

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities

Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter October 2018 No 5

1. In memoriam Alice Marangopoulos
2. Board meeting 2018
3. WP
4. Mohinder
5. Presentation of new member
6. LGBT in India

Dear readers,

Alice Marangopoulos has died at the age of 101.

The Board Meeting in Berlin is approaching. The number of delegates is high, and Rosa Manus led the way.

The Water and Pads Project deserves your attention.

We have reports from New York, Geneva and EWL. And surprising stories from around the world.

CSW 2019 is coming up.



Alice Marangopoulos 1917—2018

On the death of Alice Marangopoulos President of IAW Joanna Manganara writes:

Dear All Members of the Extended Board, of Affiliate and Associate Organizations

It is with great sadness that as President of the International Alliance of Women I have to announce the death of Alice Yotopoulos Marangopoulos at the age of 101. She was buried in a civil funeral in Athens on 1st September. Alice was the 10th President of the IAW (1989 – 1996).

Alice Marangopoulos was a leading criminologist, President of the Hellenic Society of Criminology, Board member of the International Society of Criminology, Lawyer at the Supreme Court, Vice President of the Bar Association of Athens and the First Female University Rector to serve twice as Rector of Panteion University. She was also President of the National Commission for Human Rights. Alice was President of the Greek League for Women's Rights for 30 years, a simple member of the League, a member of the board, and its Vice President for 80 years. She was also founder and President of the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, which is a very active NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, UNESCO and Council of Europe.

Alice Marangopoulos was a prominent women's human rights activist, a symbol of feminism in Greece and beyond. She worked diligently throughout her whole life for the improvement of the status of women through her contributions to landmark legislation, promoting gender equality and women's human rights in her country

(Greece). This encompassed family law, decriminalization of abortion, introduction of the principle of gender equality in the Hellenic Constitution of 1975, upon her proposal, incorporation of the principle of effective equality and the quota system in public life in the 2001 revision of the Hellenic Constitution etc.

Alice was a very influential defender of women's human rights, not only in Greece, but also at the European and International level. She fought ardently against women's human rights violations.

The President of Greece, Prokopis Pavlopoulos, said that Alice Marangopoulos' institutional and political legacy has been an emblematic academic career and a committed and uncompromising battle in defence of human rights.

Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of Greece, said that with her uncompromising struggles she has paved the way for effective gender equality, thus establishing a bright example to be followed by present and future generations.

The President of The Greek Parliament Nicos Voutsis, the Secretary General for Equality Fotini Kouvela, Political Parties, Trade Unions and eminent personalities in Greece and elsewhere have expressed their compassion for the loss of a most influential woman human rights activist who has challenged traditional gender roles and proved that it is possible for women to break gender stereotypes in all areas of life.

She will always be remembered for her passion for justice, human rights, gender equality, democracy and her multiple achievements in all these fields



Alice Marangopoulos - Rosy Weiss
2008

Some personal thoughts from Rosy Weiss, Honourable President, IAW

To a very special woman: Honouring Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos

In September 1989, at the XXVIIIth Congress, Alice was elected as 10th President of the International Alliance of Women. It was the first IAW Congress ever in Australia and it was the very first IAW Congress I attended.

In her first presidential address Alice remembered the nickname she was given when only eleven years old: It was „women's struggle“, the title of the League's magazine to this day. From eleven years to one hundred, what a passionate life of clear visions, values and objectives and a determined fight against injustice in all its forms.

Before the transfer of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women from Vienna to New York in August 1993, I had the honour and pleasure to meet Alice every year during the Commission's meetings at the Vienna International Centre as well as the important sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations and IAW's work in this body fighting violence against women, including domestic violence! During these sessions we often used my

apartment in the centre of Vienna for our coordination meetings, intensely debating and drafting positions and statements. Grouped around Alice, we listened and learned!

During the UN World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, Alice, as a leading expert in her field, was part of the official Greek delegation. As such she had invaluable access to the internal deliberations of the governments, these insights she shared with her IAW delegates in the NGO arena, allowing them to lobby more effectively. That Conference is remembered for its very strong positions on women's human rights, thanks to the work of Alice and women like her.

Alice's achievements for and in the name of the Alliance during her presidency - I do not have to repeat them here. They are reflected in the International Women's News, and in particular in Edition 2004, published on the occasion of IAW's Centenary.

In a world increasingly confronted with ignorance and intolerance, what are the assets that international feminism could rely on? Where are personalities such as Alice Marangopoulos, upright and determined?

