



Centenary Edition



Congress Rome 1923

International Alliance of Women

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities

1904-2004

Alliance Internationale des Femmes

Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS
NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES



1904-1926

First Constitution adopted in Berlin, Germany, June 2 & 4, 1904

Article 1 - Name: The Name of this organization shall be the

International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA)

Alliance Internationale pour le suffrage des Femmes

Weltbund für Frauen-stimmrecht

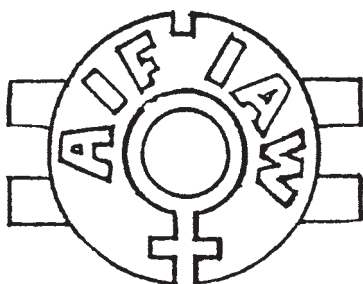
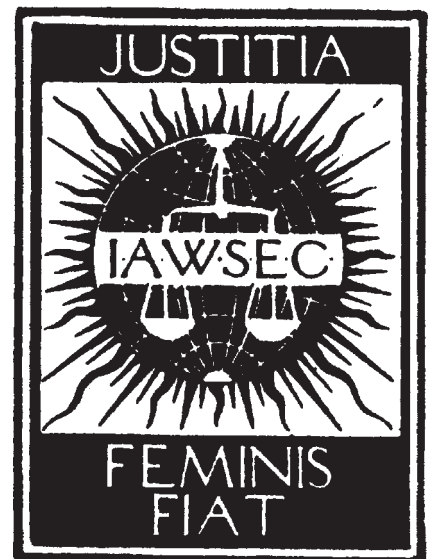
1926-1949

Constitution adopted in Paris, 1926

Article 1 - Name: The name of the federation shall be the

**International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship
(IAWSEC)**

**Alliance Internationale pour le suffrage des Femmes
et pour l'Action civique et politique des Femmes**



1949-2004

The third Constitution adopted in Amsterdam, 1949

Article 1 - Name: The name of the federation shall be the

**International Alliance of Women,
Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities (IAW)**

**L'Alliance Internationale des Femmes,
Droits Egaux - Responsabilités Égales (AIF)**

Foreword

My personal introduction to the International Alliance of Women happened in dramatic circumstances. Having been active in the women's movement, I was one of those fortunate to be included in the Australian non-government delegation to Mexico City in 1975.

Once I had recovered from the jet-lag and amazement, I realized that there must have been an enormous amount of work and responsibility involved in preparation for the Forum, and discovered that the International Alliance of Women was among the NGO's which had volunteered for the gigantic task of planning and pulling together the first truly international women's conference.

Additionally, I then discovered that the Women's Service Guilds, a long established (1909) conservative organisation in my own state of Western Australia had been an associate member of IAW for a very long time!

The next crucial step was to persuade the newly formed, Australia-wide Women's Electoral Lobby to seriously consider seeking affiliation with IAW, thus expanding our position among the feminist organizations of the world. This proposition was accepted as bringing to Australian women the opportunity to establish ourselves among the effective women's organizations.

As its name implies, WEL, emerged as the answer to the deeply felt need of many Australian women to be more closely involved in the political life of our country. Knowledge of the international activism of prominent earlier Australian feminists, such as Vida Goldstein and Jessie Street, stimulated our need to become more knowledgeable about the women of the world, and of the United Nations. The Mexico Conference and its outcomes convinced me that women's voices had been rarely heard or heeded, despite the immensely effective work of a few strong women early in the history of the United Nations.

The document issuing from Mexico in 1975 treated women as instrumental. For example, they must be healthy in order to produce healthy children; they should be educated in order to work more effectively; they should be encouraged to train in order to enhance their productivity.

There was no mention of women and girl's intrinsic rights as human beings to health, education and training. Neither was there any recognition of women's vulnerability to violence or of their special needs during pregnancy and child-birth. Needless to say there was no mention of birth control or sexuality.

Dismayed at these and other omissions, a group of us from the Tribune, urged on by Helvi Siipila from Finland (Secretary General to the UN Conference) and Elizabeth Reid (Adviser on Women's Affairs to the Australian Prime Minister), separated into groups and constructed what we considered to be an appropriate Plan of Action. My contribution as a trade union official was to the group dealing with industrial relations- and to my great regret, I've

somehow lost track of my copy of that precious document. Language and other difficulties were overcome as we scrounged typewriters, typing and carbon paper, and were able to distribute to all of the United Nations delegations our version of what we considered to be appropriate.

Of course it made no apparent difference to the outcome of the UN Conference, but the boost to our morale, especially the practical evidence of sisterhood across many nations, languages and customs, gave purpose and encouragement to what was for most of us our first, but certainly not our last, experience of international politics.

On returning home I joined IAW and having persuaded WEL that it was certainly to our advantage to affiliate, attended my first IAW meeting in Helsinki in the summer of 1982. By then I had been elected to the Australian Senate, representing the Australian Labor Party. Having excellent staff, well able to hold the fort, I was able to travel overseas to attend IAW meetings during parliamentary breaks, and was also able to meet the costs of travel from Australia. (I missed the Mid-decade Conference in Copenhagen because in 1980 all my resources and energy were devoted to becoming a Senator).

The next time I met with IAW members was in Nairobi in 1975 at the End of the Decade for Women UN Conference. Having been given the somewhat overwhelming responsibility of leading the Australian Government official delegation, whose duties negotiating with other delegations and the usual social obligations, I saw little of my IAW sisters and that, mostly in passing.

I had taken part in preparatory meetings for Nairobi in New York, and was dismayed by the overbearing behavior of the USA delegation, which continued throughout the Conference. Predictably there was great tension in Nairobi which focused on a few issues, among which were apartheid and the Iran/Iraq war, very distressing for our African sisters who had worked so hard to ensure a progressive and non-contentious outcome. Despite these complications, a greatly improved and feminist-flavoured main document was the result.

My favourite sentence from the Forward Looking Strategies is this: *"Women have the right to control their own fertility, without which they cannot enjoy other rights."*

IAW Conferences in Mauritius (1986) and Melbourne (1989) had their own characteristics. Mauritius was sunny and relaxed, with apartheid being the only contentious issue that I recall. Our Melbourne Congress was very well organized by our Secretary and subsequently Journal Editor, Priscilla Todd, assisted by others of our Australian affiliates which are mostly based in Melbourne. It is an inevitably cold and wet city, but those who were able to make the long trip were warmly welcomed. I mostly recall a very formal visit to the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and an excellent indoor circus performance in the majestic



■ Present IAW Board elected in 2002, Sri Lanka

– Melbourne Town Hall. Some of the participants were subsequently able to travel to Canberra (the capital and site of the national parliament) and see the Australian Parliament in action.

I missed the Athens Congress because in 1992 I was representing the Australian Parliament at the General Assembly of the United Nations, where I presented the Australian Government contributions to the debates on Aging and Disability. Part of that satisfying experience was participating in the Social Policy Commission meetings where differences are discussed often at length – and sometimes resolved. Experts in social and socio-legal matters from a range of member states came to address the Commission as is now almost routine in the Commission on the Status of Women and adding significantly to the quality of debates. For me the most rewarding of the Social Commission in 1993 was the presentation by the Philippines of a resolution which addressed violence against women. It raised some objections, during an intentionally low-key debate, but was accepted without a vote. This had been carefully managed behind the scenes in preparation for the 1993 UN General Assembly, where a strong Declaration on Violence Against Women (polished in Vienna by a 1993 meeting of CEDAW (Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) was accepted, once again without a division.

I cannot recall when I became a Member of the Board of IAW but at the next Congress in Calcutta, 1996, I was honored and very surprised to be elected President of IAW, succeeding Alice Marangopoulos, and re-elected in 1999 and in 2002.

Like many international and other organizations, a range

of factors have complicated our planning, our operations and our collective achievements, but as long as goodwill prevails, we continue to thrive and can only give thanks for all those whose dedication over all these years brought us to Berlin for our Centenary Celebration

As an organization IAW is mostly reliant upon the means and good health of our officials to attend meetings of IAW, and of UN and other International Organizations.

We treasure our privilege to participate in these because of the opportunity to contribute from our collective and personal experience and to build on the excellent reputation built by our members over the decades.

We depend heavily upon the good-will of our officers to perform their tasks, especially when time and sometimes language differences have militated against easy communication. Because of their generosity and forbearance we have made significant progress and have maintained a valued place in the NGO community.

As I become ex-President at this Year's Centennial Congress in Berlin, my overwhelming impressions of the last twenty years are of the generosity of time, energy, resources and spirit of my colleagues – a true sisterhood, within which I hope to have the privilege of continuing to participate. May I urge all who join with us, and to our absent members, to take great satisfaction in maintaining the principles of our fore-mothers, of celebrating the achievements of the century, and of looking ahead with optimism and energy for better lives for all women? ♦

Patricia Giles

President International Alliance of Women

Preface

Our IAW centenary publication has had a chequered history. The original proposal for an academic book, which would have complimented and brought up to date Arnold Whittick's *'Woman into Citizen'*, was proposed by our archives officer, Marijke Peters, during the International meeting in Malmö in 1998. At the time it was suggested that this book should be written by a feminist academic.

The Dutch historian, **Francisca de Haan**, agreed to do the work. Unfortunately she was obliged, for professional reasons, to withdraw in 2001, leaving Marijke with the difficult task of finding an alternative solution. Two more ideas were proposed and pursued without success, so that during the spring of our centenary year we put our heads together and came up with a proposal for separate chapters under themes instead of a chronological record.

This was to be based upon a combination of photocopied articles from *Jus Suffragii*, photographs and short articles by our members. We duly set about nagging many of you for articles on specific subjects or Alliance personalities past and present, and slowly they came in! Marijke and I would like to thank all of you who have responded for your help and cooperation, because without you there would literally have been nothing to distribute.



As we have decided to make this production very much an Alliance project, we are using informal photographs and keeping editing to a minimum, these are, therefore your words, with only the occasional typing or spelling mistakes corrected. We must also thank the archives officers of the Women's Libraries in London and Amsterdam for their help and cooperation with both text and photographs. Finally the expert technical help given by Dirry Vogelaar who has helped with the production and layout, without which we would not have been able to realise our hopes.

There will be many gaps and deficiencies which our readers will identify, but please do not feel disappointed, the great advantage of this approach is that it does not have to be regarded as a final product; we can leave it as it is or adapt and extend the volume in a variety of ways over the years.

You are invited to take it apart, insert a more detailed account of your organisation's history, use it as a framework for a more serious edition, or adapt in what ever way you please.

Following the Centenary Congress the records can be added to the text and with a fifth UN world conference ahead of us there is much to look forward to, It is, therefore, open ended. Whoever has the time and energy to take up the challenge is welcome to adapt or contribute towards the books development.

The first two sections give an introduction to the work, they cover the administration and organisation of the International Alliance of Women, the work done by women both in the past and present and should provide a useful source of reference, especially for new-comers!

The second topic is the history of our most important campaign, the fight for the vote. This is a more colourful and exciting look back upon our history and the Alliance can feel justly proud of the progress that women have made throughout the world on this issue.

Following this we move on to the evolution of communications which takes us from the early editions of *Jus Suffragii* to the present day sophistication of the world-wide web and the e-news letter.

We then cover the war years and try to convey the despair of women throughout the world at the relentlessly miserable turn of events and our conviction

that women need to be involved in building peace. This is, of course a theme which still occupies us today.

The next section is devoted to our French speaking colleagues and consideration of their important contribution towards our work, in particular, with reference to West Africa.

Following this we cover some of our many activities, seminars and areas of campaigning issues in which our officers and commissions have been involved.

We then move on to the important work of recent decades involving the United Nations and its satellite bodies and finally to a vision for the future.

This edition is only a framework, but one which is fairly light-hearted and which we hope you will enjoy and later embellish. Thank you again for your help. ♦

Helen J. Self



■ *Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929), Great Britain*
President British Union of Suffrage Societies
Vice-President IWSA 1904-1920
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)
(* Photo error in first copies)



■ *Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), USA*
President of National American Woman Suffrage Association
Honorary President IWSA 1904
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



■ *Dr. Jur. Anita Augspurg (1857-1943), Germany*
President Deutscher Verband für Frauenstimmrecht
Vice-President IWSA 1904-1909
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



■ *Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947), USA*
President of National American Woman Suffrage Association 1901
First President IWSA 1904-1923
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

1st Board, Berlin 1904

1st Hon. President: Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), USA

The following officers were elected:

President: Carrie Chapman Catt, USA

1st Vice-President: Dr. Jur. Anita Augspurg, Germany

2nd Vice-President: Mrs. Millicent Fawcett, Great Britain

Secretary: Rachel Foster Avery, USA

1st Ass. Secretary: Dr. Käthe Schirmacher, Germany

2nd Ass. Secretary: Johanna W.A. Naber, Netherlands

Treasurer: Miss. Roger Cunliffe, Great Britain

Declaration of Principles

International Woman Suffrage Alliance

The Second IWSA Conference Berlin, Germany, June 3 & 4, 1904

Hosting organization: Deutscher Verband für Frauenstimmrecht

1904: Berlin, Germany

The declaration of principles adopted by the first IWSA Conference in Washington were confirmed after translation into French and German. It was agreed that the German and English texts should be regarded as the official *Declaration of Principle*. The German text should use the masculine form to give the same neuter significance as in English.

The Constitution was accepted and Affiliation confirmed by founding organizations:

Australia:

National Australian Women's Political Association

Germany:

Deutscher Verband für Frauenstimmrecht

Great Britain:

British Union of Suffrage Societies

Netherlands:

Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht

Sweden:

Landsforeningen för Kvinnans Politiska Rösträtt

USA:

National American Woman Suffrage Association

Denmark:

Danske Kvindeforeninger
Valgretsforbund & Dansk Kvindesamfund

Norway:

Landskvindestemmeretsforeningen

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

ADOPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS OF DELEGATES.

We, the men and women assembled in the First International Woman Suffrage Conference, held in Washington, U. S. A., February 12—18, 1902, do hereby declare our faith in the following principles:

1. That men and women are born equally free and independent members of the human race; equally endowed with talents and intelligence, and equally entitled to the free exercise of their individual rights and liberty.

2. That the natural relation of the sexes is that of inter-dependence and coöperation, and that a repression of the rights of one inevitably works injury to the other, and to the whole race.

3. That in all lands, those laws, creeds, and customs which have tended to restrict women to a position of dependence; to discourage their mental training; to repress the development of their natural gifts, and to subordinate their individuality, have been based upon false theories, and have produced an artificial and unjust relation of the sexes in modern society.

4. That self-government in the home and the State should be the inalienable right of every normal adult, and in consequence no individual woman can "owe obedience" to an individual man, as prescribed by old marriage forms, nor can women as a whole owe obedience to men as a whole as required by modern government.

5. That the refusal to recognize women as individual members of society, entitled to the right of self-government, has resulted in social, legal, and economic injustice to them, and has intensified the existing economic disturbances throughout the world.

6. That governments which impose taxes and laws upon their women citizens without giving them the right of consent, or dissent, which is granted to men citizens, exercise a tyranny inconsistent with just government.

7. That the ballot is the only legal and permanent means of defending the rights to "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" pronounced inalienable by the American Declaration of Independence, and accepted as inalienable by all civilized nations; therefore, women should be vested with all rights and privileges of electors in a representative form of government.

8. That the rapidly developing intelligence of women, resulting from new educational opportunities, and the important position in the economic world into which women have been forced by the commercial changes of the last half century, call for the immediate consideration of this problem by the nations of the world.

Signed: ¹

SUSAN B. ANTHONY, U. S.
VIDA GOLDSTEIN, Australia.
FLORENCE FENWICK MILLER, England.
ANTONIE STOLLE, Germany.
EMMY EVALD, Sweden.

GUDRUN DREWSEN, Norway.
CAROLINA HUIDOBRO, Chile.
ANNA H. SHAW, U. S.
RACHEL FOSTER AVERY, U. S.
CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, U. S.

¹ Time prevented the submission of the Declaration to Miss Fensham of Turkey and Madam Friedland of Russia.



■ Page taken from 'Birthday Memorial Book' given to Carrie Chapman Catt on the occasion of her 70th birthday in 1929. (Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

Carrie Chapman Catt

First President IWSA, 1904-1923

*Extract from the address of the president Carrie Chapman Catt on her retirement,
to the ninth congress of the IWSA, Rome, Italy, May 14th 1923*

The Alliance stands for the abolition of those old codes of law which have kept women in perpetual tutelage and allowed them no independent individuality. Victor Hugo once declared the nineteenth Century to be 'the century of woman'. However at the close of the century that seemed an error. Yet in that century the demand for woman's education had been conceded. The vote for women became inevitable when she was permitted to learn the alphabet. The law which denied women the right to property, persons and wages had been repealed.

The vote has been the climax for the struggle of every class of privilege. When the Alliance met at our first after-war congress in Geneva in 1920 it celebrated 22 new national suffrage victories. On 1920 our campaign seemed more nearly complete than it was. In Australia all women vote. In Northern Europe woman suffrage is securely established. In North America from Alaska to the border of Mexico all women vote. We now welcome delegates from distant countries, Burmah, Palestine and especially proud to welcome Egyptian delegates from that country were in ancient days there were Egyptian Queens and women military leaders of great renown.

South America is the only continent where no woman votes yet is a continent of republics. The freedom of action of women is unbelievable. Your President with three assistants spent 4 months making a tour of conditions in 6 of the 11 republics. The women's movement is growing. There are strong ties with their original home lands in southern Europe. Alas, so long as France does not enfranchise its women South America will make no haste to do so. We must continue to cry to all these nations: Awake, Arise, Take Courage, The alliance is an army but our only weapon is an appeal for

Justice. We differ in many things, in race, religion and politics but we are united in our demand for a woman's share in all privileges, opportunities and responsibilities.

Our movement must consider four questions for the future:

1. How may enfranchised and unenfranchised women unite to secure the repeal of the last vestige of those outworn codes of law that have placed women in the same status as children and feeble minded?
2. How may the enfranchised women within the alliance most effectively aid the unenfranchised women of self governing countries to get their vote?
3. How may the alliance aid women voters to a full realization of the dignity and duty which belong to their new status?
4. How may women voters most effectually serve the common good of their nation and the world. Many are now enfranchised but not emancipated.

I recommend that our auxiliaries consider means of placing more women in Parliament. The alliance needs a strong and constructive policy to be applied simultaneously throughout the world to each of these four problems. They are worthy of our best.

"In closing this address I beg the privilege of a personal word. For 21 years I have served this organisation as an officer, from 1902 until 1904 as organising secretary of a tentative Association and from 1904 to 1923 as President of the Alliance.

I want to thank our many workers of the past twenty years. Together we have seen more than our dreams realised and blessed in the fulfilment of much of our hope. It is my privilege after so long an official term to retire from the board at this congress.

I urge that there shall be no break in our work together. 'In Union there is strength'.

No Cause in the entire world is nobler than ours, our movement still calls for confidence and courage, for vision and faith. It is my prayer that the Alliance will never fail in any of these qualities. May we continue marching to the end." ♦

***"No Cause in the entire world
is nobler than ours"***

Margery Corbett Ashby

Second President IWSA, 1923-1946

Margery Corbett was born in 1882, the eldest of Charles and Marie Corbett's three children. She had a happy childhood, growing up in a rambling country house about thirty miles from London, which was always a hub of activity and visited by guests from around the world. Her parents had a deep sense of social service which they instilled in Margery. She grew up to be a woman of great charm and character and married Arthur Brian Ashby in 1910, who supported her in her social and political work.

Margery's father was a politician and became the Liberal Member of Parliament for East Grinstead. Thus it was, at the early age of 16, that Margery was taken to one of his political meetings, where she made her first speech. Being a clever young woman she went up to Newman College Cambridge in 1901, where she read classics, leaving with an honours degree in 1904. It was inevitable that she would become interested in the suffrage movement, which was one of the most important and controversial political campaigns of the time. She soon became a prominent worker in the non-violent branch of the British movement, being inspired by the leadership of Millicent Fawcett, and joining in some of the great processions of women which filled the streets of London during the early part of the 20th century.

In 1904 Margery had her first introduction to the international women's movement, attending with her mother and sister the great meeting in Berlin during which the International Suffrage Alliance took shape. In this way our organisation united suffrage societies in the dozen or so countries in which they existed. During the next few years she attended Alliance Congresses in Amsterdam, Copenhagen, London and Stockholm. All of this activity was to be interrupted in 1914 by the First World War. As the offices of the Alliance had been established in London, they were used as the headquarters of the International Women's Relief Committee,



■ Margery Corbett Ashby
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

which was formed by the Alliance to help coordinate women's contribution to the war effort. As a result of the war hundreds of foreign women living in Britain instantly became aliens and the Alliance helped many of them to return to their countries of origin. Truck loads of food were sent to Belgian refugees, whilst French, British and Belgian women and children were helped to travel from Germany to England.

Following the war, British women were granted the vote in 1918. However, Margery continued with her work. She visited Germany and found that the conditions in which the troops were living were very poor. Also, many poverty stricken girls were flooding into Germany and the level

of VD infection was alarming. On her return to London she reported her findings to the War Office and was soon appointed, alongside Commandant Allen of the volunteer women police, to inspect the camps. On their recommendation VD clinics were opened. The results of their work were impressive and subsequently German women were sent to England for training in the formation of a women's police corps. The police service was one of the first areas in which women found work within a traditionally male domain.

Perhaps Margery's most important contribution to the women's movement was her role in persuading the American President, Woodrow Wilson that the principle of equality of the sexes should be written into the constitutions of the International Labour Movement and the League of Nations, and that the right for women to vote in the plebiscite should be written into the Treaty. She later became the elected member of the National Executive of the League of Nations Union in Britain and as secretary to the Alliance, between 1920 and 1923; she worked to bring the work of the Alliance into line with the League of Nations.

In 1923 Margery was elected President of the Alliance, succeeding Carrie Chapman Catt, and remained in this position for 23 years. She was, undoubtedly, far more than just a charming woman, Margery was politically astute and a fluent linguist, working in English, French and German, always an invaluable asset to the International Alliance. She was fortunate to live through such exciting and turbulent times. It is to such women that we owe the advancement in women's political rights, and for many, an immeasurably improved position in the world. ♦

■ Helen J. Self

Hanna Rydh

Third President IAW, 1946-1952



Rydh lived in an era when women's rights were being put into practice. She was the first woman to pass a doctoral degree in Swedish archaeology stimulated by both her professor and future husband.

At the 1911 congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance she took part as a steward, already involved in women issues she got engaged in the work of the Frederike Bremer Forbundet. She wrote archaeological articles for Hertha their journal, on prehistoric women.. After her marriage she kept her own name, to distinguish her work from her husbands. She realised the importance of the need to use the possibilities of the right to vote and abolition of husbands guardianship. She did a lot of fieldwork. Aged 33 she became widowed with two children. She then finished several projects her husband had started. She remarried and as wife of a county governor she wrote popular history for children After the death of her second husband her political work increased as president of Fredrika Bremer.

In 1948 she was Swedish delegate to the UN. As president of the IAW she was instrumental in obtaining IAW consultative status at the UN. She travelled a great deal as president representing the IAW at many UN conferences. Due to her efforts 19 new affiliates joined. She prepared the way for an Asian regional conference in Colombo. In 1952 she resigned as president in order to lead a Swedish archaeological expedition in India. She had an extensive female network.

Quote: "We have never had more reason to be hopeful about the realisation of our aims than now. Let us not allow this great opportunity to slip from our hands. It is up to us, each one of us, to see that the Declaration of Human Rights becomes a reality." ♦

(Source: IIAV, 'Excavating Women', Chapter 8, by Elisabeth Arwill-Nordbladh; photo: 'Journey Towards Freedom', 1955)

Ester Graff

Fourth President IAW, 1952-1958



We have to record the death at the age of 94 of Ester Graff of Denmark. Ester followed a distinguished succession of women as President of the IAW. Carrie Chapman Catt of USA founded it in 1902; Margery Corbett Ashby

followed her as President from 1923 to 1946: Hanna Rydh of Sweden followed her in 1946, and it was at the Naples Congress in 1952 that Hanna handed over to Ester Graff.

It was at a time of great change in the development of the Alliance. Many of the great stalwarts had retired after giving many years of devoted work. The Alliance began to extend its influence and membership in Africa and the Middle and Far East. And something more had happened which affected Alliance work: the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations had granted the Alliance Consultative Status Category B. For the first time in history an intergovernmental body had recognized the value of support and advice from non-governmental organisations. The Alliance thus had the privilege of maintaining at U.N. headquarters representatives whose responsibilities included attending meetings of ECOSOC's Commissions, chiefly those on the Status of Women, Human Rights, and UNESCO. Under Ester's guidance the first international seminar was held prior to the Athens Congress in 1958. This drew together women from the East and West, many of whom had never been to an international meeting before. From this flowed seminars which led to the development of work in Nigeria, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

A President's work in the Alliance is exhausting and exacting, especially for one who feels an obligation to do her utmost for a world association with a great cause (...) Ester performed the task with distinction during her six years of office, assisted by her sister, Marie Graff, as Secretary of IAW and by Paddy, daughter of Laurel Casinader of Sri Lanka.

It was under Ester's lead that a Congress was organised for the first time outside Europe – the Colombo Congress in 1955 – which eventually allowed Ester in Athens in 1958 to hand over the Presidency to Ezlyn Deraniyagala. ♦

(Source: IWNNews, Vol. 86-No. 2 1991, by Amy Bush & Margaret Ingledew; photo: 'Journey Towards Freedom', 1955)

Ezlynn Deraniyagala

Fifth President IAW, 1958-1964

Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala was elected with acclamation as President of the Alliance. She is well known to the fortunate members who were able to attend the Jubilee Congress at Colombo, who admire her eloquence and administrative abilities, as did the delegates to the Congress of Asian Women, also held in Colombo. Here is her portrait and her first speech as President.

"I thank my colleagues on the Board and the delegates assembled in Congress for the confidence they have placed in me by giving me this great responsibility, especially the British affiliates who rashly nominated me.

I thank you on behalf of my association, my delegates and my country, for the honour done me.

Thank you for the tribute you pay to the women of Asia in my election.

I thank those who helped in innumerable and generous ways to prepare for this great task, the President herself in particular, who spared no pains to warn me for the days ahead.

As I stand here I am deeply conscious of my inadequacy both personally and officially. When I consider the brilliant succession of women who have preceded me in office: (...); when I think of these women I feel extinguished in comparison and such a comparison is psychologically inevitable.

When I regard the growing work of this great sisterhood which is the Alliance – its growth and expansion in every way – that sense of inadequacy is intensified. I can promise you only to do my best, with the help of each of you and the close support and collaboration of the new Board and the sturdy prop of my Association at home.

I promise to guard zealously the tradition of the Alliance to pursue our demand of Equal Right, to continue our work for raising the status of women, and to strengthen the bonds of affection between the national affiliates, especially those of Asia, the Middle East and Africa, while consolidating the already strong ties of loyalty of those of Australia, the Americas and Europe.

I pray that when in the fullness of time I shall hand over the succession, the Alliance has not diminished in strength or stature." ♦

(Source: IWNNews, Vol. 52, Sept.-Oct. 1958)



■ The new president, Begum Anwar Ahmed, receives the gavel, symbol of office, from Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala.

(Source: IWNNews, Vol. 59 - No. 9/10, Sept.-Oct. 1964)

Begum Anwar Ahmed

Sixth President IAW, 1964-1970

The Alliance is indeed fortunate in having Begum Anwar Ahmed to succeed our much loved late President Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala. Many of us knew Begum Anwar before the Congress and had the highest opinion of her as a leader in the fight for equal rights and equal responsibilities. As Chairman of the Congress Resolutions Committee, in the chair at its plenary session or in her valuable contribu-

tions to the general debates the Begum showed political ability, diplomacy, dignity, calmness and friendliness.

To these essentials it is very pleasant to add beauty and charm for in our experience women are as alive to these as are men. Now that almost all countries have given equal political rights to women some older members of the Alliance feared we should be tempted to stray away from equality into the field of social

service, especially as the newer members of the Alliance come from the rapidly developing countries where women's energy in the social and political fields is so urgently needed. But under the leadership of the Begum we need not fear that equality will be forgotten. The Begum was one of the outstanding leaders of the All Pakistan Women's Association which carried through a reform of the Family Law and has lately successfully prevented reactionary elements from changing it. The All Pakistan Association is working hard in the fields of education and social services but realises that effective work depends on the status of women.

As the wife of the Ambassador of Pakistan to Washington Begum Anwar Ahmed knows the diplomatic world, the world of hard politics. As Chairman of the Status of Women Commission of the United Nations she showed her ability and tact. Now that the United Nations are showing greater awareness of the value of non-Governmental Societies we are fortunate to have our President at the centre of world organisation.

We shall never forget the great services rendered by our two Scandinavian Presidents and are happy to welcome our second president from Asia. ♦

(Source: IWNNews, Vol. 59 - No. 9/10, Sept.-Oct. 1964)

Edith Anrep

Seventh President IAW, 1970-1973



Graduated at the University of Stockholm, subsequently a practising lawyer. She is President of the Fredrika Bremer Forbundet Scholarship Institution, Vice-President of the Swedish Cancer Society, Board member of the Swedish Committee for Cultural Cooperation in Europe.

Mrs. Anrep was elected a Board Member of the International Alliance of Women in 1955, Vice-President 1964, serving as Chairman of the International Understanding Committee 1958-1964. In Sweden she is an active worker on women's problems, General Secretary and Board member of the FBF, working with the Swedish Business and Professional Women's Organisation and the Consumers Institute, also various Boards dealing with social and cultural questions.

At the request of the United Nations Status of Women Commission she prepared a working paper on Family Law in Scandinavian countries, for the UN Seminar on Family Law in European countries, and was the Swedish Government's delegate to Bucharest in 1961. She is appointed by the City Law Court of Stockholm as mediator in divorce cases. Mrs. Anrep's first words as President of IAW were addressed to Begum Anwar Ahmed, the retiring President. *"Let me start by saying thank you and in my thanks I include the officers and friends on the Board of the Alliance, all the Affiliates, Individual members and all present and absent friends of the Alliance. We are a long chain of people from every corner of the world linked together by our common ideals, interests, goal and friendship. We thank you for having so beautifully guided us during two periods of hard work in a world so full of difficulties. The Alliance has flourished under your reign and many of our branches in far off continents have produced new life. It has been a lively time full of events and success. You have combined foresight with a true feeling for the past and you have been a master in delegating tasks to your fellow workers, which is a precious and useful gift in a good leader. It has been a great joy to work with you, your way of conducting meetings has been perfect, a combination of diplomacy and firmness. You have never hesitated to grasp new ideas and thus been a true Alliance girl. One of your initiatives was your suggestion at our Boardmeeting in Stockholm in 1964, to put family planning on our agenda and terms of reference. This has been of great importance and set our Alliance on a new path. (...) On the recommendation of the Board I have the pleasure to ask the Congress to nominate Begum Anwar G. Ahmed Honorary President of the International Alliance of Women."*

This was received with acclamation. ♦

(Source: IWNNews, Vol. 65 - No. 10/11 1970)

Irène de Lipkowski

Eighth President IAW, 1973-1979



Irène de Lipkowski, jeune femme entre les deux guerres mondiales, se lance avec ardeur dans la vie politique. Elle milite pour que les Françaises obtiennent le droit de vote que la plupart de leurs sœurs européennes avaient déjà. Mais la guerre interrompt le combat féministe: Irène transfère

toute son énergie au combat pour la liberté et contre le nazisme. Son mari est déporté et ses deux fils rejoignent la France libre pour participer à la Libération. L'un d'eux est tué en 1945 lors de la campagne d'Alsace, tout juste deux mois avant la mort de son père à Buchenwald. À l'issue de cette succession d'épreuves, Irène décide de concentrer ses efforts sur la préparation des femmes à la vie politique. Le droit de vote acquis, il faut du savoir-faire pour passer à la pratique. Ce tournant dans la vie des femmes dépasse les frontières: il faut s'unir de par le monde pour aboutir.

Le CILAF (Comité International de Liaison des Associations Féminines) est créé à cet effet. Irène en est la présidente Fondatrice et en tant que vice-présidente de la Ligue du Droit des femmes elle adhère à l'AIF dont elle est élue présidente en 1973.

Remarquablement douée pour la communication (elle est polyglotte, ce qui aide) elle désire nouer des relations avec toutes les femmes. Elle parcourt le monde. Elle visite presque tous les États d'Afrique; en Inde, elle est reçue par Indira Gandhi; elle rencontre la présidente du Sri Lanka et surtout, elle prend contact avec la Chine ou à l'occasion de deux visites elle peut entretenir avec les femmes qui comptent; elle est même reçue par le Président Mao. Irène de Lipkowski fait ainsi connaître l'AIF derrière le rideau de fer. Pour ne pas citer ses amitiés russes et polonaises. On peut affirmer qu'Irène a apporté à l'AIF un souffle nouveau et une notoriété particulière.

Sur le plan des institutions internationales, rappelons que sa Présidence a été marquée par l'entrée à l'UNESCO de l'AIF qui y siège avec autorité. Aux Nations Unies, elle s'est attachée à accroître la participation des ONG à la Commission de la Femme. Enfin, compte tenu du parcours que nous évoquons, rien de surprenant n'a ce que l'Europe en construction ait été chère à Irène. Elle voulait de toutes les femmes s'y impliquer. Ce grand projet l'a amené à entretenir des relations étroites et suivies avec les institutions européennes, notamment la Commission de Bruxelles. Femme politique, femme de cœur ouverte à tous les problèmes sociaux, grande communicante, Irène de Lipkowski adonne au cours de ses deux mandats, un véritable éclat à l'AIF. ♦

| Marcelle Devaud, past President CILAF-LFDF

Olive Bloomer

Ninth President IAW, 1979-1989



Although Olive Bloomer is English, she has lived much of her life out of her native country. Her father was in the Diplomatic Service and his daughter became familiar with Embassy life at a very early age. Her marriage to a serving officer of the British army

took her to many countries including N. Africa, where she did welfare and other work with the wives and children of the men of her husband's command. She is also an Officer of the Order of St. John, of which the Knights of Malta, her present residence, were the founders.

It was as General Secretary of the National Women Citizens' Association, senior UK Affiliate of LAW, that Olive Bloomer first attended an IAW Congress, became interested in its work and began to contribute to it. Since 1964 she has been the Honorary Treasurer of the Alliance and has guided it through recurring financial difficulties. She has attended and worked at every Congress and Board Meeting since, has helped to organise several Seminars, was Director of that in Cairo in 1978.

Much travelled, a very experienced administrator, with a ready understanding of other people's difficulties, plus a gift for friendship, Olive Bloomer is a worthy successor to the splendid women who have represented to the World, the ever growing reputation of the International Alliance of Women. ♦

(Source: IWNews Vol. 74 - No. 5, November 1973)



■ Olive Bloomer hands over to Alice Marangopoulos

Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos

Tenth President IAW, 1989-1996



Alice has been a 'feminist' since her childhood. In the Greek League for Women's Rights she became an active member in 1947, President (1974-2003), and now Hon. President. In the IAW she has been Board Member (1982-1985), Vice President (1986-1989), President (1989-1996),

Hon. President (1996-); President of the Greek Council for Gender Equality, which drew up a 'Triennial Plan for the implementation of gender equality in Greece' (1992-1995).

In her professional and academic life as a criminologist and Attorney at Law, Alice reached the highest positions: Professor of Criminology, 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, President of the 'Panteion University' of Athens; President of the National Commission of Greece for Human Rights consultative to the Prime Minister (2000-).

Apart from her scientific and academic distinctions, Alice is a fighter for what she believes to be right.

In her Presidential Address to the 1996 IAW Congress, Alice said "(...) *I have worked passionately in fields that I considered interesting, just and useful for society. From the three such fields to which I dedicated my life – criminology, human rights and women's rights – the one closest to my heart is the latter.*"

Intensely involved in the field of Human Rights, she established the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, of which she is president. It has consultative status with UN, ECOSOC and DPI, UNESCO and Council of Europe, has organized more than 120 Colloquia, Seminars and International Conferences, and has so far published 45 books. She was a member of Hellenic Delegations at UN General Assemblies and Conferences. She particularly worked on Child Labour, Trafficking in Women and Children, Freedom of Religion etc.

Alice has written several books and essays on Criminology

and Penal Law issues, on human rights and on women's rights. As a member of legislative committees she contributed to incorporate into the Greek Family Law gender equality, to decriminalize abortion etc. She was the protagonist for introducing effective (substantive) equality through positive measures in the Constitution (2001). Her deep concern over the status of women extends far beyond the boundaries of Greece. In her numerous public speeches and publications she never fails to refer to women anywhere in the world deprived of their human rights. Her global view has brought her to the IAW, a floor from which her voice is being heard wherever injustice is done to women.

As President of the IAW Alice contributed to the following themes:

- All interventions on behalf of the IAW to the UN Meetings in Vienna (CEDAW, Committee for the Defence against Crime etc.), UNESCO, and other international fora were made personally by Alice, often with original positions and proposals.
- On the Draft Plan of Action of Beijing U.N International Conference she wrote 18 pages Comments distributed in Beijing.
- At the CEDAW Meeting she proposed on 13 March 1992 to enable this Committee to judge individual applications for violations of the CEDAW (realized later).
- The IAW Congress she organized in Athens (1992) was a very successful one. At the colloquy organized with the Council of Europe in its framework, she promoted substantive equality instead of formal equality or equal opportunities or parity. In spite of some initial reactions, substantive equality supported by positive measures prevailed internationally – recently it was introduced in the European Charter of Human Rights.
- In 1994 she edited a book dedicated to the 90 years of the IAW (Women's Rights – Human Rights), with a short history of the Alliance at the Introduction, and an essay of her on substantive equality.
- Many years ago she raised the subject of the appalling inequalities created by the increasing fundamentalism (religious extremism).
- During her presidency, a 'Letter from the President' was regularly sent by post to all individual members and Organizations, briefing them on international developments as regards the state of women. Later these letters were published in the IWN.
- She tried to intensify the role of the Regions and proposed instead of one regional director the establishment of a three member committee per region with one regional coordinator.

Among the great fighters of last decades for Gender Equality and Human Rights, Alice has been awarded: On 8 May 1999 the medal of UNESCO "for her outstanding contribution to the promotion and protection of Human Rights." On 1999 the decoration of the Greek Republic 'Grand commandeur de l'ordre du Phénix'. On 31 December 2003 the UN Medal for her dedication to UN. ♦

Terpse Lambrinopoulou

Patricia Giles

Eleventh President IAW, 1996-2004



Patricia Giles was a Labor Party Senator for Western Australia in the Australian Parliament (1981-1993), where she was active in a wide range of parliamentary committees and policy making bodies, particularly those

concerned with the status of women, and law reform.

She led the Australian delegation to the United Nations Conference for Women in Nairobi, 1985 and was Australian parliamentary representative at the United Nations General Assembly in 1993. She has also represented the Australian Government at meetings of Commonwealth Ministers for Women's Affairs (1985, 1987 and 1990) and of Ministers for Health (1992), and was a parliamentary advisor to the Australian Government on violence against women. She participates in many non-government activities in Australia and internationally, including being elected to the position of inaugural chair of the Women's Electoral Lobby in Perth, in 1972, as an inaugural member and president (1988-1990) of World Women Parliamentarians for Peace, and as a Board member of the International Alliance of Women (1982-1992).

Since retiring from the Senate, she has held a number of positions including Chairperson of the National Older Australians Advisory Council (1994-1996), Convenor of the Council of Women's Health Care house in Perth (1994), and member of the Committee of Management of the West Australian Centre of Research on Women (1994). In 1994, she was appointed by the World Health Organisation as Chairperson of the Global Commission on Women's Health, which has as its charter the development of a Global Plan of Action on Women's Health and advocacy for women's health at all levels of government and non-government organisations. As a member of the WHO Technical team she attended, and reported to the Plenary of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women, Beijing 1995. In March 1996, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) by the Murdoch University (WA), and has recently been appointed to the Advisory Committee for the Celebration of the Centenary, in 1999, of Women's Suffrage in Western Australia. ♦

(Source: IWN News Vol. 92 - No. 1 1997)

Constitutions

An absolute monarch has no use for constitutions. By bringing order in the affairs of the state and attributing roles and power to others than the monarch, his rights are limited. A constitution is a safeguard against arbitrary conduct. So one of the first things people do after a revolution is drafting a constitution. And it certainly was a revolution hundred years ago that women from many countries united and formed an alliance to obtain the vote. Such a worldwide organization needed a constitution to state its name, its objectives, its actions and limitations and the way it was being governed.

As goals are attained, political circumstances change, new threats appear and means of communication expand, the constitution has to be adapted. After the vote was obtained in many countries the object became also to educate women for their task as citizens and to further their influence in public life.

Apparently, after World War II, in 1949 it was felt necessary to take part in constructive work for peace. Nowadays we call it 'to promote a better quality of life and good understanding among people'.

The name is The International Alliance of Women Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities.

If an organization wants to play this important role it has to be trustworthy. Therefore a constitution is necessary. Without a constitution the IAW would not have been able to obtain consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and other regional public organizations.

Actually, it is very hard to work at all without a constitution. Will there be a president? How do we elect her, is there a board, how large is it? Who is responsible for finances? Who has the right to vote? How can interested national organizations become affiliated or associated?

