can easily be rendered as one of the most neglected and unrecognized area at the same time.

Domestic workers have not yet been able to get recognition or protection under the labour laws.

They have only recently been acknowledged by the ILO though a convention C-189. The changing concept of work and emergence of pro-worker legislation, instead of Master Servant legislation of nineteenth century, must play a vital role in the near future for the respect, protection and enforcement of rights of the Domestic Workers all over.

The vulnerability of Domestic workers is manifold in comparison with the formal workers, being highly decentralized, individual homes being their workplace usually without having the luxury of company of co-workers. Different employer at different worksite for every worker is great hindrance in the way of

centralization of workers of this category. The nature of job of in-house workers within home premises being in contact with the children and elderly members of the family adds to its uniqueness as this emotional attachment may decrease.

Chances of arbitrary termination but at the same time they face the threat of homelessness in case of their termination from work. The maintenance and check of standard range of labor protections becomes a challenge as the work place is an individual's private home.

The domestic workers are a special category of workers and may be defined as;

Domestic Worker is a person employed in or for a households or household; on permanent, temporary or contract basis for part time full time; for remuneration in cash or king to perform domestic work.



CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONIES OF DW4DW PROJECT

DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY ON 21ST AUGUST, 2015

On 21st August, 2015, after the completion of 3rd batch of trainees, APWA arranged a ceremony to distribute certificates among the successful candidates. ILO representative Mr. Hassan Rizvi, Chairperson APWA Ms Ruhi Sayid, Executive members, Mr. Mukhtar Awan (General Secretary Social Security), WDD representatives and number of people from different walks of life, along with considerable amount of domestic workers were present at the event. Minister Women Development Ms Hameeda Wahid ud Din was the honorable Chief Guest of the occasion.

2. PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY OF DW4DW PROJECT ON 8th OCTOBER, 2015

On 8th October, 2015, after the completion of 4th batch of trainees, APWA arranged a ceremony to distribute certificates among the successful candidates; Executive members, Chief Guest, Mr. Mir Izhar Hussain Khosa, (Minister of Women Development and Food, Baluchistan), WDD representatives, and numerous personalities from civil societies along with the domestic workers were the participants of the event.

Earning a Decent Living

Kiran Alvi, a lone supporter of her family wanted to raise her income level, so that she could meet her family needs. She did multiple works for decent living, but due to improper working conditions and low wages she had to leave various jobs. She was unemployed and worried regarding job, when she came to know about 'Decent Work for Domestic Workers' training programme. She tried her luck and got enrolled in the programme where she learned variety of housekeeping techniques and culinary skills.

"My morale was very low when I joined the course; however with each passing day cooking classes gained my attention and I developed interest in culinary. With practical training of cooking and house-keeping, I also learned different techniques of home based business, and after course I applied one of them, and now running my own small business, which I started with help of my few friends and family."

In Culinary class Kiran learned how to prepare food hygienically and food presentation skills, using those methods she has started making Pizzas and patties on orders and delivery according to the required demands and proper packing. Now she is supplying Pizzas and patties to school canteens near her residence. She is also thinking of adding some more food items and taking her endeavour to a new level.

Domestic Workers: Striving for better Employment.

Madiha Shahid, a young lady who wanted to support her family came to All Pakistan Women Association (APWA) seeking job, and that is how she learned about the 'Decent Work for Domestic Workers' (DW4DW) training programme. She realized that she did not have sufficient skills or training for a reasonable job. Madiha was overwhelmed to see the environment and course outline of DW4DW programme at APWA, and decided to get enrolled in the course, so she can seek employment on the basis of that course certification.

APWA with an aim to empower women in every possible domain is successfully running Decent Work

for Domestic Workers (DW4DW) programme, while providing high quality training to women in culinary and housekeeping. Domestic workers with little education feel privileged to be part of this course, as it enhances their knowledge of everyday household tasks; while creating awareness about labour rights. Moreover, child and elderly care is also part of the training which can lead to jobs as caregivers.

Madiha was an exceptional trainee, among the rest. She was primarily interested in child and elderly care and performed excellently during the course. After completing the course, she registered with placement officer of DW4DW for job opportunities. Within two weeks she got offer of a job as a nanny in a day care centre.

“Being the elder daughter of the house, it became my responsibility to support the family, after my father died. Before DW4DW training, it was really tough for me to get a reasonable job and earn decent living, as our society is not supportive for a young lady. However, now I do not need any financial aid from anyone, as I am working with dignity and respect.”

