

**Reports for IAW Board Meeting  
Reykjavik, Iceland  
20 – 25 September 2011**



Congress South Africa 2011  
Photo: Joke Sebus

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## **PRESIDENT**

### ***Lyda Verstegen***

I salute Joanna Manganara and Anje Wiersinga for their efforts to give the Arab women their rights by getting an EWL emergency motion adopted and having the Council of Europe INGO's accept a declaration!

I congratulate Soon-Young Yoon with the presidency of the New York ngo/csw committee. I much appreciate her work on the statement for CEDAW about women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

I am very happy with the courageous statement Bettina Corke made at the FAO Conference.

I admire our member BAWUFAG for setting up a chicken farm and buying land with the proceeds!

There are more feats from our members and representatives, I am sure, but this has to be a report on what I as a president have done.

After Congress we (Lene and I) started preparing for the CSW session in February/March. We had two succesful side-events, one on physical barriers to education and one on human rights and the right to education. Mmabatho Ramagoshi enumerated the physical barriers, Michiel Andeweg from Choice laid out the advantages of comprehensive sexuality education and Georgette Taku told the story about breast ironing. Joyce Makulele chaired and Daniela Reiter co-chaired. Daniela also gave mentoring to everyone who wanted it. The second one started with Judy Gordon reading from the ideas of our founding mothers on the right to education, Renée Gérard spoke about ILO and Hendrietta Bogopane talked about an holistic approach to work in the building industry. As a deputy minister for Public Works in South Africa she has the power to give women jobs in the industry, prevent harassment and provide education.

Soon-Young gave a luncheon in honour of Dr Kaosar Afsana from Bangla Desh who set up a programme with mobile phones to reduce maternal mortality. I spoke about the first woman doctor in the Netherlands, Aletta Jacobs, who was one of the founders of IAW.

The great event of course was the launch of UNWomen. The IAW women who were present had dinner together on the 28th.

In the May vacation Lene joined me for two days on Ruegen, a German island in the Baltic Sea, where I was on holiday with my family. We started preparing the board meeting, which was very useful.

On the 15th of June I went via London to Cambridge where Jocelynne Scutt had invited Joanna Manganara and me to a "Conversation" about Creative Leadership. She had assembled 70 women from academe, business, government and ngo's, who discussed Women making change in difficult times. Jocelynne also organised a very interesting debate on sexualisation of women and girls in the House of Lords, hosted by Baroness Gould.

On the 2nd of July I left for Geneva to attend the High Level Meeting of Ecosoc on Education. There I finally got the chance to deliver our oral statement on education, that we had prepared for CSW.

I missed Soon-Young, who had to leave early, but I talked to her on the phone, I met H  lene Sackstein however for tea. She taught me things about the Geneva habits, which I appreciated because I was like a fish out of water there.

I had dinner with the President of CoNGO, the Conference of NGO's in consultative status with Ecosoc. I had written to him about our intention to leave CoNGO, he regretted that of course. His predecessor had not answered a letter of Rosy Weiss, asking him about the difference of Civil Society and NGO's. The new president, Cyril Ritchie, explained this to me. It also had transpired earlier that in order to be on the board of, or have voting rights for a Committee of CoNGO, one had to be a Member of CoNGO. As we wanted to vote for the Geneva ngo/csw committee, and as our representative in New York was standing for the presidency of the New York ngo/csw committee, we paid for 2010.

On a very hot day I visited the NGO office of the State of Geneva, in order to get registered. I had all the documents (thanks to Alison Brown and Anje Wiersinga), except the 2010 financial statement. So I did what I could, and we have to send the financial statement later. They can help us with applying for tax exemption, which seems a good idea because then we can have interns and pay them, be it a pittance, which would be a great help to H  lene and Mary Balikungeri, whom I welcome to IAW as representative to Geneva.

Finally, in December and April there were interviews with me on IAW in a national and a local newspaper.

And I signed a lot of petitions, f.i. of LGTB people to include them in resolutions which condemned arbitrary arrests and executions of the Human Rights Council and a message to support Iran's women human rights lawyers.

I also sent the story of the BAWUFAG chicken farms to Life Changers in London for an award, and Kaosar Afsana's report to OCHR.

## **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS AND COORDINATORS**

### **EUROPE**

*Joanna Manganara ,Vice President for Europe*

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

#### **Denial of women's basic sexual and reproductive rights**

I have circulated information by the EWL and the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network concerning developments in Hungary predicating a denial of women's basic sexual and reproductive rights.

The new Hungarian Constitution scheduled to enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 includes a sentence on the protection of the foetus from conception. Moreover the Hungarian Government has initiated a campaign against abortion which will run for two months.

The EWL and IPPFEN have called on the Hungarian Government to ensure that the Constitution's provisions will not affect the fundamental rights of all women to enjoy their sexual and reproductive rights, and health.

The EU Commission has called on the Hungarian Authorities to immediately withdraw the anti-abortion campaign as it is not an expression of the European values. If no measures are instantaneously taken by the Hungarian Government the Commission threatens to undertake procedures to terminate the ground agreement.

### **Towards a gender responsive, accountable and participatory post 2013 EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework and EU financing instruments**

We have supported the statement of the EWL, the WIDE network and the gender working group of concord (The European Confederation of Relief and Development NGO's) on the above mentioned subject with which they call on European and national policy makers to integrate a women's rights and gender equality perspective in the forthcoming discussion about the scope, priorities and financing of the post 2013 EU multi-annual financial framework (MFF).

I have also circulated a petition by the European gender budgeting initiatives network on the same subject which was sent to me by Marian Boecker who is a member of this network.

This petition to MEP'S on Economic governance legislation is asking them to say no on the attack on women's social and democratic rights, in Europe.

The eurocrisis is being used to set up a neoliberal and neoconservative economic governance regime in the EU which will impose austerity measures in the different European countries for the next years.

As women are still in a disadvantaged economic and social position in society and women contribute to the economy with a large share of unpaid work evidence shows that expenditure cuts put disproportionately high costs on women.

### **IAW emergency motion on women and the financial crisis**

Taking this approach the IAW submitted last year to the General Assembly of the EWL an emergency motion about women and the financial crisis which was adopted unanimously.

The Secretary General of the EWL in her report concerning the follow up of last year's emergency motions said that the EWL is mainstreaming this motion into all relevant texts that it submits to European institutions.

Our motion calls on the European Commission and relevant EU authorities to take urgent measures to handle the crisis with a gender sensitive approach. The austerity measures and the privatisation of public services must not result in shifting the benefits to men and the risks to women. Women should be involved at the decision making level in financial, economic, social and other policies related to the post crisis era.

The economic crisis is an opportunity to question the global economic order. The economy should move from the capitalist profit making back to fulfilling its original function ensuring the survival of humanity, in a human way.

As WIDE says: *"The crisis is not just about financial markets, but it is also a social and ecological crisis. The social sector, the environment and social services are still not recognized as important elements of the economy and the unpaid care work mostly done by women continues. We need to move from a capitalist careless economy towards a solidarity-based 'careful' economy"*.

### **Women and the Arab Spring**

In the recent uprisings that launched the Arab Spring women have emerged as key players. It

remains to be seen whether their rights will improve. The current transitional period is bringing opportunities for change and worrisome trends concerning women's participation in the emerging states.

The IAW submitted an emergency motion on this issue to the General Assembly of the EWL in June 2011 supported by WILPF, Cyprus, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Sweden which was adopted unanimously. The motion calls on the EWL members, the European Commission, EU external action service and any other relevant EU and national authorities to support these women to promote their rights and establish together with men sustainable democratic change. The motion also calls to ensure that the voice and participation of women in all stages of conflict prevention and resolution in accordance with SLR 1325 are respected especially in the condemnation of all forms of male violence against women.

Around this issue a number of initiatives have been taking place which have given us ideas of how to proceed with our own activities on the subject:

A gender awareness training of Middle Eastern/North African journalists by Euromed.

Letters sent by the Mediterranean Human Rights Network and Egyptian civil society organisations on human rights and women's rights to the Egyptian Prime Minister, the EU High Representative for the Union of Foreign Affairs, the President of the European Commission, asking for an EU focus on women's rights, because it is crucial for real democratic development in Egypt.

The call for action by EWL and Equality Now, which we have supported, to sign a letter in support of the Egyptian Women's Charter laying out their demands for women's equal political and economic participation in Egypt.

On the same subject we have also a Declaration by the Conference of INGO's of the Council of Europe with the title of "Leveraging Women's Equal Participation during and after Conflicts and Revolutions from the onset". Anje our representative to the C of E worked a lot to have this Declaration adopted and has delivered an intervention on the subject as well. The Declaration recognises the major role of women in the context of the current revolution of the Arab world for liberty, universal human rights and democracy. and supports the statement of participants at Karama's May 2011 meeting in Cairo in which women's organisations of 11 Northern African and Arab states took part. It underlines the need of getting women included in the decision making structures from the onset in all current processes of democratic transition, reconciliation and political dialogue in the Arab world.

Women's organisations and networks are flourishing in the region. Another interesting network made known to me by Lyda is the Feminist Spring for Equality and Democracy composed of women's organisations in Morocco and Lebanon which together with WLP (Women's Learning Partnership for rights, development and peace) work for the ratification and implementation of CEDAW in the MENA region as well as equality in civil rights and substantive equality and institutionalisation of affirmative mechanisms and measures for women's equality. They organise regional meetings to that end.

### **Violence against Women**

I have circulated the answer of Mrs. Reding, Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship to the letter of B. Triems President of EWL enclosing the position paper of EWL towards a Europe free from all forms of male violence. Commissioner Reding in her answer

referred to the package of measures on victim's rights including women victims of sexual violence and intimate partner violence that the European Commission was preparing.

However the package announced by Mrs Reding on 18 May 2011 falls short of expectations. The legislative proposals fail even to develop a gender perspective of victims rights. They address the rights of victims of all types of crimes without looking at women victims nor at crimes against women.

### **Prostitution**

I have circulated material of the EWL Campaign "Together for a Europe free from Prostitution". Prostitution is not a question of choice or sexuality. It is about Patriarchy. It is the ultimate way in which men control women's bodies and sexuality through an exchange of money or an abuse of unequal economic relations.

### **ECJ ruling against sex discrimination in insurances. Key victory for women's rights**

The European Court of Justice in the Test-Achats case ruled that different insurance premiums for women and men are not compatible with the EU's Charter of fundamental rights. The opt out clause in the Council's Directive 2004/113 on gender equality in access to and supply of goods and services is thus illegal.

### **European Equal Pay Day**

The launching of the first European Equal Pay Day took place on March 5 an initiative that already existed in many member states. The IAW had sent a letter to B. Triems President of EWL in 2009 asking her to name the 26 of April as European Equal Pay Day. The gap between women's and men's wages in Europe stands currently at 17.5%. There is a need for a multidimensional strategy to tackle the gender inequalities that are behind the pay gap.

### **Conversation on Creative Leadership in difficult times. Lucy Cavendish College. University of Cambridge**

Lyda Versteegen and I were invited by Dr. Jocelynn Scutt, Board member, to participate in a Conversation on Creative Leadership in difficult times which was held in June 16 at Lucy Cavendish College for women, University of Cambridge. The experience was very interesting and highly productive. The people were remarkable.

We also attended a meeting at the House of Lords on the politics of sexualisation. Women, girls and activism on the 15 of June. The meeting was organised by WWAFF and Object that is sex object culture which promotes discrimination and violence against women. Object is highly effective in its lobbying and grassroots activism as it has contributed to the change of two laws.

During both events Lyda and me stayed at Jocelynn's apartment. It was great fun and I must thank Jocelynn for her great hospitality.

Finally, every month I have circulated a number of EWL newsflashes each time with very interesting information.

## **SOUTH ASIA**

*Asha Deshpande, Vice President for South Asia*

### **Report on activities of AIWC and work initiated with South Asia region of IAW**

AIWC is one of the Member Organisation of IAW is having branches all over India. It is largest Women Organisation in INDIA.



AIWC was also having elections in this year for Jan2011-13 and now following are the office bearers of the Organisation:

PRESIDENT MRS BINA JAIN

SECRETARY GENERAL MRS SHEELA KAKADE

HON.TREASURE MRS. USHA NAIR

I am one of the VICE PRESIDENTs taking care of 4 zones of the organisation.

During this half year along with regular programs following programs were conducted by the Organisation to achieve MDGs [MILLENIUM GOALS] accepted.

## PROGRAMS

1]ANEMIA[HEALTH] 22 programs were conducted through various branches and 2744 patients were examined for HEMOGLOBIN and 1312 were found affected. Medicines and Dietary guidance were given. we are also following the matter so that they will get complete relief.

2]functional Literacy program. As you know women in INDIA are deprived from Education It is our prim duty to have these programs , hence we run literacy program with need based vocational training at 11 centres these programs are going on.

ADOPTION OF VILLEGES INDIA is a country with 60to70% of villages and due to scarcities in almost all facilities people are migrating and women and children are the suffers to solve the problems we started this program and under this program staring with awareness in all respects till empowering the women economically all activities are included . In 6 different villages this program is going on and getting good response.

## FOLLOWING DAYS WERE OBSERVED.

1]8<sup>TH</sup> FEB. INTERNATIONAL- GIRL CHILD DAY was observed with destitute girls Homef run by AIWC in Delhi. They made pictures, posters and expressed their views.

2]8<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH International Women's Day One seminar on VOILENCE AGAINST WOMEN was arranged . Eminent personalities from various organisations and Universities were participated.

3]23<sup>RD</sup> May INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TERRORIST DAY was observed.

4]31<sup>ST</sup> May International No Tobacco Day was observed.

AIWC started working specially for BIDI WORKERS to help them in improving the health and to get alternative vocation for the economic empowerment. This program was started in 2009 with the help of WHO [WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION] and it is continued. So far we had given training in different vocations as per need of the Arias in 7 different states and now will work in 10 states.

## CONTRIBUTION OF ASHA DESHPANDE

As Vice President over all help to Zonal Organisers and developmental activity is allotted to me. Hence visits to various branches were conducted and for Health and Sanitation A program for Manufacturing SANITARY NAPKINS designed by Govt. Maharashtra is studied and now it will be implanted in different branches in villages which are interested. So far 7to 8 branches have already approached and 5to6 branches are running this program.



AS COLLECTOR OF SOUTH ASIA REGION as guided by PAT Richardson[member-secretary]  
I contacted following members for details of their activities and member ship fees paid and dues of IAW.

1]Bangladesh Mahila Samity.

2]POWER [Platform of Women's Empowerment & Rights]

3]Country Women's Association of India Kolkatta

4]Sarojini Dutta Memorial Association

5]CWA

6]Srilanka Women's Conference

7]Individual Members Anjana, Anandita Mukherji, Rashida Khan, Nishi Pande.

So far, no communication received..

## **THE PACIFIC**

**Sheila Byard**

**Regional coordinator for The Pacific**

### **International Alliance of Women, Asia Pacific Regional Report, September 2011**

Now that the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing World Conference has come and gone – mainly celebrated by the Beijing Plus 15 session of the UN Commission on Women, there has been some discussion again about whether an attempt should be made to organise a World Conference of Women, or an interconnected series of regional conferences. Certainly among IAW member groups in Australia, the idea of a Pacific regional conference has been canvassed, but the prospects are poor for funding to assist delegates from the region to come to Australia.

Experience of recent large scale UN gatherings should make us cautious about mega events that might attempt to undo the Beijing Platform of Action. For example, the Global Health /MDG conference held by the UN Department of Public Information in Melbourne – a very costly event – ended with a final communiqué that made no reference to the critical issue of worsening maternal death rate in the region, or reproductive rights.

**The recent UN Association of Australia national conference in Perth in August did have funding for several delegates from small and island states where AusAID funding has been obtained to encourage and assist with the start-up of local UN associations. Delegates from Australian and regional NGOs will also travel to Perth for the civil society program associated with the 2011 CHOGM meeting. Margaret Lobo, past International President of Soroptimist International, is involved with the CHOGM NGO panel. Representatives of Australian organizations like CWA, SI and NCW/ICW are travelling to their regional meetings in the Region over the next few weeks – the Country Women are meeting soon in Tonga and International Council of Women are holding an Asia Pacific regional seminar in Fiji.**

Asia Pacific Women's Watch (<http://www.apww-slwngef.org/>) remains a key mechanism for tracking information about progress for women in the regions. Women's Watch has kept us informed about what is happening with the new entity UN Women. For example, according to the GEAR Campaign, there was to be a UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group to bring involvement of other civil society groups/ nongovernmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, who play a critical role in promoting women's human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and its membership should reflect the wide ranging diversity of women. Thus during recent months there has been a call for nominations to be sent to the GEAR Campaign Pacific focal point ([sharon@femlinkpacific.org.fj](mailto:sharon@femlinkpacific.org.fj)) for forwarding to the GEAR Working Group in New York.

The East and Southeast Asia regional launch of UN Women's flagship report Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice in East and Southeast Asia took place on Thursday, 1 September 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, in conference room 2. Speakers included Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women and Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, Permanent Secretary, the Ministry of Justice, Thailand on access to justice of women in Thailand and the "Bangkok Rules" or the "Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders", recently adopted by the UN General Assembly; Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Former CEDAW Committee Chair and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights representative, on the CEDAW Optional Protocol and women's access to justice – referring to the recent OP case from the Philippines, the Views of the Committee on the need for judicial reform; Shanti Dariam, Former CEDAW Committee expert, on the challenges for access to justice for women living under plural legal systems in Southeast Asia; Pranom Somwong, Human Rights Activist and Advocate, on barriers for access to justice for migrant women workers in the East and Southeast Asia. The Moderator was Dr. Vitit Muntabhorn, Professor of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This first UN Women flagship report offers a comprehensive global review of women's rights around the world, on issues from gender-based violence to equal pay, from representation in government to post-conflict justice. It shows that where laws and justice systems work well, they can provide an essential mechanism for women to realize their human rights. However, it also underscores the fact that, despite widespread support for gender equality, the reality for many millions of women is that discrimination against women remains pervasive and justice remains elusive to them

From Thailand, Lakshmi Puri, Assistant-Secretary-General, UN Women will travel to Sydney Australia in the first week of September for the UN Women Global National Committees Meeting that will include representatives from over eighteen countries as well as representatives from UN Women Headquarters and Regional Offices. There is a one day pre-conference Accelerating Gender Equality: Introducing UN Women Summit being held on Monday 5 September and other speakers include Moni Pizani, Regional Program Director, East and South East Asia, UN Women; Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner; Julia Newton-Howes, Executive Director, CARE Australia, and Jo Crawford, Research and Policy Advisor, IWDA.

The Australian Government's draft national Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security has been released and meetings are planned across Australia with a view to lodging informed responses. [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/govtint/action\\_plan\\_women\\_peace/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/govtint/action_plan_women_peace/Pages/default.aspx) The official website informs us that interested individuals and organisations are now invited to

[review and comment on the Draft National Action Plan](#). Public consultation will play a vital role in the development of an effective National Action Plan that is relevant to all Australians.

Following the public consultation, an interdepartmental working group will develop the final plan including the development of a performance framework to measure actions against the plan in the future.

- [Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security: Consultation Draft \[external website\]](#)
- [Booklet: Women, Peace and Security: AusAID's implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325](#)
- [Media release \(Kate Ellis\): Government Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security \[external website\]](#)
- [More Information on Gender in the aid program](#)

## **ARAB COUNTRIES**

*Horeya Megahed, Vice President for the Arab Countries*

*(The following was sent as a letter to Rosy Weiss. Horeya has accepted that it was included in the reports)*

Finally the law for the Legislative Assemblies was passed after a long popular debate for about two months in which political parties, feminist organizations, activists and media took place. I participated with Hoda Charawi Association in a very big gathering for representatives of feminist organizations and alliances from all over the country that took place on June 6th.

