

# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities  
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



**Newsletter August 2018 No 4**

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*Dear readers,*

*The Board Meeting in Berlin: Note deadlines for registration and annual reports.*

*IAW member Seema Uplekar has translated WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme into Marathi.*

*We have news from the European Women's Lobby. Another new IAW member is introduced.*

*Indigenous women in Canada are exposed to massive violence, and from Sweden we are introduced to the new Law of Consent.*



*Board Meeting in Berlin  
20—28 October 2018*

## **Board Meeting 2018**

Invitations to the Board Meeting in October 2018 have been sent out to the Extended Board. In connection with the Board Meeting Deutscher Frauenring—our host—has organised an interesting seminar:

*Squaring the circle for Women, Peace and Security*

In 1918 German women finally won the right to vote. IAW will be celebrating 100 years of the vote for women in Germany.

All relevant documents are now available on the website:

[https://womenalliance.org/eventlist?event\\_id1=4374](https://womenalliance.org/eventlist?event_id1=4374)

The agenda for the business sessions of the Board shows that discussions on very important and urgent issues will take place at the meeting.

September 1 is the deadline for

- Registration form to be sent to Assistant Secretary General Miranda Ruzario at [assist.secgen@womenalliance.org](mailto:assist.secgen@womenalliance.org) and a copy to: Deutscher Frauenring (DFR) via email at [mail@d-fr.de](mailto:mail@d-fr.de)
- Annual report for the booklet to be sent to Lene Pind at [lenepind@gmail.com](mailto:lenepind@gmail.com)



## **Sizani Ngubane needs your help!**

Dear IAW members

Sizani Ngubane was this year's Woman of Distinction Awardee at CSW, nominated by IAW. Many of you know this already.

As this year's Awardee, she came to New York, of course, and the fantastic work she is doing in South Africa as founder and leader of Rural Women's Movement of South Africa became more visible than ever. She was the keynote speaker on Consultation Day and spoke on many occasions during CSW.

There is no doubt that her personality and her work made a great impression on people who met her. Sizani is a gentle, sweet, but also very strong woman.

If you have not yet read her story, do it now. You'll find it on the IAW website:

<http://womenalliance.org/iaw-nominates-sizani-ngubane-for-the-jaime-brunet-2017-award>

So everything looked fine for Sizani.

But when she came back to her home, it was only to find that her house had been stolen, literally. About 15 people had moved in. They had rented the house from a woman who had visited the place a number of times in the company of a group of criminals known locally, and who had been telling the neighbours that she was a relative of Sizani's.

The police tell Sizani to bring the criminals to the police station herself, or they cannot or will not do anything.

This is the second time that Sizani has had her house stolen, and as she is not young any more there is little time for her to get another one.

On top of that, The Rural Women's Movement has difficulties paying the rent of their land.

We are sending this email to you all to ask you help us send some money to Sizani. She needs 500 USD to pay the rent for the Rural Women's Movement, but that still leaves her without a house and everything in it.

Every cent that you donate will be transferred to Sizani.

If you wish to make a donation, go to the IAW website and click "donate" in the top menu. This will take you to the donate page. There you choose the amount by clicking one of the boxes (that is the simplest way), make sure that you have selected credit card as your method of payment, then insert the information you are asked for, scroll down to "I would like to pay etc, click on the small arrow and choose "Sizani Ngubane". Then accept terms by clicking the small square (if you like you may read them first), check the total amount and then click DONATE.

This will take you to the website of our bank, PostFinance, where you choose which credit card you want to use (visa or mastercard), click and follow instructions. It is not much different from other websites but, where access to the bank is concerned, it is very secure.

Joanna Manganara  
President



## Water and Pads Project

The following members have clearly stated their interest in the Water and Pads Project:

APWA Punjab Pakistan, CEFAP and RENATA Cameroon, SOFETEC DR Congo, Zambia Alliance of Women Zambia and Women's Comfort Corner Foundation Zimbabwe..

More information about the project is [available here](#).

Members of IAW who may be interested in joining the project should contact Ursula Nakamura at [ursula.nakamura@bluewin.ch](mailto:ursula.nakamura@bluewin.ch)

## European Women's Lobby



*Arina Angerman re-elected to the Board of Administration of the EWL, having Marion Böker as an alternate*

## European Women' Lobby

Buttons with 'M/F 50/50 shared power is double power' were presented at the 3rd UN World Conference on Women in Nairobi in 1985 by Marijke Peters and Joke Sebus who represented the Dutch affiliate 'Women's Interests' and who have added so much value to International Alliance of Women as team members: [Centenary Edition of IAW 1904-2004](#) and by delivering [IAW's electronic Newsletter](#) to members (organisations and individual members).