Now it has been quite a while, since Madiha is working as a nanny in a reputable day care centre. Her supervisor is quite satisfied with her manners and work ethics, as children are happy with her and even parents praise her good work and behaviour.

INAUGURATION OF APWA FREE LEGAL AID CELL on 6th February, 2016

APWA Punjab is committed for the legal empowerment of women, through beneficial activities like legal awareness, legal research and legal aid to needy litigants. On 6th February 2016 Apwa Free Legal Aid Cell was launched which will carry on free legal advocacy/awareness programmes to all areas of Punjab. The Legal Aid Cell will also continue the Legal Research and Legal Aid to women litigants. APWA will enhance its role to curb the increasing violence and lawlessness against women, children and the vulnerable sections of the society. The Legal Aid Centre shall be managed by Mrs. Shamsa Ali, Miss. Ghazala Khan and Mr. Shamim Malik, Advocates of Supreme Court.

LEGAL RAPID RELIEF CASE

ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN ASSOCIATION his fighting for a case of a burnt victim and legal proceeding have been progressing in legal courts.

PUBLISHING OF BOOKLET ON “PREVAILING LAWS FOR WOMEN IN PAKISTAN”

APWA Published a book on prevailing women laws in Pakistan. APWA printed a 10 page booklet on women’s rights in Pakistan. It focus on the main laws affecting women’s status in our male dominant society..It identifies the legal remedies available for the elimination of discrimination against women. It is a guide line for the multiple issues faced by our women.

Child Marriage

It is Apwa’s effort to promote legal awareness for the working groups,NGOs, CSOs, CBOs, NPOs and Civil Society at large. It consist of, Muslim Family Laws, 25-A Right Of Education, The Guardians And Wards Act ,Child Marriage Restraint Act, The Dissolution Of Marriage Act, The Bridal And Dowry Gifts Restriction Act. The Protection Against Harassment Of Women At The Workplace Act And The Acid Control And Acid Crime Prevention Act.

Harassment at work place

SEMINAR ON 29TH FEBRUARY 2016 ON

“EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTECTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”

BILL PASSED BY PUNJAB ASSEMBLY ON 25TH FEB, 2016

All Pakistan Women Association (APWA) Punjab has organized a seminar On 29th February,2016 on “Effective Implementation Of Bill of Protection On Violence Against Women” passed by Punjab Assembly on 25th Feb, 2016.Minister Women Development Department, Ms. Hameeda Wahid-ud-Din and Secretary Ms. Amina Iman (WDD) were the Honorable Chief Guests.

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY, SPRING MELA AND AWARENESS WALK 2016 FROM 19TH -21ST MARCH 2016

For the very first time APWA logo was shown with the Down Syndrome Group and APWA got a chance

to participate fully for the special children awareness campaign. APWA has committed to provide free education to one special child in their schools.

LAUNCHING OF FEMINIST SONG BY APWA PUNJAB

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2016 at Governor House Lahore

APWA Punjab celebrated International Women’s Day at Governor House on 10th March 2016. On the event a video of a Feminist Song was launched, depicting the women achievers of Pakistan as an example for women at large to understand that nothing is impossible and where there is a will there is a way. The feminist song was written by Mrs. Ruhi Sayid and was composed by Ms. Dur e Shawar and sung by Mr. Khalid.

APWA Punjab’s Aim:

APWA Punjab continues to focus on human rights, benefit women and children, raise awareness, to educate and advocate on multiple issues of women. APWA Punjab aims to continue the message and spirit of Begum Ra’ana Liaquat Ali Khan that is to uphold women’s equal status in our society.

Danish Women’s Society

By Signe Vahlun



The political landscape in Denmark

In June 2015 general elections meant a power change when the liberal party “Venstre” was voted in as a minority government. Since then there has been a political change towards more liberal politics in all aspects of society greatly influencing the well fare state. The Danish Women’s Society (DWS) is very concerned about how some of the changes are affecting women - marginalized single mothers especially.

As from the first of October 2016 the amount of social security a person can receive from the state has diminished quite a lot. This to a point where people are finding it hard – if not impossible - to pay for their basic necessities, such as food, clothes and rent. The ones being hit the hardest are single parents. Thus more than 70 percent of people hit by the so called “social security roof” are women, many of whom are sick and unable to work and who in addition have children to take care of. Several organisations, parties, unions etc. are worried about the state of lives of both children and adults and are predicting an increase in women having to go to extremes such as prostitute themselves in order to feed and clothe their children. The Danish Women’s Society is very concerned about the state of affairs in regard to this change in our social security system and the way that is affecting so many women and children throughout the country.

