

2018

Reports for the IAW Board Meeting



Lene Pind
Editor

Table of contents

President Joanna Manganara	p. 3
Regional Vice Presidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cheryl Hayles, North America - Manu Kak, Asia - Anuarite Siirebowa Muyuwa 	p. 8
Commission conveners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gudrun Haupter, Health - Lyda Verstegen, Human Rights - Heide Schütz, Peace - Esther Suter, Disarmament 	p. 20
Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lyda Verstegen, Constitution 	p. 29
Other Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership Secretary Pat Richardson - Communications Unit 	p. 30
International Representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New York: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Soon-Young Yoon o Natalie Kostus - Geneva <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lyda Verstegen o Derya Akinci Briand - WHO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ursula Nakamura- Stoecklin - UNESCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Monique Bouaziz et al. - FAO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Jessica Kehl-Lauff - Council of Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Heleen Jansen - European Women's Lobby <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Arina Angerman and Marion Böker o Jocelynne Scutt (Observatory) 	p. 34
Affiliates : India, Pakistan, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Australia, France	p. 62
Associates: France, DR Congo, Germany, Zimbabwe	p. 93



President Joanna Manganara's report

Initiatives by the President and other members of IAW

Process of selection of a Secretary General (SG) and an Assistant Secretary General (ASG) for the IAW

In the last years the IAW faced serious problems with the job of the SG which could not be exercised properly by those who were elected SG by Congress or were appointed by the Board. As a result two of them resigned. The last SG resigned because her health was not in a good condition. She could not work at all.

During the last few years the IAW has faced serious problems with filling the position of Secretary General. Unfortunately, those who were elected by Congress and appointed by the Board were unable to fulfil the many tasks demanded and consequently, two SGs have resigned. The last SG resigned because of health problems.

I would like to thank Lene Pind very much because whenever there were problems or gaps she stepped in as Assistant SG and did the job in the best possible way.

The job of the SG is very demanding. It requires a lot of effort to be invested in it as well as knowledge, commitment, interest, tenacity and initiative. For the above reasons, I decided to create an Ad Hoc Selection Committee to deal with the recruitment of a new SG and an ASG.

I invited Cheryl Hayles, IAW Vice-president for North America and Vice-President international relations Canadian Federation University Women, Christina Noble Knight (Sweden), member of the Newsletter editorial committee and Vijaya Lakshmi (India), member of the IAW Board to become members of it. Priscilla Todd (Australia) editor of our Journal IWN, expressed her wish to become a member of this committee, which we all accepted. Cheryl Hayles drafted a set of terms of reference to govern the Ad Hoc Committee's practice: a) IAW member support was solicited to access all possible networks that may yield potential candidates. b) Based on IAW's budget constraints, only candidates who were willing to be volunteers were considered. c) Protection of organizational information is an operating norm, therefore only members could serve in these key positions.

Some of the expressions of interest had to be discarded for different reasons (not a member of an affiliate/associate organization of IAW, wanted a paid job). Out of the rest, two candidates demonstrated competencies through their resume, interview and references that they would indeed be assets in the role of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.

Based on qualifications and experience, Mrs. Olufunmi Oluyede was offered the position of Secretary General. The portfolio of the Assistant Secretary General was offered to Ms Miranda Tunica Ruzario. Both accepted their responsibilities and commenced their duties on May 15, 2018.

The Committee, under the approval by email from Board members, sent formal letters of appointment under the signature of the President to Olufunmi Oluyede and Miranda Tunica Ruzario. It is proposed that these appointments be formally ratified at the 2018 Board Meeting in Berlin.

Sizani Ngubane, Woman of Distinction Awardee 2018 nominated by IAW

Every year, the NGO committee on the Status of Women, NY, a coalition of hundreds of organizations and individuals working within the UN community to advance gender equality gives the woman of distinction award to a woman in recognition of her leadership in the struggle for women's human rights and women's empowerment.

The awardee gives the keynote address at the Consultation Day, the launch of the CSW62 Forum. The award is presented at the NGO CSW, NY reception.

This year's honoree, Sizani Ngubane, nominated by IAW, won the award because of her exceptional work with rural and indigenous women to whom she provided solutions on issues they faced from violence to customary laws and practices that impede their rights, to economic empowerment and obtaining full human rights. In 1990, Sizani Ngubane co-founded the Rural Women's Movement (RWM) as an organization by rural women for rural women. Today RWM is a coalition of more than 500 community based organizations with a membership of 50,000 indigenous women and girls. This grassroots movement led an intensive campaign for women and girls' independent land, property and inheritance rights by providing advocacy training and lobbying National Parliament and policy-makers for policies that are friendly to indigenous and rural women and girls. Additionally, RWM provides women training in farming, establishing land rights, networking to deal with crises and countering corruption.



Sizani, through her tireless efforts, is championing the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5, Gender Equality, in all of RWM's projects and is using it as a powerful tool for change. RWM's results have reduced transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancy, maternal mortality and eliminated abduction and forced marriages of girls in two communities. NGO CSW/NY has declared that it is proud to amplify Sizani Ngubane's voice at the United Nations— to ensure that “no one is left behind”.

As this year's awardee, Sizani Ngubane's work as leader of RWM became more visible than ever but so did IAW's visibility as well. We feel honoured that she is an individual member of IAW and her organization an affiliate of ours.

IAW parallel event in the context of the NGO CSW62 Forum on "Rural women's empowerment: Strategies and challenges of women's NGOs" 16 March 2018, NY

The keynote speaker of this event was Sizani Ngubane on rural women's and girls right to land, property and inheritance. Other speakers were Bhavna Joshipura All India Women's Conference and Cheryl Hayles, IAW Vice-President for North America and Vice-President international relations CFUW. Soon-Young Yoon, first Vice-President of CoNGO was moderator. In our Panel, as I said in my introductory statement as chair, we examined the initiatives that rural women's organizations are undertaking to achieve the realization of rural women's rights, the challenges they face and their achievements. We concentrated on rural women's organizations in South Africa, India, and in Canada. We have to support rural women's organizations to ensure they can influence policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. IAW has been doing that by issuing Declarations on accountability by governments on gender equality and women's human rights.

We have also to support women's human rights activists, in particular rural women human rights defenders. IAW has done that by nominating Sizani Ngubane for this year's Woman of Distinction Award given by the NGO/ CSW NY.

Consultations of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations with NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC regarding the evolving relationship between the NGOs and the UN

Rosy and I have made a contribution to this consultation. We have stressed that accreditation should be an inclusive process reflecting the wide diversity of NGOs including LGBTQ groups, human rights defenders and others too often excluded from accreditation. Among other points we have also stressed that IAW is of the view that in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consultative spaces should be created for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. In addition, at the level of the HLPF the creation of a mechanism to incorporate shadow reports into the voluntary national review process would be welcome. Training in UN-NGO relations for newly accredited NGOs could help preventing beginners' errors, impeding the smooth course of the consultative process. Measures through which member states limit the access of NGO representatives to international decision making at the UN such as the travel ban by the Trump administration jeopardizing women's rights to participate in the 61st and 62nd sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women have thrown light on the growing evidence of the shrinking space for NGO participation.

Council of Europe Side Event on "Women's Contribution to Global Peace in Implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325" organized by the delegation of Finland to the Parliamentary Assembly and the Conference of INGOs

Anje Wiersinga, representative of IAW at the CoE and member of the INGOs (President of the working group gender perspectives in political and democratic processes) was the coordinator of this event. The binding UN SC 1325 makes it mandatory for all countries to include women in conflict and prevention, conflict resolution, state building. The side event's objective was to present to politicians the Cypriot and Syrian Women's contribution: their recommendations and expectations, demands and priorities. The event was very interesting and successful. The room it took place was full of attendants.

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury of Bangladesh, former Under Secretary General and High Representative of the UN, Initiator of UNSCR 1325 was the keynote speaker. The Vice-Chair of the Delegation of Finland to the Parliamentary Assembly Sirkka-Liisa Anttila made an opening statement. The speakers were:

Rajaa Altalli, President of the Syrian Women for Peace and currently serving as one the 12 Syrian Women appointed by the UN office of the Special Envoy, to the women advisory board of the Geneva Peace process. She made a statement on Women's contribution to Syrian peace in spite of the non-implementation of Res. 1325.

Maria Hadjipavlou and Biran Mertan, members of the Cypriot Gender Advisory Team, initiators of a Declaration to include women in the peace process in Cyprus spoke about the Gender Advisory Team (GAT) started in October 2009 as a core group of women who aim to promote gender equality in the peace negotiations. The image offered by the speakers was positive, their statements focused on issues of gender equality and the rights of women to participate in decision making centers, most of all in the peace process. Stella Kyriakides, chair of the Delegation of Cyprus to the Parliamentary Assembly and Hamza Ersan Saner, Representative of the Turkish Cypriot Community at the CoE also made statements. Roeland Bocker, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Council of Europe also made a statement.



CSW62

This year, I participated in the CSW62 at the head of the biggest delegation of IAW during my Presidency (more than 30 members). We also had many new people, some of them very interesting and qualified. On the 15th of March 2018, the IAW Delegation had a meeting at the Greek Mission to discuss developments at the CSW62 and matters of interest to the organization. His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Dionyssios Kalamvrezos Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN welcomed our Delegation and said that the protection of human rights and women's human rights is a priority of the Greek government. A very important pillar is the cooperation with NGOs. "We have to thank you for that" he said. Concerning the CSW62 zero draft text, Natalia Kostus advocated for a strong Para 40 on Climate Change that should reflect women as leaders and not only in their vulnerable positions. I advocated for the comments I had submitted to the NGO CSW/NY, in particular concerning stronger language for rural women human rights defenders and for access of

women living and working in rural areas to land rights. Concerning internal matters, among the many issues discussed was the need for upgrading the guidelines for Commission Conveners and other officers as well as the modalities for implementing our Action Plan and the Political Declaration on accountability, both adopted by IAW Congress in Cyprus in October 2017. There was also strong support for the organization of regional meetings. Manju Kak (India) asked the President to find themes on which the regions could work. In India, regional seminars could be easily financed by relevant ministries provided the contributors to them were well-known Professionals and the results of the seminars would have a positive impact on the situation of women living and working in rural areas.

Evaluation of the Agreed Conclusions

This year the language of the Agreed Conclusions was stronger as a result of the advocacy by women's human rights and young people organizations and by progressive states. However, there is a problem which the international community does not want to answer, with few exceptions. The question has to do with whether change can occur for women and girls living and working in rural areas as long as neoliberal policies dominate this world. There is also no questioning of the economic empowerment of women. Numerous evidence demonstrates how markets themselves seem to be structured to perpetuate and exploit economic inequality.

Gains in the Agreed Conclusions

A big accomplishment is the removal of sovereignty clauses which will set a precedent for future sessions of CSW. There is a strong emphasis on rural women's participation at all levels of decision making. The conclusions also make reference to women's and girls' voice, agency and leadership. The Agreed Conclusions also recognize the critical role played by CSO's on women and girls living and working in rural areas in all spheres. The Agreed language of SRHR in accordance with Beijing and ICPD is retained. All forms of violence against women and girls which is rooted in historical and structural inequality and unequal power relations between men and women are condemned. The Agreed Conclusions for the first time ensure that pregnant adolescents and young mothers, as well as single mothers, can continue and complete their education. In addition, there is strong language added in order to foster a culture in which menstruation is recognized as healthy and natural and girls are not stigmatized. The Commission for the first time recognizes women human rights defenders and commits to creating a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights. However, concerns still remain regarding the Agreed Conclusions.

Concerns in the Agreed Conclusions

The Commission failed to recognize the diversity of women and girls living and working in rural areas concerning their sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions. Different forms of family are once again deliberately excluded from the text. The subject of comprehensive education on sexuality was not discussed, even in the Ministerial Round Tables. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, access to safe abortion services, disproportionate maternal mortality rates, no access to preventive screening for reproductive cancers were not discussed.

President's Newsletter

During the past year, I have circulated a President's Newsletter on the following themes:

- President's Newsletter - After Congress in Cyprus, November 2017
- President's Newsletter - Women and Terrorism, January 2018
- President's Newsletter - Women in prison, June 2018
- President's Newsletter - CSW62, A. Summary of points of discussion in Ministerial Round Tables/Interactive dialogues/Expert Panels B. Evaluation of the Agreed Conclusions of CSW62, June 2018

IWN

During the past year, we have circulated the following issues of our Journal International Women's News (IWN) with the following themes:

- IWN on Young feminists
- IWN on the Alliance in action based on the contributions to the Seminar organized during IAW Congress in Cyprus on "Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls – Winning Peace and Prosperity in the World"

IAW statements

IAW has submitted a statement to the CSW62 and another by the President as Chair of the IAW Parallel Event NGO CWS62 Forum:

- IAW Written Statement to CSW62, Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls
- Statement by the President, IAW parallel event NGO CSW62 Forum, Rural women's empowerment: Strategies and challenges of women's NGOs

IAW has also signed the following statements:

- Joint NGO statement for meeting between the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs and accredited NGOs
- Urgent action and accountability for the 2030 Agenda: now or never. Response to the SDGs Progress Report ahead of the 2018 UN High Level Political Forum – Public statement endorsed by a number of organizations
- Oral Statement on CSW62 Review Theme presented by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, NGO CSW Vienna
- Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls written statement CSW62 by Soroptimist International
- Written statement of the Swedish Women's Lobby for the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women

- Canadian Federation of University Women Oral Statement – UN CSW62 on rural women and girls

Statements by the President on the website:

Statement by the President on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, 25th November 2017

- Statement by the President, 8th March International Women's Day 2018 on "Time is now: rural and urban activists, transforming women's lives".

Petitions signed by IAW

On 29 May we signed a petition by Amnesty International on Amal Fathy who was imprisoned for posting her metoo story on facebook criticising the Egyptian government for failing to do more for women's rights to live free from harassment. She was arrested along with her husband and her three year old son. Her family has been released but Amal remains detained.

On 4 May we have signed a petition by the "we move community" asking H+M to pay its workers living wages. Workers cannot afford with the wages they get basic needs such as housing, nutrition, health and education.

On 24 May we have signed an emergency petition sent to us by Sizani Ngubane on "speak up for Gaza" demanding Israel to stop using lethal force against protesters.

Via change.org we were updated concerning a petition we have signed on ending Female Genital Mutilation /cutting by 2030 and investing in research and support in Asia. FGM has been reported in many Asian, European and Middle East countries. However, a lack of data from these countries means that the global scope of the problem of FGM remains unknown



Report on Activities of the Executive Vice President of IAW 2017 to 2018 Natalie Kostus

As the Executive Vice President of IAW, I raised the profile of IAW with other member organizations and potential new partners. I provided strategic leadership in the IAW Board Meetings, delegation meetings, and online discussions. I strived to enhance a culture of respect for the work of many extraordinary IAW women, who are experts and leaders in their fields. I focused on strengthening a culture of transparency in taking decisions, openness, and inclusiveness for different opinions, where every member feels valued, supported, and safe to express their views.

I served as a point of contact for new members interested in joining IAW:

- Youth Care, Ibadan, Oyo State, NIGERIA, represented by Dr. Adefunke Ekine, President
- San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, San Francisco, LA, USA, represented by Emily Murase,
- Fonge Women's Group, Limbe, CAMEROON, represented by Mme Nkwinkeh Justine, President
- Afghanistan Social and Legal Organization (ASLO) Kabul, AFGHANISTAN, represented by Abdul Salam Ahmadi, General Executive Director, recommended by Mission East

Regional Vice President Cheryl Hayles' report – North America

- Surveyed women's service organizations on their experiences working in rural communities in Canada and abroad in preparation for Parallel Event for UNCSW62.
- Prepared Executive Summary of survey
- Prepared Written Statement for UNCSW62; "Rural Women and the economic, health, technological, transportation barriers they face due to geographic location".
- Organized and moderated Parallel Event for UNCSW62
- Constructed Oral Statement and secured partner to deliver at UNCSW62
- Met with the Canadian delegation at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN.
- Prepared report on UNCSW62 incorporating delegates' submissions.
- Attended IAW Board meeting in New York in March 2018.
- Initiated and produced a series of 9 bulletins on International Theme Days making connections to the Sustainable Development Goals: Mother's Day 2017, Father's Day 2017, World Day to end Human Trafficking 2017, International Literacy Day Sep. 8, 2017, International Day of the Girl Child - Oct. 11, 2017, National Day (Canada) of Remembrance of Violence Against Women – December 6, 2017, International Women's Day - March 8, 2018, Earth Day - April 22, 2018 , 50/50 Day - April 26, 2018.
- Wrote to the Canadian Minister of Status of Women, Ms. Monsef, regarding the significant gap in the number of female statues in public spaces to celebrate the contributions of Canadian women to society.
- Chaired the Ad Hoc Section Committee which successfully filled the positions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.
- Made regular contributions to the website and newsletter as a member of the Editorial Team.
- Worked with Chair of the Editorial Committee on the design of the website.



- Focused networking efforts on “Indigenous Women”.



- Contacted the Canadian Women’s Foundation and Women in Nuclear Canada regarding joining IAW.

Regional Vice President Manju Kak, Asia

During the period 2017 - 2018 I have taken a few initiatives and tried to understand some areas that could be demarcated for discussion and maybe mutual co-operation in the Asia region.

On e mail I reached out to all our associates and affiliates to share news about their work and region. Not much success was achieved in terms of a response. In India though an effort has been made to promote IAW and its objectives by reaching out to our 500 branches of the AIWC. One of our co-partners in the work towards Peace is IWPG (South Korea) that have expressed a wish to also become members of IAW.

I have asked them to give us a formal application so it can be forwarded to the IAW Membership and President’s Office. They have been engaged in a massive Convention during Sept 17-19th 2018. It is expected that they will do this afterwards.

I also attach a brief Review of some of Asia’s pressing needs for your perusal and greater understanding of this region. Since I am a member of AIWC I have highlighted the work of AIWC also in the specific sphere mentioned for India.

An Introductory Note is also prepared that can be used to email potential partners has been prepared. This is to serve a copy and paste as and when queries come for membership. It can also be used to make overtures to desirable partners when requesting their association with IAW.

A Brief: Sustainable Development Goals- India and Asia Region

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is especially relevant for South Asia countries which, despite their economic dynamism and remarkable Millennium Development Goal (MDG) achievements, account for 37% of the world’s poor, nearly half of the world’s malnourished children, and suffer from a number of development and infrastructure gaps. With one fifth of the world’s population, South Asia has a critical role in the global achievement of the SDGs.

For addressing the key development challenges faced by South Asian countries as highlighted by the leaders, the unfinished MDG agenda, and taking cognizance of inter-relationships and synergies between 17 SDGs and 169 targets.

India has played a important role in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) . Therefore, it is not surprising that the country’s national development goals are mirrored in the SDG’s. For implementing the SDG agenda, the Government of India has launched several

ambitious programmes. State governments are also engaged in developing roadmaps for achieving the SDGs with several of them having already published their plans.

The main messages for India's Voluntary National Review of SDG implementation encapsulates the progress made with respect to Goals **1,2,3,5,14 and 17** (Goal 1-End poverty in all forms everywhere, Goal-2 End hunger, achieved food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, Goal-3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, Goal-5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls , Goal 9- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, Goal 14- Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources, Goal17- Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development).