I hear Alice saying: And the struggle goes on.

Yes, dear, we follow you as best as we can.

Board Meeting in Berlin October :

Marion Böker, Board of Deutscher Frauenring, IAW:

The life and work of Rosa Manus paved the way for IAW presence in Berlin.

Registration for the IAW Board meeting, 2018, is completed, with a long list of participants.

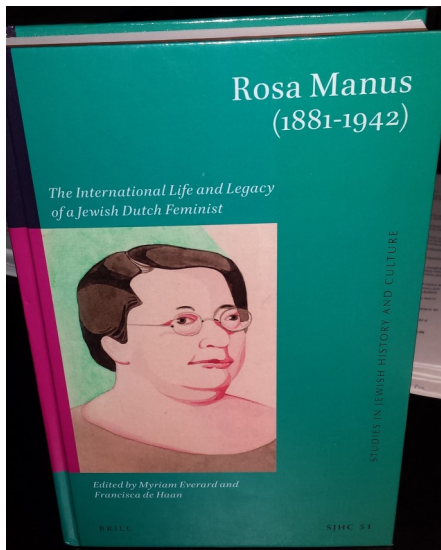
We have to thank Dutch feminist historians for researching the papers of Rosa Manus, which were stolen by the Nazis when the Netherlands was occupied by the Germans in 1940. Rosa Manus was a Dutch Jew and co-founder and president of the International Archives for the International Women Movement (IAV) 1936. She donated all her papers, including letters, to the IAV in 1940. The IAV is a Herstory cultural world heritage.

For a long time we knew very little about Rosa, consequently, there was a gap in our knowledge of our own organization and the work and the relationships among activists. However, a huge deposit of Rosa Manus' papers was found in Moscow and in 2003 and returned to [ATRIA](#) (former IAV), in Amsterdam. Myriam Everard and Francisca de Haan compiled a biography: *"Rosa Manus (1881-1942). The International Life and Legacy of a Dutch Feminist"*. It was published in Dutch in 2016 and in English in 2017. Arina Angerman wrote about the [first presentation](#) of the biography in Amsterdam in our newsletter and on her blog in December 2016. Today you can find more photos and documents of [her online](#) at ATRIA.



Rosa Manus 1881—1942

On the occasion of the opening and first presentations of the Deutsche Digitale Frauenarchiv (DDA) the DDA invited the [Feminist Summer University](#) to Berlin on the 15th of September 2018. Since 2016 the association of women's and lesbian archives in Germany has offered an online platform to create access to Herstory archive holdings. The DDA plays a major role in the celebrations (2018-2019) of the [100-Years-of-Women's-Vote](#) campaign. Online documents can be accessed, which inform the public about women's suffrage, the achievement of women's human rights, its lasting importance and remaining challenges (the SDG goal 5 indicator: 50 percentage of women in parliaments globally). ATRIA and DDA are part of worldwide networks of women's archives.



*The International Life and Legacy
of a Jewish Dutch Feminist*

*Biography ed. by Francisca de
Haan and Myriam Everard*

During the Feminist Summer University the authors of the Manus biography highlighted her famous feminist career, during which she worked tirelessly for feminism and peace. She organised the IAW's impressive campaign, raising eight million signatures for the League of Nations Disarmament Conference in 1932. She chaired a women's committee for refugees from Germany when the Hitler regime forced them to leave. She mobilized support for refugees in the USA together with her friend Carrie Chapman Catt. In order to combat the Nazis she cooperated with activists from the left until she was arrested and deported in 1941 to Ravensbrück, the "Frauenkonzentrationslager" and in 1942 she was killed in the gas chambers of Bernburg, a Death camp nearby.

In a biography of Carrie Chapman Catt, in 1944, the author noted that Rosa ignored Carry's advice, and offers to find shelter, because she believed in Dutch neutrality, until it was too late.

During the IAW Board meeting in Berlin the IAW will make a trip to the [Ravensbrück Memorial](#). We will have a guided tour through the exhibition and will sit together for a reading and discussion with Myriam Everard, the author of Rosa's biography. This will not only be about Herstory, but about strengthening our networks and activities against right wing, fascist and aggressive political powers. It will also be about gender equality and peace, as it is our International Seminar "Squaring the Cycle for Women, Peace and Security" which will be opened by Pramilla Patten, UN SRSG.

The DFR is looking forward to spending a great week with the IAW board members in Berlin. The news of IAW being in Berlin has already encouraged some women to join IAW as members. Berlin is ready for IAW. We assume it will be a pretty warm October. But you should be prepared with an umbrella and some warmer clothes.