Another political issue, which the DWS is concerned about – and has been for several years, is the “Act on Parental Responsibility”, which in too many cases pays more attention to the wish and well-being of the parent rather than that of the child.

One of these cases – the so called “Oliver case” has gained international attention and Denmark is currently receiving a lot of critique due to the Act on Parental Responsibility.

In the Oliver case a Danish father and an Austrian mother had a child in Denmark. Due to claims of violence and stalking, the mother received full parental rights of the child when they split up. However, as soon as she moved the child to Austria, the Danish courts ruled that the parental responsibility should now go to the father who, three years later collected the child and took him to Denmark. The father is now wanted for kidnapping in Austria but the kidnapping is not recognised by Danish law.

The Oliver case was presented to the CEDAW committee, which in hard terms criticized Denmark for not

handing Oliver over to his mother. The CEDAW committee furthermore demands that the Act on Parental Responsibility be thoroughly evaluated so that the child (not the parent) is always protected. This also to ensure that women, who have been exposed to violence, will not be discriminated against in such cases. So far, Denmark has done nothing to accede to the demands and keep on systematically breaching international law and not living up to the CEDAW in several ways. Due to the international critique GREVIO (the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) will from September 2016 to January 2017 monitor Denmark in order to investigate how the country lives up to the Istanbul Convention. The DWS is looking forward to this report since we have tried to put focus on the problem for almost a decade.

The Danish Women's Society's work and projects

As in many parts of the world, Denmark has had quite a lot of focus on rape and rape victims the past few years. Several places in the country people have demonstrated against how rape victims are treated. Through petitioning, the DWS managed to get the Minister of Justice, Soeren Pind, to start a new initiative "Respect for rape victims." The initiative is aiming at getting rape victims better help throughout their meeting with the authorities. This has meant that the police, for the first time ever, have set up an advisory group of experts including several NGO's in order to educate and help authorities treat victims of rape in a dignified and decent way.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice has recently started mapping revenge porn and online abuse, which is affecting an increasing number of especially younger people. The DWS has, due to its STOP SEXISM project and consistent focus on the matter, been asked to give a written opinion on the matter for the report.

In May 2016, Denmark hosted the conference Women Deliver. In addition to the conference itself, several side events took place throughout the country. The DWS was responsible for four of these. In cooperation with the Royal Danish Library the DWS had invited the famous Professor Michael Kimmel to give a talk on "Faith, Feminism and Freedom." The event was completely sold out and a great success. The other side events were: "Myth busting - women's sexuality" where experts debated myths about women's sexuality and reproductive organs, "Women in leadership – how to avoid being a gatekeeper" – three women in high positions debated how to avoid becoming the women who kept other women down in their careers, and finally "Gin & Gender." The latter has become a reoccurring event, which has become very popular in the Copenhagen area. In cooperation with the organisation "Society for Equality" the DWS has created a concept where gender is debated, through different kinds of performance while the audience is enjoying a gin cocktail.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign 2016 the DWS has had the jeweller Sanne Nordahn create a bracelet which depicts the 16 days in a silver frame. Several "ambassadors" are helping spread the word on social media by wearing the bracelet and writing about the campaign and violence against women. The bracelet will be sold prior to the start of the campaign and all surplus will go the DWS' work on violence against women.

A big part of DWS' work and interaction with its stakeholders is through facebook and Twitter with more than 12 000 and 3 800 followers respectively. Both platforms allow the organisation to both help set the agenda but also go into debates with its followers, whether it be private or 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.

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 memberships, donations, the web-shop and fundraising for specific projects. Although the organisation has managed to hire a temporary employee, a press officer, for a little more than two years, 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 picks up on certain matters, more people are joining the DWS and still more facebook pages concerning themselves with feminist subjects appear. However there is still an opposition which increasingly shows itself in form 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 opinions on both open but also private social media forums. Luckily this is now being addressed by politicians, public television and not least the Ministry of Justice. So although scepticism about the current politics and its effects on especially poor single mothers, there are certain areas where the DWS is cautiously optimistic.