SDG's	Programmes	AIWC/India	Asia Region
Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages	Sanitary Pads and Menstrual Hygiene	<p>-In India menstruation is often being managed by women and young girls with the most unhygienic and inconvenient ways particularly in poor setting. They develop their own personal hygiene strategies to cope with menstruation which vary greatly on individual's personal preferences, cultural beliefs (myth, Taboos), economic status and education.</p> <p>-AIWC is creating awareness on Menstrual Hygiene and sanitation in the schools and communities. Under socio-economic- project- sanitary napkin project has sanctioned to Kakinada Branch (Andhra Pradesh) especially for rural women.</p>	<p>-South Asia region has been at the forefront of progress to ensure that WASH services, including those in schools, pay attention to the needs of menstruating girls and women.</p> <p>-To change on the ground it is essential to review progress, identify successful approaches and innovations that can be scaled up, and to ensure that the voices of women and girls are heard, so that solution effectively addressed their needs and promote their rights.</p>
Goal-15 Life on land	Solid Waste Management	<p>-India's rapid growth has resulted in substantial increase in solid waste generation in urban centre's. Urban areas in India alone generate more than 100,000 metric tons of solid waste per day, which is higher than many countries "total waste generation".</p> <p>-There are various factors that attribute to poor solid waste management, such as, lack of public awareness, unplanned city growth, high waste generation and non-functioning of existing systems. Rate of urbanization, scavenger role for recyclable separation and the capacities of existing municipalities for solid waste management are also important factors that should be considered.</p>	<p>-Solid waste management is already a significant concern for municipal governments across South Asia. It constitutes one of their largest costs and the problem is growing year on year.</p>

		<p>-As per the constitution of India, Solid waste management is a state subject and it is primary responsibility of state governments to ensure that appropriate solid waste management practices are introduced in all the cities and town in the state.</p> <p>AIWC entered into the field of waste management since 1980. Even before the term “Climate change “came into existence.</p> <p>In 2004, AIWC head office took the initiative for integrated approach to waste management. Our branches creating awareness of solid waste management in the urban, rural and slum communities.</p>	
Goal 16 Peace and justice strong institutions	Communal Harmony and National Integration awareness	<p>-Goal 16 is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building accountable institutions at all levels. National and global institutions have to be more transparent and effective, including local governance and judicial systems which are critical to the guarantee of human rights, law and order, and security.</p> <p>-India has prioritized the strengthening of justice through government initiatives including Pragati Platform, a public grievance redressal system, and the Development of Infrastructure Facilities for the Judiciary including Gram Nyayalays for villages.</p> <p>-Through National Integration and communal harmony awareness our AIWC branches promoting peace and working towards SDG 16.</p>	<p>-Violence is perhaps the most significant and destructive challenge to the development, growth, wellbeing, and the very survival of countries around the world. Fatalities resulting from armed conflict are rising in some parts of the world, causing mass displacement within countries and across borders, and resulting in massive humanitarian crises that adversely impact every aspect of our developmental efforts. Other forms of violence – crime and sexual and gender based violence – also remain a global challenge.</p> <p>-South Asia is affecting with mass</p>

			displacement such as Rohingya crisis (Burma), Political disturbances in Jakarta (Indonesia), Taliban in (Afghanistan) etc
Goal 4 Quality Education	Integrated Literacy and Skill Development programme	<p>-In India, significant progress had been made in universalizing primary education, with improvement in the enrolment and completion rates of girls in both primary and elementary school. As of 2013-14, the net enrolment ratio in primary education for boys and girls was 88%, while at the national level, the youth literacy rate was 94% for males and 92% for females. The new national Education Policy and Sustainable Development Goal 4 share the goals of universal quality education and lifelong learning. The flagship government scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, is aimed at achieving universal quality education for all Indians, and is complemented in this effort by targeted schemes on nutritional support, higher education, and teacher training.</p> <p>-AIWC is implementing Integrated Literacy and skill development programme in the branches. Where we imparting skill training with education.</p>	<p>-The Goals related to education (SDG-4) is critical priorities in the South Asian context given the gaps remaining and in view of its latent potential to emerge as the global knowledge hub, given its youth population</p> <p>-South Asian governments are adopting rights-based approaches to provide universal education but need to also pay attention to the quality of education and training.</p>
Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<p>Equal pay for equal work</p> <p>Gender Integration in Climate Change Policies</p> <p>Violence against women</p>	<p>-Govt. of India stated that, women's employment has taken alarming dip in rural areas in the past two years. This is the reflection of the fact that women are no longer getting longer term and better paying jobs, and so are forced to take up short term transient work. (verma 2013). Towards tilting the scale and correcting the gloomy scenario, Central Government schemes for providing regular employment in rural areas have been implemented. Due to this many rural women, for</p>	<p>Despite achieving gender parity in education, South Asia lags behind in economic and political empowerment of women, as well as other dimensions of gender equality (SDG-5). Estimates suggest that gender equality could add upto \$3.4 trillion to South Asian</p>

		<p>the first time are seen engaged in paid employment other than their work in agriculture or as care givers</p> <p>-The organization has also played significant role at national as well as global level on gender integration in CC Policies in keeping with the target of Goal 13. Apart from contributing in the global process by participating in COP and SBI meetings, we have been working at the national and state level for including women voices in climate change policies and implementation plans.</p> <p>-In recent years, there has been an alarming rise in violence against women's in India. All India Women's Conference invited members of other CSO's to discuss about the rampant increase in the barbaric rape cases. Over 64 CSO's, individuals and the members of AIWC-Delhi actively participated in the meeting on 19th April, 2018. Set of resolutions passed in consultation with all the participating organizations has been shared by us with all the relevant authority. We also had personal meeting with the Minister of Women and Child Development had in depth discussion and have assured all possible support with the government initiatives to address the issue of violence against women.</p> <p>-Through legal Awareness , Gender Sensitization programmes AIWC creating awareness in the communities so that women get aware of their rights.</p>	countries' GDP by 2025.
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RAPPORT DES ACTIVITES DE L'AFRIQUE FRANCOPHONE

Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa



C'est depuis Octobre 2016, au congrès de l'AIF en chypres que la tache de coordonner les activités de l'alliance internationale des femmes en Afrique Francophone a été confiée à Madame Anuarite SIIREWABO MUYUWA.

Au cours de ce congrès, il a été décidé que la région d'Afrique devait être résidée par notre amie RITHA MARGUET MBATA de Zimbabwe avec comme Vice-Présidente la Coordinnatrice de l'Afrique Francophone ci-haut citée.

Depuis cette période couronnée pour ces différentes attributions en Afrique, et a été remarqué le manque de contact permanente a mis un frein a une communion dans la contribution à l'atteinte des objectifs de l'AIF partout dans le continent.

Cependant, du côté des activités prévues pour l'Afrique, la coordinatrice Madame Anuarite a conjugué des efforts énormes afin de faire participer les pays membres de l'AIF notamment : le TOGO, le BENIN, le TCHAD, le MAROC ainsi que la RDC.

Tous ces pays, après s'être mis d'accord sur leur plan d'activité partout sur un programme d'observatoire des violences contre les femmes en Afrique Francophone ; ont tenté de contacter plusieurs organisations en Afrique après approbation et sous la direction de la présidente Joanna, afin de nouer des relations avec des grandes organisations au niveau de l'Afrique. Ces grandes organisations Africaines sont entre autres l'organisation internationale de la francophonie qui nous a son tour référé à l'association genre en action et tous ces contacts sont en cours.

En rappel, les femmes actives à ces démarches et activités sont :

- SAMIRA JASSNI du Maroc
- ADELE Andougo du Benin
- ADJOA AKAKPO du Togo
- RAKIA KABA du Tchad
- BATEMBO FAIDA de la RDC
- NTAKEBUKA WENEMWAFIZI Whilmine de la RDC
- BIRAGIMWALI MAHESHE Nathalie de la RDC
- La coordinatrice Anuarite SIIREWABO MUYUWA

A ces nombre vient de s'ajouter depuis le mois d'aout passé un autre grand nombre des femmes braves des différents pays d'Afrique qui ont été contactées et sensibilisées par la coordinatrice Anuarite ainsi que Madame SAMIRA. Ces femmes sont du Rwanda, Burundi, Kinshasa, Cote d'ivoire, Conakry qui vont bientôt adhérer à l'AIF.

Quant à ce qui est des activités proprement dite en Afrique francophone les pays suivants ont été actifs dans la mise en application du programme de l'observatoire des violences contre les femmes, dont voilà le sommaire dans un tableau pour chaque pays :

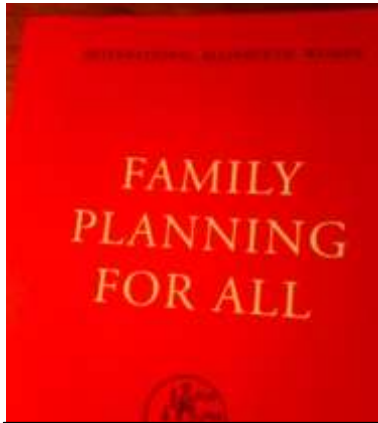
PAYS	ORGANISATION	ACTIVITES	PERIODE
BENIN	SURVIE ONG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campagnes de sensibilisation tant en direction des femmes que des hommes dans le cadre de la vulgarisation de deux instruments juridiques en faveur de la promotion des droits de la femme. - Il s'agit de la Convention Relative aux Droits de la Femme que notre pays a ratifiée et de la Loi n° 2011-26 du Janvier 2012 portant prévention et répression des violences faites aux femmes en République du Bénin. - A l'occasion des rencontres de sensibilisation tenues dans 72 villages sur les 96 que compte la Commune de Dassa-Zoumé et dans les 52 villages sur les 74 que compte la Commune de Glazoué, le contenu et l'esprit de la loi ont été largement partagés. - A ces occasions, plusieurs plaintes ont été enregistrées les unes formulées par des femmes violentées, les autres par des femmes exclues du foyer conjugal. - Quand on écoute les récits des faits, on se rend compte que les hommes violent constamment les droits élémentaires des femmes. - Seize (16) femmes violentées ont été conseillées et orientées par SURVIE vers le Cabinet d'Aide Juridique de l'ONG WILDAF. - Une seule d'entre elle a accepté d'aller porter une plainte au Tribunal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - De Avril 2018- jusqu'à nos jour

		- D'autre part, SURVIE a accompagné au Tribunal pour une plainte, les parents de douze (12) élèves mineurs enceintes.	
TOGO	MA COLOMBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Campagne de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes et aux filles - sensibilisation en milieu scolaire et Universitaire sur les conséquences des violences faites aux femmes 	Mai- Juin 2018
RDC	SOFEDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sensibilisation de la population par la vulgarisation du texte de lois répriment les violences sexuelles et basées sur le genre dans la commune de Bagira, 106 personnes sensibilisées dont 40 hommes ; 46 femmes ; 20 jeunes dont 10 filles et 10 garçons tous majeurs. - Réception et audition des victimes des viols - Trois filles de moins de 18 ans violées ont été reçues et conduites dans une structure sanitaire pour des soins afin d'éviter des IST et des grossesses indésirables - Accompagnement des victimes par les avocats de la SOFEDC auprès des instances judiciaires de Bukavu pour demander la 	<p>Depuis mai 2018</p> <p>En cours</p> <p>En cours</p> <p>En cours</p>

		<p>condamnation des bourreaux</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accompagnement socio-économique des victimes par les créations des activités génératrices des revenus (Agriculture, élevage, coupe-couture, Vannerie, saponification et la formation des mutuelles de solidarités d'épargne et des crédits MUSOEC) - 5 filles sont en formation coupe-couture, 5 femmes en Agriculture, 2 en saponification et 3 en vannerie. 	<p>En cours</p> <p>En cours</p>
TCHAD	Association des femmes Juristes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accompagnement des victimes des violences dans la chaîne des valeurs agricoles 	Juillet- Aout 2018
MAROC	PASOCI en Collaboration avec SAMIRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Préparatifs d'une conférence sur la migration et le développement dans le cadre de mise en place des stratégies de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes migrantes, une contribution pour le développement de l'Afrique où 9 pays Africains vont être représentés, notamment tous les pays francophones membres de l'AIF 	D'Aout en Décembre 2018

COMMISSIONS

Report of the Health Commission by convener Gudrun Haupter



*Brochure published on the
IAW panel at the ICPD*

In the reporting period Nov. 2017 to Sept. 2018 the Commission's activities remained intertwined with activities at WHO on behalf of the IAW.

Please see separate report by Ursula Nakamura and Seema Uplekar, the IAW representatives at WHO.

Presently the Commission has **ten members from different regions and countries**, most have been with the Commission for many years. Dr. Laxmi Gandhi joined the Commission. She is the Director of a provincial Hospital in India and knows much about health and social problems of women.

We strived to work in a concrete manner on several of the core issues of the Action Program on Health 2017 to 2020, AP. It is on

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/xw2p5l1507uxjbo/3-17 Text%20Health New%20AP final%20MARCH%202017.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/xw2p5l1507uxjbo/3-17%20Text%20Health%20New%20AP%20final%20MARCH%202017.pdf?dl=0)

Core issues of the AP are listed below

1. As to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) well-known concerns of the IAW are Female genital Mutilation/cutting; Sexual violence and exploitation; Child marriage; Improved access to family planning including access to safe and legal abortion to prevent, inter alia, Maternal death and Maternal morbidity. A less-widely known threat to women's and girls' rights and safety has caught the Commission's attention, **Menstrual health management**, MHM, and evolved into a promising IAW-project. *Please see Main Activity related to 1.*

2. Women's Health Rights often fail to be met in those non-communicable diseases (NCD) that hit only women, such as Cervical cancer. This women-specific issue needs to be urgently dealt with. Prevention and early detection tools exist but are not available to women in countries that lack the required medical infrastructure. A less demanding alternative to regular pap smears exists and research results on using VIA, Visual inspection with acetic acid, in poor-resource countries, are available.

Women-specific aspects of NCDs tend to be overlooked. The Commission's focus is on the Tobacco issue, in particular all forms of passive smoking and protection of women and girls from aggressive marketing.

Main activity related to 1.

Menstruation issues create a rights gap for many girls in developing countries.

Much of our energy and time went into advancing the Project **Water and Pads for Schoolgirls – Empowerment for Life.**



Without Ursula's clear view of what needed to be done next and the drafts she wrote, we would not have moved forward along the scheme presented and approved at Congress in Nicosia.

A first questionnaire sent late in 2017 to IAW member organizations in developing countries in French resp. English, asked if they wished to be among the actors. Ursula had spent hours and hours surfing in the internet to learn more about these countries and our members.

The answers to the questionnaire signaled that health education including information on sexual and reproductive health was most urgently needed in rural areas. There, a majority of schools has no access to running water, let alone clean separate toilets for girls and boys. Access to water as condition for good sanitary installations is a common problem in our target countries.

Answers to a second individualized questionnaire are expected until end of August. It has been sent in July 2018 to the 7 members that had shown strong interest in working with schools or in promoting a local production of sanitary pads. They gave an accurate description of the facts and had already quite realistic and precise ideas about how to proceed. By then it was clear that cooperation with rural schools and health centers within the frame of health education was our approach (for ex. in order to provide specific knowledge on the implications of menstruation for girls within basic health education). Basic general health education, not to be confounded with Sexual and Reproductive Health education, is often provided in urban settings but rarely in rural ones.

APWA Punjab, Pakistan; CEFAP and RENATA, Cameroon; SOFETEC, DR Congo; Zambia, Alliance of Women Zambia; Women's Comfort Corner foundation, Zimbabwe, are the seven members that will enter into dialogue about the aims of the IAW project with the schools and health centers they select and describe. Main target group are girls 10 years and older.

More steps will be needed to make the project a success.

Menstruation is a sensitive issue, is often regarded as a shame, and myths about "unclean women" are widespread. In many families it is a taboo. All this shows that, even in the restricted frame of our project there is plenty of work to do.

How to proceed with Financing our Project was a Knacknuss (Swiss expression to describe a problem which is difficult to solve). Ursula devised a *Concept Note* in English and French adaptable to particularities of sponsors and institutions to be solicited. The *Concept Note*

states inter alia that tangible outcome is to be expected, that IAW can rely very much on specific fact finding of IAW representatives in their respective countries, that substantial work is performed by members on a voluntary basis.

Seed money is available but fundraising itself has yet to be tackled.

The Berlin meeting, 23 to 29 October, will be our next opportunity to present the project to a wider audience.

Other action related to 1.

I directed the Health Commission's attention

- to the report **Agenda Europe** published by the European Parliamentary Forum, and asked for feedback. Repealing rights-based comprehensive sexuality education for girls and boys, discussing Sexual diversity and alternative forms of the family, rejecting modern possibilities of procreation, and rolling back other SRHR in European countries by abolishing laws, all this is on the long list of backward orientation and subversion of **Agenda Europe**. A recent publication on this agenda, with an abstract, is on https://www.epfweb.org/sites/epfweb.org/files/rtno_epf_book_lores.pdf Outside of Europe and the Vatican the movement is supported e.g. by Evangelical churches and their missionaries in many countries.

- to the custom in Niger where the bride receives as marriage gift only a donkey to carry the water she has to collect. The participants of a Unesco-sponsored course on water and sanitation in Ouagadougou, among them Anuarite Siiriwabo, were told that this chore exposes them to sexual and other assaults, the journey may be a threat to their personal safety. On top of this women and girls have to cope with changes due to the menstrual cycle. Participants listened to a woman from Niger who reported on the official commotion caused by a reduction of women's fertility resulting in a slow-down of the population growth: Fetching water kept women away from the marital bed, preventing them from giving pleasure to their husbands and getting pregnant. No one mentioned that Niger is the country with the highest fertility rate worldwide. Statistics I checked indicate this is not due to a lack of information on both traditional and modern methods but to the lack of the desire to stop or limit child bearing. Many couples just don't want to talk about family planning and the use of contraceptives is a taboo subject.

- to the fact that the argument that there is no acceptance for FP in Moslem countries is far too general; that women in all societies that keep them in the status of minors are well aware of the hazards of pregnancy and birth and wish, at the very least, to space pregnancies; that they need contraceptives effective for 3 to 5 years without interference of husbands; and in allusion to the IAW brochure (see photo) that the cost for the implementation of "Family planning for all" is minimal compared to other possibilities to relieve population pressure like a Marshall Plan for Africa or financing job programs in countries with an alarming migration trend.

Concerns related to 2.

No access to preventive screening for reproductive cancers is among the issues lacking in the Agreed conclusions of CSW 62 in February 2018. It is seemingly no priority of the international community and receives little funding.

This is also true for our issue, to use VIA, the Visual Inspection method with Acetic acid which also works in a much less demanding medical infrastructure.

News items on MHM and other concerns of the Commission have been published in **IAW Newsletters of the reporting period and/or on the Homepage:**

- NL of December 2017: Ursula and I reported on the first Questionnaire.

- NL of February 2018:

- ° We communicated views and info received from members on the issues Water and Pads and pointed to the social and taboo aspects of menstruation. See also <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/breaking-social-taboo-tribal-girl-applies-for-sanitary-vending-machine-in-her-village/articleshow/62602740.cms> on the IAW homepage.

- ° Commission member Soon-Young Yoon spoke in her capacity as IAW representative in N.Y. about “ Harnessing civil society to safeguard progress and promote accountability” at the meeting of the WHO Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Group on Health Promotion in the SDGs” held in Berlin 11 to 12 December 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to mobilize “bold political action” to promote health in the SDGs.

Soon-Young emphasized the importance of putting women’s human rights and leadership at the center of health promotion.

- NL of April: Signe Vahlun from the Steering group of the project contributed, in English and French, “Water and Pads for Schoolgirls – much needed in IAW-countries”.

- NL of June:

- ° I reflected on Family Planning at and after the ICPD in Cairo, 1994 on

- <https://womenalliance.org/family-planning-for-all>

See also photo of IAW brochure published in 1995 by then President Alice Marangopoulos.

7 Letters to the Commission have addressed our core themes, often connected to gender-based violence, in English and French. They gave examples of well-known women’s health rights that are under attack in one or more countries, and pointed to the consequences. They also provided reliable news I came across on attempts to infringe on women’s rights by rolling back or disregarding legislation on gender equality. Authoritarian governments in the US and elsewhere attempt to disregard progressive laws and strengthen traditional values. An example from Letter No. 23 is that legal equality of women and men in divorce is under threat in Turkey because of interference by the Institute of Religious Affairs, Dyanet.

Reaction of the members to the **letters** was a bit uneven, but valuable.

Last but not least let me praise Seema’s endurance to translate the WHO mhGAP Intervention Guide V2.0 in Marathi, organise the launching event in Geneva and have it put

up at the WHO website along with versions in English and other languages. For details see Ursula's report.

On the IAW homepage Seema speaks i.a. on the importance of having the guide translated in the fourth-most spoken language in India. Like most other world regions, India and the state of Maharashtra also have a paucity of mental health professionals and services. IAW hopes that the Marathi translation of mhGAP-IG will help bring evidence-based and high-quality mental health care within the reach of Marathi speaking people of India.

In-depth info by Seema on the Intervention Guide V2,0 is on

<https://womenalliance.org/iaw-launches-marathi-translation-of-world-health-organizations-mental-health-gap-action-programme-intervention-guide-mhgap-ig>

As is the case with most issues the Commission tackles, progress will depend on the cooperation of member organizations, individual members and other Commissions of the IAW.

Improved communication within the IAW would make a difference, too.

Report of IAW Peace Commission by Heide Schütz, convener

Topics and invitation to participate

Two topics are on my mind that the peace commission should start with.

Both gain considerable impact if dealt with on an international level.

Therefore the peace commission of IAW is a great chance to share

information and visions and make a rich contribution to these peace

issues. One is the UNSEC Resolution 1325 and additional resolutions since the year 2000, the other is the topic of the culture of peace that we already started to discuss in Nikosia during breaks. The culture of peace is deeply rooted in every culture, but very often hidden, outruled, forgotten or simply neglected. There is a great variety and diversity as well as there are common roots and traditions. This is where we can all contribute and learn from each other. I strongly believe that the culture of peace is a corner stone to peace after all.

The UN SC Resolution 1325 was unanimously passed on October 2000 by the UN Security Council. One of its corner stones is to bring women to the peace negotiating table, including grassroot peace women from areas of armed conflict. A relatively great number of states have even passed a National Action Plan (NAP) for its implementation, but a profound change has not taken place yet. Some examples of shuttle diplomacy are to be found and lately a strong women's coalition in Columbia managed to bring forward the women's demands for a new democratic and peaceful society with women's equal rights because a Gender Group was founded as part of the peace process. Right now there is an international move by the UN Working Group on 1325 to gain the attention of the international



community to the disastrous deficit of the implementation of the resolution, since it is binding. IAW has always given support and I think we should not let the resolution go but link to the international women and peace community while having a close eye on the policy of one's own country. Here we can also share information and bring together best practices and lessons learnt.

Please feel invited to participate in this commission if you are interested in peace issues and especially in these two topics and if you have some time to spend on some research and communication tasks. Other topics may come up later according to your suggestions and the common decision. I very much favour the interrelationship between equality, development and peace the guide line of all four UN World Conferences on Women. These important goals are also linked now by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Both topics, UN SC Resolution 1325 and the culture of peace will be focused upon in The IAW Seminar in Berlin October 2018, organized by Marion Böker , DFR, in cooperation with Heide Schütz and Margret Otto , president and vice President of Women's Network for Peace (Germany).

I was happy to participate in the side event on the implementation of UN SC 1325 in the Council of Europe on 27 June 2018, organized through the strong advocacy of Anje Wiesinga (IAW representative at INGO/Council of Europe.) One of the panelists was Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, the former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations who had been the president of the UN Security Council in 2000 when the resolution was voted upon unanimously. He was and still is also one of the strong supporters of the global movement for the Culture of Peace. There I also had the chance to meet again two other panelists, Maria Hadjipavleu and Biran Mertan, the Cypriot university women from both sides of the Cypriot line of the divide, initiators and members of the Cypriot Gender Advisory Team envisioning future peace negotiations with the participation of women. I had got to know them through Anje Wiesinga in Nikosia during the IAW congress in 2017. Hopefully there will be a chance to invite them to come to Germany or to other countries in the near future.

I also welcomed the chance to meet Rosy Weiss in Vienna to discuss matters and envisioned topics of the Peace Commission.

Report of IAW-Commission for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament / Korea Resolution by Esther R. Suter, convener



IAW adopted at the Cyprus Congress 2017 a resolution supporting efforts for a Peace Treaty for Korea. As a member of the IAW Peace-Commission (for nuclear disarmament) I am involved in issues concerning Peace on the Korean Peninsula on various levels.

I had the opportunity to make contacts with Korean women (from Korea and USA) while participating at the UN-CSW sessions in New York (from 2010-2018). Some of these women were involved with the women's march „Women cross DMZ“ in 2015 and work for a Peace Treaty- Campaign. In

the meantime I could also interest Women for Peace Switzerland for the issue of Korean Reconciliation and Reunification.