In the existing constitution of 1989 all that any one ever could think of seems to have been written down, it is difficult to find order in the rules.

Some weeding was necessary.

The Constitution Committee changed as little as possible, but made the structure of the IAW clearer and more democratic. It proposed to give board members a real task

Congress gets to vote on the budget. Individual members get a vote. President, secretary and treasurer will be elected by ballot. Board members will get a more serious task.

The Committee acknowledged the possibility of other means of communication than a Journal.

The political context has changed.

The Committee proposed to change the wording on neutrality.

After all, the IAW is a fighter for women's rights, so it should be able to address governments directly.

Of course on other matters the IAW should not mingle in national affairs or in relations between governments. The IAW can not be neutral where women's rights are attacked by religious or cultural traditions.

The Committee wants to add age and religion as undue grounds for distinction between people.

The objectives show what the IAW means by 'equal rights-equal responsibilities' when it urges women to: *"Accept their responsibilities and to use their rights and influence in public and private life to ensure that the status of every individual without distinction on grounds of sex, age, race, religious or political persuasion or on any other ground, shall be based on respect for the person, the only guarantee for individual freedom."* ♦

Lyda Verstegen (Netherlands)
Convener Ad Hoc Committee on
Constitution



■ Lyda Verstegen (r)

An Alliance of Women

Our Members

The International Alliance of Women, like any organisation, exists by the grace of its members, individual people, attracted by the specific aims stated in the constitution. The earliest members of the IWSA were women convinced of the injustice of their situation, women of passion aiming to achieve enfranchisement for all the women in the world. These first pioneers organised themselves, inviting existing suffrage organisations to join and to work together at an international level, to help and stimulate each other to achieve the aims in their own countries. It has been the courage, devotion and hard work of many individual women that have sustained our Alliance of Women this past century.

We must thank all Board members in all their capacities that have organised the Alliance. Presidents, Vice-Presidents, secretaries, treasurers and all the other officers that have been elected by our members at congress for their work. The original board consisted of 7 members. Now the executive board – President, Vice-presidents, Secretary and Treasurer – is assisted by an extended board of elected members taking on the specific work of commissions, regional co-ordinates and last but not least our representation at the United Nations. All our honorary members fulfil an important task in giving the present board the benefit of their wisdom and past experiences.

Our Membership: Affiliated, Associated Societies and Individual Members.

A Society shall be eligible for Affiliated Membership if:

1. It is a national organisation which has local branches or admits its members from all over the country.
2. It is a non-party organisation.
3. Its objects correspond with the objects according to the constitution of the Alliance.

An associate society is usually not national but is non-party and working for the Equal status of women and men. Anybody in sympathy with the objects of the Alliance can become an individual member upon payment of membership fee.

The elected board, the President, secretaries and treasurer appoint committees for specific tasks.

From 1909 there has been an admissions committee, always the president and two other members, now usually one is the secretary. In 1904 organisations from 8 countries adopted the constitution and formed the IWSA. Problems arose when more than one suffrage organisation wished to join the IWSA. In 1906 the Dansk Kvindesamfund and the Danske Kvindeforeningers Valgretsforbund were joint

hostess to the second IWSA Conference in Copenhagen. The constitution was later changed to admit more members from one country. There were different opinions on suffrage within organisations, although all wanted suffrage, some were in favour of limited suffrage on the same conditions as men, others universal suffrage. In 1913 IWSA Congress stated that Suffrage was the important issue and that each country should find its own way to achievement. In Great Britain there was a clear difference between suffragettes willing to break the law and the suffragists wishing to obtain suffrage through legal channels, that is in co-operation with men. Most IWSA members favoured co-operation.

In 1913 at the outbreak of WWI there were 24 Affiliated Associations and 3 Affiliated committees.

Member organisations were sometimes called auxiliaries, later we also had adhering and correspondence societies. Names of affiliates sometimes presented problems in translating. An application for membership from Palestine in Hebrew could not be decided and had to wait a year.

The admissions reports at congress gave the names and information on organisations applying for membership and Congress usually confirmed the proposal. It has been difficult to establish when members left, often due to the political situation in their country, differences, financial problems or dissolution of the organisation. At the moment IAW world wide has **39 Affiliated societies, 30 Associated Societies, and 474 Individual members. 42 Libraries receive our Journal.** ♦

| Marijke Peters



■ **Rachel Foster Avery (USA)**
First secretary from 1904-1909. Living in Switzerland. In 1902 she was participant in Washington.
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



■ **Katherine Bompas (UK)**
Headquarters secretary and shorthand typist from 1921-1949.
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



■ **Emillie Gourd (Switzerland)**
Corresponding secretary 1923-1939.
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



■ **Pricilla Todd (Australia)**
Secretary 1992-2002.

The IAW Secretary

Backbone of all our work

At the founding conference in Berlin 1904 three appointments were made – Secretary: Rachel Foster Avery from USA, then living in Switzerland, and Assistant Secretaries: Dr Kate Schirmacher, France, and Johanna Naber, Netherlands – three secretaries for the three important languages: English, French and German. They were elected Board members and honorary secretaries. Correspondence and recording the proceedings of meetings became important. After the 1913 Budapest Congress the 1st Corresponding secretary was Katherine McCormick USA, 2nd Rosika Schwimmer, Hungary; the 1st Recording secretary was Chrystal Macmillan, UK, 2nd Marie Stritt, Germany.

When the London Office was opened in 1913, Mary Sheepshanks was appointed and paid as Headquarters Secretary and editor of *Jus Suffragii*. After the First World War ended she resigned in 1919 and joined WILPF. During this period Rosika Schwimmer was appointed press secretary in 1914 but when war broke out she had to resign. The Alliance has never made a similar appointment. In 1920 Margery Corbett Ashby, board member, UK, was IAW Acting recording secretary. In the same year Elizabeth Abbott was appointed Headquarters Secretary at GBP 359 per year. She resigned as secretary in 1921 but remained as editor. **Katherine Bompas**, UK, succeeded her as Headquarters Secretary and shorthand typist and continued working for the Alliance until her retirement in 1949. During that period she also became editor of the *IWNews*. She wrote her first headquarters report in 1923:

“Routine work involved: Incoming letters, which average about 400 with a great increase in last two months, Periodicals of which 200 are received, looked through and Interesting items translated for the International Women’s Suffrage News. Letters dispatched which average 800.

Press notices: a regular monthly bulletin has been sent out to the world press, International Women’s News (Jus) 1,400 wrappers are prepared in the office for dispatch.

Interviews: much of the secretary’s time has to be given to international callers.

Book keeping: The keeping of accounts and the sending of reminders and receipts is a big business.

The work for preparation of congress has been heavy.”

Elected Board member Mlle Emile Gourd, Switzerland, was corresponding secretary 1923-1939. From 1945 a succession of honorary secretaries was responsible for minutes of IAW meetings until 1955 when Elizabeth Halsey, an American from New York, was engaged as paid Secretary. She dealt with the administrative work of the Alliance and went to live wherever the President lived: first Sri Lanka, then Pakistan. When the London office was reopened Nina Spiller, board member and treasurer from 1939, held the fort. Then under

the guidance of Amy Bush and Laurel Casinader, volunteer workers like Buddy Don ran the office as a gathering point, with their expenses paid. Buddy continued to collect mail and send it on to the current secretary for many years after the London office closed.

Assistants to the Presidents

Margaret Matthieson (Ingledew) was ‘personal’ secretary to Margery Corbett Ashby before becoming an IAW Board member. Then, with Amy Bush, she assisted Olive Bloomer. Similarly, assistance was given by board member, Terpse Lambrinopoulou, to Alice Marangopoulos. After 1970 secretaries did not manage to last more than one term! They included Inger Ehrstrom, Finland; Irmgard Rimondini, Switzerland; Edith Hedger, Australia; Ethia Simha, Israel; Ruth Motsete, Botswana; Usha Bhomik, India.

The Technological Age

In 1989 Marijke Peters, Netherlands, became secretary, then treasurer and later archives officer. At the 1991 Tokyo meetings Priscilla Todd, Australia, assisted Marijke and was subsequently appointed secretary at the 1992 Athens Congress. During these later years the fax machine and subsequently email made communications much easier all around the world which meant that Priscilla, in her Melbourne office 12,000 miles from Europe, could be in touch quickly with the Executive and Board members as well as the members at large, usually working at the end of the day when much of the rest of the world was just getting out of bed, so even the time zones proved to be convenient.

At the Sri Lanka Congress in 2002 Alison Brown, Austria, took on the role of secretary and immediately became involved in the planning and organisation of the IAW Centenary. ♦

**Priscilla Todd (Australia),
English editor IWNews**

IAW Treasurers Saving our Pennies

At the beginning of the work for the Alliance, the women involved were usually quite well to do. Anita Augspurg and Rosa Manus inherited money from their grandmothers, who at that time died fairly young, so the recipients were still young too. Both Carrie Chapman Catt and Aletta Jacobs could go travelling around the world as well-to-do widows. When Margery Corbett Ashby, just married, was asked to become president she appealed to her father who then offered to pay all the expenses of her international work. In the Alliance it has always been the rule that board members must find some way to pay their own travel and congress expenses.

The expenses of the organisation are another matter. The membership fees never ever covered the costs of running the office of our Alliance or the cost of printing our journal. At each congress in those years members were asked to pledge donations. 'Congress pledges'; still mentioned in Congress report 1955. They did, and did so generously. From 1961 this has virtually been replaced by the international 'bring and buy' stall. Each affiliate bringing national products to be sold in aid of the Alliance. Many of you will remember Margaret Ingledew and her sister Barbara Matthieson who took charge of the stall for many years.

In 1930 a charity concert was held in the Wigmore hall in London, again to raise funds for the IAW. 1935 a large sum was collected by the sale of commemorative stamps issued by the Turkish Government on the occasion of our Congress in Istanbul. This was used for a special Conference on Peace and Feminism held in Zurich in 1937. In 1940 Carrie Chapman Catt donated \$5000 to cover the costs of a post war congress rather than get involved in legal complications with her will. (Trust funds can be very tricky as they are subject to many legal restrictions.) So the money was there to be used in 1946 for the Interlaken Congress. After her death the CCC Memorial fund contributed to the printing of *Journey into Freedom*. The Hanna Rydh memorial fund paid for two seminars in Africa. In 1974 we received a donation from the Nobel committee. Legacies were put aside for specific projects. As recently as 1992 the Alliance received legacies which were put in a savings account

and helped to alleviate the continual deficit, as our income still does not cover the costs of the IWN News.

Treasurers

First Treasurer: **Sophie Rodger Cunliffe**, UK, wrote the first financial report for 1906. Second IWSA treasurer **Adele Stanton Coit**, UK, reported on the war years in 1920. **Miss Gibson** was appointed at GBP 200 to take charge of book-keeping. **Katherine Dexter McCormick**, USA, was treasurer from 1922-1929. **Frances Sterling**, UK, 1929-1935. **Clara Meyers**, Netherlands, was appointed as financial advisor to the board, 1935-1939. **Miss E.H. Piepers**, Netherlands: 1939-1949. **Nina Spiller** is treasurer during WWII: 1939-1949. **Eva Kolsted**: 1949-1958. **Leila Basnayake** and **Amy Bush**: 1958-1964. **Olive Bloomer**: 1964-1979. **Agnes Rearden**: 1979-1986. **Annette Wagniere**: 1986-1992. **Marijke Peters**: 1992-1996. **Anje Wiersinga**: 1996-2002. **Marieluise Weber**: 2002-.



■ Margaret Ingledew (r) and her sister Barbara Mathieson, who took charge of the stall for many years...

What did we spend our income on?

At first President and treasurer expenses of stenographers services, postage and stationary only. Ever since the publishing our journal has been our greatest expense. From 1913 and the establishment of the London office the rent, lighting, heating plus office postage and stationary expenses and the salaries of the office secretary all added up. Special funding was arranged for seminars in co-operation with UNESCO. Special separate congress funds were organised. Postage and simple office expenses of secretary, treasurer and president are still usually paid but also often covered by a personal donation.

At each congress the treasurer has the unenviable job of explaining the negative financial situation of the organisation and often calls for higher membership fees. The figures of receipts and expenses of the Alliance, the balance of income and expenditure and a budget for the coming triennium are explained. Pennies, cents, pounds, Euro's and dollars with ever changing rates of exchange make past comparison impossible. With a head office in London and *JUS Suffragii* published in the UK all banking concentrated at Barclay's. As the years went by everything has become even more difficult. At the present our affiliation and membership fees are ridiculously low. Often less than half of the membership fee for our national affiliate. What about all making a special donation: the price we paid for our last pair of shoes? ♦

| Marijke Peters

Hoda Charawi

Pioneer of the Egyptian Feminist Movement

Hoda Charawi (1879-1947) came from a highly aristocratic family. She was always conscious and questioning the preferential treatment of her brother. She got her education in her father's palace, and proved to be clever in learning: she memorized the Koran, studied literature, art, etc and was fluent in French, Turkish, in addition to Arabic. She got married when she was 13 years old to a much older cousin, married with children.

They were separated and she took advantage of this period to educate and develop herself and her personality.

After she resumed her marital relationship she got a daughter and a son. Her husband Ali Charawi Pasha was one of the most important nationalist leaders who went to Europe to negotiate with the colonial power as member of the Delegation-Wafd.

Mrs. Hoda Charawi was impressed by the women emancipation in Europe (her first visit abroad was to Paris in 1908), as well as by the new movement led by some Egyptian enlightened men calling for the necessity of women education and emancipation. She had a strong personality and she was pioneer in throwing off her veil in 1908.

Her wealth enabled her to sponsor many social, political and economic activities in line with her humanitarian and nationalistic views. First a welfare association for children in 1907, followed by her participation in the establishment and presidency of the 'Mohamed Ali Welfare Association' and 'The New Woman Association'. Meanwhile, she mobilized aristocratic ladies around her projects and ideas by organizing weekly meetings and lectures in the Egyptian University.

She was interested in politics: at the outbreak of the nationalist movement against the British occupation, she was pioneer in joining hands with other nationalist men in the liberation struggle. Therefore, she was elected as the president of the 'Wafd-Delegation-Highest Committee for Women'. Even before men, she worked for the abolition of the foreigners' Immunities. She was known by her objective stands even against the king or the nationalist leaders.

She has become famous being the first woman to lead a demonstration by women on March 16th, 1919 in the

streets of Cairo. This day is considered officially as the Egyptian Women's Day.

Her activities extended to the economic and cultural domains: she participated in the establishment of the first National Bank in Egypt. She sponsored many scholarships for both sexes to study abroad. She devoted a yearly prize to the best artist on the name of the famous sculptor: Mukhtar, who made the famous sculpture 'the Renaissance of Egypt'.

The turning point in the movement led by Hoda Charawi was when she received an invitation (Addressed to: 'the Women of Egypt') from the 'International Woman Suffrage Alliance' to attend its meeting in Rome in May 1923.

She established the 'Egyptian Alliance of Women-EAW' in March 1923 on the principles of the IAW. She stressed family laws, girls' education, and the

necessity to raise the marriage age to 16 for girls and 18 for boys, the need to organize polygamy and divorce, and the right to voting for women. She led the delegation to the IWSA Rome Congress Rome. The first time Egyptian Women participated in a conference abroad. On her return she established a feminist magazine 'L'Egyptienne' in French, and later on another one in Arabic carrying the same name.

She was elected Board member at the Paris Congress in 1926, and a Vice-President of IAW at the Istanbul Congress in 1935: a position that she held until her death in 1947. Her affiliation with IAW gave her the confidence to call for a meeting in Cairo in 1944 of leading Arab ladies from Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Jordan, which ended with the establishment of the 'Arab Alliance of Women' (AAW) under her presidency with its head-quarter in Cairo.

The EAW changed its name in 1960 to Hoda Charawi Association which is the oldest and biggest NGO in Egypt, a fact that was recognized by the UNESCO which granted it the award of distinction in 1998. Mrs. Hoda Charawi is still being honoured: her last award is the Distinction Shield in 2004 from the Afro-Asian Writers' Union as one of the greatest women through out the history. ♦



■ Hoda Charawi
(source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

■ Horeya Megahed,
Vice-President IAW

Vereniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht

100 Years Affiliate of IWSA

“Never in my over twenty years of engagement in the women’s movement I felt anything so strongly as the riches of life on an international basis.” This quote of Rosa Manus in 1930 summarises the feelings of our internationally active members throughout the century of ‘Vrouwenbelangen’ IAW membership.

I felt the same in Beijing in 1995 during Padmini’s workshop about CEDAW and our own about political participation. In our Association’s small international task force which prepares for the sessions of CSW we feel very much a part of an international community of women striving for justice and peace. We stand in a tradition which started with Aletta Jacobs’ presence in London at the 1898 meeting of the ICW where the first sign of a more radical organisation for suffrage became apparent. Aletta, then president of our Vereniging, was in 1904 in Berlin one of the founders of IWSA. Johanna Naber, Dutch chronicler of our women’s movement, became second assistant secretary. She was succeeded by Martina Kramers in 1906, editor of *Jus Suffragii* until 1913.

The IVth IWSA conference in 1908 was organised by Aletta in Amsterdam. The extensive press coverage, made Dutch suffrage efforts fashionable. Rosa Manus, invited to take part in a folkloristic dance, was struck by ‘The Cause’ to which she devoted the rest of her life, as close friend of Carrie Chapman Catt. Rosa was IWSA vice-president from 1929-1939, co-founder of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, co-founder of the International Archives of the Women’s Movement. The WILPF was a result of the 1915 Peace Congress Aletta organised in The Hague, instead of the planned IWSA congress, which was cancelled because of WWI. World peace was a theme of the Alliance and Rosa organised the 1927 Peace Seminar in Amsterdam.

Our Vereniging had split in 1908, new associations were founded after we gained the vote in 1919, but in 1930 their reunion was celebrated in the



■ *President of Vrouwenbelangen (name of present affiliate) Joke Huisman presenting a new badge to honorary members at our centenary celebration, 1994*

presence of IWSA president Margaret Corbett Ashby. Ms Elisabeth Piepers became the first president of the reunited club; she had been present in Berlin in 1904 and represented us as chair of our international committee in IWSA, where she also served as treasurer from 1935-1939.

The pre-war years were difficult, in 1932 the congress was cancelled for lack of funds. Rosa Manus started to raise funds for headquarters in Geneva so the women’s work would not have to stop. At the disarmament conference in 1932 in Geneva the IWSA was there, Rosa presented over eight million signatures. At the 1930 codification conference in The Hague IWSA together with the IWC staged a large demonstration for the right of married women to decide on their nationality.

During the occupation (1940-1945) our work stopped. Women kept writing letters to their IAW friends, and at the first post war IAW congress the Dutch were present again. We organised the 1949 congress in Amsterdam. It was the first congress with a theme:

‘Women and Human Rights’, because of the 1948 UN Declaration on Human Rights.

Since then our affiliate has been privileged to have highly qualified women in politics at all levels. Anna de Waal, our first woman assistant minister, afterwards would be president of Vrouwenbelangen for seven years. She subsidised one of our members, Mary Francken, an expert on women’s education, to attend the 1955 congress in Colombo where she was elected to the IAW-board. She stayed one triennium. Tineke Schilthuis, was member of parliament and the first woman to become the Queens Commissioner of a Province. Both were IAW Board members. Our active members at this moment, Anje Wiersinga, Marijke Peters, Joke Sebus and I, think being an active member of IAW is well worth while. Our Affiliate, founded in 1894, will be celebrating an anniversary of 111 years in 2005. ♦

Lyda Verstegen,
President Vrouwenbelangen

The Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband e.V. (DStV)

and the International Alliance of Women (IAW)
A Hundred Years of Shared History

The Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband (German Association of Female Citizens) supports, as one of the organizers, the celebrations of the 100th birthday of the International Alliance of Women in Berlin. One of the co-founders of the IAW. The DStV was one of the first organizations of women in Germany and it is the oldest organization that is neither denominational nor professional. It was founded in 1865 in Leipzig, and represents the interests of all women regardless of their beliefs or their background.

Reflecting the general socio-political and national progress at that time, the organization was named Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein (ADF) (Universal Association of German Women), which showed an attempt to further society's progress. But unlike the political associations of men, developing at the same time, it was not permitted for women to participate in politics or to found a party. That is why, the leading women, especially Louise Otto-Peters (1819-1895), used this organizational form, through which the demands for women's rights to education and work could be stated later politically as well.

Until the middle of the 1890's the ADF was the largest and most influential organization of the German women's movement. With its various clubs and societies it created a close network of institutions such as further training courses and seminars for female teachers, kindergartens and girls schools, advice centers, health and social institutions. These helped in the struggle to attain women's rights to education and work and towards the political and legal equality of women.

In 1915 the ADF had 14 local societies with 1,200 members and 57 clubs with 14,000 members.

After the establishment of the Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine (BDF) as an umbrella organization of several women's organizations, the ADF lost in influence, but nevertheless it made up the core of the decisive work there, by delegating leading women into the management of the BDF.

When the women's movement split up into different political directions and groups, the ADF nevertheless tried to stay on its reform-minded and moderate course and to speak up for all women, including female workers. Right from the beginning, the ADF was very interested in international cooperation, leading to many articles being publishing in the ADF's newspaper 'Neue Bahnen' on this subject. Many foreign women, from Switzerland, the USA, Russia or Austria for example, were members of the ADF. In 1878 the representatives of the ADF participated in the first International Women's Congress in Paris. Especially during the wars of 1866, 1870/71 and 1914-1918, the ADF was under the influence of simplistic German patriotic tendencies and reduced such international cooperation, but it never broke up completely.

Despite the prohibition of political activity of women in Prussia and in most of the other German states, in

1904 the ADF supported the foundation of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance (today the International Alliance of Women). Leading exponents were Minna Cauer (1841-1922) and Marie Stritt (1855-1925). Right after the foundation of the IAW, only the Deutscher Verein für Frauenstimmrecht (the German Society of Suffragettes) in Hamburg, where rules considering political societies of women were not as strict, could join the Alliance. But it was, nevertheless, supported by ADF-women such as Adele Schreiber-Krieger (1872-1957).

After attaining the right to vote in most European countries after the First World War, the IAW concentrated on getting women's civil rights and equality accepted. In this connection the ADF, led by Dr. Dorothee von Velsen (1883-1970), re-joined the IAW in 1923 at the IAW-congress in Rome as the German branch. Therefore the ADF changed its name into Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband until 1928, and emphasized the civil and international aspects of its work. In 1929 the DStV organized the 25th Jubilee Congress of the IAW in Berlin.

After Hitler's seize of power, the ADF broke up, in order to evade the Nazi-laws. 1933 was a turning point for the German women's movement in general and the DStV in particular. An era came to an end; the sometimes uneven, but nevertheless continuous development was interrupted. Only in 1947 was it possible once again to recreate the association, at first as the so-called Notgemeinschaft 1947 – Verband Berliner Bürgerinnen. In 1949, after the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany, it was once more renamed into Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband e.V. When the first regional branches in Baden-Württem-

berg and Nord-Rhine-Westfalia were founded, the society was able to take over the full name Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband, in 1959. The recreation of the DStV was supported by the IAW, especially by its president Dr. Hanna Rydh (1891-1964). She was of great help in building a college, and some of the furniture she brought for this purpose from Sweden still decorates the salon of the office in Berlin-Tempelhof. In 1949 the society joined the Deutscher Frauenring, which was founded in October in Bad Pyrmont as the first German umbrella organization of women's associations.

In 1957 the IAW took part in the ceremonies in Berlin to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the refounding of the DStV after the Second World War. Since then the DStV participated for the first time in a conference of the International Committee of the IAW in Teheran in 1960, members of the DStV have worked almost continuously in these conferences and meetings.

In 1970 the society organized the XXII Congress, which took place in Germany for the first time for 40 years. The conference venue was Königstein/Taunus, from which was organized a 3-day visit to Berlin for the delegates. Today, the DStV supports the political activities of current interest of women of both German umbrella organizations: the Deutscher Frauenring (FR) and the the Deutscher Frauenrat (DF). The society also works in social and educational fields.

As the women's organization in Germany, which is richest in tradition, it awards annually, since 1982, the prize for Frau des Jahres (Women of the Year). Numerous documents, collected through the centuries, are kept in the archive of the DStV and can be studied there in order to publicize the long history of the women's movement. ♦

Dr. Irina Hundt,
Historian and Archivist of the DStV

Dr. Jur. Anita Augspurg

1st Vice-President IWSA from 1904-1909

Anita Augspurg war in ihrem Leben vieles: Schauspielerin, Fotografin, Juristin, Rednerin, Publizistin, radikale Pazifistin und Feministin.

Sie war eine der bekanntesten Frauen ihrer Zeit und vor allem war sie eine der faszinierendsten Vertreterinnen der deutschen bürgerlichen Frauenbewegung.



■ Anita Augspurg (l) & Lida Gustava Heymann. Founders of Verband für Frauenstimmrecht in 1902
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

Im Alter von 36 Jahren (1893), fasste sie den Entschluss, Rechtswissenschaft zu studieren, was damals nur in Zürich möglich war. Sie war überzeugt, dass Frauen sich die nötigen juristischen Kenntnisse aneignen müssten, denn für 1900 war eine Revision des Deutschen Gesetzbuchs (DGB) geplant, und Frauen sollten bei ihrem Kampf um Frauenrechte nicht auf männliche Vermittlung angewiesen sein. Sie promovierte 1897. Entscheidende Impulse erhielt sie durch Emilie Kempin, der ersten Juristin der Schweiz.

Im Januar 1895 erschien in Berlin, herausgegeben von Minna Cauer, die erste Nummer der Zeitschrift *'die Frauenbewegung'* mit einem Artikel von Anita Augspurg: 'Gebt acht, solange noch Zeit ist'. 1895/96 hält sie als Mitglied des Vereins 'Frauenwohl' an vielen Orten in Deutschland Vorträge über die Revision des Gesetzbuchs. Die wichtigste Forderung:

die Gütertrennung der Ehegatten als gesetzliches Güterrecht.

Ein anderer Schwerpunkt ihrer Arbeit ist viele Jahre hindurch die Bildungspolitik. Als Vertreterin des Vereins 'Frauenbildungsreform' setzt sich Anita Augspurg energisch für die Gründung von Mädchengymnasien ein als Vorbedingung für Frauenstudium.

1895 nimmt Anita Augspurg an der ersten Generalversammlung des 'Bundes deutscher Frauenvereine' teil. Jedoch schon bald zerfällt diese Bewegung in die 'Gemässigten' auf der einen und die 'Radikalen' auf der anderen Seite. 1902 gründen Anita Augspurg und ihre Lebenspartnerin Lida Heymann in Hamburg den 'Deutschen Verein für Frauenstimmrecht', der sich 1904 dem 'Weltbund für Frauenstimmrecht' anschliesst.

Nach Ausbruch des ersten Weltkriegs fanden sich Frauen aus dem Weltbund zu einem internationalen Frauen-Friedenskongress zusammen, aus dem sich später die Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) entwickelte, in der Anita Augspurg und Lida Heymann eine führende Rolle spielten. Gleich zu Beginn des Nazi-Regimes mussten sie fliehen. Anita Augspurg starb 80-jährig im Schweizer Exil. ♦

Helga Habicht

From the Membership Secretary

Following the closure of the IAW office in London some years ago, whoever takes office in IAW today as Treasurer, Secretary or Membership Secretary, has to take on all the administrative work, which was originally done centrally and with an army of volunteers.

I didn't realise this when I agreed to take up this new position as Membership Secretary, following the December, 1996 Congress in Calcutta.

It had apparently been decided to relieve the burden on whoever became Treasurer, by splitting her duties with a Membership Secretary... however, I don't think there was anything written down about what this job would involve. When the actual computer disks reached me some months later, I went into shock, as I had no idea of what was involved... I didn't have a compatible computer, nor had I ever used email. I didn't have a fax and my PC skills were practically zero. I had only used my old Apple to play Bridge and write letters.

I actually had to equip myself with all this new fangled IBM hardware and drag myself screaming into the 21st Century. I have enjoyed the ride, but it has often been a great strain as I am not a young person. I originally hired a helper to handle the updating of the master files and production of the labels, but now I do it myself. My job is to keep the master and labels files up to date and also all the auxiliary files; to provide the labels for the mail-out of our Journal from the printers in UK every three months, (now reduced to only three issues a year). I also send back copies of the International News to those whose copies have failed to arrive for some reason... I provide backup on the files regularly to the Treasurer and also provide them to the Secretary and President, plus a photocopy of the files to her as well. I have installed a 'burner' so have CD backup here on hand as well. I also provide Regional files to the Regional Directors every few years when I get a spare moment to do so.

My day begins with handling email inquiries from all over the world as when most of the world is awake I am sleeping and vice versa. I feel like an old fashioned switchboard operator...

I handle most of the inquiries to join, especially of the individual members, and I work closely with the Treasurer, Marieluise Weber, who lets me know about new or deceased members and changes of address and financial data. Actually, I am also kept up to date on alterations, by other members and especially the Individual members Collectors in the various countries.

What complicated my original job even more was, when it was decided in Malmö in 1998, to put out a monthly email newsletter. (When IAW also decided to have a website and leap into the future with a bang! We may be turning 100 this year, but this old girl IAW is right up there with adapting to change!)

At the time, we had only a handful of email addresses for our existing members, and the email editor, Joke Sebus, and myself have since accumulated hundreds of emails for our members, actually we may have thousands, I haven't counted them recently... as email addresses have a habit of changing quite often, and bounce, I then have to write to the members to find out their new addresses. I always say, that our members change their email addresses almost as much as their 'undies'!

But email is so much quicker and very personal and involves almost no cost to IAW to contact our members. Our email newsletter keeps them up to date with what is happening to women world-wide and especially what is happening at the various UN Agencies.

I feel the representation by our women at the UN is the most important part of our work... and I am dedicated to supporting this. So even though I live hundreds of miles from our major city of Sydney, in a very small sub tropical holiday resort on the east coast of Australia, I feel I am playing a very important part in getting a 'fair go' for women worldwide.

Email is now the method of contact between all the Executive and Board and it makes it very personal... we have lived through each others births, deaths and marriages... while some of our younger Board members are on maternity leave, we older ones are losing our husbands, mothers and sometimes tragically our children...

Our Board meetings, which are held annually in different parts of the world, allow our Affiliates to welcome IAW members and broadcast our work in the various countries. Our Centenary Congress in Berlin and Freiburg is the culmination of the voluntary work of thousands of women in IAW through the Century, originally to get the vote for women (a job which is not quite finished), through to our representation at the highest forums for women world wide, at the UN and now often in the individual Governments of the world as Presidents, Prime Ministers, members of parliament, and down to local Government level.

We still have a way to go, but the battle has been joined! Feel free to contact me any time... preferably by email... I have almost lost the ability to send a letter! ♦

*Cheers and best wishes,
Pat Richardson*

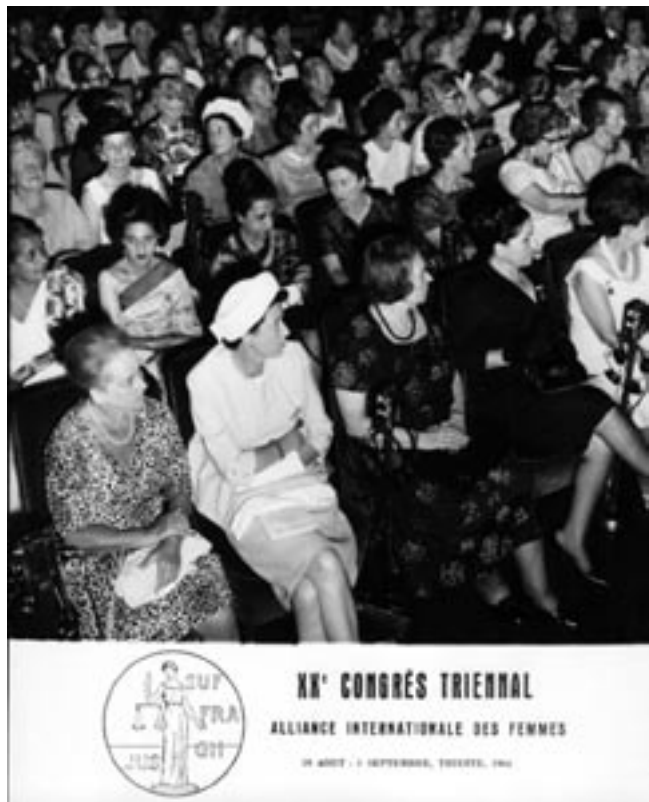


■ Pat Richardson

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The Individual member, 1904-2004

The International Alliance of Women, as an umbrella organisation, is unusual, if not unique, in recognising the category of Individual membership as well as the conventional categories of Affiliate and Associate membership. This has remained constant from the beginning, despite changes in name from: The International Suffrage Alliance, to The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, to the present International Alliance of Women.



The Constitution of 1904, Article III, Members, Section 3 states: “Any person may become an Honorary Associate of the International Suffrage Alliance by the payment into the International Treasury of 5 dollars annually. Such Honorary Associates shall be entitled to receive all publications of the Alliance and shall be entitled to all the privileges of delegates in all public meetings, except the right to vote.”

The Constitution of 1926, Article 111. Membership, Section 4, introduced some changes: The description of individuals as Honorary Associates became ‘Individual Associate Members’. The right to speak was rescinded, and the annual fee set at £1. There were no further changes to the Membership Article until 1976.

The Constitution of 1976, Article IV, Membership Section 2(c), states: “Any person in sympathy with the objects of the Alliance shall be eligible for Individual Membership. Individual Members shall be admitted by payment of the annual subscription.”

The Constitution of 1989, that is currently in force, retains the Membership: Article concerning Individual Members. The Alliance has now over 400 Individual members, representing 63 countries.

The recognition of the worth of the Individual member is one of the hallmarks of the Alliance. Individual members can exercise independence, they have a freedom of speech and action which is not necessarily available to delegates of Affiliate and Associate organisations, who may owe their primary allegiance to their organisation. A principle which appears to govern the expectation that those elected to the Board, will register also as Individual members. While not ignoring their considerable financial Contribution, possibly the most important consequence of the category of Individual membership is that it empowers just one woman in a country to join the Alliance, and so establish a reciprocal relationship with the Alliance and its Agencies.

The 32nd IAW Triennial Congress in Colombo in 2002 decided that a member of the Board be designated to represent Individual Members, and form an Outreach Committee, which could possibly become a Commission at a later date. Despite problems with communication and information.

The Inaugural Meeting of Individual Members was held in Utrecht from the 12th to 14th September 2003.

The ‘Report and Recommendations’, from the Inaugural meeting was submitted to the Board Meeting held in the Dominican Republic from the 30th September to the 1st October 2003. With regard to the future, the Inaugural meeting: “Approved unanimously that a Committee of Individual Members be set up, and the matter be put on the Agenda of an International Committee meeting in 2004 in order to make it operational.

That a ‘Talent Bank’ be set up as one of the tasks of the Committee of Individual Members. Existing structures of IAW were reviewed, and the possibilities of Regional structures discussed. The interest, concern, and enthusiasm of Individual Members to contribute to the future.” ♦

Mary Noonan (Ireland)
Board member,
representing Individual members



■ Delegates leaving Geneva railway station after 8th Congress post WW, 1920



■ Board members waiting for departure from Santo Domingo airport after Board meeting, 2003



Friendship, travel and networking

Whenever a group of people come together to fight for a common cause then friendships, passions and sometimes rivalries will develop. Hospitality, both formal and informal, alongside companionship and love have always been at the core of Alliance relationships. Occasionally, someone will express the view that this is what the organization is all about, a sort of floating international 'friendship vessel' coming to rest at a different port each year. The crew then savours a new experience, a different language, unfamiliar food and exciting or exotic landscapes. New friendships are forged and others renewed, creating a global network of possibilities, occasionally extending to other members of the family such as sons and daughters. However, these experiences present us with challenges as well as pleasures, as we familiarize ourselves with a variety of nationalities and learn to work effectively with people of different temperaments and attitudes.

This aspect of Alliance experience was evident from the beginning and the emotional depth of a relationship can sometimes be surprising. For example, in 1915 Anna Shaw wrote to Aletta Jacobs:

"Dear My Doctor, We are like lovers just as soon as a letter comes from you we want to answer it at once sending love and good wishes. It is always a joy to hear from you even when the letters are sad as all letters of thoughtful people must be these days. We are passing through a fearful time testing of hearts and character, not knowing whether each day will swamp our country in a whirlpool of destruction (...)"

And ending:

"The brightest part of the old year was our trip together. I wish we might take it again. I wonder if we ever will. Lucy sends dear love and I long to hold your dear face in my hands and kiss it. With Love ever, Anna Shaw."

This is a strange exchange for modern eyes, the formal followed by the intimate, but expressive, and movingly honest.

Mineke Bosh writes in 'Politics and Friendship' of the women's search for concepts in which to describe intense relationships between women, the most common being that of mother and daughter. Thus Carrie Chapman Catt and Rosa Manus wrote to each other constantly in such terms, until Rosa's tragic death in a concentration camp in 1942. The daughter preceded the mother.

In 1912 Aletta Jacobs and Carrie Chapman Catt made a voyage around the world, in order to promote suffrage, giving lectures from South Africa to China. Both were widowed and young and fortunate in having enough money to travel. In 1922 Rosa and Carrie travelled to six Latin American countries encouraging the promotion of the vote.

Most members of the IAW enjoy travelling. From 1902, after the first meeting in Washington, members have gathered virtually every year except the war years, apart from 1943 when there was an informal board meeting at the home of Margery Corbett Ashby. From 1904 until 1955, all meetings were held in Europe – alternately in the various capitals of our member countries.

At the beginning of the century travel was time consuming and expensive, taking at least a week to cross the Atlantic. The ladies in those days travelled with extensive wardrobes and hatboxes!

In the second half of the century travel expanded. In 2001 our congress was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

We now meet on a different continent every year, easily flying around the world. In 1989 the Europeans were, at long last, persuaded to travel to Melbourne, Australia. Australians, who have been present from the start, have been obliged to travel the longest distances, for which we admire them! Last year (2003), we went to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and now look forward to meeting again in Berlin where we first started our long and exciting 'Journey towards Freedom'. ♦

Helen J. Self

We now meet on a different continent every year, easily flying around the world.



■ Board meeting 1964, Stockholm, Sweden

Left to right: Mrs. Margery Corbett Ashby, Begum Anwar Ahmed, Mrs. Eva Kolstad, Mrs. Hilda Tweedy, Mme Pearl Grobet-Secrétan, Maître Andrée Lehmann, Miss Ester Graff, Mrs. Edith Anrep, Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, Miss Elizabeth Halsey, Dr. Hanna Rydh, Mrs. Laurel Casinader, Mrs. Amy Bush, Miss Chave Collisson and Mrs. Margaret Ingeldew. **Among the board members are five Presidents:** Dame Margery Corbett Ashby, Hanna Rydh, Ester Graff, Ezlynn Deraniyagala and Edith Anrep.

On the wall behind the President hangs a portrait of Frederika Bremer, founder of the Swedish Hostess Association for this meeting.



■ Board meeting 1936, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



■ Board meeting 1990, Reykjavik, Iceland



■ Board meeting 2000, Tel Aviv, Israel. Hostess: WIZO

Board meetings

The board enjoys a meeting every year. Work and some play visiting projects. There is a pre-congress board meeting to finalise Congress arrangements, just before congress starts. The first board meeting in the new triennium is the post congress board meeting of the newly elected board. On average one third are new members as the constitution allowed for a consecutive board membership of three terms. The new constitution has changes and proposes an elected President, secretary and treasurer. Commission convenors and regional directors are appointed as also our representatives at the United Nations and the European organisations.

This always depends on shifts in the new board.

My first triennium as board member I was asked to take over as convenor of the Economic Commission, which involved representation at the annual Conference of the International Labour Office in Geneva. My predecessor Annette Wagniere moved to the treasury. My second term the president asked me to be secretary and although I had no experience I realised that most of the other board members were not native English speakers, rather a handicap if you are expected to do the minutes. As I grew up bi-lingual, and my French was passable, it seemed a reasonable request. My last term I took over the treasury from Annette when she left the board. Much more my cup of tea and Priscilla became secretary.

So there is usually change, however IAW representatives at UN bodies stay

for many years as there geographical location is important for Geneva, Vienna, Paris, Rome and New York. Europe is easier with present day travel. Regional directors obviously live and work in their region. At this first meeting any specific resolutions taken at congress are discussed and executed. The venue of the board meeting for the coming year is arranged.

Until 1955 board meetings tended to be held in European capitals. Now with easier travel the offer to host a board meeting involving fewer members than International Meetings or Congress is often by a smaller affiliate. Location is also relevant as long distance travel is still difficult for many. The board meeting after the Melbourne congress was in Reykjavik 1990! Very far apart! Santo Domingo,

the Americas generally are far away for Europeans and expensive. Of course distance goes both ways. At the board meeting in the following year the Agenda includes the minutes of the past meeting and the treasurers report. Reports are given by all our representatives, commissioners and regional directors. Enquiries for affiliation and Invitations for the next International meeting and Congress are discussed. Board meetings are always a boost to the hosting organisation which usually also organises a seminar on an issue relevant to their country. In Santo Domingo 2003 this was 'Violence'. Many board members manage to stay on for a few days for enjoyable sight seeing of a country they would otherwise not have visited. ♦

| NMP



■ Board meeting 2003, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Hostess: ADDEM



■ (fltr) Brigitte, Olive, Irmgard, Amy and Karen at International meeting Teheran 1978

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

Organ of the International Alliance of Women—Equal Rights—Equal Responsibilities

NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

Droits Égaux Responsabilités Égales.