The general trend was against all forms of quota; most of the views were against women quota as existed. The new law retained 50% quota for the farmers and workers since its abolition needs a constitutional change as it is stipulated in the Constitution. The quota for women which was a temporary measure for two legislative terms only was abolished. As I told you before it was in the law but not in the constitution. The general trend even among women is against the reserved seats for women as existed in the previous law (32 constituencies were innovated for women in the previous law, i.e., that 64 seats were reserved for women and this was abolished in the law).

The new law introduced the party list and stipulated that the representation of women in the list is compulsory for all parties. In the debates there was a stress on including at least a woman in the first third part of the list. We have to wait and see the result of the coming elections in order to judge on the new step.

## **COMMISSION CONVENORS**

**Commission on Health and WHO representation – Gudrun Haupter**  
**Report for the period November 2010 to September 2011**

**The Commission's Programme of work for the triennium 2011 – 2013:**

“IAW has an agreed position on the urgent need for harmonization of traditional and customary norms with legal norms derived from International conventions, International standards and decisions. We also have an agreed position on reproductive health rights. During the current triennium the Commission on

Health will work on how to reduce the impact of male predominance on women and girls, particularly with regard to early pregnancies, and non-consensual and unprotected sexual relations. The aim is to strengthen women's power of making decisions and to further their human rights. This aim will also be pursued within the framework of Gender, women and tobacco.”

**December 2010 and April 2011** The commission convenor's letters to the 8 members on issues related to Congress and to the above programme did not provoke comments and inputs. Collaboration with Hélène Sackstein and Soon-Young Yoon continued to be excellent. However, as President of the NGO CSW N.Y. Soon-Young has to reduce time spent on *Women and Tobacco* on behalf of IAW.

**March 2011** As the IAW focal point for HIV/AIDS the convenor helped to produce the IAW Talking Point on the themes *Health of women and girls; UNAIDS agenda for women and girls; implications of violence against women and girls for HIV/AIDS*.

**April 2011** Wrote an input for the “Civil Society update consultation of the OHCHR on effective practices in adopting a human rights based approach to eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity”. Our input ‘**Aunties’ for reproductive and sexual health and non-violence**, integrates clarifications received from Georgette Arrey Taku, RENATA, Cameroon, and is on the OHCHR homepage.

**May 2011** Prepared a statement for the World Health Assembly (attached). Attended WHA meetings including one with our designated technical officer at WHO and a meeting of the Secretariat for the WHO Frame Convention on Tobacco Control, FCTC.

N.B. IAW is listed in the new database of organizations ready to provide expertise to countries for their reporting on the FCTC. Our categories are: Gender sensitive tobacco control measures, and Information, education and communication.

**July 2011** Designed a Questionnaire on Early pregnancy with emphasis on the father's maintenance obligation for marital and non-marital children.

#### **Other activities**

- Wrote news items for the IAW Newsletter on the UN Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health (May), and on the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health, in Brazil, 19 to 21 October, to reduce health inequalities (July).
- Networked with board members on reproductive health issues to express IAW's view or endorse a motion, e.g. concerns about the new Hungarian constitution with regard to abortion.

#### **Info to board members about WHO**

Our Designated technical officer at WHO leaves WHO headquarters. This has to be seen in the context of the WHO reform process. It is feared that “Gender Women and Health, GWH” will cease to exist as a separate department. This would mean i.a. reduced visibility of the importance of a gender lens and gender awareness, for women's health outcomes. The reform process should be completed this year. So far no decision has been taken. **NGOs in official relations with WHO should ask the DG to keep GWH and its unfinished agenda going.**

N.B. IAW's status has been confirmed by the executive board in an official letter end of January.

#### **COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

*Convenor Marion Böker*

## List of members IAW Commission for Human Rights, Justice and Good Governance 2011-2013

Resource person: elected members of the Commission:

Marion Böker, Convenor of this Commission, Germany

Janicke Karin Solheim, Norway,

Lyda Verstegen (IAW-President), Netherlands

Tasks: see Webpage & Guidelines for Convenor and members webpage: <a href="http://www.womenalliance.org/">http://www.womenalliance.org/</a>	see our IAW social network <b>NING</b> under <a href="http://iawomen.ning.com">http://iawomen.ning.com</a> There is a group for our commission for future discussions if you register
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Name	Status in IAW	Membership of NGO other than IAW	Country	Issue suggested for this commission	Email
Georgette Arrey	IM	Executive Secretary of RENATA, Associations of Aunties ( <i>Réseau national des associations de tantines</i> )	Cameroon	Advocacy and lobbying against <b>all forms of violence and discrimination against women</b> most especially those issues that were tabled during the congress in Johannesburg. Action should be taken (-> CAT, CRC, CEDAW - new donors needed	<a href="mailto:arreytaku@yahoo.ca">arreytaku@yahoo.ca</a>
Haliz T. Barwary	IM	Programme Coordinator of KURDS-Duhok NGO <a href="http://www.kurds-dohuk.org">www.kurds-dohuk.org</a> now trying to open a legal assistance center for providing access to justice for free to IDPs (Internally displaced persons) and women	Iraq	Work with HR Treaties... Empowering women economically and engage them in <b>poverty eradication</b> , especially for <b>rural women</b> -income generating for <b>widows</b> <i>Poverty is related to other problems in rural areas like</i> <input type="checkbox"/> The high ratio of illiteracy especially in Duhok Governorate according to a research by UN agencies: the non existence of <b>legal awareness about women's rights</b> according to Iraqi constitution and law in Kurdistan Regional Government. <u>And these types of awareness should be given to both genders to decrease the GBV cases in the area.</u>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Women's participation in governance</b> for example the Provincial Council where the	<a href="mailto:HalizBarwary@gmail.com">HalizBarwary@gmail.com</a>

				<p>participation of women is low. the non existence of <b>legal awareness about women's rights</b> according to Iraqi constitution and law in Kurdistan Regional Government. <u>And these types of awareness should be given to both genders to decrease the GBV cases in the area.</u></p> <p>□ <b>Women's participation in governance</b> for example the Provincial Council where the participation of women is low.</p> <p>□ <b>Women Entrepreneurs</b>, due to the old habits and traditions women cannot find their own rule in private sector.</p> <p>□ <b>To find Donors</b> which is hard in Kurdistan region since their concern is in middle + southern parts of IRAQ forgetting that actually Kurdistan region faces the same social problems.</p>	
Marion Böker	<b>IM Board</b>	DFR WILPF Gender Budgeting Initiative Berlin	Germany	<p>Practical use of CEDAW +OP and other Ops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>awareness rising + support</u> inside IAW for cases</li> <li>- support for access to HR instruments;</li> <li>- Lobbying for Ratification of CESCOP + CRM;</li> <li>- LGBTI rights esp. focus on inter sexual people;</li> <li>- impl. systematic gender budgeting in 'hard' b-lines in general: esp. in defence; construction,</li> </ul>	<a href="mailto:marion.boeker@gmx.de">marion.boeker@gmx.de</a>
Minaxi Chowdhury		Hon. Secretary+ Project Coordinator. Centre for Care Towards Victims (CCTV) + NGO for Human Rights +Health Care+Rehab. of	India		<a href="mailto:minakshi.chaudhury@gmail.com">minakshi.chaudhury@gmail.com</a>

		victims of Westbengal			
Farida Hussain	IM of AIWC	President and founder of APNA WATAN VANI a forum promoting communal harmony, takes up cases for tortured victims	India	ICAT	
Sizani Ngube	IM	Rural Women's Movement (RWM), Director+ Founder	South Arica	<u>Rural Women's Rights:</u> <b>Fights against VAW:</b> - Sexual abuse of girls and women. - Abductions of girls aged between 12-18 and women who are forced into marriage. <b>Poverty reduction</b> <b>Widow inheritance</b> - Increase of access and ownership of property - Combat spread of HIV	<a href="mailto:rwm@mail.ngo.za">rwm@mail.ngo.za</a>  <a href="mailto:ruralwomensmovement@gmail.com">ruralwomensmovement@gmail.com</a>
Jocelynn e Scutt	IM+ Commission on Violence against Women	Women's Electoral Lobby (Australia) + WWAFE: Women Worldwide Advancing Freedom & Equality (UK) <a href="http://www.wafe-women.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&amp;Itemid=1">http://www.wafe-women.org/index.php?option=com_frontpage&amp;Itemid=1</a> <a href="http://theburqahdebates.com/">http://theburqahdebates.com/</a>		CESCR: economical rights  Campaign for the definition of environmental exploitation and degradation (and econ. Crimes...?) as crimes of humanity;	<a href="mailto:jas254@cam.ac.uk">jas254@cam.ac.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:drjascutt@iprimus.com.au">drjascutt@iprimus.com.au</a>
Janicke Solheim	IM Board	Norwegian Association for Women's Rights	Norway	Refugee Women's Rights	<a href="mailto:JSOLHE@ONLINE.NO">JSOLHE@ONLINE.NO</a>
Lyda Verstege n	President - IAW		Netherlands	Implementation + support to the 10 recommendations of UN Women	<a href="mailto:iawpres@womenalliance.org">iawpres@womenalliance.org</a>



				Gendering reports to Human Rights Treaty Bodies other than CEDAW	<a href="mailto:lydakist@wvl.nl">lydakist@wvl.nl</a>
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**CLUSTER of mentioned fields +issues for activities as listed here** (*just a rough step even if all items are equal and there should not be a hierarchy of issues*):

- i. **Women's Human Rights under HR-Treaties+ OP** mechanisms: Forwarding cases/ lobbying/ awareness on (according to local, national, regional implementation) **(12)** including the suggestion to bring environmental devastation... under ICC
- ii. **Economical Empowerment (6)**: esp. inheritance/ income generation for widows (2), property (1), women entrepreneurs - own rules & space (1), gender budgeting (1)
- iii. **VAW +girls**: esp. breast ironing, abduction for forced marriage, sexual abuse – esp. rural women **(5)**, here esp. Cameroon, South Africa & Kurdistan/ Iraq
- iv. **Poverty reduction/eradication of esp. rural women (5)**: esp. by elimination of illiteracy; strongly linked to awareness rising and economical empowerment]
- v. To (help) **find donors**, open access to them, to be introduced to donors **(2)**; Cameroon/ Kurdistan/ Iraq;
- vi. **Other** issues: Awareness to stop spread **HIV** (1), LGBTI, esp. **rights of inter sex people** (1), **increase participation in Government** (1);

This might change over time but is overall very much in accordance with the IAW Action Program 2008-2010/ reaffirmed in 2010.

***IAW Commission for Human Rights, Justice and Good Governance***  
**Program submitted to the IAW Board, Iceland, Sept. 2011**  
to be developed...*it's a living document!*

**To be discussed during IAW Board meeting & decisions needed for action:**

**I. CSW**

1. Can we realize the bellow described side events (*two parts*)?
2. We need to raise funds for the expenses for travel/accommodation of the two commissions/ IAW IMs, will we do so?

II: Can we support and forward the recommendation for the recent draft Gen Rec of CEDAW (widows in post conflict) as IAW with the two NGOs of our IMs?

III. Shall we write a proposal for a Gen. REC. of CEDAW on Rural Women (and try to get it as well under / in cooperation with CESC)?

It would be a follow up of the CSW side events.

IV. Will the board support the idea of Jocelynn for defining environmental + economical devastation and exploitation under human rights and ICC?

Shall a work group of our Commission start working on this?

I. The rights & needs of rural women in the next CSW 2012 as side events and under CEDAW Art. 14:

Bellow I mention working titles- must be clarified with the guests and IAW board or delegation to the 56. CSW, an announcement will be drafted together.

May be other guests for a panel from rural background will join)

Expenses: must be organised for two guests from Iraq and South Africa

**a. Side Event 1: The Circle of obstacles to Rural Women's Rights- Poverty reduction through literacy, awareness rising & and elimination of all form of violence against women and cruel practices**

(with guest from RWM (South Africa) and KURDS Dohuk/Iraq) [under the priority theme of 56. CSW]

**b. Side Event 2: The Circle of obstacles to Rural Women' Rights- Poverty reduction through economical empowerment to women entrepreneurs, property rights and gender budgeting**  
(with guest from RWM (South Africa) and KURDS Dohuk/Iraq) *[under the review theme of 56. CSW]*

Objectives of both: information, lobbying, identifying of action in the CEDAW at al framework, an alliance of metropolitan women with the rural women for the goals

- as a follow up: a written paper with recommendations to CEDAW, CESCRC committee and IAW members ...

**II. Forwarding recommendations to CEDAW** on behalf of the proposed General recommendation on widows in post conflict (as addressed in July 2011 by CEDAW)

**May be : proposal to IAW board meeting by RWM (Sizani) and KURDS Dohuk (Haliz)**  
+++other members of this Commission

**If agreed upon to be supported by IAW together with the both NGOs to CEDAW (before/ to the 50<sup>th</sup> session beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> of Oct)**

To initiate the idea of a Gen. Rec. CEDAW on rural women as follow up of 56. CSW side events

To initiate other Gen Rec. ...(*medium term*)

**III. Preparation of next IAW Action Program** (collection of ideas)(*medium term*)

-harmonization with UN WOMAN Action Plan / and 10 recommendations +++

- Harmonization with new legal means (HR TB Ops, HR TB General Recommendation as the new ones of CEDAW

- Assessment of which new legal means or further development or strengthening of existing once are necessary (questionnaire to IAW Commissions/ + membership in 2012)

a.) e.g. Gen. Rec. CEDAW et.al. to other Treaties which are needed as of items which are mostly not known, or are not implemented (ignored) by women/ men and Governments

b.) probably a ranking or even voting on NING about priorities of suggestions/ focus issues for a basic grown action plan

**IV: CAMPAIGN for the definition of environmental exploitation and degradation within 'crime of humanity' under the Rome Statute (*long term perspective*) or as a beginning**

**- to find, support and submit cases of it as a violation of human rights under HR Treaties as CESCOP, CEDAW-OP et.al.**

Suggestion by Joyelynne A. Scutt and outlined already in her article:

*“Gender justice, energy and the environment, transport, households, global initiatives and the global future.”, July 2003*

In the article she outlined a broader strategy (I quote it below)

**Suggestion to prepare an IAW– campaign:**

- This must be adopted for the purpose & capacities of a campaign by IAW:
- A substantial paper on content, objective and strategy (as well as partners, finances of our own, of other, ...) has to be prepared;
- Other capacities of IAW (and other) must be explored: Webpage, NING, Newsletter/ Magazine.... And responsible women in charge and member organizations must be consulted
- This must be circulated and discussed in: Commission/s, board, membership;
- Deadline for this incl. the decision by the board shall be defined if in general there is agreement on the item;

**Therefore we should have a**

- Sub-Working group: meeting in Iceland + or next board meeting!
- who will work with Jocelynne? Will Jocelynne take the lead; I might join;
- it should be a focus group (2 or 3 of us or even with one of other Commissions)
- benchmarks: can we now in Iceland during the board meeting agree in general upon it (/or dissent) – and can we have a meeting of this sub-work group during the next board meeting to then finalize & debate the campaign before submitting it

***Annex: From JOCELYNNE’S ARTICLE:***

***“(c) Strategies and actions***

To test the viability of taking action through the ICC, consultation with stakeholders — women’s organisations, non-government organisations and environmental groups — is essential, to:

- Locate environmental exploitation and degradation potentially coming within ‘crime of humanity’ under the Rome Statute;
- Undertake research and consultation with women lawyers, researchers, advocates and activists working in criminal law and environmental law, to develop arguments as to environmental breaches falling under the umbrella of ‘crime against humanity’;
- Develop, in consultation with women’s groups and non-government organisations, an educational program to train women scientists and environmentalists as expert witnesses and develop their expertise and abilities for ICC participation;

- Develop, in consultation, an educational program to build on women's expertise as lawyers and advocates for presenting environmental crime cases in the ICC;
- Develop, through consultation with local groups, programs designed to support women at all levels in developing skills as lobbyists and activists at all levels, to promote awareness and understanding of the ICC and its potential for dealing with environmental crimes;
- Provide guidance and assistance to non-government organisations and women's groups to implement these educational programs, and to participate as necessary or required in their implementation;
- Work together with women's organisations, non government organisations and environmental groups to identify a 'test case' environmental crime for presentation at the ICC as a crime against humanity, and to provide support to victims/survivors in presenting their evidence to the ICC;
- Keep sympathetic nation states informed generally on all relevant matters.

## **IAW PEACE COMMISSION**

### **Convenor Rosy Weiss**

Members: Bettina Corke (Italy), Rakesh Dhawan (India), Ida Kurth (Germany), Anje Wiersinga (Netherlands), Rosy Weiss (Austria).

### **Report 2011**

It is with dual and conflicting senses of deep frustration with the past and tentative optimism for the future that women have been celebrating October 2010 the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. As a Security Council Resolution it is binding on member states and obliges them to take steps to protect women from violence, promote their increased participation in peacekeeping efforts and ensure women's contributions to peace-building in peace negotiations.

Out of 192 UN member states, only 25 have developed national action plans towards its implementation. A letter was sent to European member organizations of IAW with governments not having been able or willing to develop such an action plan in order to press towards its preparation. Yet, it is not enough to have such a plan, if it is not implemented and monitored.

Under our general theme of the year "women into decision-making positions", a round table was held on November 24, the Gender Justice Day, during IAW's 35<sup>th</sup> Congress on "1325 - Turning the Promise into Reality". We have been privileged to have as an introduction to the round table a message from Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative to the United Nations. Ambassador Chowdhury was the man who fought 1325 through the UN Security Council in 2000. My presentation explained in detail history and content of the resolution.

In accordance with an IAW Congress decision, IAW Peace Commission is currently preparing a questionnaire to be sent to members in order to raise awareness of the issue within member organizations or among individual members.

## **OLDER WOMEN**

## Report By Judith Gordon

“I think, with never-ending gratitude, that the young women of today do not and can never know at what price their right to free speech and to speak at all in public has been earned... The right to education and to free speech having been gained for woman, in the long run every other good thing was sure to be obtained... Now all we need is to continue to speak ... fearlessly, and we shall add to our number those who will turn the scale to the side of equal and full justice in all things” (Stone, 1893)

In this, my first report, I begin by reminding us that considerations of the relationship between young and old women in the women’s rights movement did not begin in the 21st century. Lucy Stone spoke these words at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893. This was her last speech, as she died a few months later at the age of 75. Susan B. Anthony also went to the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair. She was 73. However, Susan B. Anthony lived until 1906. It was her longevity, in part, which made it possible for her to advise younger women who created the IWSA. In 1904, Susan B. Anthony at age 84 took boats and trains to Berlin where our first Constitution was finished. She also planned to attend the International Council of Women Congress, as ICW too is an organization she helped create. However, she was asked to remain in her room and not to attend a public suffrage event that took place during the ICW meetings. She did what was asked even though those who made this request denied both her right to free speech and her right to speak at all at this public meeting. Knowing that she was at the “zenith” of her career Susan B. Anthony agreed to stay away and remained in her room.. Why? One interpretation was that she requested to remain in her room so that attention would not be directed away from the younger women who planned this public suffrage event. (1999). However, when the suffrage meeting began the chair asked “Where is Susan B. Anthony and, there was a “clamor” for her. People of all ages present chanted out her name for 10 minutes. When she was told that had happened, her eyes teared up (Shaw). She then attended subsequent ICW meetings in Berlin. And she continued to work for suffrage and support the IWSA until she died in 1906.