Committee for International Affairs, DFR

Deutscher Frauenring

Marion Böker

Summary of the activities of the Deutsche Frauenring e.V.(DFR) in 2016 with a focus on "End Violence against Women"



Conception and organization of congresses and seminars:

- Continuation series of Workshops 'Gender Rol(l)e forwards' in Berlin and other cities à with the objective of raising awareness about gender (role) stereotypes and to overcome traditional roles; men and women should be able to develop their strengths and talents regardless of gender (class and 'race'), so that individuality, woMen's qualifications and human rights do not disappear behind their 'roles' which shall be open and flexible to every human being and not limited by stereotypes (2015-March 2016): Gender stereotypes need to be eliminated as a driving root cause of Violence Against Women according CEDAW Art 5 [Manual is documented in German <http://www.geschlechterrollevorwaerts.de/Materialien/>]
- Digitalisation - Industry 4.0 How does it concern us? (April 2016) This "seminar" (a 2 days conference) discussed a very important topic of the future, due to the fact that the new generation of digitalisation 4.0 affects every aspect of our everyday life's especially the labour market (employment/self employment) conditions, qualifications, and social insurance. Its main result: the active participation of women to shape the processes is the key for this transformation process and to led women gain and not loose achievements. Still, we have to increase the share of women in ICT, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, esp. decision making level; in the boards of companies. [Documented in German in Grüne Reihe No 77 <http://www.deutscher-frauenring.de/aktuelles/pdf/gruene-reihe-77>]

Topics:

- Change in working environments - necessary policies for Gender Equality
- Diverse examples of digitalisation improving and simplifying our lives and
- Violence und antifeminism on the internet through cyber mobbing und hate speech
- Rights of elderly women: strengthen the rights – Prevention of all forms of discrimination: Expert discussion on the current review process+15 in 2017 and globally 2018 of the Madrid World Action Plan on Ageing (MIPAA, 2002), in the German Federal Ministry for Families, Seniors, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), Berlin, 14. Oct. 2016, with experts, NGOs, and a representative of the BMFSFJ, Department Aging/Demography and Inclusion:

Questions: How can we create an inclusive society for all ages? How to avoid discrimination against elderly women, since the most prevalent forms of discrimination experience is the one of the intersection of Age & Gender based discrimination (2015 Survey of German Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency). There is violence against elderly women in care institutions (see CAT/CRPD); issues about sexual reproductive rights; The DFR supported the recommendations of R. Kornfeld-Matte, Ind. expert UN Human Rights Council: We need a new Convention for the Protection of the Rights of the Elderly People.

Result: the scope of participation will be extended; German Government is now open to discuss any "useful instrument for the protection of the rights of elderly people", which is a shift and opens up the discussion by the EU (AU, OAS, Asia is already pro). There is a DFR-statement for a broad CSO participation. The DFR stipulates a new UN-Human Rights Convention incl. an Optional Protocol and demanded for the participation of CSO/ Women's NGOs in the drafting of a new Convention and OP <http://www.deutscher-frauenring.de/aktuelles/pdf/statement-zum-un-ueberpruefungsprozess> See the DFR-press release <http://www.deutscher-frauenring.de/aktuelles/pdf/altersarmut-und-diskriminierung-im-alter> [in German]

- Basic socio-economic measures for a good life in all ages: poverty among the elderly especially women today, how to prevent it tomorrow?

15.-16 Oct. 2016 the Annual Federal DFR-Conference focused on the causes of poverty among elderly women in Germany to-day and possible solutions: a return and reform into a solidarity based pension system 'for all' and to delete negative elements of policies since 2000. Experts highlighted the best practice example of the pension insurance system of Austria; analysed the Pay Gap (21 %) and Pension Gap (57%) and noted, that (family and social) care work shall be rewarded in the pension requirements. The need for a good quality of care for children and the elderly was discussed. Women (and men) in care jobs as nurses, educators, care workers must be trained and paid better, and finally must have better working conditions. The framework of social, cultural, economic and political public participation in all ages has to be improved: especially of the women and men of the 2nd and 3rd age (pension age 65+-79; 80-100) by a better recognition of CSO representatives of this age groups in communities; Municipality Senior Advisory Councils esp. if represented by women often are under resourced; Solution: More 'Senior Participation Laws' on Laender level with financial resources in the Laender budgets and for municipalities; better local implementation of MIPAA. Identified urgent issue: Affordable housing when women want to leave flat/house for a smaller apartment; prices on market too high; Solution: public policies for cheap and adequate housing needed. Housing supply needs to be re-defined as state service for the public. [2017: Fed. Conference of DFR, Hannover, on "Adequate and sustainable housing-]

Substantive work in correspondence with the key objectives of the DFR: Equality between women and men, anti-discrimination, CEDAW