Introduction of new associate member:

SWAGEN in Uganda was admitted as an associate member of IAW at Congress 2017

Support for **W**omen in **A**griculture and **E**nvironment (SWAGEN) is a grassroots organisation founded and owned by grassroots women in Uganda. The organisation came into existence in 1998 out of felt need. Although the period spanning 1986-1990 saw a proliferation of women NGOs, the majority were national level. They engaged in grassroots operations without performing adequate consultations, needs assessment and problem analyses. As a result many of their interventions:

- failed to target the most pressing needs of communities
- did not deliver benefits to the intended beneficiaries
- could not gain the support of the local stakeholders

The Vision of the organization is, *'All round development of the human being'*.

The Mission of the organization is, *'To create strong grassroots community groups capable of actively participating in, meaningfully contributing to and efficiently tapping the benefits of mainstream national and international development'*.

SWAGEN is involved in many interventions to alleviate livelihood challenges including:

Rights-based, Gender Responsive Environment and Sustainable Natural Resource Sse and Management

Under this program component the organization works with forest dependent communities, with women spearheading the process, to secure their rights to participate in and share benefits of Natural Resource Conservation in a collaborative management arrangement with National Forest Authority.

Food Security and Food Sovereignty

SWAGEN is promoting right of access to, control and ownership of household productive resources such as land, agro-ecological and organic agriculture practices at household level. This involves indigenous seed preservation, soil nutrient recycling and natural methods of pest and disease control.

“Water and Pads project” – badly needed in IAW countries - update

By Gudrun Haupter and Ursula Nakamura, coordinators of the project.

In the IAW Newsletter of April 2018 Signe Vahlun wrote about the evaluation of the first questionnaire we had sent to all IAW member organizations in developing countries. As mentioned there is an urgent need for our “Water and Pads” (WP) Project everywhere. As it turned out seven IAW colleagues in different countries had given very detailed information about steps they already had taken earlier or were planning to improve health education for girls. The results of this fact finding were

[Projet:
De l'eau et des serviettes
en français
follow the link](#)



Primary school of Bunyakiri, DR Congo – Picture by Anuarite Siirewabo



very convincing, and we started to intensify our communication with the following seven organizations:

All Pakistan Women's Association Pakistan, Bali Women's Union of Farming Groups Cameroon, CEFAP – Ladies Circle Cameroon, Réseau National des Associations de Tantines Cameroun, SOFETEC DR Congo, Women's Comfort Corner Zimbabwe, Zambia Alliance of Women Zambia.

We soon realized that tackling fund-raising activities is very difficult and needs a larger time frame. However we saw now clearly that the WP project has got to concentrate on the specific goal of menstrual health education in schools. Due to the very tight financial situation of IAW some urgent needs such as the improvement of sanitary installations in schools or the production of reusable pads have to be postponed or possibly be abandoned.

In July we sent a second very detailed questionnaire to the seven highly interested IAW member organizations mentioned above. Early in September several very accurate answers from our IAW colleagues had reached us. They had met with those responsible of the rural schools they had previously selected, all of whom stated that unfortunately health education, particularly the menstrual health management, is completely lacking. Therefore they all are eager to cooperate closely with the IAW organization in their country.

Just a week before the start of the school term in September Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa mailed us an alarming picture of the rural school of Bunyakiri in DR Congo she had been in touch with: Strong winds had completely demolished the roof of the buildings – so the children would have to start their new semester sitting outside under a baobab tree...!

In these extremely poor rural schools there is also a lack of the most basic teaching material, and we now are trying to get age-adapted small booklets about menstrual health management issued by UNICEF and others. Because it is also important that the schoolgirls feel attracted by the language, layout and pictures we want to consult our IAW colleagues and get their advice.

This description of steps taken so far shows the WP-project is proceeding very well – always in close cooperation with the active people in the respective regions.

At this point we are calling on our IAW colleagues in industrialized countries for their financial help and wish to stress that this project is built on solidarity.

DONATE

Therefore, please, make a donation! You can simply press the donation-button on the IAW-website and then click on "Water and Pads Project"!

Our colleagues in the project countries are thankful to you!

Both of us are confident that at the conference in Berlin in October 2018 we can give you more detailed information.