Our history as well as our present, supports the wisdom of this Board and the IAW leadership when it was decided to call attention to the contributions of both young and older members during the years 2011-2013. The purpose of this initial report is to lay out recommendations for steps we can take during the next year to address the situations of both younger and older women within and without of the IAW taking account of current social contexts, some of which are not in our control.

To do so, I turn to the debate of which IAW is aware that is taking place at the UN in regard to the feasibility and desirability of developing a new Human Rights Convention to protect the rights of older persons. Currently, there are those who argue that as Human Rights instruments do not include the words “older persons”, the human rights of older women, like older men, cannot be protected until a new convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons is created, ratified, implemented and enforced by the member states of the UN. However, there are others who disagree on the grounds that the UN has existing human rights treaties and instruments that in fact apply to older persons. CEDAW GR 27 , (1910) whose development IAW supported is, seen by some , to be a case in point This General Recommendation is seen as an example of what an existing treaty body can do to protect the rights of older persons within the terms of its mandates. Moreover, although the Madrid Plan of Action notes that older people do not live in a society of all ages in which their human rights are protected. that document does not recall or reaffirm the Preamble to the Vienna World Plan on Ageing adopted by the World Assembly on Aging held in Vienna in 1982., At that time,, the member states who adopted it ...” **Do solemnly reaffirm** their belief that the fundamental and inalienable rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights apply fully and undiminished to the aging” How then are such rights to be enshrined in the 21<sup>st</sup> century ?

Numbers matter. Given demographic projections that the numbers of people over 60 will outnumber younger people by the year 2050 in both developed and developing countries, the GA has created an open-ended high level Working Group to consider the protection of the human rights of older persons taking note of the fact that it is predicted that older women will live longer than older men. At its second meeting that I attended from August 1-4 of this year alternative ways of protecting the rights of older persons were discussed including the creation of a new special rapporteur on the human rights of older persons. (The documents, panel papers and chair's report from both this meeting and the prior organizational meeting are available on line in all UN languages.) IAW is not unaware of the need to pay attention to older women as its publications and statements to the Human Rights Council and CSW, among other bodies, reflects. How then should IAW respond at this point in time to the issues before us? What contributions can our older members make?

Our Founders created and maintained a federated International Organization with national affiliates and associates, a structure that preceded the UN. The issues now before the UN are ones before the IAW as well. For example, none of our resolutions passed in South Africa specifically mention older or younger women. However, that does not mean such resolutions do not apply to women of all ages. Clearly, the issues before us need to be considered in all their complexity. Given our organizational structure and current resolutions, I recommend the following:

1. The Board form a working group on the contributions older and younger women. The findings and recommendations of this WG are to be reported at the next Board meeting.
2. In the interim, the IAW Board consider taking the following actions
  - a. The Board requests that a letter from IAW be sent to CEDAW thanking CEDAW for GR 27, and welcoming the opportunity for IAW Associations and Affiliates to contribute to the discussion of the proposed new GR on Peace and Security regionally and locally as well as at the UN itself.
  - b. The Board request that a letter from IAW be sent to the President of the GA copied to the SG welcoming the open ended high level working group's recognition of the need to protect the human rights of older women and the opportunity it has given NGOs to contribute to its work as seen in the Chair's report.
  - c. The Board requests that IAW write a letter to the High level WG chair copied to the OHCHR in Geneva and DESA in NYC asking that IAW which has general consultative status with Eco-Soc be given the same opportunity to be an NGO participant and contribute to the work of this open high level working group as NGOs with special status which specialize in Ageing or belong to the "Ageing Network".

## **INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Geneva**

**Hélène Sackstein, Geneva**

**This report covers the period November –September 2011**

*A full report covering the past 3 years up to November 2010 was provided to IAW for the Congress in South Africa (November 2010) along with all statements delivered and written work undertaken by the representative during those years.*

### **December 2010-January 2011**

After meeting with African refugees and visiting their camps and makeshift shelters, the

representative undertook to file a complaint, in collaboration with the *International Movement against all forms of Discrimination and Racism* (IMADR) – a Japanese-based NGO.

A full dossier was submitted to the **UN Committee against Racial Discrimination – CERD** on behalf of IAW and IMADR. A letter and copies of the dossier were also sent to **CEDAW** which was then in session.

In January the CERD sent a letter to the So. African government asking for immediate explanations, and when necessary, redress as well as a full monitoring report, listing all the exactions specifically contained in the IAW/IMADR dossier.

We heard from our So. African contacts that the Government did act on this.

The representative also contacted the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and supplied a copy of the CERD dossier.

### **February March**

Active coverage of the UN Human Rights Council

### **April-May**

As member of the Steering Committee of the NGO Forum for Health (NGO/FFH), the representative participated in the preparation of the World Health Assembly and the creation of the NGO/FFH Committee on health and human rights.

She also participated in preparations for the drafting of a statement advocating the inclusion of mental health in the general category of non-communicable diseases (NCD) which will be among next year WHO priority.

### **May-June**

The representative covered the Human Rights Council with emphasis on gender discrimination.

The representative followed closely negotiations on the So. African resolution requesting a study on ‘sexual orientation’ to put an end to the divisive human rights debate dominating for years all gender issues (including the maternal mortality resolution) with most African and Asian countries along with Islamic and Catholic religious institution calling for penalisation of sexual orientation – including the death penalty in some countries – which they consider as being against ‘universal’ traditional and moral values.

The representative participated actively in lobbying for the support of the resolution which was finally adopted with a vote.

### **July-August**

The representative is on vacation and taking care of private and family matters.

### **New York**

#### **Report of the IAW/NY**

**Submitted by Soon-Young Yoon**

## **EVENTS**

**\*CSW55 22 February – 4 March.** IAW held numerous parallel events that would be reported by other representatives who organized them



IAW New York organized a **luncheon for the NGO/CSW/NY Woman of Distinction Awardee. Dr. Kaosar Afsana** from Bangladesh. It was attended by President Lyda who spoke, moderated by Geoff Cowley, former health editor for Newsweek magazine, and attended by representatives of foundations, the media and women's groups.

**\*16 June – Civil Society Interactive hearings on Non-communicable diseases** – The IAW joined with the Framework Convention Alliance that had speakers on panels dealing with tobacco's impact on the global burden of NCDs and how tobacco negatively impacts the MDG targets and economies of poor countries.

Advocacy points for the NCD summit, September 19-20 included:

New efforts to address risk factors, such as targets for tobacco taxation and salt reduction – the current text contains only generic language regarding previously made commitments; we need the countries to commit to do more;

- ☐ Set up national NCD plans and tobacco taxation plans by 2013 to achieve continual and substantial reduction in tobacco consumption, reduce levels of other risk factors, and decrease morbidity and mortality due to NCDs;
- ☐ Commit financial resources for NCDs – G77 countries are calling for increased resources through domestic, bilateral and multilateral channels. We need to tell the EU and other donor countries such as Canada and the US to stop opposing such commitments;
- ☐ Creation of a global NCD Partnership by 2012 – a mechanism where Member States, all UN agencies, other multilateral institutions and civil society can work together to coordinate activities and mobilise resources for NCDs;
- ☐ A high-level comprehensive review in 2014 – countries must come together and assess progress on control and prevention of NCDs.

**\*24 June. The Plight of Widows** – a UN panel that features speakers such as Michele Bachelet and the first lady of Gabon and Mrs. Ban Soon-Taek. The event highlighted the plight of widows who face multiple layers of discrimination in peacetime as well as in conflict and post-conflict situations.

**\*June 26 – Pre-consultation Briefing for NGOs on CEDAW General Recommendation on Women in Conflict and Post-Conflict situations.** This was organized and sponsored by the IAW. The IAW coordinated an NGO expert group to draft an NGO report on the proposed CEDAW general recommendation. (Paper is attached).

**\*11-29 July. CEDAW session**-countries reporting were Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Singapore and Zambia. The reports from Nepal and Ethiopia garnered considerable attention as the condition of women's human rights were reviewed. The CEDAW statements are available online at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws49.htm>

**\*July 18, 2011 - The General Discussion on Women in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations** - a meeting hosted by OHCHR at the United Nations. A short summary is provided below. The IAW presented an oral statement jointly with a number of other NGOs. (See sheet attached)

Several NGOs participated in this discussion, and the commonality was that women should have a bigger impact in the public decision making process if we want to achieve true equality. Gender discrimination is at the very root of conflict; therefore, it is important to develop and implement mechanisms that include a framework responsive to the basic rights of women with an assessment on the specific regions and/or situations they are in. To ensure that this happens, women must always participate in the peace process.

Pramila Patten, member of CEDAW, Chair of the Working Group on women in conflict/post conflict situations communicated that the general recommendations on post conflict situations must include access to justice and women's participation in transitional governments. Public and politically active women must sustain support, and measures should be taken to promote the empowerment of these women.

Furthermore, a framework for prosecutions, witness protection, victim reparations, and also provisions for safeguarding peacemakers are crucial. All violence against women stems from structural discrimination and general inequality. The NGOs present in this discussion confirmed with their presentations that in many instances cultural stigmas still prevent report of physical abuse by women in conflict and post-conflict environments.

This NGO consultation process covered diverse conflict situations as women have multiple identities within these conflicts, and there is a plethora of factors that often compound the provisions and policies put in place to assist the implementation of a legal frame that does the work intended. Normative guidelines to draw these issues together and to engage state actors and non-state actors in the prevention, education and implementation of measures in order to address and alleviate how women are viewed in conflict and post-conflict situations must continue to be on the agenda.

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**In addition to the above, the IAW continues as a member of the Gender Climate Change Alliance and supported events at the UNFCCC Cancun meeting in Mexico and will continue to engage on this topic in Durban. It also follows the progress of UN Women, including participation in the UN Women Executive Board meeting.**

**Upcoming important events include the NCD summit 19-20 September and participation in the UN Women Expert Group meeting on Rural women in Accra, Ghana, 20-23 September.**

**Attachments to the report:**

Written Statement submitted to  
CEDAW on the occasion of the  
General Discussion on Women in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations

July 18, United Nations, New York, NY

Submitted by

Fundacion para Estudio e Investigacion de la Mujer (FEIM), Global Justice Center, The Women's Network of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), International Alliance of Women (IAW), International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (FIFCJ), International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF)

We congratulate the CEDAW committee for this historic initiative and an excellent concept paper. You have our enduring and enthusiastic support for this General Recommendation (GR).

We urge the committee to consider:

**Peace at home and peace in society are interlinked (Articles 2, 7 and 8)**

We believe that peace in the home and peace in society are interlinked.<sup>1</sup> A culture of militarism intimidates women from asserting their collective and individual rights,<sup>2</sup> including the right to vote and participate in political decision-making. Families with ex-combatants often experience increased levels of violence. An enduring peace that touches girls and women of all ages in both private and public spheres is the context in which we understand Articles 2, 7 and 8 and the General Recommendation on protection for women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

We believe that this GR can help to set high standards for a culture of peace with gender equality and women's empowerment. Legally binding instruments such as CEDAW, UN Security Council Resolutions (1325, 1820, 1888, 1889), international human rights law, and international humanitarian law help hold the UN, non-states parties, the private sector, as well as governments accountable. But these tools are equally important as measures for personal security because they define social norms for personal conduct and rules for good governance even if rule of law, legal structures and social services break down.<sup>3</sup>

**Prevention should be a priority (Articles 6, 7, and 8)**

As in the case of HIV/AIDS, prevention of conflict costs less in human, social and monetary resources than treatment afterwards. As a preventive measure, more attention must be paid to the regulation of possession, sale, trade and criminal use of legal and illicit small arms and light weapons. Their proliferation increases the threat of violence against women in the home as well as forced marriage, kidnapping and links to organised crime including human and narcotic trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Best practices to contain widespread harm to girls and women during conflict require further study and financial support. These include engendering early warning systems that serve as a platform for data collection, analysis, reporting and actions at global to national levels.<sup>4</sup> For example, as has been proposed for the Security Council of the African Union, women's networks can serve as sources of information concerning conflicts. Such prevention activities combined with proactive

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<sup>1</sup> The theme of the "16 days of activism against gender violence campaign" for 2011 makes this important linkage that is also reflected in the Beijing Platform for Action's call for a "culture of peace."

<sup>2</sup> The International Indigenous Women's Forum established the importance of collective as well as individual rights. See: FIMI, Mairin Iwanka Raya, "Indigenous women stand against violence," FIMI publication, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Women have called for accountability related to non-state parties such as multinational corporations that are not armed but who may abuse their power and authority in period of reconstruction. See "Report of the global consultation on the application of women's human rights framework on the issues of women affected by conflict," Colombo, Sri Lanka, October 15-17, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> FAS, WIPSEN-Africa, and WANEP, "Position Paper: UNSCR 1325 and Prevention: a hybrid for utilizing human rights and early warning frameworks in the campaign to end violence against women," FAS, 2011.

responses can help warn women of danger and save lives. Also, partnerships with telephone companies to provide mobile phones and faster Internet communications for women should be promoted so that data collection and reporting is more comprehensive.

Another important preventive guideline is to “do no harm.” For example, among some matrilineal tribal peoples in India and in Papua New Guinea, women may have a traditional role as peacemakers between warring villages and tribes. However, UN or government negotiators with little understanding of local culture can undermine women’s leadership roles.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Investment in education matters (Articles 4, 10 and 11)**

Investments in girls’ and women’s education are one of the most strategic measures to ensure personal security. For refugees and internally displaced women, previous combatants and victims of sexual violence, a good education may be the only wealth they can carry with them across borders and when resettling back home. Special temporary measures can include education programs for these groups to recover lost educational opportunities imposed by conflict. Research indicates that improving girls’ education boosts self-esteem as well as providing a safeguard against poverty. Education also affords women the opportunity to build a knowledge base that can be used to further their participation in political processes and decision-making. More attention needs to be paid to how gender inequality and discrimination in girls’ and women’s education has a long-term detrimental impact on sustaining democracy and a speedy economic recovery.

#### **Information, Communications, Media and Stereotypes (Article 5)**

Stereotypes are entrenched in employment laws, health services, and law enforcement as well as in military culture. Furthermore, indigenous and rural women, older women, women with disabilities, sex workers, and ethnic minorities face multiple discriminations. If these women are to become leaders rather than victims, they must be empowered to believe in themselves and resist internalizing stereotypes. More attention needs to be paid to training men and women who help shape mass culture working in mass media and Internet companies, newspapers and movie businesses so they will work in support of CEDAW and this General Recommendation.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

A holistic approach requires implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security that calls for coordination of gender initiatives between different security sector institutions, welfare agencies, healthcare providers and NGO service providers. Special attention should be given to further development and application of indicators, including those on Prevention (indicators 13 – 20, S/2010/173)<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, “Peacemaking in Asia and the Pacific: women’s participation, perspectives and priorities,” HD, 2011

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General, Women and peace and security, Security Council 6 April, 2010, S/2010/173.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Briefing on the CEDAW**  
**General Recommendation on**  
**Women in conflict and post-conflict situations**

*Friday, June 24*  
*777 UN Plaza (7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Presbyterian Meeting Room)*  
*12:00 – 1:00 pm.*

≈

*Representative, OHCHR, New York (invited)*  
*NGOs will present their views on the CEDAW concept note and recommendations for the General Discussion*

*Sponsored by the International Alliance of Women*  
*With the participation of Amnesty International, Global Justice Center*  
*Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, Human Rights Watch*  
*Peace Women, the NGO Working group on Women, Peace and Security*  
*and WILD for Human Rights, UC Berkeley*  
*Please RSVP as space is limited*

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[Light refreshments will be served](#)

***NGO Expert Working Group Paper***  
***Supporting and Elaborating the CEDAW Concept Note for the General Recommendation on***  
***Women in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations***

Prepared for the CEDAW General Discussion on  
Women in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations  
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Ad Hoc NGO Expert Group on CEDAW GR  
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**Executive Summary**

The following points are discussed:

First, conflict and abuses of women's rights occur not merely because of the action of one state, but often many states, as well as non-state actors who are involved in escalating the conflict or bringing it to a close in a democratic and transparent manner. The Committee can use its multiple capacities and on-going dialogue with many States Parties to capture the full range of participants

and their roles in conflict.

Second, CEDAW can constructively engage States Parties using both human rights and humanitarian law obligations, as well as the UN Security Council processes. It can draw attention to States Parties' obligations to women's rights in their territory, as well as in their actions internationally and extraterritorially, in occupation and over business entities, aid and trade processes and humanitarian intervention and services. These obligations extend to economic resources as well as to specific accountabilities to individual justice. Power-shifts are always gendered, and early engagement by CEDAW with affected States Parties is key to equitable transfers of power. The paper provides ideas about *how* the Committee might do this, especially with regards to engaging in and sharing information gathered through UN, peace and security measures, and oversight of key actors facilitating cease fires and transitions.

Third, the paper highlights different roles played by girls and women of all ages in conflict. CEDAW's contributions to promoting gender equality should recognize that women are not equally affected by conflict: some are combatants, some are partisans of one side or the other, and all experience the effects of winning and losing conflicts very differently. They may be nationals, non-nationals, living in territory outside of state control, or stateless. Additionally, many refugee and displaced women live their entire lives in camps and face specific challenges of participation and equality in rights. Some women have had their opportunities for action increased in the chaos of conflict or face extraordinary barriers and abuse. Sometimes these difficult experiences are simultaneous; none are resolved solely by access to justice. Although access to justice is key, it may also take time and CEDAW can support these processes over the long term and over many different sectors.

Fourth, recognizing the wide diversity of women's situations, the paper highlights the ways the call to 'culture and tradition' and gender stereotyped roles are used by different actors in conflict, including elites, military leaders, rebel leaders and government agents. Culture and tradition can adversely regulate women's lives in transition, especially in regard to their honor and sexuality, reproductive lives and choices in marriage. This regulation through misuse of culture further exacerbates women's rights to access the full range of services and rights essential to their health and well-being. CEDAW's support of the full panoply of expression, information, political participation, and sexual and reproductive health rights is key to the promotion of women's rights.

## I. SCOPE, FRAMEWORK AND CONCEPTS

An informal expert working group of legal scholars and women's rights advocates has prepared this paper.<sup>7</sup> We seek to support the work of the Committee as it develops its general recommendation (GR) on women in conflict and post-conflict situations.<sup>8</sup> We share the view that all the obligations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

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<sup>7</sup> Soon- Young Yoon, UN representative for the International Alliance of Women, convened the NGO expert working group. The drafting group included Maria Butler (WILPF), Stephanie Johannsen (Global Justice Center), Alice M. Miller (UC Berkeley School of Law and WILD for Human Rights), Akila Radhakrishnan (Global Justice Center), Cole Taylor (UC Berkeley School of Law) and Maureen Shaw (International Alliance of Women) in consultation with Mavic Cabrera-Balleza (Global Network of Women Peacebuilders), Marianne Mollman (Human Rights Watch) and Hariette Williams (FAS).

<sup>8</sup> This memo relies in part on a longer Background Memorandum currently under preparation by UC Berkeley School of Law Human Rights Clinic under the direction of Allison Davenport.

are potentially applicable to conflict-affected contexts. Moreover, CEDAW's obligations for States Parties to protect the equal rights of girls and women of all ages can be understood in light of progressive developments in international human rights law. We draw on these developments and reference CEDAW's own work, as well as the work of other UN human rights treaty bodies in our paper.