- State report of Germany was published in 2015. In 2016 the DFR has worked in 5 working groups to draft the Alternative Report within the NGO's Alliance for CEDAW. The DFR convinced all NGOs of the Alliance to demand for a National Action Plan for the better implementation of CEDAW with indicators, benchmarks and budget. Germany will be in February 2017 before the CEDAW. There is an interesting Alternative Report on the devastating effects of German weapon trade on civil society in Mexico by WILPF/International, Geneva.
- The German NAP on UNSCR 1325: The DFR is active in monitoring and consulting the UNSCR 1325 process within the NGO-Alliance For 1325. In Dec. 2016 the 2. National Action Plan 1325 will be released by the Government. The NGO Alliance currently is not satisfied: there is too less progress and concern about the quality of the NAP. The Alliance would like to see it shaped like the Dutch or Irish model. The NAP is not enough connected to prevention of war and weapon trade control. The crucial thesis: Res. 1325 serves to fuel the militarisation of women and feminisation of war; it is too less a contribution to women's peace and human security. DFR wonders, how other IAW member observe it.
- The DFR operates by taking part in the German umbrella network against FGM/C INTEGRA and supports awareness campaigns which deal with female genital mutilation and family planning since decades by two partner projects in West Africa;
- The DFR-Berlin organized a joint event against early marriage combined with a movie preview of "SONITA". The DFR argues in a statement for the parliament and government for a new law which 1. shall eliminate the exceptional option for persons in the age of 16 to marry and fixes the age to

after the 18th birthday for all persons; further it recommends to only accept state registered marriages

- In 2016 the DFR joined the NGO campaign "NO means NO" and lobbied the two chambers- The Fed. Council and the Fed. Parliament- for a reform of § 177 Criminal Code which ruled the definition of when rape is a rape and crime. The new law was unanimously adopted in July in the Parliament. It was only achieved through a cross-party cooperation of female members of the national parliament and the Länder parliaments, a streamlined work in the 2nd chamber as well the campaign of the women's movement including the organized young feminists, both with traditional means (letters, lobbying, meetings, statements) and new social media with an online petition. This law reform was the pre-condition for Germany to ratify the Istanbul Convention. Government said: ratification is underway.
- Several of the many local branches of the DFR are active in assisting refugees and prepare for the assistance for the integration process. For example intercultural meetings for women and several supporting projects are organized: reading for children, language courses, accompanying the asylum seeking women through the administrative procedures, or simply collection of cloths, finding an apartment.

Press Releases of the DFR

- International Action Day: „No” to violence against women (25 November 2015)
Demanding ratification the Istanbul Convention in Germany
- International Action Day against „FGM“ (6.2.2016)
FGM/C can be fought successfully – as our partner demonstrated – our solidarity and donations help!
- International Women's Day (8 March 2016)
Demanding the abolition of every form of violence against girls and women: The acceptance of equalisation must be encouraged through suitable measures and effective laws.
- International World Refugee Day (20.06.2016)
No exception of child marriage – the German law finally has to determine the age of marriage at the age of 18.

Main questions for tomorrow :

Elimination of root causes of Violence against women of all ages

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention

Implementation of the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW (Art 5; Gen. Rec. on Art 5)

Stronger awareness raising of '0 Tolerance' against all forms of VAW and sexualized gender based violence in all stages of education and all parts of the population

Inclusion of men in this work as in all section of work for Gender Equality

Internal (!) and external implementation of UNSCR1325 (1820, 1888, 1962)

Prevention of VAW in the process of flight and migration

Empowerment of refugee women... (securing proper services) and for integration

Elimination of Pay Gap and a better Pension system (balancing Pension Gap) and reducing poverty

Greek League for Women's Rights

Lili Kourakou, President



Here is a brief account of the GLWR's main activities for the period mid 2015 up to mid 2016, by subject:

Elimination of prejudices and stereotypes

During the second half of 2015 the GLWR concluded the implementation of the Program "Contribution in combating gender stereotypes as they appear in Mass Media". The Action Plan of this 2 year Programme (2014-2015), co-funded by the European Social Fund and national resources, involved counseling seminars, workshops, production of material etc. (concluded during 2014), while organizing two workshops with journalists in Athens, open discussions in both the Athens and Greater Athens areas and in two major up-country towns with the involvement of local journalists, presentations in Radio and TV, issuing of two editions of the GLWR's magazine "the Struggle of Woman" up-grading of our website, etc. were concluded in 2015.