### Launch 50:50 Women For Europe campaign

In June 2018 the campaign ['50:50 Women For Europe; Europe for Women'](#) started in the European Parliament in order to achieve equal representation of women and men as part of EWL's (RE)shape power Forum. (photo I support 50/50) Both I and Marion Böker attended this event and later were re-elected as Board Member and Alternate for European Women's Lobby (EWL) Board of Administration 2018-2020.

This 50:50 campaign is inspired by celebrations of 100 years of voting rights for women in UK, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and the Netherlands. Will you support this 50:50 Women For Europe: Europe for Women campaign on a national level? Member organisations and individual members of IAW in France, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Greece, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Finland, Austria, Italy and Ireland can support this campaign of their National EWL Coordinations! [To be able to know the 'new' Board members and their Alternates of National Coordinations you can read their names here.](#)

### Petition 'Time to (RE)shape power

A small step and doable action is to support as an individual member of IAW in an EU country by signing the petition 'Time to (RE)shape power and spread the word 50/50 Women For Europe: Europe For Women! [By signing this petition](#) YOU support and 'commit to a truly equal, diverse and inclusive political agenda with women's rights at the heart of it'! Can you sign too?

### Feminist Gwendoline Lefebvre

The newly elected President of EWL's Executive is French feminist Gwendoline Lefebvre. She gave an inspiring speech in which she focussed a.o. on teamwork 'All the victories of women's rights activists are linked to collective ac-



tions'. [You can read more about her background and speech by clicking this link.](#) Please follow Gwendoline on Twitter <https://mobile.twitter.com/GwendoLefebvre>

Power-sharing dreams of 50/50 are very inspiring as you can read in [where women rule the world](#) at BBC News (14th July 2018). 'A very good sign before the European elections next may' writes Gwendoline on Twitter' Will you support women candidates and our 50:50 Women For Europe: Europe for Women campaign too?



**Joke Sebus sends this story:**

The photo to the left shows Marijke Peters, former Treasurer of IAW, lobbying for 50/50 in Nairobi in 1985 under the slogan *Shared power is double power.*



*European Institute for  
Gender Equality*

**European Institute for Gender Equality ([EIGE](#))**

EIGE now collects data on women and men in decision making at all levels and in all of the EU. The information is accessible here:  
<http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/browse/wmidm>

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**New member**

**Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)/ Association for assistance to education for children with disabilities**

web : [www.aaeeh.fr](http://www.aaeeh.fr)

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH) is an advocacy, lobby and support/assistance organization for children with disabilities. It aims to contribute to the promotion of the disabled through education and training by advocating for access to quality education for all and supporting the education of disabled children.

Based in France and Cameroon. AAEEH holds special consultative status with UN ECOSOC since 2013. Its members are all volunteers. Its resources are the membership fees.

Since its inception in 1998, AAEEH has raised awareness about a better understanding of the rights of people with disabilities; the right to education for all and contributed to collaborative researches so that the educational concerns of people with disabilities as a marginalized group should be brought forward on the agendas of international organizations and agencies. AAEEH networks with other national and international organizations (UN Enable, UNICEF Globalpartnership on children with disabilities, UNESCO working group on education for all...) Current projects include programs addressing specifically the issues of school girls with disabilities.

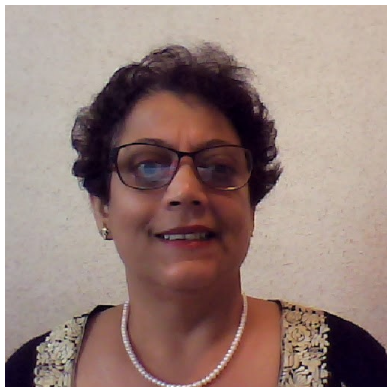
**Current president is Ernestine NGO MELHA, PhD**

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*AAEEH joined IAW at  
Congress in 2017*



*Translation of WHO's Mental  
Health Gap Action Pro-  
gramme Intervention Guide  
(mhGAP-IG)  
by Seema Uplekar*



*Seema Uplekar*



*Marathi translation of WHO's  
mhGAP-IG*

## **IAW launches Marathi translation of World Health Organization's Mental Health Gap Action Programme Intervention Guide (mhGAP-IG)**

According to the World Health Organization, mental, neurological, and substance use disorders are common in all regions of the world, affecting every community and age group across all income countries. While 14% of the global burden of disease is attributed to these disorders, most of the people affected - 75% in many low-income countries - do not have access to the treatment they need. The WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) aims at scaling up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders for countries especially with low- and middle-income.