## **Scope**

From the perspective of contemporary human rights law, the GR can address a wide range of concerns such as the following:

- Many conflicts have no easily recognizable beginnings and ends. Chronic conflict affects many States Parties, and transition and post-conflict are often not clearly definable times. The GR should explicitly locate its analysis in the continuum of conflict, rather than in some notion of clear stages or levels.<sup>9</sup> Moreover, what is currently addressed as post-conflict issues in the Concept Note could also be understood as an element of prevention, such as understanding the rights impacts of militarization and CEDAW obligations;
- Conflicts are the product of many different actors, processes and states, not simply the state on whose territory the conflict occurs. These actors, including non-state actors, foreign states, peacekeepers, corporations, and humanitarian aid providers, among others, take actions with an effect on girls' and women's rights. A broader range of states can be addressed by CEDAW through an elaboration of their extra-territorial and international obligations under the Convention, and in alignment with contemporary human rights and humanitarian law;
- Equality of rights between women and men is embedded in justice, democracy and rule of law for all. As a UN human rights treaty, CEDAW has the specific focus on women's rights but these are predicated on commitments to rights overall. CEDAW can make clear that the underlying peace-processes, transitional justice and other post-conflict and transitional processes are considered in their recommendations for equality of participation of women and girls.
- All articles of the Convention are relevant to conflict—the paper addresses some articles and issues not fully fleshed out in the Concept Note regarding health, especially the full range of sexual and reproductive rights, marriage rights and others. As CEDAW contains no derogation clause, States Parties must be on notice that discrimination against women cannot be justified in time of conflict.<sup>10</sup> Moreover, as some fundamental rights (e.g., privacy, freedom from arbitrary detention, expression, and assembly) are implied but not textually elaborated in CEDAW, the Committee may want to elaborate how the gender specific aspects of these rights are affected by conflict in light of state obligations.

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<sup>9</sup> Bounding conflicts in time and in category (deeming a conflict international or national conflicts, civil strife or armed conflict) is primarily relevant when the intersection of CEDAW's obligations with humanitarian law is being considered, or when other UN agencies and processes, such as Security Council processes, are relevant to assessing State Party policy or practice under the Convention. See below at §.

<sup>10</sup> To the extent the underlying right in question in CEDAW is derogable under article 4, the Committee may wish to take note of the very limited circumstances under which the HRC currently considers such rights as expression, freedom from arbitrary detention, assembly, etc. (See, GC 24 of the HRC: reservations; GC 29 on states of emergency and GC 31 on general obligations under the ICCPR). The ICESCR does not permit derogations for emergency, but builds in some accommodations through its regime on 'available resources' and



## **Legal Framework**

In light of contemporary developments in human rights law, as well as other branches of international law and UN processes around women, peace and security, the Committee may want to consider the particular perspectives and approaches the GR will elaborate. In particular we suggest a deeper consideration of:

- The intersections, gaps, complementarities and convergences between human rights and humanitarian law, particularly the ways that international law obligations – by both states hosting a conflict and states otherwise engaged – can reference CEDAW’s gender-specific guidance to promote and protect the rights of women and girls. CEDAW’s work must be understood in the context of supporting the obligations of states to persons under their control, and balance the reality of extra-territorial effects of state actions with respect for building the democratic accountability between States Parties and their citizens;
- The obligations of states to respect, protect and fulfill rights in the context of conflicts and their aftermath under CEDAW must address state obligations for non-state actors. This includes corporations, as well as state responsibility for impacts on girls and women’s rights for actions by a state or its agents taken internationally or extraterritorially;
- The relationship between CEDAW and the obligations many of its State Parties have undertaken under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, particularly the role that complementarity plays, such that states have committed to revising their national laws to meet the substantive and procedural standards of the Rome Statute;
- The importance of using CEDAW to underscore the international commitments made in UN Security Council processes by national governments of States Parties to CEDAW. This includes, but is not limited to, Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960, as well as honing the relationship between the programmatic steps outlined in the Resolutions as evidence of the legally binding obligations under CEDAW.<sup>11</sup>

## **Definitions and Concepts**

The Committee may wish to consider how the following concepts can be considered in regrouping of issues and their importance:

- *Violence against women.* While the Concept Note extensively addresses trafficking (for forced prostitution), it is important to note other forms of trafficking (e.g., portering in conflict and trafficking into all sectors of labor) AND to articulate the full range of violence affecting girls and women of all ages and their equal enjoyment of rights. Moreover, the language on accountability too often considers accountability as occurring post-conflict, as opposed to an obligation concurrent with conflict and strife, as well as a process that can take decades to fulfill;

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<sup>11</sup> UNIFEM, CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide, 2006.

- *Women's diversity, including their different roles and political affiliations in conflict.* CEDAW's monitoring can equally protect the fundamental rights of women and girls in rebel groups as well as of those in groups affiliated with the state, such as women in combat roles and the specific concerns of demobilization regimes;
- *Women with disabilities.* It is important to more fully elaborate the concerns of women with disabilities -- including those owing to conflict and not -- particularly in regard to their participation and integration in all sectors of transitional and post-conflict societies;
- *Gender and sexually non-conforming women.* More attention should be paid to the relationship between conflict-affected calls to tradition, culture and history by powerful actors and states, and the creation of barriers to gender and sexually non- conforming women enjoying their rights. For example, consider the role that marriage plays in conflict-affected countries and its role in sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- *Women's participation.* The Committee should more fully elaborate its discussion on implied rights, such as expression and association, which are especially important to women's participation in political transition;
- *Prevention.* Greater emphasis on CEDAW's application in prevention and sustainability of peace building is critical. The framework used in discussion of prevention is often narrowly defined and restricts operational recommendations and indicators to a limited number of actions. A broader reference is needed to draw attention to the preventive stage of social disintegration and problems women face before conflict as contributing to the problems of the society's reconstruction. Among factors to consider are the interlinkages between peace in the home, a culture of militarism, as well as the maintenance of a culture of peace. Emphasis should be given to the regulation of possession, sale, trade and criminal use of legal and illicit small arms and light weapons as preventive measures;
- *Early warning systems.* Empowering women with communications technologies can also be strategic ways to prevent widespread harm when used as part of an early warning system. Protection of indigenous people's cultural traditions favoring women's roles as peacemakers, investments in girls' and women's education, engaging media leaders and improving monitoring and evaluation indicators in prevention should also be addressed.

## **II. HIGHLIGHTED ISSUES AND ELABORATIONS**

### **CEDAW's role and other international standards and processes**

#### *1. CEDAW's role vis a vis International Humanitarian Law (IHL)*

Where the CEDAW Committee engages with countries facing conflicts that fall within the scope of humanitarian law, it can operate within a framework that meaningfully takes account of relevant IHL as an aspect of the international obligations of concern to CEDAW. The Committee has previously recognized this approach, when in its General Recommendation 19 on violence against women, it stated that among the freedoms protected by the definition of non-discrimination under

Article 1 of CEDAW was “the right to equal protection according to humanitarian norms in time of international or internal armed conflict.”<sup>12</sup>

In addressing convergence, it must be remembered that IHL and human rights are not identical in their approach and scope. Indeed, while both seek to ameliorate or reduce human suffering, there are important distinctions: IHL operates only in certain categories of conflict, reaches directly to non-state actors (for example in its Common Article 3), and operates to guide legitimate tactics in war, including killing and the use of deadly force generally.<sup>13</sup> It does not presume any long-term relationship between protected persons and belligerents.<sup>14</sup> In these respects and others, IHL is a very different system than human rights law. Nonetheless, recent practice and scholarship have demonstrated advantages in their joint application to many complex conflicts. In particular, gender-sensitive pre-conflict training and post-conflict accountability can be strengthened by reading IHL and human rights law together. Whether the approach is to take IHL as the *lex specialis* of conflict, or to see specific standards in human rights and humanitarian law as complementary and reinforcing, and the application of the human rights standards of CEDAW can be informed by, and in turn can further elaborate, the standards of humanitarian law.<sup>15</sup>

Specifically, rules of IHL provide two layers of protections for women during times of conflict, which are relevant to CEDAW review: (1) guarantees of non-discrimination which entitles women to protections equal to those owed to men affected by conflict; and (2) special protections for

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<sup>12</sup> CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, 11th Session, 1992.

<sup>13</sup> Common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. The four Geneva Conventions of 1949 govern the treatment of certain groups during armed conflict. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, Aug. 12, 1949, 6 U.S.T. 3114, 75 U.N.T.S. 31 [hereinafter First Geneva Convention]; Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, Aug. 12, 1949, 6 U.S.T. 3217, 75 U.N.T.S. 85 [hereinafter Second Geneva Convention]; Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, Aug. 12, 1949, 75 U.N.T.S. 135, 6 U.S.T. 3316 [hereinafter Third Convention]; Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, Aug. 12, 1949, 6 U.S.T. 3516, 75 U.N.T.S. 287 [hereinafter Fourth Geneva Convention]; collectively, the “1949 Geneva Conventions.” Three articles are common to all four Conventions: common Article 1, common Article 2 and common Article 3. Note however, that the OP of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (A/Res/ 54/263 of 25 May 2000) in article 4 applies to armed groups as well as state actors. Article 4 reads: “Article 4 1. Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years. 2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

3. The application of the present article shall not affect the legal status of any party to an armed conflict.”

<sup>14</sup> This section draws its cautionary approach extensively from an article by Naz K. Modirzadeh, “The Dark Sides of Convergence: A Pro-Civilian Critique of the Extraterritorial Application of Human Rights Law in Armed Conflict” in U.S. Naval War College International Law Studies (Blue Book) Series, Vol. 86, pp. 349-410, 2010.

<sup>15</sup> The International Court of Justice takes the *lex specialis* approach, in part because as an international court it can look at all the obligations to which parties have bound themselves or which bind them as a matter of customary international law. See, International Court of Justice, *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons Advisory Opinion*, 1996 I.C.J. 226 (July 8) at para. 25 (“The test of what is arbitrary deprivation of life, however, then falls to be determined by the applicable *lex specialis*, namely, the law applicable in armed conflict which is designed to regulate the conduct of hostilities. Thus whether a particular loss of life, though the use of a certain weapon in warfare, is to be considered an arbitrary deprivation of life contrary to Article 6 of the Covenant [ICCPR], can only be decided by reference to the law applicable in armed conflict and not deduced from the terms of the Covenant itself” (emphasis added)).

women that require that women “be treated with all regard due their sex.”<sup>16</sup> This, for example, includes rules which require separate detention and sanitation facilities for women prisoners of war.

Furthermore, IHL also imposes specific obligations on occupying powers.<sup>17</sup> As a general matter, these regulations are designed to reduce the impact of military occupation on civilian life to the maximum extent possible, while preserving the freedom of the occupier to act according to military necessity.<sup>18</sup> Occupation forces are not meant to arrogate governing powers to themselves beyond what is militarily necessary— while fully accountable for the effects of their actions. Thus, where the CEDAW Committee reviews situations of belligerent occupation, IHL accordingly provides the necessary obligations the Committee must consider for the occupying state.

The CEDAW Committee has previously recognized a relationship between IHL and human rights in its General Recommendation 19 on violence against women, wherein it stated that among the freedoms protected by the definition of non-discrimination under Article 1 of CEDAW was “the right to equal protection according to humanitarian norms in time of international or internal armed conflict.”<sup>19</sup>

The CEDAW Committee is not alone in its recognition of the need to address simultaneous and complementary applicability of IHL and international human rights protections; the human rights treaty body monitoring structure has begun to shift towards incorporating principles of IHL into interpretation of treaties. The Human Rights Committee (HRC), for example, has often relied on humanitarian standards in making recommendations and defining the rights of affected populations.<sup>20</sup> Moreover, the HRC’s Comment 29 specifically addresses the overlap between the ICCPR and IHL during situations of armed conflict.<sup>21</sup> The Comment suggests that “in situations of armed conflict, both the Covenant and international humanitarian law apply and ‘both spheres of law are complementary, not mutually exclusive.’”<sup>22</sup> Furthermore, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has directly incorporated IHL obligations as a part of states obligations “to respect” a particular right (“The Committee notes that during armed conflicts, emergency situations and natural disasters the right to water embraces those obligations by which States parties are bound under international humanitarian law”).<sup>23</sup>

We encourage the Committee deepen the Convention’s contributions to the gender-specific protections afforded to persons affected by conflict under IHL (reaching combatants and non-combatants). This could be accomplished by asking questions of State Parties regarding what IHL obligations they have accepted and implemented, as required by CEDAW reporting guideline D.4; engaging with the gender-specific application of these obligations as aspects of CEDAW’s protection mandate to women and girls during and after conflict; and further developing the rationale and reach of the Convention in conflict in light of the operation of IHL where relevant.

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<sup>16</sup> ICRC & Charlotte Lindsay, *Women Facing War*, pg. 21, October 2001. The question of the relation between CEDAW’s substantive equality and the gender-specific protections for women under IHL would be an interesting point of future discussions between CEDAW and the ICRC.

<sup>17</sup> See for example *Laws and Customs of War on Land* (Hague II), art. 43, July 29, 1899, 32 Stat. 1803, T.S. 403 and *Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War*, Aug. 12, 1949, 6 U.S.T. 3516, 75 U.N.T.S. 287.

<sup>18</sup> The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) commentary to Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that “regulations concerning occupation are based on the idea of the personal freedom of civilians remaining in general unimpaired.” International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), *Convention (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War*, <http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/COM/380-600032?OpenDocument>.

<sup>19</sup> CEDAW General Recommendation No. 19, 11th Session, 1992.

<sup>20</sup> David Weissbrodt, *The Role of the Human Rights Committee in Interpreting and Developing Humanitarian Law*, 31:4 U. Pa. J. Int’l L. 1185, 1231 (2010).

<sup>21</sup> CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.11, ¶ 3.

<sup>22</sup> Weissbrodt, *supra* note 4, at 1208.

<sup>23</sup> CESCR, General Comment No. 15 (2002) on the Right to Water.

## *2. CEDAW and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)*

Both during conflict and in post-conflict, it is imperative that states ensure accountability for violations of women's rights under both domestic and international law. While the Concept Note addresses the necessity for justice in post-conflict and transitional situations,<sup>24</sup> we encourage the Committee to also recognize the importance of pursuing accountability during conflict, which the Committee should ensure is included in the final GR.

In particular, the GR should encourage states – regardless of their state of peace, strife or conflict – to enact laws or have specific legislation in line with the definitions of the constituent acts that constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide enshrined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC),<sup>25</sup> which is accepted as a codification of fundamental principles of international criminal law at the time of enactment.<sup>26</sup> Where a State Party to CEDAW is also party to the Rome Statute, those states are already required to pass domestic laws in conformity with the Statute as part of its requirement of complementarity. For example, the definition of rape and sexual assault under the ICC is more inclusive than many national rape statutes of acts and actors that can be constitutive of sexual assault. The ICC definition moves nations beyond only criminalizing penile/vaginal penetration by a man not married to a woman to understanding the sexual assault as a penetration by force, including with objects, and in which the marital or virginal status of the victim is irrelevant to the prosecution.

When reviewing parties to the Rome Statute, the Committee should request information on domestic provisions for accountability, in particular for gender crimes, to ensure that states are operating under the most inclusive and rights protective framework for girls and women of all ages to access to justice for crimes that constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

Where a state party to CEDAW is not a party to the ICC, the Committee should still encourage domestic legislation to be brought into conformity with the definitions of the Rome Statute, because, as the Concept Note states “the adoption of the Rome Statute...is recognized as a significant development in international criminal law...”<sup>27</sup> Incorporation of the standards of the Rome Statute can help ensure that domestic legislation is in line with international standards on prosecutions of these crimes.

## *3. CEDAW's complementary role with other UN Structures/Security Council*

As recognized in the Concept Note, the proposed GR and CEDAW's work on women and conflict and post-conflict do not exist in a vacuum. The Committee can elaborate the GR in ways that support and strengthen recent initiatives in the Security Council for example, on women and various aspects of women's rights in conflict. Indeed, CEDAW's focus on substantive equality and its ability to work with States Parties constructively on their binding obligations to all aspects of women's rights (not solely their protection from sexual violence for example) is a necessary counterpoint to the tendency of states – including at the Security Council -- to focus narrowly on a

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<sup>24</sup> Concept Note “General Discussion on the protection of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts” (Concept Note) Page 18.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.coalitionfortheicc.org/?mod=romeimplementation>

<sup>26</sup> ROBERT CRYER, ET. AL., AN INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE 126 (2007).

<sup>27</sup> Concept Note, pg. 8 notes that depending on the circumstances of the case, sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, an act of torture or a constituent act of genocide.”

single aspects of women's rights and subordinate women's rights to equality, security, democracy and full participation,<sup>28</sup> to geo-political interests and unaccountable political promises.

Under the United Nations Charter (1945), the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and can also refer cases to the International Criminal Court (ICC).<sup>29</sup> In this sense, keeping women's rights integrated on the Security Council's agenda contributes to women's rights generally. In its constructive dialogue with States Parties, CEDAW can be used to remind states of their international and national obligations to ensure justice for women through actions in the Security Council as relevant.

Moreover, the last decade of resolutions with specific address of women at the Security Council, such as 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960, presents CEDAW with both challenges and opportunities. As the UNIFEM Guide to Security Council 1325 on women peace and security notes, "While both CEDAW and SC Resolution 1325 are important in their own right, there is also a synergy between the two sets of standards that can be used greatly to enhance their implementation and impact. SC resolution 1325 helps to broaden the scope of CEDAW's application by clarifying its relevance to all parties in conflict and in peace. CEDAW, in turn, provides concrete strategic guidance for actions to be taken on the broad commitments outlined in SC resolution 1325."<sup>30</sup> Additionally, for States Parties to CEDAW, the treaty also provides a specific mechanism for accountability and review for actions taken (or not taken) by national governments under this or other resolutions.

The new GR can elaborate the rationale and scope of questions to states which would emphasize their promises under the SC resolutions and provide an accessible and transparent process for affected women to engage with their governments on actions taken under the umbrella of the Women, Peace and Security rubric of the Security Council. As noted below in Methodologies, these processes also provide key sites for new information on women's status and rights in conflict, transition and post-conflict.

## **CEDAW and Non-State Actors**

### *1. Corporations*

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<sup>28</sup> For example the Global Network of Women Peace Builders are concerned that the increasingly exclusive focus on sexual violence at the Security Council removes attention from the diversity of empowering structural steps and commitments of 1325 and women's political participation in peace building—steps which would also respond to sexual violence. See Open Letter to Member States of the UN Security Council Re: Res 1960, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (Jan. 7, 2011), <http://www.gnwp.org/unscr-1960-and-the-need-for-focus-on-full-implementation-of-unscr-1325>.

<sup>29</sup> Article 13 of the Rome Statute of the ICC recognizes that the Security Council has authority to refer cases to the ICC where the Court could not otherwise exercise jurisdiction. While all the crimes of the Rome Statute have potential relevance to women, because women are often targets of crimes of sexual and reproductive violence in conflict, the provisions of the Rome Statute addressing rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity enumerated in Article 7 (g) are of particular importance, and effective prevention, investigation, prosecution, and reparations for these crimes can be understood to be essential duties of states under of Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 15 and 16 of the Convention.

<sup>30</sup> UNIFEM, *CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide*, WomenPeaceSecurity.

The role of corporations, both national and transnational, in exacerbating or ameliorating conflicts and the effects of conflicts is also a critical question for the Committee to consider in developing its jurisprudence under this new GR. In his last report, John Ruggie, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on human rights and transnational corporations, set up guiding principles for his three-part framework specifically relevant to conflict, with attention to the role of host states, states where a corporation is domiciled and the corporation itself.<sup>31</sup> Guiding principle 7 includes reference to “(b) Providing adequate assistance to business enterprises to assess and address the heightened risks of abuses, paying special attention to both gender-based and sexual violence.”