Organ of L'Alliance internationale des Femmes

Vol. 33, No. 89

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1976

One Shilling

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Pour les Travailleuses
Inégalité des Salaires



Members of the International Committee, garlanded by the bank of Meli, Teheran.

■ Members of the International Committee, garlanded by the bank of Meli, Teheran



■ International Meeting Japan 1991



■ International Meeting Malmö 1998

International Meetings

With congresses geographically widely spread and jumping continents as much as possible International Meetings seem to have been held in Europe more recently 2001, Vienna, 1998 Malmö, 1994, Netherlands. In 1991 we met in Japan. In the past we were also in countries where the political climate has now changed so much that we cannot imagine going there. In 1960 an International Meeting was held in Teheran, then Persia. In 1963 in Monrovia, Liberia and in 1969 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

When in 1920 it was agreed that a congress every two years as was held before the war was too difficult to organise it was also felt that meeting each other only once in three years was not enough. This resulted in an in between solution: a meeting of the International Committee: This shall be held at least once between Congresses. The International Committee exists of the Presidents of the Affiliated societies together with the board. Presidents of Associate societies are admitted to attend the International Committee Meeting as observers. This meeting is held in order to acquaint the board with the work of the societies and to act in an advisory capacity to the board. (Constitution 1989 Article XIII).

This has been a realistic and practical solution, especially in enabling the board to get to know the members better. However this did not really work until after WWII. In the thirties the depression made travel too expensive and only board meetings were held.

Originally presidents came themselves but as they are often very much involved in the running of their national organisation they now often send a proxy. The language problem also comes into this as the president of an affiliate is not necessarily a linguist and can send a proxy who is more competent in English or French.

Here again, like the hosting of a board meeting it is an impetus for the affiliate to organise an international seminar on a subject important for their own area. National politicians are involved in key-note speeches. Press releases build up information for the general public. Women and their difficulties are put back on the agenda.

The International Meeting in Malmö 1998 was preceded by a Seminar in Copenhagen: Religious Fundamentalism Inimical to Women's Rights. At the International meeting in Vienna 2001, Violence against Women was the subject of the seminar. Both recent subjects in our daily papers.

The meeting lasts four or five days, including the seminar organised by the hosting affiliate. The Agenda covers the usual head office and treasurer's reports, the IWNNews, the admission committee and all representatives' reports. One afternoon is set aside for reports from affiliates.

The preparations are made for the Congress the following year. Invitations and the congress subject are discussed. So are the financial aspects of congress fee, the cost of translation, and if it is possible to help delegates from countries with low incomes. The hosting country is always responsible for the budget and sometimes finds help from government grants. So we prepare ourselves for Congress and yet again another triennium. ♦

| NMP

■ *International meeting Viena 2001*



CONGRESS NUMBER.

Intern. Archief
Vroegwettbewerping
Amsterdam

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DEN BESUCHERINNEN DES JUBILÄUMSTAGUNG.

Der Deutsche Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband, Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein und sein grosser Kreis von Mitarbeiterinnen und Freunden heisst die Besucherinnen des 11. Kongresses des Weltbunds für Frauenstimmrecht und staatsbürgerliche Frauenarbeit, der Feier seines 25 jährigen Bestehens herzlich willkommen. Schon lange zeigten Nachrichten aus allen Teilen der Welt, dass unsere Freunde auf der Zureise begriffen waren, und rückten so den Tag des Wiedersehens oder des persönlichen Kennenlernens immer näher. Jetzt können wir der Anfänge der Arbeit für das Frauenstimmrecht festlich gedenken, voll Dank gegen die Frauen, die als Erste die Forderung zu stellen wagten und die es verstanden, eine Gemeinschaft zu bilden und sie entschlossen zu führen.

Möge ein freundliches Geschick über die Tage der Arbeit und des geselligen Beisammenseins walten, als Bürge einer Epoche des wahren Friedens, die wir Alle herbeisehnen!



DOROTHEE V. VELSEN.

Seit Monaten haben weite Kreise, nicht nur Berlins, nein, im ganzen Deutschland sich zum Empfang der Gäste gerüstet, die in so erfreulich grosser Zahl unser Land besuchen. Wir möchten ihnen die Tage behaglich gestalten, ihnen neben der Arbeit des Kongresses Stunden der Naturbetrachtung, des Kunstgenusses, und der Geselligkeit bieten. Wir möchten vor Allem, dass sie nicht nur die Fremdenstadt Berlin kennen lernen, sondern auch das arbeitende und schaffende Berlin; ja darüber hinaus die alten deutschen Kulturzentren, das Industriegebiet, den einzigartigen Osten—ist doch das Deutsche Reich, gemäss seiner Geschichte ein dezentralisiertes Land. An allen diesen Orten warten unsere Mitglieder um so den Kongress weiter zu führen und seine Wirkung sich verstärken zu lassen.

Dass Frauen aus allen Erdteilen, sämtlich tief verwurzelt in der Geschichte ihres Volkes, zu einer Zeit, die noch so erfüllt ist von den Nachwirkungen des

Congresses

The first congress you go to as IAW member is probably very clear in your memory. May be a long or even very long journey to an unknown country, possibly where an unfamiliar language is spoken. At this congress you probably are part of the delegation representing your national affiliate. At least you are not alone and can find your accommodation with your fellow delegates. There is usually a choice between luxurious and simpler accommodation for each according to taste or purse. You have to make sure you register at the conference centre, pay your congress fee if you have not been able to do so earlier, receive your congress papers, including the programme, invitations to happenings and the badge with your name.

Having arrived before congress you meet other participants and maybe have time for an exploratory stroll to acclimatise. The opening time of congress varies, and is often a special afternoon ceremony with Very Important People attending. H.R.H. Princess Alexandra in London 1967, Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations in New York 1976 to name but two. Various speakers introduced by the President are followed by the role call of Affiliated and Associated organisations present. Originally national flags were carried; however some feel that this in the present day is too nationalistic for an international organisation. The ceremony is followed by a grand reception, including national food, and attended by a variety of local celebrities. All delegates start getting to know each other.



■ 15th IAW Congress Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1949 (Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

Originally Congresses were held every two years, being alternately business and more social meetings. 1904-1906-1908-1909 (quinquennial)-1911-1913.

After WWII it was no longer possible to organise them every two years and the present system was established of 1) Congress, followed by next year 2) board meeting and 3) International



■ 7th IWSA Congress Budapest, Hungary, 1913 (Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



■ 19th IAW Congress Dublin, Ireland, Ireland, Irish Housewives Association. New board with President of Ireland, de Valera

committee meeting. The International committee meeting existed of IAW board members and the presidents or their proxies of Affiliates and Associates. In the past 25 years the UN Women's Conferences allowed for deviating from this system. A board meeting is held before a congress as is a post congress meeting of the new board.

Congress takes several days: business sessions alternating with lectures on the Congress theme and perhaps a small break for an afternoon of sightseeing. Many participants stay on privately after congress for more sightseeing or arrive earlier to get to know their hosts.



■ 20th IAW Congress Trieste, Italy. New Board, new President, Begum Anwar Ahmed



■ 29th IAW Congress Athens, Greece (with simultaneous translation!)

The most important aspect of Congress is the election of the new board and the defining and adopting of an action programme for the new triennium. The text is previously prepared in commission sessions and finally adopted on the last day of Congress followed by the presentation of the new board.

At the plenary sessions the president's report is followed by acceptance of new affiliates, the secretary or office reports and the treasurer's report; both are followed by discussions. Our UN and other representatives give their reports and later, time permitting so do our affiliates. Delegates are allowed to speak and vote on behalf of



■ 27th IAW Congress Mauritius, 1986

their country. The President can give the floor to speakers if she feels a useful contribution can be added.

Last but not least Congress always ends with an elaborate Congress dinner with dancing, sometimes a show of national dancers. Often all delegates end the evening dancing together. If you have enjoyed your international experience and feel confident of being able to contribute to the work

of the Alliance maybe your affiliate will nominate you to the board at the next congress, but your first Congress experience will probably remain the most vivid. Any body interested in the history of the past century can study Congress reports.

For many years official congress report were published. The 1929 Jubilee Congress report was 469 pages! Price: four shillings. All due to reports

being translated and printed and published in English, French and German. This included all country reports, Commission reports and names of all members of the commissions. At this time we still had an office secretary and I think she must have done most of the work as the report was published by headquarters: Vauxhall Bridge road, London. After WWII woman power and finances made this more and more difficult. The 1952 Congress report is 142 pages. Price: GP 4/6 (four shillings and sixpence), English and French. Basically 70 pages English + 70 translated into French. In the seventies Congress reports no longer included country reports. These were typed, stencilled and put together separately. Reports dwindled in size until sixteen photocopied pages were left, containing Presidents report, new affiliates, and a list of affiliates reports received. Recently no congress reports have been made. I certainly hope money can be made available to make a worthy Report of our Centennial Congress and Celebrations. ♦

Marijke Peters,
Archives officer



■ Congress dinner 4th IWSA Congress, 1908, Amsterdam Concertgebouw; earliest Congress Picture found (Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

A dream come true

Unfortunately it is necessary for this issue of IWN to go to press before reports of the work – the most important part of any IAW gathering – can be received. The account which follows gives members an idea of the delights of some of the social events and expresses the gratitude of IAW to the kind hostesses in Liberia.

From Margaret Ingledew

I share the conviction that the total political emancipation of the women of the world will usher in a new day in the history of mankind." So spoke President Tubman at the opening session of the IAW Seminar in Monrovia's fine City Hall. It was a great occasion, for, as Mrs. Deraniyagala had said, a dream had come true, and the Alliance was meeting in Africa for the first time in its history.

In spite of the distance from our previous meeting-places, sixteen countries were represented, and it was thrilling to see women from countries as far apart as Pakistan and Denmark, Iran and USA, coming up to be presented on the dais. It was the costumes of the African countries that visually stole the show, with their gorgeous robes and gay head lies.

That evening the President and Mrs. Tubman entertained us in the Executive Pavilion to a brilliant reception. Under the mirror-jewelled ceiling we met members of the Government, of the Churches, and of the Diplomatic Corps, and a delightful evening ended in music and dancing.

The next evening, after a day of meetings, the Federation of Liberian women took us to the Tropical Hut, a well known restaurant, to see a skilled performance of African dancing.

The Wednesday evening found us again at the City Hall for a showing of interesting films on Monrovia, and on the Thursday we were allowed an afternoon off to visit Mrs. Ellen Mills Scarbrough's country house. This took us a glorious drive through wooded scenery with tiny villages here and there. In the gracious setting of her lovely home, we got to know the other delegates informally. Later we had the excitement of tasting 'country chop', and tried fufu paste, Jollof rice, palm butter, and cassava-leaf fish-soup – all delicious.

Another party followed at the Tropical Hut. When Miss Susan Berry persuaded each delegation to provide an entertainment, and Mrs. Sherman produced some charming little dancers.

The next evening the Commissioner of the City of Monrovia and Mrs. Nathan Ross gave a huge civic reception at the City Hall.

Saturday was a holiday, and Mrs. Tubman most kindly invited us to the President's farm. We drove more than 80 miles

through the rubber plantations. Men were busy tapping the trees and collecting the latex, and some were carrying the big pails on poles to the depot. We stopped and chatted to one, and saw the creamy whiteness of the latex close to.

When we reached Mrs. Tubman's Rest House, called Coo Coo's Nest after her little daughter, we first went across the road to inspect the President's Zoo. Here was a fine collection of pigmy hippopotamuses, crocodiles, monkeys, eagles, and lions, to mention but a few. The vet was there, inoculating the zebras against sleepy-sickness. Junior, the baby pigmy elephant, was evidently not keen on being weaned, for she

followed the keeper about, sucking his finger affectionately. Mrs. Tubman then entertained us to a sumptuous buffet lunch, and as she circulated among the guests we could see in what respect and regard the First Lady is held by the people of Liberia.

On our first Sunday we had all gone to lunch with Mrs. Frances Dennis in her charming house in the City.

On the second Sunday of our stay, hostesses invited us individually to their homes. Some of us went with them to Church, some went sight-seeing, and some just stayed quietly chatting.

The next day it was the Board's turn to play host, and we invited our Liberian friends to dinner. President and Mrs. Tubman again honoured the IAW by being present, and he further encouraged us in the work for women in a felicitous speech.

The Federation of Liberian

Women's farewell party was at the newly-built home of Mrs. Leona Chesson, a distinguished lawyer. The Nigerian and Liberian delegations, ably assisted by our Sierra Leone and Cameroun friends, led the party in a spirited performance of the High Life.

There were many other parties not on the official programme, some given by Embassies, others by individuals, but perhaps those already described will serve to show what a warm welcome and wealth of entertainment was offered to the foreign guests during their stay in Liberia. Once again the Alliance has provided an occasion for the practical demonstration of international understanding. ♦

(Source: IWN News Vol.58 - No. 9 September 1963)



■ President Tubman of Liberia dancing with President IAW, Ezlynn Deraniyagala

Suffrage – The Vote

It would be difficult to underestimate the importance of ‘the vote’ as an ‘issue’ for early feminists, or the political significance of the franchise in the creation of an international movement which would unite women across the world in a common cause. Not only was the vote expected to bring political and economic benefits, but the whole concept of emancipation was deeply imbued with religious and moral significance.



(source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

pose of prostitution, usually referred to insensitively as the ‘White Slave Trade’.

It was hoped, therefore, that the vote would open up a host of new possibilities. Societies would evolve in which women put on the mantle of ‘equal rights and equal responsibilities’, assuming their rightful place as citizens and creators of a better and fairer world. ♦

Helen J. Self

This was made clear 1912 when an announcement made at the Triennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses, held in Cologne (5 August 1912), was quoted on the front page of the September issue of ‘Jus Suffragii’.

“(...) In the belief that the highest purpose of civilisation, and the truest blessings of the race can only be attained by the equal and united labours of men and women possessing equal and unbridgeable political powers, we declare our adherence to the principle of Women Suffrage, and regard the Suffrage Movement as a great and moral movement, making for the conquest of misery, preventable illness and vice, and as strengthening a feeling of human brotherhood.”

Hidden within this message is a reference to the second great, and in some respects divisive issue, which inspire women with a determination to force political and social reform upon male dominated societies and legislatures, which is the reference to vice. It is significant, therefore, that this message should come from the nurses as the ‘preventable illness and vice’ referred to were the twin scourges of venereal disease and prostitution. This created for the IWSA, as for many other organisations, a passionate desire for a ‘Single Moral Standard’, by which it meant, an end to the double standard which allowed men to exploit poor women through prostitution and infect their middle-class wives and children with debilitating illness. In addition to this was the attendant misery of trafficking for the pur-



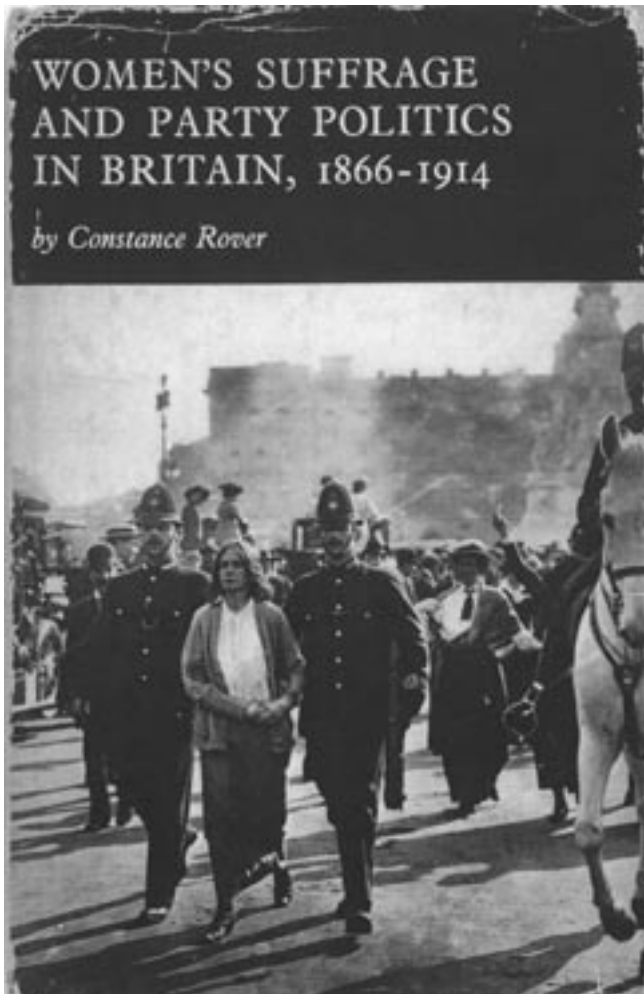
■ ‘Mrs. Poyser again...’, Artists’ Suffrage Leage, ca. 1909

Campaigning for the Vote in Nineteenth Century England

‘Women’s Suffrage and Party Politics in Britain, 1866-1914’

by Constance Rover

In 1825 James Mill, the father of John Stuart Mill, wrote: “(...) *all those individuals whose interests are undisputedly included in those of other individuals may be struck off without inconvenience (...) in this light also women may be regarded, the interests of almost all of whom are involved in that of their fathers or in that of their husbands.*”



■ Cover from ‘Women’s Suffrage and Party Politics in Britain, 1866-1914’, by Constance Rover

This provocative statement led to a spirited reply by William Thompson and his friend Mrs Wheeler. Together they wrote a pamphlet entitled: ‘*An appeal of one half of the human race, women, against the pretensions of the other half, men, to retain them in political, and thence in civil and domestic slavery.*’

This pamphlet was seen as the first claim in England for the women’s vote. Many and varied were the campaigns and petitions to parliament which followed, not only for the vote but for property rights, education and the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts which persecuted prostitutes.

Mrs Fawcett realised the interconnections between the suffrage movement and other aspects of the women’s movement and, writing in the Nineteenth Century in May 1886, stated:

“Women’s suffrage will not come, when it does come, as an isolated phenomenon, it will come as a necessary corollary of the other changes which have been gradually and steadily modifying during this century the social history of our country. It will be a political change, not of a very great or extensive character in itself, based upon social, educational, and economic changes which have already taken place. It will have the effect of adjusting the political machinery of the country to the altered social conditions of its inhabitants. The revolution has been quietly taking place for at least two generations; the political change will not be a revolution, but a public recognition by the State that the lot of women in England is no longer what it was at the beginning of the century.”

Women in the United Kingdom were obliged to wait until 1918 before they were granted a limited franchise, as recognition of their contribution towards the war effort. This was awarded to women over thirty who were house holders and the full franchise came in 1928.

This opened the gates to civil and political rights, providing women with both rights and responsibilities, for which the International Alliance of Women stands; it is how women use their political power that really counts. ♦

Helen J. Self,
daughter of Constance Rover

Suffragists Downunder

On December 18th 1894 at 11.30 am, the women of the Colony of South Australia were the first Australian women to be enfranchised, but not the first in the world to be granted this right. In the USA, a limited number of territories and states had enfranchised women by 1893. That same year New Zealand became the first self-governing nation to grant the vote to all adult women.

Harriet Dugdale, in her letter to the *Melbourne Argus* in 1869, appears to be the first Australian woman to demand full citizenship rights for women. This was at a time when educational and employment opportunities were opening up for women: in the new factories, teaching apprenticeships, training as nurses and working in mail offices and as telegraphists. Women established church societies, trade unions, clubs and social improvement organisations such as the Ladies' Social Purity Society (LSPS) in South Australia which wanted the age of consent increased from 13 to 16 and opposed the legalisation of brothels.

Annie Lowe and Dugdale established the first Australian suffrage organisation, the Victorian Woman's Suffrage Society in 1884. Brettina Smyth, the Victorian birth control writer and lecturer, formed the Australia Women's Suffrage Society in 1888. In the same year South Australian Mary Lee, a member of the LSPS, founded the Women's Suffrage League. A year later Louisa Lawson founded the Dawn Club in Sydney. Subsequently Rose Scott formed the Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales in 1891. During the early 1890s Annette Bear-Crawford united various Victorian organisations under the banner of the United Council for Woman Suffrage. Another notable campaigner was Emma Miller, president of the Queensland Woman's Equal Suffrage Association from its formation in 1894.

Debates and public meetings on women's suffrage were held at both city and country venues. Support was given by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, introduced into Australia in 1884. American temperance missionary, Jessie Ackermann, arrived in Australia in 1889 and spent the next six years travelling around the country helping to establish local branches. Wherever she went she stressed the link between the Union's aims and votes for women.



(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

In August 1889 she organised the first colonial convention of the WCTU, in Melbourne. It declared its commitment to votes for women, created a suffrage department and appointed a national suffrage supervisor.

In Victoria the suffrage groups decided to present a Petition for Women's Suffrage to the Victorian State Parliament, in 1891. Through canvassing door to door over 33,000 signatures were collected, which created the largest petition ever presented to the Victorian Parliament, and required several attendants to carry it into the chamber. Passed by the

Lower House, the Legislative Assembly, which was elected on universal manhood suffrage, it was rejected by the conservative Upper House, the Legislative Council, which was elected by men who paid more than £100 in annual rates.

Social campaigner and philanthropic worker, Vida Goldstein, along with her mother, was one of those canvassers obtaining signatures. Goldstein would later become the first woman to stand for parliamentary election in the British Empire when she stood for the Senate as an independent candidate in 1903. She would become also the Australian delegate at the International Woman's Suffrage Conference in Washington and the International Council of Woman Convention in 1902.

Australian women first won the right to vote in their respective States: South Australia (1894), Western Australia (1899), New South Wales (1902),

Tasmania (1903), Queensland (1904) and Victoria in 1908. The right to vote in national elections was won by women for the Commonwealth of Australia elections of 1902. The Commonwealth Franchise Act was extended to all white women over the age of 21 in 1902 but not to Indigenous women. Following a referendum, associated with the 1962 federal elections, the Commonwealth Electoral Act was amended to enfranchise Aboriginal Australians, men and women. ♦

Anne Heywood,
League of Women Voters Victoria

Millicent Fawcett

and the Pankhurst Dynasty

Millicent Garrett Fawcett was born in Suffolk in 1847, the daughter of Newson and Louisa Garrett. Millicent and her sister Agnes developed an early interest in the issue of women's suffrage, which was heightened after attending a speech by John Stewart Mills in 1867. Although she was considered too young to sign a petition in favour of the vote for women, presented before parliament in 1866, she attended a debate on the issue in 1867.

In 1867 Millicent was asked to join the executive committee of the London National Society for Women's Suffrage, for which she worked until 1874, after which she moved to the Central Committee for Women's Suffrage. Millicent had avoided joining this organisation at an earlier date because of its support for Josephine Butler's Campaign to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts, on the ground that the subject of prostitution would tarnish the respectable image of their crusade. Eventually the two suffrage groups merged and through Millicent's influence the organisation adopted moderate policies. Over time the movement diversified into new groups and Millicent used her influence to heal the various rifts, working timelessly for the cause and eventually becoming the president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in 1907. Like Margery Corbett Ashby, Millicent was both an active member of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance and deeply involved in Liberal politics. She became a vice president under Carrie Chapman Catt during the Berlin Conference of 1904 and organised the only quinquennial congress in 1909.

In 'Woman into Citizen', Arnold Whittick describes Millicent Fawcett as being 'the principal leader of the constitutional movement for women's suffrage in England for over twenty years'. The Fawcett Society (which is still flourishing) and the Fawcett Library (now the Women's Library) were named after her.



■ Millicent Garrett Fawcett, 1913

Emmeline Pankhurst and two of her three daughters, Sylvia and Christabel stand out in stark contrast to Millicent Fawcett. Emmeline was a colourful and hugely eccentric character who led the notoriously militant branch of the British women's suffrage movement. She was born in Manchester on 15 July 1858, but a recent biographer, Paula Bartley, comments that even this date is a matter of controversy, since Emmeline changed it to 14 July on the ground that 'Bastille Day' and its association with the over-throw of tyranny had more dramatic appeal.

At the age of twenty-one Emmeline married Richard Pankhurst, a man who was almost as old as her father. But despite this disparity in age, Richard was said to have been the ideal husband and the source of Emmeline's political ambitions. Although eccentric to the last, she moved her allegiance from Socialist, to Liberal and finally Conservative as she grew older. Richard was a man committed to social reform and women's rights and responsible for drafting a number of parliamentary Bills for the advancement of women's. Sadly, he died in

1898 and Emmeline was obliged to take up paid employment. However, this could have been the source of her business acumen, since from this time onwards she would charge for almost anything.

Emmeline was an extraordinary character, always appearing elegant and beautiful despite spending

much of her time travelling, lecturing or demonstrating – not to mention the periodic spells in prison. This peripatetic life-style necessitated living out of suitcases and in other people's houses and for many years she had no permanent home. Sadly, the frequent periods of imprisonment did much to undermine her health, as Emmeline led the hunger strikes which were a feature of this branch of feminist protest, although she usually managed to avoid the torture of forced feeding. However, such was Emmeline's fame and popularity within the women's movement that the authorities always let her out before she became too ill, when she would immediately resume her suffrage activities.

Not surprisingly, opinion is divided as to the successfulness of Emmeline's militant tactics; although there is no doubt that she provided the inspiration and leadership which fired the British movement. In contrast to Millicent, a statue was erected near the Houses of Parliament in her honour and the memory of her courage and grace continues to burn brightly in the hearts of modern feminists. ♦

■ Helen J. Self

Women's Suffrage and beyond - India

The Political Status of women can be defined as the degree of quality and freedom by women in the shaping and sharing of power and in the value given by society to this role

In the case of India, the two major forces which acted as a catalyst in the achievement of political equality of women were the social reform movements and national movement under the leadership of Gandhi who declared himself to be *"uncompromising in the matter of women's rights. Women must have votes and an equal legal status. But the problem does not end there. It only commences at the point where women begin to affect the political deliberations of the nation"*, he said.

Interest in the women's questions and women's issues in India began in the nineteenth century and grew out of the socio-religious reform movements initiated by male intelligentsia to eliminate obscure customs, beliefs and superstitions. By the end of the nineteenth century, a few women emerged from within the reform movement who formed their own organisations, like Swarnakumari Devi and Pandit Ramabai Saraswati. The first all Indian association was the Women's Indian Association (WIA) established in 1917 by Dorothy Jinarajadasa together with Annie Besant and Margaret Cousins, the former two being ex-suffragettes. These women were conscious of their political rights and were influenced by democratic values and worked actively to generate political consciousness among women. They took up the issue of voting right for women.

Franchise during the pre-independence period

The AIWC (All India Women's Conference) founded in 1927 by Margaret Cousins, joined the movement for women's votes actively in 1931 when a new Constitution for India was being discussed in the British parliament. Franchise was, of course, extremely limited and the right to vote was subject to certain reservation: women could vote only if they possessed qualification of wifehood, property and education. The gap between the radical nature of the demand and the actual achievement was a characteristic of the pre-independence period. It revealed the reluctance of the foreign rulers to accept the democratic aspirations of the people, but also their own view regarding the limited role of women. The Government of India Act of 1935 once again did not accept universal adult franchise. The Act increased the number of enfranchised Indians, the proportional suffrage rights of women and relaxed some of the previous qualifications. All women over 21 could vote provided they fulfilled the condition of property and education.

Demanding adult franchise

It was the granting of the Communal Award in 1932 which gave reserved seats to Muslims and Scheduled Castes which made women's organisations like the AIWC reject the demand of reserved seats for women. They had stood for unity of womanhood and the communal award threatened to divide Hindu and Muslims women. The publication afterwards of the white paper in 1933 came as a shock as it included reservation of seats, enfranchisement of wives of property owners and literates, a different franchise for the assembly and stringent qualifications for election to the upper chamber. The government of India Act of 1935 once again did not accept universal adult franchise. Though disillusioned, the demand for women's rights was once again framed at the joint meeting of the AIWC, WIA and NCWI. In 1938 the demand for adult franchise was once again put forward at the Joint Parliamentary Committee in London..

Political rights, an instrument for achieving gender equality

It has been argued that political equality does not have much meaning in a country where the mass of people suffer from poverty, illiteracy, lack of health and inequality of class, caste, status and power. It is more so in the case of women who suffer from another dimension of quality, namely the weight of traditional attitudes that regard them as physically, intellectually and socially inferior to men. Equal legal and political right of women are only the starting point to enable society to transform itself by ending all exploitation, a process in which women could be prime movers. Political rights are thus an instrument for achieving general equality of status and opportunities. ♦

(This article contains a selection of the original text.)

**Dr. Aparna Basu,
Ph.D. (Cambridge)**

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

A World Chronology of the Recognition of Women's Rights to Vote and to Stand for Election

Unless otherwise indicated, the date signifies the year women were granted the right both to vote and to stand for election. The countries listed below currently have a Parliament or have had one at some point in their history.



British suffragette poster of 1905

- 1788 United States of America (to stand for election)
- 1893 New Zealand (to vote)
- 1902 Australia*
- 1906 Finland
- 1907 Norway (to stand for election)*
- 1913 Norway**
- 1915 Denmark, Iceland*
- 1917 Canada (to vote)*, Netherlands (to stand for election)
- 1918 Austria, Canada (to vote)*, Estonia, Georgia¹, Germany, Hungary, Ireland*, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom*
- 1919 Belarus, Belgium (to vote)*, Luxembourg, Netherlands (to vote), New Zealand (to stand for election), Sweden*, Ukraine
- 1920 Albania, Canada (to stand for election)*, Czech Republic, Iceland**, Slovakia, United States of America (to vote)
- 1921 Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium (to stand for election)*, Georgia¹, Sweden**
- 1924 Kazakhstan¹, Mongolia, Saint Lucia, Tajikistan
- 1927 Turkmenistan
- 1928 Ireland**, United Kingdom**
- 1929 Ecuador*, Romania*
- 1930 South Africa (Whites), Turkey (to vote)
- 1931 Chile*, Portugal*, Spain, Sri Lanka
- 1932 Maldives, Thailand, Uruguay
- 1934 Brazil, Cuba, Portugal*, Turkey (to stand for election)
- 1935 Myanmar (to vote)
- 1937 Philippines
- 1938 Bolivia*, Uzbekistan
- 1939 El Salvador (to vote)
- 1941 Panama*
- 1942 Dominican Republic
- 1944 Bulgaria, France, Jamaica
- 1945 Croatia, Guyana (to stand for election), Indonesia, Italy, Japan¹, Senegal, Slovenia, Togo
- 1946 Cameroon, D.P.R. of Korea, Djibouti (to vote), Guatemala, Liberia, Myanmar (to stand for election), Panama**, Romania**, The F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia
- 1947 Argentina, Japan¹, Malta, Mexico (to vote), Pakistan, Singapore
- 1948 Belgium**, Israel, Niger, Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Suriname
- 1949 Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile**, China, Costa Rica, Syrian Arab Republic (to vote)*
- 1950 Barbados, Canada (to vote)**, Haiti, India
- 1951 Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Nepal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- 1952 Bolivia**, Côte d'Ivoire, Greece, Lebanon
- 1953 Bhutan, Guyana (to vote), Mexico (to stand for election), Syrian Arab Republic**
- 1954 Belize, Colombia, Ghana
- 1955 Cambodia, Eritrea², Ethiopia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru
- 1956 Benin, Comoros, Egypt, Gabon, Mali, Mauritius, Somalia
- 1957 Malaysia, Zimbabwe (to vote)**
- 1958 Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Lao P.D.R., Nigeria (South)
- 1959 Madagascar, San Marino (to vote), Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania
- 1960 Canada (to stand for election)**, Cyprus, Gambia, Tonga
- 1961 Bahamas*, Burundi, El Salvador (to stand for election), Malawi, Mauritania, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sierra Leone

- 1962 Algeria, Australia**, Monaco, Uganda, Zambia
- 1963 Afghanistan, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Morocco, Papua New Guinea (to stand for election)
- 1964 Bahamas**, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Papua New Guinea (to vote), Sudan
- 1965 Botswana, Lesotho
- 1967 Democratic Republic of the Congo (to vote), Ecuador**, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Yemen (D.P. R.)
- 1968 Nauru, Swaziland
- 1970 Andorra (to vote), Democratic Republic of the Congo (to stand for election), Yemen (Arab Republic)
- 1971 Switzerland
- 1972 Bangladesh
- 1973 Andorra (to stand for election), Bahrain¹, San Marino (to stand for election)
- 1974 Jordan, Solomon Islands
- 1975 Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Vanuatu¹
- 1976 Portugal**
- 1977 Guinea Bissau
- 1978 Nigeria (North), Republic of Moldova¹, Zimbabwe (to stand for election)
- 1979 Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Fed. States), Palau
- 1980 Iraq, Vanuatu¹
- 1984 Liechtenstein, South Africa (Coloureds + Indians)
- 1986 Central African Republic, Djibouti (to stand for election)
- 1989 Namibia
- 1990 Samoa
- 1993 Kazakhstan¹, Republic of Moldova¹
- 1994 South Africa (Blacks)

Women in Kuwait do not yet have the right to vote or to stand for election. In the United Arab Emirates, where the Parliament is officially appointed, neither men nor women have the right to vote or to stand for election.



* Right subject to conditions or restrictions
 ** Restrictions or conditions lifted

1. Reference to several dates reflects the stages in the granting of rights. It is not uncommon, in countries previously under colonial rule, for women to have been granted the rights to vote and be elected by the colonial administration and to have had them confirmed at the time of accession to independence. Similarly, it is not uncommon, in countries that were formerly part of a federation and in which women were entitled to vote and be elected under the federal legislation, for women to have had these rights confirmed under the Constitution of the newly independent State.
2. In November 1955, Eritrea was part of Ethiopia. The Constitution of sovereign Eritrea adopted on 23 May 1997 stipulates that "All Eritrean citizens, of eighteen years of age or more, shall have the right to vote."



(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



■ Various old Congress identification badges
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

Badges and Banners

The design and adoption of an international badge was one of the first tasks that the Alliance put its collective mind to. The minutes of the IWSA Conference in 1904 report that a committee was appointed to consider the design and execution of a badge. During the Copenhagen meeting in 1906 it was decided that the IWSA symbol would be the figure of 'Justice' standing in front of a rising sun with the words Jus Suffragii (meaning the right to vote).

Badges

Each national suffrage association would be expected to adopt the badge as its own, while suffragists around the world were encouraged to purchase and wear it as a symbol of their commitment to the cause. It was voted that the badge should be manufactured in bronze so that it would come within the purchasing power of all those who believed in woman suffrage. At a later date it was also executed in different metals and at different prices. This basic design has remained in permanent use throughout the century and can still be seen at the top of the *IWN* and other publications. The only variation being the presence or absence of the rising sun. The rising sun symbol of hope for the new century somehow disappeared from



■ Swedish text on back of banner

our publications in the sixties... A variety of congressional badges were made, sometimes very exquisite and expensive looking to be used to identify the participants either by name or country. All very much more decorative than the modern plastic name slips we use now.

Banner

Jus Suffragii: January 1909. Letter from flag committee: "At the conference in Amsterdam we decided to have a banner and a committee of three was appointed to lay some designs before the conference in London. There was a difference of opinion on what sort of banner was meant. One of the ladies wanted to have a lovely banner with a peculiar suffrage design embroidered in different colours... My original idea was to have a simple flag – or the international design already adopted in Copenhagen to be hoisted in the top of the building wherever we hold a meeting... tell me what you want: either a handsome banner, which remains the property of the IWSA and in that case has to be carried from one country to another, or a simple thin, which is recognised all over the world as the International Woman Suffrage Flag."

Our banner was the result of lengthy discussion at the 1909 congress in London. The handsome banner was made in Sweden, was created by Licium and presented by Miss Lotten von Kroemer at the sixth IWSA Congress in Stockholm in 1911. The back of the banner is embroidered with these words: "On a cloudy day as well as on a bright / Towards the future we raise our standard / Forward, through clouds and mist / Towards the light of a new day."

The banner has since been carried in processions, travelled around the world and been given a place of honour at each congress. In 1997 the board decided to have it restored for the coming centenary. The restored banner was first presented at the 1999 Congress in New York. ♦



No. 2.

15 October 1906.

Whoever, in an otherwise popular government, has no vote, and no prospect of obtaining it, will either be a permanent malcontent, or will feel as one whom the general affairs of society do not concern.

JOHN STUART MILL.



— I know only woman, and her enfranchisement —

— No man is good enough to govern a woman without her consent. —

— Failure is impossible! —

SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

Internat. Woman Suffrage Alliance

Bulletin or Monthly Correspondence.

Miss Sophie Rodger Cunliffe, Treasurer of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, will remain for some months longer in America. Altho letters directed to her London address will be forwarded, it will be better to send them to her American address: 313 W. 82nd St. New-York, care Mrs. Gilman.

I must add an important correction to my President's Message, presented to the Copenhagen meeting. I said therein, that the temporary organization of the Alliance, effected in Washington in 1902, had no Treasurer. It is true we had no money and hence, no duties for a treasurer; but a Treasurer we did have, and one too, who would have performed her duties wisely and well, had there been any, namely, Mrs. Florence Fenwick Miller. She was the only delegate from England in attendance upon the Washington meeting, having crossed the ocean for the express purpose, and she became therefore one of the charter members. It was a careless bit of forgetfulness on my part, not to have mentioned her, and I apologize to her and to the Alliance for my oversight.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and Dr. Alletta Jacobs, president of the Dutch Woman Suffrage Association, will visit Hungary and Austria in October, and will hold meetings in Prag, Brinn and Vienna in Austria, and in Budapest in Hungary.

United States.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association is preparing for active work in Oklahoma, one of the few remaining Territories of the United States.

A constitution is to be prepared this winter, under which Oklahoma will ask to enter the Union, as a State. Our women are planning to question all the candidates for the convention which is to frame this constitution; as there are several different political parties in the field, there is a large number of candidates whose position upon our question must be ascertained.

It is probable also that the National Association will aid the Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association by sending to them one of our best press

workers, to spread our views by articles which she will try to have accepted and published in the leading journals of the Territory.

But when we remember that Oklahoma was formerly a part of Indian Territory and that about one half of the men who will form the Constitutional Convention will be Indians, we see but little prospect of the women in the new State being enfranchised.

With its issue of October the little journal published by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, heretofore issued quarterly, will become a monthly. "Progress," as it is named, will no longer be used only for special work with the newspapers and for propaganda, but will be made a means of communication among the members of our Association and other workers for woman suffrage.

The 39th. annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association will be held in Chicago Feb. 14-20 1907.

The Portland Federal Women's Equality Association in Oregon follows a new plan for collecting signatures in behalf of woman suffrage by publishing in its organ this paragraph:

WANTED—20,000 NAMES.

We want the signatures of 20,000 adult citizens which we can use in support of the Federal Suffrage Bill giving women the right to vote for members of the House of Representatives. Every reader can get some names. The form given below enables the names to be used for any woman suffrage measure in Congress, and it is a continuous petition, that can be used as long as needed.

Use this form. Cut this out or copy on sheet of paper, lined down the middle, with names on one side and addresses, with street and number, on the other.

PETITIONERS FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

We, the undersigned adult citizens of the United States, hereby authorize the Federal Woman's Equality Association to affix our signatures to any memorial or petition that may be presented to Congress on behalf of woman suffrage.

Jus Suffragii – The Journal

In October 1906, letters were sent by Carrie Chapman Catt to all the Presidents of the National Suffrage Associations affiliated with the IWSA, setting out the estimates for publishing a Bulletin and asking the affiliates to vote upon the following questions: 1. Shall we publish an eight or a four page paper?; 2. Shall it be issued ten or twelve times during the year?; and 3. What subscription price can your country afford to pay?

It was calculated that 400 subscribers at two florins per year would cover the cost of printing an eight page paper which was to be issued twelve times per year. 374 subscribers were soon forthcoming and a friend agreed to make good the deficit if one occurred. Thus the organ of the Alliance became a reality and members were asked to send in their contributions promptly. As Carrie concluded: “United action among us will make our little paper of untold value to our cause.”

Early editions of the journal demonstrate the single-minded focus of the IWSA, which was to secure the franchise for women around the world. With this purpose in mind, the different member countries sent in their varying reports setting out their progress in the suffrage cause. Just occasionally, other topics would be tackled such as ‘China’, by Carrie Chapman Catt, and discussions on topics, like ‘Should Suffragists be Encouraged to Enter Political Parties’.

In 1906 the board appointed Martina Kramers as our first editor, 1906-1913. She was the youngest of seven children and grew up in a remote village where her father was head of a boys boarding school. Martina profited from lessons in French, German and English by learning from teachers who were native speakers. Her multi-lingual education was a great asset for an international editor. She translated many articles into English, although later *JUS* also printed articles in other languages.

Originally called the *Monthly Bulletin*, the first ‘issue’ in September 1906, was a copied typescript sent only to the Presidents of the dozen affiliates.