The mhGAP Intervention Guide (mhGAP-IG) for mental, neurological and substance use disorders for non-specialist health settings, is a technical tool developed by WHO to assist in implementation of mhGAP. The Intervention Guide has been developed through a systematic review of evidence followed by an international consultative and participatory process. The mhGAP-IG presents integrated management of priority conditions using protocols for clinical decision-making. The priority conditions included are: depression, psychosis, bipolar disorders, epilepsy, developmental and behavioral disorders in children and adolescents, dementia, alcohol use disorders, drug use disorders, self-harm/suicide and other significant emotional or medically unexplained complaints. The is a model guide and has been developed for use by health-care providers working in non-specialized health-care settings after adaptation for national and local needs.

WHO encourages translation, adaptation and use of mhGAP-IG in diverse world languages.

Seema Uplekar, IAW's representative for WHO and the UN who is currently based in Mumbai in the Maharashtra State of India after about 17 years of stay in Geneva, Switzerland, has long been interested in mental health issues.

In line with IAW's decades of work on women's issues and at the instant and technical support of the former director of WHO's mental health department Dr Shekhar Saxena, Seema has translated mhGAP-IG in Marathi, an Indian language of the State of Maharashtra which has a population of 110 million. Marathi is ranked 19<sup>th</sup> among world languages and is the 4<sup>th</sup> most spoken language in India. It also has a very rich body of literature. IAW acknowledges contribution of several technical and language experts in and around Mumbai who have helped Seema in undertaking this important work.

Like most other world regions, India and the state of Maharashtra also have a paucity of mental health professionals and services. IAW hopes that the Marathi translation of mhGAP-IG will help bring evidence-based and high-quality mental health care within the reach of Marathi speaking people of India.

Here is the link to the Marathi translation of mhGAP-IG:

The WHO website presents the versions in English and other languages: [http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/publications/mhGAP\\_intervention\\_guide/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/publications/mhGAP_intervention_guide/en/)



Cheryl Hayles

**Cheryl Hayles, VP North America, IAW has submitted the following report:**

### **Violence Against Women in Indigenous Communities in Canada.**

In Canada the plight of the Indigenous Woman to self actualize is as daunting as ever and must become an area of focus to challenge the current state of affairs. While other women in Canada are experiencing levels of empowerment, our Indigenous sisters are largely still fighting for their voices to be heard and their rights in the area of gender-based violence, access to transportation, health care and education.

The February 2014 Amnesty International Executive Summary of the 2011 Statistics Canada report states that, *"Violence affects Indigenous women and girls in their own families and communities, as well as in predominantly non-Indigenous communities, and threatens Indigenous women and girls from all walks of life. This violence against Indigenous women and girls has deep roots in racism, marginalization and poverty."* Included for your convenience is the link to the document [https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/iwfa\\_submission\\_amnesty\\_international\\_february\\_2014\\_-\\_final.pdf](https://www.amnesty.ca/sites/amnesty/files/iwfa_submission_amnesty_international_february_2014_-_final.pdf)

In response to calls for action from Indigenous families, communities and organizations, as well as non-governmental and international organizations, the Government of Canada launched a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in September 2016. Composed of four Commissioners from across the country. The Commissioners' mandate is to examine and report on the systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQ individuals in Canada by looking at patterns and underlying factors.

From the beginning the Inquiry was fraught with controversy resulting in a rotation of commissioners and accusations that the Inquiry did not provide enough time or access for all Indigenous communities to participate. However, as of July 25, 2018 the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls website reports 1273 testimonies have been provided by family members and survivors who shared their truths. 340 Artistic Expressions have been received. 1859 families and survivors registered to participate.