The relations between South and North have changed a lot in the past decades. A majority of people in the South have given up their enemy image about the North and welcome reconciliation. Confidence building is a continuous and basic work, done mainly from Koreans who belong to a religious background. In the South it is among others the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK). Efforts to keep contacts and exchange with North Korean Christians, especially with the Korean Christian Federation (KCF) in the North are continuously maintained.

In June 2018 during the 70-year jubilee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva a delegation of 4 North and 4 South Koreans – women and men - were invited. They represented the head of the NCKK and the KCF. Following the celebrations in Geneva the Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula (EFC) gathered with international delegates.

I had a chance to make interviews with the director of the Commission of Churches for International Affairs (CCIA) of the WCC and the General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). They visited South and North Korea in April-May 2018, their partner churches and met the minister for reconciliation in the South and a minister in the North. In April it was a moment of increasing tensions with the risk of a nuclear conflict in the East Asian region.

Their common initiatives for Peace brought the NCKK and the KCF together for a collaboration and in this way the summit of Panmunjom on April 27 took place. This summit led to the Panmunjom-Declaration of President Moon Jae-In in the South and Kim Jong-un, President of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea in the North. In this declaration they express that no war shall take place anymore on the Korean Peninsula, that dialogue and negotiations shall be enforced in order to alleviate military tensions and confrontation, and to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement of 1953 by a Peace Treaty. This result, the

Panmunjom-Declaration, motivated Kim Jong-un, President of the People's Democratic Republic, and US-President Donald Trump, to meet in Singapore in June.

The WCRC General Secretary added that from his experience a de-escalation is only possible by ending provocative activities (military manoeuvres). But a big issue will be the misunderstanding of what a complete de-escalation means: a nuclear free Korean Peninsula. He added that US-media would not have the same understanding of de-nuclearisation. But for their side this seems quite clear: It needs a process of mutual nuclear disarmament. North Korea would not be ready for disarmament as long as they feel threatened (e.g. by the manoeuvres). The USA urge for nuclear disarmament on the Korean Peninsula and at the same time they push their own militarisation, this would be a wrong message in the wrong moment... «we insist on global disarmament. Nuclear weapons are destined for mass murder at civilians and would destroy cities. There is not moral justification for it», he explained. The director of CCIA added: A process of dialogue should be started in order to tackle the challenges of the entire region which includes a resolution for nuclear disarmament. He reminded of the Peace Nobel Price in 2017 given to the anti-nuclear weapons campaign ICAN, a coalition of 450 peace groups and organisation, the WCC and WCRC are members of the campaign.

Commission on Climate Change 2017 to 2018

By Natalie Kostus,



Newly elected Board Cyprus 2017

During the 2017-2018, I together with the members of the Commission on Climate Change focused on the implementation of the IAW Action Programme on Climate Change 2018-2020 adopted at the Congress in Cyprus.

Fulfilling the implementation of part 1 of the Climate Change Programme:

- I led a session and an interactive discussion during the IAW Congress, focusing on the main elements of the climate change programme and its implementation in the context of international climate change negotiations and experiences from IAW member organizations.
- I wrote three extensive articles for the IAW website: “New IAW Action Programme on Climate Change 2018-2020 Adopted at the 37th IAW Congress in Nicosia,” “Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action,” and “UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn and the Gender Plan of Action (GAP).”
- I organized a new partnership for IAW with Farming First, a coalition of 180 agriculture organizations representing the world’s farmers, scientists, engineers, and industry, as well as agricultural development organizations. The gender media campaign called #FillTheGap explored the stories of female farmers who have overcome challenges. Although there were no stories from IAW to participate in the campaign and the partnership did not materialize, I provided my expertise and support throughout the campaign, as it was empowering for rural women.
- I worked with IAW member organizations one-on-one enhancing their interest and capacity on climate change issues and negotiations, sharing experiences, and developing strategies.

Part 1 of the New Action Programme on Climate Change focuses on implementation actions within the IAW, that enhance the connection between global policy on climate change and member organizations that work on the ground. Action items in Part 1 include: support to member organizations to engage in climate change policy on global, national and local levels; facilitate exchange of information; organize interactive meetings and workshops at the IAW Congress (on policy processes and actions), at the IAW Board Meeting (on thematic areas to enhance work on issues) and at the International Meeting (on policy outcomes and opportunities for input).

Fulfilling the implementation of part 2 of the Climate Change Programme, I and the Commission Members were active in advocacy during the CSW on enhancing the language on climate change in CSW outcome document, focusing on the needs of rural women.

Part 2 of the New Action Programme on Climate Change focuses on the policy that IAW promotes, recognizing women’s priorities, specific indicators, and adequate financing. Policy items in Part 2 include recognition for: ground realities of different countries, urgency of climate change and sustainable development interlinkages, socio-economic rights and climate resilience, disaster risk reduction and climate refugees, women climate refugees and migrants, rural women and women food producers, indigenous women and biodiversity protection, rights and children and rights of girls, climate change and women’s health, sexual and reproductive

rights, and measures to contain population growth.

Fulfilling the implementation of part 3 of the Climate Change Programme, I together with the members of the Commission on Climate Change participated in advocacy at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). We advocated on enhancing women's rights and gender language. At COP 23, parties worked towards the advancement of work on issues related to operationalizing the Paris Agreement, the "Paris Agreement Work Programme," set to complete by COP 24 in 2018.

COP 23 made history when Parties recommended for adoption the first Gender Plan of Action (GAP) for the UNFCCC on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. The GAP seeks to advance women's full, equal and meaningful participation and promote gender-responsive climate policy and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Convention and the work of Parties, the secretariat, UN entities, and all stakeholders at all levels. The GAP contains five priority areas, with activities that will drive the achievement of its objectives, and timelines for implementation between 2018 and 2019.

Fulfilling the implementation of part 3 of the Climate Change Programme, I worked with Jessika Kehl-Lauff to move forward with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and obtain observer admission for IAW. IAW does not have an officer in Switzerland and cannot fulfill the requirements for nonprofit status under the Swiss law.

Part 3 of the New Action Programme on Climate Change focuses on the IAW engagement in the global climate change policy development under the UNFCCC. Action items in Part 3 include: obtaining UNFCCC observer status, contributing to the negotiations process, providing recommendations and written inputs, implementing the Paris Agreement, and joining efforts with women's groups.

Committees

Constitution Committee by Lyda Verstegen, Convener



It is not a habit to make a report of the Constitution Committee, but there are some things to explain.

In Cyprus the Congress revised the Constitution. It is on the website in English and French.

We discussed some bylaws, but it was a very unorderedly discussion, so it was agreed that The Constitution Committee would send their proposals well before the Board Meeting in Berlin. The idea was that

they would only be discussed if there was a difference of opinion expressed before the meeting.

The bylaws are a very vague matter, for several functions they did not exist.

So we made one for the Secretary General and the Assistant SG, for the Membership Secretary and we reviewed the existing bylaw on privacy protection because it would not be sufficient for the new European Privacy rules (GDPR).

The President has consulted a Greek lawyer who apparently made a bylaw on privacy protection for us, but as I have not seen it, I will keep to the decision of Cyprus and send the bylaws to be discussed in Berlin or passed without a discussion.

When they are ready they will be published on the website and sent to the Member Organizations.

Other Officers

Report of Membership Secretary Pat Richardson, OAM



Dear members and supporters of IAW, it seems only yesterday I was preparing a report for our Congress in Cyprus and now here I am preparing a report for our booklet for our Board meeting in Berlin in 2018.

It is one hundred years since German women were given the vote, so we will be celebrating with them at this Board meeting and its various seminars and functions hosted by the DFR (the Deutscher Frauenring e.V) one of our Affiliated societies in Germany. (They very kindly collect for forty-four individual German members of IAW and pay the IAW subscription for three German women's libraries).

I would like to express my sorrow at the loss of Bettina Corke, one of our devoted members...she was our Representative at the FAO in Rome for many years and very active at IAW meetings. She was Scottish but lived in Italy. Many of us stayed with her up the mountains out of L'Aquila, until she was made homeless by the huge earthquake there. But I was very pleased to attend a meeting of the NGO sub-committee of the FAO with her...when she stayed with me in Rome and she was completing a video on Gandhi and Mandela...in my hotel bedroom...I thought that was great fun.

As you would know from my previous reports, I have been doing the Membership Secretary's job since December 1996...long before the days of email and websites.

At last my computer work is to be taken over by a Database and Lene Pind will be the liaison person with the Database. I have felt for some years that it was time to give my duties up as I am now 85...I enjoy the meeting and greeting, but the computer files were getting too much for me. However, I will direct enquiries to Lene and her team....and I will continue to help

Joke Sebus with our email address list. Joke and I have worked in close collaboration since 1998 when we began to use email for much of our correspondence...and through to now producing our Journal 'The International Women's News' by PDF and the bi-monthly newsletter which goes out to all our members who have email...which is luckily most of them.

I have sorted out and listed all the copies of the Printed journals I had on hand, twenty two years' worth, and **Priscilla Todd, our IWN editor, has suggested that they be scanned and put on our website to be available to anyone wishing to do historical essays or see what IAW was working on at the time....I would suggest that a quote be obtained by Priscilla, as to the cost and money be set aside in our IAW yearly budget to get this done.**

Also, It is important that a home be found for the journals, which are sorted in boxes and stand 60 cm off the floor! I also have many archive boxes of IAW master files, which also need a home.

New Affiliates and Associated societies. In Cyprus last year, the IAW admitted many new Affiliates and Associated societies...we welcome them and if they have any questions please feel free to contact me...and if I can't assist them, I will certainly direct them to someone who can. Also, remember that your subscription for the year can be paid via the 'Donate' button on our website. For Affiliated societies the sub is Euro 110 and for Associated societies it is Euro 55.

If you aren't financial your organization can't vote at Board meetings, and especially not at Congress when our Plan of Action for the forthcoming Triennium is thrashed out. Our financial year runs from January to December. I would like to remind new IAW Board members that they are required to join as Individual members under our Constitution.

I am pleased my suggestion was accepted a few years ago, that Individual members who join at a Congress, pay for three years...this cuts down on paper work and, also, bank or visa fees.

In my coming retirement from the position of Membership Secretary, I will still be the Australian collector of subscriptions, plus I am planning a book on the many Australian women, who have travelled across the globe to IAW meetings and Congresses, beginning with Vida Goldstein in 1902. Vida travelled to Washington for the formation meeting of IAW, followed by Board members or delegates such as Chave Collison, Bessie Rischbieth, Ruby Rich, Pat Goble, Pat Giles, Priscilla Todd, Edith Hedger, Una Ellis, Dr. Deirdre Pirro, Dr. Jocelyne Scutt, Irene Dunsmuir, & Sheila Deaves. I hope to call my book, 'The Girls from OZ!' The early women were great orators, so I hope to find reports in the archives of their concerns and activities. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who knew any of these women and might have interesting items about them.

I believe that Australia has had someone on the IAW Board almost continuously since 1904...or else on the outer Board in various important positions...and I can only hope this tradition is maintained. I was very pleased that Amanda Keeling from my own affiliate WEL in Australia, went to the last CSW meetings in New York at her own expense and gave a short address from the floor of the UN.

I'm sorry I can't be with you in Berlin, owing to long-haul flights being too much for me at my age. However, I am sending my granddaughter, Holly, as my proxy.

Best wishes to you all in your deliberations in Berlin.

Pat Richardson, OAM

Communications

By Lene Pind, Head of Communications

In cooperation with Alison Brown, Cheryl Hayles, Christina Knight and Priscilla Todd

Newsletter



At Congress in 2017 an editorial committee was appointed comprising Cheryl Hayles, Christina Knight, Miriam Limås-Kollberg and myself. This committee now works with both the Newsletter and the website.

The Newsletter is published 6 times a year and is sent to member organisations, institutions and libraries and to individual members as a pdf file. It is

also published on the website.

The Newsletter is increasingly becoming a means of communication among members, that is a tool for members to report to other members about their activities, thus showing what IAW is. This must be developed further. What we need is more information from IAW affiliates and associates, not only about their own activities, but also about any interesting and relevant issues in their countries and how they are dealt with politically or otherwise.

With the database up and running we should change to Mailchimp for the distribution of the Newsletter.

Website

The hack

In late February 2018 the website was hacked. We believe that the avenues of entry were through two email addresses (those of the President and the Secretary General) and the old IWA blog, which has now been eliminated from the server. Both Alison Brown and I invested considerable time and resources into repairing the damage and reconfiguring the website to acquire new levels of security in the most economical manner possible. Nevertheless, some funds were spent in the process especially on restoring the “give”- plugin, which is the connection to the bank. Fortunately Cheryl Hayles, VP for North America, connected us with Scott Dempster, an IT security adviser and website designer, who is now our webmaster, and

who has already provided valuable assistance especially when it comes to making the website secure.

Alison Brown and I are confident that it will be “safe sailing” forward, at least as safe as the world is nowadays. Safety, however, depends on the people who use our website including the e-mail system. They must be diligent in their own computer security measures and practice “safe surfing”. We encourage members to check back immediately with supposed IAW correspondents if ANYTHING seems suspicious.

Launching of updated and modernized website

At Congress in Cyprus I announced that we would soon need a new website, but, as we did not have a webmaster, this would have to be postponed until we found somebody to work for IAW. This has now happened.

After the hack and despite all our efforts it was not possible to restore the website completely to its original design, which was more suited for a website with less content than we have now.

So now is a good time to relaunch the website.

The committee consulted Scott Dempster and, in our opinion, what he suggested suits the needs of IAW. At the same time Cheryl Hayles committed herself to being the donor of the expenses related to the work of Scott Dempster as webmaster. I am sure we all appreciate that. Thank you so much, Cheryl!

The updated website was launched in September 2018, and members are invited to report to lenepind@gmail.com or cherylhayles@sympatico.ca about issues of functionality.

Social Media

Our Facebook account now has 2074 likes, so we are continually getting more. Cheryl Hayles is now the co-editor of the IAW Facebook account. That is a great help.

I would be delighted if somebody would help with Twitter. Arina Angerman is contributing, but it would be really good if somebody took over from me.

Database

The idea of having a database was firstly instigated by Louise Deumer, who soon after her election to the board, realized that IAW needed a more modern and efficient administration, and she was right. To be sustainable an organisation needs efficient administrative procedures.

At Congress in Cyprus in 2017 the Communications Unit (Joke Sebus, Priscilla Todd and Lene Pind) was authorized to reopen negotiations with Louise and Midguard about a database for IAW. Unfortunately the content and terms of the proposed agreement were not compatible with IAW's needs, and the Communications Unit reluctantly decided to negotiate with other

providers, one of which offered opportunities to work closely with them to set up a database system which covered IAW's needs, and the costs were within the IAW budget.

It is important, however, to emphasize that Louise's foresight was the forerunner of the database that may be presented at the 2018 Board meeting in Berlin. As well, we must acknowledge Louise's generosity in giving her financial support and a great deal of her time to this project.

International Women's News *(from Priscilla Todd, Editor)*

Regrettably publication during 2018 has faced unexpected delay: a change in themes, the Editor was ill for two months, summer holidays in Europe. An edition that will feature the Seminar and Board Meeting in Berlin is planned for December. You've been promised an edition with the theme *Women and Climate Change* but this has been held over while other themes were featured. Since last year Lea Boergerding has been working with me on this theme and it is planned as the final edition for 2018 although it will not be published before February 2019. As well, it is hoped we can prepare 3 editions that will also be published during 2019.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

New York

Soon-Young Yoon, main representative to New York



During CSW62 and the High Level Political Forum, the IAW representatives in New York participated actively in side-events as speakers and organizers. As a member of the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee, IAW was represented at meetings with the Chair of the

Bureau, H. E. Ambassador Geradine Nason from Ireland. Ambassador Nason expressed strong support for NGO participation and urged civil society groups to check the UN Journal more often for opportunities to engage with governments outside the CSW process. She felt that much more collaboration on issues of peace and security would be important next steps.

During the NGO Forum, IAW contributed to the NGO Consultation Day. Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative in New York, along with Susan O'Malley, Chair of the NGO CSW/NY presented Cities for CEDAW awards to mayor Garcetti of Los Angeles and widow of the late mayor Edwin Lee of San Francisco. The award recognized the outstanding leadership of these two men to the Cities for CEDAW campaign that has engaged more than 52 cities to adopt CEDAW as a resolution or ordinance. This has been a centerpiece of US feminist coalition building in cities around women's human rights and resistance to strong political backlash.

The IAW representatives also contributed to the NGO Preparatory meeting for the HLPF as organizers and volunteers. This annual event is co-sponsored by NGOs and UN DESA. On July 8, more than 155 participants met on the second floor of the CCUN for an all-day program that included speakers from all major groups, the Coordinating Mechanism for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS), UN DESA, as well as the working groups on communications, etc. During the HLPF, IAW members participated in the NGO major group and women's major group preparatory meetings for the SDGs and helped to ensure communications with CoNGO committees.

Throughout the UN calendar year, IAW members participate in numerous regional and international meetings related to ageing, human settlements, health, the environment, gender equality and women's empowerment, and cities. UN Women includes the IAW in its expert consultations on strategies and movement building in preparation for CSW 63. IAW members also follow social development, the NGO DPI conference, and work with the CoNGO committees. The interlinkages between the SDGs as well as response of the "whole" UN are strengthened, in part, through NGO participation across a wide spectrum of UN events.

In closing, the IAW in New York was dismayed to learn of the death of Beth Adamson, former co-chair of the Working Group on Girls and active member of the NGO CSW. She willingly contributed her time, funds, and leadership to help launch the WGG in its early days and nurtured it to be a major voice at the UN. We will miss seeing her smiling face and hearing her ever-encouraging words.

Natalie Kostus:

Short Report on UN Activities in New York 2017 to 2018



During the 2017 to 2018, my activities at the United Nations in New York focused on negotiations on climate change, sustainable development, water, and migration: High-Level Stakeholder Dialogue on Climate Change and Meeting on Hurricane Irma (UNGA 72), Addressing the Climate Change - Migration Nexus and its Implications for

Peace and Security in Africa (ECOSOC), Launch of the Water Action Decade 2018-2028, and High-Level Interactive Dialogues on Harmony with Nature, and Sand and Dust Storms (UNGA 72).

The guiding document for my work at the United Nations was the IAW Action Programme 2018-2020 adopted at the Congress in Cyprus, and its seven pillars on the elimination of

violence against women and girls, human rights, climate change, health, peace, women and the economy, and democracy. I focused on promoting the priorities of the IAW Action Programme and I was successful in highlighting IAW in many United Nations stakeholder events and discussions.

I participated in informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings and consultations for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and engaged in advocacy to strengthen women and climate change language.

During the High-Level Political Forum, I focused on advocacy for language on women's equal access to and control over land and natural resources, as well as, analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews. I joined efforts with the WMG.

During the CSW 62, I provided leadership for IAW and participated in IAW delegation events. I focused on the analysis of the CSW 62 zero draft and advocacy on climate change language in the outcome. I made statements on the interlinkages between the economic and social rights of rural women, and the need to improve their financial literacy, as well as, advance financial and labor inclusion. I was a panelist for the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), Beyond Copenhagen Collective (BCPH) and Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values in India (PAIRVI).

Geneva

Lyda Verstegen, main representative to the UN in Geneva

This year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been in existence for 70 years!

The sad news is that the retiring High Commissioner said that it is a shame that political leaders do not speak about Human Rights while in office, only after they have left office.

He mentioned Myanmar.

The good news is that Mrs Michelle Bachelet has been appointed the new High Commissioner!



in June 2018 I attended the 38th session of the Human Rights Council.

I was fortunate to stay in the home of Arielle Wagenknecht. Without the hospitality of colleagues it would be very difficult to be in Geneva. At the [39th](#) session, in September, I'll stay with Derya Akinci.

I attended the June meeting of the NGO/CSW Geneva. It elected a new president, Stacy Dry Lara.

I cosigned a statement on Child Widows.

I will highlight a few of the resolutions adopted.

A/HRC/38/ L.6 'Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital context.'

Those who were in Cyprus will remember the moving account Signe Valund gave of online harassment. With that in mind I was pleasantly surprised that the annual resolution of Canada about eliminating violence against women and girls was dedicated this year to violence in digital context. I give a few extracts:

The Council reaffirmed that the same rights people have offline must also be protected online.

It recognized that digital technologies can play an important role in empowering women and girls to exercise all human rights, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and to their full and effective participation in political, economic, cultural and social life. The informal meetings to discuss the proposed text were very well attended, almost every country or group of countries participated in fine-tuning the text.

The resolution is very clear about the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health that includes having access to the information, education and means to exercise this right, both online and offline.

It also recognizes that digital technologies can offer access to information on sexual and reproductive rights, enabling women and girls to decide autonomously in matters regarding their own lives and health, including their bodies.

The Council called *upon* States to take immediate and effective action to respond to all forms of violence against women and girls, including in digital contexts, and to protect all victims and survivors by:

Holding perpetrators to account and combating impunity for all forms of violence, including violence used to intimidate women and girls who are exercising the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and many other measures.

As a result of the informals an extra operational paragraph was added, saying that the Council *Encourages* States and, as appropriate, the relevant funds and programmes, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders:

To collect, share, positively recognize and widely publicize good practices to counter gender stereotyping, negative portrayals and the exploitation of women and girls in all forms of media and digital technologies as part of their efforts to eliminate violence and discrimination against women and girls;

To enhance, for the benefit of women and girls, international cooperation in support of national efforts to create an enabling environment to reduce the digital and information

divides between developed and developing countries, and to promote, develop and enhance access to digital technologies.

This of course sound like a lot of 'legalese' but one has to consider the fact that the Human Rights Council consists of several countries that are not very sympathetic to women's rights. So all paragraphs have to be accompanied by their history (e.g. treaty texts, or earlier resolutions). That way one makes sure that earlier texts are not taken back or weakened.

A/HRC/38/L.13 'The right to Education: follow up to HRC res. 8/4'

This resolution follows the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education: Governance and the right to education (HRC 38 Agenda item 3) .

