

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter June 2018 No 3

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Dear readers,

It is a pleasure to present the new Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, who have started their new job. Welcome to the work of IAW!

CSW and After refers to the President's letter where she evaluates CSW and to contributions from the Netherlands and Switzerland.

We have interesting reports from our international representatives, esp. from WHO and the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Deadline for the August Newsletter is July 15.

Enjoy reading!

Presentation of new Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General

New Secretary General



Olufunmilayo Oluyede

Secretary General

After a global search, the International Alliance of Women is pleased to introduce the recently appointed Secretary General, Mrs. **Olufunmilayo Arinola Oluyede**, whose formative years and early education took place in London, England. Called to the Nigerian Bar in 1986, she is one of the co-founding/pioneer partners of TRLPLAW (a consortium of international commercial lawyers and arbitrators) operating out of two offices in Nigeria and affiliate offices in the United Kingdom and the United States.

As Senior Managing Partner, she currently coordinates the International Commercial Transactions unit of the firm and is involved in foreign joint venture/partnership arrangements, business formation, negotiations and high profile arbitral and mediation proceedings locally and transnationally.

She serves at present as Council Member of the International Bar Association (IBA) Legal Practice Division; member, IBA Diversity Council; past chair, IBA CL Crimes Against Women Subcommittee and is on the Advisory Boards of the IBA Women Lawyers Interest Group and the IBA African Regional Forum, which she chaired for many years.

Mrs. Oluyede is also past chair, International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria, Lagos branch; member, National Executive Council, FIDA Nigeria and life member, FIDA Int'l.

The wealth of experience Mrs. Oluyede brings to the office of the International Alliance of Women will serve the organization in achieving its international mandate to further the work of equality and inclusion for all women.

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Tunica Miranda Ruzario

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Assistant Secretary General

After a global search, the International Alliance of Women is pleased to introduce the recently appointed Assistant Secretary General, Ms Tunica Miranda Ruzario of Zimbabwe.

She is passionate about gender equality and women's empowerment. Miranda states that *"working for IAW will allow her to do more to bring change in societies that do not necessarily empower women with knowledge of their worth, capabilities and offer equal opportunities for women. Being able to educate young girls on SDG's in a developing country has opened my eyes to see that there is more that needs to be done in actually implementing SDGs in their lives and making sure that these goals work for them especially goals SDG#1 to #6 and that there is sustainability for future generations"*.

Her work experiences in administrative positions with Zimbabwe United Nations Associations (ZUNA), African Asian Capital (AAC), Mandela Dlamini Associates (MDA), Fiat Group, South Africa, Constantia Multifranchise (AMH) and Kia Northcliff (AMH) have enhanced her communication skills and enabled her to work under pressure while paying attention to detail. All the successes in her professional life indicate she has great skill in working with people of all cultures.

Sad message from Helen Self

On June 7 2018 we received the message from Helen Self that Bettina Corke had sadly died at the age of 86.

Helen continues: *Bettina spent her final months in a convent hostel where she was lovingly cared for by the nuns. She had become blind and was unable to find a way to live independently and continue her work, which was central to her life. Some time ago she developed cancer in her jaw, below her teeth, and consequently suffered a lot of pain. She loved IAW and was our representative at FAO for many years, where she was much appreciated. She attended many IAW meetings and contributed forcefully to our discussions. She was always fun to be with and a great friend.*

Board Meeting and Conference

This is a reminder that the IAW Board Meeting will take place in Berlin on the 23rd to 29th October 2018, the business sessions will be on the 26th to 28th October.

In addition to the Board meeting, the Deutscher Frauenring as the hostess of the Board Meeting is planning a conference of 2 days which is open to the public and aligned NGO alliances (1325 Alliance, Alliance for CEDAW, National German Women's Council...) too.

The preliminary programme of the International Seminar "Squaring the circle for women, peace and security" deals with following issues: UNSCR 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" and the German and other National Action Plans UNSCR 1325, a Panel "Extending Space for Women Peacemakers"; The Human Right of Peace, The Culture of Peace.

Bettina Corke
1932—2018



IAW Board Meeting 2018

In her President's Newsletter June 2018, President Joanna Manganara sums up important points of discussion during the intergovernmental meetings during CSW 62. She also evaluates the Agreed Conclusions and points to both gains and concerns.

President's Newsletter

Concerns in the Agreed Conclusions

The Commission failed to recognize the diversity of women and girls concerning their sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions.

Different forms of families are once again deliberately excluded from the text.

The sexuality of women and girls living in rural areas was a topic that was not discussed. That women and girls living in rural areas include lesbians, transgender and intersex people was not mentioned at all in statements.