Perhaps the most important and long lasting contribution in eliminating gender stereotypes in the Media was the production of a "Guide of good practices", which was distributed to a large number of journalists and other interested parties. Apart from good practices the guide contains information on the legal regime of various countries as to how women must be presented in mass media and advertisements, information on practices of international institutions, data on women's participation in top management positions of mass media business, and other information on how to avoid discrimination against women.

At the closing ceremony of the Program, in the presence of a large audience, specialists from the media, the government and Universities made important presentations

The findings and conclusions of the project were also presented during a gathering organized in March 2016 by the Athens Branch of Soroptimist International and the GLWR, attended by members of both organizations.

Work-life balance in the context of changing families and labour market in Greece (WORLBAL)

As from mid 2015 the GLWR cooperates in the above important project, co-finance by the European Economic Area grants (EEA Grants, 85%) and resources of the Public Investment Program (15%). The Program will be concluded by December 2016.

Four parties participate in this Project (Family and Childcare Centre (KMOP) as Project Promoter, and National Centre for Social Research (EKKE), Greek League for Women's Rights (GLWR), and the University of Iceland (HI) as partners.

The main purpose of the Project is to assess women's needs and expectations and to identify how they experience reconciliation of work-life balance in Greece in times of crisis. This involves Literature, Research and Review Frameworks, Empirical Research, Case Studies on the Work-Family Reconciliation, Assessment and Evaluation of Public Policies and Practices, Policy Synthesis and Recommendations, Dissemination and Exploitation of the Project's Results. Additionally, it will provide empirical evidence for the needs and expectations of specific categories of women, while it will explore methods and good practices to promote women's effective life-work balance in Greece.

The GLWR will be involved in producing a Guide of best practices regarding reconciliation policies in Europe, in disseminating information on the progress and results, and in organizing the final event for the presentation of the results. Three members of the GLWR and an external specialist work for the Project.

Recognising and rewarding women's social achievement.

At the International Woman's Day in March we recognize and reward women's social achievements.

This year, the “Women’s Social Achievement Award ALICE YOTOPOULOS MARANGOPOULOS” was given to the women of the Eastern Aegean islands, who, motivated solely by a spirit of humanism and solidarity for their fellow beings, offer shelter, hospitality and comfort to refugees arriving to the islands, fleeing their country at the risk of their life from war and violence.

A large audience attending this event, consisting of members of Women’s Organisations, Islanders from the Aegean, and other citizens, had the opportunity to hear women from Lesbos, Chios, Samos and Kalymnos, all having experienced the offering of assistance and hospitality to these destitute people, narrating the dramatic conditions in which the refugees arrive at the Greek islands, seeking an opportunity for life for themselves and their children. The panel also included the elected Chief of the Northern Aegean Area, and Representatives of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Greece and of the Greek Committee for Human Rights

The audience expressed respect over the humanitarian spirit and solidarity of men and women of the islands, who, motivated by their conscious alone, rescue and offer shelter to fellow human beings, victims of war, violence and devastation. They all unanimously approved a Resolution declaring that the volunteer work of these islanders made obvious to the International Community the human aspect of the problem, and set into action the principles and universal values and rights on which the EU was founded. This Resolution was distributed to the Media, the Governments, Political Parties, Greek and European Parliaments, MPs, and to UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, Women’s Organisations, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, the Pope, and the Archbishop of Athens.

Also the GLWR, wishing to contribute to the relief of refugees, called its members and friends to assemble things of first need (dry food, clothing, things for personal hygiene, according to a list given by the government) and bring it to our Offices. A large amount of such items were concentrated, and delivered to the authorities coordinating the relief of refugees.

Awards to Journalists

The GLWR continues to reward journalists of the press and electronic media who support “consistently and in the correct spirit” the case of gender equality. It is our belief that this practice has earned the League friends and support for our cause. The Awards are announced and delivered during the New Year festival gathering. For this purpose, reportage and articles supportive of gender equality appearing on the press, are brought to the attention of a Committee (Board members and an experienced journalist) that decides on the person meriting the award. This year two women journalists from two dailies stood out, one receiving the Award and the second a Praise. The Award for the Electronic Media was not given this year, because the Committee did not find programmes supporting gender equality in these media.

Elimination of violence

“Free Legal Counselling and Social Support Service” is as always made available by the GLWR to all women, members or non members alike. This important function is offered on a weekly basis, addressing problems of family conflict, domestic violence, divorce, child custody, alimony and other problems involving family conflict.