The editor arranged printing in Rotterdam for No. 2 (15 October 1906). The first issues were in English only, with the emblem of our new badge placed centrally, whilst the edition of January 1905 No. 5 was the first to be called *Jus Suffragii*. In 1909, after l’Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes was affiliated to IWSA, two special pages were included in *Jus Suffragii*; and from 1910 until 1920 France published their own *JUS*: ‘*Organe Mensuel pour le Suffrage des Femmes*’. After the 7th Congress in Budapest, it was decided to open an office in London with a paid secretary-cum-editor. Mary Sheepshank became editor 1913-1919. The issue of July 1913 was in a larger format on high quality paper and the number of pages was increased to 12 and later to 16, which led to a satisfying growth in circulation.

To begin with the policy was to publish only official reports. But in 1914 it was decided that all articles should be signed and the by-law strictly applied: “*The IWSA, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to observe absolute neutrality on all questions which are not strictly national.*”



■ Martina Kramers, 1st Editor *Jus Suffragii*, 1906-1913 (Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

Special ‘victory issues’ were published when the suffrage was granted to another country. At a board meeting in London it was also decided to appoint a press secretary to make sure that the world press would be informed. Alas, the war put an end to Rosika Schwimmer’s efforts.

In 1920 Mrs. G.F. Abbot was appointed editor. The French edition had started in 1910 and faced many problems: translating articles, making French extracts, proof reading, all were voluntary work. The last French edition in March 1920 had 204 subscribers, coming from Switzerland, Latin America, Italy, Portugal, Rumania, but the war years aggravated the production problems. Consequently, the French Vice-President proposed that in future all members should subscribe to the English edition and two pages would be used for French articles. Affiliates could then translate articles from *Jus Suffragii* for their own national feminist press.

In 1929 Katherine Bompas became the headquarters secretary and editor until 1946. She reported that there were 493 subscribers: resulting in receipts of £189 which had to be set against an expenditure of £282. “*Our auxiliaries are essential for news and increased circulation*”, she commented, “*even a postcard giving the results of an election is a valuable contribution.*” Throughout the war years the problem of keeping our paper alive was solved by handing over the publication to an English group called the Women’s Publicity Planning Association, and the President of the Alliance was chairman of the editorial committee! During the war years the shortage of paper led to a reduction in the size of the *IWN*ews. Unfortunately it had to

be run at a loss, but at the end of the war the paper was handed back to the Alliance. A new modern subtitle was then introduced and placed below the heading: *'Realist – Independent – Democratic'*.

Ms Hamilton Smith became the next editor while Ms Spiller prepared the French section. But by 1950 there were still insufficient subscribers (at £1 per year), and the odd issue was sold at ten pence. So in order to reduce costs, the number of pages was reduced and cheaper paper used, with only an occasional illustration. The same financial problems have persisted over the years and the individual members fees have been used to cover the largest part of the expenditure.

From 1952 Margery Corbett Ashby became the new editor. The monthly IWN was once again enlarged to 12 pages with the center four pages in French, but no illustrations. In 1962 Helen Whittick took over and introduced a new lay-out, with a photograph on the front cover, which was changed to blue. The journal was again reduced in size to 8 pages, only one or two of which were in French.

In 1969 the IWN acquired a yellow and white cover and 12 issues per year were printed until 1970, after which it was reduced to 4. There were no French pages or illustrations and the printing was very small. This was improved in the 1980's by a new French editor who introduced more photographs and enlarged the size. Throughout the years these practical hurdles have had to be overcome, but they do not detract from the importance of the contents. The articles sent to our editors are not written by journalists with a flair for headlines, but the information is there if you care to read it. Our journal includes reports of meetings, seminars and problems in specific countries. The annual reports on our participation in UN forums are also incorporated. It all makes very interesting reading. Reading through the hundreds of issues of the past century is a fascinating journey through the History of our Alliance. ♦

HJS & NMP

Mary Sheepshanks

Editor *Jus Suffragii* from 1913-1919

Mary Sheepshanks, one of seventeen children and a future wartime editor of *Jus Suffragii*, was born in 1872, in Liverpool, England. Like Rosa Manus she spent much of her joyless childhood trying, vainly, to impress her austere father.

Presumably, the Rev. Sheepshanks was hoping for a vivacious and pretty daughter who would eventually marry advantageously, or perhaps he was just disinterested in girls. What he gained, and did not appreciate, was a highly intelligent young woman who had inherited his own best characteristics and indifferent looks. As with most Victorian families, boys were given preference over daughters, but despite this, Mary was fortunate enough to enter Newnham College, Cambridge, although at a time when there was much hostility towards women in higher education.

It would have been difficult for any intelligent young woman, coming to maturity in the late 1890s, not to have been spell-bound by the British suffrage movement, with its rallies, marches and inspiring female oratory. In 1908 Mary attended an IWSA Congress in Holland, and soon established herself as an activist in the suffrage cause. Consequently, she accepted an invitation to undertake a European lecture tour, which began in Brussels and climaxed at the IWSA Congress

in Budapest. It was at this congress that Mary was offered and accepted the role of Secretary to the IWSA, and the editorship of its monthly paper, *Jus Suffragii*.

Thus it was that an ardent pacifist was to guide the IWSA through the turbulent years of the First World War. But it is a sad fact that the 1914-1918 war divided feminists, forcing many to choose between their feminism and their patriotism. Throughout the war Mary devoted her many gifts and unfailing energy to the international 'Peace' movement, organising help for both Belgium refugees and German women stranded in Britain. In addition to her international work, Mary continued to edit *Jus Suffragii*. "I have to do my paper in bed", she complained. Indeed, to edit a neutral, international paper in the capital of one of the belligerent nations during war time was a difficult task.

Soon after the First World War had come to an end, Mary decided to resign from the editorship of *Jus Suffragii*, in order to concentrate upon the post-war problems of hunger and desolation. Many sincere tributes from around the world celebrated her achievements. Jessie Kay from New Zealand wrote to *Jus Suffragii*: "What has been the abiding bow of promise on four years of cloud and storm? Not creed, not art, not science, not Socialism – all these have failed. But the thin gold link of our Suffrage press has held us all together in one high sisterhood – British, Germans, French, Hungarians, Latins, Slaves, Teutons." ♦



■ Mary Sheepshanks

(Source: 'Spinsters of this Parish', by Sybil Oldfield)

■ Helen J. Self

Helen Whittick

Editor IW News from 1962-1982

Helen Whittick was editor of IW News for twenty years over a momentous period in the history of the women's movement. Helen had attended the 19th Congress in Dublin in 1961 as leader of the UK delegation and followed Margery Corbett Ashby as editor the following year, bringing some experience of editing journals to the task of expanding the paper as a means of informing members and affiliates of the work of women, for women, across the world.

In May 1962, Helen's editorial anticipating the June Board meeting in London, noted that "they will be meeting at a time when the Leaders of world politics are discussing momentous questions, the results of which may lead to world peace, or the eventual destruction of the whole of mankind; and although women make up at least half of the population, they have no say in these discussions. Thus it is that the Alliance still has to work to combat legal objections, economic and social conditions, educational discrimination and lack of opportunities and the dead hand of tradition, all of which... make it impossible for women in the present world to become Leaders in world affairs."

When Helen retired twenty years later the UK had a woman Prime Minister and the second wave of the women's movement of the sixties and seventies had had a significant impact on the social legal and economic status of women in many countries.

Many significant ground breaking books on feminism and issues of concern to the Alliance were published in the sixties and as a young sociologist (as well as being the editor's daughter!). I had the privilege of reviewing a number for the News. One of the main challenges for Helen came with her wish to reflect the diverse membership, the variety of cultures, traditions and problems found in the Alliance and its affiliates. It was difficult to keep a balance as some very active women had no time to write of their initiatives and copy for the paper was often hard to come by. However complaints were few and Helen remembers that two, of too much material in French and not enough French, indicated that the balance achieved was about right. Titles were a concern of the times with complaints from Scandinavia at the distinction based on marital status, "surely we work together as women, not as wives and non wives." Helen was thus persuaded to drop titles which raised only one objection, from a member in a country which was supportive of the change. As Helen was repeatedly reminded women of the Alliance are strong minded individuals! She



■ Helen Whittick
(Source: IWNews, Vol. 57 - No. 1)

was however strongly supported in her work by the Board particularly when the IAW constitution was amended by Congress in 1964 to make the Honorary Editor of IW News a member of the Board. This brought Helen to the centre of planning and policy making with a clear view of priorities and developments. Helen always hoped to make the News a forum for debates and was disappointed when what seemed stimulating or provocative items lacked response. An editor needs evidence of reader's reception of news and views, particularly with such a lively and widespread readership. She would wait until the last minute for copy, labouring to meet tight deadlines with printers. I can remember

many last minute hurried journeys through Sussex lanes to collect, or deliver, galley or page proofs. Today's technology must have facilitated communication and the whole, quite laborious and time consuming process of going to press is much simplified. Although her editorship was honorary (unpaid), Helen found many rewards and satisfactions from the work.

There are many happy memories to dwell on in her 98th year. One of the 1967 Congress in London was particularly heart warming. The President, Begum Anwar Ahmed, whose presence Helen reported: "*Shone like a thread of gold woven into the fabric of the Alliance*", appealed for funds to keep the administrative work of the organisation going. As she said: "*We can get the money to enable us to do our special tasks, our seminars and our workshops, if only you will help us to carry on*", and she drew a beautiful gold bracelet from her arm, making it a gift to the Alliance, her example was followed by individual members and representatives of many countries who made gifts of money and jewellery. As readers will know her appeal succeeded and enabled work to continue! ♦

Gillian Pitt, daughter of Helen Whittick,
wrote several articles for the IWNews

Jan Marsh

Editor *International Women's News*
1986-2002



E editing the English-language section of *International Women's News* during the 1980's and 90's as an adjunct to work as a freelance writer and scholar, my experience of the Alliance was of the global community of

women, like the great UN Forums of the time. Far smaller in terms of numbers, but equally varied and above all mutually supportive. In some ways women's concerns in the rural areas of Africa and Asia are very different from those in the technologically-advanced parts of the world, but working with the Alliance showed me how some issues – notably domestic violence and health care – are on everybody's agenda, while action against issues like economic inequality and sexual exploitation link women across the oceans. In *IWN*ews I endeavoured to feature something about each continent in each issue: not always possible, but an aspiration I felt reflected IAW's own aims.

The second important aspect of the Alliance is its relative informality. Structures and procedures are in place, but do not dominate; indeed, they can be relaxed almost to invisibility, to the irritation and dismay of some affiliates and members. But this seems to me a strength, allowing IAW to progress and change along with the times, and to maintain its inclusive and independent spirit. In this, the name is significant: affiliates and members are allies, who come together in pursuit of specific goals, and to share experience and knowledge.

My years as editor were marked by many friendships and happy memories – in Mauritius, Greece, Japan, Denmark, and elsewhere. Above all I treasure the insights into other lives, other struggles, other achievements, that *IWN*ews has always chronicled. ♦

Jan Marsh

Hilary Paddon

Editor *Les Nouvelles Féministes Internationales* since 1981



From 1978 to 1980 *International Women's News* incorporated *Le Droit des Femmes*. Before 1978 the *IWN*ews had only included occasional items in French. The last joint issue was published in September 1980, the December

number of *Le Droit des Femmes* being printed separately.

It was in 1981, while Helen Whittick was still editor, that I began to work on the French section of *IWN*ews. When she retires in September 1982 Elizabeth Waller took over as English editor for six issues. 1984 saw Georgina Ashworth as editor of the English section for two numbers; Helen Whittick came out of retirement to edit the fourth and final edition of the year; the other issue being jointly edited by vice-President Amy Bush and myself.

It was 1985 (the year of the women's conference in Nairobi) that Margaret Ling became editor of the English section. Her contribution was an important one since it was Margaret who designed the new layout for *IWN*ews (now printed on A4 size paper) giving the magazine its characteristic look followed by Jan Marsh (English editor 1986-2002) and myself with only minor changes over the years. Editing *Les Nouvelles Féministes Internationales* is usually an enjoyable and interesting job but shortage of copy is always a problem. ♦

Hilary Paddon

Note: Throughout the fifties our organ consisted of 12 A4 size pages the centre four in French. In the sixties, smaller size, 8 pages only one or two in French. This lasted until 1978 when *Le Droit des Femmes* was incorporated probably in connection with our new IAW French President, Irène de Lipkowski. (– Archives officer, NMP)

Woman – Femme – Frau – Mujer- Vrouw – Kvin – Virino

How international is the IAW/AIF?

Languages! Tongues! How can and do we communicate if we use different languages? It is so important to be aware of the dangers of misunderstanding and to check if we have fully understood each other. Translation can be very inadequate; patience is needed to listen to each other directly or to the translator. Official simultaneous translation has been a help but is very expensive. We must all be aware and open minded and enjoy the comic aspects of mixed languages. But even cartoons can be ambiguous and so can body language!

At the International meeting held in Malmö the 48 women present spoke the following languages as their mother tongue: Albanian (1), Arabic (2), Danish (3), Dutch (4), English (10, including American and Australian), French (4), German (6), Greek (1), Hebrew (1), Japanese (1), Norwegian (3), Russian (1), Spanish (1), Swedish (2). Our 8 sisters from Asian and African countries may or may not have learnt either English or French as their first language, it would be interesting to know! It is almost certainly not their only language.

This means that for 75% of members present English is a foreign language! It is always tiring to have to cope with listening let alone speaking in a strange language for any length of time. It is understandable that the native English speakers have no idea of what is involved. Usually women with previous international interests and experience become involved in the work of the IAW. Quite a few of us are adequate or even fluent in both English and French and/or German and Spanish, as was Margery Corbett Ashby. Not so the average original English speakers!

Some of us can follow both the English and French speakers directly, avoiding some misunderstandings. But be warned: one of the greatest problems is thinking you have understood all and realizing much later that a word was meant differently. In a foreign language it is easy to make a wrong impression, e.g. sound rude

because your translation is too literal. Not only language divides nations, so do different cultural manners. Perhaps our Swedish hostess, at our most formal dinner evening, was completely surprised that some of us started eating as soon as we received our plates without waiting for the hostess' sign to start by wishing us 'bon appetit' as is customary in many continental countries.

How many of us call our Alliance AIF, Alliance International des Femmes? This gives us a front row seat in Geneva where NGO's are placed in alphabetical order.

In writing there are also differences: English speaking countries use capital letters where other languages don't. Days and months, don't have capital letters in French. It is not carelessness or a typing error.

In 1906 'Jus Suffragii' was adopted as our slogan. At that time educated women had been taught Latin which was used in medicine in the legal profession and in church. Jus Suffragii, the right to vote, was acceptable to all affiliates. At the Budapest Congress in 1913 the possibility of using Esperanto was discussed, a created language that was used a lot in Eastern Europe.

Today we have seven official UN languages and in the European community each member can speak in her own tongue. Let us all be aware of language barriers! Cross them carefully with respect for each others words. Salud! ♦

Marijke Peters



(Source: IWNNews, Vol. 56 - No. 11, November 1961)

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

P.O. Box No. 355,
Valletta, MALTA.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER. No. 2.

August 1980.

BOARD MEETING. The Board Meeting of the Alliance was held in Copenhagen from 9th to 12th July and was very well attended. Fuller details of this will be published in the International Women's News, but I will mention here that during the meeting the financial situation of the Alliance came under review. In this time of rising inflation we do not wish to increase affiliation fees and membership fees, and a suggestion was made that each affiliated country should try to raise an extra £100 during the coming year. Many members at the meeting agreed to do this, and it is hoped that our other affiliates will also try to do so, assisted, where possible, by the Individual Members. We record our thanks to Eva Rude for the arrangements made for accommodation for the meetings and hotel accommodation for members.

Arranging the Board Meeting at this time meant that most of the Board Members could also attend the

UN MID-DECADE CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN at the Bella Centre, Copenhagen and the **NGO FORUM** at the University, Copenhagen.

Among the many interesting and vital meetings and workshops held at the FORUM the Alliance contributed two workshops on the Management and Organisation of Seminars which were well attended and at which much useful information was exchanged. Details of the work of the Forum will also appear in the IWN.

Several of our Board Members were included in their Governmental Delegations at the Mid-Decade Conference, and at this Conference the Report of our Monrovia Seminar was distributed as a UN Secretariat Document to the Governmental Delegations,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING is due to be held in 1981. This meeting is attended by Board Members and Presidents of Affiliated Societies. A welcome invitation received from the Hoda Charawy Association of Egypt to hold the meeting in Cairo has been accepted and more details will be circulated as soon as arrangements are completed. But for your diary the month to be chosen is September 1981.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mme. Irene de Lipkowski, Hon. President of IAW, who during June 1980 at the Polish Embassy in Paris on the occasion of the visit of the Polish Minister for Veterans, was accorded the honour of becoming a Commandeur de l'Ordre du Merite Polonais,

P.T.O.

- 2 -

To Mrs, Kamala Rana of Nepal on being appointed a member of the Royal Commission to reform the Constitution of Nepal. As the only woman on the Commission she hopes to put forward the women's situation.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Board noted the increase in the work of the Alliance and decided that the next two years must be a time of decentralisation and economy. To facilitate this, and until we can arrange for larger offices for our organisation, it was agreed that the work will be dealt with as follows, and correspondence should be routed accordingly:-

ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

President's Office, P.O. Box No. 355, Valletta, Malta.

SEMINARS AND PROJECTS

Laurel Casinader, Parnell House (5th Floor),
25, Wilton Road, London, SW1V/ 1LW, England.

FINANCE

Agnes Rearden, 'Lansdowne', Chester Road, Duxbury Park,
Chorley, Lancashire, England.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'C NEWS

Hon. Editor, Helen Whittick, 4 Netherwood,
Gossops Green, Crawley, Sussex, England,

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RECORDS AND MAILING OF IUN.

Amy Bush, 7, Ullswater, 53, Putney Hill, London,
SW15 6RY, England.

Names and addresses of Board Members, Chairmen of Commissions and our Representatives at United Nations are detailed in the enclosed Action Programme.

All good wishes to you. Please let us know of your activities from time to time so that we can share your news with all our members.

OLIVE BLOOMER,
PRESIDENT.

■ When Olive Bloomer was President, she used to send a Presidents letter regularly to all Board members to inform them of recent developments and to keep in touch personally.

IAW's Electronic Newslettter

In September 1998, after the Board Meeting in Malmö, a first electronic letter was mailed to the participants with e-mail, only 25 or so, asking if their e-mail addresses were correct and telling them that we had put pictures of the Malmö meeting on the Dutch website.

After a 'go ahead' of the Board in Malmö an enthusiastic team of a five member Editorial Committee started planning and designing an IAW website. An electronic newsletter would be part of this new medium of the Alliance and in November and December 1998 the first newsletters were e-mailed.

Alas, the design of the website was whistled into cyberspace by Congress in 1999 as being too expensive, but the electronic newsletter stayed on. Since that time there have been 10 to 12 newsletters every year. Being one of the first electronic newsletters of women's organisations at that time, the mailing list soon increased from 25 to 350. Lots of newsletters of other women's organisations have sprung up since that time (and so have spam and virus-infected e-mail).

In 2002, after IAW had established their own website and were so lucky to find a willing webmaster, the newsletter was put on the starting page of www.womenalliance.com. There it still fullfills the original goal of the editorial team of 1998: bringing IAW members up to date women's news.

The content is international news, mostly found on the internet or mailed to us by IAW members. The news the editorial committee tries to select are articles, or excerpts from articles, that are in accordance with the interest of IAW members.

At the Sri Lanka Congress we asked the participants in a questionnaire to give us their preferences. Women in politics scored high; the preference of the other subjects was divided.

We were also asked to try to curb the length of the newsletter to 6 pages. That is still difficult. There is such a lot of news and not everything should be that serious! A human touch and some hesitant steps into the near future is also needed to broaden our vision worldwide. To discipline ourselves we have started mailing a two or three page News Flash for news that takes a lot of political attention and an Action Flash, to ask our members to put their energy in a certain direction and act!

An electronic newsletter should be composed preferably in a week's time, to be news! By that time several items are collected from the internet and from IAW members who send us news. The editorial committee, starting from a zero position in 1998, are bringing in their own special tasks. Some members know the IAW inside and out, like Priscilla Todd and Lene Pind. Pat Richardson is doing the sometimes extensive administrative side and the technical side is being looked after by Cock Kerling. Yours truly could not do this kind of work of composing the newsletter without the able assistance of Priscilla Todd, who advises her about the lay-out and edits most gracefully every time her Dutchy English. ♦

Joke Sebus (Netherlands),
editor of e-newsletter



■ Members discuss the start of the E-newsletter



International Alliance of Women Alliance Internationale des Femmes

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Newsletter
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Updated 09.07.04

IAW Centenary Celebrations 1904 - 2004

Berlin 11-14 September

Website: <http://www.iaw-congress-2004.org>

Contact: Sigrid.stadler@tele2.at

An International Meeting is planned on Sunday 12 September followed by the Board meeting and a simultaneous general members meeting. After a buffet dinner that evening, there will be time for some small working groups to get together. The venue for the official Birthday Celebration and Centenary Conference is the Berliner Rathaus on the Monday morning. Celebrations will continue at the hotel with dinner, drinks, music and entertainment.

After a sightseeing tour of Berlin on 14 September with special emphasis on the history of women in that city, group travel by train to the Jubilee Congress in Freiburg is being organised.

In Berlin, delegates will stay at the Kongress Hotel Berlin-Rahnsdorf located in the woods near the Müggelsee. It offers a very reasonable bed and breakfast rate, first class food and wines and good transport services.

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IAW Congress Coll

Freiburg 14-19 September - Jubilee Congress

Website: <http://www.iaw-congress-2004.org>

The **Jubilee Congress** will commence with the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday morning, 15 September followed by the first Plenary Session. Round Table Discussions are scheduled to debate major issues of concern to the Alliance - Human Rights, CEDAW; Violence; Globalisation: Economic and Social Development, Environment and Health.

Participation in Politics, Economy and Society is the theme of a Seminar to be held on Friday, 17 September.

Time has been set aside for Workshops to prepare the Action Programme 2004-2007. The new Board will meet on 19 September.

Delegates are invited to attend a reception hosted by the City of

Past conference
relevance for wc

**1995 Beijing, I
Conference on V
for Action;**

**1994 Cairo, Int
Conference on F
Development, P**

<http://www.womenalliance.com/>

23/07/2004

Peace Through International Understanding

In 1973 Hilda Tweedy was elected to the board of IAW and given responsibility for the above commission, the work of the commission being to keep in touch with the National Commissions on that subject. Questionnaires were sent out to the various Affiliates and Resolutions prepared from the feedback were brought to Congress. Some of these resolutions when passed by Congress were sent on to the UN.



■ Peace Workshop IAW Bellinter, Ireland, October 1986

I also attended the Peace sessions of the UN in Vienna in 1985, in New York, and the NGO conference 'Together for Peace' in Geneva in January, 1986, working with Brigitte Pross and Kay Fraleigh. I went to the 2nd Disarmament Conference in New York in 1980 as part of Kay Fraleigh's team.

Another interesting assignment was monitoring the Seminar on Higher Education for Women, which preceded the All India Women's Conference Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Salem, Tamil Nadu in 1976, while Lakshmi Raguramaiah was President of the AIWC. I was one of five foreigners attending the seminar, Two being from Sri Lanka and two from Nepal. It was a wonderful experience to live for three weeks in a Hindu Women's college, and to meet some of the women who came from over 400 branches of the AIWC to the celebrations.

In the UN Year of Peace in 1986 I planned, with the help of the Irish

Housewives Association and the Council for the Status of Women (the two Irish affiliates), a weeklong seminar in Bellinter, Co. Meath for the European section of the IAW. Nine IAW members attended it from Europe, including Alice Marangopoulos, five women from Southern Ireland (for CSW and IHW) and five women from both sides of the divide in Northern Ireland.

The keynote speakers were Christabel Bielenberg in Bellinter (she and her husband helped the Jewish people in Germany, before and during the Second World War), and at a day long conference in Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Mairead Corrigan, one of the founders of the Peace People in Northern Ireland and joint recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977. The conclusion of the meeting was that there was a place for women to promote peace through international understanding. We studied the use of war like words in ordinary conversation and decided that this should be avoided if at all possible.

At that time a brochure was published after each IAW congress giving the resolutions passed and those, which had been sent to the UN. This brochure also included a list of all IAW affiliates, associates and officers. This was used by members of local affiliates, etc, to contact IAW members when they travelled abroad and to arrange exchange visits.

The IAW President (Olive Bloomer) was invited by the Chinese Women's Federation to visit China with three members of her board, so Olive, Brigitte Pross and Irmgard Rimondini (her Vice-Presidents) were chosen to go and I was included because of my position on the International Understanding Commission. This was a wonderful experience and we met many Chinese Women's Groups travelling to Beijing and surrounding districts, Shanghai and Xian etc. We found that their desire for peace was very strong.

The Commission on Peace through International Understanding was disbanded in 1989, and I'm glad to see that the question is once more to the fore on our agenda, and now more urgent than ever to counteract racism. ♦



Hilda Tweedy (Ireland), Board member, from 1973 now Honorary Member; Convenor of the Commission on Peace Through International Understanding

JUS SUFFRAGI

MONTHLY
THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN



ORGAN OF
SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE



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MESSAGE TO THE I.W.S.A.

If our President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, were within reach, I am sure she would send a message to our friends and colleagues in each country auxiliary to the I.W.S.A. that would be helpful at the present hour. In Mrs. Catt's absence I must endeavour, however inadequately, to supply her place.

I want particularly to say this: We are faced by the disruption, the animosity, the misunderstanding caused by war; but all the same, notwithstanding the cruel strain, we must firmly resolve to hold our International Alliance together. We must believe all through that good is stronger than evil, that justice and mercy are stronger than hatred and destruction, just as life is stronger than death. We women who have worked together for a great cause have hopes and ideals in common; these are indestructible links binding us together. We have to show that what unites us is stronger than what separates us. Between many of us there is also the further link of personal friendship cemented by many years of work together. We must hold on through all difficulties to these things which are good in themselves and must therefore be a strong help to us all through these days of trial.

In nearly all countries, whether belligerent or not, the war has caused great suffering. In our country in particular the suffering has already been overwhelming. Suffragists in each country will, I feel confident, set themselves heroically to the work of healing, restoring, assuaging, remembering always that women stand for the life force and the future, impersonated in the woman and the child.

At the I.W.S.A., ordinary international Suffrage work being for the time suspended, Headquarters Committee have undertaken to extend help of various kinds to the large numbers of foreign women left stranded and in some cases penniless and friendless in London in consequence of the war. Our treasurer, Mrs. Coit, and our recording secretary, Miss Macmillan, have been indefatigable in carrying out this work; they have been at the office every day and all day working at it ever since the war began. They have been helped in this most important and difficult task by a large band of willing volunteers. Details will be found on another page.

On behalf of my colleagues I offer to each country auxiliary to the Alliance an expression of deep sympathy and sorrow. In many countries we have to face the fact that the immediate realisation of our hopes in regard to Women's Suffrage has been frustrated by the war. But this should by no means cause us to despair. Good work done for the equal citizenship of women will not be lost, and is certain to bear fruit in due season. The unprecedented calamity of an almost world-wide war, bringing millions of men face to face with each other for mutual slaughter, destroying daily millions and millions of painfully accumulated property, besides the priceless and irreparable monuments of antiquity, will throw a fresh light

power to the masses of the people and to women to control their own lives and destinies.

If the political citizenship of women in all the countries concerned had become an established fact long enough to secure its organisation into concrete political power, it is impossible to doubt that this power would have been used to ensure such a political reorganisation of Europe as would have rendered it certain that international disputes and grievances should be referred to law and reason, and not to the clumsy and blundering tribunal of brute force. The very vastness of the present calamity may bring a remedy to prevent its ever happening again. This is what we should all strive for.

MILLCENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

INTERNATIONAL MANIFESTO OF WOMEN.

Drawn up by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and delivered on July 31st at the Foreign Office and Foreign Embassies in London.

We, the women of the world, view with apprehension and dismay the present situation in Europe, which threatens to involve one continent, if not the whole world, in the disasters and horrors of war. In this terrible hour, when the fate of Europe depends on decisions which women have no power to shape, we, realising our responsibilities as the mothers of the race, cannot stand passive by. Powerless though we are politically, we call upon the Governments and Powers of our several countries to avert the threatened unparalleled disaster. In none of the countries immediately concerned in the threatened outbreak have women any direct power to control the political destinies of their own countries. They find themselves on the brink of the almost unbearable position of seeing all that they most reverence and treasure, the home, the family, the race, subjected not merely to risks, but to certain and extensive damage which they are powerless either to avert or assuage. Whatever its result the conflict will leave mankind the poorer, will set back civilisation, and will be a powerful check to the gradual amelioration in the condition of the masses of the people, on which so much of the real welfare of nations depends.

We women of twenty-six countries, having banded ourselves together in the International Women's Suffrage Alliance with the object of obtaining the political means of sharing with men the power which shapes the fate of nations, appeal to you to leave untried no method of conciliation or arbitration for arranging international differences which may help to avert deluging half the civilised world in blood.

Signed on behalf of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance,

MILLCENT GARRETT FAWCETT,
First Vice-President.
CHRISTAL MACMILLAN,

FRENCH SUFFRAGISTS AND THE WAR

The following letter has been issued by the President of the U.F.S.F.:

Dear Sisters of the Union,

In the terrible hours of crisis that our beloved country is passing through, and when the majority of us have hearts aching with the parting from husband, son, or brother, we feel more than ever drawn together and members of the same family, for we have the same suffering and the same hope in our hearts.

The Union expects every member to do her duty with simplicity and generosity, helping her country in some way after speeding her loved ones on their way to the frontier. This letter would have been sent to you sooner if communications had permitted. In such a solemn hour as the present tears must only flow inwardly; outwardly they must be repressed, and work must be done. We urge our members strongly to do their duty and offer their services to the Red Cross or relief works. But there is not only the duty of nursing the wounded and helping the destitute. A duty lies close to everyone's hand, that of keeping the country's wheels running in men's absence. M. Viviani, President of the Council, has said in his Appeal to Women that the men's departure leaves the work of the fields interrupted; harvest and vintage must be gathered in.

"In the name of the Government of the Republic, I appeal to your pluck and to that of your children. I beg you to keep up all work in the fields, to get in the harvest, and prepare for that of next year. You could not render your country a greater service. The provisioning of those who defend the frontier depends on you."

Dear Sisters of the French Union, speak and act in the sense of these commands. No service is too humble in the public service; the only thing that matters is to do one's duty bravely, wherever it may be. By taking charge of children much can be done; the support of the family and the race is women's peculiar charge at present. Let us fill all offices and occupations which by serving our neighbour benefit France. Women who now dare to live in idleness will be guilty and disgraced. We may think that if women in all countries had the Suffrage they would have prevented the war, while respecting the honour and rights of countries, but it is not the moment to speak of it. Still less is it the moment for any sort of feminist demonstration against the war, such as I have been invited to make; our duty to our country forbids such a demonstration at this moment.

Later on we may hope for international action on the part of women of all countries, emanating from America, and undertaken in the name of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and the International Council of Women. As for us' Frenchwomen, let us show by our calm and courageous attitude, by our devoted hearts and hands, and by our intelligent action, that we are worthy to help to direct our country since we are capable of serving it.

De Witt Schlumberger, President U.F.S.F.

TO MISS MCMILLAN, MISS SHEEPHANKS, ROSIKA SCHWIMMER, AND OTHER SUFFRAGE FRIENDS

My Dear Friends,

Just a few words. I hope I need not say that I was fully in sympathy with what the board of officers of the Alliance has done to prevent this terrible war. When I received your letter and the question about going to our Queen, I knew already that it was too late to interfere. Day and night I trouble my brains what we can do to stop this scandalous bloodshed. Ought not the women of the whole world to send a strong and serious protest to the different Emperors, Kings, and other responsible men? No meetings; but a world-wide protest in written letters. One alone can do nothing, but big organisations can perhaps do anything. Are we only there to cure the wounds that men made?

It is Sunday evening, the one evening in the week I find a few hours to write; the whole week I am occupied from morning till midnight. Although my peaceful country is not yet in real war, every moment can bring us in that state. We feel already all the awful results of the war. In every street, in every house, is now misery. A large part of the industry is stopped, because the heads of important departments are now in military service, or because a lot of working-men have been called away. Most of the men have been sent to the frontiers so suddenly that they have left their wives and children behind in the greatest misery.

A lot of women arrive here with their little ones from the different countries at war, without anything else than what they wear, because their husbands had to serve as soldiers, and in the foreign countries they got no time to pack some necessities before they were sent away. I cannot tell you how immense the misery is now already in my dear country. We have stopped our Suffrage work. There is so much more important work now for us to do. And why should we go on? Is it not terrible to sit and wait what one or other crowned head wishes to do with us and not be able to interfere? But, pardon me, I was not going to write to you in this way, only to send you a few lines about the letter I received and a few words of sympathy.

For Jus Suffragii I cannot send a report, because there is no Suffrage work done; our Suffragists are now all engaged in charity work and that kind of thing. When that will come to an end you will hear again from me.

With hearty greetings, sincerely yours,

Amsterdam, August 16th, 1914
Aletta H. Jacobs

(Source: Jus Suffragii, September 1, 1914)

PATRIOTISM OR INTERNATIONALISM

In the boundless misery into which all Europe is plunged a dispassionate observer must be struck by the irony of the wholesale self-immolation. Every country involved claims with pride and with, truth that one great result of the common danger and suffering to which its citizens are a prey, has been to unite them all in a common devotion to their country. We see the awful spectacle of world-wide destruction and the downfall of civilisation; the agonised cries of the dying and the despair of the bereaved are soothed by the assurance of the heroic performance of duty. Each nation is convinced that it is fighting in self-defence, and each in self-defence hastens to self-destruction. The military authorities declare that the defender must be the aggressor, so armies rush to invade neighbouring countries; in pure defence of their own hearth and home, and, as each Government assures the world, with no ambition to aggrandise itself. Thousands of men are slaughtered or crippled, the best blood of every nation is poured out, millions of homes are ruined; art, industry, social reform, are thrown back and destroyed; and what gain will anyone have in the end? As well might one ask a madman who in a fit of frenzy smashes his home to pieces, what he has gained.

In all this orgy of blood, what is left of the internationalism which met in congresses, socialist, feminist, pacifist, and boasted of the coming era of peace and amity? The men are fighting; what are the women doing? They are, as is the lot of women, binding up the wounds that men have made. Every country tells a stirring tale of the devotion and efficiency of its women. But that is not enough. Massacre and devastation continue, and the world is relapsing into a worse, because a more scientific, barbarism than that from which it sprang.

Women must not only use their hands to bind up, they must use their brains to understand the causes of the European frenzy, and their lives must be devoted to putting a stop for ever to such wickedness. What is the boasted patriotism which started and supports the European war? First of all, pride: each Great Power has encouraged national pride at the expense of humanity; each big nation feeds its children on pride in its fancied superiority in intelligence, culture-, freedom, or tradition. To assert and spread this superiority by force becomes a national ideal. Meanwhile the smaller countries, devoid of megalomania and national vanity, pursue ideals of social reform, scientific research, and artistic development in the purer ambition of national growth, and their advances are shared in by the world without the "support" of militarism or imperialism. The Scandinavian countries, Holland, Belgium, and Finland, have been in the forefront of progress. Norway and Sweden have the truest democracy, the greatest equality between the sexes; their writers, Ibsen, Bjornsen, Selma Lagerlof, have struck a new note in literature; their people show the most widespread refinement and education. They have successfully experimented in temperance reform: their marriage laws and protection of children are the most enlightened.

Denmark has a similar record – people's high schools, co-operative agriculture, widespread well-being and education have distinguished it. The smaller countries do not need to assert their culture or seek to force it on other countries: they conquer by their own force in their own sphere. Their patriotism consists in the highest development of all that is best in their own country and in assimilating all that is best in other countries; in fact, the highest patriotism is seen by them to be internationalism. The Great Powers, on the other hand, in their national pride and vanity have sought to dominate the world; and not content to let their intellectual achievements conquer by intellectual means, have sought to impose them by force, Pan-Slavism struggles with Pan-Teutonism for dominance in the Balkans, British Imperialism is involved, and in the struggle civilization receives a mortal wound. The other element which has precipitated the catastrophe is panic. Each Power, armed to the teeth, its legions ready to swoop down on its neighbours, is terrorised into striking, lest it should itself be struck. Hence no time, or insufficient time, is allowed for negotiations which might have succeeded had passion been allowed to cool. False patriotism relies upon armaments to uphold the national pride; the nations which have been impoverished for half a century in the name of 'defence' hurl their manhood against that of their neighbours, and all are involved in massacre and ruin.

Secret negotiations between diplomatists, undertakings not sanctioned by the people, but held to be nationally binding, have tied them hand and foot and handed them over to be butchered. By another irony of fate the heaviest brunt has fallen on two helpless races not involved in the quarrel, the Poles and the Belgians. Women are powerless politically, but are on their way to enfranchisement, and their share in forming public opinion is a great and responsible one. If we are to "seek peace and ensue it," if we are to earn the blessing of the peacemakers, we must earnestly study the causes of the present criminal madness. False patriotic pride and love of conquest, the oppression of nationalities, must go. No race must be conquered or dominated, but must have full and free right to self-government. True democracy in every country must give the whole nation, men and women, the right to control their own destiny; secret diplomacy and alliances must go. Armaments must be drastically reduced and abolished, and their place taken by an international police force. Instead of two great Alliances pitted against each other, we must have a true Concert of Europe. Peace must be on generous, unvindictive lines, satisfying legitimate national needs, and leaving no cause for resentment such as to lead to another war. Only so can it be permanent.

Mary Sheepshanks

(Source: *Jus Suffragii*, November 1, 1914)

EINE FRAGE. FRAUEN EUROPAS, WANN ERSCHALLT EUER RUF?

In des Sommers Herrlichkeit schlug der Blitz des grausigsten aller Kriege und setzte ganz Europa in Flammen. Frauen aller kriegführenden Staaten gaben gehobenen Hauptes und mutigen Herzens ihre Gatten zum Schütze des Vaterlandes her.

Mütter Hessen Söhne, Mädchen die Verlobten ohne Wimperzucken hinaus in Tod und Verderben ziehen. Rast—und ruhlos schufen und schafften die Frauen daheim, um der seelischen, körperlichen und wirtschaftlichen Not zu steuern, die diese Zeit heraufbeschwor. Der Sommer ist dahin, der Herbst kam und ging, wir stehen im Winter.

Millionen Männer blieben auf dem Felde, sie sehen die Heimat niemals wieder. Andere kehrten heim, zerschlagen und krank an Leib und Seele. Städte höchster Kultur, Stätten trauten Menschenglückes sind vernichtet. Europas Boden raucht von Menschenblut,—Menschenblut, Menschenfleisch wird zum Nährboden für die wogenden Kornfelder der Zukunft auf deutscher, französischer, belgischer und russischer Erde.

Millionen Frauenherzen flammen auf in wildem Weh. Keine Sprache der Erde ist reich genug, um so viel Leid in seiner ganzen Tiefe zu schildern. Und weiter tobt der völkerverheerende Krieg? Frauen Europas, wo bleibt eure Stimme? Seid ihr nur gross im Dulden und im Leiden? Kann die vom Menschenblut rauchende Erde, können die Millionen von zersehenden Leibern und Seelen Eurer Gatten Verlobten und Söhne, können die Greuel, die Eurem eigenen Geschlecht widerfahren Euch nicht zu flammendem Protest erheben? Schon traten im Süden Europas Männer zusammen, um Worte des Friedens zu tauschen. Schon tagten im Norden Europas Männer, um Frieden zu wirken.

Frauen Europas, wo bleibt Eure Stimme, um Frieden zu säen? Lasst Euch nicht abhalten durch jene, die Euch, weil Ihr den Frieden wollt, der Schwäche zeihen, die da sagen, Ihr werdet durch Euren Protest den blutigen Gang der Geschichte nicht aufhalten.

Versucht zum mindesten, dem Rad der Zeit, menschlich, mutig und stark, würdig Eures Geschlechtes in die bluttriefenden Speichen zu greifen.

Kommt im Norden oder Süden Europas zusammen, protestiert kraftvoll gegen den völkermordenden Krieg und bereitet den Frieden vor, kehret heim jede in ihr Vaterland und wiederholt den Ruf, Erfüllet Eure Pflicht als Frauen und Mütter, als Hüterinnen wahrer Kultur und Menschlichkeit.

Lida Gustava Heymann

WOMEN OF EUROPE. WHEN WILL YOUR CALL RING OUT?

Summer's glory was shattered by the lightning of the most frightful of all wars, and all Europe was set on fire. Women, of all the belligerent States, with head high and courageous heart, gave their husbands to protect the Fatherland. Mothers and maidens unfalteringly let their sons and sweethearts: go forth, to death and destruction.

At home women laboured and strove without pause or rest to provide against the spiritual, physical, and economic distress resulting from the crisis. Summer passed, autumn came and went, we are: now in mid-winter.

Millions of men have been left on the battlefield. They will never see home again. Others have returned, broken and sick in body and soul. Towns of the highest civilisation, homes of simple human happiness, are destroyed; Europe's soil reeks of human blood. The flesh and blood of men will fertilise the soil of the waving cornfields of the future on German, French, Belgian, and Russian ground.