Even the ministerial round tables on access to education did not bring up the subject of comprehensive sexuality education which would enable girls and boys to speak up against proposed early marriages, prevent violence, and have more equal and respectful relationships.

Concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to safe abortion services, disproportionate maternal mortality rates, no access to preventive screening for reproductive cancers were not discussed.

[Read the President's Newsletter](#)

Lyda Verstegen, Honorary President of IAW, has sent this report from a meeting among NGOs and the Government delegation in The Netherlands:

The Dutch Experience

Women's organizations, the co-ordinating organizations of civil society: Atria and Wo=Men, the Women's Representative 2018, and the Government Delegation to the CSW came together to evaluate the Agreed Conclusions of the CSW March meeting.

The mood was jubilant. For the first time in at least five years every paragraph met with consensus and that did not harm the content. The unity of the European Union was maintained, the EU delegation worked hard!

Positive results are the recognition of women human rights defenders, diversity of women and girls, new agreements on reproductive health disparities, maternal mortality, health workforce and reaffirmation of existing commitments to Sexual Rights and Health Rights (SRHR).

[Read the whole report](#)

Ester Suter, IAW representative to Geneva, has sent a very personal report from CSW 62.

A personal report from CSW 62

Ne laisser personne de côté

Lors de la session annuelle de la commission de la condition de la femme à l'ONU New York (12 – 23 mars 2018) les défis et possibilités de l'égalité des sexes pour les femmes et filles en régions rurales étaient scrutés. Le slogan «Personne ne devrait être laissée de côté» des objectifs de développement durable (ODD, 2015-2030) se base sur une citation biblique (Mt 25,40) et s'adresse à toutes les minorités, marginalisées comme des veuves, indigènes, LGBT, handicapés, migrantes et autres, arrivées de tous les continents. «Ne laisser personne de côté» pourra être une vision d'inclusion de tous les gens. Elle gagne

d'importance comme concept holistique et pourrait déclencher un mouvement, qui saisit tous les marginalisés et les mettra en relations mutuelles. Si un tel dynamisme nouveau se créera, il y aura une chance que durant les ODD les changements nécessaires seront effectués, car la collaboration est un des 17 objectifs. Depuis 2015 la collaboration entre institutions, organisation gouvernementales et non-gouvernementales et la société civile s'accroît.

[Read it on the French Section of the IAW website](#)



Global Women's Peace Awardee 2018: Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury .

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury has devoted many years as an inspirational champion for sustainable peace and development ardently advancing the cause of the global movement for the culture of peace. His determined leadership led to the UN General Assembly's adoption in 1999 of the landmark Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace as well as to the UN Security Council's adoption of its groundbreaking Resolution 1325 on women's contributions to peace and security. He was Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN (1999-2001) and served as Under-Secretary-General of the UN for the world's most vulnerable nations from 2002-2007.

[Read his Acceptance Speech](#) at the Award Ceremony held during CSW 62 - 2018 by the Women's Federation for World Peace International

International Representatives

European Women's Lobby

Arina Angerman, IAW representative on the Board of EWL reports:

50:50 Women for Europe, Europe for Women

As a European-wide organisation IAW is represented on the Board of European Women's Lobby (EWL) and I am nominated again as a candidate for EWL's Board of Administration 2018-2020 together with the IAW elected alternate Marion Boeker. We have been working together as a team and are NOW members of EWL's working groups Women in Politics and Feminist Economics. We will both attend this year's European Women's Forum on 'Power': women as leaders, our collective power and strength, and our power to shape the future of Europe. [Please read more at EWL website](#)

'50:50 Women for Europe, Europe for women'

is title of EWL's campaign towards the 2019 European Elections to support women's political empowerment. Political parties are gatekeepers ... and therefore will be the primary target of this campaign which will have a strong focus on a national level. Member organizations of IAW in France, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Greece, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Cyprus and Finland can support this campaign of their national EWL coordinators!

Istanbul Convention

IAW is a member of the European Coalition to End Violence against Women. This strategic alliance advocates for the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention. This European Coalition supported by more than 3800 organisations representing millions of voices in 49 countries have sent a strong letter of continued support to the Council of Europe in support of the Istanbul Convention. [Please read more at EWL website](#)



New York

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW main representative to the UN New York recommends esp members of the Board to subscribe to **DESA NGO News**. It is a very useful monthly newsletter with information about events, news and publications from the UN.

You may subscribe using [this link](#).