On 25 November, day for the Elimination of Violence against women, we issued a press release condemning this hideous phenomenon and stressing the need for preventive measures.

On the occasion of a proposal by 17 MPs to the Minister of Justice to lift restrictive measure for the installation of brothels in urban areas, we took a strong stand against the move, issuing a press release condemning the move and asking for the proposal to be withdrawn. The matter was taken up by the Local Administrations Union, who adopted our stand and arguments on the subject and issued an appeal in the same spirit. There are no further news on the subject.

Documentation and Study Centre (KE.TE.ME)

Our valuable archives contain records and rare documents of feminist interest, practically from the beginning of the women’s movement in Greece to this date. A devoted volunteer worker, assisted by University students practicing on gender equality, classifies press clips, documents, mail, books and all incoming material, for the use of students and research workers.

Our Magazine “Women’s Struggle”

The historic magazine “Woman’s Struggle”, first appeared in 1923. It is since in constant circulation, except for the two periods the country was under dictatorship. It is valued because it is the only solely feminist magazine, with material mainly on feminist, scientific, cultural issues and news from the international scene on women’s achievements, UN works and declarations, EU directives, the European Council etc. All our activities, and projects undertaken in common with other feminist organizations (Resolutions, Protests, Letters to authorities etc.) also appear in its pages.

Representations

The GLWR is represented to the following organizations:

International Alliance of Women (IAW)

Seven members of the Board are individual members of IAW. The present President of IAW is a former Vice President of the GLWR.

European Women’s Lobby (EWL)

Two members of the Board represent the GLWR at the Greek Representation of the EWL, take part at the monthly meetings, and keep the Board informed on actions of EWL. Twice this period we responded to research initiatives of the EWL in Brussels, answering to questionnaires on refugees, and on sexual education in Greek Schools.

AFEM

National Committee for Human Rights.

Study Groups convened by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality on: female unemployment, participation of women in decision making, Education, Health, violence against women, ratification of the Constantinople Convention.

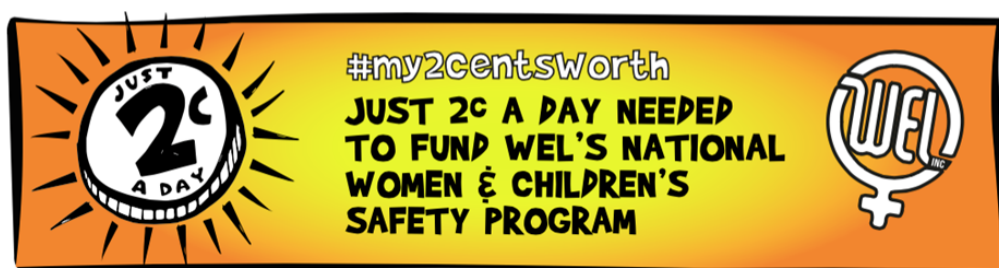
Women’s Electoral Lobby, Australia

The Federal Election was held 2 July 2016 so our efforts this year were focussed on this.

We have a ten point Action Plan http://www.wel.org.au/federal_election

1. Eliminating violence against women
2. An equitable taxation system
3. Adequate retirement income for women
4. Social security
5. Vocational education and training
6. Job security, flexibility, and working time
7. Gender pay equity
8. Affordable housing
9. Child care
10. Strengthening women’s representation at decision making levels

Our main campaign was to increase funding for women’s refuges.



We asked people to take the 2 cents a day pledge. WEL calculated that the \$200 million a year (for five years) needed from the Commonwealth to fund the **Women and Children's Safety Program (WCSP)** is **just 2 cents per Australian per day**.

Three political parties supported the campaign and post election WEL continues its lobbying.

At the state level we have campaigned on elder abuse http://www.wel.org.au/affordable_housing and reproductive rights http://www.wel.org.au/reproductive_rights

Women's Comfort Corner, Zimbabwe **Glen Middlemost and Rita Marque Mbatha**

Line of Hope Project

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 the project to spread prevention messages and ensure the communities and adults are equipped with the right information to help them protect children from sexual harm. These are ambitious plans, but we are an ambitious campaign. We want as many trainees as possible especially counsellors, school children, teachers and administrators to become aware of child sexual abuse issues, including warning signs to look for in children and adults, so that more children and women are protected.