Despite this and other global initiatives on corporations and rights, however, the Concept Note does not as yet sufficiently elaborate on the role of corporations and States Parties obligations toward them. The Committee should take this opportunity to move forward and importantly contribute principles of substantive gender equality to the framework provided by Ruggie, in particular strengthening both the work on corporations and the Convention’s effective application to protect girls’ and women’s rights in conflict affected contexts.

In this elaboration, the Committee might want to take cognizance of the many ways in which corporations can affect women’s and girls’ rights at the outset of conflict, in its continuance and in its resolution. The Committee should provide guidance to states parties on their obligations as host or home (corporate headquarter) nations. Corporations’ engagement with rights abuses can take the form of complicity with states in abusing rights, such as through accepting state-sponsored security forces. Here the Committee can raise such concerns as violence against populations, including gender-based and sexual violence, or displacement of populations or destruction of the environment with gender-specific effects. Under Ruggie’s principles the state is obligated here under a direct duty of respect for rights. Corporations can independently abuse rights (through gender-discriminatory hiring or through secret agreements for access to land, resources, or food policies) in ways that have gendered effects. Host or domicile states can be asked about the frameworks and specific steps they have taken to review corporate actions and to ensure that that corporations licensed by them follow through on their duty to respect rights.

Finally, the Ruggie framework requires that states create effective mechanisms of redress for abuses girls and women face through corporate action. These mechanisms can be in either host or home state of a transnational corporation but they must be accessible and effective for gender-specific abuses.

In its new GR, the Committee may want to elaborate these obligations and ensure a set of questions to both host and home states regarding their knowledge of the effects of corporate activities on women’s rights in conflict contexts, as well as their regulatory regimes to prevent harms and remedial systems to provide remedies.

## *2. International institutions and national responsibility for abuses against women committed by peacemakers and peacekeepers*

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<sup>31</sup> Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary- General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, John Ruggie. *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework*. UN DOC A/HRC/17/31 (21 March 2011).



Because peacekeepers are often assigned under multilateral agreements, there is a contemporary tendency to address these actors as non-state actors and therefore unaccountable under human rights bodies, including CEDAW. While the International Law Commission is developing its principles of accountability for International Organizations, in these comments we call the Committee's attention to the fact that nation states may under certain circumstances be held responsible. In a recent European Court of Human Rights case, the ECHR ruled that an individual State Party may be liable for actions by its troops in multilateral settings, when they are under the effective control of a state.<sup>32</sup>

The critical question for CEDAW in many cases of abuses committed by peace-keepers in territories to which they have been assigned by UN or other multi-lateral or bilateral agreement is one of direct accountability and reviewable obligations by individual member states to investigate, prosecute and punish their own forces for actions committed abroad. Many troops are contributors to peace-making or other security agreements only under multi- or bilateral legal agreements which render them unaccountable under local authority for actions, including abuses committed in that territory (through agreements called 'status of forces' agreements). Some abuses committed by these actors, as noted in the Concept Note, include assaults on girls and women, commercial exploitation of refugee women or displaced including through sexual exploitation and acts of trafficking into forced prostitution or domestic work (see pp 10-16). While local authorities may be practically or legally hindered from pursuing accountability through prosecutions, the sending countries remain legally responsible for their troops abroad. Troop contributing countries must be encouraged by CEDAW through this GR to comply with their international obligations to investigate, prosecute and punish as provided for under their national law or to make arrangements (through waivers of immunity) for local investigations and prosecutions of alleged perpetrators. In all cases, the investigations, prosecutions and punishments must be in accord with international human rights standards ensuring rights for both victim/witnesses and the accused.

### *3. CEDAW and questions of extraterritorial obligations of states and women's rights*

In addition to recognizing the multiplicity of actors involved in a given conflict and State Party responsibility with regard to such actors as relevant (especially in terms of non-state actors), the

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<sup>32</sup> In *Al Skeini & Others v United Kingdom*, and its partner case of *Al Jedda v United Kingdom*, the ECHR considered in part whether the United Kingdom had any liability under the Convention for the alleged deaths and detention of individuals in SE Iraq during its military campaign there. The ECHR determined that the UK not the UN was in effective control of the troops in the relevant section of Iraq. The partner case of *Al Jedda* is clear here and the ECHR opinion may be of interest to CEDAW as it considers how to engage with states parties on how their responsibilities to respect rights follow their uniformed service personnel across borders.

Para 84 : It would appear from the opinion of Lord Bingham in the first set of proceedings brought by the applicant that it was common ground between the parties before the House of Lords that the test to be applied in order to establish attribution was that set out by the International Law Commission, in Article 5 of its draft Articles on the Responsibility of International Organisations and in its commentary thereon, namely that the conduct of an organ of a State placed at the disposal of an international organisation should be attributable under international law to that organisation if the organisation exercises effective control over that conduct (see paragraphs 18 and 56 above). For the reasons set out above, the Court considers that the United Nations Security Council had neither effective control nor ultimate authority and control over the acts and omissions of troops within the Multi-National Force and that the applicant's detention was not, therefore, attributable to the United Nations. Thanks to Fiona de Londres post at: <http://www.humanrights.ie/index.php/author/f-de-londres/> for this summary.

Committee can give clear guidance to State Parties in terms of their responsibility for extraterritorial action and effects on women's rights in the context of conflict. Both direct action by a State outside its territory (such as active military engagement) and international actions that bear extraterritorial consequences (such as bilateral or multilateral funding, peacekeeping or negotiation efforts), can give rise to state obligations under international human rights law. Therefore, we encourage CEDAW to consider current developments in international law as it formulates an approach to engaging in constructive dialogue with States Parties about the extraterritorial impact of their policies and activities on the rights and equality of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

State responsibility for extraterritorial impacts has been recognized by international human rights treaty bodies and international courts. One test may be applied to situations where a state or its agents take action outside of its territory which might affect rights, such as in cases of cross border armed activity,<sup>33</sup> occupation,<sup>34</sup> and even in situations where territorial control is disputed and individuals are deprived of their rights by non-state actors.<sup>35</sup> Frequently referred to as the "effective control" test, it has been clarified in the context of civil and political rights that states are obligated to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of persons outside their territory who are impacted by their actions.<sup>36</sup> The gendered dimensions of this form of extraterritoriality have not yet been explored however, and CEDAW could play a key role in helping states to understand their obligations in this direction.

Additionally, current practice by other human rights treaty bodies is moving to delineate the circumstances and scope of when international (or indirect extraterritorial) actions, such as bilateral and multi-lateral aid, funding agreements, participation in peacekeeping or negotiation efforts, can give rise to obligations under international human rights law. Treaty bodies have increasingly articulated that states have positive obligations to promote the realization of rights recognized

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<sup>33</sup> *Case Concerning Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda)*, Judgment, ICJ Reports 2005, at paras 178-180.

<sup>34</sup> *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, Advisory Opinion, ICJ Reports 2004, at para. 111, stating "[T]he International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is applicable in respect of acts done by a State in the exercise of its jurisdiction outside its own territory." See also *Al-Skeni and Others v. UK*, ECtHR, Judgment of 7 July 2011, holding that UK forces responsible for the maintenance of security in South East Iraq was responsible for the deaths of six civilians under the European Convention on Human Rights. Notably, however, the application of human rights obligations under occupation is not meant to mimic the full obligations of a state for the rights of persons within its legitimate borders: an occupying state is *not* a representative government, but a caretaker authority which must at minimum preserve order and not violate rights with the assumption that it will cede power to a more legitimate state authority. For a discussion of this important balance between IHL and IHRL protections, see: Naz K. Modirzadeh, "The Dark Sides of Convergence: A Pro-Civilian Critique of the Extraterritorial Application of Human Rights Law in Armed Conflict" in U.S. Naval War College International Law Studies (Blue Book) Series, Vol. 86, pp. 349-410, 2010.

<sup>35</sup> *Ilascu et al v. Moldova and Russia*, ECtHR, Judgment of 8 July 2004, at para. 2, 317, 331, 339, (holding that even in the absence of effective control over Transdniestra, a region of Moldova which proclaimed its independence but was not recognized by the international community, Moldova had a positive obligation under the European Convention on Human Rights to take measures within its power to re-establish control over the territory and to ensure that the applicants' rights were respected in that territory).

<sup>36</sup> See e.g., HRC General Comment 31: Nature of the General Legal Obligation Imposed on States Parties to the Covenant, 26 May 2004, CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.13, providing that "[A] State party must respect and ensure the rights laid down in the Covenant to anyone within the power or effective control of the State Party, even if not situated within the territory of the State Party."

within a relevant Covenant both inside and outside of its borders. This obligation stems from Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as principles of international law and the various provisions of particular Treaties.

For example, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has stated that States Parties must take positive steps to ensure the fulfillment of the right to health, water, food and other Covenant rights.<sup>37</sup> Such positive steps may include “international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical,” as well as the obligation “to prevent third parties from violating the right in other countries, if they [States Parties] are able to influence these third parties by way of legal or political means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and applicable international law.”<sup>38</sup> The gender specific aspects of policies can be elaborated by the Committee in its review of States Parties. For example, bilateral policies can directly affect the ability of girls and women of all ages to exercise their rights to health including sexual, reproductive, occupational health free of discrimination as when assistance packages are tied to specific family health, or HIV policies that limit the rights of women or girls in conflict affected areas; or trade policies can support or frustrate transparent and effective standards on equality for diverse women within labor sectors, agricultural programs or re-construction areas.

Through the GR, the Committee can affirm the approach taken by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee and other treaty bodies and engage States Parties in reviewing their positive obligation to take steps to protect, respect and fulfill the rights of women and girls where state action has an extraterritorial impact.

The UN itself often plays a key role in establishing multi-lateral frameworks under which other states become engaged in transitional and post-conflict processes. Conflict and post-conflict situations frequently involve extraterritorial action, whether in the form of occupation, cross border military maneuvers, peace-keeping or indirect forms such as multi-lateral funding agreements, the provision of aid and assistance, negotiations, or trade and development agreements which UN agencies themselves monitor or facilitate. By seeking information on States Parties during their reporting cycle on international commitments and extra-territorial actions sanctioned by or carried out with the knowledge of UN agencies and partner agencies involved in peace-building and post conflict development --specifically regarding the extraterritorial impacts of States Parties actions -- CEDAW will better be able to monitor and comment on the situation of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

## **ADDITIONAL ISSUES**

### *1. The diversity of women in conflict, transition and post-conflict*

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<sup>37</sup> See e.g., Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 3, “The Nature of States Parties Obligations (art. 2, par. 1), (1990), E/1991/23, at para 13, 14; CESCR, General Comment 12, “The Right to Adequate Food (Art. 11), 12 May 1999, E/C.12/1999/5, paras 36, 37; CESCR, General Comment 14, “The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health, 11 August 2000, E/C.12/2000/4; CESCR, General Comment 15, “The Right to Water,” (2002), paras 30-36.

<sup>38</sup> Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 14, “The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health, 11 August 2000, E/C.12/2000/4, at para 38, 39.

We would like to affirm the importance of access to justice, participation in peace-building, violence against women, and economic opportunity as emphasized in the Concept Note. Additionally, we believe it is important that the Committee draws the attention of States Parties to the varying forms these four concerns may take in the course of a conflict, not just during transition and post-conflict. Furthermore, awareness of the full diversity of types of women and girls impacted by conflict, as well as the diversity of roles that they may play, is crucial if CEDAW is to be able to effectively monitor the protection, respect and fulfillment of women and girls' rights in conflict-affected settings.

CEDAW has recognized that certain categories of women may face greater barriers than others in realizing their full rights. In conflict and post-conflict settings women with disabilities, both conflict and non-conflict related, displaced and refugee women, as well as women of diaspora or stateless populations, rural women, indigenous women and other categories of women face gender specific impacts relating both to conflict settings as well as to their identities. In developing a new general recommendation, CEDAW can highlight the specific needs and experiences of these women, and emphasize States Parties' responsibilities for protecting, respecting and fulfilling their rights.

In particular, it should be emphasized that women take on diverse positions in conflict. They may be marginalized by conflict or may benefit from it. Women may be affiliated with dominant, oppositional, or outlawed political groups. A full consideration of the implications of articles 4 and 7, especially in light of the obligations of articles 1, 2 and 5, are critical here. Women may be of a dominant ethnic group, thereby benefiting from the power of that group in society. Alternately, women may be aligned or assumed to be cooperating with various groups that engage, fuel or resist conflict. The experiences of these women will vary in accordance with their actual alliances as well as with those that are perceived by key actors. It is crucial to emphasize that substantive equality is not met by the promotion of women within a dominant ethnic or political group. CEDAW obligates States Parties to protect, respect and fulfill the rights of all women, whether they are part of the "winning" side of a conflict, or part of an oppressed minority. Temporary special measures may be needed to address the diverse situations of these women, including as recognized in general recommendation 25 on TSM.

In particular, articles 4, 5 and 7 can be applied to the experiences and gender specific needs of women combatants and women who are formally or informally associated with an armed group, which are often overlooked in conflict and post-conflict settings. In the course of conflict these women face various forms of discrimination, both in terms of advancement within formal armed services and in other forms of rights violations including sexual exploitation, exclusion from decision making, denial of access to crucial health services, etc. In post-conflict settings, while formal and informal armed groups are frequently involved in negotiations and peace-building processes, women affiliated with armed forces are often overlooked. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs (DDR) tend to be modeled on the needs and demands of male combatants. Male combatants are more frequently issued weapons, uniforms, rankings and other identifiers.

Women's roles within armed groups are often more invisible, spanning from combatants to domestic workers, porters, slaves, sexually exploited persons, spies, or war "brides" for superior

officers. Women may become affiliated with armed forces because a family member is a formal part of the group, or may follow such groups in hopes that they will be better protected. Women may strategically align themselves with various groups, or be forced into alliances, including through forced marriage, by family members or community members. Attention should be paid to the particular situations, motivations, capacities and restraints on women as well as the gender specific needs of these women during conflict, transition, and post-conflict periods. This attention should include concerns for the women as perpetrators of crimes as well as victims: recent trials of women for war crimes highlight the need for CEDAW to develop the underlying equal rights of women when they are defendants and prisoners of war (under IHL), including freedom from arbitrary detention, liberty and security of the person, freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and rights to a fair trial.<sup>39</sup>

Therefore, in engaging with States Parties reporting on these issues, the Committee may wish to elaborate specific questions regarding differently positioned women, as well as formulate a set of questions not only addressed to women in peace-making but also to DDR programs. For example, what is the best understanding of the percentage of combatant forces who are women (under the broader understanding of roles of women in armed groups)? How is outreach done to these women as the groups are demobilized? What tests are used to determine who is eligible for DDR programming? Does DDR programming have a gender specific component, such as for women who are also mothers and need support for children?

Women who do not fit the culturally accepted hetero-normative model of mother and wife also face increased vulnerability in conflict and post-conflict settings. As noted by many advocates, conflict and post-conflict settings are often times of increased deployment of cultural claims and calls to return to tradition to unify or rebuild a nation. The recourse to claims to tradition to control women implicates articles 1, 2, 3, and 5 particularly. Unmarried women, women who have left a marriage or lost a spouse, and women heads-of-household may be ostracized by society, less able to access critical services and resources, targeted for exploitation, or otherwise marginalized in formal and informal ways. We encourage CEDAW to expand on its general recommendation 21 in articulating the rights of women both within and outside of marriage and to highlight the particular ways in which marriage itself may be manipulated (as women strategically move or are coerced into marriages to avoid capture, to placate armed groups in control of territory, etc.) in the course of conflict.

Additionally, we also applaud the Committee's recognition of the intersectionality of discrimination against women and its interplay with diverse sexual orientations and gender identity. We encourage the Committee to further note this issue within the context of conflict settings as it is widely recognized that women who do not conform to accepted norms of sexual orientation and gender face increased vulnerability both during peace and during conflict. Questions regarding the formal

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<sup>39</sup> See, the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) articles 2(state obligations), 3(equality of women and men), 4 (states of emergency and derogations), 6 ( right to not be arbitrarily deprived of life), 7 (freedom from torture and CID), 8 (freedom from slavery), 9( liberty and security of the person) , 10 (protection of dignity in detention) and 14 (equality before tribunals) , 15(non-retroactivity of crimes), 16 (right to be a persons before the law) and 17 (protection of privacy) in particular as well as the many General Comments which further elaborate these rights, especially GC 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30 and 31.

and informal access to rights and full participation in society in conflict affected settings of women accused of sex outside of marriage, entering into lesbian relationships, trans-women, women who have children fathered by men of an opposing group, women accused of exchanging sex for money, among others, would bring forward the concrete operation of intersectional discrimination in conflict settings.

## *2. Health Services & Sexual and Reproductive Rights*

During times of conflict, it is essential that obligations under the Convention on access to health under article 12 are upheld by States Parties. The Committee must require that States Parties ensure the provision of an access to a wide range of healthcare services for girls and women of all ages, in particular access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care.

Furthermore, given rampant sexual violence during conflict and post-conflict situations, it is imperative that girls and women of all ages are accorded the care required by their conditions. This includes, but is not limited to, the provision of emergency contraception, HIV prophylactics and the option of abortion services where applicable. Additionally, it is important to hold states to account where such services are denied based on conscientious objections. As stated by the committee in General Recommendation 24, where there are conscientious objections, States Parties are obligated to introduce measures “to ensure that women are referred to alternative health providers.”<sup>40</sup> It is important for CEDAW to affirm the need for these obligations to be met by all relevant states (host states of displaced populations, home states, and states whose international assistance sets the parameters of possible health services). While the imperative of sexual and reproductive services is starkly visible in cases of sexual violence, the public health study of conflict-affected women and girls makes clear that reproduction and sexual activity occur at all points of a conflict and the rights and health of women and girls must be protected throughout.<sup>41</sup>

## *3. Equality of women's participation in political processes around peace and conflict, and the need to affirm underlying rights to expression, association and information as well as nationhood and freedom from cultural stereotypes*

CEDAW, through its general recommendation 23 on political participation, has already stressed that “[m]any crucial decisions on global issues, such as peacemaking and conflict resolution, military expenditure and nuclear disarmament, development and the environment, foreign aid and economic restructuring, are taken with limited participation of women. This is in stark contrast to their participation in these areas at the non-governmental level” and that “The inclusion of a critical mass of women in international negotiations, peace-keeping activities, all levels of preventive diplomacy, mediation, humanitarian assistance, social reconciliation, peace negotiations and the international criminal justice system will make a difference. In addressing armed or other conflicts, a gender perspective and analysis is necessary to understand their differing effects on women and men.”

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<sup>40</sup> General Recommendation 24, para. 11.

<sup>41</sup> McGinn, Therese, Sara Casey, Susan Purdin, Mendy Marsh "Reproductive health for conflict-affected people: policies, research and programmes" Humanitarian Practice Network Overseas Development Institute London, 2004.

However, this integration has not been accomplished (see above, regarding the Security Council's call for renewed attention through its resolution 1325).

We stress here that not only can the new GR further elaborate state obligations in this direction, but also that it can address state obligations to remove barriers to underlying rights, without which women's participation in public life is impossible: rights to expression, information, and association. As noted in general recommendation 28, "The spirit of the Convention covers other rights, which are not explicitly mentioned in the Convention but which have an impact on the achievement of equality of women with men and which represent a form of discrimination against women ... [The] Convention anticipates the emergence of new forms of discrimination that had not been identified at the time of its drafting."<sup>42</sup> Many women face high barriers to participation in public life during and after conflict, thanks in part to political elites' references to sex-based stereotypes, and claims of tradition and culture to exclude or selectively allow only certain women's voices. Article 5 of CEDAW, coupled with underlying rights of information, expression and association are challenged here.<sup>43</sup>

In its new GR, CEDAW can stress the role that these rights play in women's participation. Moreover, as women's varied experiences have made clear, the underlying forms of discriminations which exclude women from political participation and participation in peace-building also face stateless women and women in diasporas (e.g., lack of people's rights to self-determination).<sup>44</sup>

Just as it is important to acknowledge women's diversity and intersectional identities during conflict, it is likewise vital to highlight the many ways women can participate in peace-building efforts. Because times of transition and post-conflict are fluid and often lengthy, women's participation in security sector and judicial reform is necessary to ensure long-lasting gender equality. Having women active and visible in their country's reconstruction can help combat gender stereotypes and rights infringements that often result from calls to return to tradition in the aftermath of conflict. Moreover, it helps draw continued attention to women's rights as post-conflict transitions from agreement to implementation, or from peace processes to constitution building.