Geneva

WHO

Ursula Nakamura, IAW representative to WHO writes:

Challenges at the World Health Organization

Seema Uplekar and I, both of us at WHO for IAW, knew that there were major changes on the way. But the reality was more surprising than ever imagined! WHO was in a process of redefining and strengthening its engagement with the Non-State actors (NSAs) in official relation with WHO. This includes the NGOs, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions. As a result the new handbook for NSAs called FENSA¹ (Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors) was finally published. One main goal is a very clearly defined Collaboration Plan (CP) which has to be worked out by WHO with each of the more than 200 NSAs individually! For both sides the individual CP should be a win-win situation. All CPs have got to be renewed every three years.

For Seema and me, helped by Gudrun Haupter, this was quite a challenge.

Already in former years IAW used to report its activities conforming with the WHO long term plans. But now after the whole reorganization of WHO we were asked to present more realistic approaches to health - “putting wood behind the arrow”!

The new IAW action programme (AP) adopted in Cyprus last October gave us a large range of topics, regarding gender based violence and health! This was perfectly in line with WHO following the SDGs of the UN Agenda 2030. Now we also got a new very important “down-to-earth” IAW-asset, the “Water and Pads” (WP) project. In November 2017 we presented it to the WHO-officials. Because for a long time there was no response at all, we were worrying, not least because of the difficulties with the newly set up of the WHO IT-systems and websites!

Then at the end of March 2018 I had the chance to meet the very friendly WHO official dealing with IAW. It turned out that the WP-project just fits in perfectly with some research about menstruation of school-girls at WHO. So for WHO it is great knowing that IAW member organizations are working directly with schools and health-centres in rural areas of Africa and Asia. At the same time for us the intensified exchange with WHO will be very helpful!

What has happened to other NSAs during the whole WHO reorganization-process? On the new list adopted by the WHO Executive Board in January 2018 there are more than 200 NSAs, almost exclusively from the health sector. Unfortunately, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women had to quit, so now IAW is the only international women’s organization accredited at WHO!



Ursula Nakamura-Stoecklin



IAW is now the only international women's organization accredited to WHO!

This is a great privilege for us but at the same time an enormous challenge and responsibility!

Let us face it and hope that soon other groups fighting for women's and girl's rights might again join us at WHO!

<http://www.who.int/about/collaborations/non-state-actors/en/>

World Health Assembly 2018

Ursula Nakamura also reports from the World Health Assembly in May 2018

[Read her report on the IAW website](#)

Commissions

Gudrun Haupter, Convener of the Health Commission reflects on family planning:

Family Planning for All

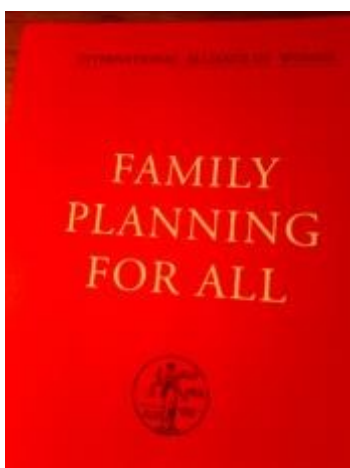
The recent German publication “Family Planning; The Fiasco of Development Policies; How the Vatican prevented prevention” by Dr. Dieter Ehrhardt prompted me to remark on the issue and call to memory some milestones and obstacles to family planning. In his professional life the author got to know hierarchical structures around the world including that of UNFPA, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, and of the German government.

Dr Ehrhardt's book offers background information on the onset of UNPFA and the World Conferences on Population artfully linked to the negative role of the Vatican. The author also recalls personal friendships with individuals in the clerical, the German and the international bureaucratic hierarchy and provides a wealth of background information.

The ICPD, International Conference on Population and Development, which remains the last one in a series of four global population conferences under the leadership of UNPFA substantiated the concept that family planning was no longer to be seen as a means of population control but as an individual issue. Ahead of the ICPD the Vatican had succeeded in becoming a states party with all the rights this status conferred. The Holy See's standpoint as laid down in the encyclica *Humanae Vitae* (John Paul I), strongly influenced by his successor John Paul II (1978 – 2005), allows only the natural family planning method generally deemed risky and hardly practicable by women with little education.

Dr Ehrhardt's conclusion as a critical inside observer of the ICPD is that in the light of the Vatican's blockage of modern contraceptives including the financial means required, the “Right to family planning“ in the outcome document is a victory – though diminished by the integration into the large concept of Reproductive Health and Rights.

[Read Gudrun Haupter's full contribution](#)



Just joined

Derya Akinci Briand , a new member of IAW and of the Geneva team, sends warm regards to all IAW memebrs and writes about her first impres- sions



Derya Akinci Briand

Just joined IAW...