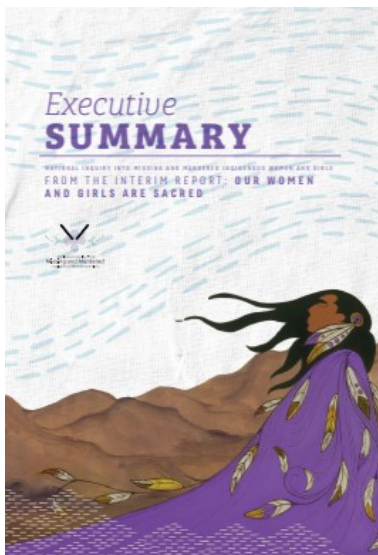
On June 5th, 2018, the federal government granted the National Inquiry a short extension of six months, instead of an additional 24 months requested. The National Inquiry is expected to conclude its research and submit its final report by April 30, 2019. The Commissioners have been given the direction to conduct hearings on the following topics:

1. Colonial Violence – socio-economic, health impacts, wellness
2. The Family: Child Welfare, Supports to family, Domestic Violence
3. Oversight and Accountability in/of the Criminal Justice System
4. Sexual Exploitation/Human Trafficking/Sexual Violence

Testimonials from Indigenous families during the Inquiry being held across Canada indicate that police procedures and practices for responding to missing persons often fail to take into account the pervasiveness and severity of threats faced by Indigenous women and girls, resulting in a failure to take the report seriously. Bias among law enforcement officers often result in the ignoring of a suspicious death leading to investigations that are under resourced or aborted without further consideration. The resulting impact is the normalization of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

Since the arrival of the colonials on Turtle Island (Canada), Indigenous women and girls have been the target of all forms of violence. The entire Indigenous culture has suffered





[Read the whole summary](#)

racism, cultural rape and genocide, however, for women and girls the impact has been more intense with continued power imbalances within families and communities.

In 2018 the International Alliance of Women framed areas of concern for women across the globe. A focus has been put on the challenges of Indigenous women in Canada and their struggle with violence directed toward them. IAW President, Joanna Manganara states that “because of the weaknesses of the Sustainable Development Goals’ accountability architecture, it is crucial to seek other complementary pathways and tools of accountability. These offer opportunities for women rights’ organizations to influence and inform policy-making and implementation in the long term and to identify systemic failures as well as good practices”.

It is important to highlight that not only government is responsible for ensuring the human rights of Indigenous women but everyday Canadians equally have the burden of correcting the objectification of this demographic of Canadian society. The Indigenous community is often racialized, therefore removed from mainstream consciousness. Calling on government to fix the problem and then never engaging an Indigenous woman in meaningful friendship or to give her equal opportunity in civil society organizations is hypocritical.

If we are to achieve sustainable development goal #5, gender equity, we must influence policy makers but we are also obliged to be personally committed as women’s rights defenders to cross the tracks, bridge or road to meet our sisters where they are.

Human rights defenders anxiously await the National Inquiry’s report in April 2019 and hope it will be a true reflection of Indigenous voices with concrete solutions to the issue of violence against Indigenous women, among other concerns that face this community. As was the case in South Africa during apartheid, if not for the global community the human rights abuses would not have ended. Canada needs a similar intervention from the global community to ensure the focus on achieving the absence of violence against women and girls in the Indigenous community.

[The whole article](#) is available on the IAW website.



Christina Knight

## Will the Swedish Law of Consent inspire a wave of change?

**Christina Knight writes:**

Right in the middle of summer, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, a new law came into force in Sweden – the law of consent, outlawing sex which is not based on mutual consent. The law says a person must give clear consent, verbal or physical:

"If a person wants to engage in sexual activities with someone who remains inactive or gives ambiguous signals, he or she will therefore have to find out if the other person is willing". In other words, having sex with someone who has not explicitly said yes or actively demonstrated their consent, is considered as rape.

Previously, one could only be prosecuted for rape if it had been proven that threats or violence was used. Now there will no longer be a requirement to prove violence or the threat of violence to obtain a rape conviction.

Most countries in Europe still define rape as a sexual act carried out with the use of violence or threat. Countries where sex without consent is considered rape, include Canada, The United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany

and Cyprus.\*

Prior to the new law, those convicted of rape in Sweden faced between four and 10 years in prison. The new law increases the minimum sentence for first degree rape to five years.

Women's rights campaigners say that the #metoo movement may well have contributed to the new legislation, but the discussion is all but new. The Swedish government began considering a consent law already in 2010.

Activists now hope other countries will follow Sweden and approve similar legislations, sparking change across the world.

But the new law of consent has also met with criticism and skepticism. Some worry what consent will mean in practice, others that the new law violates the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty and some argue there will be more convictions. What is your view on the matter?

\*Source: Amnesty International



Swedish Law Now Recognizes Sex Without Consent as Rape - The New York Times

<https://goo.gl/images/dCmurB>

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**Anjana Basu**, member of IAW in India, has sent this:

[Most dangerous for women? Foreign media constantly single out India for more opprobrium than other countries](#)

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