International representatives New York

Women and Tobacco:

Soon-Young Yoon, main representative in New York, has sent the following note:



Photo: Modelgirls

On October 2 during the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Conference of the Parties (COP 8) in Geneva, Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for the IAW participated in a side event on Gender Responsive Tobacco Control Policies. The event was sponsored by the Republic of Korea and co-sponsored by Canada and Sweden. The IAW was a collaborating NGO along with Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) and the International Network of Women Against Tobacco (INWAT). Yoon emphasized the importance of human rights related to tobacco and the SDGs framework. She said, “ The WHO FCTC is one of the most important public health tools of our times, but we need to implement tobacco control in the context of human rights treaties like CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The background paper can be found on the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/sessions/cop8/Gender-Responsive-Tobacco-Control.pdf>



Keeping accounts !

Geneva:

Statement at the Human Rights Council co-sponsored by IAW:

Human Rights: Women and Trade Policy

This statement is submitted by Women’s Federation for World Peace International, together with Graduate Women International, Soroptimist International, International Alliance of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women’s Association of Thailand, Tandem Project, Mother’s Legacy Project; international NGOs all committed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals hold little hope of success if more dramatic measures are not taken to advance opportunities for women and girls as movers and leaders in society – and importantly, their economic empowerment and access to education and knowledge.

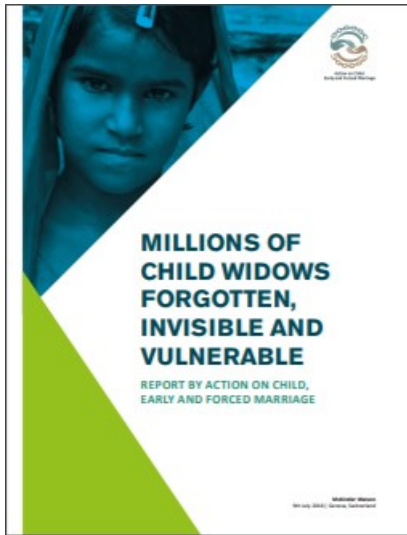
[Continue reading](#)

[See original document](#)

CHILD WIDOWS

Mohinder Watson, who participated in the IAW side event about birth registration, has written a report on child widows. After all, child widows were child brides, and birth registration might help eradicate this harmful custom.

Summary of the report



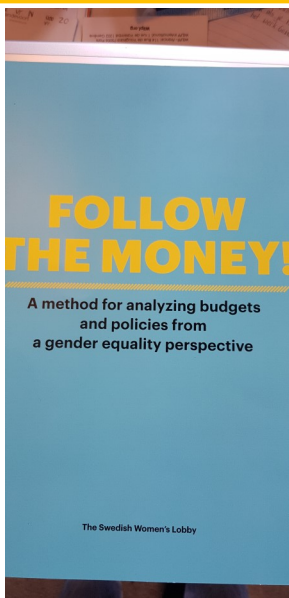
Action on Child Early and Forced Marriage estimates over 1.36 million child widows will have experienced an accelerated journey through major life stages from being a child to a wife, a mother and a widow, all whilst still children themselves. Child widows, a direct consequence of child marriage, a harmful traditional practice, face triple disadvantages of immaturity, gender, marital status. However, this vital link between child marriage and child widows has so far been largely overlooked by the international community.

Child widows often experience physical, mental and sexual violence including under-age and forced sex. Often accused of their husband's death, labelled as bad omens and perceived as promiscuous, they are relegated to the margins of society where they often face poverty, discrimination and violence.

Invisible in statistics, child widows are mostly denied their inheritance rights, evicted from their homes and exploited by others, usually family members or criminal gangs. These child widows have little or no access to justice, so they become a major public health, development and human rights issue which must be addressed by the international community.

[Direct Link to Full 28-Page 2018 Report](#)

European Women's Lobby



European Women's Lobby

Arina Angerman represents IAW on the Board of European Women's Lobby. She has written this report:

Gender Budgeting: Do Follow The Money!

Before and after **Beijing '95** I advocated for and worked on gender mainstreaming at the national and regional level in the Netherlands. "Gender mainstreaming is a global strategy for promoting gender equality and was first adopted at the 4th UN World Conference of Women in 1995 ". As Board Member of EWL and inspired by Marion Boeker, expert gender budgeting, I often asked a question or commented about Gender Budgeting at Board Meetings or General Assemblies of EWL.