It has been a few months since I joined the International Alliance of Women. I belong to the Geneva team and I enjoy being a member of the International Alliance of Women. It has given me the opportunity to meet women from different countries and cultures. I have always dreamed of being part of an international organisation for women, inspiring people, inspiring stories, inspiring events.... What more would I want ? Of course, the main focus is human rights and women's rights

Human rights issues are of huge importance. Advocating for human rights requires educating oneself on the principles of human rights and how the principles are applied within your community. It starts with thinking not only about your own rights, but also about the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized. It also involves looking at ways individuals and groups can support the cause of human rights for all.

As I live very close to Geneva, I attended a couple of the meetings. The first meeting I attended was the annual meeting of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights with NGOs in March. There were several topics such as : reform projects, mediation, equality of the sexes, budget problems, funding and the UN library. I met some other NGO members and we had long discussions over women's rights in the 21st century.

Then I attended CoNGO elections... Thanks to people who welcomed me so warmly... I felt a family atmosphere, even though I did not have the chance to meet with everyone. It was an interesting experience. CoNGO seems a nice platform where all of the NGOs could come together. I've clearly seen that it facilitates the interaction and communication between NGOs...

The last meeting I attended was the NGO CSW Committee in April. There may be a fifth UN world conference in India but some countries do not support it. (Especially rich countries). Personally, I would like to follow the World Fifth UN Conference....Domestic work, conflict prevention, land property rights, non-rural women in rural areas were some of the other topics.

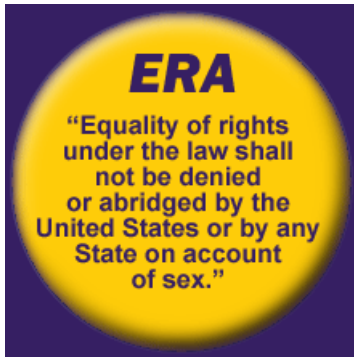
IAW has great members all over the world and we must plan events more often. Young members are also vey important as they can bring new members to our organisation. Every member must contribute as much as possible to IAW. We are lucky enough to be members of a wonderful team. I will definitely continue to attend events and meetings which will be held in Geneva.. I also look forward to meeting all of the members I did not meet before ..The world is a better place if we work together !

The state of Illinois, USA, ratifies ERA

Around the world

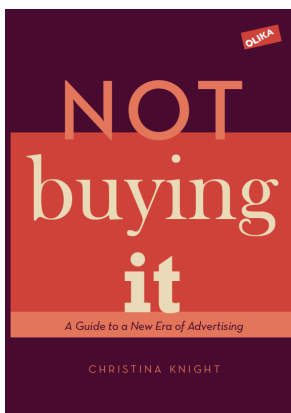
More than 45 years after it was approved by Congress, Illinois has become the 37th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

The constitutional amendment, which declares that equality of rights "shall not



[ERA](#)

Publications by members of IAW



be denied by the U.S. or any state on account of sex,” was first introduced in Congress in the 1920s. It was sent to the states for ratification in 1972, but only 35 states ratified the amendment by the congressionally set 1982 deadline — three states short of the 38 required to append it to the Constitution. For years the issue was believed to be a lost cause, but last year, debate around the amendment was revived when Nevada, in part spurred by the anti-sexual harassment #MeToo movement, chose to ratify it.

With Illinois now on board, just one more state is required in order to ratify the amendment. Congress will then need to include in the Constitution.

Christina Knight, member of IAW Board recently published a new book:

In **Not Buying It**, which is her second book, Christina offers practical and empowering advice, especially for young women and to anyone who is on their way into the communications industry, but not part of the norm.

Christina discusses how to handle mastering suppression techniques, sexual harassment and gives advice on how to negotiate for better pay and how to claim space in a male dominated industry.

Not Buying It is a guide to how we can all create a more gender equal, diverse and relevant industry and how we can best act, to put an end to the horrifying experiences shared through #metoo:

”I want to offer more practical, concrete advice and ideas, based on research as well as on my personal experiences, to empower and inspire young people in an industry which is crying out for more diversity and new perspectives; an industry which can be tough and challenging, not least for women”, says Christina Knight.

Christina Knight has worked as a Copywriter since 1986 and a Creative Director since 2004. Christina regularly lectures at schools and workplaces around the world and runs her own agency, **UKnight**, working both as a Creative Director and as an agent for gender equality, diversity and structural change within the advertising industry.

Not Buying It is published by Olikaförlag in May 2018.

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