

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter December 2016

no. 6

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Dear members and subscribers.

In this Newsletter we focus on the IAW board meeting in Zimbabwe and on CSW61 in March 2017.

We also have news from some of our member organizations, and from some of our international representatives

Catholic schools and sexual education go hand in hand in Burkina Faso—report from Gudrun Haupter

If you wish to participate in CSW 61, contact Lyna Castillo-Javier to be registered.

Happy Holidays!

IAW meeting in Zimbabwe—a great success

On the invitation of Women's Comfort Corner Foundation, representatives of IAW met in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe November 8—November 16. The planning process had met with a number of obstacles. The economy of the country worsened considerably after the meeting in Paris, where the decision was made to hold the meeting in Zimbabwe. This made it very difficult, not to say impossible for our hostess to raise money for the event. Flights from most parts of the country proved to be very expensive, and on top of that a few members of IAW worried about the security situation in the country. So it turned out to be a small meeting, but nevertheless very successful.

Delegates and guests outside the conference room



Business sessions

The deliberations of the participants led to important decisions and recommendations to be acted on by the Executive, the Board and the next Congress.



Secretary General
Regina Smit



Joanna Manganara and
Olufumni Oluyede working on
the political statement

- A database will now be finally established, thanks to the efforts and generous donations of Louise Deumer. Money has been set aside in the budget for the hosting and daily professional management of the database
- Working groups were decided on to look into different aspects of the future work of IAW: internal organization, future international initiatives, a strategy for IAW for the future.
- Serious work was done preparing for the next action programme to be adopted by Congress in 2017
- We have a new Secretary General, Regina Smit from the Netherlands, who will work until Congress and then decide whether she wants to continue
- Signe Vahlun, Denmark, will establish a closed facebook account for young members of IAW. If you wish to join, send her an email at signe.vahlun@danskkvindesamfund.dk
- We worked on the revision of the Constitution to be adopted in 2017
- On the occasion of the US elections and the highly worrying campaign run by the President-Elect Donald Trump, IAW published a statement on [the impact of the elections on gender equality](#)

Conference—Elimination of Violence against Women Day 1



On the first day of the conference we heard interesting speakers: [Nyaradziya Gumbonzvanda](#), Goodwill Ambassador for the African Union to End Child Marriage. There is a small video on the IAW website, where she talks about this issue. Child marriage is not marriage. It is statutory rape and a human rights violation. Nyaradziya is always a great inspiration.

[Jessie Fungayi Majome](#), MP for the opposition, spoke passionately about her political work for women and children. [Elisabeth Markham](#), Executive Director of Ntengwe for Community Development, spoke about how self-help groups in remote villages in Hwange and Binga areas had empowered the women, so that they were now a driving development force in their communities.

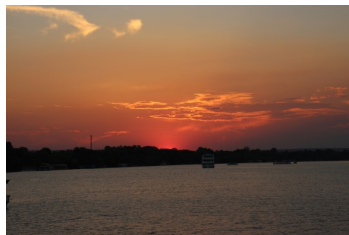
Two men, [Reverend Bafana Khumalo](#) of Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa and [Douglas Musiringofa](#), United Children of Africa (UNICA) both spoke about masculine identities and how it is important to work with men and boys to eliminate violence against women and girls.





Day 2

On day 2 of the conference we went on a field trip to the villages, where Elisabeth Markham and her organisation had worked for four years. We were given a very warm welcome, and it was a great inspiration to see the women speaking with pride and enthusiasm about how they had developed from abject poverty to having their own businesses, which among other things meant that they could send their children to school.



After these inspiring hours in the village, we went to Elisabeth Markham's house for a delicious lunch and interesting conversation.

The day ended on the Zambezi river, where we saw hippos, elephants, buffalos, ibis, fish eagle etc while the sun was setting.

New members

A number of young Zimbabweans joined IAW as individual members. Hopefully we can engage them in our work or support the work they wish to do.

Chantelle and Pamela (left) are working to eliminate bullying in schools.



The Venue

The hotel was beautifully situated overlooking the savannah. There was a waterhole, where the animals came to drink every day early in the morning and around sunset: Elephants, buffalos, vultures, a giraffe, kudus, impalas and others. The waterhole was not very big. There is a serious drought in Zimbabwe. Everybody is waiting for the rains to come. If they don't, there will be serious hunger in the villages.