The report recommends a rights-based approach to education governance. Many covenants and treaties give the right to education. There are also international political commitments. First there were the Millennium Development Goals, which had a development perspective. Following this, the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, with targets and indicators for each goal, has created a new framework that provides clear and specific guidance to States. Goal 4 calls on States to ensure inclusive and equitable education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities to all. Target 4.1 is providing for secondary education as well.

The resolution reaffirms the human right of everyone to education. It recognizes that girls are disproportionately represented among out go school children and that women are disproportionately represented among illiterate adults, owing to discrimination on several grounds as well as early marriage and pregnancy and the lack of appropriate sanitary facilities, gender stereotypes, patriarchal social norms and on economic grounds where education is not free.

The Council welcomes the steps taken to implement the right to education such as the enactment of appropriate legislation, adjudication by national courts, the development of national indicators ., the development by experts of guiding principles and tools for States and insuring justiciability of this right and is aware of the role communication procedures can play in promoting the justifiability of the right to education.

It urges all States to-inter alia-

- apply the principles of transparency, accountability and non-discrimination in national and local governance and management structures by ensuring that governance structures and practices are accessible by the public and are verifiable.
- promote human rights training for all actors and stakeholders in education governance structures;
- expand educational opportunities for all without discrimination including by implementing special programmes to address inequalities, including barriers to accessibility and discrimination against women and girls in education.

It asks for special caution against privatisation of education.

It does not mention 'the four A's' that I found so practical in the SR's report: education must be available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable: Education that is free with adequate infrastructure and trained teachers is Available. It must be non discriminatory and open to

everyone, with positive measures to include marginalized students, to be Accessible. The content of education must be relevant, non-discriminatory and culturally appropriate, and of quality to be Acceptable. Finally, education which evolves with the changing needs of society and contributes to challenging inequalities, which can be adapted locally to suit specific context, is Adaptable. This methodology was endorsed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in their General Comment No.13. It was developed by the first Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Ms Katarina Tomasevski.

Influential as these resolutions and reports may be, they make fewer waves than some tweets:

Today's (23 August) morning paper had an article under the heading: RIHANNA IS SO RIGHT

The singer Rihanna, who is the Ambassador for the Global Partnership for Education, sent a tweet to our Dutch prime minister and the minister of development aid. #you promised in February to support the Partnership. I would love it if you would join me now. Will you provide \$100M to @GFfor Education on Sept29 at the GblCtzn Fest? Thank you.

Human Rights Education

There is a World Programme for human rights education. I did not know that, but now there is a website, so everybody can see what human rights are and how they can change your life. It has, apart from the theory, some success stories. From women in Turkey to Australian policemen. Also a moving story about a school in Lisbon, which from an underachieving place turned into the centre of a thriving community.

Now it is only in English, but soon it will also be available in French.

Derya Akinci Briand, alternate representative to Geneva:

I participated in the Commemoration of the Nelson Mandela Day on the 18th of July in Geneva. Main topics were:

- Injustice, achievements in human rights.
- Populism and ethics.
- Commitment to international law.
- Recognizing human rights, promoting peace and security. The 23rd agenda for the sustainable development.
- Ending poverty and leaving no one behind.



World Health Organisation (WHO) by Ursula Nakamura-Stoecklin



Reorganization of the WHO structures – a challenge for NGO's!

Seema Uplekar and me, both of us for IAW at WHO, we knew that there were major changes on the way. WHO was in a process of redefining and strengthening its engagement with the [Non-State Actors](#) NSA's in official relation with WHO. This includes the NGOs, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations, and academic institutions. As a result the new handbook for NSA's called [FENSA](#), Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, was finally published in 2017. One main goal is a very clearly defined Collaboration Plan CP which has to be worked out by WHO individually with each of the more than 200 NSA's!

For both sides the individual CP should be a win-win situation. All CP's have got to be renewed every three years. For us, helped by Gudrun Haupter, this was quite a challenge. Like in former years IAW wanted to report its activities conforming with the WHO long term plans. But now after the whole reorganization of WHO we were asked to present more realistic approaches to health - "putting wood behind the arrow"!

The new IAW action programme adopted in Cyprus last October gave us a large range of topics, regarding health! This was perfectly in line with WHO following the SDG's of the UN Agenda 2030. We also got a new very important IAW-asset, the "Water and Pads" project. In November 2017 we presented it to the WHO-officials. Because for a long time there was no response at all, we were worrying, also because of the difficulties with the newly set up of the IT-systems and websites at WHO!

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

Now on the actual list of NSA's adopted by the WHO Executive Board in January 2018 there are more than 200 NSA's, almost all exclusively of the health sector! IAW is now the only international women's organization being accredited at WHO! This is a great privilege for IAW but at the same time an enormous challenge and responsibility!

Health for all - [Universal Health Coverage](#) UHC

With this slogan WHO invited to its [71st World Health Assembly](#) in May 2018. Unlike last year when I was joined by Seema Uplekar and Soon-Young Yoon this time I was the only representative of IAW. Thanks to an intensive mail-exchange also with Gudrun Haupter I could always stay in touch with them. UHC is very much in line with goal 3 about health of

the UN Agenda 2030 and also fits well with the actual IAW action programme. In his WHA-opening address Alain Berset, President of Switzerland, congratulated to the 70th birthday of WHO and strongly pleaded for an intensive global health engagement.

The goals of the actual [WHO 13th programme of work from 2019-2023 one wants to reach](#) are in fact very ambitious:

1 billion more people benefit from UHC,

1 billion more people are better protected from health-emergencies

1 billion more people are enjoying better health and well-being.

“Leaving no one behind” by targeting the UCH was often mentioned by the state delegates, but representatives of low income-countries explained their difficulties about their implementation due to their lack of finances.

The opening session of WHA was also overshadowed by the recent outbreak of the ebola disease in DR Congo. Many states voiced their concern but also expressed their gratitude that this time WHO was very prompt providing its professional help and necessary resources.

Unexpectedly I could attend a highly interesting meeting about WHO aligning its own health-goals with the UN climate goals of the agenda 2030. More than ever an intersectional approach to global problems connecting the 17 SDG goals together is necessary. The directors of three UN agencies (World Organization of Meteorology, UN Environment and WHO) were talking about “Health, environment and climate change”.

“Breathing a healthy air” became an overall slogan at WHA71. Both optimistic and pessimistic views on the future climate situation were voiced. It was pointed out that we must invest much more efforts in prevention to avoid non-communicable diseases NCD’s in general. Most of all we have to protect the vulnerable people, e. g. women and children. So the female population in low-income countries affected with NCD’s such as diabetes and high blood pressure etc. cannot get the adequate care.

This year’s IAW statement was an advocacy for the [IAW project “Water and pads for school-girls”](#), because it fits perfectly well to our collaboration plan with WHO. In fact it soon became a “door-opener” for IAW at WHA! Many people were all excited about this new project. In the cafeteria or waiting in some line I could address many representatives from Non State Actors (NGO’s etc.). Obviously they all were also concerned about the present alarming attacks on human rights.

Like me many NSA’s I wanted to deliver a statement on [“WHO Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents Health \(2016-2030\)”](#). But we had to wait for a very long time until finally the all state delegates had voiced their opinion. Most of these officials fully agreed with the propositions of WHO, but then the delegate of US started with a clumsy bashing at WHO on family planning and abortion. The session had to be adjourned until the next day, where the representative of the Holy See arrogantly claimed the WHO’s new data-base on worldwide abortion being a crime!

Finally together with some other NSA's I could deliver our [IAW-statement](#). I pleaded for a better menstrual health management for school-girls and generally for the full sexual and reproductive women's rights.

Launch of the WHO mhGAP Intervention Guide in Marathi

by Seema Uplekar 2 August 2018



From left:
Mr. M. Ommeren WHO, Ms. S.
Swaminathan WHO, Seema Uplekar
and Dr. S. Alam Embassy India

Despite of the extremely hot summer-weather around 50 persons followed the invitation by IAW to attend the official launch of Seema's translation of guide for mental disorders in Marathi.

Of course for Seema and me this event was also a chance to present the goals and activities of IAW regarding health. We also mentioned the great support for this translation by IAW most of all by Joanna Manganara, Gudrun Haupter and Lene Pind.

For me it was a great pleasure saying the welcoming-address at this event.

On behalf of IAW I congratulated Seema warmly for her great and successfully fulfilled task.

When presenting IAW as a global women's organization I pointed out, that girls and women worldwide are facing tremendous obstacles to their health and well-being. So IAW strongly requests that Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights must be universally accessible.

Regarding mental health IAW is convinced that this guide will be particularly helpful for vulnerable people such as girls and women. If they have mental health problems they are

often the ones suffering most of a stigma. They are left alone without any access to information about prevention and cure.

Then as the first speaker Mr. Mark Van Ommeren, Coordinator of the WHO Mental Health Department talked about the success-story of this guide for primary care in many other countries.

He was followed by Dr. Sadre Alam, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva, who expressed his great thanks to Seema.

Seema then explained her motivation to tackle this huge task. She saw the great need for it: *“While 14% of the global burden of disease is attributed to mental disorders, most of the people affected - 75% in many low-income countries - do not have access to the treatment they need....”* Seema had always felt that the mhGAP Intervention Guide might be a perfect tool for closing this gap in the region of Maharashtra in India. This being Seema’s native land, it was her great wish to disseminate the knowledge and expertise of this guide among the 110 million of Marathi speaking people.

Then came the moment of the official launch. Dr. Soumya Swanminathan, Deputy Director General of Programmes at WHO pointed out, how much WHO wished to have more people being so highly motivated like Seema. After the parcel was unwrapped one saw a book with letters based on the ancient Sanskrit script. Actually the manual in Marathi is disseminated online and now at disposition for the public, see websites of [IAW](#) and [WHO](#).

Last but not least Ms. Anne Lindsay of the World Federation for Mental Health WFMH, who had met Seema at reunions in Geneva, expressed her thanks. She asked me to present this translation on the annual meeting of WFMH in October 2018.

I want to finish this report with my great thanks to Seema. In my former work life in various health-settings I often have encountered people with obvious or hidden mental disorders. Often within the teams one could not find an explanation for some of their symptoms. There was always a certain risk that one might too easily come to a non-adequate or even wrong conclusion, which might have disastrous consequences for the patients. Maybe in these institutions one simply missed a convenient guide about mental health on the desks of the staff-offices!

UNESCO - English

By the UNESCO- team: Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy

As every year, the General Conference occupied part of the month of November (October 30-November 14). It saw the election of the new Director General Mrs Audrey Azoulay and the departure of Mrs Irina Bokova, outgoing Director General. Both are feminists and we hope that Mrs Azoulay will pursue Mrs Bokova's efforts on gender equality and on peace, things that are so important for women. Both have also in common, as Mrs Azoulay put it at the eighth International forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, the idea that

"collaboration with NGOs is an essential link to inspire and implement our actions in order to adapt to tomorrow's world and not to yesterday's".

Since a few years, during the General Conference an open space is reserved to NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO. The different UNESCO sectors come there and present the work of their commissions to the NGOs. It allows closer contact with the Member States interested in our work, although we can see that a number of member states want more control over NGOs, claiming that some of them interfere in their internal policies.

The eighth forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO was held on 7 and 8 December 2017 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris and was titled "*changing minds, not the climate: the contribution of NGOs*". NGOs wish that civil society should be allowed more influence in the common struggle to combat climate change, as this can succeed only through the joint efforts and expertise of all and the mobilisation of the people themselves, "because changing things doesn't depend of people's capacities but of the people themselves".

The thematic sessions of the forum focused on the *role of civil society organisations in facing climate change; Oceans and climate change; World Heritage, Biosphere reserves and indigenous people's knowledge and actions*

At its 38th session of the General Conference, the Executive Board highlighted the importance of the dialogue with NGOs and asked the General Director to formulate propositions on the way to open new axis for a quality dialogue between the Member States and NGOs. They suggested that she could draw inspiration from the best practices in force at other UN bodies or similar institutions. Propositions were made for:

- Creating ad hoc new spaces for informal dialogue between the Member States and NGOs within the existing mechanisms and/or practices, according to the human and financial constraints, which the organisation is confronted to.

- Increasing NGO participation to the governing bodies (General Conference and Executive board): This proposal raised various types of opinions from the Member States of the Executive Board Committee on NGP (Non Governmental Partners), about the geographical representation and a lot of questions on the nature of NGOs and on their funding. Their expertise and the help they can provide on field projects is recognized, but differences of opinions were expressed as for their contribution to the Committee decisions. Several countries highlighted the intergovernmental aspect of the Committee and objected to the inclusion of NGO representatives (via the Liaison Committee) to the meetings. So, long discussions on the words for the resolution highlighted strong resistance. There were lots of modifications, negotiations and additions to the draft. An intervention from the cabinet of the Director general was also necessary before the resolutions were accepted.

The concern for more transparency was also the subject of difficult negotiations and it was made request that the model of interrelations (member states,

NGOs) should protect the intergovernmental character of the decisions of the Executive Committee.

As it has become usual since a few years, the NGO group in official partnership with UNESCO prepared two forums.

The ninth forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO will be held in Tunis, Tunisia, on September 26th - 27th 2018 on the theme: *another perspective on migration*. The forum will include, three panels by famous experts on the theme : *migrants as actors of development; education and resilience; media and information management on migration*.

Protecting the migrants' fundamental rights is a moral duty and a development imperative. It is also a condition for building a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. It is not a matter of encouraging or restricting migration, but of reflecting on the conditions for inclusive development that should, reduce forced migration.

The forum will also include testimonies of the experiences some migrants went through.

The forum will be followed on 28 September, by *the International day of peace: drones and robots to the service of peace*, which has also been prepared by the NGO UNESCO group. A roundtable will debate on "*peace today*" another one on *robotics and ethics* and drawings on the theme: *imagine Robots for peace*, chosen according to defined criteria will be presented and commented by a peace educator, a psychologist, an artist and a Tunisian educator.

A seminar on human rights will close the forum on September 29.

The tenth forum, on science, will be held at the end of the year. It is still being prepared and we don't know where and when it will be held.

An International Day of the Girl is also in preparation and should be held in October or November. We don't know yet where and when it should be held, since it depends on the availability of a room at UNESCO headquarters.

The DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) trainees sent to Ouagadougou last year have already launched training sessions but they lack funds to pursue. Unfortunately, we haven't found any sponsor to help them. Congratulations to Anuarite for her so great involvement for the success of this 1st co-operation with the UNESCO Participation Programme.

Pursuing this fight for access to water for all, started at the Yamoussoukro NGO-UNESCO forum in 2014, our group made up of 8 NGOs - including IAW -in official partnership with UNESCO, is trying again to get funds from the UNESCO Participation Programme, to send trainees to the ZIE Institute in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, so that they should be trained as technicians in water and be taught how to train other people in this field. We are presenting La Colombe from Togo to this program. We will know only at the end of year if we will receive the funds we hope to get.

UNESCO - French

team: Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy - 2018

Comme chaque année la Conférence Générale a occupé une bonne partie du mois de Novembre (30 Octobre-14 Novembre). Elle a vu l'élection de la Nouvelle directrice générale Madame Audrey Azoulay et le départ de celle qui l'a précédée Mme Irina Bokova. Toutes deux sont des féministes et nous espérons donc que Mme Azoulay va poursuivre les efforts de Mme Bokova en égalité de genre et pour la Paix si importante pour les femmes. Elles ont encore en commun, comme l'a dit Madame Azoulay lors du huitième forum International des ONG en Partenariat Officiel avec l'UNESCO, l'idée que "la collaboration avec les ONG est un lien essentiel pour inspirer et mettre en œuvre nos actions, pour nous adapter au monde de demain et non à celui d'hier".



Depuis quelques années, lors de la Conférence Générale, un "open space" est réservé aux ONG en Relations Officielles avec l'UNESCO. Les différents secteurs UNESCO viennent nous y présenter les travaux de leurs commissions. Il nous permet des contacts plus étroits avec les Etats Membres qui sont intéressés par nos travaux, bien qu'on constate qu'un certain nombre d'états veulent revenir à plus de contrôle envers les ONG, car ils se plaignent que certaines d'entre elles interfèrent dans la politique intérieure de leur pays

Le Huitième forum des ONG en partenariat officiel avec l'UNESCO s'est tenu les 7 et 8 décembre 2017 au siège, à Paris sous le titre "*changeons les esprits pas le climat: la contribution des ONG*". Les ONG souhaitent une mobilisation de la société civile pour le changement climatique car celui-ci ne pourra se produire que par une mise en commun des efforts et de l'expertise de tous et la mobilisation de chacun "car changer les choses ne dépend pas des capacités, mais des gens eux-mêmes".

Les séances thématiques du forum ont été centrées sur *le rôle des organisations de la société civile face aux changements climatiques: Océan et changement climatique, Patrimoine mondial, réserves de biosphère et connaissances et actions des peuples autochtones*.

Le Conseil Exécutif a souligné lors de sa 38e session de la Conférence Générale l'importance du dialogue avec les ONG et a demandé à la directrice générale de formuler des propositions sur les moyens d'ouvrir de nouvelles possibilités pour un dialogue de qualité entre les états membres et les ONG en s'inspirant des meilleures pratiques en vigueur dans les autres organismes des Nations Unies et institutions similaires. Il a été proposé:

- De créer de nouveaux espaces de dialogue informel ad hoc entre Etats Membres et ONG au sein des mécanismes et/ou pratiques existants, selon les contraintes humaines et financières auxquelles l'organisation est confrontée.

- D'accroître la Participation des ONG aux organes directeurs (Conférence Générale et Conseil Exécutif) : Ce point a soulevé parmi les Etats Membres du Comité sur les PNG (Partenaires Non-Gouvernementaux) du Conseil Exécutif, des opinions diverses concernant la représentation géographique et des questions sur la nature des ONG et de

leurs financements. Leur expertise et l'apport qu'elles peuvent faire sur les projets de terrain sont reconnus mais des divergences se sont exprimées quant à leur contribution aux décisions du Comité. Plusieurs pays ont souligné le caractère intergouvernemental du Comité et ont objecté à une inclusion des représentants des ONG (via le Comité de Liaison) aux réunions. Les longues discussions touchant les termes de la résolution ont mis en évidence de fortes résistances. Beaucoup de modifications, de rajouts et de négociations (y compris une intervention du cabinet de la Directrice Générale) ont été nécessaires avant l'acceptation des résolutions.

Le souci de plus de transparence a aussi été exprimé ainsi que la nécessité d'avoir des relations protégeant le caractère intergouvernemental du pouvoir décisionnel du Comité Exécutif.

Cette année, comme à l'accoutumée, le groupe ONG UNESCO a préparé deux forums:

Le neuvième forum des ONG en partenariat officiel avec l'UNESCO se tiendra à Tunis, en Tunisie, les 26 et 27 septembre 2018 sur le thème « *un autre regard sur les migrations humaines* ». Ce forum comprendra trois panels par d'éminents experts sur les thématiques: *Les migrants acteurs du développement, Education et résilience, Gestion Médiatique des Migrations*.

Protéger les droits fondamentaux des migrants est un devoir moral et un impératif de développement. C'est une condition pour bâtir un monde plus juste, pacifique et durable. En effet il ne s'agit pas d'encourager ou de restreindre la migration, mais de penser les conditions d'un développement inclusif, ce qui devrait réduire les migrations forcées.

Le forum comprendra aussi des témoignages sur les expériences vécues par des migrants.

Le forum sera suivi par la Journée de la Paix, intitulée *Drones et robots au service de la Paix*, préparée elle aussi par le groupe des ONG. Une table ronde évoquera " *la paix aujourd'hui*" et des dessins issus d'un concours sur le thème: *Imagine des Robots pour la Paix*, seront présentés par un éducateur à la Paix, un psychologue, un artiste et un éducateur tunisien.

Un séminaire sur les droits de l'homme viendra clôturer le forum.

Le 10^{ème} Forum, sur les sciences aura lieu en fin d'année. Il est encore en préparation et la date et l'endroit où il aura lieu sont encore à définir.

Une journée internationale de la fille est aussi prévue en octobre ou novembre. La date n'est pas encore déterminée et dépendra de la disponibilité d'une salle au siège de l'UNESCO. Les Membres de l'UNESCO - Team de l'AIF participent à la préparation de tous ces programmes.

Nos stagiaires de l'an dernier, de RDC (République Démocratique du Congo), ont déjà mis en route des séances de formation, malheureusement les fonds leur manquent pour poursuivre ce travail et nous n'avons pas trouvé de sponsors pour les aider.

Pour notre 1^{ère} coopération avec l'UNESCO, dans le cadre du Programme de Participation, il faut féliciter Anuarite pour son engagement à la réussite de ce projet

Poursuivant cette lutte pour l'accès à l'eau pour tous, débutée au Forum ONG -UNESCO de Yamoussoukro en 2014, *pour faire changer les choses, passer des promesses aux actes* notre

groupe de huit ONG, incluant l'AIF, vient d'essayer à nouveau de percevoir des fonds du Programme de Participation de l'UNESCO pour envoyer des membres de notre association à l'institut 2IE de Ouagadougou au Burkina Faso afin d'y recevoir des cours pour devenir techniciennes de l'eau et pouvoir former d'autres personnes autour d'elles. Nous ne saurons qu'en fin d'année si notre amie Thérèse et le groupe de La Colombe du Togo seront éligibles pour cette nouvelle promotion, mais nous l'espérons fortement.

FAO and Bettina Corke

By Jessica Kehl-Lauff

Bettina became an individual IAW member in 1964 and she was our representative to FAO starting in 1996. She immediately joined the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs (www.ahgingos.org) as IAW had been a registered member since the creation of this important U.N. institution. I am happy that last year she introduced me to this major group because the big building and the many working groups and committees of and at FAO are still a bit confusing to me. Though a newcomer, I felt accepted within the group and got help when needed.