Elementary, Middle & High School

At its core, the Safe School Ambassadors program is an "inside-out" approach to improving school climate, one that relies on social norms change and the power of students to help stop bullying and violence. Student bystanders see, hear, and know things adults don't, can intervene in ways adults can't and are often on the scene of an incident before an adult. They are a critical and under-utilized resource for positively impacting the crisis of bullying in our schools.

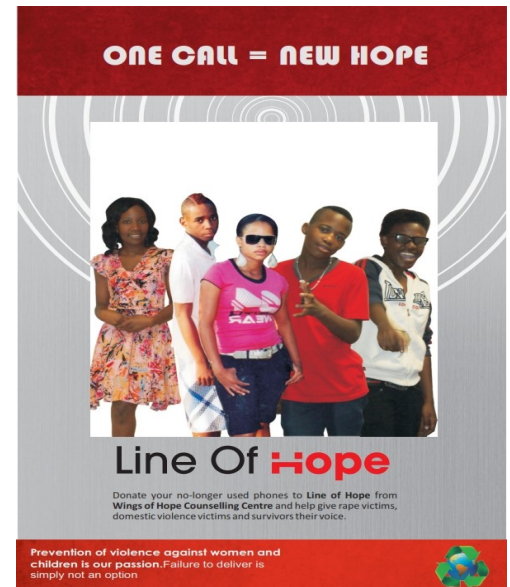
The Safe School Ambassadors

The Safe School Ambassadors program engages and mobilizes these bystanders, but not just any bystanders. The program harnesses the power of the socially-influential leaders of a school's diverse cliques, the ones who shape the social norms that govern other students' behavior. These "alpha" leaders are carefully identified through student and staff surveys. They are selected based upon specific criteria, such as: strong position and influence in their peer group, good communication skills, and a history of standing up for friends. The recruited students participate in a two-day interactive training along with several adults who serve as program mentors. The training gives student Ambassadors the motivation and skills to resolve conflicts, defuse incidents, and support isolated and excluded students. After the training, small group meetings of Ambassadors are held every few weeks. These meetings, led by the adult mentors, provide time for strengthening skills, support data collection and analysis of Ambassador interventions, and help sustain student and adult commitment to the program.

Start by Believing Campaign

We have partnered with End Violence Against Women International a non profit organisation based in Washington, USA who have offered free online training for counsellors and school children.

Engaging men and boys in violence prevention.



Engaging men and boys in violence prevention is not simply a matter of getting their attention; it is also a question of how to incorporate men into already active women's violence prevention efforts in a productive and collaborative manner. While there is a need for men/boys to be leaders in violence prevention, they must learn to do so in ways that do not reproduce the power dynamics and silencing of women's voices that already contribute heavily to interpersonal violence in our culture. Men and boys gain the skills necessary to become leaders in their communities, by helping create positive environments using their newly acquired knowledge about healthy relationships, as well as recognising warning signs of abusive behaviour and knowing what to do if an unhealthy situation arises.

Women's Comfort Corner Foundation will support

Rape, Child Abuse and Domestic violence prevention and awareness programs improved through the use of technology, Programs that enable our organisation to reach the community it serves more effectively, Programs that provide participants with strategies for enhancing their safety and use of community resources, Training for individuals participating in rape and domestic violence programs.

Protection of the Environment

Line of hope program turns unused wireless programs into support for victims of rape and domestic violence and protects the environment by disposing of wireless phones in an environmental sound way. This program will involve professionals, parents, carers, high school and college students and other guardians completing training and awareness sessions, public education materials such as posters, leaflets and flyers being distributed and the unveiling of a new online tool for adults to become familiar with the issue of child sexual abuse, where the risks lie, what they can do to minimise those risks and where they can go for more help and advice. 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. We sincerely hope that through education initiatives like these, there will be a reduction of sexual violence and bullying related issues on campus and schools through motivational feedback, social norms and education. That is why we are championing the use of technology for training, to better engage children and help them be more successful.

Media Excellence Award

In order to encourage reports on domestic violence and sexual violence by journalists we have undertaken that in August 2017 we will be launching the Media Excellence Award. Iii

Our Media Excellence Award will be given to journalists or other representatives of the media whose work achieves the highest standards of excellence in addressing the issues of violence against women and children. Accomplishing this goal requires pursuing the facts diligently to ensure that they accurately portray the real-world dynamics of violence against women, and the personal experiences of those whose lives are devastated by sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking. Because their work can alter the landscape of societal attitudes toward victims of sexual violence, award recipients have the potential to truly change the world - by helping to prevent violence against women and children and respond appropriately when it does occur.