Thank you, Rita

Women's Comfort Corner

Rita Mbatha and Glen Middlemost (who unfortunately was unable to attend) were warmly thanked for their efforts to make this meeting a success. Since IAW left Zimbabwe Glen has been interviewed by the press about our meeting. The organization has been invited by British Council to be partners in the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women, and they have been given a certificate as a Private Voluntary Organization (PVO), which will make it easier for them to raise funds in the future.

Report from Cleopatra Matimbe —first timer with IAW

Cleopatra is a young Zimbabwean woman, who has been an individual member of IAW for a while. Fortunately she was able to attend the meeting in Victoria Falls, and she has sent the following about her first impression of IAW:



Cleopatra Matimbe

I was impressed to meet elderly women who put so much effort to stand for the rights of women and young girls all over the world. I was educated on gender equality and the state of women in our society and globally. I had the chance to interact with women from all over the world. This was my first time attending this conference, and i would say everything was well explained and I managed to get a lot of information about IAW. The knowledge I got will help me to educate women and girls in my community about gender equality. I was inspired by how IAW is creating space for a younger generation and also believing in us. I would like to thank Rita Marque Lunga Mbatha for organising an educational village tour to Ntengwe village in Hwange. It was good to learn that women are doing projects to sustain their families and not just depending on their husbands. I am honoured to be a part of IAW, and I respect them for holding such a huge responsibility to be a voice that makes a difference for women . I am thrilled to be a part of a group of women that is putting a mark in history as a group that stand for the emancipation of women irregardless of colour, creed or race.

*Warm regards
Cleo*

Future Meetings

Future Meetings: Congress 2017

Congress will take place in Cyprus 20—28 of October 2017. Our host will be **Pancyprian Movement Equal Rights—Equal Responsibilities**

Thank you, Koulla Koumides!

Who will be candidates for positions on the board for the next triennium 2017—2019?

IAW calls on all its members to start thinking now already of qualified candidates for all positions on the board already now. IAW needs people who are interested in the work, and who find it important and a good challenge to work for women's human rights as a member of a larger women's movement and in an atmosphere of global friendship.

Thanks, DFR
It will be interesting.

Board Meeting 2018

Deutscher Frauenring, Germany, has invited the IAW Board to come to Berlin for the Board Meeting in October 2018. Deutscher Frauenring will be celebrating 100 years of the vote for women in Germany, and the IAW Board Meeting will be part of the celebrations.

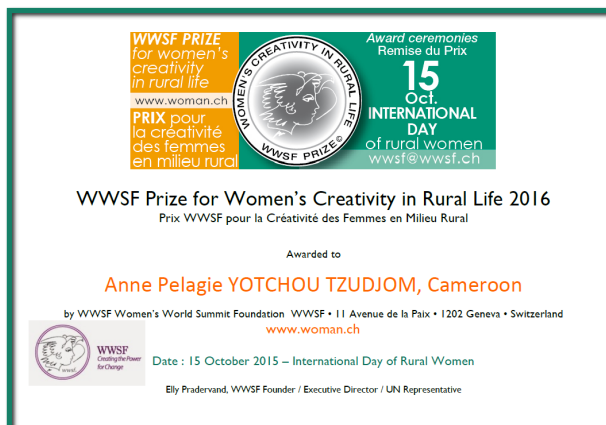
IAW around the World

Cameroon

IAW around the World

Cameroon:

Anne Pelagie, CEFAP—Ladies Circle, has received this following award:



Zambia



Rose Muyanga

Lundazi District Women Development Association (LDWDA)

Not too long ago **Rose Muyanga**, founder of Lundazi District Women Development Association, joined IAW as an individual member. Unfortunately it was not possible to raise money for her participation in the IAW meeting in Vic Falls, Zimbabwe. The following is a brief presentation of her organization:

LDWDA- is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization duly registered under the Registrar of Society Act of 1994, that is, Non -Profit organization. The organization was formed in 1994 by the rural women with help from Finland with a purpose of empowering rural women economically, socially, politically, culturally and legally.

LDWDA-objectives and activities among others include but are not limited to the following:

Poverty reduction interventions aimed at ensuring that citizens especially women live a decent life.