#### *4. Small arms/militarism as a cross-cutting issue*

The Committee may wish to further consider the impact of militarism in the scope of its GR. Militarism can be defined as the "the willingness on the part of states to realize their policies through deliberate and organized use of physical force".<sup>45</sup> It contributes to the promotion of violence, as it requires the use of force against the enemy, and has effects on general human rights and specifically on women and girls, both in times of war and peace. In some countries, participation in armed forces is only permitted to men, which leaves those women participating in militaries vulnerable to discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual violence (articles 1, 2, and 7).

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<sup>42</sup> See CEDAW, Article 2. See also CEDAW Committee General Recommendation 28 [para. 7-8].

<sup>43</sup> The Global Consultation on the Application of Women's Human Rights Framework on the Issues of Women Affected by Conflict convened by International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific together with partner organizations in Colombo, Sri Lanka October 15-17, 2010. [*Hereinafter* Global Consultation Report].

<sup>44</sup> Global Consultation

<sup>45</sup> Collen Burke, Women and Militarism available at [www.wilpfinternational.org/publications/womenmilitarism.htm](http://www.wilpfinternational.org/publications/womenmilitarism.htm)

Governments' decisions regarding military spending affect funding for all other sectors. Questions relating to the relationship between militarism and barriers to the enjoyment of women's rights must be asked. The Committee should make states aware that the possibility of militarism arises not only from government and military bodies, but also through the proliferation of small arms. It can be argued that small arms are linked to a militarized conception of citizenship<sup>46</sup> and therefore contribute to an increase of violence, ultimately exacerbating existing violence against women. As regulations and controls for the trade in small arms are lacking in many countries, small arms often fall into the hands of human rights violators.<sup>47</sup> While young males are the common perpetrators and victims,<sup>48</sup> women and girls are vulnerable to violence and the automatic subordination by men in possession of arms. It is crucial to address these gender roles when analyzing the effect of small arms if solutions for women who tend to be victims in the indirect long-term consequences are to be found.<sup>49</sup>

## 5. *Women and culture (Article 5)*

In developing the new general recommendation on conflict and post-conflict settings, we encourage the Committee to emphasize the importance of Article 5 and the need to question States as to the deployment of cultural stereotypes around gender both during and after conflict in ways that limit women's opportunities and leave them vulnerable to further violations of their rights. The damage caused by cultural stereotypes about acceptable roles of women in society is a cross-cutting issue that intersects with all other rights. The ability of women and girls to access health, attain equality before the law, seek and maintain meaningful employment, achieve economic sufficiency, are all hampered when cultural stereotypes based on gender regulate their lives.

Throughout conflict and during the transitional and post-conflict periods, cultural stereotypes around 'good women' of the nation, group or clan can be used to emphasize national or ethnic identity, or as a symbol of peace and return to normalcy. Women may be forced or coerced into embodying such stereotypes or may face rights violations due to the reimplementation of traditional systems of law and governance. For example, women in countries in the transition or post-conflict stage have been forced into marriages, excluded from forms of employment newly obtained during conflict, and pressured to give up status such as head-of-household or wage earner in order to symbolize the community's return to peace. A general recommendation on conflict and post-conflict settings should emphasize that culture or tradition cannot provide justification for the violation of women's rights, or for substantive inequality in a society.

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<sup>46</sup> Jacklyn Cock, Rethinking Militarism in Post-Apartheid South Africa <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/28221/1/WP43.pdf>.

<sup>47</sup> 5 April 2011 Report of the Secretary General to the Security Council on Small Arms S/2011/255 available at <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/289/72/PDF/N1128972.pdf?OpenElement>, page 2 para 6.

<sup>48</sup> 5 April 2011 Report of the Secretary General to the Security Council on Small Arms S/2011/255 available at <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/289/72/PDF/N1128972.pdf?OpenElement>, page 11 para 52.

<sup>49</sup> Mainstreaming Gender for Effective Implementation of UN PoA Updated Guidelines, June 2010, page 4 available at <http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/gender/docs/Mainstreaming%20gender%20for%20effective%20implementation%20ofUN%20PoA%20-%20Updated%20guidelines%20-%20UNODA-RDB%20and%20IANSA%20-%20June%202010.pdf>



### III. METHODOLOGY – NEW FORMS and NEW ENGAGEMENTS

In developing this new GR, the Committee may want to consider further developing specific methodologies grappling with the contemporary realities of conflict. This includes meeting the challenges of engaging with the entirety of actors contributing to conflict and peace (multiple states, and non-state actors, such as armed groups, corporations, occupation forces, UN entities, etc.) and utilizing and contributing gender expertise to the current panoply of UN processes responding to conflict. Creative methods could include:

- Engaging with the Women, Peace and Security processes. For example, the Committee could share and receive information from UN agencies on reporting states, such as the global indicators tracking key issues in Security Council resolutions on women and conflict;
- Issuing statements and joining consultations on substantive issues arising in conflict-related processes within the UN, especially in regard to challenging issues (i.e., rights of women without states, the scope of human rights obligations under occupation, and building accountability for trade, aid and loan processes for their effects on conflict and on women's rights in those settings);
- To consider *dossiers on conflict* with information obtained by UN agencies and as supported by credible information from civil society on the range of state and non-state actors playing key roles. These dossiers could be made available to the Committee and its country rapporteurs in particular. This way, donor countries, states facilitating peace processes, troop contributing nations, and other states who play additional roles in conflict and who report under CEDAW, can be tracked through the monitoring process and asked questions relating to their extra-territorial and international policies and practices affecting women's rights in conflicts in third countries.

In addition, we recommend the Committee to consider the following measures.

Under the processes put in place by Article 18 of the Convention, the Committee can develop questions for States on their international obligations, including ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC, the Refugee Convention and its Protocol, and the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols as well as human rights treaties such as the CRC Protocol on Child Soldiers which have particular relevance to conflict and the rights of girls and women.

Moreover, under the article 18 process, States Parties need to elaborate on prevention and response tactics and what strategies are being used as solutions. Questions can include those that push states to provide information on the military budget, particularly in comparison to the budget provided for gender programs or measures and regulations provided for the control of small arms; measures to combat sexual violence, trafficking and prostitution; programs to advance equality in the military; or the implementation of SCR 1325.

UN system-wide coherence, efficient information sharing, and open channels of communication are critical to conflict prevention and the realization of women's rights in conflict and post-conflict settings. The systematic collection of information and data about women in conflict by all actors is vital to conflict prevention work. Thus, the integration of existing mechanisms to avoid duplications and ensure enhanced effectiveness – including sharing of information between the CEDAW

Committee, UN entities portfolios, UN Country-Teams and the ongoing work of the Security Council – must be considered.

Furthermore, both national and international systems should be seen as integrated. There are several information systems currently under development, including: the proposed set of global indicators for monitoring implementation of SCR 1325 (per SCR 1889 (2009)); a ten-year strategic framework to guide the UN's implementation of SCR 1325 (per PRST/2010/22); a proposed new monitoring mechanism on sexual violence in conflict (per SCR 1960 (2010)); and policy developments related to women's participation in peacebuilding with the adoption of the 7-point Action Plan on Women and Peacebuilding. Accordingly, the general recommendation should specifically define how the Committee plans to engage with these inter-agency processes on women, peace and security so as to maximize coordination and improve the ability of the Committee to obtain relevant information for state reviews.

To strengthen its ability to review and comment on the actions of States Parties as they relate to various stages of conflict and post-conflict, the Committee can make use of information generated by states for other Treaty Bodies and international agencies. Harmonized guidelines for reporting under international human rights treaties were adopted at the fifth Inter-sessional Human Rights Committee meeting in 2006. These guidelines help to ensure that information produced by States can more easily be reviewed by all Treaty bodies, allowing for better examination of intersecting issues. CEDAW should consult and refer to the reports generated for other Treaty Bodies in developing questions for States both in and out of conflict.

#### **JUDITH GORDON – IAW representative in New York**

1. Elected Office: I am now an elected member at large on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Mental Health.
2. NGO Committees: Given our Division of Labor, I attend the following NGO Committee meetings: NGO Committee On Mental Health: I participate in meetings of the Executive committee and Our, Working Group on Mental Health, Racism and Related Intolerances of which I am co-convenor I also attend the Program meetings of the NGO Committee on Mental Health, NGO Committee. NGO Committee on Ageing: I attend the membership meetings. NGO Committee on Human Rights: I attend the membership meetings and those of the subcommittee on Racism. This Committee has also convened special briefings such as that provided by a Committee addressing the problems of NGO access to the UN, NYC. NGO Committee on Women. Soon-Young is of course our main representative to the NGO CSW of which she is the chair. : I have followed the work of the NGO CSW Subcommittee on Older women both at meetings and on line During CSW 2011, I attended the NGO CSW event to which Soon refers in her report which our President introduced. I also follow the work of the NGO Migration Committee. During the Commission on Sustainable Development, I attended a joint program of the NGO CMH and NGO Sustainable development. I have forwarded relevant programs and statements circulated by these NGO Committees for possible IAW co-sponsorship or signature to our President, Secretariat and Main representative, in accord with IAW guidelines. Copies of the statements and programs, which IAW co-sponsored or signed, are in IAW records.
3. UN/NYC Activities: I was one of the IAW representatives to the 2011 CSW and spoke at our parallel event: Access to Education, Science Technology, Decent jobs and Civil Rights. I also attended a UN HQ launch of the UNESCO report on Children and Armed Conflict held at Columbia University as an IAW/NY rep. I have attended both NGO briefings of the NYC OHCHR. To supplement Soon-Young's report, I would like to note that, at its meeting CEDAW once again addressed the AIDS pandemic this year. Recalling GR 15, CEDAW has

continued to direct its attention to the need to eliminate the discrimination against women of all ages whose lives and social worlds are still affected by the continuing AIDS pandemic. Ms. Pramila Patten, Member and Chair of CEDAW Working Group on women in conflict and post-conflict situations has noted that the CEDAW Committee would continue to hold more consultations at all levels, including in the regions before the adoption of the General Recommendation on women in conflict and post-conflict situation. This procedure will give IAW, its affiliates and associates continuing opportunities to contribute to the development of this resolution not only at the UN but in the regions where CEDAW will solicit input from all levels including NGO's.

I had an opportunity to follow the impact of CEDAW GR 27 as an accredited IAW observer of the second session of the GA Opened Ended Working Group on Strengthening The Protection of Human Rights Of Older pPersons. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of this high level working group took place at UN HQ from August 1-4, 2010. I discuss this in more detail in my separate report on older women as the work of this group specifically addressed the need to strengthen protection of the human rights of older women who are predicted to make up the majority of the world's population over 60 by the year.

I regret that due to a major Hurricane here, I did not receive the IAW NY Report from Soon- Young prior to its submission and could not make input into it we planned. I thank her for her suggestion that I supplement her report in my own report. I will be pleased to I bring the reports of other IAW reps to the Board Meeting in Iceland as she has suggested.

## **Report UN Vienna**

IAW in observer status with

### **I. UN Office on Drugs and Crime:** Ensuring security and justice for all

Representatives:

**Rosy Weiss, main**

Daniela Reiter, additional

Renée Gérard, additional

Tanja Gönye, additional

We follow the work of the

a) UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including its protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

UN:Gift: United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

UN Crime Congresses

b) UN Convention against Corruption

Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption

**II. United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO):** Providing a platform for agents of progress and women's entrepreneurship.

**Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women**

Rosy Weiss, chairperson from 2006 to 2010, Daniela Reiter, Bureau member.

**Report Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)**

The 37<sup>th</sup> session of FAO's Conference took place in Rome from 25 June to 2 July 2011. This year's

main theme was particular relevant to IAW: "The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, Closing the Gender Gap for Development". Hon. President Rosy Weiss therefore joined Permanent Representative to FAO Bettina Corke, in order to act in accordance with IAW principles and in favour of an increased visibility of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs).

In our statement we linked the outcome of the excellent **FAO** report on „Women in Agriculture – Closing the Gender Gap for Development“<sup>50</sup>, to **UNIDO**'s report on „Agribusiness for Africa's Prosperity“<sup>51</sup>, presented only days prior to the FAO Conference to the Industrial Development Board meeting in Vienna . In doing so we endorsed UNIDO's conclusion that the „recognition and exploitation of small holder farms as agribusinesses regardless their size and scale may be a first step so that they may no longer remain trapped in a circle of subsistence“. We also linked the implementation of MDG 1 and 3 to CEDAW art.14 and the relevant sections of the Beijing Platform for Action. At the same time our statement represents IAW's position to next year's session of the Commission on the Status of Women (27 February to 9 March) main theme „the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges“. All this is very much in line with preparations towards Rio+20 (the assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the World Conference on Environment and Development, 1992 in Rio de Janeiro) in 2012, where the vital role of farmers is outlined in chapter 32.<sup>52</sup>

### **Important information:**

The Conference took note of a proposal by the Philippines to declare an International Year of Family Farming and adopted the following Resolution:

### **International Year of Family Farming 2014**

#### **Resolution 16/2011 *International Year of Family Farming***

##### **THE CONFERENCE,**

**Noting** that family farming is the basis of sustainable food production aimed towards food security,  
**Recalling** that more than 3 billion people live in the countryside and that 2.5 billion of these women and men are farmers,

**Desiring** to focus world attention on the role that family farming could play in providing food security and poverty alleviation of the population,

**Believing** that family farming is much more than an agrarian economic model: it is the nuclear unit for the environmental management of land and its biodiversity, the fountain of important cultural dimensions of each people and, all things considered, a fundamental pillar of the integral development of all nations.

**Recognizing** that the progressive deterioration in farming income and its effects on rural economies is causing the disappearance of many family farms due to the migrations to the cities.

**Believing** also that such a celebration would create a unique opportunity to develop means, which would assure in the medium and long term, a prosperous and sustainable family agriculture development in the rural and fishing areas on all the continents, especially, in the developing countries.

**Affirming** the need to heighten public awareness on the interrelationship between family farming, poverty, food security, and nutrition:

**Requests** the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the United Nations declare the Year 2014 as the International Year of

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50 ISSN 0081-4539, FAO 2011

51 UNIDO ID/440

52 Eath Summit Agenda 21, UN Sales No. E.91.I.11

Family Farming.  
(Adopted on 2 July 2011)

## UNESCO

Renée Gérard, Monique Bouaziz, Danielle Lévy  
Déléguées à l'UNESCO Paris

Comité sur les Organisations Internationales Non Gouvernementales du Conseil Exécutif de l'UNESCO

Le comité directeur sur les OING a tenu sa 186<sup>ème</sup> session à l'UNESCO les jeudi 5 et vendredi 6 mai 2011

Il était présidé par Monsieur Amir Ezzat SALAMA (Egypte ) Président du Comité des OING du Conseil Exécutif assisté de Monsieur Eric FALT, Sous Directeur Général pour les relations extérieures et l'Information, Représentant de la Directrice Générale de l'UNESCO.-

### **Jeudi 5 mai : Table ronde sur «l'impact social et humain des migrations internationales ».**

Dans la matinée ont été considérés les aspects politiques, économiques et environnementaux des migrations alors que dans l'après midi Droits humains et traite des êtres humains fut mis en évidence

Pour souligner l'impact international des migrations ,des panelistes de Thaïlande, d'Irlande , du Canada ,d'Australie, de Mexico,de Bangkok ,du Sri Lanka, de Malaisie, de Beyrouth et deux ONG du Liban ont participé soit directement soit par visioconférence

Mr FALT en soulignant que le coût des déplacements empêche de nombreux pays du Sud, de participer , indique qu'on aura recours de plus en plus aux visioconférences pour obtenir leur intervention et souligne que cela va dans le sens de l'utilisation des technologies de la communication ( TICs) demandée par tous à l'UNESCO.

La migration a toujours fait partie de notre monde mais à l'heure actuelle ses dimensions et ses perspectives ont changé. Si on migre toujours, pour des raisons économiques et sociales, vers les villes et les pays à forte consommation de main-d'œuvre, les migrations transnationales et urbaines sont aujourd'hui souvent dues aux aléas climatiques, à l'exportation par des réseaux criminels, aux conflits et ces temps derniers à l'évolution politique de certains pays . Ces déplacements, outre les problèmes humains qu'ils posent, ont des impacts importants aussi bien sur les pays d'origine que sur les pays receveurs.

#### ***Impacts positifs:***

Accroissement du PNB par l'apport de main-d'œuvre (souvent non qualifiée)dans l'économie et l'agriculture

Elèvement du niveau culturel du pays d'origine grâce aux migrants venus comme étudiants et qui retournent dans leurs pays d'origine munis d'un bagage propre a aider le pays

#### ***Impacts négatifs:***

Coûts exorbitants pour les pays d'origine, non compensés par les transferts d'argent envoyé aux familles par ceux qui travaillent à l'étranger

Criminalité et trafic d'êtres humains.( esclavage, prostitution ) Il est à noter que si nombres de pays ont ratifié le protocole sur la Traite des êtres humains, les estimations sur le nombre de gens déplacés de cette façon n'ont pas changé. car la lutte contre ce fléau ne vient qu'en troisième position après drogue et produits illicites d'une part et les armes d'autre part.

#### Problèmes potentiels des relations avec les pays voisins

Les grandes multinationales externalisent la production vers les pays où la main d'œuvre est bon marché d'où précarité du travail de ces populations autrefois mieux acceptées. Le travail est de plus en plus bon marché en raison d'un surplus de main-d'œuvre, d'où vulnérabilité de ces populations (santé, expulsions..) qui sont soumises à l'arbitraire surtout pour celles sans papiers.

Désertification des grands espaces due au fait qu'on a tenté d'immobiliser les nomades

*Des mesures* sont nécessaires pour *encadrer ces migrations*, inéluctables vue la mondialisation, afin qu'elles soient mieux réussies et pour traiter les migrants en situation irrégulière comme des êtres humains et non en tant qu'irréguliers. Il faut :

Voir comment les *intégrer à la société* avec efforts pour faciliter l'accès à leurs droits,

*Eduquer* pour faire disparaître mythes et idées fausses qui alimentent la xénophobie.

Revoir *l'idée de la citoyenneté* notamment dans le contexte de la migration.

*Des accords de coopération entre les pays d'origine et d'accueil* pour:

Une gestion intégrée des flux migratoires

La prévention , la poursuite de la justice, l'aide aux victimes.

Eliminer les barrières qui existent entre des peuples élevés dans des systèmes différents, des langages différents ( la première génération d'une population qui migre va utiliser sa langue d'origine). D'autre part ils ont besoin d'un interprétariat de bonne qualité sous peine de voir nier leurs droits par suite d'une mauvaise traduction.

*Des systèmes éducatifs* intégrant l'éducation à la différence et à la tolérance, avec formation de qualité pour les enseignants et les étudiants

Tout ceci demande l'engagement des gouvernements mais aussi de la société civile donc bien sûr des O.N.G, ainsi que du secteur privé.

La ratification des conventions internationales par tous les états (42 états ont ratifié et 30 ont signé mais pas ratifié la Convention des Nations Unies sur la protection des droits des migrants.)