Bettina Corke

Actually I met Bettina at the Jubilee-Congress of IAW in 2004, when she presented a photo-exhibit together with a short history of IAW. In 2010 she gave me the first edition of her brochure “How to end hunger now! - A handbook to facilitate the work & activities taking place to end hunger & poverty”, taking forward an issue I am very engaged in. At the 2014 Board Meeting in Sion/Switzerland, with the second, revised edition of her brochure in hand, Bettina asked me to join her as an IAW representative to the FAO in Rome.

In June 2015, during my first visit to Bettina’s destroyed home in L’Aquila, she gave me some books she had been able to salvage from the terrible earthquake in this region in late 2014. Unhappily, her e-mail was damaged as well. So in October 2015 and 2016 we had to discuss the wording of our input to the Commission on Food Security orally in her respective residences. We have been clear that the fight against hunger is our first priority, since very often women and children in areas covered by our regional and national member-organizations are the front-line soldiers. We wanted to give them the knowledge and network for a successful work with FAO and its decentralized offices – “where knowledge becomes action”! (www.fao.org)

But now Bettina Corke has died and in the short years I was able to join her in Rome we had no opportunity to build up an IAW Italy. Who will represent IAW in the many meetings in Rome? As I had presented in the 2017 Cyprus Triennial World Congress, there are some member organizations, three of them in Africa, interested and qualified in all Rome based U.N. programs (FAO, CFS, WFP) – but they have their own struggles with financial difficulties

and on Food Security in their own countries. So the sudden death of Bettina is not only a grief for her many friends, but a great loss for IAW.

Council of Europe

Report by Heleen Jansen, IAW main representative

In 2018 there were two sessions of the Conference of NGO's. The winter session was 22-26 January and the summer session 25-29 June. The IAW was represented by *Anje Wiersinga*, (chairwoman of the INGO Working Group Gender Perspectives in Political and Democratic Processes), *Monique Bouchet*, *Renée Gerards* and *Heleen Jansen*. As a team we worked together, but it should be repeated that Anje Wiersinga, who has most experience and most knowledge of the procedures, has done a lot of extra work.



All IAW members attended the INGO conference, the Committees and some of the working groups.

All IAW members contributed to the important Side Event on “Women’s contribution to Global Peace”

The INGO Working Group *Gender perspectives in Political and Democratic Processes* met twice in January, once in April and twice in June.

Anje Wiersinga

Attended all three CoE Parliamentary Sessions and followed particularly the Parliamentary Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, its subcommittee on Middle East and the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. With members of the working group we tried to add amendments to Parliamentary Resolutions and Recommendations, which are often adopted unanimously by the Parliamentary Assembly.

- Attended the Ministerial Gender Equality Commission for 3 days in April, where the CoE Gender Equality Strategy Plan of Action was the most important subject.
- Attended the UN CSW Session in New York.
- Together with Renée Gerard a.o., attending and supporting the CoE Parallel Session on Combating Stereotyping and the half yearly meeting organised by the President of the UN Security Council reporting to INGO's on their work.
- Met with Anwarul Chowdhury in New York and contacted UN Women about speakers for and cooperation with the proposed Side Event in June.
- Started in January together with Heleen Jansen and others the preparations for the Side Event, which asked a lot of preparatory activities.

Monique Bouchet

- Lives in Strasbourg, attended also some meetings in between the official sessions, such as the World Forum for Democracy.

- Was member of the INGO Working Group *Gender perspectives in Political and Democratic Processes*.
- Was involved in the preparations of the Side Event.

Renée Gérard

- Lives in Paris and attended some of the Parliamentary Commission meetings in Paris.
- Followed the work of the Parliamentary Committee on Equality, on viol against women, equal pay and the ethical problems linked to surrogacy.
- Was member of the INGO Working Group *Gender perspectives in Political and Democratic Processes*.
- Was member of the working group on sustainable development.
- Was involved in the preparations of the Side Event.

Heleen Jansen

- Acting as the official IAW DELEGATE to the INGO Conference.
- Was Co-chair of the INGO Working Group *Gender perspectives in Political and Democratic Processes*.
- Was focused from January till June on the preparations and the organizations of the Side Event in June.
- Was member of the Workgroup Digital Citizenship.
- Was elected in June as treasurer of the INGO-service.

The Side Event on Women's contribution to Global Peace in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security, organized by the Delegation of Finland to the Parliamentary Assembly and the Conference of INGO's was successful. You can find the programme attached.

Important aspect in this connection was the fact that, thanks to Anje's effort, we could welcome Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Initiator of UNSCR 1325, as Key note speaker. His speech is attached. The situation in Syria and Cyprus were highlighted by women from those countries. The IAW President Johanna Manganara and Heidi Schütz, Convener Peace Commission, attended the Side Event.

As planned Anje handed over her presidency of the working group Group Gender perspectives in Political and Democratic Processes. This working group includes several men, whose contribution has also been essential. At the end of this meeting Anje said to the working group and to her successor:

"It is important to explain that gender perspectives include the perspectives of men as well as those of women; that women are too often portrayed as victims only and together with children as weak and that too little emphasis is given to the contribution of women to society and women's essential contribution to the solution of problems."

Many thanks to Anje, who has done a great job as Chair of the Working group for so many years!

Keynote Presentation by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury

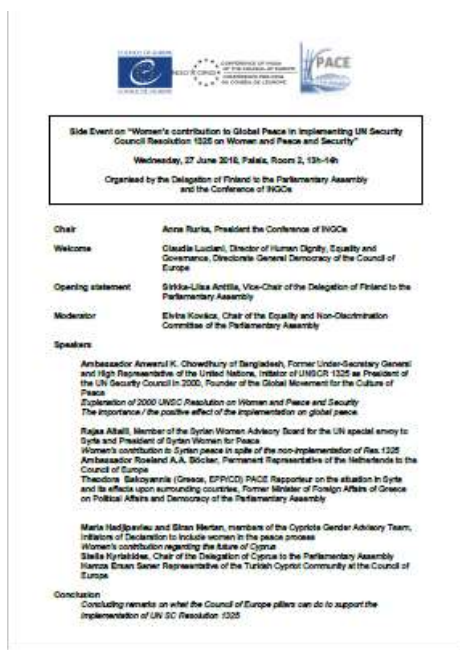
Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace:

“Women’s Contribution to Global Peace in Implementing UNSCR 1325 on Women and Peace and Security”

organized by Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe (CoE) and Parliamentary Delegation of Finland during the summer session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France 27 June 2018



- Ms Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe and Chair of our meeting this afternoon;

- Madame Sirikka-Liisa Anttila, Deputy Leader of Delegation of Finland to the Parliamentary Assembly of CoE;

- Ms Anje Wiersinga, Chair of the Working Group organizing the present event; and, of course,

- Longtime advocate for 1325 Rajaa Altalli of the UN’s Syrian Women’s Advisory Board;

My greetings to you all!

Peace is integral to human existence — in everything we do, in everything we say and in every thought we

have, there is a place for peace.

One soul-stirring inspiration that I have experienced and internalized from my work for the culture of peace is that we should never forget that when women – half of world’s seven plus billion people - are marginalized, there is no chance for our world to get sustainable peace in the real sense. It is my strong belief that unless women are engaged in advancing the culture of peace at equal levels at all times with men, sustainable peace would continue to elude us. In peace negotiations, women are evidently perceived as bridge builders between parties in conflict. I believe that in building peace, gender equality play a more important role than democracy or economic growth.

My work has taken me to the farthest corners of the world and I have seen time and again the centrality of the culture of peace and women’s equality in our lives. This realization has now become more pertinent in the midst of the ever-increasing militarism and militarization that is destroying both our planet and our people.

Women bring a new breadth, quality and balance of vision to our common effort to move away from the cult of war towards the culture of peace. Women’s equality makes our planet

safe and secure. For a long time, there has been an impression of women as helpless victims of wars and conflicts.

The most significant development since the 1995 fourth world conference on women under the United Nations umbrella in Beijing have been the adoption of the UN Security Council's history-making resolution 1325 on "Women and Peace and Security".

The core message of 1325 is an integral part of my intellectual existence and my humble contribution to a better world for each one of us. To trace back, 18 years ago, on the International Women's Day in 2000, as the President of the Security Council, following extensive stonewalling and intense resistance from the permanent members, I was able to issue, on behalf of the 15 members of the Council, an agreed statement that formally brought to global attention the role and contribution women have been making towards the prevention of conflict and building of peace. That had remained unrecognized, underutilized and undervalued by the Security Council since its very existence.

The Council recognized in that statement that peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men and affirmed the value of full and equal participation of women at all decision-making levels. That is when the seed for Resolution 1325 was sown.

Following this conceptual and political breakthrough, the formal resolution was adopted on 31 October of the same year after seven months of difficult negotiations.

Adoption of 1325 opened a much-awaited door of opportunity for women who have shown time and again that they bring a qualitative improvement in structuring peace and in post-conflict architecture. When women participate in peace negotiations and in the crafting of a peace agreement, they have the broader and long-term interest of society in mind. My colleagues from Syria and the two parts of Cyprus will elaborate in their respective presentations.

I recall proudly that in choosing the three women laureates for the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize, the citation referred to 1325 saying that "It underlined the need for women to become participants on an equal footing with men in peace processes and in peace work in general."

The Nobel Committee further asserted that "We cannot achieve democracy and lasting peace in the world unless women obtain the same opportunities as men to influence developments at all levels of society." 1325 is the only UN resolution so specifically noted in any citation of the Nobel Prize.

The driving force behind 1325 is "participation". That is why women need to be at the peace tables, women need to be involved in the decision-making at all levels to ensure real and faithful implementation of 1325.

Gender perspectives must be fully integrated into the terms of reference of peace operations by the United Nations. A no-tolerance, no-impunity approach is a must in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN and regional peacekeepers. UN is welcomed in countries as their protectors – they cannot become the perpetrators themselves!

I also believe that the historic and operational value of the resolution has been undercut by the disappointing record of its implementation, particularly for lack of national level commitments.

As we approach the 18th anniversary of the resolution's adoption next October, it is truly disappointing that a mere 75 countries out of 193 members of the UN have prepared their National Action Plans (NAPs) for 1325 implementation. There are no better ways to get country level commitment to implement 1325 other than the NAPs. Only NAPs can hold the governments accountable. There is a clear need for the Secretary-General's genuinely active and dedicated engagement in using the moral authority of the United Nations and the high office that he occupies for the effective implementation of 1325.

I believe strongly that we would not have to be worrying about countering extremism if women have equality in decision-making enabling them to take measures which would prevent such extremism.

I recall Eleanor Roosevelt's words saying "Too often the crucial decisions are originated and given shape in bodies made up wholly of men, or so completely dominated by them that whatever of special value women have to offer is shunted aside without expression."

Reiterating this assertion, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said very succinctly that "The truth is that north and south, east and west – and I'm not speaking about any society, culture or country in particular – everywhere, we still have a male-dominated culture."

It is a reality that politics, more so security, is a man's world. Empowering women's political leadership will have ripple effects on every level of society. When politically empowered, women bring important and different skills and perspectives to the policy making table in comparison to their male counterparts. Women are the real agents of change in refashioning peace structures ensuring greater sustainability. The slogan of the Global Campaign on Women and Peace and Security which we launched in London in June 2014 reiterates "If we are serious about peace, we must take women seriously".

Globally only one in five Parliamentarians is a woman, and there are nearly 40 countries in which women account for less than ten percent of Parliamentarians. This marginalization of women from the political sphere is unfortunate and unacceptable. I underscore often that when women join politics, they want to DO something, when men join politics, they want to BE something.

Patriarchy and misogyny are the dual scourges pulling back the humanity away from our aspiration for a better world. Unless we confront these vicious and obstinate negative forces with all our energy, determination and persistence, our planet will never be a desired place for one and all.

We are experiencing around the globe an organized, determined rollback of the gains made as well as new attacks on women's equality and empowerment. Yes, this is happening in all parts of the world and in all countries without exception. In the same vein, last Friday, in its report to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice warned that women's rights are under threat from a "backlash" of conservatism and fundamentalism around the world.

That global reality is dramatically evidenced in the fact that the UN itself despite being the biggest champion of women's equality has failed to elect a woman secretary-general in 2016 to reverse the historical injustice of having the post occupied by men for its more than seven-decades of existence.

Let me join humbly my voice to the assertion by the architect of feminist foreign policy, Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom, that "Feminism is a component of a modern

view on global politics, not an idealistic departure from it. It is about smart policy which includes whole populations, uses all potential and leaves no one behind.”

I am proud to be a feminist. All of us need to be. That is how we make our planet a better place to live for all. We should always remember that without peace, development is impossible, and without development, peace is not achievable, but without women, neither peace nor development is conceivable.

European Women’s Lobby

Report by Arina Angerman, representative to EWL

50: 50 Women for Europe: Europe For Women



Arina and Marion

During the General Assembly of European Women’s Lobby (EWL) in Brussels, June 2018, Arina Angerman from Amsterdam was re elected as IAW representative to Board of Administration 2018-2020. My preparation to Board Meetings (three in 2018) and General Assembly of EWL was done together with Marion Boeker from Berlin, the IAW elected Alternate to me. Marion and I are talking on average every two months by Skype or WhatsApp. EWL membership extends to more than 2000 women’s associations in EU member states and candidate countries - 30 National Coordinations. IAW is one of 10 European-wide non governmental organizations in this Board:

<https://www.womenlobby.org/IMG/pdf/ewl-board-members-2018-2020.pdf>

A. Share information and spreading knowledge

My 1st GOAL representing IAW in EWL’s Board is to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter in order to strengthen the visibility both of IAW and EWL at social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week (social media mobilization). These doable social media actions I did every week. As you can read below both IAW & EWL have increased their social media presence 2017 -->2018!

Social media presence seen at 18.08.25	@EuropeanWomen	@Womenalliance	@ArinaNoel & @MarionBoeker Followers at Twitter
Facebook 2018	36.948 Likes	2.079	

Twitter 2018	14.200 Followers	694	1.015 & 1.394
Facebook 2017	34.560 Likes	1.775 Likes	
Twitter 2017	12.155	593	969 & 1.252

Do you want to share information and knowledge too at Facebook or Twitter? Please give EWL a Like at Facebook and follow EWL, Arina Angerman or Marion Boeker at Twitter. Arina uses as [Hastag](#) #feministfriday. Please join us and spread feminist actions and words. Another way to share information with members of IAW is to write a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL. 2nd GOAL I published five stories in the IAW digital Newsletter since my last IAW report in 2017:

1. *Feminist with a To-Do List*

The new EIGE Index 2017 (3rd edition) was published in October 2017 and “shows progress in gender equality is moving forward at a snail’s pace”. In the EU, in 2015, the domain of power has made the biggest progress of all domains of the Gender Equality Index since 2005. Link <http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/gender-equality-index-2017-measuring-gender-equality-european-union-2005-2015-report>

2. *#HerNetHerRights: useful information in Times of #MeToo and #CSW62*

In November 2017 the European Women’s Lobby published the Report #HerNetHerRights and Resource Pack mapping the state of online violence against women and girls in Europe in times where we have entered the second wave of the digital age. Marion Boeker and I (and IAW Jocelyne Scutt in EWL’s Observatory) contributed to this EWL project by email in september 2017. Did you know? Globally, women are 27 times more likely to be harassed online. In this Report you can read a.o. an Executive Summary of 1 page (page 4) Link <https://www.womenlobby.org/Launch-of-HerNetHerRights-Resource-Pack-Report?lang=en>

3. *Rise to power by and through feminists F/M (women and men) (GOAL 3)*

In my hometown Amsterdam are local elections at 21.3.18. For the first time of my life I can vote for a woman at #1. She is not only getting votes from women but also from men like a former mayor of Amsterdam: a #HeForShe. In the Netherlands we are celebrating 100 years of voting rights for women (1917-1919). In 1919 feminists F/M succeeded to get the right to vote for women. Link <https://womenalliance.org/arina-angerman-i-vote-for-a-women>

4. *Istanbul Convention (GOAL 4)*

IAW is a member of the European Coalition to End Violence against Women and Girls. This strategic alliance of more than 25 European civil society networks convened by EWL advocate for the ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention. “The Istanbul

Convention states that violence against women can never be justified in the name of culture, religion, tradition nor so-called 'honour'." This European Coalition supported by more than 3800 organisations representing millions of voices in 49 countries have sent a strong letter of continued support to the Council of Europe in support of the Istanbul Convention. Link to Factsheet <https://www.womenlobby.org/-EuropeanCoalition-to-End-violence-against-women-and-girls-?lang=en>

5. 50:50 Women For Europe, Europe for Women campaign: will you support?

In June 2018 the campaign '50:50 Women For Europe: Europe for Women' started in the European Parliament in order to achieve equal representation of women and men as part of EWL's (RE)shape power Forum. Both I and Marion Boeker attended this event.

A small step and doable action is to support as an individual member of IAW in an EU country by signing the petition. YOU support and 'commit to a truly equal, diverse and inclusive political agenda with women's rights at the heart of it'!

Link <https://www.womenlobby.org/Sign-the-petition-Time-to-RE-shape-power-50-50-Women-for-Europe-Europe-for?lang=en>



Besides using Twitter & IAW digital Newsletter I published 2 blogs on Angerman.europablogspot.com

Both blogs were shared several times via Twitter in 2018.

1. Internet & Financial independence for women - #lifelonglearning

In this blog I shared my experiences as an 'experienced' feminist in a personal letter with participants of the AGORA '16 Young Feminist Summer School of the EWL

<https://angermaneuropa.blogspot.nl/2016/09/internet-financial-independence-for.html>

2. Connecting international herstories: Jewish Dutch #Feminist Rosa Manus (1881-1942)

In this blog I focus on Rosa Manus as board member of International Alliance of Women since 1926 together with Huda Sha'rawi, president of the Egyptian Feminist Union.

<https://angermaneuropa.blogspot.nl/2017/07/connecting-international-herstories.html>

B. GOALS or concrete doable actions for the coming year (and in 2018)

GOAL 1. To continue social media mobilization to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter in order to strengthen the visibility of IAW and EWL on Twitter by posting or sharing at least twice a week.

GOAL 2. And to inform members of IAW by writing a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL in every IAW digital Newsletter.

GOAL 3. I as IAW representative focus on AIM 7 of Our Future Starts NOW! in EWL's Programme 2016-2020: To position women at the heart of political participation and

decision-making i.a. develop a campaign strategy to achieve parity democracy - meaning 50% women in the European Parliament in the 2019 elections and 50% women in the new European Commission.

GOAL 4. Continue working together as a small IAW team within EWL with Marion Boeker (IAW Alternate and member of EWL working group Feminist Economics) and Jocelynn Scutt (IAW expert in EWL's Observatory).

I want to thank Marion Boeker, Joanna Manganara, Jocelynn Scutt, Lene Pind, Joke Sebus, Rosy Weiss, Anje Wiersinga, Lyda Verstegen, Leonie van Gils and Erica van Engel for their support, feedback and suggestions. They supported me by sending or answering emails, listening & advising in (Skype or WhatsApp or telephone or offline) conversations and stimulated to act; cooperation leads to success & as a group we are more powerful!

C. Relation with IAW Action Programme

IAW had an active voice and vote in EWL's decision-making process in General Assembly & Board Meetings and supported various successful activities on ending violence against women and girls & 50:50 in decision-making bodies.

D. Burning issues as international representative

1. In order to continue to share information and spreading knowledge by social media IAW presence at social media can and has to improve - a first/small step is social media mobilization at IAW Board Meeting in Berlin. Who is using Twitter? For making IAW more visible at social media many more members could open accounts at Twitter and share posts.
2. The 50:50 campaign is inspired by celebrations of [100 years of voting rights for women](#) in Germany, UK, Lithuania, Poland, Austria and the Netherlands in 1918 and 1919. Will you support this campaign and celebrations too?

Concluding

Do you know how IAW and our 'new' logo is at the website of EWL? You can find by opening this link <https://www.womenlobby.org/Contact-details-308?lang=en> I like other feminists F/M fiercely believe in feminist leadership and women's power as active agents of change! I'm very happy to live in a time when Votes for Women are a reality for example in Switzerland for Jessika Kehl Lauff & in South Africa for Mmabatho Ramagoshi (both former IAW Board Members)!

Report from Marion Böker, alternate to EWL

With Arina Angerman (NL), IAW delegate to EWL, I had regular Skype meetings to prepare

and consult on EWL issues, meetings of the board, on circulated items and other EWL activities, requested answers and positions EWL.

In June 2018 during the GA (07.-10. June) of the EWL in Brussels I was elected as Arina Angerman's alternate to the EWL board. It was a lovely and effective meeting together with Arina and everyone of EWL and wonderful prepared by the EWL staff. Before I was nominated to the EWL working group on "Feminist Economy". In Brussels we could right away start working on the PURPLE PACT. It will consist on various issues of economics from the feminist perspective including a chapter by a sub-group on gender budgeting. The PURPLE PACT will be circulated by EWL later in the EU parliament and Commission to gain stakeholders commitment and make it a basic position within the European Union. It shall change the current 'neutral' or partial male only perspective of the EU budget and economic decisions and it shall end economic discrimination of women* and LGBTIQ and is intended to include women*'s issues, claims, and rights in all EU decisions. The PURPLE ACT shall mainstream a feminist en-gendered position and will be a tool for harmonization of EU decisions with basics from NGOs and UN requested measures under UN CEDAW, CESC and other and will be in line with IAWs Action program. After Brussels and until now the working group had two meetings by webinars. Somehow there are some fresh activities of the EU about this items: the EP's FEMM Committee held a hearing 20. June on [Gender Budgeting](#). [EWL](#) and [WIDE](#) submitted positions. Then FEMM drafted a resolution which for debate and voting is scheduled until now Oct. 22nd and 23rd 2018. Another FEMM document is a [Draft report on gender equality and taxation policies in the EU](#) was discussed in the FEMM Committee 23rd of September and is pending. EWL has organized some funds for the presentation of the part of the PURPLE PACT on GB in events for lobbying and awareness raising on Gender Budgeting implementation in the EU in 2019 and 2020.