Conservation farming and seed multiplication

Income generating projects in different groups and at household levels.

Legal Education, we have existing different legal offices

Legal and civic education sensitizations meetings in villages

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for women programs.

The organization has 4950 members and the majority are women because of the nature of the organization. Men also become our members, they join us as trustees. Most men benefit through their wives and children. Membership is purely on a voluntary basis. Members are required to adhere to the Code of Ethics and general disciplinary rules and regulations of the organization.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh

Bangladesh Mahila Samity (BMS) is a long-standing member of IAW. Recently we received a report on their activities.

BMS is committed to work for the cause of women and children from all social status to conquer poor health, illiteracy and poverty with a slogan of “A Better Future “

[Read more](#)

India

Anjana Basu, AIWC, recommends this book:

[Garrisoned Minds, Women and Armed Conflict in South Asia.](#)

Edited by Laxmi Murthy and Mitu Varma, Speaking Tiger Books

International Representatives

EWL



EWL Board

European Women's Lobby

Arina Angerman, IAW representative on the Board of European Women's Lobby, has sent the following report:

Our Future Starts Now! Together for a feminist Europe

The (EWL) Strategic Framework 2016-2020 has 8 aims for a Feminist Future. 3 internal strategic aims to build our movement and 5 external strategic aims to transform society.

Aim 4 is to put an end to all forms of violence against women and girls and promote a society of peace, human security and dignity. During EWL Board meeting in October we made a stakeholders' mapping and power analysis on how together influence decision-making for the EU signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention. In August 2016 IAW nominated an expert to the EWL Observatory on Violence Against Women. Jocelynn Scutt (Board Member IAW) started her work in November 2016. [At the website of EWL](#) you can read a fact sheet in support of the EU signature and ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Istanbul Convention. More than 25 European civil society networks (i.a) IAW) have joined forces in a European Coalition to End violence against women and girls (VAWG), convened by the EWL. It is a vital opportunity and they call on different key EU decision makers to act!

Working on internal strategic aims was a very important discussion at the Board Meeting i.a. challenges of building an inclusive women's movement by such a diversity! One of the challenges is connecting different generations of feminists. Participants of EWL young feminist summer school shared their empowerment & solidarity. And EWL has a new President: Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei. You can read an interview with her & former President Viviane Teitelbaum about their feminist journey [here](#). I enjoyed the networking and knowledge sharing during EWL's Board Meeting very much ... it also is about politics and friendship.

Jocelynn Scutt, who represents IAW in the EWL Observatory on Violence Against Women, reports:

The Violence Against Women Observatory met in Brussels on 13-14 November, with an additional meeting on Refugee women and violence on 15-16 November. Women from all EU countries attended, together with women



Dr. Jocelynn A. Scutt

*Fighting Deadly Togetherness
Femicide*

Femicide in the UK

from Norway and European Networks. The principal aim was to action the Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women, and countries were asked to advise on ‘where is your country’ – signed, ratified, swinging into action, as well as reporting on the position of their respective organisations. We brainstormed ideas for campaigning and taking imaginative actions in Brussels and around the EU, in every country and as many capitals and centres as possible, making women’s commitment to the Istanbul Convention clear, and demanding our countries and the EU as a whole honour its principles and the practices necessary to implement the Convention fully.

[Read more](#)

Rosy Weiss reports from a seminar on **femicide**, organised by OSCE - *Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe*, on the occasion of the International Day of Eliminating Violence against Women:

Femicide is far more than murder. In general, killing is done by men. One man kills another. This is statistical evidence. As we also know, men kill women, women kill women and women also kill men.

And then, there is “femicide”, a term, a combination of “femina” and “caedere” – meaning “woman killing”. It is used whenever a woman is killed because of her sex. It’s the murder by a partner or family member (family honour), or criminal gangs as a power demonstration (humiliation of the enemy), and as a weapon of war. [Read the whole report](#)

[Men killed 900 women in six years in England and Wales, figures show](#)

Commission on the Status of Women 2017 (CSW61)



Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) will take place in New York March 13 to March 24 2017. As an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, IAW has been invited to participate.