*Des financements* pour mettre en oeuvre tout cela car le bénévolat est insuffisant

**En Afrique** (plutôt « les Afriques » : 54 états avec chacun leur spécificité), toujours une des priorités de l'UNESCO

Importance des conflits sur la migration (réfugiés, déplacés, enfants migrants sans éducation et fragilisés, souvent avec des problèmes de santé)

Problème du travail des enfants ; de la pratique du « confiage » des enfants sous prétexte d'éducation religieuse, où ils sont exploités et souvent frappés sans accès à leurs droits sociaux et économiques

À Dakar on peut noter une tendance à la féminisation des migrations. La vulnérabilité augmente et il n'y a pas d'égalité de rémunération au travail. Pas de systèmes de protection en dépit des conventions ratifiées. Des femmes meurent tous les jours du sida, de maladies et d'usure

L'Afrique est pour le retour des Africains en Afrique, mais comment les inciter à rester s'il n'y a pas de service public . Il y a fuite des cerveaux nécessaires à l'Afrique. De plus ils sont sous - rémunérés en Europe. L'émigration est nécessaire (argent de la diaspora) mais l'Afrique doit se construire avec ses fils.

Nécessité de concertation entre les pays du Nord et du Sud

### **Vendredi 6 Mai, Relations entre les OING et l'UNESCO :**

La première partie de la journée a été consacrée au renouvellement des relations entre les ONG et l'UNESCO .Nous ont été présentées 15 O.N.G et deux fondations. Renouvelant leurs relations avec l'UNESCO . 13 ont été admises en relations officielles

La seconde partie de la journée, beaucoup plus *politique* a posé des problèmes de fond sur les relations des OING avec l'UNESCO., ainsi qu' entre l' UNESCO et la société civile dans son ensemble .

L'UNESCO veut à la fois faire participer un *plus grand nombre de pays* à son travail et également s' ouvrir plus largement à *d'autres partenaires* que les ONG membres de la commission actuelle: autres O.N.G, notamment celles des pays en développement, parlementaires, acteurs de la sphère privée

Le Président de la Conférence des OING Mr Bernard Loing a fait une importante intervention soulignant l'apport des OING et le fait qu'une très large définition de la société civile est parfois à « géométrie variable » Il a insisté auprès des Etats sur le rôle que jouent les ONG. Elles sont véritablement des acteurs majeurs.Nombreuses interventions des délégués des états lors de la recommandation finale qui « souligne le rôle très important des ONG dans la promotion de la culture pour le développement durable , la diversité culturelle et la prospérité économique et rappelle la nécessité d'accroître la diversité de la société civile et la constitution de partenariats pour faciliter la contribution de la diffusion des objectifs de l'UNESCO ». Cette recommandation a failli ne pas être adoptée et sera finalisée dans les jours qui viennent. Elle a été l'objet d'une discussion animée qui s'est poursuivie pendant une heure au-delà du temps prévu car la Lettonie soutenue par le Venezuela estimait que le thème « Lutte contre la violence dans le monde d' aujourd'hui », choisi par l'Egypte présidente du Comité sur les ONG, pour la prochaine session (187ème) avait besoin d'être rediscutée par l'ensemble du Comité. Elle proposait un débat sur le renforcement du Comité sur les O.N.G. pour renforcer *l'action* de celui-ci. Elle pensait qu'il est nécessaire de discuter de la stratégie qui peut renforcer la coopération, d'avoir une plate-forme de discussion entre les O.N.G, les états membres, le secrétariat et les autres parties prenantes de la société civile. Elle estimait qu'il est nécessaire d'avoir une discussion formelle afin de suivre les directives sur le travail fait par les O.N.G. Elle pensait donc qu'il faut discuter pour décider de l'orientation future du travail commun, aussi le Comité a décidé que la 187ème session aura pour thème « la diversité des pratiques en matière de partenariat entre la société civile et l'UNESCO »

## **FAO**

Bettina Corke gave an oral statement at the FAO Conference 2011. It is to be found in IWN Vol 1. Cf. report from Rosy Weiss (above)

## **Washington Group for the ICC 2011 Activity Report.**

Susanne Riveles , August 2, 2011

I continued representing IAW in the monthly meeting of the Washington Working Group on the International Criminal Court (WICC). The WICC is part of a nationwide group, The Friends of the ICC , to which I belonged while working in New York as the Human Rights Director for Church World Service . Many other NGO's are members of this entity which on the one hand follows the developments in the Hague and on the other tries to positively engage the US government and both Houses of the Legislature with the matters relevant to the ICC. The WICC group in Washington DC is part of a larger advocacy group the "Citizens for Global Solutions". It is a well respected advocacy group whose members include among others Amnesty International USA, the US Holocaust Museum, Congressional Research Service, the Save Darfur Coalition, the Friends Service Committee on National Legislation , Physicians for Human Rights, the Open Society Institute and for over three years also IAW.

Meetings are held once a month and always include an update on the courts developments and US government's potential legislation and its bearing on the developments at the ICC. An example is the recent recognition of the rebel forces in Libya and the warrant issued on Colonel Muhamar Khadafi. A strategy to advocate on these issues is discussed and then followed. Global Solutions members lobby by meeting with selected US Congress Representatives and sometimes also with other government officials. .

Besides policy discussions and updates we almost always have representatives from the Hague as speakers and /or prominent people from the US who come to speak after they have been attending meetings at the ICC in the Hague , Libya or Sudan or other ICC related places.and meetings.

Currently the ICC is searching for a new Prosecutor. The search committee has identified 26 candidates but only 5 of them are women. Amnesty International has put out a call for more women candidates. IAW should join in this call and search for women candidates we could recommend to the search committee at the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties .

For the last three years I attended the WICC monthly meetings in Washington DC and participated in the discussions representing the IAW. I intend to continue this activity, and when my other work permits I hope to report regularly on the developments of the ICC seen from the US.

## **COMMUNICATIONS ET AL.**

### **Priscilla Todd Editor International Women's News**

The production of International Women's News has survived after a difficult year during which our nice printer, Rolf Egger who many of you met in Switzerland, could not be contacted and, sadly, we have not heard from him since early in the year. He had moved again and there had been communication problems and when I telephoned his number on several occasions I could only hear a recorded message in German. Both Rosy, and Jessika who very kindly found Mr Egger originally, also tried to contact him without success. Imagine my surprise when I tried yet again and a woman, who spoke English, answered. All she knew was that he had moved away so I can only think that his business failed.



I talked to Rosy about this problem and she quickly found RehaDruck in Graz, Austria. This is the same sort of printing organisation that Mr Egger was running when we firstly met him. They run a commercial printing business and at the same time provide training to young people with special needs. I have found the young women there extremely pleasant to deal with and everything is done well and efficiently.

BUT this continues to be a big expense for the Alliance – the last edition cost a total of 1,386.69 Euro. That is made up of - €592,44 for the production, €668,19 for the mailing and €126,06 = 10% tax. And we are paying that amount 3 times a year.

We are not a big or wealthy organisation and, sadly, a lot of our affiliates and associates don't always pay on time so cashflow is always an ongoing problem. And publication of IWNews is our biggest cost.

So how can we continue to produce and distribute International Women's News? We certainly don't want to see it vanish after such a proud history of being in publication since 1906! In recent years I have put forward the idea of publishing on-line – something many other organisations do these days. I also recognise the fact that we still have members who do not have access to a computer and much prefer to have a printed magazine (hard copy) that they can feel and hold. And we also have to think about all the copies that go to government agencies and libraries.

I am very keen to find a solution to save on costs and at the same time keep all our members happy. My recommendation is that as a first step the Board:

- Supports publishing the magazine on-line and authorises the Communications team to send out a News Flash about this.
- Strongly encourage members, and particularly our Collectors in various countries, to find out who really needs a 'hard' copy of the magazine. (a)
- Calls for offers from Individual Members who would be willing to print out one or two or more copies for those members who need a hard copy. (a)
- Requests IAW representatives to check with their governmental and other organisations if online editions can be emailed and list the emails addresses. (b)

- (a) Lists of both these groups of members can be made and then each member who is willing to print can be put in touch with the member they are going to help.

*Note* This also will provide useful communication channels in line with our Taskforce plans that were Introduced at Congress last year.

- (b) This will allow us to send IWNews to many more departments and organisations, thus publicising the Alliance to a much wider audience.

I will investigate with Pat Richardson how we can satisfy the Libraries that are on our mailing list. And here again, if we can send by email, then we can broaden our audience to many more libraries.

If this can all be started in the coming year, I suggest that a recommendation go to the International Meeting in 2012, that the new system go into operation at the start of 2013 and formal ratification be made by the next Congress in 2013.

We also faced a couple of other problems during the past year – my health has not been so good although I hasten to say it is nothing really serious, just a persistent cough which has come and gone several times and the current bout is widespread in southern Australia. It is being called ‘the 100 days cough’! As well, our French Editor, Mathilde Duval, was ill for a while, then she moved and was without a computer.

You will see from the last edition that Mathilde is back with us and I would like to extend my thanks to her for her work. It is particularly good to have some original articles from a young woman. And I record my very special thanks to Rosy who has been a tremendous help with proof reading as well as providing a lot of text in both English and French.

I hope this will explain why the production of International Women’s News has been so erratic over the last year or so. The next edition is now on the drawing board and it will be completed by mid-October. Before then I expect to receive stories and reports from Iceland and also some good photographs suitable for the magazine. So that means YOU sitting now in Iceland – I need your help!

I am planning to have the third and final edition for the year ready for publication in mid December. Please send me articles photos – in English and in French – little bits of news or a whole page of text and please remember to also send photographs.

Perhaps I should explain again that I regard IWNews as an overview of news and commentary about the current year which can be a small archive about the Alliance and other events for that year. The e-Newsletter on the other hand is topical, telling us about what is happening now. I have the greatest admiration for Joke who unfailingly puts the e-newsletter together each month. It is a big task and, while I know she enjoys doing it, it takes up a lot of her time. As her proof reader and sub-editor I am lucky enough to read all that news ahead of everyone else!

I’m really sad not to be there with you. I had been telling everyone about my forthcoming trip to Iceland, a place I’ve long hoped to visit. So now I’m hoping to have a short side trip there next time I am in Europe.

I wish you all a very successful and productive meeting and hope we can meet up in 2012.



## **Report IAW Newsletter November 2010-July 2011**

### **Joke Sebus**

The electronic newsletter reaches more than 500 IAW members and friends in 60 countries by e-mail.

It is always put up promptly on the IAW website by web-master Sanja Scharf, which is appreciated very much! In a yellow rectangle with 'Recent updates', to be found at the bottom of the starting page.

From November 2010 till July 2011 we have mailed a newsletter every month. A team that consists of Priscilla Todd (editing), Pat Richardson (administration) and myself (composing) is taking care of the process. We keep the lay-out very simple in black and white, so it will be easy to open for all.



The content is kept as actual and concise as possible, on 6 pages.

In January 2011 we have sent around a News Flash:

\* on the Statement by UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon on the Human Right Council, followed by a Statement of NGO representatives. IAW was represented by Hélène Sackstein  
In March 2011 we mailed around a Talking Point on:

\* UN AIDS. Women are so often the innocent victims of this virus and can unknowingly pass it on to their children, thus perpetuating the suffering in another generation. The content was prepared by Gudrun Haupter and Joke Sebus.

We also have sent around three Action Sheets:

\* in April our affiliate in Greece has taken firm lobbying action for gender equality, calling for women's direct involvement in the political change taking place in Egypt.

\* in June a IAW motion was accepted unanimously by the European Women's Lobby on:  
NCD Civil Society hearings - 16 June at the UN General Assembly in New York  
With a report from Soon-Young Yoon, NGO/CSW/NY Executive Chair

\* in July on an emergency motion at the EWL on the role of women in the democratic transformation of their societies in the Middle East and North Africa. by Joanna Manganara. At the same time, Anje Wiersinga was the motor behind the same subject at the Council of Europe.

We always try to focus on news from:

- \* *CEDAW - the Commission on the Status of Women - the Human Rights Council - the Security Council*
- \* *the UN, UN Women*
- \* *women in parliamentary chambers and in leadership positions*
- \* *climate change, the role of women in the environment, sustainable development*
- \* *the discussion of the MDGs and in particular Goal 3 and 5*
- \* *the evaluation of ten years of resolution 1325 and the peace and security processes*
- \* *the action of Women Unite, for decreasing violence against women*
- \* *also on health, with the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, etc.*
- \* *and why some countries and organisations are against proposals for reproductive health and reproductive rights for women.*

Priscilla Todd has again done a marvellous job editing all the newsletters I mail her. She edits my Dutchy English expressions and puts in poignant headers.

Pat Richardson has been patiently writing members whose e-mails suddenly bounces. E-mail addresses can change, quota can get exceeded and computers can crash. So, many thanks for both my team mates for their support during 2010/2011.

I also kindly thank all the IAW members who have been sending interesting articles and actual news. In particular Anjana Basu from India, who is sending me several articles every month!

**WEBSITE [www.womenalliance.org](http://www.womenalliance.org)**

The biggest change in the website has been the retirement of our first webmaster and long-time friend of the IAW, Trevor Bennett. Since the IAW has had a website, he has been patient, creative and responsive to suggestions, realizing plans and guiding me in my baby-steps as Web Content Manager after 2007.

The search for a replacement was difficult since there was no candidate within the ranks of the IAW (that I was able to locate). Fortunately, I had other connections and a posting on the “Help Wanted” section of the LinkedIn Mensa Group produced a young energetic successor with experience in the field, albeit, none with our particular programme.

Please welcome Sanja Scharf, currently Web Content Manager for Nutricia, Danone Medical Nutrition with a degree in Food Technology and some international experience. She is multilingual and took on this volunteer position because the topic of women’s rights interested her. Besides having an active professional life, she is the single mother of two children. She can be contacted at [webwizard@womenalliance.org](mailto:webwizard@womenalliance.org)

Soon I hope to realize my plan to reorganize our UN representatives’ page to make a more relevant space for the reports the representatives so kindly send to me.

My entries in IWA’s blog have slowed to a crawl as the only comments received on the various issues are those of spammers. What I had hoped would be a place where the issues could be discussed among our far-flung membership, has turned out to be an isolation chamber.

**IAW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY’S REPORT**

[iaw.membership@westnet.com.au](mailto:iaw.membership@westnet.com.au) or [iaw.membership@womenalliance.org](mailto:iaw.membership@womenalliance.org)

It gives me great pleasure to present my fifteenth Annual Report as Membership Secretary. As most of you know, the administration of the IAW is done by volunteers working from their own

computers, photocopiers and homes at different ends of the earth...At the moment, our President, Lyda Verstegen, lives in The Netherlands and our Secretary-General, Lene Pind, in Denmark, and our Treasurer, Inge Jonsdottir in Iceland and Joke Sebus, the Editor of the monthly email newsletter, in the Netherlands and Priscilla Todd, the editor of ‘The International Women’s News’ in Melbourne in Australia.

My duties keep me busy for many hours every week, and I view myself as the International switchboard, contacting and answering people, mainly by e-mail, ...I endeavour to reply immediately to inquiries as I am ‘on-line’ all day.

My duties also involve keeping the master files up-to-date on my computer, plus I keep extra files for the use of the Regional Directors, lists of our libraries, life members and ‘freebees’. As you can imagine, all this keeps me busy...I would like to thank all those IAW members, who let me know their changes of address, (not only postal, but email), and, especially those members who act as the Collectors in various countries, who keep me up to date on our individual members whereabouts and payments... I e-mail copies of the updated master files to the President, Secretary and Treasurer after every major update for their information and use. I also send a back-up copy to Priscilla Todd in Melbourne as an extra safety precaution.



For the last three years, I have taken back the task of looking after and updating the Excel listing of the names and addresses of our members for our new Printers in Austria to post out 'The International Women's News'. Alison Brown, our wonderful Web content manager, has devised a new system for this part of the administration. Our journal goes to 470 postal addresses...and, as Affiliates, Board members, Collectors and UN reps get extra copies, 357 copies are mailed out to them and there are 386 single copies being mailed ...making a total of 740 copies of the IWN being posted.

Since 1998, I have worked very closely with Joke Sebus, the Editor of our very successful monthly email newsletter, in searching the world for our member's email addresses. We are in almost daily contact with each other. From a handful of email addresses in 1998, we now have hundreds of email addresses for our members, kept on a confidential list.

I also am the contact for our Subscription libraries and the Library Suppliers...and in this capacity, I answer their queries and supply any back copies of the IWN they claim for.

At our Congress in South Africa, I signed up thirty-three new individual members...this involved a great deal of paperwork...I hope they will stay financial...as it is extremely difficult for individual members to pay their subs unless their country has a Collector...I did suggest that new individual members joining at a Congress should pay for three years...I would hope the Board will see my reason for this recommendation. Many organisations charge a fee for the paper work involved putting new people up on all their different files...and I feel we should do this too.

### ***Secretary General Lene Pind***

#### **Congress 2010**

I am sorry that I was unable to attend Congress in South Africa in 2010. I thank Alison for stepping in so quickly and taking over my duties, so that everything went smoothly. The fact that I wasn't there has made it a bit more difficult to follow up on what happened at Congress. However, I hope that most things have been done the way they should.

#### **Accreditations**

One of my most important jobs is to get our international representatives accredited to the different UN Missions and other international bodies. Where the UN is concerned, this has become much easier after an on-line accreditation system has been introduced.

#### **ECOSOC Report**

Every four years, IAW like other NGOs accredited to ECOSOC, has to submit a report on our activities over the past 4 years. To get all that information together, give it a format that is acceptable to the UN, and finally insert it into the database on the UN website is a huge and rather complicated job. One reason is that a secretary general will generally only do this once in her term of office, which means that next time it will again be a new thing. I think we have to find a way to prepare this better.

#### **Communications within IAW**

The secretariat is a centre of communications in IAW. At least that is how I see it. But I still think that there is too little communication with our members, individuals as well as organizations. We need to improve in this respect. I can see from the reports from regional vice presidents and

coordinators that I have received that generally our members are silent- also when they are contacted in their region. Do we have any suggestions as to how we can change this? Perhaps the secretariat and the regional coordinators/ vice presidents could work more closely together, so that when I send some sort of information to a member organization, I cc the regional coordinator, so that perhaps she could follow up on that.

### **The amount of work of the secretary general**

I have been told that Congress decided that we should all make a report of how many hours we do IAW work, so that this could be included in our accounts. I gave up on that after a few days, but I think that on an average I sit at my computer doing IAW work for 20 - 25 hours a week. I don't know what that would mean in money. I believe that others work a similar number of hours. Is there a way in which we could share the work better? Could we e.g. have an assistant secretary general? She might either be the person who has finished her term, or it might be a way of recruiting the next secretary general. Similarly I think that the executive vice presidents could take over some of the work of the president. I don't know whether this is actually possible in real life, but let us at least consider it.

### **Thanks**

Thanks once again to Danielle Levy for her help in translating. She often works at a very short notice.

### **Good fun**

**In spite of the many hours, being secretary general is good fun and in many ways rewarding. However, it is also nerve wrecking, especially when people don't observe deadlines or don't give me the information that I need.**



August 1, 2011 /

## **MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **REPORT OF MMABATHO FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT:- JULY 2011**

#### **1. 35<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF IAW**

Mmabatho Foundation hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> Congress of IAW at Birchwood hotel in South Africa. The Congress was officially opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Honourable..... The Congress was a success due to the partnership with the Department of Public Works, Department of Health and its partners and the Department of Arts and Culture with the support of UNFPA. The roundtables organised had experts in the field presenting as a result, they evoked a lot of discussions and resolutions. The highlight of Congress was on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, the International day of no violence against women where delegates and other residents at the hotel took time off to raise awareness against violence against women. The Congress was graced by high profile speakers like the Regional Head of UNFPA, the Regional Head of UNAIDS, The Minister of Arts and Culture, the Director General of Arts and Culture, the Deputy Minister of Education, The Minister of Arts and Culture, the Director General of Health, The Deputy Minister of Health. These partnerships galvanized resources and support for Congress. This included the mobile clinics that were at congress for the duration of the event. These provided basic



health facilities for the women who came from the rural areas that might not have access to clinics.