EWL Violence against Women Observatory

By IAW representative Jocelyne A. Scutt



Introduction

The Observatory comprises representatives from all members of the EU, from a broad range of backgrounds. Many work in women's services – women's refuges/shelters, rape crisis centres, and the like, whilst some represent the academic world and some have a governmental background. The principle areas of activity are:

- Supporting the Istanbul Convention to ensure that it is adopted throughout the EU, and that it is implemented effectively by all EU countries – there is also ongoing discussion about its applicability as a global treaty;
- Reporting regularly on the scope and support of programmes in each EU country directed toward addressing violence against women and girls – and the cutbacks and their impact;
- Specialised areas, with the project taken on most recently being that of violence against women through and on social media – where there is a particular (though not

sole) focus on young women who are vulnerable and extremely susceptible to social media exploitation and abuse;

- Lobbying on matters that require an immediate response – whether supporting members in respect of their own country's issues, or consulting with members as to the position the Observatory should take (if it takes a position) on particular matters arising and requiring attention.

Violence Against Women On & Through Social Media

One of the most prominent issues over the past year has been violence against women through and on social media. Under the title Council of Europe 'Loud and United to end violence against women and girls' a project on digital violence against women has been ongoing since June 2017. Researchers have been working to:

- quantify the levels of abuse of women and girls by and through this means;
- outline the types of abuse suffered by women and girls by and through social media;
- identify what forms of social media are employed to engage in abuse of women and girls by and through social media.

Sessions have been held on this topic at the meetings in Brussels and through Skype, participants contributing on each of these aspects.

Extent of the Problem

The evidence is that throughout Europe, social media is being used more and more to engage in and amplify violence against women. When complete, the study by the EWL Observatory will be ground breaking in its outcome in terms of quantifying this type of anti-woman abuse and misogyny. So far generally media and other reports are based in anecdotal reports from which it appears that there are various levels or iterations of this violence. One is on the professional level: women in roles such as elected representatives, academics and journalists being trolled through Twitter and Facebook, etc in response to speeches they have made, articles they have written, or interviews. Another involves actors (film, television, radio, stage), models, media personalities or 'celebrities' who are trolled, or have doctored photographs or images projected through social media, or photographs, images or videos from the past being revived and spread through social media. Young women and girls are more likely to experience sexual attacks against them being video-ed and projected on u-tube or consensual (as far as that can be the case) sexual engagements being circulated amongst groups – their 'trusted' partner having betrayed that trust, or 'revenge porn' – consensual (again as far as that is possible) video-s of sexual engagement being projected through social media when the relationship has broken down.

That is, 'Trolling' through twitter is commonplace - women who are in the public eye or come to public attention through their feminist stance receive abusive messages not infrequently asserting that they will or should be raped, and/or that silencing is the only way they should be allowed to exist. Threats of rape are the most common, however, even death threats are received. Even

the most mildly feminist suggestions are met with abuse - for example, the proposal that women should feature on British bank notes resulted in extensive trolling of the woman featured in mainstream media as making the proposal. Facebook can also be used in this way.

Similarly commonplace use is where boys or young men persuade their girlfriends to engage in sex acts (fellatio is frequently the key here) which are videoed on the 'boyfriend's' phone then spread about on Facebook, etc. Gang rapes are videoed and promoted through social media. Sex videos made during male-female relationships are put up on social media by disaffected men after the breakdown of the relationship. Stalking through social media is also a growing problem.

OnLine Dating & OnLine Exploitation & Abuse to Gain Sexual Access

OnLine dating sites can be traps for the unwary. Some involve 'puffing' and consumer exploitation as where a woman recently succeeded in a claim against a dating agency for misrepresentation when the site asserted it had more clients of the type she sought whereas this was not the case. Such instances are dealt with under consumer protection laws, however, other aspects of these sites are more sinister requiring criminal interventions. Some sites target young people, enabling older people to conceal their age and identity under false identifiers and characteristics. This is often referred to as 'grooming' yet that implies that it is conduct less than exploitation and abuse when in fact it is exploitative and abusive to lead a young people into believing that the online character has her/his wellbeing at heart and that the online character is someone who provides real love, care and affection. This is extraordinarily invasive of a young person's psyche and ought to be recognised for the abusive and exploitation it is, rather than being seen as a precursor to exploitation and abuse. Albeit this conduct is penalised under 'grooming' laws it should be penalised under sexual exploitation and abuse laws so that it is named for what it is.

Language

Language is vital in this field, just as it is vital in the area of violence against women generally. Rather than euphemisms such as the aforementioned 'grooming', 'online violence' or (in the 'real' world) 'domestic violence' we need to name this violence in terms of its criminality, not just as 'unacceptable' behaviour.

Language is central to the way we think and feel, the way we relate to the world and to each other. So long as these forms of violence against women and indeed any forms of violence against women are spoken or written of in terms that downplay their impact, effect and reality, 'the system' will not be addressing them effectively and the community in general will fail to acknowledge their vital importance in keeping women and girls down.

Questions of Law

Some countries have introduced laws specifically covering social media abuse such as trolling. Stalking laws can cover conventional stalking (which under common law is covered by assault although new laws have been introduced) as well as online abuse and cases have been successful

although far more it appears happens which is not pursued through legal channels. This parallels the dark figure of rape and other sexual abuse which is not pursued - a lack of reports to police or failures of police to investigate and initiate prosecution procedures.

One aspect which requires new consideration is rape of avatars on social media. Recently a woman reported (on social media) her horror that she had an avatar and was online, when a man's avatar attacked her avatar and before she could take action he raped the avatar. The woman said that she

felt abused and violated. There is a question here as to how the law should address this, because it is obvious that trauma will or can occur through this sort of attack. Albeit it is not on a 'real' person, the attack is experienced vicariously as one against identity and person, with real implications. It can make the woman whose avatar it is also fear 'real life' attack - can the attacker discover her location, etc - even if he cannot, this is an addition to the trauma and a generator of more fear and apprehension.

Further, as noted, 'grooming' laws should be recast so that they are incorporated into sexual abuse and exploitation laws under that heading rather than the euphemistic 'grooming'.

Arising Issues

One 'emergency' issue arising was submitted by women from Spain in consequence of a case known as 'The Pamplona Rape Case' where five men were convicted in relation to an attack on a woman during the running of the bulls. Judges upheld a sentence of nine years imprisonment – the highest possible penalty for sexual abuse – but rejected the proposition that the crime should have been dealt with under rape provisions rather than simply as sexual abuse. Under the Spanish Criminal Code, rape is proven only where there is sexual intercourse imposed along with additional violence or intimidation that overcomes the victim/survivor's will. Women argued that it is wrong to assert that threats are required to be spoken or illustrated by gestures, etc. Rather, there is intimidation in being alone in the presence of (in this case as described) five 'corpulent men ready to have sex with her', she being 'alone in a dark lobby'.

This is reminiscent of the common law requirement (in practice at least) that a woman had to fight to avoid being raped – exhibiting the lack of consent through screams, torn clothing, physical bodily damage, etc – otherwise the act was not rape. The case was seen as 'borderline' although to many it would seem straightforward – there was clearly intimidation in the circumstances the victim/survivor confronted and experienced, and to assert that 'violence' had to be represented somehow over and above the facts of the case is inconsistent with the notion of bodily integrity in its true meaning. The Court observed that the young woman felt 'intense uneasiness' producing 'a state of stupor and made her adopt a

submissive, passive attitude’. That, in all reasonableness, seems to fit into the notion of rape – invasion of bodily integrity, not consensual sexual intercourse or simply ‘sexual abuse’.

The case is troubling and the Spanish women’s concerns are well placed. At the same time, it is important that due consideration be given to how to tackle the question, because rape laws remain problematic throughout the European Union and this is a matter that must remain on the agenda of the Violence Against Women Observatory so that an approach that addresses the problem can be applied universally. This is one of the issues that will be on the agenda of the next ‘in person’ meeting of the Observatory.

Conclusion

IAW is able to make positive contributions to the discussions of the Observatory and participate in the meetings in Brussels. The next meeting is 10/11 September so takes place before Congress in Berlin. I hope to be able to report at the Berlin meeting on the work of the Observatory and of the most up-to-date outcomes of the Observatory discussions.



Reports from Affiliates

All India Women’s Conference **by Kalyani Raj, Secretary General of AIWC**

Introduction:

All India Women’s Conference a 90 years pan-India NGO established in 1927, with the primary focus of women’s education and empowerment has steadily grown into a pioneer women’s organization working towards socio-economic empowerment of women. The organization has membership of over 100,000 dedicated women volunteers working through a network of more than 500 hundred branches across India. At the **International level, AIWC has consultative status with the UN ECOSOC and observer status with the UNFCCC**. The organization has been working at the grass root level to make sure that the benefits of development reach the women from lower income groups, marginalized communities and the most vulnerable sections of society.

Aims and purpose of the organization:

Emancipation, education and empowerment of women being achieved through programs designed and implemented through our branches.

Activates of the organization in recent years:

- Towards advancing the achievement of the development agenda of United Nations, various programmes have been conducted under capacity building, gender equity, socio-economic empowerment and awareness generation among women's.
- Around 6000 women have been trained in various skills and vocations combined with literacy and computers. Towards attaining some of the targets under goals 3,5,6,7,13,16, one day awareness programmes on various topics such as i.e (Health , Legal , Communal Harmony ,National Integration , Gender sensitization, Menstrual Health & Hygiene, Disaster Management, Sanitation and Waste water , Violence against Women, Environment , and Solar energy and efficiency) have been conducted within the span of last four years. In total 52235 members of community benefited through 671 awareness programme.
- Health has been a major concern for the women, particularly for underprivileged ones. AIWC has focused eliminating anemia and to achieve that anemia free society camp has been hold across India. During the past three years 144 anemia detection camps were organized and 21233 women tested. Among them 10573 were detected anemic and through intervention 2589 recovered from anemia.
- Around 535 beneficiaries have so far benefited through All India Women's Conference day care programme for the senior citizen. This apart, around 5938 patients benefited under our general health community reach programme.
- The organization is equally concerned that the youth energy should be directed towards positive direction and meaningful social issues. Through adolescent life skills management programme , we have been creating awareness on health related problems, social issues, peer pressure, relationship with elders, career counseling, stress management and social media responsibilities . We have reached out to around 2320 youth in the past years through our youth programmes.
- The organization has also played significant role at national as well as global level on gender integration in CC Policies in keeping with the target of Goal 13.Apart from contributing in the global process by participating in COP and SBI meetings, we have been working at the national and state level for including women voices in climate change policies and implementation plans.



- On the completion of a year of SDG implementation, the organization held a workshop on monitoring and reviews of the sustainable development goals with gender lens. Members from different women organizations as well as Government authorities participated in this workshop.
- The organization also contributed to the shadow report prepared by the Civil Society Organization in 2017 when India came up for Voluntary National Review (VNR).
- Clean air, safe environment and clean water are some of the objectives of climate and development justice which AIWC advocates for. With that in view a campaign was initiated by AIWC on the issue of air pollution in the month December 2017. The objective of the campaign was to reach out to the maximum number of Delhi's residents including children, members of civil society, youth and community members to disseminate about this serious cause. The campaign was organized in twelve locations in Delhi and focused on raising awareness about toxicity of air in the city, encouraging communities to take strict actions to mitigate the situation, and method to be safe in such situations. The outcome of the campaign was encouraging.
- In recent years, there has been an alarming rise in violence against women's in India. All India Women's Conference invited members of other CSO's to discuss about the rampant increase in the barbaric rape cases. Over 64 CSO's, individuals and the members of AIWC-Delhi actively participated in the meeting on 19th April, 2018.



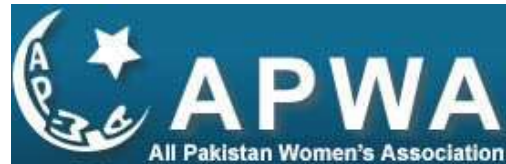
Set of resolutions passed in consultation with all the participating organizations has been shared by us with all the relevant authority. We also had personal meeting with the Minister of Women and Child Development had in depth discussion and have assured all possible support with the government initiatives to address the issue of violence against women.

- A roundtable discussion on the increase in Juvenile delinquency cases & preventive measures was held in the Head Office on April 26th 2018. The objective of the consultation was to discuss about root causes for juvenile crimes, types of crimes, motive behind the juvenile and come up with preventive actions which can be designed in a module. The meeting was attended by members from Juvenile Justice Board, Juvenile Homes, researchers and NGO representatives working on the issue. It was a very interactive, meaningful and productive consultation. Based on the discussion, we have designed the module to combat juvenile crimes and AIWC branches across India have been advised to conduct such programs.

- AIWC is also running Vocational Institute (AVI) with affiliation of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and offers various certificate courses in computer science, beauty culture, textile block printing, cutting and tailoring to enable income generation and employability. AIWC branches are implementing long term skill development programs with financial support of AIWC head office. Students participated in many of the activities conducted by the college as well as AIWC head office.
- AIWC provides short term shelter to women in distress and also provides counseling to help them cope up with their problems.
 - Old age homes and crèches programmes are being implemented in the branches with support of AIWC, Head Office.



All Pakistan Women's Association – Punjab **Report by Ruhi Sayid (APWA Punjab)**



APWA true to its tradition and has always worked for the uplift of the grassroot level women .We Empower women & communities through awareness raising activities.

APWA held the 16 Days of Activism Campaign on violence against women from November 25th to December 10th 2017. The theme of the campaign was “zero Tolerance” -End violence against women and girls. Various events, activities, awareness seminars, trainings, workshops and social gatherings were organized to eliminate violence and to create awareness. Lectures were conducted on legal rights of women. The campaign ended with a rally to condemn violence against women and girls.

On February 8th, 2018, APWA arranged a focus group discussion with the participation of around 25-30 women from grass root level. Faculty of Lahore College for Women University conducted this discussion. The aim of the focus group discussion was to identify the poverty indicators.

February 7th, 2018 is declared as the National day for child protection. To observe this day APWA organized a workshop with mothers and children on the subject of Child Abuse and Neglect. A lecture to the parents was delivered by the Chairperson APWA Punjab on the measures to be taken for the protection of child.

APWA in collaboration with Punjab social welfare center organized “International Women’s Day 2018” on the theme “Empower to Progress” on March 7th 2018. The main focus of the event was to celebrate the success, achievements and gain for women. Sameer Ahmed syed DC Lahore was the chief guest. The event was well attended. APWA Youth College presented a drama “Sukna” on the empowerment of women which was very much appreciated by all.

On March 15th, 2018, a district visit to Sialkot was held. The purpose of the visit was distribution of 6 sewing machines and 1 motor at the skills center Bihar Colony and overall evaluation of the centers. APWA ensures the availability of equipments and other facilities at its districts.

Lecture on Women Movement in Pakistan before and after partition was given by Mrs Shakeela Khanum on Pakistan day. She also described the real passion and turmoil of our leaders that led to Lahore Resolution.

An awareness activity session on RTI act with the collaboration of CPDI was arranged by APWA on 19th and 27th of March 2018. At the end of this awareness session a quiz was held and prizes were distributed among the participants.

APWA crafts shop was re-launched on May 4th, 2018 as the primary destination for top quality handmade products. Many people attended the launch, and appreciated the wide variety of crafts showcased by APWA. The idea behind the re-launch to empower the women, showcase their skills and display the history of APWA Crafts with a new and contemporary approach.

An awareness session on the importance of cleanliness and sanitary pads was organized on Annual Pay Day on March 8th, 2018. An interactive session was also held in the end to solve the issues of women belonging to different districts of Punjab.

The summer cooking course at APWA began on July 27th, 2018. It has been designed to help young girls acquire cooking skills to fulfill their passion and empower themselves to be more productive. This is a certified one month course taken by a professional instructor.

One-Day fun day workshop was organized by APWA for kids ages 8-15 on August 1st, 2018. The workshop included a baking session where kids were taught how to make Molten Lava and Donuts. This was followed by an Arts and Crafts session for the kids. The purpose of One-Fun day was to give a productive day to kids, where they could learn new skills in a day.

It has been an eventful year with the engagement of grass root level women.

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

Advocacy Work – 2017-2018

By Cheryl Hayles



The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a non-partisan and self-funded organization with over 100 Clubs located in every province across Canada. Since its founding

in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace. It holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. CFUW is the largest affiliate of Graduate Women International (GWI) which represents women worldwide and is a member of the International Alliance of Women (IAW). CFUW Clubs and the CFUW Charitable Trust award approximately \$1 million each year for education to help women pursue post-secondary studies.

Advocating for policy changes to improve the lives of women and girls in Canada and globally is fundamental to our work at CFUW. We work with decision makers, like-minded organizations and the public to advance our vision of a more just world. We engage governments – municipal, provincial and federal – through advocacy campaigns on social and economic issues affecting women’s quality of life and career prospects. Individual Clubs and the regional councils work with local educational institutions, women’s shelters, harm and risk reduction organizations and other community groups on specific projects and fund-raising initiatives.

Throughout 2017-2018, CFUW actively participated at the national level in consultations and meetings with the government, politicians and their staff, engaged in workshops and strategy meetings with partner organizations, monitored and responded to Government legislation and prepared briefs to the Government of Canada, including:



CFUW Yorkton Speaker on Immigration

- Attendance at stakeholder meetings with Status of Women and Statistics Canada on the New Survey on Sexual Victimization in Post-Secondary institutions.
- Submission of a letter to the Minister for the Status of Women, Maryam Monsef, calling for increased funding for gender equality programs.
- Submission of a Pre-budget brief and commentary on the 2018 budget to the House of Commons Finance Committee.
- Distribution of template letters and background information for CFUW clubs to advocate for Universal Pharmacare. Letters to the Minister of Health, Ginette Petitpas Taylor, were sent calling for the urgent implementation of Universal Pharmacare.
- Participation in the North American Gender Summit: Women in STEM fields where staff discussed the Gender Based Analysis + with Status of Women representatives.
- CFUW called on the government to address the funding gaps for water and waste water management systems in Indigenous communities.
- Provision of support materials to our clubs on gun control and provided feedback on the subject to M.P. Pam Damoff.

- Participation in consultation meetings with Public Safety Canada to discuss policies and programming for the Canada Centre for Community Engagement and the Prevention of Violence.
- Participation in the Government's consultations on asbestos



Partnership and Network Participation

Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Its Causes and Consequences and a group of Canadian organizations, April 2018. Photo courtesy NAWL

- Participation by CFUW national in the Child Care Summit held by the Child Care Coalition to coordinate advocacy strategies.
- CFUW became a member of the Canadian Coalition on the Rights of the Child and coordinated with the Coalition on action to end the corporal punishment of children.
- Participation in a series of meetings for Up-For-debate, a campaign to invite federal candidates in the 2019 election to debate questions related to gender equality.
- Endorsement of a joint letter from the Feminist Alliance for International Action on the amendment to Bill S-3 to eliminate all legal disposition that generates discrimination based on sex in the Indian Act.
- Development of a new partnership with the Canadian Coalition to Empower Women of which CFUW is now a member.
- Attendance at the Council of Muslim Women 35th anniversary celebration.
- Participation in the Pay Equity Summit, and coordinated advocacy initiatives with the Equal Pay Coalition leading up to Equal Pay Day in April.
- Participated in a roundtable on parental leave and childcare organized by Child Care Now and the Childcare Research and Resource Unit.
- Coordination of advocacy actions on Bill C-71 with the Gun Control Coalition.

CFUW National Initiatives *Violence against Women and Girls*

Over the last year, CFUW and its 100 clubs across Canada have undertaken significant advocacy work to raise awareness on violence against women and girls in Canada, promote a culture change and request comprehensive policy responses from all levels of government. Some of the highlights of our work in that area include:

16 Days of Activism

In preparation for the 16 days of activism, CFUW national office launched the *16 Days, 16 Actions*



the Town of Pelham and the City of Welland lit in orange and purple for the 16 Days of Activism

Campaign package. Using this package, clubs contacted their local elected officials to light up their cities in orange and purple, signed a petition to ask for the elimination of sex-based discrimination in the Indian act, engaged in community education and social media campaigns, wrote to their elected officials to raise awareness on torture by non-state actors, submitted opinion pieces to their local media and engaged in fundraising activities for local shelters.

Visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Its Causes and Consequences
CFUW worked to consolidate recommendations on law reform to end violence against women with feminist and equality seeking groups in the context of the visit to Canada of [Dr. Dubravka Šimonović](#), the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. The group presented its recommendations to the Special Rapporteur, as well as to government and elected officials including Senator Kim Pate, M.P. Sheila Malcolmson and Rebecca Caldwell, Chief of Staff for Minister Maryam Monsef. CFUW presented specific recommendations related to sexual violence in schools and on campuses that can be found in the Special Rapporteur's preliminary findings. The group successfully made the case for a National Action Plan on VAW and showed unified support for eliminating from the Indian Act all discriminations based on gender.

Briefs and Reports

CFUW wrote many letters, reports and communications that supported effective policy change to address Violence against Women (VAW). Among them - a Universal Periodic Report (UPR) shadow report focusing on Canada's human rights obligations to end VAW, a brief on Bill C-65, legislation on violence and harassment for employees in federally regulated workplaces including Parliament Hill and a brief on gun violence within a gender perspective for Bill C-71.

Universal Child Care

Throughout the year, CFUW has been advocating for Universal Child Care through letters to Minister Duclos and Minister Monsef and other MPs, as well as through briefs to the federal Finance Committee and social media campaigns.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

CFUW recognizes the many past and ongoing manifestations of colonialism faced by First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples in Canada. We aim, through research, learning projects, calls to action, events and partnerships, to support Indigenous Peoples' rights.



Grace Hollett, CFUW President, with Morna Ballantyne, Executive Director of Child Care Now, Kathryn Wilkinson and Teri Shaw

Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

CFUW President Grace Hollett, wrote to Minister Philpott in the context of the December 2017 Parliamentary Budget Officer Report on funding for water and waste water management infrastructure as well as in support of Indigenous-led initiatives. Clubs also engaged in letter writing campaigns on the issue.

Research Projects

Women in Universities Project

A CFUW study group initiated research work in 2016 to up-date the 1992 Women in Universities Survey originally done by CFUW twenty five years ago! In particular, the research identifies changes to the status of female faculty and students at Canadian universities.