Millions of women's hearts blaze up in anguish. No human speech is rich enough to express such depths of suffering.

Shall this war of extermination go on?

Women of Europe, where is your voice?

Are you only great in patience and suffering?

The earth reeking of human blood, the millions of wrecked bodies and souls of your husbands, sweethearts, and sons, the outrages inflicted on your sex. Can these things not rouse you to blazing protest?

In South Europe men have come together to exchange words of peace.

In the North of Europe men have: met to work for peace.

Women of Europe, where is your voice, that: should be sowing seeds of peace? Do not let yourselves be deterred by those who accuse you of weakness because: you wish for peace, whosay you will not hold back the bloody march, of history by your protest.

Strive at least to put a spoke in the bloody wheel of Time, with strength, courage, and humanity worthy of your sex.

Come together in the North or South of Europe, protest with all your might against this war, which is murdering the nations, and make preparations for peace, return to your own country and perform your duty as wives and mothers, as protectors of true civilisation and humanity.

**Lida Gustava Heymann,
Munich.**

(Source: Jus Suffragii, February 1, 1915)

WAR

The catastrophe which has threatened Europe has come. For the second time in the lives of most of those who will read this, we are faced with the horror, the misery and the shame of war. We have been told repeatedly that the horror will this time be greater than the world has ever known; already we can see that the ruin and dislocation in human lives will be almost unthinkable great. And the shame is almost more than we can bear. It can be no question of attempting to allot the responsibility for the final acts. What every human being should feel is that all humanity has failed, even those who have worked for peace cannot altogether escape the fear that they failed in zeal, in the power that intense conviction and readiness for personal sacrifice gives. As human beings, as nations, as individuals even we must acknowledge defeat and failure, blindness and negligence. Before the God whom the great majority of all peoples acknowledge in their hearts, and before the judgment of the future we stand arraigned and we can only bow our heads.

At this moment, as in 1914, the women in the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship will desire to re-affirm the bonds of friendship that unite them in the pursuit of a cause which has 'always been that of justice. As President of that Alliance I affirm on behalf of the Board a policy of absolute neutrality.

When the war broke out in 1914 there were suffrage associations in both camps, but today, alas, our associations in several countries have been dissolved or virtually suspended. Our declaration of Alliance neutrality, our cordial desire to keep existing links, our passionate wish to co-operate in rebuilding the world apply, not only to functioning associations, but to all our old and valued colleagues in every country who share our faith. Within our ranks there are no enemies: we are all allies. We may lack the means of communication, financial and other difficulties may hamper, may almost entirely suspend our work, but we pray that when the horror is over we shall find, as we found in 1918, that our ranks are not broken.

In many countries women have been citizens in the full sense of the word for many years. Though we know that in the slow moving process of evolution that period has been insufficient to give to women the real influence which their numbers should give, yet we must acknowledge a far heavier share of responsibility than in 1914. We would venture to remind all women that in whatever work they may be called upon to do in their own countries, they will have a responsibility upon their shoulders to remember at all times those principles of justice, of humanity, of loving-kindness that we have claimed as the basis of our movement. War brings far more than material loss. It is specially the part of women to do all they can to ensure that the moral loss shall be as small as possible.

I will quote to you now some of the words which came from the Alliance in 1914: *"Whatever its result, the conflict will leave mankind the poorer, will set back civilisation, and will be a powerful check to the amelioration in the condition of the masses of the people, on which so much of the real Welfare of the nations depends."* And again Mrs. Fawcett, writing in our paper the message which she felt our great President and Founder, Mrs. Chapman Catt, would have wished to give could her words have reached the editor in time, said: *"We must believe all through that good is stronger than evil, that justice and mercy are stronger than hatred and destruction, just as life is stronger than death. We women who have worked together for a great cause have hopes and ideals in common: these are indestructible links binding us together. We have to show that what unites us is stronger than what separates us."*

We appeal to every member of the Alliance in the midst of great national and personal difficulties and pre-occupations, to keep alive the spark of loyalty to our international movement. To determine that as and when opportunity may offer, support shall be given to our ideals in each country and internationally. If work for political and civil equality may in many cases be difficult if not impossible, there will be many occasions when on practical points protest may be even more effective than before. Two points of our programme: I Nationality and Equal Morals, call for urgent work by I women. Let us hope and work to try to ensure that out of much wrong some good may come.

I rejoice that it was possible for us to hold our Congress in Copenhagen, and that we did not let the difficulties which had already grown so great prevent us from taking that opportunity for mutual work and personal contacts. However we may be hindered in carrying out the programme adopted there, we shall have the inspiration of knowing that the breath of life was renewed in our Alliance and we determine that it shall not be stifled come what may of restriction between our possibilities of inter-communication in the months to come. Whatever may be the sense of the individual of duty towards her country at this time, whatever she may feel as to the actual conditions on which peace may be built, we know that the thought of peace, the desire for peace and the intention to promote it by every just and righteous means will be in the heart of every member of the Alliance.

M. Corbett Ashby

Mme F.F. Plaminkova, Czechoslovakia

Mme Plaminkova was born in Prague February 5th, 1875. She studied at the School of Arts and Crafts and at the University of Prague. She then became a school teacher until 1918, when she was nominated as a member of the Prague municipal council on which she worked for six years.

Since 1925 she has been a senator in the National Assembly, in which she is a member of the budget and foreign affairs Committees. She is particularly interested in economic and social questions and the position of women in political life.

She was one of the founders of the Czechoslovakian Women's club where she sponsored the idea of feminine suffrage. When in 1912 a woman was elected to the Diette in the old Bohemian Kingdom, thus becoming one of the first women in Parliament, it was thanks to the efforts of Mme Plaminkova. In 1925 she founded the National council of women of which she is president, and which has 50 branches all over the Republic.

Mme Plaminkova gives much of her time to the study of social questions. As Vice-President of the Society for the Protection of Feminine Interests she founded a home for unprotected mothers and children and an institute for sick and old women. She is a member of several social and cultural organisations. In her political capacity she is Vice-President of the Association of Teachers and Professors of the Cultural Committee.

An eminent speaker, Mme Plaminkova has organised numerous conferences with the object of bettering the political and social position of women. She has travelled all over Europe and to the United States of America and has studied the economic and social questions in the different countries. During the war she travelled in Serbia and Bulgaria as special representative of an important Czechoslovakian paper.

She is President of the National council of women, of the committee for Feminine Suffrage, and of the



■ Mme Franciska Plaminkova
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

Union of Teachers: Vice-President of the International alliance for Suffrage and Equal citizenship and President of their committee for Suffrage and Elections; Vice President of the Open Door International and of the International federation of business and Professional women, and President of the Petite Entente des Femmes. She had been awarded the Ordre du President de la Republique Françoise as well as that of the Roi Yugoslavia.

In 1931 Mme Plaminkova was nominated as assistant Czechoslovakian delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations, where she was a member of the Veme committee (social and humanitarian questions). In 1923 she was a member of the first Committee on Nationality in which she supported the request of the feminist organisations that the Hague Convention should be submitted to a new examination. At the Veme Committee she was official rapporteuse at the full Assembly on the question of child Protection. ♦

(Source: leaflet published for IAW silver jubilee)

Vyborg pre volebni pravo zen

Is first listed in 1913 as Affiliated Committee: Prague, Bohemia. Listed as affiliate from Czechoslovakia in 1920, delegate Frantiska Plaminkova. Again listed as Bohemia member in 1939.

Frantiska Plaminkova, was IAW Vice-President from 1929, last at congress in Copenhagen 1939.

1946. Although Czechoslovakia is listed as Affiliate: Soci  t   F.F. Plaminkova: no delegates are present.

However Czechoslovakia sent in a long and interesting report in French which summarises the work of the new Women's Front. In and after 1949 there is no longer a Czechoslovakian affiliate.

In the 1946 Congress report Margery Corbett Ashby says in her In Memoriam:

"Frantiska Plaminkova, our Plam, was as big in mind and soul as she was big and lovely in body. How splendidly she combined the virtues of the 'old' and the 'new' woman. House-proud, devoted to her sister, she was a great public figure, equally absorbed in persuading the senate on some new law or in the details of the home for mothers and illegitimate children. She had the sweetness of the old, the courage, vision and capacity of the new woman, whose kingdom is the world."

In Memoriam: Rosa Manus

Surely no other woman has been as widely known as 'Rosa', or been 'Tante' to more children.

A leading figure in the international women's movement for forty years, Rosa Manus' outstanding human sympathy and unselfishness made her an ideal leader of youth. At each Congress of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship she would gather round her the shy and hesitant daughters and students who were to act as pages to delegates from all over the world. After half-an-hour with Rosa they were alight with enthusiasm; the long hours on their feet, the thousand odd jobs requiring endless patience, were their initiation into a new world of the loyalty and service to women. She would define a feminist as one with boundless faith in women's capacity, and ungrudging admiration for their achievements.

Twin to her feminism was her love for peace. She was not a pacifist, but a hard headed worker for the League of Nations

I met her first at the Alliance Conference in Amsterdam in 1908. She, alone of his large family, had her father's genius for business. She was a born organiser. As a young woman she initiated and carried through the first exhibition in the world devoted entirely to women's work.

It was an enormous success. Held in Amsterdam, it was a revelation to men (and women) of women's real contribution to home and country, and to the vast Dutch Empire, in education, social services, agriculture, home crafts, industry, scientific research, and art. Royalty patronised the exhibition, which actually showed a profit.

Rosa served our first great president Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, with a daughter's affection and a disciple's faith. She accompanied her on a long tour of South America.

At our Congress at Geneva in 1920 the tide had turned; we celebrated the victory of woman suffrage in twenty countries. It was a tense and anxious Congress, where our Belgian, French and German members met for the first time after the sorrows and horrors of war. We found the German women completely ignorant of what had been done in their name.

Rosa's constructive work for peace found an outlet when in Paris in 1926 we decided to study methods of using women's new political power to advance the cause of peace, and of supporting the League of Nations. She organised Peace Conferences at Amsterdam and Dresden. Rosa insisted she was 'apolitical'. It was true only in the narrowest party sense; for she had a true instinct for what was right in public affairs.

At the celebration of our 25th anniversary in Berlin in 1929 she filled the Reichstag to overflowing, so that another meeting had to be held in the vast foyer and two further overflow meetings improvised. It was she who encouraged and inspired the 2,000 students who gave a midsummer night's pageant in the Sportsplatz to our 1,000 delegates from the countries. It is a pathetic memory of republican youth, vigorous in body and mind, thirsty for new friendships. I shall never forget the sea of gay faces, the ring of fires, and the gallant torchbearers. What a bitter price we are paying now for our failure to capture and maintain that spirit.

Geneva knew Rosa Manus well. The great peace petition from all over the world, the friendly gatherings to meet the women delegates, the earnest and well-informed deputa-

tions, all gained by her hard work and boundless faith.

We met last in Denmark, in June 1939. The shadows were falling very fast. The women of 21 countries meeting there realised that war was inevitable; only some of the English there hoped, against all the facts, for peace. Rosa had no illusions; she could have sought safety to continue her work in Britain or the new world but she was Dutch and a patriot. Last autumn she was imprisoned. Months of silence were broken by the news that she was in a concentration camp. On the 29th of April her brave spirit passed on. She craved for affection, and gave affection generously. She died, how we do not know, in exile. ♦



■ Rosa Manus (l) and Margery Corbett Ashby (Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)

| Margery Corbett Ashby

Peace

Margaret Corbett Ashby, in the preface of a book *Women at Work in the League of Nations*, published in 1927, stated "Peace is the most urgent necessity of the world", and she expressed the strong view that women must be part of the process to achieve this goal.

She noticed that when the first draft of the Covenant of the League of Nations was drawn up in Paris, in 1919, women were not included. She went on to report that the Allied Women, at the invitation of the International Council of Women and the International Suffrage Alliance had determined to meet in Paris, to see that in the peace, the interest of women should not be overlooked. A joint deputation of these women 'waited' on the Commission and at the meeting presided over by President Wilson, among other points brought forward, they laid stress on the necessity of the insertion in the Covenant of the important clause (Art 7) which declares that: *'All positions under or in connection with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women'*.

Decades later, on the 31st October 2000, the UN Security Council took up the challenge, and unanimously adopted resolution 1325. It called for: 1) gender sensitivity in all UN missions, including peacemaking, 2) the participation of women equally at the negotiating tables, and 3) the protection of women and children during armed conflict. The resolution also called for all those involved in negotiating and implementing peace agreements to adopt a gender perspective that would take into account the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, and post conflict reconstruction. In this resolution, the Security Council also recalled the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as the outcome document of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly 2000–Beijing +5. In July 2003, at a meeting of the Security Council, Angela King, the Assistant Secretary general and



■ Women protesting against the war on Iraq during the CSW meeting New York, 2003

Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, called attention to the UN Secretary-General's Study on Women, Peace and Security, which was the first systematic overview of gender-related activities in the field of peace and security.

At the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in March 2003, the delegates reviewed the implementation of the Strategic Action Section on Women and Armed Conflict of the Beijing Platform for Action. As a result of their deliberations, agreed conclusions on this theme were adopted. Of course, these conclusions refer to S.C. Res. 1325. With the stage now set, the Commission stressed how essential focussing on the window of opportunity presented by res. 1325 highlighted the need to institutionalize women's participation in the peace process, and the importance of training women in peace-building negotiations and conflict prevention.

The International Alliance of Women and the International Federation of Women Lawyers submitted a written statement to the Commission, which was also acknowledged the importance of the S.C. Resolution, as well as quoting Ms Ferida Acar, the Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee, who, when speaking about the adoption of the Constitution of Afghanistan, on the 4th of January 2004 (which explicitly guarantees women equal

rights and duties before the law), said *"Gender equality is a crucial factor, not only in achieving sustainable peace, but also in increasing respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in all societies."*

Several IAW members were among the 900 NGO's who attended the Session of the CSW. They actively participated in dozens of workshops, panel discussions, and meeting on every aspect of women and peace, conflict prevention, and peace-building. These sessions were held with a sense of urgency and 'charged', because of the dreadful situation in Iraq.

The theme on Women and Armed Conflict will be before us again at the CSW next year, because the Commission is responsible for carrying out the implementation of the entire Beijing Platform for Action. This will be the UN's focus on Beijing+10, in 2005. Over the years, since 1995, we have seen how all the issues are inter-related, and despite progress made, much remains to be accomplished. If we look back to 1919 and the drafting of the Convention of the League of Nations, we also must say much has been accomplished, and more remains to be done. Dame Margaret Corbett Ashby's statement that 'Peace is the most urgent necessity of the world' is as true today, as it was then, in fact even more so. ♦

| Kay Fraleigh

JUS SUFFRAGII,

ORGANE MENSUEL DE

L'ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES

RÉDACTRICE: MARTINA G. KRAMERS, KRUISKADE 92, ROTTERDAM.

Cinquième Année No. 3.

15 novembre, 1910.

Les hommes n'ont-ils pas violé le principe de l'égalité des droits, en privant tranquillement la moitié du genre humain de celui de concourir à la formation des lois, en excluant les femmes du droit de cité?

CONDORCET (1789).



Longtemps ridiculisé, secondé seulement comme idée toute nouvelle, par une infime minorité, l'effort des femmes vers plus de justice, vers plus d'indépendance, semble aujourd'hui, après un siècle de lutte, assez près d'aboutir.

MME. AVRIL DE STE CROIX.

PRIX ANNUEL 2 FLORINS HOLLANDAIS (= 4.25 frs. — 3 Sh. 3 d. — 0.82 f — 3¼ Mk. — 3 Kr.)

HOURRA POUR LE WASHINGTON!

L'état de Washington vient d'adopter un amendement à sa constitution qui donne le suffrage aux femmes.

Annonces officielles.

Le Compte-rendu du dernier congrès de l'Alliance Internationale à Londres peut être obtenu en s'adressant à Mme Adèle Stanton Coit, 30 Hyde Park Gate Londres S. O. en payant 1 shilling 3 pence (= 1.50 frs.). Il contient les rapports des pays affiliés à l'Alliance et est indispensable à celles qui seront chargées de rédiger les rapports nationaux pour le prochain congrès à Stockholm le 11 juin 1911.

On peut se procurer gratis un compte-rendu pareil de l'avant-dernier congrès à Amsterdam chez Mlle Martina G. Kramers, Kruiskade 92, Rotterdam, en envoyant 30 centimes pour l'affranchissement.

LA MUSIQUE POUR L'HYMNE INTERNATIONAL.

Les Associations suffragistes nationales d'Allemagne, de Suisse et des Pays-Bas ont été invitées à nommer chacune un membre pour un comité de trois personnes qui sera chargé de porter jugement sur les compositions offertes pour la mélodie de notre hymne international. Quinze de ces compositions sont actuellement entre les mains de Mlle Kramers. Chacune est marquée d'un texte, d'une inscription ou d'un mot qui se trouve aussi sur une enveloppe fermée contenant le nom du compositeur. Mlle K. passera le tout au membre du comité nommé par les Pays-Bas, qui formera son jugement et, sans le communiquer, passera à son tour les compositions au membre allemand qui transmettra de la même manière les compositions au membre suisse. Elle les renverra à Mlle Kramers et chaque membre lui communiquera son choix. Si toutes sont d'accord, leur choix commun sera considéré celui du comité et tel sera le rapport qu'il présentera à Stockholm. Si au contraire chaque membre du comité choisit une composition différente, le rapport présentera une opinion divisée. La commission du congrès à Stockholm aura soin d'engager des artistes qui

feront entendre les différentes compositions aux congressistes pour que le congrès soit à même de juger. Même si le comité est unanime dans sa préférence, c'est le congrès de Stockholm seul qui fera le choix final officiel. Chaque membre du comité a le droit de repousser toutes les compositions comme indignes de l'hymne, et le congrès aussi est libre de se prononcer en ce sens.

Aucune composition ne sera plus reçue après le 1er décembre 1910. Quelques compositeurs ont montré de l'impatience à cause du délai du jugement, mais il faut qu'on sache que le choix final se fera à Stockholm et qu'on n'a jamais en l'intention de faire autrement.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

Ceux qui ont l'obligeance de suivre notre conseil, donné J. S. IV p. 73 et V p. 2, feront bien de commander la quantité nécessaire d'exemplaires du journal avant qu'il soit imprimé.

La rédactrice sera bien reconnaissante à tous les lecteurs qui veulent lui renvoyer d'anciens numéros, car on les demande souvent, non seulement ceux de la dernière année mais depuis le commencement.

Prière à tous les journaux féministes indiqués sur notre liste, J. S. IV p. 74, V p. 1 et 9, de suivre le bon exemple du "Woman's Journal" d'Amérique en publiant l'existence de "Jus Suffragii" avec l'adresse et le prix d'abonnement.

LITTÉRATURE.

Avant de commencer ce paragraphe, la rédactrice adresse aux Associations nationales affiliées à l'Alliance internationale la prière de donner à leurs déléguées pour le congrès de Stockholm de nettes instructions sur leurs désirs concernant cette rubrique.

Faut-il qu'elle contienne seulement l'annonce

La francophonie dans l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes

Ses apports et défis au cours d'un siècle

Les deux pays Européens qui ont joint IWSA, l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes comme premiers membres francophones étaient la Suisse en 1908, au Congrès d'Amsterdam, suivie de la France en 1909 à Londres. Dès 1910 une édition française de *Jus Suffragii* a été publiée séparément de l'édition anglaise, peut-être même imprimée en France. Plus tard *Nouvelles Féministes Internationales* offrait quatre pages ou un quart du bulletin, en français à l'exception des périodes des deux guerres mondiales.



■ Athens 1992, Delegates from francophone Africa

Souvent un service d'interprétation pour les réunions internationales pouvait être organisée. Si les moyens financiers faisaient défaut deux solutions ont été pratiquées: l'organisatrice responsable de la réunion payait de sa poche ou bien l'AIF ressortait aux services bénévoles de membres bilingues ou multilingues pour pouvoir offrir une traduction consécutive ou bien chuchotée.

Bien sûr ce travail avait aussi ses mérites: des contacts personnels prolongés et une connaissance approfondie de la situation des femmes dans les pays en question.

Pendant la dernière décennie grâce aux efforts d'un membre française du comité administratif les fonds nécessaires venaient de l'Organisation de la Francophonie. ►

Au cours du vingtième siècle beaucoup d'autres pays francophones sont devenus membres de l'AIF. Dans ce contexte il faut mentionner que dans nombre de pays le Français comme langue secondaire l'emportait sur l'Anglais, p.ex. en Autriche, en Grèce, en Egypte, en Italie.

Bien que cela semble banal, un des plus grands défis d'une organisation bilingue est la traduction. Il s'agit d'une part de permettre aux participantes d'une réunion de suivre son cours, comprendre les conférencières et conférenciers et pouvoir intervenir dans la discussion. D'autre part les rapports et autres communications idéalement doivent être disponibles dans les deux langues.



■ International Women's Day 1997. Celebration by IAW Associate Survie

La plupart des nos organisations francophones siègent en Afrique et c'est le mérite de la Présidente Irène de Lipkovski d'avoir bien implantée l'AIF en Afrique de l'Ouest au cours d'un long voyage. Pendant la guerre froide qui opposait les pays capitalistes et socialistes beaucoup de pays Africains se dotaient d'une organisation nationale de femmes comme «aile marchante» du parti unique. Au Burkina Faso p.ex. l'Union des Femmes Burkinabé rendait la vie difficile aux organisations féminines indépendantes. Depuis les années quatre-vingt-dix du siècle passé le tableau a beaucoup changé: Tout comme en pays anglophones un grand nombre d'organisations non-gouvernementales a vu le jour en Afrique francophone dans le Nord, l'Ouest et l'Est du continent, des organisations faitières se sont formées et des réseaux régionaux regroupent des ONG ayant des buts semblables. A ce niveau la communication entre les Francophones et les Anglophones reste, le plus souvent, insatisfaisante et les Francophones ont tendance à se faire moins écouter. L'Anglais, nous le savons, domine partout. Une amie du Burkina Faso a donc raison de soupirer «Nous sommes analphabètes en matière de langues». Et d'ajouter «La jeune génération fera mieux».

Voici deux exemples comment les objectifs de l'AIF, au niveau international et national, sont poursuivis par des membres francophones.

Le Comité International de Liaison des Associations Françaises, CILAF, a assuré d'une manière très engagée et dans un travail d'équipe, la représentation de l'AIF à l'Unesco quand Grete Borgmann s'est retirée et continue de le faire. Elle a rapporté sur son travail dans les Nouvelles Feministes Internationale.

Au lendemain de la deuxième guerre mondiale, le CILAF a joué un rôle important dans la reprise des relations entre les associations françaises et étrangères et a accueillir de nombreuses personnalités de passage à Paris, p.ex. Eleonor Roosevelt, Indira Ghandhi.

Il a organisé de nombreuses journées d'étude et des séminaires sur des thèmes d'actualité, tel que «Pékin + 2» en 1997, à l'occasion de la réunion du Comité Administratif de l'AIF à Paris préparé par sa Secrétaire Générale Marie-Françoise Mirot, alors membre du comité administratif de l'AIF. Le CILAF a préparé activement les quatre Conférences mondiales sur les femmes.

L'équipe de l'AIF qui assure la représentation auprès de l'ONU à Genève (Commission des Droits de l'Homme, Bureau International du Travail, Organisation Mondiale de la Santé) est mené depuis dix années par Jessica Kehl-Lauff. Ce travail qui demande du savoir d'expertes, un esprit de coopération bien développé et aussi des moyens financiers est fait par des membres francophones bilingues de l'AIF. Des rapports détaillés sont présentés à toutes les réunions. Jessica est présentement la présidente de l'Association Suisse pour les Droits de la Femme, ADF, et vice-présidente de l'AIF. En plus des rapports sur ses actions en faveur des femmes en Suisse ADF, dans sa publication semestrielle Contact, informe aussi, en français et en allemand, sur le travail à Genève. ♦

Gudrun Haupter

Voici les pays où l'AIF a, à l'heure actuelle, des membres francophone affiliés ou associés:

Organisations Affiliées

Bénin

- Conseil National des Femmes Indépendantes du Bénin, Conafib, membre très récent

Burkina Faso

- Fédération des Femmes Burkinabé, FFB. A, entre autre, organisé des séminaires nationaux et régionaux. Doit se restructurer après le décès récent de sa présidente Jacqueline Tapsoba qui a aussi servi dans le comité administratif de l'AIF

France

- Comité International de Liaison des Associations Françaises, CILAF, voir en haut
- France Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale, Afem. Rapporte régulièrement sur son travail et coopère avec la *Lobby des Femmes Européennes*, EWL

Haiti

- Ligue Féminine d'Action Sociale. Nécessite un sponsor pour sa cotisation

Mauritius

- Mauritius Alliance of Women, MAW. Bigilingual

Suisse

- Association Suisse pour les Droits de la Femme. Voir en-haut

Organisations Associées

Belgique

- Fondation Emilienne Brunfait

Bénin

- Survie de la Mère et de l'Enfant. A rapporté dans les NFI tout en cherchant des bailleurs de fonds.

Burkina Faso

- PromoFemme/DéveloppementSolidarité, PFDS. A des programmes de développement financés par des bailleurs de fonds. C. Ouédraogo a été membre du comité administratif.

Madagascar

- Conseil National des Associations des Femmes au Madagascar, CNAFM. Actions au bénéfices des enfants, avec Unicef

Mali

- Association du Sahel d'Aide à la Femme et à l'Enfant, ASAFE

Niger

- ONG-SAPHTA. ADF paie la cotisation de ce membre très actif

Maroc

- Comité Marocain pour le Regroupement des Familles Saharouies

Togo

- La Colombe. Réalise des projets en partie avec l'aide du bureau local de l'Unesco.

Association française des Femmes diplômées des Universités

Maître Andrée Lehmann (1893-1971)

Andrée Lehmann nous a quittées pour toujours le 23 janvier dernier, après avoir longtemps lutté avec un admirable courage contre la grave maladie de cœur qui devait enfin l'emporter subitement. Elle avait consacré sa vie tout entière à la défense de la cause féministe. Entrée très jeune au Barreau de Paris, en 1922, après de brillantes études de droit, elle devint en même temps l'une des plus actives militantes de la Ligue pour le Droit des Femmes, que présidait alors une autre éminente avocate, Maria Vérone.

Le droit de suffrage était à ce moment-là l'objectif essentiel des associations féministes: Andrée Lehmann, sous les auspices de la ligue, organise, dès le 11 mars 1922, une série de cours publics sur le droit constitutionnel, pour préparer les Françaises à exercer à bon escient leurs droits de citoyennes; mais clic aborde aussi dans la revue le Droit des femmes nombre d'autres problèmes juridiques posés par la condition inférieure de la femme dans une société régie par le Code Napoléon: lutte contre les nombreuses incapacités de la femme mariée, séparation de corps, divorce, régime successoral, réglementation du travail féminin, lutte contre la prostitution. On pourrait, en regroupant ces articles, rédiger un véritable Code civil de la femme, fondé sur le principe de la totale égalité des sexes.

A la mort de Maria Vérone, en 1938, son mari, M Lhermitte, préside la ligue, et Andrée Lehmann devient vice-présidente; mais la guerre interrompt bientôt ses activités. Comme toutes les autres associations françaises, la ligue entre en sommeil, cela d'autant plus que les ancêtres d'Andrée Lehmann étaient de ces juifs alsaciens qui revendiquèrent les premiers en 89 l'honneur d'être français. Elle parvient à échapper aux persécutions hitlériennes, mais on devine ce qu'ont dû coûter à sa fierté ombrageuse et à son patriotisme ces lourdes années de vie clandestine.

Dès la Libération, elle est nommée présidente de la Ligue et reprend la lutte féministe. Elle estime que le vote des femmes n'est qu'une première étape vers l'égalité et qu'il reste encore beaucoup à faire pour qu'entre dans les mœurs ce qui est désormais inscrit dans la loi, une loi d'ailleurs encore imparfaite. Elle rédige la revue le Droit des femmes, résumé succinct, mais complet, des activités féminines à travers le monde, publie des brochures comme le Rôle de la femme française au XX^e siècle, des ouvrages d'histoire. Rôle de la femme dans l'histoire de Ici Gaule, Rôle de la



■ Maître Andrée Lehmann, 1946 membre du Comité Exécutif de IAWSEC; 1949-1964 Vice-Président et ensuite Honorary Vice President du IAW

femme dans l'Histoire de France au Moyen Âge. Sa place était toute marquée parmi les «Femmes diplômées» et particulièrement à la tête de leur commission juridique. La clarté, la vigueur de chacune de ses interventions étaient appréciées, même de celles qui ne partageaient pas entièrement son féminisme intransigeant. Elle savait, dans les problèmes les plus complexes, «dire le droit» avec autant de science que

de conviction. C'était une avocate née, défenseur sans cesse vigilant des justes causes.

Elle a ajouté un rôle de tout premier plan dans ces grandes associations internationales que sont l'Alliance internationale des femmes et l'Open door International, où elle fit entendre, jusqu'à la limite extrême de ses forces, la voix de la France. Mais c'est peut-être au sein du Comité international des organisations non gouvernementales de l'UNESCO que son action, fondée sur une science profonde du droit, fut la plus féconde.

Elle avait été nommée membre du Comité d'étude et de liaison des problèmes du travail féminin. Faut-il ajouter qu'Andrée Lehmann, en dépit de ses multiples activités publiques, connut aussi les joies d'un bonheur conjugal partagé, d'un foyer harmonieux? Qu'elle fut une artiste passionnée de musique et que, lorsque les atteintes de son mal la contraignaient au repos, c'est la lecture de Platon qui l'en consolait?

L'égalité de l'homme et de la femme était la grande passion de sa vie, mais ceux qui l'ont bien connue savent qu'en vérité, malgré sa rigueur apparente, «rien d'humain ne lui était étranger». ♦

M. Morey, Vice-présidente de la Ligue pour le Droit des Femmes

(Source: Diplômées, no. 78, 2^e trimestre 1971, Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand, Paris)

Madame de WITT de SCHLUMBERGER

SES OUVRAGES

SES ŒUVRES

— Madame, comment voulez-vous que je ne retombe pas dans le mal, puisque personne ne veut me recevoir?...

La phrase cingle. Elle fustige mœurs, conventions, législateurs, plus que de longs discours :

— Personne ne veut me recevoir...

Ce fut dit à une femme de grand cœur, qui, des premières, approcha les détenues de Saint-Lazare.

La prisonnière était une prostituée, la visiteuse, Mme de Witt, fille de Guizot, c'est-à-dire, l'élite de la pensée humaine en face de l'avilissement le plus profond de la femme.

— Personne ne veut me recevoir...

L'iniquité sociale tient dans ce reproche, iniquité qui punit, seule, la femme, iniquité qui écrase sous la honte, qui met hors la loi, l'être faible tandis que le complice, coupable des mêmes faits, n'encourt aucun mépris.

Mme de Witt n'oublia jamais l'appel de cette prostituée. Elle en parlait à sa fille, Mme de Schlumberger, peu de temps avant de mourir ; elle lui racontait son bonheur d'avoir pu « recevoir », sauver, réhabiliter, quelques-unes de ces malheureuses que la société a perdues.

Mme de Witt, fonda, en effet, rue Dareau, à Montrouge, « l'Atelier » consacré aux détenues et libérées de Saint-Lazare, asile où elles travaillaient pour la maison Hachette, au pliage ou brochage des feuilles.

L'atelier, simple appartement, devint bien vite trop restreint. Il fut transporté 4, boulevard de Vaugirard, avec succursale à Levallois-Perret, pour les libérées mineures.

Mme de Witt transmet à sa fille le sentiment de la pitié pour celles que le monde rejette.

Celle-ci donna un plus vaste développement à l'œuvre. Aidée de ses amis, elle obtint de la commission du Pari Mutuel grâce aux nombreuses démarches de Mme la générale Sée, des fonds permettant de bâtir sur un terrain loué à la Ville de Paris, les bâtiments situés, 21, rue Michel-Bizot.

J'ai visité, dernièrement, ces locaux. Rien n'y rappelle l'expiation encourue.

Imaginez un clair, joyeux, familial, cottage anglais où tout reluit, où chaque chose est soignée. C'est moderne, jeune... Il s'en dégage l'atmosphère honnête, l'ambiance sereine, chassant les souvenirs de honte.

En haut, chacune a sa chambre ; pas de dortoirs communs avec leur dangereuse promiscuité. Des petites chambrettes au lit bien blanc, à la toilette bien tenue. J'y remarque avec plaisir bro-

verres, serviettes, tout ce qui est nécessaire à une minutieuse propreté. L'ensemble est mieux que dans maints pensionnats. La chaleur est maintenue égale par des calorifères.

Je passe dans l'atelier de couture. Autour de grandes tables les jeunes filles travaillent sous la direction d'une de ces dames. Elles lèvent la tête en me voyant entrer. Vraiment ! j'ai peine à me persuader que ce sont des prisonnières. Leur visage est souriant ; je ne puis y retrouver le moindre indice des tristes débuts de la vie. Certaines ont le regard franc et pur ; je souligne ce mot, il prouve la réhabilitation possible de celles tombées par le manque d'appui social, manque de protection dès l'enfance, manque d'éducation, manque de certitude de gagner son pain, en raison des chômages et des salaires dérisoires.

Voici la salle de récréation, pièce à immenses baies vitrées, versant à flots la lumière. On va servir le « thé » aux travailleuses. Elles arrivent de la buanderie, du repassage, du pliage. J'en interroge quelques-unes ; elles sont fort jeunes : 14, 15, 16, 17 ans. Il en est de condamnées pour vol, d'autres furent des racoleuses, pourtant ces frais visages, ses jolis yeux, presque enfantins, respirent l'ignorance de leur responsabilité. Le vice social les a happées comme des proies inconsistantes. L'Etat, les marquant d'infamie, endosse l'odieux du crime commis par ces enfants.

On les garde deux ans, on leur enseigne la couture, le repassage, le blanchissage, la cuisine, puis on les place en leur remettant un trousseau et un petit pécule de 100 francs.

L'Œuvre du Patronage des détenues et libérées, organisée et dirigée par Mme de Schlumberger, est la protestation la plus élevée que la femme d'aujourd'hui puisse faire entendre contre la Loi de l'homme.

— « La prostitution est un fléau, écrit cette éminente bienfaitrice, contre lequel toutes les femmes honnêtes devraient se liguer, non pas sottement, en fermant les yeux, mais les yeux et le cœur grands ouverts... Ce que nous demandons c'est qu'on discute ces pénibles questions en pleine lumière, toujours plus de lumière ! Le vice et le crime recherchent l'obscurité de la nuit parce que la lumière du jour les tue. Il y a des choses qui ne peuvent pas se faire au grand jour ; il y a des choses dont on n'ose parler qu'à voix basse et qui ne prospèrent que dans l'ombre. Nous les tuons par le seul fait de les exposer au soleil purificateur.

« La lumière partout ! »

— « Arrestations et détentions arbitraires, jugements et condamnations prononcées sans droit, telles sont les illégalités que l'on peut reprocher à la police des mœurs. — Dolléans. »

Le Mouvement Féministe

— « Toute réglementation limitée à la femme encourt le reproche d'être profondément immorale parce qu'elle est établie au profit exclusif de l'homme. (MM. Landouzy et Gaucher). »

La brochure de Mme de Schlumberger a pour titre : « Une femme aux femmes ». Elle est vibrante d'émotion humanitaire. Qu'on la lise ! L'atrocité de nos mœurs apparaît si révoltante qu'il n'est pas possible après avoir lu l'ouvrage de ne pas joindre son appel à celui de l'auteur.

Il faut que cette protestation devienne assez puissante pour obtenir l'égalité de la Justice et dans ce but il est nécessaire que toutes les femmes se liguent contre la réglementation par l'Etat d'une monstruosité sociale.

Mme de Witt de Schlumberger se dévoue à la classe la plus exposée, la plus ignorante. J'ai lu, les larmes aux yeux, la brochure « Aux jeunes ouvrières, *Conseils d'une mère*. » Elle n'a pas employé pour les amener à elle les phrases doctrinaires dont les grands mots glissent froids sur ces frustes natures. La grande dame s'efface pour laisser la bonté de son cœur s'épancher librement : « Je te préviens comme un mère et comme une amie. Écoute-moi, je n'exagère rien, je t'assure, bien au contraire... »

« Si tu pouvais l'entendre la voix des autres jeunes filles, elles te crieront : « Ne faites pas comme nous. Nous aussi, nous ne savions pas. Nous sommes tombées tout en bas de l'escalier de la vie, si bas, que nous n'avons même plus la force d'essayer de remonter... »

« Et quand on pense à tout ce qu'on a gâché ! Oh ! quelle pitié ! Toute la jeunesse qu'on avait devant soi ! Car enfin, chacune peut aspirer à l'amour, chacune peut espérer fonder un foyer, avoir plus tard un cher mari et des petits enfants... »

« L'amour vrai se reconnaît en ce qu'il est respectueux. N'oublie jamais cela, ma fille, si un homme te parle d'amour, sans te parler de mariage, sauve-toi au plus vite. Il ne t'offre qu'un faux amour. Ne te fie à aucune promesse. »

« L'amour est une grande loi qui se rencontre partout dans la nature et son but est la création d'êtres semblables à nous et qui doivent nous succéder. Nous recevons donc un don magnifique lorsqu'à l'âge adulte nous acquérons la puissance de créer à notre tour des êtres capables de vivre, capables d'être heureux lorsque nous créons un corps et une âme. »

« En se faisant avorter, même à deux mois, les personnes voulant cacher les suites de leur inconduite ne se rendent pas compte qu'elles tuent un petit être vivant, et que si elles pouvaient l'examiner au microscope, elles verraient une tête, des bras et des jambes ; elles auraient peut-être pitié de ce commencement d'enfant qu'elles devraient aimer, mais en outre, les médecins affirment que les femmes qui se font avorter endommagent très gravement leurs organes qui sont blessés par cette intervention contre nature. Les avortements amènent (parfois longtemps après) des inflammations intérieures, des tumeurs,

et toute une série de graves maladies. Voilà, je t'ai prévenue, tu ne diras pas que *tu ne savais pas* ! Préviens les malheureuses que tu croirais disposées à employer de pareils moyens et qui les appellent parfois « se débarrasser », même quand elles sont enceintes de plusieurs mois. Oh ! l'horrible crime ! »

Cette brochure admirable où jaillit à chaque page l'émotion d'une mère devant le péril de l'enfant, devrait être distribuée dans tous les patronages de jeunes filles et classée parmi les lectures d'utilité publique.

Nous engageons vivement toutes nos lectrices à se la procurer.

Il nous faut, maintenant, dire le rôle de Mme Paul de Schlumberger comme vice-présidente de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

L'œuvre a pour but d'obtenir le droit de vote, l'électorat au Parlement et l'éligibilité aux conseils municipaux, demeurant en dehors des préoccupations politiques et religieuses. Par son influence, sa grande position sociale, sa haute culture, la petite fille de Guizot a influé puissamment notre élite parlementaire. Ses démarches multipliées sont empreintes du tact, de la modération, qui désarme les vieux préjugés ; son charme, son exquise distinction, accomplissent plus que le zèle indiscret de certains. Elle sait faire aimer le féminisme rien qu'en se montrant. C'est une des qualités les plus précieuses que puissent posséder les propagandistes d'une idée ou d'une œuvre. Lorsqu'on veut influencer une population telle que la masse féminine, il faut faire comme Mme de Schlumberger, l'attirer à soi.

De LASTIC SAINT-JAL.



■ Mme de Witt de Schlumberger.
Vice-Présidente IWSA 1920-1924
(Source: IIAV, Amsterdam)



JUS SUFFRAGII

ORGANE MENSUEL DE

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MANIFESTE INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES.

Rédigé par l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes, et présenté au Ministère des Affaires étrangères et aux Ambassades étrangères à Londres le 31 Juillet, 1914.

Nous, femmes de tous les pays, considérons avec appréhension et épouvante la condition actuelle de l'Europe qui menace d'entraîner tout un continent, sinon le monde entier dans les désastres et les horreurs de la guerre. Dans cette heure terrible où l'avenir de l'Europe dépend de décisions sur lesquelles les femmes n'ont aucune influence, comprenant nos responsabilités comme mères de la race, nous ne pouvons pas rester spectatrices passives. Bien que nous soyons sans pouvoir politique, nous exhortons les gouvernements et les puissances de nos divers pays à éviter le désastre sans pareil qui nous menace.

Les femmes n'ont pas de pouvoir direct en aucun des pays à présent intéressés dans le conflit imminent.

Elles se trouveront cependant sous peu de temps dans une situation désastreuse : voyant tout ce qu'elles ont de plus cher et de plus précieux, le foyer, la famille, la race mis en péril, soumis à des maux affreux qu'elles n'ont pas pu empêcher, à amoindrir.

Quelles que soient les suites du conflit, il laissera le genre humain appauvri, la civilisation retardée.

Nous, les femmes de 26 pays qui sommes liguées dans "L'ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES" afin d'obtenir le droit de partager avec les hommes le pouvoir qui règle le sort des nations, nous vous prions instamment de faire tout votre possible pour vous mettre d'accord et pour éviter de mettre à feu et à sang la moitié de l'Europe.

