

**59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women,  
March 2015, New York**

**Side Event: Women-Peace-Security. Implementing UNSCR1325 and CEDAW  
19 March, 1:15 PM-2:30 PM, Conference Room E, GA Building**

Sponsor: IAW, co-sponsors: Austria and KARAMA.

Organized by **Anje Wiersinga**, IAW Representative at the Council of Europe and Convener of the IAW Commission on Democracy

The objective of this very well attended event was to highlight the synergy effects between the “Women Peace, Security” (WPS) Agenda of the UN Security Council and the monitoring of the implementation of CEDAW with the opportunities for NGO shadow reporting to the CEDAW Committee on the basis of its General Recommendation 30. My power-point presentation (see under New Articles “Deeds-no words”) was intended to introduce the legal framework (UNSCR1325 and CEDAW General Recommendation 30) and its opportunities.

By happy coincidence CEDAW Committee member Ms. **Hilary Gbedemah**, Ghana, attended CSW59 and kindly agreed to participate in the side event in order to contribute insights into the making and importance of CEDAW General Recommendation 30. The interest of a delegation of the European Parliament to participate in the event offered the possibility to persuade Ms. **Jivka Petkova**, co-chair of the EU-Task-Force for the implementation of SCR1325, to participate in the panel discussion and speak about the importance of the EU indicators for the implementation of 1325 (compared to the UN indicators) as well as the importance of the EU/CoE South Programme

The participation of KARAMA as co-sponsor from the non-governmental side was made possible through the collaboration between KARAMA and IAW representative at the Council of Europe, Anje Wiersinga, and KARAMA’s membership of the Euro-Med Women Network of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. KARAMA’s representative, **Nafisa Elsed**, impressed participants by her lively and touching testimony of the problems of Libyan women with gender violence in these times of violent unrest in the Arab region. Gender-specific violence in wartime was then the topic of **Mavic Cabrera-Balleza**, international coordinator of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. In her pertinent presentation she again reminded states to honour their reporting obligations, to make use of the UN indicators in doing so, and to provide adequate budgeting for the implementation of 1325 and the following resolutions. She considers a shame that only 47 member states (out of 192) have so far drawn up National Action Plans for the implementation of 1325 and that no government has volunteered to make use of the indicators development by the United Nations or has developed its own indicators. Her conclusion of government’s attitude at this 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WPS Agenda was straight-forward: They go from napping to sleeping. **Janet Gerson**, Education Director, International Institute on Peace Education, IIPE, concluded the panel discussion by highlighting the importance of a gender-sensitive educational system that moves from monologue to dialogue in resolving conflicts.

An in-depth analysis of the event will appear in the forthcoming edition of the International Women’s News.

Rosy Weiss

**IAW Honorary President**

Convener of the IAW Peace Commission