Asking questions and connecting to others like the **Swedish Women's Lobby** gave positive results ... gender budgeting NOW is an important subject in EWL Work programme 2019. In External Strategic Aim 6 'To promote the feminist transformation of a sustainable economy based on new economic models based on equality, well-being, care and social justice.' EWL / the feminist economics working group (Marion Boeker became a member in 2018) will roll out a detailed work plan on **gender budgeting**: working group meetings, communications materials, process for developing on-line toolkit." Follow The Money! A publication by the Swedish Women's Lobby contains a method for analyzing budgets and "is designed to be used by individuals and non-governmental organizations, but it is also useful for political representatives and officials involved in budget processes."



Marion Böker—Arina Angerman
Brussels

Why is **Gender Budgeting** so important? As we know

“recommendations framed as gender ‘equal’, such as aligning the retirement ages of women and men, are not accompanied by measures to boost older women’s employment rates” (Quote from EWL’s Mary Collins Senior Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, August 2018) Do You Follow The Money?

For more information please read at

Swedish Women’s Lobby - gender equality budgeting and Follow the Money tool <http://sverigeskvinnolobby.se/en/project/analysis-of-the-governmental-budget/>

http://sverigeskvinnolobby.se/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/02/Follow-the-money_webb.pdf IAW - affiliate organisation Frederika Bremer Association is a member

Around the world

Around the world

Sweden

Christina Knight reports:

Sweden has released a handbook of its "[feminist foreign policy](#)" based on four years of work to place gender equality at the heart of the country's international agenda.

Sweden began its feminist foreign policy "in response to the discrimination and systematic subordination that still mark the daily lives of countless women and girls around the world," the handbook said.

It added that while gender equality was "an object in itself," it was "essential" in achieving more general government objectives, like peace, security and sustainable development.

Since its inception in 2014 by Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom, its goals include the promotion of economic emancipation, fighting sexual violence and improving women's political participation.



Signe Gissel Schmidt

Denmark

High School “Initiation” Rituals in Denmark are labelled as Rape culture

By Signe Gissel Schmidt

Inappropriate touching and nasty sexualized comments sadly happen in Danish schools and schools all over the world, every day, along with lap dancing and licking whipped cream off the chest of male classmates.

In Denmark, this even signifies a certain ritualized behavior, involving Danish High school pupils. What has probably been going on for decades is now finally out in the open. Danish Feminists salute the debate, which concerns what can be characterized as toxic masculinity. Senior male students kick off the new school season by inviting female rookies or

fresh (wo)men to the so called *putte* parties. *Putte* is difficult to translate, but it boils down to signifying a sort of a cute, innocent rookie. At these parties the girls are subjected to sexually explicit “initiation” rituals. The young girls, who are around 16-17 years old, are urged to kiss each other, to compete on deep throating a cucumber while being filmed, to take off their bras, do body tequilas on the boys, lap dance, be groped and answer intimate questions relating to sex. All while the male students are cheering and shouting for more.

Several young girls have come forward to share their experiences. It appears that the rituals have taken place all over Denmark, not at the schools and with the consent of the teachers, but in private homes. Although the schools are not directly involved, this signifies a certain culture amongst Danish youngsters: a sexist culture. As one girl puts it: “A rape culture”.

The girls were not physically forced to attend these parties, but they did not dare *not* show up as the group pressure was so intense. The male students have obviously been very aware of the young girls’ vulnerability and this reveals a system of masculine terror dominating aspects of high school life.

The debate brings up different perspectives such as a discussing today’s sex education (is it good enough?), parental responsibility, toxic masculinity, victim blaming and bullying. Hopefully the detoxification process will be efficient and fast and hopefully it can inspire other countries where the same behavior and cultures might exist too. #metoo has not been mentioned in this context, but the Danish high school debate seems very closely linked to this global movement. The girl who kick-started the debate, Anja Leighton, was offended two years ago, but chose to share her story this summer. Her story shows that sexism and harassment exist in every part of society, not only in the film industry and at the Universities. It is interesting whether it was #metoo which made her come forward or not, but either way, Danish feminists salute the debate.

India

I AM WHAT I AM SO TAKE ME AS I AM

By Anjana Basu

The setting aside of Section 377 has been sending waves of joy through the LGBT community and activists in India. The number refers to an old British law that criminalised homosexuality and sent Oscar Wilde to Reading Gaol and which remained part of the Indian constitution post Independence.

The penal provision says “whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either

description for a term which may extend to 10 years, and shall also be liable to fine.” [Read more](#)

CSW 2019

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 2019

The sixty-third session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 22 March 2019.

Priority theme:

Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

Review theme:

Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development ([agreed conclusions](#) of the sixtieth session);

[NGO Participation](#)– follow the link

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