Sexual Assault on Campuses

In 2016, CFUW initiated a National Research Project on Sexual Assault on Campus as part of our National Initiative on Violence against Women. Many Canadian post-secondary institutions do not have adequate policies and response mechanisms in place.

Regional/Provincial

The CFUW Atlantic Regional Council organized a meeting themed "Pathways to Home" where speakers raised awareness on the challenges of immigrant women in Atlantic Canada. This lead to a discussion on creative ways to welcome these women into club communities.



CFUW Lethbridge at the Prairies Gathering

The BC Council continued to focus on addressing concerns related to children and youth .The Council also participated in the BC poverty reduction coalition, reactivated the BC child care committee to have input into the national and provincial child care and early learning initiatives and submitted a resolution on ending youth homelessness.

The CFUW Ontario Council presented its speaker series and workshops under the theme *Women in Politics, Election Readiness, and Fake News* with workshops on urban development, election questions, educational funding, election laws, among other themes. In addition to this, the Council sent briefs to the government on topics such as Women's Economic Empowerment, changes to the Employment Standards Act, the Pay Transparency Act, the Pre-Budget consultations, and the Long Term Care Homes Act; In the Prairies, CFUW Calgary and Calgary North organized a joint meeting on gender equality, and the Prairie Gathering focused on making effective use of social media for advocacy efforts. Montreal Lakeshore UWC lead the suitcase drive to prepare 18 year olds leaving the foster care system and collaborated with

the YWCA in the Free the Girls project Bra drive, where over 1300 Bras were collected for resale in women's enterprise projects to help fund the fight against human trafficking.

Local CFUW Clubs

CFUW members believe in generating change by initiating proactive collective discussions and awareness at the local level. During 2017-2018, CFUW clubs have displayed strong commitment to advocating for women and girls rights, social justice and human rights. They have worked with local partners to engage with their communities and their local elected representatives on a number of issues.



CFUW Stratford taking action for pay equity on Equal Pay Day

Here are some highlights from our Clubs' advocacy work:

- ❖ CFUW Stratford coordinated many advocacy efforts ahead of Equal Pay Day. The Club raised awareness about the gender pay gap with a powerful and informative campaign on social media as well as an information booth encouraging individuals to wear red and write to their MPPs.
- ❖ CFUW Parksville/Qualicum set up the REDress Project displaying red dresses throughout the community which is an initiative meant to bring awareness to missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada.
- ❖ CFUW North Toronto' Advocacy Committee worked on raising awareness to eliminate violence against women by organizing in collaboration with the GRANs a rally held in October at Nathan Phillips Square to support the UN Orange Campaign. The Club also co-organized a panel discussion called *"Leave No one Behind: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls"* with prominent women involved at the Canadian and international levels in issues regarding the elimination of violence against women and girls. Members of the Club also participated in a Blanket Exercise learning experience with

local Indigenous leaders and in the February 14 Strawberry Ceremony rally, which brought attention to the issues of murdered and missing Indigenous women.

- ❖ CFUW Richmond with the Richmond Poverty Response Committee helped mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by participating in the annual “Chew on This” postcard campaign to send postcards to the federal minister responsible for poverty reduction.
- ❖ CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo invited the community to participate in a vigil which remembers the students killed at L’École Polytechnique in Montreal, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and the local women killed in domestic violence.
- ❖ CFUW Guelph encouraged more women to enter politics by hosting with partner organizations a panel discussion called ‘Ask a Female Politician’ – Raising Women’s Voices.

International

CFUW led a delegation of 19 women to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), among them were three university students. Delegates got to engage with women’s right activists, NGO representatives and government officials.

CFUW at the UNCSW62 with Grand Chief of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Sheila North.



At UNCSW, CFUW hosted a parallel event in partnership with the Canadian Women’s Foundation, YWCA and All India Women’s Conference, focusing on opportunities and challenges of rural women in the global community. For the second year in a row, CFUW was privileged to have its oral statement read in the General Discussions, a wonderful opportunity



CFUW Parallel Event at the UNCSW62

to give recommendations on policy changes to country representatives. CFUW met with Sizani Ngubani from the South African NGO Rural Women’s Movement, winner of the UNCSW62 Woman of Distinction Award and with the Canadian Minister of Status of Women, Ms. Maryam Monsef, to discuss a variety of issues and the Draft Agreed Conclusions.

Other work undertaken by CFUW in collaboration with the government, NGOs and the United Nations related to International Relations includes:

Government Relations

- Attended the quarterly Human Rights Consultations with Global Affairs Canada.
- Provided comments to Canada's submission to the UN for their Universal Periodic review.
- Prepared submission to the Minister of International Cooperation, Marie-Claude Bibeau, regarding Group recommendations on the Feminist Assistance Policy prepared by the Women's Rights Policy Group.
- Attended the launch of Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2017-2022, co-organized by Global Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defense.
- Submitted comments to the Department of Canadian Heritage on the UNCSW62 Zero Draft.
- Sent letters to the government and the Prime Minister about the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

Partnerships and Network Participation:

- Attended the Canadian Network against Nuclear Weapons (CNANW) seminar and meeting and endorsed joint letters from CNANW calling on the Government of Canada to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- CFUW became an Associate Member of the International Alliance of Women.
- Participated in a workshop with the Women Rights Policy group focusing on the International Feminist Assistance Policy.
- Participated in meetings with the Women, Peace and Security Network.
- Endorsed the GWI UNCSW62 written statement.

United Nations

- Prepared the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) shadow report focused on violence against women.
- Drafted the submission of the UNCSW62 written statement on the Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls. The Statement was endorsed by five of our partners: Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, Graduate Women International, International Alliance of Women, The MATCH International Women's Fund and National Council of Women of Canada.
- Attended the meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on VAW and its causes and consequences. CFUW presented recommendations related to VAW in schools and on campuses.

SDG series

The International Relations Committee prepared a series of nine theme days to facilitate the conversation about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The theme days were the following: Mother's Day, Father's Day, and World Day to End Trafficking in Persons,

equality is already a reality or that gender equality has “gone too far”. This is worrying since it questions whether the government is willing to even discuss gender equality issues if they believe them to be non-existent.

Furthermore, the most frequently discussed gender equality topic in Denmark this year has been whether Muslim women should be allowed to wear a burqa in accordance with their religious beliefs. This affects less than 200 women in Denmark.

We at DSW are worried that women’s rights slowly but steadily will be reduced and that, at a certain point, it will be impossible for (some) women to legally make their own decisions regarding clothing, religion among other things – in a democratic country.

StopHarassment

DWS’s project StopHarassment is still in existence with both women and men calling and seeking help and support in dealing with illegally shared intimate photos online.

DWS will continue to underline the importance of a project aimed toward adults over 18 years of age who experience the horrific and potentially traumatic consequences of being abused in this way: The sharing of private pictures without consent is a disaster for the individual and a gloomy tendency that’s expanding in Denmark and elsewhere – for all age groups and according to the DWS this tendency is a new form of violence. It is therefore important that both nation states and the international community recognizes this problem of violence and incorporate it in their work regarding CEDAW.

#AskFirst



“AskFirst” campaign from March

To help promote awareness of the pressing issue of illegally distributed private pictures DWS launched a fake porn video under the name #AskFirst, in March this year. In cooperation with YouPorn the film was distributed and placed on three of the world’s largest porn sites. The title of the film on all three sites was “My ex-girlfriend doesn’t know I shared this” quite clearly indicating that the film was not distributed with the woman’s consent. A point which is essential!

The film received a lot of attention and on media sites had a total reach of 191.564.903. On Twitter and Facebook alone the reach was 5.274.351 and 11.227.000 respectively. Forty four news media around the world chose to share the story and Signe Vahlun who was responsible for the campaign spend all of her Easter giving interviews.

Opening of a new shelter

On the 20th of May 2018 DWS opened a new shelter for battered women in the heart of Copenhagen. The new shelter was a much-needed addition to the existing ones in Copenhagen as this is the area where most women seek help in Denmark. In 2016 61% of the battered women looking for a safe place to stay were turned away due to

lack of space. With the opening of the shelter on H.C. Andersen's Boulevard right next to the the City Hall of Copenhagen we hope to be able to help more women in the future.

The shelter has the capacity 20 of women and their children, divided into fifteen family rooms and five single rooms. There is a specific focus on pregnant women and women with small children as these are faced with several challenges.

At the opening of the shelter Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Denmark attended with reference to her work in The Mary Foundation and held a speech focusing on the needs of women who have experienced domestic violence of different sorts.



Photo: [Heidi Maxmilling](#).

General news from The Danish Women's Society:

As in the previous years DWS has attended several festivals this year – both political and music festivals. We discussed topics such as consent, gender equality and everyday sexism with the festival goers and it was as usual both entertaining and educational.

Finally, we are now preparing for the election to the Danish parliament, which will be held before June 2019. We at DWS are looking forward to what will hopefully be a shift in power and much more focus on gender equality and women's and children's rights. We also hope for a new Minister for Gender Equality who will contribute progressively to the on-going discussions and make more use of the knowledge and expertise that NGOs and shelters for battered women hold.

Deutscher Frauenring



13.-15. Oct. 2017 the DFR held its Federal Seminar 2017 in Hannover on „*Right to adequate Housing*“

Experts and the participants discussed important aspects of the current short cut of available housing, high prices at the market, missing ground to build housing in the cities, increasing rents, gentrification, inclusion of homeless: the needs and rights of the people. Another issues was how to build for women* and demographic friendly sustainable cities (SDG 11) which are ready for climate change and will contribute to stop it. A list of main recommendations was forwarded by the DFR to candidates to the national and Land of Lower Saxony elections in September 2017 and again to all newly elected MPs, national and in Lower Saxony.

At least, 2017/2018 was defined by a late building of a government and the work for new goals and strengthening of coalitions under the impression of the **right party's** gain of seats in almost all German parliaments mixed and supported by the **extreme right, racists and fascists** who attack not only gender issues verbally. As more feminists women's NGOs need to hold on progressive goals.

Having started in 2016 to prepare for **100 Years of Women's Vote (2018/2019) in 2017** we continued support of the complaint of the Verein für Fraueninteressen München e.V. , a local branch of DFR, by the lawyers Christa Weigl-Schneider and Prof. Dr. Silke Laskowski against the electoral law in Bavaria. It was the hope that the court would proof it discriminatory and so would stipulate a reform into a Parity Electoral Law which can produce a 50: 50 percentage of women in the parliaments. In 2018 the complaint was shifted after rejection to the High Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe. The DFR nominated both lawyers "DFR WOMEN OF 2018" and additional collects signatures for an online petition at change.org for a Parity Electoral Law. During the DFR 2018 Spring reception in Berlin both lawyers were invited to elaborate on the envisioned new Party law. Support now is in all democratic parties. Some Laender are in favor of such a law; but we still have to build a national majority.



On 26. of May in Bad Pyrmont we celebrated our founder (1949) and lawyer **Theanolte Bähnisch**. We held a commemoration "Without women there's no state". A former State Secretary and speaker called her a role model of the 20. Century who is still inspiring women of today. At a fountain in the health resort a **stele** with her picture and a short biography was inaugurated and the **place was named** after her. Then the DFR continued with a Federal Seminar 26./27. May "**Parity is the goal: How to get more women in the parliaments?**"

In Summer 2017 the DFR signed as cooperation partner of *Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF)* Berlin for being the data godmother for the SDG-Indicator "Women in Parliaments" (under goal 5 SDG). OKF provides a [platform](#) to illustrate governments and CSOs SDG indicators for education, awareness rising and monitoring (in German).

Alliance4CEDAW now a permanent Alliance: Having been in 2/2017 in Geneva for the 7./8. CEDAW-State report of Germany the DFR now intensified the lobbying of the General Observations. In September 2018 the ALLIANCE4CEDAW was consolidated as a permanent Alliances of German NGOs for a better CEDAW implementation and further reporting.

The DFR took part in the **G20 Women** preparations for Argentina in Berlin. And, the DFR continued its longstanding membership in the **UNSCR 1325 Alliance** a. under the NAP II. with 2 Consultations with Fed. Ministries, 2 operational exchanges, and b. with about 8 internal Alliance meetings and finalized own indicators to measure NAP II in the evaluation and a policy paper. The exhibition about **FGM/C** was shown in various towns. The DFR claimed in a press release for a holistic support package for survivors of FGM/C in Germany: coverage of costs shall be guaranteed by health insurances and the Government.

Currently the DFR with the International „Platform for Women still struggling in Captivity - a group of Yesidi women- is working on a exhibition on **Yesidi Women Survivors** of the ISIS Captivity. It will be opened 25.11. in the Women's Museum in Bonn together with UN WOMEN Germany. Yesidi women now are represented in the national UNSCR 1325 Alliance and so have access to the government's consultations on NAP 1325.-

The DFR continued its membership in the national Consumers League (VZBV) and in the Working group of the German Family Organisations.

The **internal development** is alarming. The demographic situation decreases the many local and Laender member organizations and sections of the DFR. For long time these section did not recruit actively new members. The next three years the focus must be on recruitment and organization building. The need for a a-z thematic independent NGO as the DFR is there: young feminists are looking for such structures and to have an impact in the politics and shaping the society. We will better need to open our doors for them. In 2018 the DFR founded as a **new** committee the „**Young DFR**“. We hope it will have a great reach out to many of the young feminists and develops a strong voice in the DFR.

in 2017/ 2018 the DFR moved the headquarter to a new place: it is now in a Women's Entrepreneurs and NGOs Center „UCW“, Sigmaringer Str. 1, 10713 Berlin. Birgitt Purschke left us for a new job working in a refugee service center. Françoise Grewe joined us in mid August 2018 as the new Secretary General (CEO). She jumped in a stormy time and was

eagerly introduced to the job by Jasmina Reichert, project manager. Until springtime the team is completed by Katharina Reuschlein who came for an 1/2 year internship to write a paper in UNSCR1325 at her university.



DFR Spring reception 2018- lawyers Christa Weigl-Schneider (Munich) and Prof. Silke Laskowski /Kassel & Berlin), both having forwarded the complaint against German Electoral Law and are fighting for a Parity Electoral Law

The Fredrika Bremer Association by Christina Knight



The Fredrika Bremer Association (FBF) is a members' organisation with eight local district organisations, spread throughout Sweden - Avesta, Båstad, Karlstad, Landskrona, Linköping, Stockholm/Uppsala, Sundsvall and Örnköldsvik. During the past year, the local organisations have arranged a number of seminars, debates, lectures and program activities, focusing on current gender equality issues throughout the country. The FBF has been involved in several national networks as well as external projects together with other organisations working with similar issues.

During 2017, Fredrika Bremer Förbundet has arranged a number of activities all over Sweden, focusing mainly on three main issues:

- More women where there is power
- More men where children are

- Equal pay for all of Sweden

The voluntary involvement in the organization's activities and work through the organization's local districts, networks and volunteers is what enables the organization's work.

The Board has had eight board meetings – four full day meetings in Stockholm, one in Apelryd and three telephone conferences.

The local districts have arranged a number of seminars, lectures, study visits and educational groups. The organization has also established a group of volunteers to help the secretariat with the recruitment of new members as well as with communication.

Miriam Limås-Kollberg has been recruited as our Press Officer and during the first six months of 2017, Louise Lindfors had a project assignment as Strategist for the trusts.

Fredrika Bremer Förbundet has been involved in five published debate articles, published two reports on equal pay together with Lönelotsarna and Sveriges Kvinnolobby as well as arranged a seminar at Almedalen on Sweden's legislation for equal pay together with the Icelandic Minister of Gender equality.

Fredrika Bremer Förbundet also joined in the arrangement of the Women's March in Stockholm, in January and participated during the MR-days (Human Rights Days), Forum Jämställdhet, the book fair in Gothenburg, the Political week in Järva, the week in Almedalen and the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN, New York.

The ninth Apelryd seminar was held on August 11-12 with the theme "Health and Gender Equality". Over 150 people participated in the seminar which was opened by the Key Note Speaker Jan Eliasson, previously the Vice General Secretary of the United Nations.

Also, during five weeks in summer, over 100 guests participated in Fredrika Bremer Förbundet's Nannylund weeks for single women, with or without accompanying children, in Båstad, in the south of Sweden.

Our magazine "Hertha" issued twice a year and continues to be a strong and important voice for the organization. "Hertha" is distributed to all our members and was celebrated with a release event on March 8th as well as at a joint release with the historical publication "Historiskan" in November at the Museum of History in Stockholm, drawing an audience of several hundred people. During 2017, Fredrika Bremer Förbundet has also published its own blog, "Herthabloggen".

Fredrika Bremer Förbundet had 1,336 members on December 31st, 2017.

Norwegian Association for Women's Rights June 2016 – June 2018

By Karin Bruzelius, president

1. Organization

At the national meeting on May 21st 2016 a new board was elected with Marit Nybakk as president, Turid Lilleheie as vice president and Vigdis Lian as secretary. At the national meeting on June 16th 2018 Karin M. Bruzelius was elected as president, Randi Reese as vice president and Ingrid Hødnebo as secretary. At this meeting the statutes of the Norwegian Association was changed, and the board now has five members and two suppliants.

This report covers the period between the national meeting in 2016 and 2018, and is primarily based on the report submitted to the meeting on the work of the association in these two years.

Main goals of the Association

The main goals of the Norwegian Association are

- Political work should be arranged in a manner that allows for full participation of women;
- Women should be seen in media as active participants in society and at the workplace;
- Intensified work against sexualized violence, prostitution and pornography;
- The female perspective should be an integral factor in all international matters;
- Women and men should have the same rights and opportunities at school, higher education and at the work place.

Developments in Norway

As usual, the Norwegian Association has in its capacity as a national nongovernmental organization commented on and/or lobbied against various proposals for new legislation or change of legislation.

During the period the Norwegian government and the Parliament has adopted new legislation on discrimination based on sex and other matters. The specific statute dealing with the equality of the sexes has been abolished and sexual discrimination is now one form of discrimination. The powers of the ombudsman have been restricted, and the ombudsman no longer hears individual complaints. The powers of the discrimination board have been enlarged, and all complaints are now decided by the board. However, the procedure is now mainly written. The statute explicitly excludes cases on sexual harassment from the powers of the board. Hence women and men that have experienced sexual harassment have to go to the ordinary courts. – The Association have through different means attacked the changes that have been made and requested the introduction of a low threshold complaint system.

In a connection with a revision of the statute on laborers, the Association made the authorities aware of that they had forgotten to take into consideration how the proposed changes in the legislation would affect equality between the sexes, the position of women at the workplace and the conditions of children growing up in Norway.

The Association has also commented on proposals for the furtherance of rights of women and equality of sexes in Norwegian foreign and development policy.

In addition, the Association has adopted several resolutions that have been addressed to the authorities on current matters.

Norway submitted its 9th periodic report on the implementation of CEDAW in Norway in 2016 and the Association participated in the preparation of two civil society reports to the UN Committee.

The Association has been engaged in a national campaign against rape, and president Nybakk gave a speech in connection with the UN day – November 25th – on the abolition of violence against women.

In August 2018 the Association was represented at the Arendal week with a stand, and also arranged a public meeting during the week, together with another organization. The meeting dealt with questions relating to who actually owns a woman's body, and was attended by a quite a large number. Through the stand during the week in Arendal the members present were able to present the association and its policies to a large number of people. – The Arendal week in August of every year has become an important meeting place in the Norwegian society, and is attended by a large number of persons.

International activities

In 2017 as well as in 2018 the Norwegian Association has been represented at the meetings of the UN Committee on women.

Activities by the local branches of the organization

The Association has three local branches and a number of direct members all over the country. The local branches arrange meetings where many questions of interest to the organization are discussed and adopt resolutions on matters of more local interest. However, in addition they also submit proposals to the Association on more general matters.

The Association tries to keep the knowledge of the women who fought for equality of women alive, as it is necessary to know where we were and where we now are. One method that has been successful is the arrangement of walks visiting places/houses/graves of special interest to the history of women, simultaneously giving information.



Women's Electoral Lobby, Australia

By Helen L'Orange, national coordinator

Women's Electoral Lobby Australia (WELA) shares many priority areas of work with IAW:

1. Eliminating violence against women
2. Human Rights
3. Health
4. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
5. The Economy

WEL's priority campaigns over 2017/18 were on violence against women and reproductive rights.

1. Eliminating violence against women

WEL is lobbying for adequate funding of women's refuges with the aim of achieving long term secure funding for women's refuges as a priority program via the new national Housing Agreement.

In September 2017 WELA made a submission to the Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence by the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety.

WEL NSW ran a successful campaign 'Keep the Lights on in Women's Refuges'.

On Wednesday 2nd May, WEL handed hundreds of postcards and signatures to cross-party parliamentarians at NSW Parliament House. The Singing out Strong (SOS) women's choir, made up of survivors of domestic violence, sang in the Parliament foyer to draw attention to the importance of specialist women's refuges. Two members of the choir shared their personal experiences of domestic violence and support, explaining how refuge accommodation and services helped them after leaving violent relationships.

2. Human Rights

In March 2018 Amanda Keeling of New South Wales WEL attended CSW in New York. Amanda was honoured to be asked to deliver the IAW/Canadian Federation of University Women's CSW Oral Statement.

WELA was pleased to be a co-signatory Women's Major's Group letter to the Philippines' Government concerning the President's recent declaration that human rights activists are 'terrorists'. The issue of deteriorating safety and support for women human rights defenders globally was a big issue at CSW.

Nationally, WELA was a co-signatory to an open letter to female Federal MPs regarding the *Social Services Legislation Amendment (Encouraging Self-Sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants) Bill 2018*.

This Bill:

- increases the existing waiting period for migrants to claim certain social security payments and obtain concession cards, increasing the waiting period from 2 years to 3 years;
- introduces a new waiting period of 3 years for family tax benefit, parenting payment, carer allowance, bereavement allowance and widow allowance; and
- introduces a waiting period of 3 years for parental leave pay and dad and partner pay.

There is a gendered impact arising from these changes, as these payments include the payments most frequently claimed by women, including those needed by many of the most vulnerable women in Australia.