Signé pour l'A.I.S.F.

MILLCENT GARRETT

FAWCETT

Ire. Vice-Présidente

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN

Secrétaire Archiviste



Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIEES EN :—Afrique du Sud, Allemagne, Australie, Autriche, Belgique, Bermude, Brésil, Bulgarie, Cuba, Danemark, Egypte, Espagne, Etats Unis, Finlande, France, Grande Bretagne, Grèce, Hollande, Hongrie, Indes, Irlande, Islande, Italie, Jamaïque, Japon, Lituanie, Norvège, Nouvelle Zélande, Palestine, Pologne, Roumanie, Suède, Suisse, Tchécoslovaquie, Terre Neuve, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yougoslavie.

Le But: d'obtenir l'affranchissement des femmes de toutes les nations par la reconnaissance de leurs droits politiques et par toutes les réformes susceptibles de réaliser une complète égalité des hommes et des femmes au point de vue des mœurs comme au point de vue des lois; de préparer les femmes à leur tâche de citoyenne et d'accroître leur influence dans la vie publique.



Dixième Congrès de l' Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes, Paris, 30 Mai—6 Juin, 1926.

L'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes invite ses trente-six Sociétés nationales affiliées, ainsi que les sept Sociétés provisoirement affiliées ou demandant l'affiliation, à envoyer à son Xème Congrès international, qui se réunira à Paris du 30 mai à 6 juin 1926, des délégations aussi complètes que possible. Elle invite également toutes les Sociétés féminines, tant nationales qu'internationales, qui poursuivent un but analogue à celui de l'Alliance, à envoyer à ce Congrès des déléguées fraternelles, et assure la plus cordiale bienvenue à tous les congressistes à titre individuel, comme à tous les partisans du mouvement féministe dans tous les pays, qui voudront assister à nos délibérations.

Il peut sembler au premier abord que, depuis notre dernier Congrès tenu à Rome en 1923, la roue du progrès féministe ait tourné plus lentement que précédemment. Toutefois, nous pouvons signaler une importante victoire à Terre-Neuve, où la longue lutte menée par les femmes a été couronnée de succès, une loi suffragiste ayant été adoptée qui reconnaît aux femmes le droit de vote—sur des bases un peu différentes de celui des hommes il est vrai. Aux Indes trois provinces encore, les Provinces Unies, l'Assam, et le Bengale ont également affranchi les femmes, ainsi que les Etats Indigènes de Cochinchine et de Mysore.

D'autre part un grand pas en avant vers l'émancipation des femmes a été accompli par la reconnaissance bientôt définitive du suffrage municipal en Italie et en Grèce, alors qu'il est déjà complètement reconnu en Espagne. En France également un projet de loi est en discussion, si bien que les Françaises célébreront prochainement, elles aussi, une victoire. Dans les autres domaines qu'embrasse notre programme, les femmes avancent à pas sûrs : ici elles établissent le taux de leur salaire dans différentes professions : là, elles réforment les lois, qui ont, des siècles durant, perpétué l'injustice envers des femmes : là encore, elles proclament sans cesse le droit de la femme à l'égalité économique : ailleurs enfin elles pèsent du poids de leurs responsabilités nouvellement accrues sur la vie politique de leur pays. Ne pouvons-nous donc pas affirmer, en convoquant ce Xème Congrès que, si la grande poussée des victoires féministes s'est un peu ralentie, le flot montant des revendications féminines mondiales continue à saper les résistances et les préjugés ? et qu'aucun obstacle ne peut plus arrêter cette marche en avant vers l'égalité et

La Française
Octobre 1931

UNE VICTOIRE

*Mme Malaterre Sellier fait partie de la Délégation Française
à la XIII^e Assemblée de la S. D. N.*

C'EST LA PREMIÈRE FRANÇAISE QUI OBTIENT CE POSTE

Notre amie Germaine Malaterre-Sellier vient d'être désignée par le Gouvernement, membre de la délégation française à la XIII^e Assemblée de la S. D. N. avec le titre de « Conseiller technique ».

C'est la première fois qu'une femme française est déléguée à l'Assemblée, et nous nous réjouissons d'autant plus de ce succès que depuis de nombreuses années nous avions tenté d'obtenir cette nomination à laquelle nous attachions, au point de vue français, comme au point de vue international, la plus grande importance.

Au point de vue français, pour prouver à tous et à toutes qu'une femme est capable d'aborder, de pair avec les hommes, les problèmes les plus ardues et les plus délicats de la politique étrangère.

Au point de vue international, parce que vis-à-vis des femmes et des hommes des autres nations, nous pouvons enfin lever la tête, le gouvernement ayant, par son acte, rendu publiquement hommage aux capacités des femmes françaises.

Ajouterons-nous que vis-à-vis du parti radical lui-même, le geste de M. Herriot aura une grosse répercussion dont nous pourrions ressentir les effets lorsqu'il s'agira des réformes féministes en cours. Quand on sait l'admiration, nous dirons même le culte, du parti pour son chef, on comprendra que cette nomination d'une femme à Genève — alors que tant d'hommes politiques sollicitent d'y être envoyés — aura sur tous les esprits une particulière résonance.

Les hommes les plus éloignés de nos idées se rendront compte que l'ère des plaisanteries faciles est passée, et au Sénat nous avons la conviction que l'acte courageux du Président du Conseil troublera singulièrement MM. Héry, Labrousse et autres hommes d'esprit... arriéré.

Enfin, pour les femmes radicales, cette nomination que certaines ont provoquée et suivie avec passion, est une joie. Ce n'est pas sans fierté qu'elles regardent le chemin accompli en huit ans... et puis, il faut bien le dire aussi, elles ont la grande satisfaction d'avoir pu travailler avec désintéressement et sans préoccupation de parti pour le

triomphe de la cause féministe. En obtenant que le chef du parti radical consente à mettre « the right woman at the right place » sans considération d'étiquette politique, elles ont conscience d'avoir fait du bon travail, d'autant que le succès assuré de Mme Malaterre-Sellier à Genève est un précédent que pourront utiliser dans l'avenir les femmes de valeur de tous les partis.

Le gros argument opposé par les derniers gouvernements — argument que l'on tenta bien de renouveler cette fois encore — c'est qu'en nommant une femme, on en fâcherait quelques douzaines d'autres! Mais ce qui est vrai pour les femmes l'est aussi pour les hommes, et il est bien certain que quand MM. X. et Y. sont désignés à Genève, M. Z. et de nombreux autres ne sont pas contents. M. Herriot l'a compris et nous devons lui en garder une particulière reconnaissance.

— Certes, cela est excellent, penseront quelques-unes, mais... le suffrage... quand l'aurons-nous?

Chères amies, nous vous l'avouons ici en toute humilité, ce ne sont pas les parisiennes qui tiennent entre leurs seules mains le succès du vote des femmes. Cette victoire-là nous ne l'obtiendrons qu'avec un gros effort et des sacrifices communs : sacrifices de temps et d'argent, sacrifices plus grands encore de notre tranquillité et de nos habitudes journalières.

Sans faire abnégation totale des joies de ce monde, avons-nous toutes le sentiment d'avoir donné jusqu'ici le maximum de ce que nous pouvons?

Avez-vous toutes conscience d'avoir agi avec assez d'énergie et de continuité pour grouper autour de vous les forces féminines de votre département?

Il nous semble parfois que certaines de nos amies restent encore trop au-dessus de la mêlée. Si nous voulons triompher, l'heure est pourtant venue d'entrer dans la mêlée. Et sans faire même de politique de parti, si elle répugne à quelques-unes, il est nécessaire qu'à l'heure actuelle nos chefs de groupe,



Mme MALATERRE-SELLIER
Conseiller technique à la XIII^e Assemblée
de la S. D. N.

tout au moins, connaissent bien la carte politique, le jeu politique de leur département pour pouvoir faire intervenir leur troupes où et comme il le faut.

Vous avez, chères amies, nous le savons, vos occupations; mais les hommes qui ont conquis leurs droits en avaient comme nous en avons nous-mêmes : tout est question de méthode et de volonté.

Que notre succès d'aujourd'hui soit donc pour nous toutes un nouvel encouragement à poursuivre notre tâche avec énergie.

Et que Germaine Malaterre-Sellier, en travaillant à Genève, sache bien que nous la suivons avec confiance et affection, sûres que ses efforts serviront à la fois notre Pays et notre cause.

C. Brunschwig

(Source: Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand, Paris)

L'Homme a sa loi, il se l'est faite lui-même; la femme n'a pas d'autre loi qui la loi de l'homme. Une réforme n'est nécessaire, elle se fera au nom de la Civilisation, de la Société et de l'Humanité.

(Victor Hugo)

Campaigning Issues

There has always been some dispute over when the 'Women's Movement' began. This will, of course, vary from country to country, but British historians usually date it at around the mid-1850s. Although the vote was seen as an important campaign, it was by no means the only issue to mobilize early feminists. Women campaigned with varying success upon a variety of fronts including: property rights, education, divorce and the demand for a single moral standard.



■ Seminar 'Egalitarian Democracy', Athens, Greece 1992

The International Women's Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) was founded in 1904 specifically to internationalize the fight for the franchise, which it saw as the birth-right of every woman. Once this had been gained it was believed that it would open the door, through citizenship, to equality in other aspects of women's lives. Consequently, the Alliance adopted the motto 'Jus Suffragii' meaning 'the right to vote'.

The franchise remained the first and foremost issue for the IWSA until 1923, by which time the right to vote and to stand for election had been granted to around 30 countries. This was, undeniably, a source of great satisfaction.



■ Seminar 'Environment and Development', Lusaka, Zambia 1993



■ Seminar 'Violence in the family', Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 2003

At the Geneva Congress in 1920 an overwhelming majority of IWSA delegates resolved to continue the work for suffrage in the countries where this had not yet been gained, and to give scope for the development of emancipation this term 'enfranchisement' was given a wider interpretation: *"The object of the Alliance shall be to secure the enfranchisement of the women of all nations by the promotion of Woman Suffrage and other such reforms as are necessary to establish a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women."*

In 1923 the first International committees were formed in order to concentrate upon a variety of topical issues. Change and continuity have marked the development of these committees to the present day. Not surprisingly, the topics adopted at the time were influenced by the agenda of the League of Nations, disguised only by slightly different names or contents.

In 1923 the first Committees were:

- Equal pay, re-named 'Like conditions of work for Men and Women' in 1929;
- Nationality of Married Women;
- Family Endowment, re-named 'Family Allowances' in 1929;
- Illegitimate Children, re-named 'Unmarried Mother and her Child' in 1929;
- Equal Moral Standards.

By 1929 four more standing committees had been added, making 9 in total:

- Committee for Suffrage and Elections;
- Civil Status of Women;
- Peace and the League of Nations;
- Committee for Woman Police.

After the end of WWII during the 1946 congress in Interlaken the committees listed were:

- Peace
- Equal Civil and Political rights
- Economic rights

- Equal Moral Standards
- Finance

In 1949 the committee on finance was replaced by an Equal Educational Rights Committee.

The IAW/SEC had organized a few special meetings before WWII: a 'Peace' seminar in Amsterdam in 1927. A further 'Peace' conference took place in Belgrade in 1931.

Following WWII, congresses adopted a 'theme' which would be incorporated into the keynote speech or lecture and always related to some topical issues of concern. In Amsterdam (1949), the theme was 'Women and Human rights'. From this juncture affiliates would organise regional conferences, seminars and workshops on an annual basis, focussing upon equality related issues.

This process began in 1949 in Beirut, with a 'The Status of Women' seminar. In the course of time education, literacy, population and economic development, were addressed by different affiliates from countries ranging from Sierra Leone to Papua New Guinea. During each congress the delegates would prepare an 'action programme' in which new priorities, reflecting current matters of concern, were agreed upon.

In our last action programme we decided on four commissions:

- Combatting All forms of Violence Against Women and Trafficking;
- Civil and Political Rights (CEDAW);
- Globalisation: Sustainable Development/ Environment/Poverty;
- Health.

As the years go by, changing perspectives have been reflected in Alliance attitudes towards sexuality, single motherhood, sexual orientation and divorce. Issues of the last decades have included 'the girl child', violence against women, reproductive rights, and aging, whilst prostitution, trafficking returned in the 1990s. No doubt there are others on the horizon! ♦

An Equal Moral Standard

The IAW has a long and glorious history, stretching across most of the twentieth Century.

We now move tentatively, but hopefully, into the twenty-first.

During the early days, the goals and aspirations of first-wave feminists were more clearly defined than they are today. The dominant issue for the Alliance, in 1904, was obtaining the vote for women around the world. This was, for many women, the ultimate goal through which the prospect of equality within the liberal democratic state might be achieved. Through representation, it was argued, women would be enabled to negotiate equal opportunities – legal, civil and economic – thus, occupations of desperation and last resort, such as prostitution, would become obsolete.

What interests me, as an historian, is that while the feminist fight for the franchise has been much recorded and celebrated, the almost equally important battle for an ‘equal moral standard’ has been largely forgotten. Indeed, I recently heard a member of the House of Lords refer to ‘trafficking’ as a new phenomenon. This, despite the fact that between 1880 and 1950 there was a world movement, ultimately involving the Women’s Suffrage Alliance, the UK’s Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, the League of Nations and the United Nations. All fighting to combat the market in women. This seventy year campaign resulted in five International Conventions, 1904, 1910, 1922, 1933 and the UN Convention of 1959. What is also instructive is that the arguments and descriptions used in 1920s and 1930s, are in many respects identical to those that we read today. But, sadly, trafficking continues.

Feminist anxiety over trafficking is the reason why the quaintly named Association of Moral and Social Hygiene (now the Josephine Butler Society) became an associate member of the IAW, way back in the early part of the last century, even though it only campaigned around the single issue of prostitution. However, it has been a fighting force of distinction within the UK, to which some people have devoted a large part of their life’s energies. One of these was the highly respected Alison Neilans, who was the Society’s secretary during

the twenties and thirties, when many legislative changes were being battled over, and in whose memory an annual memorial lecture was held after her death.

However, a more frenetic period of activity occurred during the 1950s and 60s, at a time when legal changes relating to the loitering and soliciting of prostitutes looked like undoing thirty-five years of the AMSH’s dedicated campaign for social justice.

The late 1940s and 50s were a heady time for the British. The war was over, there was a great exhibition of British science, art and culture, while Princess Elizabeth was married in 1947 and crowned in 1953. All these events attracted foreign visitors to London, some of whom were appalled by the numbers of prostitutes they saw soliciting on the streets of the London, and consequently dubbed it the ‘Vice Capital of Europe’. The then Home Secretary, Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, was determined to put a stop to what he viewed as an outrage, and appointed a departmental committee to look for a legislative solution. The interesting detail, is that he did this because he saw it as a way of circumventing the objections of the women’s organisations! But to add insult to injury this committee sat in private, so that the AMSH was confined to giving oral evidence and submitting a memorandum.



One of the most prominent players in this episode was the Australian born, Chave Collisson, a woman with three degrees who was a leading light in both the JBS and the International Alliance of Women. Her legacy to the Alliance is the Chave Collisson Trust. The ensuing political fight over the new law continued until 1970 and exhausted both Chave and the Josephine Butler Society. It is perhaps fair to say that the JBS has never been quite the same again, but its association with the IAW has continued and will hopefully do so until 2104. ♦

Helen J. Self

Grete Borgmann (1911-2001)

IAW Chairman of the Education Commission 1973-1992

Grete Borgmann began her work on behalf of women over 50 years ago, in the late forties of the last century. Her early and continuing focus was the improvement of the lives of women and parents in Freiburg, her home town. Her revolutionary project was titled 'New Start at 35', a Course for women aged 35 and above, to train for successful entry into the labour force after the child-rearing phase of their lives. The course was adopted all over Germany and many thousands of women are benefiting from it to this day.

Later, as Vice-President of the German Frauenring, she chaired this national organisations UNESCO committee. While working in this area, she became acquainted with the IAW. She first represented the Deutsche Frauenring in 1970 during a seminar in Freiburg on viewpoints and objectives in education. Because of her experience in adult education, she was appointed German representative the IAW's Education Commission during the world Conference in Copenhagen in 1971.

During the succeeding IAW Congress in New Delhi in 1973 she was nominated as Chairperson of the Education commission. From then on she represented the IAW at the United Nations educational and cultural organisation the UNESCO in Paris. Supported in her efforts by a very active focus group in Freiburg, 'International Education Initiatives for Women', she prepared statements which were presented and processed at the UN World Women's conference in 1975 in Mexico, 1980 in Copenhagen and in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya. She was however no longer able personally to attend the Nairobi Conference which concluded the Women's Decade. In her place her daughter, Eva Schneider-Borgmann with the help of other members of the Frauenring and the IAW, presented the project 'New Start at 35' during a conference workshop. Results of this session found their way into the final document of the World Women's Conference.

Her efforts on behalf of women and girls in the less developed countries remain unforgettable. With her mem-



■ Grete Borgmann

bers and colleagues in the Education Commission, she founded an institute in Bangladesh, which helps women start their own small businesses to become financially independent. This institute was later officially dedicated in the presence of the German ambassador and named 'Grete Borgmann Institute'.

In Zambia, she managed to install a van filled with baby clothes, which transport new mothers to their home after they have given birth at the Women's Hospital in Lusaka. Here as well as in Bangladesh, it was thanks to her efforts, that the initial project could continue with the support of many German and international sponsors. When the van required new tires she even managed to have these transported to Zambia.

Her project, 'How mother cooks and the family eats', developed a solar cooker to preserve forest resources in

the world's tropical regions. In these areas, women had to travel farther and farther in pursuit of firewood, and every minute the world lost forests the size of a football field. This project originated during the 26th IAW Congress in Helsinki, which focussed on global environmental problems. This theme was also the subject of the drawing contest, with which Grete Borgmann began her solar cooking project. Children's drawings were intended to provide an informal survey of cooking and eating habits world wide, with special attention on less developed countries. Hundreds of children sent their drawings to the commission in Freiburg, which had them printed as wonderful postcards and posters to promote solar energy in the tropical areas, where it is the only long term solution to vanishing forests. This project was presented at the UN World Women's Conference in Nairobi as well as placed in the Technology Park, where it was met with great interest.

With her warmth, energy, and ever optimistic sense of humour, Grete Borgmann knew how to engage people's support for her ideas and the work she deemed necessary. Her efforts set new standards for the national and international struggle on behalf of women and exemplify the vision for a better society and a more democratic world. For her life's work she was highly decorated and honoured. ♦

Eva Schneider Borgmann,
daughter of Grete Borgmann,
President of Deutscher Frauenring

Environment

In 1999 at the Congress in New York our Action Program was extended to include Environment and Habitat because the complex interaction between poverty, health and environmental degradation and its adverse effects on economic growth and social development. More so because women remain invisible in decision-making despite their experiences and skills in natural resource conservation and management. The UNCED, UN-CSD, UNIDO and numerous other UN policies on Environment, Health and Development are valuable tools to urge Governments to implement the binding agreements they have signed.

One such tool for example is the Precautionary Principle which states that:

- When an activity raises the threat of harm to human health and the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not established with absolute scientific certainty.
- A shift is needed away from demanding scientific proof of human harm. We need instead to rely on the weight of evidence that exposure to toxic substances can and has harmed human health. Our reliance on scientific certainty of harm has prevented action to reduce the incidence of cancer because most cancers are made not born.
- Industry must prove that their manufacturing process, products and disposal do no harm. Governments must hold industry accountable following the precautionary principle.

On this information

a women's group from Manila, Philippines working towards the prevention of breast cancer asked for support because the local authorities insist on disposing toxic chemical wastes in the mountain regions around Manila. The globalisation of pollutants is vividly described by 'Toxic Link' India. As consumers and producers, caretakers of their families and educators, women play an important role in promoting sustainable

development and so, conform to the Agenda '21 on ecological, economical and social development the action program was further extended in 2002 at the 32nd Congress in Sri Lanka.

The Agenda '21 Document with its 40 Chapters and signed by 178 countries make State Governments accountable for environmentally sustainable economic development. It also stresses the need for local governments at city, town and village level to have their own action strategy namely the Local Agenda'21 so that all citizens can participate and take responsibility for their behaviour. In other words act locally in order to think globally small step in this direction is the car-free day every year on the 22 September in European towns that have signed the 'European Charta' in order to give cities and towns choked with traffic a breathing space.

The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental matters established by the Economic Commission for Europe gives ground for encouragement if not optimism. The objective of this Convention is to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generation to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being and should be guaranteed the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions in this Convention. Women's role as environmentalists will be particularly important because of other ecological crises – Climate Change. The United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – held a workshop in Manila, Philippines together with UNDP, UNEP and various NGO's to investigate mechanisms to reduce air pollutants especially greenhouse gases and ozone in order to mitigate climate change. Further Conferences in New Delhi, India and Bonn, Germany in June this year focused on renewable energies. The international trading in CO₂ - Emissions in order to keep the CO₂ - Emissions stable at the level of 1990 is a step in this direction. ♦



■ Nairobi, 1985

**Ida Kurth (Germany),
Commission Convenor
Globalisation: Sustainable
Development
Environment/Poverty**

A seminar's long lasting consequences

Special relations between women from Germany and from West Africa

In 1974, a seminar in Accra on 'Better Family Life' organised by the Ghana Assembly of Women attracted women from the West African region as well as IAW members from other parts of the world. Brigitte Pross and Inge Heyl from Deutscher Frauenring, Germany, learnt of the urgent wish of the Fédération des Femmes Burkinabé, FFB, to have a Maison de la Femme (Women's Centre) and a Students' home in Ouagadougou. This was the birth hour of a partnership between the umbrella organisation FFB and the DFR, which fully evolved in the early eighties.



■ Gudrun Haupter and delegates from Burkino Faso, Congress Athens, Greece 1992

In 1981 when I came to Ouagadougou for the first time with Brigitte, the students' home was under construction funded by German development agencies and 'La Maison' had come close to its realisation. The problem: the government had cast an eye on it but the FFB insisted on getting an official title before going ahead. Brigitte assisted by adamant FFB President Maimouna Traoré and her team managed to solve the problem by drawing on all her diplomatic skills and connections.

In 1984, both institutions were inaugurated. The Students' home with 28 double-bed rooms was already functioning. Clémentine Ouedraogo – later President of Promo Femmes and an IAW Board member – had been among the women who once a week convinced themselves of the construction progress. At the inauguration, the archbishop of Ouagadougou gave his blessing and Brigitte, in her address, pleaded to let women act their own way and have confidence in their capabilities. A 'crieuse' (town crier), a

function traditionally held by women, proclaimed the good news. And we all danced to African rhythms.

In a moving and elegant ceremony on the stairs of La Maison Brigitte handed the keys to Maimouna's successor, Lucie Kaboré radiant with satisfaction. Thanks to Hilla, our German architect friend in Ouagadougou, La Maison is a beautiful building. Hilla also oversaw the works and did all the paper work and accounting with the German Ministry for

Economic Cooperation and Development which had provided most of the funding. Brigitte had given well over a hundred speeches on the necessity of promoting African women and collected money from DFR local groups, friends and relatives. I helped with the correspondence and became a member of the DFR Project Committee.

Today, 20 years later, the students' home is called Foyer Brigitte Pross. It is well established and has a contract with the university. We are still busy collecting funds to help finance the personnel and carry out much needed up keeping and painting. La Maison – besides being the headquarters of the FFB – has hosted quite a number of national and regional seminars, most of them in our presence. It also is a place where girls get training in skills and education in family life. It became financially independent by renting rooms to GtZ, the German governmental development agency, for training local multipliers from francophone West Africa in reproductive health issues, above all IEC in family planning for francophone West Africa. Regretfully Jacqueline Tapsoba, the long-time president of the FFB and well known in the IAW, suddenly died end of 2003.

We also mourn Chantal Ouédraogo from Association Femme Gestion Développement in Ouagadougou. For the AFGD Brigitte, in her very efficient way, helped to find German sponsors for a Bureau for Education and Communication. Here, poor local women's groups follow literacy and skills courses. The educational part comprises discussions of videos on everyday family conflicts and hardships. Since the late seventies Chantal managed the family health programme of Radio Burkina and conducted awareness campaigns on many health issues including family planning and FGM. The resumes were then broadcast on Radio Rural in

the seven main national languages. Our funding was essential for these campaigns and after Brigitte's death, we continued to support Chantal.

In '96, the year of her death, Brigitte received Burkina Faso's national decoration for her relentless promotion of women there. We considered this a true reward for her firm belief that women if given a chance will make the best out of it.

The 'strategy' comprised inviting some of our partners to Germany with the twin purpose of having them meet with local DFR groups for first-hand information, as well as with potential or existing financial partners. We also had German students as interns in our projects, both in Burkina Faso and in Togo, and thus got information and insights through the lens of young academic women. Many of them became individual members of IAW.

Practising international understanding and involvement made for special ties between women from West Africa and our Germany, also within IAW. Although these ties are closest with Burkina Faso for a long time, twinning relations existed between the

Ghana Assembly of Women and DFR both members of IAW and ICW. We also liaise between IAW and La Colombe in Togo and some other francophone women's organisations in the region, which do not read English well and need encouragement from time to time. Modern means of communication now make that voluntary task somewhat easier.

Another facet of cooperation was the seminar in Ouagadougou commemorating Brigitte Pross. It was held in Ouagadougou in 2001 following an IAW board decision on how to spend her legacy to IAW. The theme: Strategies for a reduction of violence against women and girls. Clémentine as the main organiser kept me informed in French and we collaborated e.g. on whom to invite from other West African countries. I kept in touch with IAW President Patricia Giles and transmitted her greetings to the audience.

From our Project Committee Agnes Schmidt and me represented IAW and DFR at this important event, which got both government and media attention. Women from all over the country and from all religious communities

were there and took the messages home. Souna H. Diallo, the President of SAPHTA ONG from Niger, came late because her car broke down on the long journey. Undeterred she made it to Ouagadougou where her contributions to the discussion were much appreciated. Equally important: new personal ties had been knitted beyond those that already existed between ADF Suisse and SAPHTA.

As we all know it is individuals who weave relations and hold them up. In my experience they both enrich your life – and keep you very busy. ♦

Gudrun Haupter,
Board member IAW



■ 'Maison de la Femme', Nursery, Ouajadougou

Introducing violence against women to the international agenda

As early as 1981 the violence issue was pushed by me, the IAW representative in Vienna, into the action programme of our NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and turned out to be THE topic with which the IAW was increasingly identified during the 1980s.

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) had just been negotiated and adopted by the General Assembly on December 19, 1979. After having been put before the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen in 1980, for signature by governments, it came into effect in 1981 - thirty days after the twentieth member nation ratified it. None of its 16 substantial articles touched upon violence against women in the family or in society generally, with the exception of Art. 6: wherein measures are called for to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution.

The global women's movement was halfway through the International Women's Decade 1975-1985, funding was available, international and national mechanisms for the advancement of women were mushrooming and the future seemed promising. Putting violence against women and domestic violence in particular, on the Vienna NGO Alliance's agenda was one thing, supporting it as an issue for the global agenda yet another!

In Vienna at that time, IAW had two major bodies to convince: The UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. The first was considered friendly, the second rather hostile.

I considered myself very privileged for having been given the chance to work within the IAW Vienna Team of this period comprised of women such as: Brigitte Pross, Olive Bloomer, Grete Borgmann, Hilda Tweedy, Irmgard

Rimondini, Kay Fraleigh, Inge Heyl, Gudrun Haupter, Ethia Simha, Marijke Peters, Sassa Moschos, Ursula Keller-Kuhlmann, and Irene Fereti. Their experience and commitment to the women's cause while always remaining diplomatic, human even in the midst of tense negotiations has deeply influenced my own way of working later both at governmental and the non-governmental levels. Very soon, a brilliant young German law student joined the group, Dorothea Baumhaus (Khulusi); Prof. Alice Marangopoulos, a second lawyer from Israel, today our Hana Elroy, Alison Brown, today's IAW Secretary; and many other members of our German affiliate helped us out whenever Brigitte Pross called on them.

Tireless efforts by all concerned and a considerable number of oral and written statements as well as IAW meetings culminated in an ancillary meeting during the 7th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 1985. At the end, after long discussions, resolutions were accepted by consensus and for the first time this topic, 'violence in the family' or, as referred to in the UN documents, 'domestic violence', was accepted, and became part of the future agenda of UN programmes. The result of this meeting was reflected in Congress Resolution 6, adopted as General Assembly Resolution A/40/36 'non violence in the home'.

The resolution asks the Secretary General to intensify research on domestic violence and to formulate action-oriented strategies. It urges other UN agencies to collaborate with the Secretary General in a concerted

effort to combat the problem, mentioning particularly the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and the Commission on the Status of Women. It called for special attention to be given to the effects of domestic violence on women at an expert seminar to be held in 1986-1987.

The point of no return was reached: from now on the issue was on the global agenda! Slowly, but inevitably, IAW's determined and focussed fight against violence began to bear fruits. IAW's intense fight to have international bodies consider violence against women and girls as an appropriate topic for consideration against violence, including domestic violence, perpetrated against women and girls, has come to a successful end. From now on the issue is firmly enshrined into the international decision-making processes, closely watched by the global non-governmental family.

For all those directly engaged in the process it was a fruitful and rewarding work with lots of sympathy and applause coming from the various quarters involved. During the entire period the consultative process between the United Nations and one of the most important women's umbrella organisations was at its best. Most important: we did it for all the women and girls under threat, maltreated, raped, mutilated and harassed all over the world and with the strong support of our IAW members! ♦



Rosy Weiss,
IAW Vice-
President

Women's right to make reproductive health decisions

Recollections from the Cairo Conference on Population & Development

When Irmgard Rimondini, at the 1986 IAW Congress in Mauritius, outlined the importance of creating a health commission I could not but agree: during several visits to West African countries with Brigitte Pross since 1981 I had become acquainted with the health problems of women in poor urban and in rural settings. Women's health then was more or less equalized with maternal and child health. And for women's organizations represented at WHO this was the proper field of action.

At the Melbourne Congress in 1989 I was appointed convenor of the new commission and representative at WHO. This also meant access to the WHO publications on reproductive health e.g. the pioneer book by Erica Royston and Sue Armstrong on *Preventing Maternal Death*. In 1992, after IAW had obtained official relations with WHO, my Questionnaire on *Family Health and Family Planning* was answered by most of our affiliated and associated societies. One of the findings of this survey: almost all of our members in less developed countries had projects with a family planning component.

After the 1993 ECE preparatory meeting for the ICPD – where women of the former East block bore heart-rending witness to the lack of quality of the family planning services often aggravated by religious and moral strictness in their countries – a workshop on *Family Planning* was on my agenda for Cairo.

In September 1994, undeterred by recent blow-ups and tight safety regulations in down-town Cairo, IAW representatives travelled thousands of kilometres to take part in the UN event. As a Cairo resident board member Mona Korashi was helpful in many ways, facilitated our workshop at the NGO Forum and was a perfect hostess. Our delegation was headed by President Alice Marangopoulos who, in her statement to the plenary of the Government Conference, spoke on issues which had not been satisfactorily addressed in the draft of the *Cairo Plan of Action* drafted by UNFPA's Executive Director Nafis Sadik: the problems of *reproductive freedom* and of *sexual rights*.

At walking distance from the government confer-

ence a huge chilled-down stadium was the venue of the NGO Forum. In this arena a wide variety of organisations involved with population issues displayed their information material, presented their projects and were eager to discuss concepts and solutions how to deal with the consequences of the fast population growth on mother Earth. At our workshop *Better Access of Family Planning for All*, the panel looked at the issue from various angles and answered questions. With many overlapping events we did not draw big crowds despite our nice yellow flyer. The aspects of the population issue we presented e.g. the human rights perspective and the demographic overview were well received. In time for Beijing our president published a flashy red IAW brochure *Family Planning for All*, which also contains two recommendations from the workshop and a statement on female genital mutilation.

I left Cairo convinced that a big leap forward had been achieved for women's reproductive health rights and for the future of our planet. The *Cairo Plan of Action* offers indeed comprehensive integrated structures how to empower women to decide about the number and spacing of their

children and live up to their full human potential.

Almost 20 years later I am by far not as optimistic. International funding is inadequate and 2004, a decade after the Cairo Conference, will probably pass without an official UN event. The fear is rampant that the progressive language of the *Cairo Plan of Action* would come under severe attack. IAW should remain involved and liaise with like-minded organizations. ♦

Gudrun Haupter



■ Demonstration outside the White House, Washington 1992

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT:

Summary of

Recommendations

of the Workshop held at the Philoxenia Hotel, Nicosia, Cyprus, Thursday November 29 – Monday December 5, 1983.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACTIONS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

These included:

1. The adjustment of the school curriculum to remove male and female bias, with all pupils learning modelling, problem solving, simulation and experimentation in the classroom.
2. An awareness programme for teachers and women students, to make technical and scientific subjects more acceptable for women, and to encourage women to enrol in scientific streams.
3. The establishment of target groups for training or re-training at post-school level. These include:
 - a. Starters
 - b. Rejoiners
 - c. Workers needing to up-grade their skills
 - d. School drop-outs
 - e. Self-employed women
 - f. Attention should also be given to unemployed school and college leavers.
4. Liaison between the formal education system and the employers, the workers' union trades and professional organisations, women's organisations, co-operatives, community or local government, foundations, institutes etc. is needed in order to ensure that new training courses are established for the dif-

fusion of technical skills. Once courses are established it is important that women are given the opportunity to enrol.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ACTION IN THE LABOUR MARKET

These included:

1. Affiliates were asked to put pressure on Federations of Employers, and on Institutes and Associations of Personnel Managers and their members, to make sure that women have equal opportunities when new jobs are created by the new technologies.
2. Affiliates were asked to pressurise Trade Unions to act more positively on behalf of their women members, and to support them for training opportunities offered by employers and training institutions.
3. Affiliates were asked to encourage women to create their own employment opportunities through small businesses and self-help schemes, and to use the new technologies when doing so.
4. Affiliates were also asked to look at the social implications of the new technology, and in particular what happens to people working with computers at home. The Workshop recommended that affiliates press for the implementation of regulations that would avoid the exploitation and social isolation of such workers, and

ensure that they receive fair payment and statutory benefits.

5. Affiliates were asked to set up technical sub-committees or units in their own organisations, with fairly wide Terms of Reference. For example:
 - a. Co-operation with other bodies in order to monitor the psychological and physiological effects of the new technologies on health, and also to stimulate research on the long-term effects on the eye-sight of working with visual display units (VDU). It was also stressed that all such research should involve those affected i.e. Action Research.
 - b. The technical committee or research unit would also keep abreast of all research into the question of health and the working environment, including radiation damage.
 - c. To ensure that technical development does not endanger the privacy of the individual.
 - d. To encourage more women to join Trade Unions and to take an active part in their affairs.
 - e. The technical units of the organisation to use the expertise of professional women and their organisations to build up networks of information and to help set up training courses.

Affiliate Societies were also asked to monitor legislation to make sure that countries honoured the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and also the International Labour Organisation, Conventions number 100, 111, 156 and the Recommendations on the Development of Human Resources.

A full Report is available from the London office.

I.A.W. Regional Workshops/Seminars Planned for Triennium 1984-1987

1. Zambia: "The Use of Hitherto Unused Foods"
 2. Jamaica: "Literacy, the Open Door to Better Family Living" - to include societies in Latin America
 3. Ireland: "Human Rights"
 4. Papua, New Guinea: "Better Family Living"
 5. Canada: "Women in Parliament"
 6. India/Bangladesh/Sri Lanka: "The Use of Appropriate Technology"
 7. West Africa: "Equality of Parental Responsibility for Education" - in Nigeria, Ghana or Sierra Leone
- The International Board meets in London this summer.



An Informal visit with the IAW team at the UN Headquarters in New York

As you know the International Alliance of Women has had consultative relations with the United Nations Economic and Social Council for over fifty years. For the IAW team this has meant maintaining the established good relations while at the same time keeping abreast with the current actors and issues on the agenda of the United Nations relating to the advancement of women. Of course this meant for the most part working with 1) the delegates on various UN commissions; 2) the staff of the UN secretariat, agencies, funds of programmes; 3) the representatives of other representatives of various NGO Committees as well as the larger UN community in New York.

Our primary job is to 'deliver' the IAW message and to bring back to the IAW the current UN thinking related to the advancement of women. Since the field we must plough is so large the team has divided the area into manageable plots.

- The session on the Commission on the Status of Women and the expert group which monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- The meetings of the Third Committee of the UN general Assembly and other UN meetings of a wide variety which have bearing on the IAW agenda.
- The meetings of NGP Committees such as: the Committee on the Status of Women, the Committee on Development and the Committee on the Habitat.

The IAW representatives in New York who have taken on these responsibilities — Kay Fraleigh, Irini Sarlis, Berit Stanton, and Soon Youn (who at this point is mainly covering issues related to the World Health Organisations program on women and smoking, attending meetings in Geneva). To date the members of the team have divided the responsibilities as follows: CSW/CEDAW/UNIFEM – Kay, HABITAT/SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY – Irini, UNICEF/HEALTH – Ann, WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL FORUM – Berit.

The New York team also serves as a hospitality committee for the members of the IAW when they come to town: for example, to the 48th session of the CSW. While hospitality is a small part of the job it does give us pleasure since it affords an additional opportunity to meet and know our IAW colleagues.



■ Kay Fraleigh in her office

Of course the 48th session of the CSW added more to the agenda of 'give and take' for the IAW team. The IAW members from abroad and the team actively participated in the daily activities including the caucuses, and the various workshops and discussion groups. In addition IAW organised a workshop on the CSW communication procedure and we joined with others to design workshops such as 'The Role of Communication in Conflict Prevention' with

the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers and 'Weaving the World's Women Together – Lessons for 2005 and Beyond'. With the Centre for Women's Global Leadership and the Women Environment and Development Organisation.

Somewhat over 900 NGO's came together at the CSW. It is important that we continue to take an active part in these meetings, as we struggle to achieve a world where women's human rights are accepted as a matter of course. And women do indeed participate fully in making the decisions which affect their lives at every level. ♦

PS The 49th session of the CSW in March 2005 will focus on Beijing +10

Kay Fraleigh

Kay Fraleigh first attended an IAW Congress in New Delhi in 1973. The USA had no affiliated organisation. In 1976 at the XXIV congress in New York The Federation of Organisations for Professional Women and the Lucy Stone League were admitted as affiliates and Kay Fraleigh was elected to the board. She was IAW representative at the UN in New York for many years and was IAW Vice-President from 1989-1996. She is now honorary Vice-President and still going strong.

World Health Organization

Representing our organisation at the World Health Organization (WHO) is a multi-faceted task and my intention is to give an idea of what that task encompasses, how it evolved, and to describe our rights and duties.

For years Vice-President Irmgard Rimondini had attended the World Health Assembly (WHA), the working sessions of government delegations from almost all countries. She was then IAW's Permanent Representative at the UN Geneva, with a focus on the Commission for Human Rights (CHR) which, at that time, had its annual session at about the same time in May as the WHA. In 1989, after my appointment as IAW's representative at WHO and also as Convenor of the newly established Health Commission Irmgard introduced me to the different structures and working methods of the two UN bodies. I was amazed at the number of influential people she knew both on the UN and the NGO side.

Since 1992 IAW is among the large number of non-governmental organisations with official working relations to WHO. It was not sure at all if we would be given that status since IAW is not specialising in a particular health area. In this situation the expert help we got from Mala Pal's husband with the tricky application questionnaire was most valuable. Later we learnt from Dr. Rita Thapa, Director of the Department of Maternal/Child Health and Family Planning, that she had pleaded in favour of organisations like ours citing the large outreach for advocacy we have.

Among our privileges: We may nominate representatives for the WHA and the two yearly meetings of the WHO Executive Board. The venues are the venerable Palais des Nations respectively the WHO headquarters in Geneva. We may present a short statement in the commissions of the WHA to any of the agenda topics. I remember having spoken on Reproductive health, on Fair Standards of health care for women, on the little

girl, on Child and adolescent health and development. The procedure to follow has been rather discouraging and time consuming at times. Since 2002 the Civil Society Initiative acts in various ways as facilitator for NGOs and other civil society organisations. We have thus come a step closer to the often proclaimed importance WHO attributes to the work and contributions of NGOs. We are encouraged to present statements on behalf of like-minded organisations – a very sensible and effective way of combining efforts and practising cooperation. On the list of speakers NGOs come last, after all government delegates



■ Gudrun Haupter, IAW representative WHO

and intergovernmental bodies have spoken. This can be an advantage: in May 2003 all official statements on the agenda item Child and Adolescent Health and Development had been heard, it was late and the session was adjourned until the next morning. I then was one of the first speakers and had a large attentive audience including Director-General Gro Harlem Brundtland and other high-ranking staff. The big audience is easily explained: The discussion of an item is always followed by summing it up and by a decision about the follow-up. During the WHA NGOs or groups of NGOs organise meetings and discussions around themes of actuality, e.g. The 25th anniversary of the Primary Health Care Initiative of Alma Ata, The Spiritual Dimensions of Health or The Effects of Globalisation on Health, an issue which has become one of our concerns because women and children often suffer most from some of these effects.