This year’s themes are:

Priority theme:

Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work

Review theme:

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session)

Emerging issue/Focus area:

The empowerment of indigenous women- See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017#sthash.9Ohk7A49.dpuf>

Deadline for submitting a written statement was October 17. IAW’s state-

ment is available on the website:

<http://womenalliance.org/womens-economic-empowerment-in-the-changing-world-of-work>

Registration of participants

As in preceding years there will be a limit of 20 participants per organization.

In order to be able to participate each person must be registered. For IAW registration for CSW will be done by Lyna Castillo at lyna4iaw@gmail.com. So if you are planning to go to New York for CSW, send an email to Lyna, who will then see to the rest and give you the information you will need.

The registration process has begun, and everybody must be registered as soon as possible and by January 27 at the latest. It is important that you contact Lyna as soon as possible. It is also important to emphasize that if you have registered and for some reason cannot go after all, you must notify Lyna immediately, so that we can make the most of the 20 places that we have. To finalize the registration process and to receive the document that you need to get access to the UN, you must inform Lyna where you are going to stay in New York. This can be done after January 27.

If you represent a different organization

Some IAW members go to CSW as representatives of other organizations or as members of their government's delegation. Nevertheless, tell Lyna that you will be there, so that IAW can have a full picture of how many we are, and perhaps a meeting or some social event can be organized. It is good to meet up with each other.

**To register for CSW 61—
contact Lyna Castillo-Javier
at
lyna4iaw@gmail.com**

IAW Commissions

Health Commission

News from Gudrun Haupter, Convener of the IAW Commission on Health:

Catholic schools in Burkina Faso and sexual education are not mutually exclusive

Mid of October 2016 intern Anke described her life in a Catholic boarding middle-school for 50 girls in the South of Burkina Faso where she currently lives with the students. One of her tasks was getting permission from the Ministry for Higher Education to proceed with a curriculum on sexual and reproductive health education, which, in the middle schools, the organization "Solidarity Circle for West Africa"

helped to set up in recent years. Funding was obtained from the German Ministry of Cooperation, while "the Circle" had to collect 25 percent of the project costs. The contribution of the population was gathering sand and gravel and transporting the material to the building sites. The output is considerable. The effects on girls are highlighted by the following figures:

In 2015/2016 in 38 middle schools (grades 6 to 10) all over Burkina Faso, a total of 7.156 boys and 6.241 girls have been educated, a high percentage given the low national average.

In countless primary schools built over the years with funding from "the Circle" figures of girls and boys for first graders are equal. This is noteworthy for a country where school attendance is not compulsory. Expectations of the project's impact on girls' and women's empowerment are high: Girls with middle-school exam or perhaps even baccalaureate will have fewer children. Moreover, highly qualified men will have to recognize the competitiveness of competent women, and this will slowly abolish the patriarchal system.

For the current year "the Circle" plans to finance another 46 middle-schools in rural



centres. Due to the exchange of the political and administrative personnel by the new government this ambitious objective may not be reached.

Regarding the sexual and reproductive health education Anke writes: „I already wrote and despatched the letter to the Secondary School Ministry. We are now waiting for their answer with the permission.

Then we have to contact the heads of all the schools (built with funding from “the **Circle**”) and ask them, how the unit best fits into their timetables. Teaching sexual education should start in November. I am looking forward to that. The next event here will be the party of the nuns, with many guests...”

Details and quotations are from the monthly NL of Solidarity Circle for West Africa.

Rwanda

The Uncondemned—a documentary

Victoire Mukambanda was one of the instrumental witnesses who testified to bring about the first conviction of rape as a war crime in Rwanda. That historic trial is the focus of [the new documentary “The Uncondemned.”](#)

India

[India Steps Up Citizen Activism to Protect Women](#)

Around the World

USA

In corporate America, women fall behind early and keep losing ground with every step.

[Women in the Workplace 2016](#) is a new report, which elaborates on this.

The World Economic Forum just published its [Global Gender Gap Report 2016](#). Closing the pay gap may take another 170 years

Central America

Sexual exploitation that the UN says amounts to slavery is forcing girls and their families from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to seek refuge in Mexico

[Read more](#)

UN Human Rights Commission

Fundamentalism and populism pose deepening threat to women defending human rights, UN experts warn -

[Read the whole message from UNHCR](#)

International Women Human Rights Defenders Day – 29 November 2016

On the occasion of the holiday season, make a donation to the work of IAW:

[DONATE NOW](#)

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