## **2. LEAMOGETSWE CHILDRENS HOME CHRISTMANS PARTY**

The Foundation's annual Christmas party took place two weeks after the IAW Congress and it was a resounding success. This year, only new clothes were given to the children and food parcel for them and their care givers. The children were ecstatic with their presents and sang and danced for the visitors.

## **3. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ROUND-TABLES**

The Foundation through IAW organised roundtables at the CSW. This was as the result of the workshops that were held at the 35<sup>th</sup> IAW Congress in South Africa. Two roundtables that addressed the themes of Congress were held at Congress as preparation to CSW. In February 2011 the following members of MFWD participated at the CSW in New York. Mmabatho Ramagoshi, Hon.Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, Joyce Maluleke, Pauline Matsaung and Matlakala Makhubela

## **4. YOUTH GAMES FOR CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES IN TSHWANE**

The Foundation in partnership with the Deputy Minister of Public Works organised its first ever youth games during Youth Month in June for children who are resident in orphanages and places of safety. Children from five orphanages participated in different activities> These included, soccer, poetry, dance, hoola hoop. There were also age appropriate empowerment workshop from the age of 7 to 18 years. These were conducted by UNICEF, UNAIDS, Soul City and Soul Buddy's. The Care givers were pampered and given massages and a day off while volunteers looked after the children for the day. Each child and Care givers were given blankets, golf shirts by the foundation including party packs while the Deputy Minister and other sponsorship provided them with food, transport trophies and medals and prizes for the different games.

### **Norwegian Association for Women's Rights (NKF)**

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**Affiliate: Norwegian Association for Women's Rights (NKF)**

**Date: 10. August 2011**

**Highlights:**

**The Shadow Report to CEDAW 2011: Some of the issues that Norwegian authorities still have to deal with to fulfill its obligations and be in accordance with CEDAW**

One of our main preoccupations this last year has been our contribution to the NGO Shadow Report 2011 to CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women). The report is a supplement and comment on Norway's 8<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report on the Implementation of CEDAW. The Shadow Report is a joint initiative by 29 Norwegian NGOs. The Norwegian Association for Women's rights has been part of the taskforce working with the report. Therefore, we want to focus on some of the issues that Norwegian authorities still have to deal with and correct to fulfill its obligations and be in accordance with CEDAW:

Protection against gender discrimination in Norway is sanctioned by the Gender Equality Act<sup>14</sup> and through the incorporation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the Human Rights Act<sup>15</sup>. The Norwegian Constitution does not

sanction this protection. This impairs the legal basis and symbolic value of the gender discrimination protection.

There is a clear gap between formal equality and substantial equality. Norwegian authorities lean on the formal equality to such an extent that the discussion on the substantial equality too often remains unaddressed. There is lack of acknowledgement of the connection between structural discrimination taking place in many areas related to gender and gender stereotypes in Norway. The power structures that persist still allow gender justice to be flawed in a number of areas. Intersectional gender discrimination persists. There are links between age, class, education, access to income, ethnicity, disabilities, economic differences, gender minorities and clear causes of discrimination.

In its eighth periodic report to the CEDAW Committee, Norway has promoted gender mainstreaming as its overarching strategy to achieve gender equality. Gender specific measures have also been accepted if they advance equality. However, this strategy has had limited effect as it has not been followed up in keeping with the intentions behind it. The focus on the situation of women has been weakened, and the idea that gender neutrality advances equality prevails. The Association (NKF) is of the opinion that, in addition to mainstreaming, gender specific measures must be applied to a greater degree, to ensure equality for women.

Women now dominate in higher education, and they generally achieve better grades than men in upper secondary education. Therefore women are becoming an increasingly better educated workforce compared to men. Yet, women are still paid 2/3 of what men in comparable positions are paid and more women are offered part-time positions compared to men.

There is a lack of information campaigns to the general population to promote gender equality. This has clear consequences to the gaps that still remain.

Teachers must be educated in gender stereotyping, sexual orientation and gender identity. All schools must be able to prove that the work to combat gender stereotyping and for equality is presented in textbooks or other teaching materials. The Government must integrate into primary and secondary school curricula information campaigns and measures related to gender equality and violence.

Statistics based on reported rape cases between 2003 and 2005 document that 84 per cent of rape cases reported to the police never came to court, mostly due to lack of evidence. Compared to other crimes, few rape cases end with a conviction in the courts. Between 2003 and 2005, the percentage of acquittals in rape cases was around 36 per cent.

In its official report to the CEDAW Committee, Norway states that the increased number of reported rape cases probably reflects a greater willingness to report rape crimes. Regrettably there are no comparable incidence statistics available, so this statement is not backed up by any figures. Some researchers and practitioners actually do believe that both the occurrence and severity of sexual violence is on the increase in Norway. The lack of reliable statistics on the incidence and prevalence of rape and sexual violence makes it difficult to identify appropriate measures to increase protection.

Since 1992, women and their children have spent more than one and a half million nights at Norwegian shelters. Of the total of 2368 stays at crisis centers in 2009, 89% of the women report that they have repeatedly been exposed to violence.

The Association (NKF) is concerned about the consequences of the Act on Shelters for the existing shelters. We fear that great differences will arise in the shelter service when the funding is brought



within the framework grant to the municipalities in 2011. What the State fails to take into account is that shelters do not follow the same logic as other statutory services. Criteria other than demographic and social conditions have an important part to play. The shelters must be guaranteed stable and predictable funding to enable them to make long-term plans for their work.

Shelters, as a low-threshold service, must be accessible and adapted to various groups of women, including disabled women. The shelters lack both expertise and capacity to attend to women with serious mental health problems and/or problems involving abuse.

Many minority women in Norway experience difficulties in entering the labor market. They are given inadequate information and training, and experience a difficult process to get their education and work experience approved. Women in Norway with a minority background experience discrimination and exclusion from the labor market. Norwegian authorities point to cultural differences as the cause of a lower level of employment among immigrant and refugee women. It is necessary to examine whether any structural adjustments can be made for the women who want to enter the labor market.

The government has increased its focus on appropriations for women and for gender equality in the development budget, but the portion for this purpose is very modest. Besides, it is impossible to specifically trace the funds, especially the development budget, and the funds intended for the work with Security Council Resolution 1325.

## **Vrouwenbelangen, The Netherlands**

### **Lack of progress on Women in politics**

Following national elections in June 2010 with an unusual low voter turnout, a minority two-party government with support of a third parliamentary party came into office in October 2010. Cuts in government spending and a smaller civil service are the major objectives of the new Dutch Government, which includes only three women as Minister and only one as a Secretary of State. As far as gender equality is concerned the Prime-Minister clearly stated not to envision special measures for women. Intentions or the possibility of new measures in reply to the Concluding Observations of the CEDAW-Comité in 2010 have evaporated.

In April this deplorable situation was discussed in a special meeting of VROUWENBELANGEN and concluded as follows. The goal of equal representation has been moved out of sight by lots of irrelevant arguments about women in politics or debates on quota, that most often miss the central focus that moved women forward a hundred years ago. The full participation and equal influence of women in public affairs is hindered by the over-representation of men in political bodies for which no valid justification has been shown.

### **Survey and pre-election debates**

In view of the upcoming elections of the Provincial Councils and the Senate VROUWENBELANGEN asked all parliamentary parties what actions they would support to improve the situation of all women in the Netherlands. The results show a clear differences between parties and also a complete lack of interest within the coalition parties. They have been published on the website and were used as well to quiz panelists and candidates in pre-election debates, organised by members of VROUWENBELANGEN. Even after the election of Senate members in May 2011, the government cannot yet rely on a majority in the Senate for most of its program. Both elections, of the Provincial Councils and the Senate, hardly changed the percentage of women (35% and 36%) that were elected; they varied around 35%.

### Spreading of information

VROUWENBELANGEN wrote comments in the Newsflash and the blog. It published in July an analysis of the position of women in the elections 2009-2011 on local, regional and European level in figures and statistics. It is to be found on the website on <http://www.vrouwenbelangen.nl/politiek/Brochure-Vr-in-Verkiezing09-11.pdf>.

A meeting of the editorial team of Vrouwenbelangen. They compose the Dutch website, the Dutch monthly Newsflash and the Dutch international letter. On the agenda: a new formula for the website, which is getting out of date.



### RAPPORT DU TCHAD SUR LE THEME : « EDUQUER POUR L'EGALITE »

Le Tchad comme tout pays dispose d'une politique nationale en matière de l'éducation appelée « Politique nationale et priorités du secteur de l'éducation ».

Son objectif général est d'assurer une éducation primaire universelle de qualité, équitablement dispensée en français et en arabe à tous les enfants tchadiens d'ici 2015. Spécifiquement cette politique veut éliminer les disparités d'accès entre les filles et les garçons en 2005-2006, et d'autre part améliorer la rétention des filles à l'école à tous les niveaux.

Malgré l'adoption de la Politique nationale Genre et celle de l'éducation la situation des filles n'a guère changé et reste peu encourageante. Les niveaux de scolarisation primaire, secondaire et supérieure sont en faveur des garçons. Selon les résultats de l'ESDT2 de 2004 73% des femmes sont analphabètes contre 54% chez les hommes.

L'indice de parité filles/garçons est passé de 0,40 en 1990 à 0,70 en 2009.

La situation détaillée se présente comme suit :

- Au niveau primaire 48,7% des filles fréquentent un établissement scolaire contre 61% des garçons ;
- Au niveau secondaire, le taux des filles est seulement de 26,9% contre celui des garçons qui est de 57,5% ;
- Au niveau du supérieur (21-24 ans), le taux des filles est de 13,9% contre 37,5% chez les garçons.

La discrimination dont souffrent les filles en matière d'accès à l'enseignement secondaire est très forte et ne faiblit pas depuis une quinzaine d'année. Selon le ministère, la proportion de réussite aux examens selon le sexe fait ressortir que 27% des lauréats au BEPCT étaient des filles en 2008 contre 20% pour le Baccalauréat pour la même année.

L'accès des filles à l'enseignement supérieur est très minoritaire et stagne depuis une dizaine d'années. En 2008, on comptait 2 400 filles sur 18 400 étudiants inscrits, soit 13%. Ce taux est stable depuis 1999 avec une petite variation entre 14% et 12%.

En conclusion, les femmes sont moins diplômées que les hommes. Le taux des femmes sans diplôme est de 87,9% soit neuf femmes sur dix.

Toutes ces inégalités tirent leurs sources dans plusieurs facteurs qui sont socioculturels, économiques et sexo spécifiques. A cela, il faut ajouter d'autres facteurs, tels que l'emploi de temps trop chargé des femmes et des filles, les mariages forcés et précoces, les stéréotypes sexistes, les viols et harcèlements sexuels et les préférences pour les garçons, limitent l'accès des filles et des femmes aux facilités éducationnelles.

Devant cette situation par rapport au genre une politique nationale est adoptée avec la participation de la société civile (AFJT et autres). Ses orientations stratégiques liées à celles de la SNRP sont les suivantes :

- Promouvoir l'intégration systématique de la dimension Genre dans les systèmes de planification et de budgétisation ;
- Développer l'information pour un changement de comportements (CC) en faveur de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes dans tous les domaines de la vie publique et privée ;
- Rendre obligatoire l'égal accès et équitable et contrôle équitable des hommes et des femmes aux sphères de décision ;
- Contribuer à la promotion des droits humains en luttant contre les violences basées sur le genre (VBG) ; et en mettant un accent particulier particulier sur l'autonomisation des femmes ;
- Promouvoir le développement d'un partenariat actif en faveur du genre au Tchad.

L'un des objectifs forts de cette politique est : Eliminer les pesanteurs sociologiques liées à l'éducation des filles et des garçons, et à l'emploi.

La seule piste de réflexion reste la mise en œuvre rapide des programmes spécifiques en faveur des exclus du système ( filles et autres).pour tous les niveaux.

**POWER**  
**(Platform of Women's Empowerment and Rights)**  
**Sadar, Bogra, Bangladesh.**

**Report and Picture on Activities**

**Background**

POWER (Platform of Women's Empowerment and Rights) is a women's NGO which started functioning on 04.07.1999 and was registered under number MBA-Bog-74/2001 of 01.06.2001 by the women's Affairs Department and under 1682 of 27/09/2001 of the NGO Affairs Bureau of the Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh. Its main objectives are (i) raising of capabilities and resources of urban and rural poor women, girls and children (in terms of education, health-care, self-employment, human rights, social safe gender equity, biodiversity conservation etc) and (ii) creating of conditions for them to build and lead enlightened, self-reliant and healthful life with due rights and dignity in society. POWER is affiliated with the following national and international federations.

1. Nari Uddug Kendro (Center for Women's Initiatives)
2. International Alliance of Women/IAW (Provisional Associate member) The organizational and management structure of POWER consists of a General Body of 60 individual women-members, an Executive Committee of 09 women social workers (elected from amongst those 60 members), a staff strength of 13 full-time and voluntary workers and an advisory board of five local experts and dignitaries.

**Activities of July 2009 to June 2010 Financial Year**

POWER works in mainly Bogra district which is spread over an area of 2919.9sq km with 678,940 household and a population of 3,015,400 only. The following statement gives the details of activities and accomplishments of POWER of July 2009 to June 2010 financial year and progressive totals there of up to June 2010.



Details of Program/Activities	Accomplishments	
	July 09 to June/10	up to June/10
<b>01. Target Group Development .</b>		
a. Number of target groups of women organized.	12	120
b. Number of women enrolled as members.		3,500
c. Number of periodic meeting held by the target groups in their respective areas.	240 307	1320
<b>02. Saving and Micro-credit.</b>		
a. Amount in Taka accumulated by the target group members.	61,513	2,53,231
b. Amount in Taka of micro-credit administered for income-generation.	3,82,720	4,72,320
c. Number of loaness.	181	493
<b>03. Literacy and Nonformal Education</b>		
a. Number of poor illiterate women provided with 5 month nonformal education.	120	537
b. Number of dropped-out children and adolescents served with 10-month course of literacy, skill training , hygiene education and environment protection.	120	287
c. Number of slum-women's provided with 10 month NFT with micro-credit US\$ 20 per head (for May/2009. to April 2010.)	60	60
d. Number of schools/centres run for conduct of literacy and NFT activities.	06	09
<b>04. Clean Water supply and Sanitation.</b>		
a. Number of hand tube-wells sunk for use of poor families.	03	15
b. Number of sanitary pit latrines/toilets installed for use of poor families.	27	227
c. Number of poor families benefiting from hand tube-wells and sanitary toilets.	57	527
<b>05. Biodiversity Conservation.</b>		
a. Number of saplings planted by the target group members in their homestead gardens and nearby road/river-sides.	500	5,800
b. Number of homestead nurseries run by target group women.	17	39
<b>06. Program on Human Rights.</b>		
a. Number of women-victims of human right violations assisted with treatment, shelter, self-employment or legal aid.	17	148
b. Number of poor children and adolescents of hazardous professions provided with NFT, skill training and other inputs for self-employment	23	89

Details of Program/Activities	Accomplishments	
	July 09 to June/10	up to June/10
<b>07. AIDS/HIV and Drug Addiction.</b>		
a. Number of gatherings and public places where miking was done about the causes, evil and remedies of AIDS/HIV and drug addiction.	21	65
b. Approximate number of people (day-labour transport worker, vagabonds sex workers gay girls, slum-dwellers etc) who attend miking.	2,500	7,500
<b>08. GFW Program.</b>		
a. Number of adolescent girls attending NFE	120	120
b. Number of women have been received training an income generating activities.	120	120
<b>09. ILO/GoB Project on welfare of women and children in Hazardous Trades.</b>		
a. Number of working children –provided with NFE (from Nov/06 upto 2008).	300	300
b. Number of receiving 6 month skill development training (Target: 300 upto April/2009)	300	300
<b>10. Number of Disable persons, Human rights violation victims, helpless widows and orphans etc serve with medicare training self employment and legal aid.</b>	17	62
<b>11. Slavery Project:</b>		
Number of poor helpless domestic maid servants served with 9 <sup>th</sup> month course of nonformal education with micro trade skill and capital to be provided under the UNHCHR supported project.	x	100
<b>12. Training.</b>		
a. Number of women who were imparted training on agril/non agril trades, micro-credit, immunization, health-care, nutrition, environment conservation, human rights, gender equity, advocacy etc.	87	461
b. Number of personnel, volunteers, social workers trained in target group management, record maintenance, account-keeping, monitoring, evaluation/survey, reporting etc.	32	106
<b>13. ACWW Program.</b>		
a. Number of women attending NFE	60	60
b. Number of women have been receives training an income generating activities	60	60
<b>14. WICC Program</b>		
a. Number of adolescent girls attending NFE	120	120
b. Number of women have been received skill development training.	120	120
<b>15. VGD Program (on going)</b>		
a. Number of women are awareness training receive	3237	3237
b. Number of women are IGA Training receive	3237	
c. Number of women saving management	3237	3237



About 6,000 women having nearly 25,000 members in their families have so far derived benefits from the activities of POWER. Side by side with execution of self-founded projects, POWER has executed (during nine years of its working) projects with funding assistance of the following donor agencies, whom we remember with sincere thanks and gratitude

01. MAMA Cash Fund for Women of the Netherlands.
02. VGIF of the USA
03. Hope for Children of the UK
04. Global Fund for Women of the USA
05. ILO and Ministry of Labour, GoB
06. ACWW UK
07. UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary form of Slavery of the children.
08. WICC, Canada
09. Ministry of Women and Children affairs, GoB

### **Management Activities**

During the working year from July 2009 upto June 2010, the following events and activities among others were held to carry out POWER's development and administrative programs.

a. Number of general body meeting held	03
b. Number of executive committee meetings held	07
c. Number of advisory board meeting held	06
d. Number of quarterly coordination meetings held	04
e. Number of field visits undertaking by	
Committee members	33
Staff members	27
Trainer/Teachers	22

### **Conclusion**

Although the accomplishment of POWER are growing steadily to the satisfaction of the local communities including the beneficiaries, we admit that about 90% of the poor people living in rural and urban areas are in acute need of supports for development. Hence we have taken up a number of projects on the following fields and are trying to raise funds to implement those project during the next 2010-2011 working year.

01. Literacy for children and nonformal education for girls and women
02. Skill training and micro-credit for women
03. Human rights, gender equity, legal aid and arbitration
04. Clean water supply and sanitation
05. Prevention of diseases including HIV/AIDS and drug addiction

06. Plantation and diversity conservation
07. Medicare, immunization and family planning
08. NFE and skill development training for hazardous child labour
09. Eradication of dowry, early marriage, polygamy child labor abuse and other social evils.

We fervently request the donor organization at home and abroad to assist us with funding supports for implementation of the above projects.

On behalf of the management, we convey our heartfelt thanks to the Government agencies, donor organizations, project beneficiaries and our staff members for extending valuable cooperation to POWER for serving the rights and interests of poor women, girls and children in this part of Bangladesh.

Dated: Bogra  
30<sup>th</sup> June, 2010

Ms. MOMTAJ Mohol  
General Secretary, POWER





**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE  
OF WOMEN**

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