Geneva's international and multi-cultural character warrants that there are experts on each and every health-related topic of interest. It is not always possible to attend all the meetings and briefings and keep track of what is going on in the Plenary of the WHA and in the two Commissions. Generally speaking NGOs who are on the spot have a sizable advantage. IAW has been fortunate to have, with Mala Pal, a local liaison person. For decades, Mala has been active with the Geneva NGO-Commission on the Status of Women, especially the Working Group on Health. She also informed on important trends and developments at WHO, attended the Executive Board meetings as well as health meetings called during the year, for ex. by the NGO Forum for Health where IAW is a paying member. We already have been collaborating with

the Forum's predecessor, the NGO Group on Primary Health Care where Irmgard Rimondini introduced me to what was then considered our main focus.

IAW may also appoint representatives for the Annual Regional Meetings of WHO and can participate in health conferences on topics of general interest. That way I was able to attend the Global Conference on Health Promotion in Mexico City, the fifth on the themes of Alma Ata and, of course, reported on it in the *International Women's News*. My experience is that when asked what we are doing, especially on health, it is very helpful to carry copies of the *IAW Action Programme* and point out the section on Health. It definitely helps to carry the label IAW Health Commission.

Since last year IAW has with Hélène Sackstein a new representative in Geneva, with much expertise on the Convention on the Right of the Child. She is the Co-Convenor of a recently founded Sub Group on The child's right to health. The Convention defines childhood up to the age of eighteen that is including adolescents, and we see it as an important task to work on the gender dimensions of the topic. After all, childhood and adolescent experiences make us into what we are as adults.

IAW representatives see as one of their tasks to speak up if the gender dimension is not adequately addressed. That happens quite often as the majority of the NGOs dealing with health are mixed ones. Especially in organisations with paid staff, men are often the decision makers and act in public. But do not deduct from this that all women are gender-conscious. What about gender balance in WHO? Despite many years of efforts to have more women in decision-making positions, in national delegations and on the expert panels, progress is slow.

At WHO the conceptual basis for reducing discriminations in the field of health are now the two notions Gender and Equity. The gender dimensions of health issues defined as 'sex differences in prevalence, onset

and course of illnesses and disorders' are more and more being researched. The kit *Women's Health matters* at all ages issued by the Department Gender and Women's Health has information sheets on topics like Gender and Blindness, Gender and Tuberculosis, Gender and Mental Health and will be enlarged. A kit on Violence against Women of 1999 qualifies its current forms as a public health problem. Dr. Nafsiah M'Boi, the department's director, for some years acted as focal point for a number of women NGOs. At a meeting where she presented her focal issues she asked our opinion about doing health related research on the violence issue. We could not but agree. IAW has since taken part in the WHO Global Campaign for Violence Prevention by displaying WHO posters at events dealing with violence against women and children, and inform about the campaign.

This is in line with our duty to spread health messages in our member organisations and to encourage our members to work on selected topics and give feedback. Feedback is, in fact, crucial if we wish to keep our status of Official Relations with WHO. Periodic written reports about IAW activities in specific fields are the basis our work is being judged by.

Written and oral reports at the IAW meetings are a must as well and serve to keep our members informed and motivated. Fortunately I have very cooperative Resource Members in quite a number of countries. Which meant for example that IAW was able to make an input in the discussions of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control through Soon-Young Yoon who worked relentlessly on the gender aspects of the problem.

Representing IAW also means reading dozens of health documents each year and recommend some of the most pertinent information via the IAW information channels to our members. Unfortunately most literature I receive is in English only, a French translation some times follows. In the era of electronic communication it has become rather easy for those who really wish to be informed or to work on one of our core health issues to consult web

pages and to get in touch. However, printed information keeps its merits and I have made it a habit to provide WHO documents on reproductive health issues for our IAW meetings which is very much appreciated.

One thing is for sure: the mottos 'Women's Health throughout her Life-span and across Borders', 'Women, Health and Development' and 'Women's Health and Human Rights' stand for a tremendous amount of pioneering work done by researchers, dedicated WHO staff, health workers and women's NGOs to name but the most important players. For more than 20 years I have watched systematic efforts to explore fields like maternal mortality and other reproductive health issues including family planning and female genital mutilation, mental health, occupational health, breast cancer, cervical cancer, life-style issues like nutrition, tobacco, psychotropic drugs, violence and health. Of course, exploration and official reports are only one side of the medal. Resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly are one of the means to put the WHO member states to work and to make the inherent health benefits trickle down to all their citizens. For NGOs resolutions present a chance to lobby government delegations in order to have their special concerns included.

During all those years Presidents Alice Marangopoulos and Patricia Giles have both been very supportive and, at times, became actively involved in health issues on behalf of IAW. I am grateful for the trust they placed in all our efforts at WHO.

To conclude: We all know that health cannot be taken for granted, that it implies both personal and government responsibilities. All too often women lack the power and the financial means to be or to stay in good health. This is why it is so important to keep in mind that health is an overarching issue and to be aware of the links between health and human rights as well as between health and the social and economic environment. ♦

Guðrun Haupter

The CEDAW Convention

Work done by the Danish Women's Society and the IAW

An important barrier to full equal rights between women and men is the fact that women do not know their rights. Only a few women are aware of the fact that the international society has adopted this convention on equal rights which guarantees women basic freedoms and rights. This is the main reason why the Danish Women's Society decided to focus on the CEDAW Convention.



■ Padmini Christiansen (left), many years Convenor Committee on CEDAW, with Marijke Peters, Archives officer

CEDAW Conference 1991

We started in 1991 by organizing, under the auspices of the International Alliance of Women, a European regional conference in Denmark on the Convention. Women from 20 different nations, including guest participants from the Baltic countries, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia met to share their experiences and develop new strategies in their work to achieve the rights that the CEDAW Convention guarantees all women.

During this conference we realised even more strongly that there was a great lack of knowledge about the existence of the Convention. How can women use this important tool if they do not know about it?

CEDAW information kit 1992/93

Therefore our second project was to produce an information kit in Danish about the Convention for women to use to study the Convention and get ideas on how to use the Convention to improve the situation of women. The kit contains among other things:

- the convention text in Danish
- articles on several issues contained in the Convention – legal literacy, politics, labour market, health etc
- information on how the Convention and the CEDAW Committee works
- case studies showing how women have used the Convention
- a copy of the Danish Government's latest report to the CEDAW Committee, etc.

We have also produced a poster with the text of the Convention in Danish

International workshops

In 1994 and 1995 we held workshops at the Nordic Forum in Finland, the UN Social Summit in Copenhagen and the UN Women's Conference in Beijing about our CEDAW kit in order to encourage women to make similar kits in their own countries and languages.

CEDAW Campaign 1996

In 1996 we raised money to run a campaign in Denmark for our own branches and other women's organisations. Public meetings were held throughout the country on the Convention itself and the Convention

related to violence, education, trafficking in women, the labour market etc.

Baltic-Nordic Conference 1997

In 1997 we held a workshop on CEDAW and our work on the Convention at the Baltic-Nordic Conference on equal opportunities in Latvia. There was great interest in the Convention as a useful tool for their work there.

Updating the CEDAW kit 1998 Centre for Human Rights 1998/'99

In 1998 we updated our CEDAW information kit with new statistics, case studies and bibliographies. In addition we held 1-day seminars on the Convention and our work with it at international courses organised by the Danish Centre for Human Rights. These were attended by 30-40 judges; NOG activists and the like working with human rights in their own countries. They came from Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa.

50th Anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1998

1998 was also the 50th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In that connection we held two public workshops. One workshop was on the Convention and trafficking in women, and the other was on the Convention and women and violence.

Seminar with focus on immigrant women

In 1999 we held a seminar for teachers of Danish language for immigrant women in Denmark on the CEDAW Convention and how it could be used to improve their situation in Denmark. The idea was to inform the teachers about the Convention and our information kit in the hope that they could use the material in their teaching both as a Danish language text for learning Danish but also as a means of informing these women of their rights.

Danish National Reports and the Optional Protocol

The Danish Women's Society has written comments to the Danish Government's National Periodic Reports to the CEDAW Committee, most recently for the sixth report in 2004. These comments are published in the official report as an appendix. We have also participated actively in the work to obtain the Optional Protocol, for example as members of a committee under the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the establishment of the Protocol. We are happy to say that Denmark was the third country to ratify the Protocol.

CEDAW Conference 2001

In 2001 – again under the auspices of the International Alliance of Women – we held a follow-up conference to the one in 1991 where all the work



■ Lene Pind, President Convenor Civil and Political Rights CEDAW

started. Again women from all over the world travelled to Denmark to attend the conference. They came from different parts of Europe, Africa, North America, the Caribbean, and Asia both to learn about the progress made since 1991 and to contribute to the conference. We had excellent national and international speakers to give inspiration to the work that must be continued in order to achieve full implementation of the CEDAW Convention in the world.

Conclusion

The CEDAW Convention covers every aspect of women's lives. For that reason and because it is an internationally accepted tool in the struggle for equality between women and men, it is very important that women's organisations in the world take up the work of informing women of their rights as they are set out in the articles of the Convention.

The International Alliance of Women is an international feminist network through which knowledge and ideas can be shared about the work that we do in our different parts of the world for the advancement of women.

Best wishes for your work with this important convention! ♦

**Leslie Larsen, Danish Women's
Society**

**Lene Pind, Danish Women's Society,
Board member of the IAW**



■ Final dinner of CEDAW Seminar Arhus, 25-31 October 1991

A report from the conference is available at the office of the Danish Women's Society
Niels Hemmingsensgade 10,
3 1153 Copenhagen K.
e-mail: kontor@kvindesamfund.dk

The four UN World Conferences on Women

The First UN World Conference ever held by the United Nations was in 1972. It was on the Environment. The Conference took place in Stockholm. The second, on Population & Development was held in 1974 in Bucharest and the third was on Women in 1975 – in Mexico City. Many more UN Conferences, on a variety of issues, have been held since then.



■ NGO Forum Huairou (Beijing) 1995

Mexico City 1975

The United Nations First World Conference on Women in Mexico City was the outcome of long and persistence work by International Women's organisations, working hand in hand with the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations to organise a World Conference. Since 1919, so much legislation had been put in place for women regarding work, marriage, inheritance rights, employment, equal citizenship etc so much so that many women delegates to the Commission on the Status of Women felt that it was time for women to produce a *Plan of Action* to implement some, if not all, of this legislation.

About 5,000 women attended this First Mexico City Conference. 2,000 were expected. The three themes for the Conference were Equality, Development & Peace. Betty Freidan's book *The Feminist Mystique* had just been published and she was (with her book) to be seen everywhere at the Conference.

In New York, at the United Nations itself, long and heated discussions were taking place regarding trade and the establishment of a 'new international economic order'. A great deal of the ongoing tensions in New York regarding the need and urgency to set up new patterns of trade and these

tensions and economic discussions, to some extent filtered through to Mexico City. Lively debates took place. A *Plan of Action* was drawn up and agreed upon. A resolution was passed to set up in a third world country an Institute for Training & Research for Women (this was to be the International Institute for Research and Training for the Advancement of Women – INSTRAW, finally set up in the Dominican Republic). This Institute was to work on the newer issues of Science & Technology & Communications and their impact on the lives of women. In addition, work and committees were set up to establish a Convention against Discrimination

(now in place as the Convention in the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women – CEDAW). A Decade for Women 1975-1985 was announced – with the same themes as for the Conference: Equality, Peace & Development. It was here where once again some women proclaimed that they were or were not feminists or if they declared themselves to be feminists, they were then asked whether or not, they allied themselves to Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan, the new feminists of North America or were they feminists of the European kind or just women interested in the advancement of women?

Copenhagen 1980

In 1980, another UN World Conference on Women was held in Copenhagen. Its mandate was to review the progress made regarding the First Plan of Action of Mexico City. A Peace & Disarmament petition with millions of signatures was presented to the UN Secretary General, Kurt Waldheim and further actions were called for to bring peace in the Middle East, in Lebanon and to halt the constant confrontations between the two superpowers at that time – Russia and the USA. There was great difficulty in reaching a consensus at this meeting and some women's organisations withdrew from the international arena after this Conference.

Nairobi 1985

The third UN Conference on Women was held in Nairobi and here women, particularly women from the non-governmental women organisations in consultation with the UN Economic and Social Council – showed themselves to be expert negotiators and

steered the Conference through what was going to be very stormy waters. Space was limited for this Conference and as with all the other Conferences – the politics of the male operated UN intervened in the organisation of this conference. The United Nations at this point was entering into a period in which its work seemed to be concentrated on crisis management – and not much else.

Up to 1985 and throughout the Cold War period, women had been quietly progressing and advancing the cause of women in a legitimate UN fashion. They first took their concerns and recommendations through to the Commission on the Status of Women where the global standard setting would be established. They then translated that theory into practice through the various Plans of Action at their national, regional and international fields of interest on behalf of women.

In spite of inadequate leadership during this Third World Conference on Women from the UN... The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies is a Plan of Action that all women in and out of government, young and old can be extremely proud of. It is dynamic, modern, comprehensive and visionary.

Beijing 1995

The Beijing (4th World Conference on Women) was held in 1995. 36,000 women attended it. Even though its mandate was supposed to be 'to review' the progress of the Nairobi *Forward Looking Strategies* a decision was made to work upon another *Plan of Action*... to be called 12 Critical



■ Banner Beijing 1995

Areas of Concern. The debate about the wisdom of this is on-going. Criticism of this Fourth World Conference *Plan of Action* is that it is very vague on implementation. Some women would even argue that it is essentially a *Plan of Action* which tends to encourage an apolitical approach rather than a political one. Some see it as an economic development *Plan of Action* rather than an economic and social development plan for women. Whilst others argue that breaking down our concerns into twelve critical areas of concern (single issues) at a time when financial resources are scarce is the only way to go.

A Beijing plus 10 review is being planned for 2005.

The IAW was involved in preparing the draft papers for the conferences and was represented at these 4 Women World Conferences. We also enjoyed informal meetings with the many IAW members present in Nairobi and Beijing. IAW contributed to the extensive NGO Forum workshop programmes in Nairobi with: 1) Post literacy Work, Restart After Interruptions by the IAW education commission. 2) Needs of Rural Women: Equality of Opportunity for Girls and Women. In Beijing CEDAW was an IAW workshop subject. The AIWC also organised a workshop. ♦



■ NGO Forum Seminar AIWC, Huairou (Beijing) 1995

| Bettina Corke

Geneva and the activities of IAW-AIF at the international organisations

The League of Nations started its work in Geneva in 1920. Already during the peace talks in Paris after World War I Margery Corbett Ashby representing the IWSA and Marchioness Aberdeen, President of the ICW, were given a half hour interview with President Wilson, USA and founder of the League of Nations. It was accepted that all positions in this Geneva based organisation would be open to women, and that women would be able to vote on equal terms with men. This has given the possibility for members of IAW to be included in the delegations of States to the League of Nations.

In 1928 the International Labour Organisation (ILO-OIT) was founded and based in Geneva. The ILO has taken the same rules as the League of Nations: women are fully accepted in its delegations. The ILO meets annually. IAW is on its special list as number 36 and our representatives work there with great pleasure on many items concerning the advancement of women, such as equality of salary, maternity leave, the situation of women in the informal economy and the campaign for social security.



■ Irmgard Rimondini

In the last years IAW also lobbied against the worst forms of child labour, following the outlines of the 2002 report of ILO Secretary General Juan Somavia *A Future without the Work of Children*, and the important convention on this issue.

Soon after the United Nations (UN-ONU) founded the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 1946, IAW obtained consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) – giving it access to those two functional commissions. While the CSW meets annually in New York, the CHR meets in Geneva and its presence is marked by its secretariat at the office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in the Palais Wilson.

The NGO delegation of the IAW to the CHR was assured by Marie Ginsberg, afterwards by Dame Margery Corbett Ashby, helped regularly by Irmgard Rimondini since 1963. Irmgard Rimondini has taken responsibility for the delegation for more than 30 years for all Geneva activities and fulfilled this duty in a memorable way. She was honoured by IAW with a Hon. Vice-Presidency. In 1995 – on a suggestion of the Swiss affiliate – the President of IAW proposed to her a helping hand whom she introduced to UN as she did with so many members of IAW: Jessika Kehl-Lauff, who has taken responsibility for the IAW-delegation in Geneva since 1996. Irmgard Rimondini was honoured by all important members of the 'NGO family' at her 80th birthday in the Pal-

ais des Nations. There were even remarkable statements by some UN-officials who remembered having learnt about UN-rules from this always kind and diplomatic but also frank lady.

Jessika Kehl-Lauff soon gave full responsibility for the delegation to the meetings of the World Health Organisation (WHO-OMS) to Gudrun Haupter, Germany, and Mala Pal, India, two representatives who since long have done the work concerning health in IAW (see special report). In the mean time she built up a well functioning team at Geneva which made itself

known at all meetings of the IAW-AIF by its annual reports in English and French. 'The Geneva Team of IAW' refers to women who have presented themselves with their CV and at least one specific report on an area of feminism to the Board of the IAW-AIF, while the NGO delegation of the IAW-AIF refers to all women accredited by the responsible officer of the IAW for certain meetings or conferences. These are very often interested members of our affiliates or of associated organisations.

The Geneva Team (incl. inter alia: Erika Bopp, Isabelle Cavicchi-Broquet, Karoline Frischkopf, Maria Esperanza Furter, Jessika Kehl-Lauff, Maria Anna Knothe, Mala Pal, Irmgard Rimondini, Helene Sackstein,

Barbara Taylor, Marguerite Wieser) have attended some World Summits and meetings of the ILO and ECOSOC held in Geneva and the annual meetings of the CHR and its Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The issues dealt with under the main title 'advancement of women' include: elimination of violence against women, problem of trafficking in women and children, particularly girls; against traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls such as FGM; the right on equal ownership and equal rights to own property and to adequate housing and inheritance; against feminisation of poverty; protection of migrants and their families; the important role of women in the promotion of sustainable development, as well as in regions of conflict where women should have a larger part in the building up of reconciliation and peace; the importance of easy and equal access to all information in the new worldwide 'Information Society'; and last but not least the right to vote!

Under the title of the important role of women in the economy, we are also on the special list of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) where we follow with great interest the research and technical help UNCTAD gives to many developing states. We took contact as well with the World Trade Organisation (WTO-OMC), based in Geneva, and follow specially the Doha-Initiative.



■ Jessika Kehl-Lauff

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Fifteenth Session, Geneva, March, 1961

Item 6. Economic Rights and Opportunities for Women.

The Commission had before it two reports of main interest to our work, namely:

1. The I.L.O. report on the application of Convention No. 111 concerning discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation. (E/CN.6/379), and

2. The Secretary-General's report on the Occupational Outlook for Women (E/CN.6/343 and E/CN.6/374), in which was included the I.A.W. collation of replies received from 10 of our Societies to a questionnaire on this subject.

The Resolutions passed by the Status of Women Commission and its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council to adopt these resolutions are a happy outcome of the strong representations made by N.G.O.'s on matters pertaining to the employment opportunities of women. It is hoped that members of the national committees of the Equal Economic Rights Commission will make a note of these resolutions and either bring with them or send to the Congress at Dublin their constructive suggestions as to how we can best implement these, and, in those cases where work has already been done, to send us the report of such work in order that our other Societies may benefit from it.

Resolution I. Part-time Work for Women. The Commission on the Status of Women... bearing in mind that part-time work for women, as in particular in the case of women with children, may be one of the means of giving women an opportunity for employment and occupation, in order to decide on future action to be taken.

Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the I.L.O., to bring up-to-date for a future session of the

Commission their previous studies on part-time work for women on the basis of information to be obtained from N.G.O.'s in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and expresses the hope that the I.L.O. will find it possible to prepare a report on the subject.

In view of our study of the problems raised by the dual role of women, the provision of part-time job schedules would be an important factor.

Resolution II. Expansion of Employment Opportunities for Women. Noting the reports of the Secretary-General on the Occupational Outlook for Women. Recognising the urgent need for expanding the opportunities for women's employment in accordance with their qualifications.

Recommends that States Members pay special attention to the problems of employment of women, and take all possible steps to promote for women who desire to work opportunities to obtain employment in accordance with their qualifications and abilities.

The resolution also invites I.L.O. to submit information on those of its activities which have a bearing on the employment of women.

One of the reasons some of our Societies desired a Women's Bureau, was that such a body would have the means of studying the expanding employment opportunities for women, and by means of investigations and research, be better able to channel woman power into suitable fields of employment.

Item 6c. Discrimination in Employment and Occupation.

Resolution III. Noting that in many countries discrimination against women in employment and occupation is not yet eliminated.

Recognising the need for its earliest possible elimination.

Stressing the importance of action to change social attitudes.

Invites the I.L.O. to continue its studies of discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation and to give further consideration to ways of eliminating all the aspects of such discrimination.

Mainly the lack of facilities for vocational guidance, training and apprenticeship prevent women from qualifying to enter new fields of employment. Women are barred from certain apprenticeships, lack of amenities for women in some technical schools prevent the acceptance of women applicants, laboratory facilities are lacking or unsatisfactory. The study of the Occupational Outlook for Women highlighted these discriminations in only a few of the occupations. Further studies by the I.L.O. of discriminations which militate against the employment of women would help our Societies to fight such discriminations and over-ride the obstacles in the employment of women.

Resolution IV. Mainly deals with the discrimination against women on marriage. In this connection we have been asked by I.L.O. to answer a questionnaire on employment discrimination against women on the ground of marital status, and copies of this questionnaire are being sent to our affiliated Societies. The replies must reach me by August 1961, and I would greatly appreciate it if all our Societies replied even briefly.

An interesting point made in this resolution is the invitation to the I.L.O. to consider to what extent discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation in different countries is attributable to the fact that the cost of all or some social welfare benefits, particularly maternity benefits, is defrayed solely by employers and not out of public funds or other collective arrangements.

We have time and again adduced this fact as one of those which govern discriminatory rates of pay.

LAUREL CARNEADEL

Chairman, Equal Economic Rights Commission.

June 7th, 1961.

(Source: IWNNews, Vol. 56 - No. 7, July 1961)

Supporting the call of the High Commissioner on Human Rights we feel the need of the globalisation of knowledge and realisation of the fundamental Human Rights for all beings in this one world we are sharing. Also we support the demand of the U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals – a vision that is shared with many female and male representatives all over the globe.

"To share" means for us to network with many NGOs in different situations. Inside the strongest network – the Conference of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC (CONGO) – members of the team have served or are serving in various capacities

Jessika Kehl-Lauff, Vice-president and Representative to Geneva of the IAW July 2004

The Food and Agricultural Organisation

The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations was founded at a conference in Quebec on 16th October, 1945.

The aims and objectives of FAO are *“to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve the production, processing, marketing and distribution of all food and agricultural products from farms, forests and fisheries, to promote rural development and improve the living conditions of rural populations, and by these means eliminate hunger.”*

All IAW members have been concerned with women workers rights since 1904. IAW was therefore delighted to receive a formal invitation from FAO, in 1969, to become an ‘international non-governmental organisation in liaison status with FAO’. IAW immediately appointed an UN IAW Permanent Representative to FAO. This liaison status with FAO entitled the IAW Representative to attend all official intergovernmental meetings as an ‘Observer’. IAW could submit statements and recommendations to the various FAO conferences and meetings taking place on behalf of our membership.

Consequently, since 1969, this IAW liaison status with FAO has enabled a two-way flow of information to take place between FAO and IAW. The IAW UN Permanent Representative is required by IAW, to attend all intergovernmental meetings and report back to the IAW Congress, the outcomes of those intergovernmental meetings and conferences. FAO is required to record the interventions of the Observer – NGO Permanent Representative in the official documents. As we all know, many of IAW’s members are deeply involved in the questions of agriculture, food and nutrition. They are still trying to attain social and economic development based upon justice and the full,

just and equal participation of women farmers (commercial and subsistence), and for workers rights in the food processing industry. In addition, IAW has struggled and is still struggling to set in place (and when in place see that these laws are implemented) the necessary occupational and safety hazards legislation to protect agricultural (women and men) workers and farmers, against the harmful effects of pesticides and other chemicals substances being used in cash-crop agricultural production. Chemicals that are not only harmful to human beings but also to the soil and to the environment.

In this way, the UN Representative is able to inform the FAO of IAW’s interest in agriculture and the elimination of hunger and in turn IAW could inform its membership on the programmes being proposed by the members states of FAO, the trends and the patterns of development regarding development, agriculture and the ‘elimination of hunger’ being pursued by the FAO and its Member States. Here, it should be noted that since 1981, the IAW has been an active member in a group of International Non-governmental organisations (INGO’s) under the banner of The Ad Hoc Group of INGO’s with FAO in Rome. During the 1990s until the present time – FAO’s programme to eliminate hunger has not been very successful. There are more hungry people now than there were in 1996, when the UN/FAO World Food Summit was held.

In the year 2001 a five year review of the UN/FAO World Food Summit was held and disappointment was voiced by many present at that meeting, in the non-implementation of the goals

of the World Food Summit. This was reflected in the opinions and statements given by most of the Ad Hoc Group of INGO’s in consultative and liaison status with FAO, by certain member States and by the NGO Forum on Food Sovereignty.

This negative assessment of the UN/FAO World Food Summit and FAO’s present day inability to solve the question of hunger indicates how much more analysis and hard thinking must take place inside and outside of FAO, by the Secretariat and by the Member States of FAO if the implementation of UN preamble to the Charter of:

- A belief in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...
- And to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained...
- And to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom...
- And to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all people is too acted upon in the near future.

As we enter the Third Millennium, IAW still has a great deal of work to do at the FAO, to ensure the advancement of women in rural development within the context of democracy and full participation. ♦



Bettina Corke,
UN IAW
Permanent
Representative
to FAO,
1996-2004

'Great necessities call out great virtues'

(Abigail Adams)

My story with women is intimately related to my being one. As an only girl, with three brothers I was made painfully aware of this reality during my formative years. More so when I was married off at 16. Hardly a woman yet, and not quite a girl either, I grew up fast. In the words of Simone de Beauvoir, "One is not born a woman, one becomes one."

Coming from an ultra conservative background in Upper Egypt and finding myself a housewife, I longed to test the limits of my possibilities. The first and best way I knew of doing so was through continuing my education, and attending university. I vowed to work on myself, to better myself, and in turn work with those whose situation needed bettering. I would give a Voice and a Profile to those without, but first I had to acquire them myself.

My first step was to join the (opposition) liberal party (Wafd), to carve out a political identity and step onto a larger platform. (My ambitions, even then, were international, and I yearned to be part of the world stage.) Following the earthquake in 1992, I felt I had found my calling. Here was a chance to give back and alleviate suffering. The earthquake victims were the neediest of the needy, and through no fault of their own. They were homeless; they were uneducated, unemployed and unemployable. It would not be easy to effect change but I felt the place to start was through Education and Awareness, which was where I had begun.

Through the Egyptian society for the Development of Local communities, that I founded in 1993, I sought to serve the most vulnerable in the community, particularly women and young girls and to walk them down the path from marginalization to participation. I meant to arm them with all the tools necessary to becoming well rounded and well-adjusted members of society. This was achieved through a manifold approach: continuous classes of illiteracy eradication, awareness programmes stressing the importance of environment, proper nutrition, health hazards, human and women's rights, family laws, etc...



■ Mona Korashy

The idea was not only to upgrade their education and awareness but their tastes as well, i.e. when it came to clothing, cleanliness, Another project aimed at assisting the underprivileged to obtain their official papers, ID, and voting cards – once again that they might be heard and seen, as well as sought out by the political candidates of their constituencies.

Throughout it all, I've never believed in charity, and those who did not wish to help themselves, never received free handouts from me. I believe with the Chinese, that you help someone not by handing them a fish, but by teaching them to fish. If I am a feminist it is only because as a woman I am sensitive to their cause. Ultimately, I would like to think of myself as a humanist, one who wishes enlightenment and liberation to all. For "as long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you otherwise might" (Marian Anderson). ♦

Mona Korashy (Egypt)
Board Member (1989-2002),
regional co-ordinator North Africa

"One is not born a woman, one becomes one."

Two generations



■ Constance Rover

Constance Rover, the only child of William and Caroline Skerry, was born in Cumbria in 1910, one of the most beautiful and geographically interesting parts of the United Kingdom. She was born into what was in many ways a 'gentler age', well before the roads were clogged with cars or the skies with planes. More significantly, 1910 was four years before the watershed of the Great War, which changed British society for ever and finally brought women the franchise.



■ Helen Self

One cannot say to what extent she was influenced by her own parents, since her father died early from the quintessentially Victorian complaint of tuberculosis and her mother of cancer, so that by the time she was twenty four Constance was on her own. Despite a good education at the local grammar school in Cockermouth, she was not given the opportunity to go to university, which she undoubtedly deserved. So, like many young women of the time, she learnt shorthand and typing and became a secretary.

Following the war, my mother moved with her solicitor husband (Frederick Rover) and myself to Beckenham in Kent. As women of the time were expected to stay at home and look after the children, my mother compensated by developing outside interests; she went swimming, joined the Women's Citizens Association (affiliated to the IAW) and the Townswomen's Guild. This is where her interest in feminism, the IAW and the women's cause began to develop. She also studied for an external degree in economics at the University of London, which she passed with honours. Once qualified she began to give lectures for the Workers Education Association and evening courses at what was then the North-Western London Polytechnic. Once I had arrived at the tender age of seventeen I moved to Swanley Horticultural College to begin training and my mother and father moved to Highgate, in London, into the same road as Hilary Paddon! Over the following fifteen years she worked as a senior lecturer and became head of her department at the polytechnic, taking first a masters degree and later a doctorate.

The book which was the result of her PhD thesis, '*Women's Suffrage and Party Politics, 1866-1914*' (1967), was a ground-breaking influence on the second wave of feminism in

Britain, and for many years was the only serious academic text on the subject. By a happy chance the publication date was exactly one hundred years after the first suffrage society was formed in Britain. Two more books were to follow, '*The Punch Book of Women's Rights*' (1967) and '*Love, Morals and the Feminist*' (1970).

During the 1980s my mother became a Board member of the Alliance and she kindly offered to take me with her to the Congress in Melbourne, Australia, in order to keep her company on the long journey. Thus it was that I was drawn into the fray! We later travelled together to Iceland, Japan and the Netherlands. Inevitably, I became interested in the feminist cause; it would have been difficult to ignore it during the 1970s and 80s. Following in my mother's footsteps I also became an IAW Board member, serving from 1996-2002. In addition, I copied her by taking an external degree once my youngest son was at school and, finally, a doctorate in the contentious subject of the law as it applies to prostitution in England and Wales. Always a difficult topic, which has divided feminist opinion for well over a century. Happily, my thesis has also been converted into a book, but perhaps, not as ground-breaking as my mother's. In the acknowledgements I refer to her as 'my inspiration, my mentor and my friend'. How amazing to have such a fine intellect launching a daughter into the world of feminist activism!

My mother is presently in a care home for the elderly in Folkestone whilst I am still typing away merrily on my computer, trying to change the world! ♦

■ Helen J. Self, daughter of Constance Rover

Three generations

As I write this, I realise that a 'three generational family commitment to feminism' could have been written by many other members of the Alliance. I remember that at one of our meetings, an Alliance Congress, some other delegates from India, Germany, Sweden, and Africa told me about their grandmothers' and mothers' deep involvement in 'feminism' and in the 'advancement of Women', during the early and mid. 20th Century.

Remembering that, I modestly submit my thoughts to you, about my family's experiences, not because I feel that my grandmother's and my mother's experiences were unique; – not at all. They were merely, a minute part of the whole and dynamic women's movement – moving at that time into the public sphere of social and political change.

Yet, here I begin to have my doubts. I begin to see that, perhaps, there was an aspect of uniqueness in how my family's total support of feminism came about. This uniqueness, call it what you will, came about because, the men as well as the women in my family, past and present, were and are committed 'feminists'. They believe now and believed then in the advancement of women. So much so, that they were and still are convinced that humanity and the cause of full popular participation and hence democracy could not, and indeed, will not come about, until the advancement of women becomes a reality, right throughout society, in thought, deed and practice.

So, you see I was lucky. It was very easy for me to believe in the Cause of Women. I did not have to fight or leave the family to become a feminist. As so many women, have to do. My family accepted that feminism was a dynamic and necessary movement. It was accepted that no political party was worth the family's support, unless it declared in its manifesto that it was going to work for 'the advancement of women'.

To achieve this goal my family believed that women must be helped to be liberated from the rampant almost feudal practices of domination and control that men had over women. Women needed to be liberated from many of the cultural and traditional religious and non-religious malpractices of the past (inheritance, marriage rights, property, the custody of children, discrimination, to be free inside and outside of the home etc.). They held the firm belief that men in particular and society at large must be freed from all the collective prejudices against women. The prejudices that society had integrated into its culture, regarding women and women's role in society.

My dictionary states that 'feminism' is a movement which promotes the advancement of women, in education, socially and politically.

I, as a feminist of the Third Millennium, have no problem with that. I want to be out there (just like my grandmother and my mother) in the world, at home and abroad, together with the Alliance, campaigning for a different world from the one in which we presently find ourselves. Our world, no matter where we live is a world of sadness, of war and of civil and political conflict. A world full of injustices and inequalities between nations, between peoples and individuals. I do not wish to bring flowers to the dead but flowers to the living. I wish to bring not a shroud but a dancing garment.

As I try to reflect upon it and I try to understand 'feminism' and its influence on my life and upbringing I feel that I am trying to put into words something that is felt and nothing else... It is like trying to explain the 'sound' of the wind.

My feminism is as natural to me as the wind. It is strong and it is organic. My childhood (in my memory at least) seems to have consisted of statements coming from voices repeating their messages within the hollow of our house... for example... that *"the wind is coming from the North East, a storm is coming – you better not move far away from the house today."* I remember thinking how it is possible that the wind talks and tells my father that it is bringing a storm? Then, again as a child, I remember hearing that *"Oh those two women, they were 'something else' – out in the streets marching, demanding with others the vote, knocking on doors, organising, being supporters of Bertrand Russell in his campaign to get elected as a male feminist to the British Parliament."* This voice above me (I was very small) was telling me nothing and everything – about the wind, about my grandmother and my mother. Yet what was handed to me was the possibility of thinking for myself, choosing for myself and the understanding that I could and should change the world.

In my eyes and in my head, of course my grandmother and my mother still loom larger than life. I must confess that in my heart of hearts, I would like to be remembered in the years to come as being 'something else'. Perhaps this means a passionate full blooded feminist. I really don't know. ♦

Bettina Corke

'My dictionary states that 'feminism' is a movement which promotes the advancement of women, in education, socially and politically.'

Aroti Dutt (1926-2003)

The sad demise of well known Social Worker, Aroti Dutt, is the end of an era in the social circuit. She was known nationally and internationally as a path breaker in women's welfare.

Being born as the daughter of a Freedom fighter, she was brought up in the atmosphere of outstanding service and sacrifice. She was married into a family of a well known Social Worker. Her life was surrounded by ambience of welfare and service. Her main concern was women's and children's issue. For this she dedicated her life.

She joined Sarojnalini Dutt Memorial Association as a young married woman. When she joined it had only 3 sections. She nurtured the Association which has reached National and International field. Now the association has got 22 sections. She worked incessantly to improve the quality of life in the community. She felt that women have to be empowered. For that they should be literate and aware of their situation and they should have a vocation which will make them self sufficient. These ideas spread through 77 Mahila Samities and Mahila Samities work following this objective.

Her greatest achievement is setting up of Mirpur Rural Headquarters of Sarojnalini Dutt Memorial Association. It serves 100 villages in south 24 Parganas with an integrated programme of literacy, health, nutrition, child care, family planning, clean water, and income generation. Internationally Save Sight project which takes care of malnourished children is also housed in Mirpur.

She founded Country women's Association of India, Soroptimist International of Calcutta and later Soroptimist Association of India, Inner wheel club of Calcutta South-West and Rotary club of Ballygunge. She was Vice-President of the International Alliance of Women, Patron of National Indian Association & Vice-President of Gurusaday Museum.



■ Aroti Dutt

"The pressure to obtain all individual rights of those who already have all individual liabilities and responsibilities, is so logical as to become well nigh irresistible."

Dr. Mary Putman Jacobi (*Jus Suffragii*
No. 4, December 15, 1906)

She was elected Area President for Asia of Associated Country women of the world and was the only Asian to be elected as World President of Associated Country Women of the World for two consecutive terms. She was member of Honour of Associated Country Women of the World and represented the same at various agencies of United Nations Organisations. She was a member of World View International.

She loved travelling, reading, music, painting, etc. She had written four books, three in Bengali and one in English and has written many articles in various journals. She brought hope to so many helpless women and under her guidance, Sarojnalini Dutt Memorial Association gave shelter to them. With her passing away, light has gone out of many lives. But she would be remembered for her commitment and dedication to Women's cause.

I stayed with Aroti in Calcutta on my return from Japan in 1991, and visited her projects. She told me that Sarojnalini was the name of her mother-in-law who had died very young. Her husband founded and financed the Association in her memory and Aroti was asked to be founder member. Aroti in her turn lost her husband when she was still very young. ♦

Jayashree Sen

Additional info:

The Sarojnalini Dutt Memorial Association of West Bengal was admitted as associate member to the International Alliance of Women in 1986. The Country Women's Association of India became affiliated member in 1989. Aroti Dutt was elected to the board as Vice-President in 1989, honorary Vice-President in 1996 and appointed Special Projects Planning Officer.

In Memoriam

Padmini Casinader Christiansen

At the 2002 post-Congress Board meeting in Sri Lanka, Padmini Casinader Christiansen was elected Convenor of the newly established IAW standing Commission on CEDAW / Human Rights. Health problems had prevented her from attending Congress and on my return from Colombo, when I told her about the new Commission, she was thrilled and immediately started planning how to go about the work. We were going to find a day to talk about it as soon as she began to feel a little better.

On December 5, 2002, however, the cancer got the better of her, and she died.

Padmini Casinader first came to Denmark in 1954 at the invitation of Esther Graf, then President of the IAW, and on the suggestion of her mother, Laurel Casinader. The Alliance was planning its first Congress in Ceylon, and the experience of a young Ceylonese woman would be useful in the preparatory work.

This trip changed her life completely. In Denmark she met and married Erik Christiansen who, with a strong sense of solidarity, has supported her work for the Danish Women's Society and the IAW through all the years. Many local and international women have enjoyed the warm hospitality of Padmini and Erik in their home "Lanka" just outside Copenhagen.

From 1980 until her death, Padmini was an active and highly esteemed member of the Danish Women's Society. She soon became Chairwoman of the DWS Developing Countries Committee, which for many years organised seminars on women in the third world. Later she chaired the International Committee, which went on to become one of the best organised and most hard working committees of the Society. It was in that capacity that she followed in her mother's footsteps and became involved in the work of the Alliance. An IAW Board member from 1987 to 1996 and then Convenor of

the Committee on the CEDAW Convention 1996 to 2002, Padmini carried out her work with great conscientiousness and dedication.



Padmini Casinader Christiansen
1926-2002

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was her passion. It was her firm conviction that if only women knew that in the 16 articles of this Convention the international community had set out women's rights as human rights, they would no longer put up with having their rights denied them and, moreover, would realise what an important instrument was available to them in their struggle for equality.

As a consequence of this belief, she decided that the Danish Women's Society and the IAW should do something about it. In 1991, when Padmini was Chairwoman of the International Committee and I was President of the Danish Women's Society, under the auspices of IAW the DWS organised a regional conference on CEDAW in Aarhus, Denmark. More than 20 countries were represented from around the world. The conference was a great success, and we sent the ensuing report to all IAW member organisations in the hope

that they might find the inspiration to organise similar conferences in their parts of the world. Padmini's knowledgeable dedication was indispensable in the process of planning and carrying through the conference.

Her next goal was the production of the CEDAW Kit, a collection of material on the Convention that could be used by women and men in study circles, evening classes, schools, etc to obtain and circulate information about the Convention. In 1995, she presented the Danish CEDAW Kit first at the UN Social Summit in Copenhagen and later at the Beijing NGO Forum.

A few years ago Padmini suggested to me that we should organise another regional conference on CEDAW and so in 2001 – ten years after the first conference – women from all parts of the world met again in Denmark, with quite a few new and pleasingly some younger faces, to analyse and assess the work done since 1991. Another report – edited by Leslie Larsen – was sent out to all IAW affiliates and associates, Padmini's ongoing hope being that it would inspire IAW members to spread the word about the importance of the CEDAW Convention as an instrument to help women become full members of their society with all accompanying human rights.

Padmini retired many times over the past 5 years or so, but only for a few weeks at a time. There was always something else to be done! She was a dedicated person, a great personality, beautiful to look at, gentle and considerate to be with, strong-headed and persevering in her work for the women of the world, a great inspiration to many women and, last but not least, a close friend.

29 December 2002
Lene Pind

Brigitte Pross (1912-1996)

My first meeting with Brigitte Pross, my teacher in International work, was at the 1970 IAW Congress in Königstein.

My first encounter with women from all over the world, meeting to exchange points of view, experiences and ideas referring to their status in society. I was fascinated and enjoyed practicing my English helping the Nigerian delegation with translation in a German restaurant.

Brigitte had been delegate of the DFR (Deutsche Frauenring) to the IAW Congresses from 1961. She had taken the responsibility for invitation and preparation of the Königstein Congress. Recognising my enthusiasm she convinced me to join the IAW as individual member. It was one of her multiple talents, to recruit younger women into international work. So I suddenly found myself in the position of DFR-delegate to the social commission. My first difficult job was the IAW questionnaire on 'The situation of single Women with dependant Children'. I learnt to contact government departments and institutions for research.

Brigitte had been elected President of the DFR in 1967. She was leader of our German delegation to the 1972 Congress in Delhi. She managed to organise meetings to inform us on important issues. She delegated responsibilities and found the right person for the job. She taught me to keep questions short and to avoid longwinded speeches. In 1974 I was in an African country for the first time as trainee at an IAW seminar in Ghana on "The Economic Contribution of Women to better Family life". Visiting embassies and German Political foundations it became that you not only represent your organisation but have to lobby for your aims and find out about the country and its people. We were shocked by the confidential information on 'Female genital Mutilation' by a mid-wife from Burkina Faso. Brigitte's long lasting engagements in Women-Projects in West Africa date back to these early contacts.

At IAW seminars and Conferences the reports on violence against women were shocking. In the late 70ties the subject of domestic violence became more important in all countries. There was a desperate need for shelter and psychological help. It was at that time that Brigitte introduced me to the United Nations in Vienna. My most interesting work as IAW observer at the UN for CSW and the Committee on Crime Prevention.

With Brigitte I entered the enormous UN complex in Vienna. She helped, with registration formalities, showing the way through all the long floors, with thousands of offices with open doors and working people of all origins. She explained where to find the papers prepared for the daily meetings. She had made friends with Ms Krey, who worked for the secretariat of the Commission for the Status of

women. Fortunately she was German speaking which made communication easier. At that time at the UN – level there was less information about shelters or initiatives for battered women, than we imagined, and Ms Krey was happy about each article we could present her. Brigitte told me also about formality and the difficult ways in which all UN-meetings are conducted.

I was sitting as delegate and observer for IAW in the back rows. Did you wish to speak, you had to put your name and the name of your organisation on a slip of paper and hand it to the front podium. With some luck and if there was still some time after all the long discussions by State members – all of a sudden you could hear your name and take all your courage, press the button on the microphone and speak!!

With Brigitte Pross and Rosy Weiss I sat in the Lobby with delegates of States or other women-organisations, in order to formulate our resolutions on the important topic of violence and discrimination against women. Once the daughter of Mr. Reagan was among the State delegates and sat with us discussing and drinking a cup of coffee, telling us that she herself had been a battered wife!

Over the years I made progress as observer at the UN. I just want to recall one more event at the UN "Committee on Crime Prevention and Control". Together with two IAW feminist lawyers from Greece and Israel, we sat half the night formulating our request that the Committee put 'Violence against Women' on their agenda. We knew, we had to bring strong arguments, and so we pointed out three dramatic women fates, in simple but urgent speech. Confronted with a mere male body of judges and lawyers, there was laughter in the room, after our speech. But then a man from Sierra Leone stood up and said: "*Sirs, there is nothing to laugh about! Such cases do exist, not only in my country, but also in yours.*" We were successful: the topic was put on the agenda. My thanks to Brigitte Pross. She was my international foster-mother. ♦



■ Brigitte Pross

Inge Heyl, elected IAW Board member in 1982 and Vice-President 1992-1996

Brigitte Pross, 1912-1996, elected IAW Board member in 1970, Vice-President in 1976, IAW Representative Vienna, 1979, Honorary Vice-President 1986.

Japan

The first Japanese women's organisation to join the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) was 'Fusen Kakutoku Domei' (Woman Suffrage Association of Japan) in 1923. In 1929 at the Berlin congress the Woman Suffrage League of Japan was admitted as second affiliate. Fusae Ichikawa was President and the first leader of this organisation. In 1929 two delegates were present. At the 1935 Congress in Istanbul 1935 Ms Gauntlett represented Japan.



■ Population Workshop Tokyo, Japan, 1991

In 1930 a letter was sent from IAWSEC London HQ, addressed to the then Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Osachi Hamaguchi. This letter, signed by President Margery Corbett Ashby and Secretary Emile Gourd, dated 30 September 1929, was dispatched after the resolution made during the Berlin Silver Jubilee Congress. It urged countries where women were not emancipated to give women the legal right to cooperate with men

On 17 December 1945, after the unhappy interruption of WWII, Japanese women were given full political rights. Fusae Ichikawa, anticipating Japan's democratisation, took action to establish a women's group 'Shin-Nihon Fujin Domei' (New Japan Women's League). The group worked for the emancipation of women and strove to prepare them for active engagement in the exercise of their political rights. This took place for their first time during April 1946. Five years later the group changed its name

to 'Nihon Fujin Yukensha Domei' (League of Women Voters of Japan, 1950).

In 1952 Taki Fujita (President of LWVJ 1947-1950 and Chief of the Women and Minors Bureau, Ministry of Labour), attended the Commission on the Status of Women as an observer and returned home with a letter from Hanna Rhyd to hand to Fusae Ichikawa. In the letter, dated 20 March 1952, the President and the Board members of the IAW (recalling its past cooperation with Japanese suffragists) invited the LWVJ to join IAW. The LWVJ decided to apply for IAW membership and its application was accepted by the IAW during The 16th Congress held in Naples from 14-18 September 1952.

In 1953 IAW President Hanna Rhyd visited the LWVJ on her way back from her excavation work in India. In early 1953, during her trip to Europe, Fusae Ichikawa met Margery Corbett

Ashby and other members of the IAW in England. During October 1955 IAW President Ester Graff visited Japan after the Golden Jubilee Congress in Colombo. The LWVJ often managed to send delegates to Congress. Michiko Matsuura and Sachiko Okumura attended for several years and in 1989 Australia, Sachiko Okumura was elected to the Board and is now regional co-ordinator for South East Asia.

In 1991 the LWVJ hosted the IAW International Committee Meeting in Tokyo, Japan. Michiko Matsuura was the President and Keiko Kono was the Chair of the International Committee of LWVJ. Taki Fujita was the Advisor for the Organising Committee. After the reception in honour of IAW given by the Governor of Tokyo, the party moved on to the National Women's Education Centre in Saitama where it held business meetings.

Back in Tokyo, the workshop, entitled 'Women and the Issue of Population', was held in the Alumni Hall of Japan Women's University on 7 September from 10:00 to 16:30. The event was opened to the public and there were 150 participants. ♦



Sachiko Okumura, President

Alliance of Women for Empowerment was admitted to the IAW Associate Membership at the IAW Calcutta Congress in 1996.

Trials of Hope

Lithuanian Women in the 21st Century

Lithuanian Women's Society, founded in 1990, the year, Lithuania declared its independence, has ever since been evolving with the rest of the country, making every effort to promote Lithuanian women as equals within our society.



■ IAW Congress Calcutta (India), 1996

My fellow sisters in arms faced independence as mature persons who had already built up their professional careers and had brought up their children. They had numerous friends in and outside the country from the Baltic Sea to the Kuril islands. We were, as everyone now knows, euphoric about our independence, serious about the new opportunities it offered. The collapse of the USSR – finally offered some hope of better quality of life. We were, all this time, thinking of our children. One thing we did not know or anticipate was the price each of us would eventually have to pay for independence...

'Market economy', was always the excuse the government used to explain its mistakes. Many women lost their jobs and were thrown into poverty and misery. They had to overcome their fears and to learn how to survive in a new environment – they had to give

up professions they had mastered earlier, to take up various accidental jobs and to acquire new skills – driving a car, working on a computer. Their previous knowledge of Russian had also become redundant since English was now 'the new game in town'. They had to turn a blind eye on contempt with which the elderly were treated as the latter group increasingly became a burden to the society. They had pay lip-service to the new sexual cult created for men and long-legged beauties fallen into the hands of rich businessmen, as another form of female commodity.

In addition to their own worries, many women had to bolster and in some cases support their husbands, many of whom would lose direction unable to conduct profitable business, often involved in taking high risk and even facing bankruptcy. There are many examples of families losing all of

their savings, thus putting their own and their children's welfare at stake. As far children are concerned, women additional worries of having to protect their children from such new dangers as drugs, glorification of violence, and all new things emanating from the West, which challenged their more traditional family values.

The women of my generation went to vote in the referendum on the EU with only one thought in their mind – there is no other way for our country. We believed, in the heart of our hearts, that this is the only way to strengthen the democratic process upon which we have embarked, and that we have to say 'yes' for the sake of our children. We want them to be equals among equals in Europe.

Our position in the society is still weak for a variety of reasons – not just due to stereotypes of patriarchal society, or our inability to present a united front, but mainly due to continued poverty and the great burden of everyday family chores which acts as a barrier and prevents us from giving up time to politics. That is why the statistics in the country where women are far better educated than men are so deplorable (www.std.lt). There are 10.2% of women in the Seimas (Parliament), 20.6% of women in the local municipalities, just 2 women-mayors out of 60 and just 1 woman head of the district.

We have not given up yet. The women's movement in Lithuania has developed and grown much stronger during the years of independence. As a result, Lithuania was the first post-communist country to adopt the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women. We are also proud to have a well



■ Cover 'How we learned to survive'.
The Lithuanian Women's Society 10 years
old in 2000

functioning Ombudsman's Office on Equal Opportunities. People's attitude towards women's status within the society is changing gradually, as well. A new generation of strong, self-confident women has emerged. They are a new generation of 'fighting women' who are willing to stand up for themselves. They want to take up politics and we see our role is to help them.

We use our friendly relations with other women organizations in Europe and other continents to promote this cause. We do a lot of work with Scandinavian women's organisations. On February 12th, 2004 we held a joint conference '2004 Initiative: Let's Vote for Women' in Kaunas. The aim of the conference was to galvanise people to vote for women politicians from various political parties. Among other conference items, we assessed the present situation of women-politicians in Lithuania, including various election campaign strategies, voting behavior in relation to women making tentative conjectures tentative of how many women would be trusted to represent the interests of the society. All of this against the backdrop of countries where women-politicians enjoy greater popular support.

This is an important year for women in Lithuanian politics. We shall have our first elections to the European Parliament and our fifth consecutive

Parliamentary elections. Those women who have decided to take up political careers have many important lessons to learn. LWS has published several booklets (jointly with Norwegian and Swedish partners) all of which aim to give future women-politicians some guidance on how to gain self-confidence. The title of one of the brochures offered to women is called *On Power*. As part of the same initiative, LWS has set up a Distance Learning Center. The first course was on 'Skills of Professional Presentation'. We now hope to offer students video training sessions and courses on such topics such as 'Overcoming Conflicts', 'Time Management'.

Distance learning will give a chance to study to those women who live in the farthest regions of Lithuania to overcome regional barrier. It is

absolutely crucial that they should also try and master the existing IT technologies and learn to manage the fast flow of information available on the Internet.

We prepare ourselves to live in the community of 25 countries. We study, discuss and look for project partners and anyone who shares our vision and wants to achieve our main goal of improving the quality of life for women, wherever they may be. We keep our hopes high and are expecting challenges ahead. Above all, we continue to believe in solidarity among women. ♦

Nijole Steponkute
Chairperson of the Lithuanian
Women's Society

Three Meals a Day

Women's intellect who wants it?
Not her nearest, not her dearest,
They all want three meals a day,
It is hard to say them nay.

Why not accept the retardation
Of complete domestication -
That gas chamber of the mind
To which women are consigned?

'They also serve who only stand and wait'
But they deserve a better fate.

In these days of liberation,
Conditional emancipation,
At least there's toleration;
Always provided (need one say)
There are still three meals a day.

Constance Rover (1990)

The Future Growth of IAW in the 21st Century

This paper is put forward for general discussion with a view to establishing networks in order to directly involve more members at local, regional and international level, thus broadening and sharing the workload within the Alliance and expanding the Alliance's influence. If we can achieve and build closer ties and involvement based on regular communication and action within and across regions, this will provide a stronger basis for informed action by the Alliance at international level.

The Constitution Committee has proposed that from the Board there shall be elected two Executive Vice Presidents who will work closely with the President, in order to share the workload and broaden the representation of the Alliance.

In the 21st century one woman does not have the time, energy and money to visit or be in close touch with all the member organisations and handle all the correspondence and claims upon her time. It is a big job even for three women.

It has been suggested that the other Vice Presidents elected shall each have the overall responsibility for a region of the world (taking the place of the current separately appointed Regional Co-coordinators). Regional groups would then be formed of IAW members (from member organisations and individuals) in each country in that region.

I see a need to co-ordinate and activate local and regional co-operation to provide more impetus for the Alliance; closer communication and involvement for IAW members at local and regional levels and to instigate collaboration with other women's organisations in lobbying, workshops, seminars and all other relevant activities.

- *The Alliance should be leading the way in organising and speaking at local and regional seminars, workshops etc.*
- *It is easier and cheaper for a lot of women to travel within their region.*
- *Regional seminars would have the prestige of a Vice President heading it all up, supported by visits from the President or an Executive Vice President when convenient.*

Collaboration with other organisations

- *So many local organisations are struggling to keep going that the longstanding, more prestigious bodies such as IAW, WILPF, ICW, YWCA, CWAI, etc should be finding common aims on which to establish joint lobbying aims at both regional and international level.*
- *Many Alliance women are already members and very often active within two or more of these organisations, thus providing a good basis on which to develop collaboration.*
- *It is accepted that there are some issues on which a more conservative organisation such as ICW may not collaborate but there is enough common ground these days to form the basis for some very effective lobbying.*
- *The use of email and the web must be utilised to the utmost.*

All this anticipated activity can be discussed and publicised via email, the e-newsletter and the website. The success and outcomes of each activity can be publicised locally, regionally and in the IWNews! ♦

P.S. Text in italics expresses my thoughts and ideas

Priscilla Todd (Australia)



■ Seminar 'Affirmative action/Equal opportunity', Australia 1989

Looking Forward

IAW has been and still is one of the most important global lobbyists for women's rights.

Its vision of equal rights and equal responsibilities - tied together and inter-linked – remains valid and pivotal in this rapidly changing modern world.

In general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the IAW remains a powerful tool in the fight against all forms of discrimination against women and is widely recognised as such. This work – both the representation of IAW interests at the global inter-governmental level and the reporting back to IAW members of worldwide developments of interest to them – will certainly remain the backbone of its activities. It is without saying that these global activities are very well and successfully mirrored in similar work at regional and national levels.

But there is more...

We start into the new century by stressing that women are equal to men; in every aspect of life and wherever their place, be it at home, in the factory, behind the computer, in the fields or at the decision-making levels. Women have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to act on an equal footing. They have the right to influence decision-making according to their own perceptions and views.

This is the reason why the IAW has constantly opened up to issues such economy, food, health, environment and globalisation, and has included them in its triennial working agendas. Together with legal literacy – that is to say the knowledge of important legislation, such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its implementation by State Parties - we call this process 'empowerment of women'. One does not need to be a prophet to say that this will continue into the 21 century by making use of such tools as enhanced networking among interested member organisations and members, the drawing up of the triennial working programmes at our international congresses, or the

organization of thematic workshops at local, national and regional levels.

Despite being an 'equality' organisation from the outset and by its own definition, the IAW, when looking more closely into the activities of its constituency, is engaged in many 'developmental' areas. No other international organisation, at least to my knowledge, has the ability from its history to successfully combine the three dimensions in which women's empowerment has to become true: 'equality, development and peace'. Exploring these interlink ages including their financial aspects with a view to making them 'work' for women clearly constitutes one of the major challenges ahead.

But there is much more...

Behind all IAW activities is something, which Mineke

Bosch 1985 used as the title of her impressive book: *Politics and Friendship*. IAW offers that wonderful opportunity to meet an impressive array of women from around the world. From every meeting in the past I came back home empowered and re-energised knowing that such strong, capable women are all united fighting for the same cause and can be counted on for advice and encouragement, women one looks forward to seeing again and again as the triennial cycle advances. This benefit is, happily, one that is not primarily for 'organisations' but is one from which each individual member, and especially the younger ones, can profit. ♦



Rosy Weiss,
IAW Vice-President

Conference/Congress meetings of IWSA , IAWSEC, IAW from 1902–2004

1902
First IWSA Conference**Washington, USA****February 12-18***Hostess: National American Woman Association**President: Rev. H. Shaw*

Preliminary Meeting. Adoption of principles

1904
Second IWSA Conference**Berlin, Germany****June 3,4***Hostess: Deutscher Verband für Frauenstimmrecht (1902)**President: Anita Augspurg*

Founding Conference, constitution adopted. 1st President Carrie Chapman Catt 1904 -1926

1906
Third Conference**Copenhagen, Denmark****August 7-11***Hostesses: Dansk Kvindeforeningers Valgretsforbund; Dansk Kvinnesamfund**President: Ms Louise Norland*

1908
Fourth Conference**Amsterdam, Holland****June 15-20***Hostess: Vereniging voor Vrouwenkierecht (1894)**President: Aletta Jacobs*

1909
Fifth Conference and First Quinquennial**London, UK****April 26,-May 1***Hostess: British Union of Suffrage Societies**President: Millicent Garrett Fawcett*

1911
Sixth Congress**Stockholm, Sweden****June 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17***Hostess: Landsforeningen for Kvinnans Politiska Rosträtt**President: Anna Whitlock*

1912
World tour by Carrie Chapman Catt and Aletta Jacobs

1913
Seventh Congress**Budapest, Hungary****June 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21***Hostess: Feministák Egyesülete**President: Rosika Shwimmer*

1914
*ICW + IWSA Rome demonstration de Witt Schlumberger + Regina Deutsch**Officers and presidents meet in London! International Meeting**Head quarters move to London. Info. JUS No.10**July 8-10**June 1*

1915
*A congress had been planned for this year in Berlin. Although a neutral country had been proposed as an alternative, it was indefinitely postponed.**International Women's Peace Congress. Den Haag. Several IWSA participants: WILPF*

Post WWI Trienniums
1920**Eighth Congress****Geneva, Switzerland****June 6-12***Hostess: Bund Schweizer Frauenvereine**President: Mme Emlie Gourd*

1923
Ninth Congress**Rome, Italy****May 12-19***Hostess: Federazione Nazionale pro Suffragio Femminile**President: Dr Margherita d' Ancona*

IWSA New President: Margery Corbett Ashby 1923-1946

1926**Tenth Congress****Paris (Sorbonne), France****May 30-June 6***Hostess: Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes**President: Mme Malaterre Sellier**New name and new constitution: The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship***1929****Eleventh Congress****Berlin, Germany****June 17-22***Jubilee Publication: The IWSA, Its History from 1904-1929, Regine Deutsch***1932***A congress had been planned but was postponed due to the economic crisis***1935****Twelfth Congress****Istanbul, Turkey****April 18-24***Hostess: Union of Turkish Women**President: Latife Bekir***1939****Thirteenth Congress****Copenhagen, Denmark****July 8-14***Hostess: Dansk Kvindamfund**President: Edel Sante***Post WWII, International Alliance of Women – Equal rights-Equal Responsibilities****1946****Fourteenth Congress****Interlaken, Switzerland****August 11-16***Hostess: Association suisse pour le suffrage feminin**President: Mme Vischer Alioth***1949****Fifteenth Congress****Amsterdam, Netherlands****July 18-24***Hostess: Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vrouwenbelangen en Gelijk Staatsburgerschap
'Women and Human Rights'**President: Dr. Zeelenberg***1952****Sixteenth Congress****Naples, Italy****September 11-19***Hostess: Alleanza Femminile Italiana
'Peace and Equality'**President: Dr. Teresa Sandesk-Scelba***1955****Seventeenth Congress****Colombo, Sri Lanka****August 17th-September 1st***Hostess: All Ceylon Women's Conference
Golden Jubilee 'Status of Women'**President: Dr. Ezlynn Deraniyagala***1958****Eighteenth Congress****Athens, Greece****August 25th-September 4th***Hostess: Ligue Hellenique pour le Droit des Femmes
'Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow'**President: Avra S. Theodoropoulou***1961****Nineteenth Congress****Dublin, Ireland****August 21st-September 2nd***Hostess: Irish Housewives Association
'Towards Equality'**President: Hilda Tweedy***1964****XX Congress****Trieste, Italy****August 9th-September 1st***Hostess: Alleanza Femminile Italiana
IAW 60th anniversary 'Women and Human Rights'**President: Anna Volli***1967****XXI Congress****London, UK****August 1st-10th***Hostess Societies: National Women Citizens Association, National Federation of Townswomen's Guilds, The Fawcett Society,
The Suffragette Fellowship
'Human Rights – New social Patterns'*

1970**XXII Congress****Koenigstein, German****August 9th-16th**

Hostess Societies: *Deutscher Frauenring & Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen Verband*
 'Education in the Technological Age'

1973**XXIII Congress****New Delhi, India****November 7th-14th**

Hostesses: *All India women's Conference*
 'Partnership for progress'

President: *Lakshmi Raghuramaiah*

1976**XXIV Congress****New York, USA****July 20th-28th**

Hostess societies: *Federation of Organizations for Professional Women & Lucy Stone League*
 'Action for Equality'

1979**XXV Congress****Monrovia, Liberia****September 17th-22nd**

Hostess: *National Federation of Women's Organizations in Liberia*
 'Education for Equality'

President: *Leona Chesson*

1982**XXVI Congress****Helsinki, Finland****July 25th-August 1st**

Hostess: *Unioni Naisasialiitto Suomesary*
 'Employment Patters for the eighties' A seminar.

President: *Helen Auvinen*

1986**XXVII Congress****Mauritius****July 20th-30th**

Hostesses: *Mauritius Alliance of Women & Women Self-Help Association*
 'Traditional Attitudes – Attitudes towards change'

1989**XXVIII Congress****Melbourne, Australia****September 22-29**

Hostesses: *Women's Electoral Lobby, The League of Women voters & The Women's Service Guild of Western Australia*
 'Equality the Continuing Challenge'

1992**XXIX Congress****Athens, Greece****October 4-10**

Hostesses: *Ligue Helenique pour le Droit des Femmes*
 'Parity Democracy: the Challenge of the Nineties'

President: *Alice Marangopoulos*

1996**XXX Congress****Calcutta, India****December 1-9**

Hostesses: *Country Women's Association of India & All India Women's Conference*
 'The Girl Child'

President: *Aroti Dutt*

1999**XXXI Congress****New York, USA****August 30-September 4**

Hostess: *Lucy Stone League*

President: *Kay fraleigh*

2002**XXXII Congress****Colombo, Sri Lanka****September 14-22**

Hostess: *All Ceylon Women's Conference*
 'New Frontiers for a new Age'

President: *Manel Abeysekera*

2004**Centenary Conference****Berlin, Germany****September 13-14**

Hostess: *IAW/AIF*

President: *Patricia Giles*

XXXIII Jubilee Congress**Freiburg, Germany****September 15-18**

Hostess *Deutscher Frauenring*
 'Politics, Power & Participation'

President: *Eva Schneider-Borgmann*

Membership of auxiliaries/ affiliates/associates/ adhering societies IWSA-IAW 1904-2002

Names are sometimes in own language, sometimes translated into French or English

*present members #name changed later

1904	2nd IWSA Conference Berlin, Germany	South Africa	Women's Enfranchisement Association Port Elizabeth. Natal
<i>Founding organizations</i>		Portugal	National Woman Suffrage Association
Australia	National Australian Women's Political Association	Galicia	Suffrage Committee (as affiliated committee)
Germany	Deutscher Verband für Frauenstimmrecht#	Rumania	National Rumania Suffrage Association
Great Britain	British Union of Suffrage Societies		
Netherlands	Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht*#		
Sweden	Landsforeningen för Kvinnans Politiska Rösträtt*		
USA	National American Woman Suffrage Association		
Denmark	Danske Kvindeforeningers Valgretsforbund & Dansk Kvindesamfund*		
Norway	Landskvindestemmeretsforeningen*#		
1906	3rd Conference Copenhagen, Denmark	1920	8th Congress Geneva, Switzerland Post WWI
Canada	Dominion Woman Enfranchisement (Suffrage) Association	<i>5 new members, now 31 affiliates</i>	
Hungary	Feministák Egyesülete	Argentina	Union Feminista Nacional
Russia	The Russian Union of Defenders of Women's Rights	Australia	name change: <i>Provisional National Committee</i>
Italy	Comitato Nazionale per il Voto Alla Donna	Bulgaria	Woman's Rights Alliance
		Canada	Canadian Suffrage Association
		Great Britain	Catholic Women's Suffrage Society
		Greece	Ligue Hellenique pour les Droits de la Femme*
		Spain	Union de las Mujeres de Espana (Union of Spanish Women)
			Consejo Supremo Feminista de Espana
		Uruguay	Allianza Uruguaya para el Suffragio Femenino
		USA	National League of Women Voters continues work of <i>National-American Woman Suffrage Association</i> # (disbanded)
1908	4th Congress Amsterdam, Netherlands	Great Britain	National Union of Societies for Equal citizenship
Bulgaria	Woman's Rights Alliance	Netherlands	Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen*#
Canada	name change: <i>Dominion Women's Suffrage Association</i>	Russia	League for the Equality of Women's Rights
Finland:	Finsk Kvinnosaksforbundet*# Unionem		
Great Britain	name change: <i>Union of Woman Suffrage Societies</i>	1923	9th Congress Rome, Italy
South Africa	Cape Colony: Women's Enfranchisement League,	<i>17 new members/names; # successors of old auxiliaries</i>	
Natal	Women's Suffrage League	Australia	Australian Federation of Women Societies#
Switzerland	Verband für Frauenstimmrecht*	Brazil	Allianca Brasileira pelo Suffragio Feminino
		Egypt	Union Feministe Egyptienne pour le Suffrage des Femmes*; Hoda Charawi#
1909	Quinquennial Congress London, Great Britain	Germany	Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein#
Austria	Oesterreicher Verein für Politische Fraueninteressen	India	Women's Indian Association#
Belgium	Federation Belge pour le Suffrage des Femmes	Ireland	Central Council of the Women of Ireland*
Bohemia	Vybor pro volebni pravo zen Prague	Jamaica	Women's Social Service Association
France	L'Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes*	Japan	Woman's Suffrage Association of Japan
		Yugoslavia	L'Union Nationale des Femmes Jugo-slaves
1911	6th Congress Stockholm, Sweden	Newfoundland	Newfoundland Women's Franchise League
Iceland	Kvenrettindajelag Islands*	New Zealand	Auxiliary Committee of New Zealand
		Palestine	Palestinian Jewish Women's Rights Association
1913	7th Congress Budapest, Hungary	Poland	L'Organisation Nationale des Femmes Polonaises
China	National Chinese Woman Suffrage Association (no delegates)	Ukraine	Comité Ukrainienne du Droit de la Femme*
		Sweden	Frederika Bremer Förbund* (2nd ass.) Swedish Committee for International Suffrage

Work continues for *Landsforeningen för Kvinnans Politiska Rösträtt* #

1926	10th Congress Paris, France <i>13 new Affiliates admitted in Paris</i>
Bermuda	Bermudan Women Suffrage Society
Cuba	Partido Nacional Sufragista de Cuba
France	Ligue Française pour le Droit des femmes*
Great Britain	Women's Freedom League
Netherlands	Nederlandse Unie van Vrouwenbelangen*#
Luxembourg	Action Feminine
Peru	Feminismo Peruano
Puerto Rico	Liga Social Sufragista de Puerto Rico
Portugal	Allianza Nacional Feminista
Roumania	Associatiunca Pentro Emanciparea Civilia si Polica a Feimeilior Romane, Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, Kingdom of: Zenski Pokret
Turkey	L'Union des Femmes Turques

1929	11th Congress Berlin, Germany, Silver Jubilee: IAWSEC <i>International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship Societies newly affiliated to the Alliance at Berlin Jubilee Congress</i>
Belgium	Groupement Belge pour l'Afranchissement de la Femme
Canada	Quebec, Alliance Canadienne pour le vote des Femmes de Quebec
Ceylon	Women's Franchise Union of Ceylon#
Czecho-Slovakia	Deutscher Verein 'Frauenfortschritt'
Dutch East Indies	Vereeniging voor Vrouwen-Kiesrecht
Rhodesia	Rhodesian Women's (Enfranchisement) League
Japan	Woman Suffrage League of Japan* Woman Suffrage Alliance of Japan
Poland	L'Association des Femmes pour le Service Social
Sweden	Svenska Kvinnors Medborgarforbund (3rd Soc.)
Syria	The Women's Arabic Academic Association
Austria	Oesterreicher Staatsbürgerinnen Verband*

1946	14th Congress Interlaken, Switzerland <i>At this first post WWII congress 29 affiliates were listed but by no means had all been able to send delegates. No new members were admitted.</i>
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1949	5th Congress Amsterdam, Netherlands <i>(provisional since Interlaken) admitted in Amsterdam</i>
Ceylon	Association of the All-Ceylon Women's Conference*
Ethiopia	The Ethiopian Women's Work Association
Iran	The Women's Council of Iran
Iraq	The Women's Union of Iraq
Jamaica	The Jamaica Federation of Women*
Lebanon	La Fédération Féminine du Liban (2nd)
Pakistan	All-Pakistan Women's Association*
Trinidad/Tobago	The Coterie of Social Workers*
Turkey	Turkish Association of Women

1952	16th Congress Napels, Italy
France	Association des Femmes de l'Union Française
Germany	Deutscher Frauenring, West Germany and West Berlin*
Haïti	Ligue Feminine d'Action Sociale
Iran	Zoroastrian Women's Organisation
Israel	League for Women's Rights in Israel
Japan	League of Women Voters*
Philippines	League of Women Voters of the Philippines
Thailand	Thai women's Association
Trinidad	The Trinidad and Tobago League of Women Voters
Sweden	Swedish Mothers Peace League

1955	17th Congress Colombo, Sri Lanka
Barbados	Caribbean Women's Alliance
Egypt	Union Bent-el Nil
France	Union Feminine Nationale des Femmes Chefs d'Enterprises
Great Britain	Suffragette Fellowship
Israel	Israel Federation of WIZO*
Jordan	Jordan Arab Women's Alliance
Nepal	Women's Voluntary Services of Nepal
Palestine	Palestine Women's Association of Lebanon
West Nigeria	Women's Improvement Society

1958	18th Congress Athens, Greece
British Guiana	The British Guiana Women Citizen's Association
Germany	Staatsbürgerinnen Verband e.V.*
Ghana	Federation of Ghana Women
Iran	Rah-e-Nou (The New Path)
Liberia	Federation of Liberian Business Women

1961	19th Congress: Dublin, Ireland
Bahamas	The Women suffrage Movement of the Bahamas
France	Amicales des Elues Municipales*
Great Britain	National Union of Towns Women's Guilds The Fawcett Society*
Nigeria	Council of Women's Societies
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone Women's Movement

1964	20th Congress Trieste, Italy
Kenya	Kenya African Women's Association
Philippines	Women's Rights Movement of the Philippines*

1967	21st Congress London, England
Cameroun	L'Association des Femmes Camerounaises Foyer des Jeunes Femmes Camerounaises
India	The All India Women's Conference*
Indonesia	Perawi
Upper Volta	Amitie Africaine
Tunisia	L'Union Nationale des Femmes de Tunisie

1970	22nd Congress Koenigstein, Germany
Ghana	Ghana Assembly of Women
Marocco	Femmes de Maroc

1973	23rd Congress New Delhi, India
Bahamas	National Women's Movement
Eire	Women's Political Association

UK	Scottish Council of Women's Citizens Associations Six Point Group
France	Comitee de la Liaison des Associations Feminines

1976	24th Congress New York, USA
Bangladesh	Mahila Samity*
Dahomey	Movement National des Femmes de Dahomey
France	Equipes d'Action Contre la Traite des Femmes et des Enfants
Ivory Coast	l'Union des Femmes des Cote d'Ivoire
Mauritius	The Womem Self-Help Association*
UK	The National Association of Women Citizens
USA	Lucy Stone League* Federation of organizations of Professional Women

1979	25th Congress Monrovia, Liberia
Mauritius	Mauritius Alliance of Women*
Botswana	Botswana Association of Women
Cyprus	Pancyprian Movement for Equal Rights etc*
Lesotho	Lesotho Alliance of Women*
Madagascar	National Council of Association of Women*
Seychelles	Seychelles Women's Association
Togo	La Colombe

1982	26th Congress Helsinki, Finland
Australia	Women's Electoral Lobby*
Botswana	Association of Botswana Women
Cyprus	Pancyprian Movement for Equal Rights etc
Ireland	Council for the Status of Women
Lesotho	Lesotho Alliance of Women
Zambia	Zambia Alliance of Women*
Australia	Women's Service Guild of Western Australia-1996
Comores	Union des Femmes Comoriennes
Sierra Leone	Home Economic Association
Swaziland	Swaziland Alliance of Women

1986	27th Congress Mauritius
Egypt	Egyptian Women's Association
Nigeria	Association of Working Wives of Nigeria
UK	The Fawcett Society*
Tonga Islands	The Women's Co-op Vava-U Feistokoniati
Austria	The Frauencirkel of Vienna*
India	Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Ass. Of Bengal*

1989	28th Congress Melbourne, Australia
Zimbabwe	The Association of Women's Clubs
Egypt	Friends of the People Association
Burkina Faso	The Association for the Promotion of Women's Sport*
UK	Josephine Butler Association* Sri Lanka Women's Ass. In the UK*
India	Country Women's Association Calcutta*
Australia	Philippine Australian Alliance of Women -Melbourne*

1992	29th Congress Athens Greece
India	Country Women's Association of India* (was Ass.)
Fiji	Fiji Women's Rights Movement*
Ukraine	Ukrainian Women's Rights Movement* (Kiev)
Philippines	Gabriela
Russia	Transfiguration Women's Club Moscow
Sierra Leone	Survival and Development Services
Belgium	Fondation Emilienne Brunfaut*
Mali	Comite d'action pour les droits d'enfant et de la femme CADEF

1996	30th Congress Calcutta, India
Mozambique	Mozambican National Association for Rural Women -
South Africa	Women's Bureau of South Africa
Bashkortostan	Ass. of Women entrepreneurs of the Republic of Bashkortostan
Benin	Olodo, Survie de la Mère et de l'Enfant.
Japan	Alliance of Women for Empowerment*
Mali	ASSAFE Association du Sahel d'Aide à la Femme et à l'Enfance
Niger	ONG SAPHTA*

1999	31st Congress New York, USA
Albania	Federation of Albanian Women*
Dominican Republic:	ADDEM Alianza por los Derechos y el Desarrollo de la Mujer +Familia*
South Africa	National Network on Violence Against Women*
Kuwait	The Kuwaiti Union for Women's Associations*
Croatia	Croatia Alliance of Women*
Morocco	Comite Marocain pour le Regroupement des Familles*
Philippines	Women's right Movement of the Philippines*
Uganda	Slum aid Project*

2002	32nd Congress Sri Lanka
Kazakhstan	Women's Association of Development and Adaptation (ZHARIA)*
Australia	Union of Australian Women, Victoria*
Austria	Autonomous Women's Centre*
Benin	Conseil National des Femmes Independentes du Benin*
Bhutan	Women & Children Org. = Thimpu Bhutan*
Netherlands	Women's Alliance for Economic Independence and Redistribution of Work*
Nigeria	Women's Political Action Committee*

Additional info:

This list was made on the information available in congress reports. According to the constitution a Society shall be eligible for Affiliated Membership if:

1. It is a national organisation which has local branches or admits its members from all over the country;
2. It is a non-party organisation;
3. Its objects correspond with the objects according to the constitution of the Alliance.

An associate society is usual not national but is non-party and working for the equal status of women and men.

Sources and Bibliography

- The International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement, Amsterdam (IIAV)
- The Women's Library, Old Castle Street London: Records of the International Alliance of Women.
- The IAW papers collected by the Archives officer.
- Books published for IWSA and IAW silver and golden jubilees and for the 75th anniversary:
 - *The International Woman Suffrage Alliance*, Regine Deutsch (1929)
 - *Journey towards Freedom*, Adele Schreiber & Margaret Mathieson (1955)
 - *Woman into Citizen*, Arnold Whittick (1979)
- Publications: IWSA and IAW Congress reports
- Speech held by Selma Lagerlof at the Congress in Stockholm (also published in Dutch) (1911)
- A new publication was advertised in *JUS Suffragii*: Woman Suffrage in Practice (1913) in three editions: English, German, and French English edition £1/6
- *Le suffrage des Femmes en Pratique*, Edition Française, Direction Mlle Emile Gourd (1926)
- *The present position of Woman Suffrage* on behalf of the IAWSEC (1929)
- Digest of the position of International conventions:
 - *Affecting Women as Women*, issued by Friends of IAW in USA (1958)
 - *Relating to the Status of Women*, Published by head office in Ceylon (1961)
- The Twentieth Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights:
 - *What Women owe to the Declaration*, by Andrée Lehmann (1968)
- Separate booklets containing the action programmes for new Triennium and general info on board members, affiliates etc. were printed separately (1949-1996)
- Extensive range of IAW Seminar Reports
- Some books written by IAW members or others, covering IAW History in order of publication:
 - *Women's Suffrage*, Millicent Fawcett (1912)
 - *Woman Suffrage and Politics*, Carrie Chapman Catt & Nettie Rogers Shuler (1923)
 - *Carrie Chapman Catt*, Mary Gray Peck (1944)
 - *Smt Lakshmi N. Menon, Profiles of - A publication of the AIWC President of AIWC* (1955)
 - *Women's Suffrage and Party Politics in Britain 1966-1914*, Constance Rover (1966)
 - *The Punch Book of Women's Rights*, Constance Rover (1967)
 - *Erlebtes Erschautes*, Lyda Gustava Heymann (1941?) (Reprint 1972, German)
 - *The Egyptian Feminist Union*, Baheega Sidky Rasheed (1973)
 - *The Status of Women in the Eye of the Law in Bangladesh* (1978)
 - *Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan*, All Pakistan Women's Association (1980)
 - *Spinsters of this Parish*, Sybil Oldfield (1984)
 - *The Pathfinder*, Dr Muthulakshmi Reddi Aparna Basu (1986)
 - *Irène de Lipkowski* (biography; Andre Dore-Audibert, French, 1988)
 - *Woman with a Mission*, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (1989)
 - *Politics and Friendship*, Mineke Bosch & Annemarie Kloosterman (1990)
(A revised version of Dutch original: *Lieve Dr. Jacobs*; 1985)
 - *Night Birds*, K. Lakshmi Raghuramaiah (IAW Vice-President) (1991)
 - *A Link in the Chain - Irish Hosewives*, Hilda Tweedy (1992)
 - *A Song in the Night - a Personal Account of Widowhood in Zambia*, Norah M. Mumba (1992)
 - *Women's Rights - Human Rights, To the International Alliance of Women on its 90th birthday*. Edited by A. Marangopoulos, Athens (1992)
 - *Lakshmi N. Menon - Profiles of*, Published by AIWC (1995)
 - *Failure is Impossible - Susan B. Anthony in her own words*, Lynn Sherr (1995)
 - *The Reluctant Immigrant*, Suzette Jansen (past board member) Sri Lanka Women's Conference (1995)
 - *Memoirs: Dame Margery Corbett Ashby*, Michael Ashby (1996)
 - *Memories: Aletta Jacobs* (1924) (English translation 1996)
 - *Worlds of Women*, Leila Rupp (1997)
 - *How we learned to Survive*, Lithuanian Women's Society (2001)
 - *Prostitution, Women and Misuse of the Law*, Helen J. Self (2003)

Copies of this Centenary Edition can be requested via **Marijke Peters**.

Cost will depend on request, country and payment possibilities; about € 15/\$ 20 including postage, to be sent to Marijke Peters.

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Contributors to Centenary Edition 2004

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Helga Habicht	Anita Augspurg
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Jessika Kehl	Geneva
Mona Korashy	My story...
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Sachiko Okumura	Japan
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Priscilla Todd	Secretaries, Future in 21st Century
Hilda Tweedy	Peace and International Understanding
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Colophon

This Centenary Publication was written by *members of the IAW*.

It also contains *articles from our journals* and *congress reports*.

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Our aims

The objects of the IAW are:

- To secure all such reforms as are necessary to establish a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between women and men, and to work for equal partnership between women and men in all spheres of life.
- To urge women to accept their responsibilities and to use their rights and influence in public life to ensure that the status of every individual without distinction of sex, race or creed, shall be based on respect for the person, the only guarantee for individual freedom and peace.
- To promote a better quality of life and good understanding among peoples.

(Constitution: Article II Objects)

Nos Buts

L'Alliance a pour but:

- D'obtenir toutes les reformes susceptible de réaliser une véritable égalité entre hommes et femmes en ce qui concerne leurs droits et libertés et leur condition juridique et de faire des hommes et des femmes des partenaires égaux dans tous les domaines.
- D'encourager les femmes à accepter leurs responsabilités et à user de tous leurs droits ainsi que de leur influence dans la vie publique pour que la condition de chaque être humain, sans distinction de sexe, de race, ou de religion, soit basée sur le respect de la personnalité, seule garantie de la liberté individuelle.
- De promouvoir une qualité de vie meilleure et une bonne entente entre les peuples.

(Statuts: Article II Buts)