3. Health

WELA made a submission (June 2018) to the new draft Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy (ANBS) <http://www.health.gov.au/breastfeeding>

4. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Abortion Law reform:

In February 2018 WEL made a submission to the Queensland Law Reform Commission's Consultation Paper ***Review of the Termination of Pregnancy Laws***. The first part of our submission looks at the similarities between current legislation in NSW and Queensland. Abortion remains in the Criminal Code in both states. We make a case for change. In the second part of our submission we address the specific questions in the Queensland Law Reform Commission Consultation Paper. The Commission will report and make recommendations to the Queensland Government in June 2018.

WEL is also supporting abortion Law Reform in Tasmania and South Australia.

In NSW WEL is leading advocacy to decriminalise abortion by removing it from Crimes Act.

Safe access zones:

WEL congratulates the MPs in the NSW Parliament who, in June 2018, supported legislation that will provide NSW women with safe access to clinics that perform abortions and provide other reproductive health services.

WEL advocated for the establishment of exclusion zones around health facilities that provide abortion, to ensure the safety of NSW women seeking terminations and health and medical practitioners and staff. Exclusion zones protect people accessing and working in these clinics from harassment, abuse and invasions of privacy. It is the right of every woman to secure medical treatments safely and confidentially.

5. The Economy

WELA advocates on a range of issues including an equitable taxation system, adequate retirement income for women, social security, vocational education and training, job security, flexibility, and working time, gender pay equity, affordable housing and child care.

WELA contributes to the National Foundation for Australian Women's Gender Lens, an annual budget analysis. This year the Gender Lens document led to a major national debate on inequities in the tax system.

In May 2018 WELA joined with dozens of other women's organisations which are also members of the Equality Rights Alliance advising the Government that 'we are deeply concerned that the budget maintains the practice of successive Australian Federal governments in neglecting to make sufficient provision and policy for housing. Housing unaffordability has devastating and widespread social and economic effects on the community, in particular on women and their families. We called on the Australian Government to rectify its neglect by:

- Increasing capital funding for the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement ;
- Implementing tax reform to reduce investment pressure on the housing market; and
- Ensuring sufficient coverage of the Remote Housing Partnership Agreement to include Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.'

In September 2018 the Minister for Women is presenting a Women and Financial Security statement. WELA is contributing to submissions to this.

Brief report on the activities of WHI (Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development Centre of India)

By Dr. Vijaiya Lakshmi

Established in 1998, WHI is an organization which is committed to the upliftment of weaker sections of the society and women through human resource development ranging from

grassroot economic mobilization through social and community enterprises, water supply and sanitation , establishment of micro enterprises and educational development. 240 grassroot level organizations are affiliated to WHI.

Extending basic amenities including Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation are areas of main concern, to the organization. The goal of the organization in this regard, is to increase the access of the rural population, particularly women ,the poor and socially disadvantaged groups, to drinking water supply and environmental sanitation services. 240 grass root level organizations are affiliated to WHI and availing our services .

The objectives of WHI are conceptualized in the lines of the UN sustainable development goals of ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. In the past three years, WHI has covered around one fifty thousand families through the implementation of community driven drinking water supply schemes. The water supply project involved creating of community wells and consequent pipeline infrastructure for availing water and its supply to the community beneficiaries. The cumulative coverage of women in this project is estimated to stand at around two hundred thousand. The drinking water supply schemes that were undertaken by WHI supplied drinking water to each household through pipelines. Our activities also extend to implementing projects on ground water recharging, solid waste management, rain pits, rain water harvesting and ground water recharging.

VARSHA (RAIN WHATER HARVESTING) Ranni- India



Photo: Riverside open well constructed by WHI in Muzhikkal kadavu for Marginalized sections of the community (Idukki - India)

The Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency selected the WHI, as the support organisation for the implementation of “Jalanidhi” – a community based water supply and sanitation project aided by the World Bank. The WHI implemented the project in Pothukal, a backward Panchayat based in the Malappuram District, Kulthoor gramapanchayat in Thiruvananthapuram District, Ranni Panchayat in Pathanamthitta District, Udumbannoor in Idukki district. Under the Jalanidhi project in the Pothukal Grama Panchayat, hundred and six water supply schemes are owned and operated by the community. The planning and implementation of those water supply schemes with the full fledged participation of the beneficiary community, has changed the concept of development within the society. The schemes are now effectively serving the beneficiary communities, owned and operated by women at those locations, with better quality of service. The majority of those populations are marginal farmers and agricultural laborers.



Pothukal model of Sanitation

In addition to the water supply schemes, the project supported construction of two pit sanitary latrines in the house holds below the poverty line to address the environmental hygiene issues. Under WHI's technical and community mobilisation support Pothukal became the first total sanitation village in Kerala

In the scaling up batch of Jalanidhi Project WHI functioned as the supporting organisation for project implementation in Kulathur panchayat, a coastal village situated in the southern most end of the state in Thiruvananthapuram District. The village especially the coastal belt has been reeling under severe water shortage and water quality issues. Now after the completion of the Project 56 mini water supply schemes owned and operated by the community groups are catering safe drinking water to the total house holds.

WHI Suraksha Migrant Project

Women Empowerment and Human Resource
Development Centre of India

MEDICAL CAMP & STI CLINIC

Name of Site :

Place :

Date :



HIV PROJECT FOR MIGRANT LABOURERS IN KERALA, INDIA.



Migrant Laborers had been for long a neglected group in the Health care radar due to lack of documentation and social security coverage, coherent representation in the policy roadmap and lack of awareness of health issues. The inflow of Migrant laborers has seen a sharp rise in the past years raising several public health concerns and calls for interpolating them into the mainstream of health care initiatives.

WHI in 2014-2016 covered a total of 77701 migrant labourers. Among them 19075 migrants were identified as high risk migrants. 7691 group sessions/awareness classes were conducted. Through 47 health camps we have screened 3740 high risk migrants, from which 116 STI (sexually transmitted infection) cases were identified. 126 exhibitions for public awareness among targeted group were conducted. ICTC/HIV test were done on 2780 high risk migrants, from which 6 positive cases were identified. 6361 high risk migrants were given counseling service.

WHI in 2017-18 under “Suraksha Migrant Project” covered a total of 30946 migrants. Among them 7625 migrants were identified as high risk migrants. 3085 group sessions/awareness classes were conducted through 98 health camps. WHI has screened 4210 high risk migrants,

from which 132 STI (sexually transmitted infection) cases were identified. Further, ICTC/HIV tests were done on 2624 high risk migrants out of whom 5 positive cases were identified. 3443 high risk migrants were given counseling service.

101 public exhibitions were conducted on the subject matter for raising public awareness among the targeted groups. Further, 10 street plays and 8 AV (audio -visual) shows were also conducted in which large scale public participation was ensured. Total achievement

Total achievement 2015-2016

1. we covered a total of 42302 migrants. among them 10162 migrants were identified as high risk migrants.

2. 4205 group sessions/awareness classes were conducted

3. through 24 health camps we have screened 2078 high risk migrants, from which 65 sti (sexually transmitted infection) cases were identified.

4. 55 exhibitions were done.

5. 1413 high risk migrants were done ictc/hiv test, from which 2 positive cases were identified.

6. 3257 high risk migrants were given counselling service.

Total achievement 2016-2017

1. we covered a total of 35399 migrants. Among them 8953 migrants were identified as high risk migrants.

2. 3486 group sessions/awareness classes were conducted

3. through 23 health camps we have screened 1662 high risk migrants, from which 51 sti (sexually transmitted infection) cases were identified.

4. 71 exhibitions were done.

5. 1367 high risk migrants were done ictc/hiv test, from which 4 positive cases were identified.

6. 3104 high risk migrants were given counselling service.

Total achievement 2017-2018

1. we covered a total of 30946 migrants. among them 7625 migrants were identified as high risk migrants.

2. 3085 group sessions/awareness classes were conducted

3. through 98 health camps we have screened 4210 high risk migrants, from which 132 sti (sexually transmitted infection) cases were identified.

4. 101 exhibitions were done

5. 2624 high risk migrants were done ictc/hiv test, from which 5 positive cases were identified.

6. 3443 high risk migrants were given counselling service.

7. 10 street play and 8 AV (audio -visual) shows were conducted.

“Where the Evidence of Potential backs Experience, there’s no stopping the suppressed from Forging Ahead.”



Tribal Development initiatives:

The Tribal population of the backward areas of the Malappuram and Pathanamthitta districts are assisted by the organization, by their implementing of innovative Livelihood programmes, Reproductive and Child health programmes, the Legal Awareness and Assistance programmes, at the above mentioned locations.

WHI facilitated in creating self help units for income generation such as small scale production of sanitary napkins, Ayurvedic medicines incorporating traditional knowledge, Laundry services, Production and marketing of Masala etc.

Further, several health care interventions were made by WHI including Pre natal, Natal and Post natal care. Further, special intervention were made among the Tribal for protection of pregnant women.

In association with Grama Panchayat and Forest Department, WHI initiated several measures to protect the life and living conditions of Tribes from wild animals and wild Life in Wayanad. WHI, India conducted several innovative programs which aims to build an empowered youth who will be the fire bearers for the next generation. Schools and colleges were focused for Youth mobilization for developmental activities. WHI is involved in a joint initiative with a number of organizations for mentoring students for taking up Leadership roles in their academic and social communities from school and college levels.

The focus area on youth engagement include environmental initiatives and inculcating values.

(Environmental Day Celebration and Tree planting drive

CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES OF WHI

Major interaction with noted Environmentalist was coordinated with children between the age of 7 to 16. This was replicated in three other colleges, from which 40 people signed up for being green volunteers for year long environmental services on community mobilization levels and for awareness activities.

- Introduced a special session on endangered plant varieties and arranged for the acquisition of its seeds, grooming to be replanted in three districts in Association with schools of these districts.
- Introduced and mentoring a research group for enabling the rehabilitation and reviving of endangered medicinal plants. Phase two to be coordinated with Tribal communities in Kerala who had earlier worked with WHI on previous projects.
- More than 600 Plant Saplings distributed among members of the community.
- 200 Saplings planted and monitored throughout the year in all three districts, Pathanam Thitta, Idukki and Thiruvananthapuram.



A follow up program was conducted in selected 10 Panchayats for spreading awareness on the need to conserve local trees, medicinal plants and sustainable environmental practices. The activities of the research groups constituted during the initial phase of the initiative was expanded to include the fauna and local environmental support systems of more than fifty localities. The detailed report was compiled after consultation with the locals. Local cultural traditions were identified which was environment friendly. These traditions are effective in inculcating environmentalism in the people.

Further, public schools were consulted along with constituting study circles in those schools to preserve, protect and study more closely the local environmental traditions and to take initiative in increasing the planting and grooming of endangered plant varieties.

Three counseling campaigns were conducted in four phases in the districts of kerala among the students finishing their higher secondary education on the available higher education courses that focuses and research on approaches that enables the protection of environments. Many students envined interest to choose academic courses that enables research on areas that have wide application on environmental conservation and ameliorating climate change.

Mentoring groups were created with the help of green volunteers created during the first phase of environmental initiatives by WHI to enable the students to take part in a number of science fests(Kerala State science Fest being one among them) with proactive mentoring and conceptual guidance on ideas of great significance to environmental protection. This we believe was a tremendous achievement as more and more students will be channeled towards environmental research, studies on combating climate change and a wide spectrum of ideas from a very early age.



ROAD ACCIDENT INTERVENTION

More than 500000 people die in Road Accident every year in India, which is even higher than some of the biggest natural disasters that India has faced. Until able infrastructural development and safe implementation of road traffic laws are ensured, awareness is the only way for ensuring safety of precious life. WHI conducted a series of engagements with

students who are entering teenage and with high proclivity for adventurist approach toward handling vehicles.

WHI India conducted a programme on 'Traffic rules and road safety', they visited Traffic Police Station and the Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Sulfikar and Mr. Anil Kumar explained with demo regarding traffic safety. Children interacted with the police officials asking questions related to traffic safety. Videos on traffic awareness were also shown.

WHI India conducted an awareness program on Safe Travel and Traffic rules. Officials from the police department took the session for about road safety rules and precautions to be taken and followed while riding a bicycle, two wheeler, car, bus and the safety measures needed for a pedestrian. At the end of the session he distributed an activity book for students which include activities related to road safety. He also talked about traffic signals and signs.

WHI, conducted programme on Death due to Road Accident. Assistance Commissioner of police explained how and why more people die in accidents than from sickness. Pedestrians are injured so often especially school children.

He concluded the session by advising to take a strong decision to obey all the traffic rules and regulations.



Delegates of WHI headed by Chairpeson Dr. KG Vijayalekshmy visited Okhi cyclone affected areas of Coastal Kerala on November 29th and 30th 2017 and interacted with people and povided food, Clothes, Povisions and Medical Supply. Mrs Gomathy Nair , patron and trustee of AIWC and members of AIWC branches in Trivandrum joined along with this deliberation .

Further, consistent counselling and necessary support was extended to the cyclone victims and

members. The report of the engagements were forwarded to the policy makers for further study and reference.

Kerala Flood Relief

On the aftermath of the biggest floods since 1924, in which more than 300 people died and 1000000 people were displaced across thousands of relief camps, WHI embarked on rescue and relief operations. The youth center of WHI had set up an emergency helpline and enlisted the services of more than fifty students from various universities, who collected information on various stranded people in need of rescue and supplies. Each cases would be verified, GPS coordinates collected and handed over to the Government control rooms and other local rescue operations involving Army and navy operations, fishermen and other local community members. More than 100 cases were identified and coordinated effectively with the authorities and rescue operations that were safely transferred to relief camps.

Further, WHI mobilized more than 10 lakh rupee worth of relief materials on the tune of several trucks which were send to various relief camps in the rural regions of Kerala such as Ranni and the worst affected regions such as Chengannur. WHI volunteers are in constant touch with the cleaning, plumbing, electrical and reconstruction operations in the flood affected regions to help kick start the lives of the flood affected people.

WHI is helping many people with the filing of insurance claims, official filing of lost and destroyed documents, government entitlements and many other procedures that are coming up for the people in the aftermath of the flood. For this reason, we have recruited the service of more than 15 volunteers from various law schools who have processed more than 1000 cases of insurance claims so far in various parts of Kerala.

More than 50 students from outside Kerala were identified whose stay food and travel to their own states were arranged by WHI.



ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES DE L'EUROPE MERIDIONALE

Communiqué

Paris, le 1 septembre 2018

L'AFEM rend un hommage appuyé à la mémoire de la Professeure Alice YOTOPOULOS MARANGOPOULOS, à son œuvre de très haut niveau accomplie à l'échelle internationale, européenne et nationale et à sa contribution exceptionnelle en faveur de la promotion des

droits fondamentaux universels et de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes.

Alice YOTOPOULOS MARANGOPOULOS, a été Ancienne Rectrice de l'Université Panteion d'Athènes, Ancienne Présidente de la Commission Nationale Hellénique pour les Droits de l'Homme, Ancienne Présidente de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes, Ancienne Présidente de la Ligue Hellénique pour les Droits des Femmes, Membre fondateur de l'AFEM et Présidente du Conseil d'honneur de l'AFEM.

En son honneur, la Ligue Hellénique pour les Droits des Femmes, membre de l'AFEM, a édité un tome spécial et a organisé un événement spécial, le 23 février 2018 à Athènes, avec la participation de Sophia SPILIOTOPOULOS notre Présidente d'honneur qui a présenté le témoignage et l'hommage de l'AFEM.

*Sous la Présidence de Catherine Sophie DIMITROULIAS
Rapporteuse Monique BOUAIZIZ, Vice-Présidente pour la France, Déléguée à l'AIF*

En cette année de célébration du 60ème anniversaire de la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme (DUDH), l'AFEM en tant qu'unique fédération féministe de l'Europe méridionale et en tant qu'OING dotée du statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, poursuit son œuvre vouée à la sauvegarde, l'enrichissement et à l'application effective de l'acquis international et européen en de droits humains fondamentaux, en premier lieu, de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes dans tous les domaines, en Europe et dans le monde.

L'AFEM agit pour promouvoir la construction d'une Europe démocratique, sociale et laïque, et pour le renforcement de la société civile euro - méditerranéenne sur la base de ces mêmes valeurs et principes. A cette fin, l'AFEM poursuit un dialogue permanent avec les institutions des Nations Unies, du Conseil de l'Europe et de l'Union européenne, les autorités publiques nationales et les organisations de la société civile.

L'AFEM est réélue aux organes de gouvernance des assemblées et OING de la société civile :

- a) la Coordination de la Commission des femmes dans le cadre de l'Assemblée de la société civile partenaire du processus mondial Habitat III, qu'elle assure depuis 2016 conjointement avec Hairou Commission, représentée par sa Présidente d'honneur, la Professeure Teresa BOCCIA ;
- b) le Conseil d'administration de l'AIF où elle est représentée par sa Vice-Présidente pour la France, Monique BOUAIZIZ et Danièle LEVY. Réélues par le 34ème Congrès de l'AIF à Nicosie en 2017, elles coordonnent la représentation de l'AIF auprès de l'UNESCO et la représentent aux réunions annuelles de la Commission sur le statut de la femme à l'ONU ;
- c) le Bureau du Réseau Euromed France, réseau national dont elle est l'unique organisation féministe fondatrice, où elle est représentée par sa Présidente, Catherine DIMITROULIAS, élue à la Vice-Présidence du REF depuis 2009 et récemment en mai 2018.

L'AFEM est à la pointe des mobilisations pour la défense et le renforcement des droits sociaux fondamentaux et de l'égalité des genres dans le cadre de la crise économique mondiale et de la stratégie de gouvernance économique européenne, ainsi que pour la lutte contre les violences, les inégalités et les discriminations multiples à l'égard des femmes, à l'échelle de la région Euroméditerranéenne et plus généralement à l'échelle internationale, notamment, dans le cadre du nouvel agenda urbain mondial et européen.

L'AFEM soutient l'objectif de l'adhésion de l'Union européenne à la Convention d'Istanbul et

aux autres traités majeurs du Conseil de l'Europe, dont la Convention Européenne des Droits de l'Homme (CEDH) et la Charte sociale européenne révisée. Elle se mobilise pour la signature, ratification et application effective des Traités internationaux et européens, dans les pays où elle est implantée et met en œuvre une série d'actions d'interpellation des décideurs, d'information et formation auprès des OING et des milieux spécialisés.

L'Assemblée générale de l'AFEM s'est réunie à Paris le 29 août 2018. Elle a été marquée par l'adoption d'une Charte des valeurs de l'AFEM et a accueilli de nouvelles associations et personnalités membres, notamment, d'Espagne, de France, d'Italie, du Liban.

Parmi les actions de l'AFEM réalisées en 2018, on relèvera les événements suivants (suivis de films et publications):

1. l'organisation à Paris, d'une table ronde suivie d'un séminaire international sur le thème «Gouvernance économique néolibérale versus valeurs démocratiques européennes. Quel avenir pour l'égalité des genres et les droits fondamentaux des femmes ?», les 28-29 août 2018, dans le cadre du 8e Congrès international des recherches féministes dans la francophonie (CIRF 2018 - l'Université Paris Nanterre), avec la participation des coordinations nationales de l'AFEM, de représentantes d'autres grandes OING, dont l'IPPFEN et UWE, d'associations nationales et de centres de recherche, ainsi que de la Vice-présidente de la Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe en charge de l'égalité des genres, Anne NEGRE et de la représentante de la France auprès du GREVIO en charge de l'application de la Convention d'Istanbul, Françoise BRIE.

2. l'organisation à Séville, d'un Panel sur le thème "Réflexions sur la violence à l'égard des femmes" tenu le 18 juillet 2018 dans le cadre du 5^{ème} Congrès Mondial des Études sur le Moyen-Orient (WOCMES, Fondation Trois Cultures, Université de Séville), et la présentation par sa Présidente Catherine DIMITROULIAS d'une communication sur le thème « La normativité internationale de la lutte contre la violence à l'égard des femmes. Vers la fin de l'impunité ? », avec la participation de professeures des pays du pourtour méditerranéen.

3. l'organisation à Athènes, d'une Journée de rencontre et d'échange avec les représentantes des Plateformes nationales membres de l'AFEM, le Conseil National des Femmes Hellènes et la Ligue Hellénique pour les Droits des Femmes, le 13 août 2018, destinée au recueil et à la restitution de la mémoire historique et vision d'avenir du mouvement des femmes, dans le cadre du 20^{ème} anniversaire de l'AFEM.

4. le lancement à Paris du cycle de séminaires de l'Académie Féministe Internationale de l'AFEM, le 16 juin 2018, par une conversation philosophique sur le thème « Les femmes dans la Cité - Monde : de la démocratie athénienne à la démocratie cosmopolitique ».

5. la coorganisation d'un séminaire interne sur le thème «Rétrécissement(s) de l'espace de la société civile et des libertés collectives en Méditerranée », suite à l'Assemblée générale du REF, le 31 mai 2018, à Montreuil et la présentation d'une communication de sa Présidente sur la situation globale des droits des femmes ; l'accueil et la contribution de sa Secrétaire générale Aicha AIT M'HAND à un stage à destination de jeunes syriens à Paris en juin 2018 ; l'adoption enfin d'un communiqué conjoint avec le REF soutenant la grande mobilisation et marche de la Coalition des associations pour l'héritage en Tunisie du 10 mars 2018.

6. la coorganisation à Naples, d'une Journée de célébration de l'anniversaire de la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme, dans le cadre du Partenariat de l'AFEM avec le Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire URBANIMA - LUPT de l'UNIVERSITÉ "FEDERICO II" de

NAPLES, avec le soutien de prestigieux partenaires, le 16 mai 2018.

On rappellera aussi que l'AFEM a participé :

1. à Paris, à la consultation citoyenne sur l'Avenir de l'Europe, en vue des élections européennes de juin 2019, en présence de Sylvie GUILLAUME, Vice-Présidente du Parlement européen, du Commissaire Pierre MOSCOVICI, et de Nathalie LOISEAU, Ministre des affaires européennes, organisée par la Commission européenne et la Mairie de Paris, le 12 mai à l'Hôtel de Ville. L'intervention de la Présidente de l'AFEM, Catherine DIMITROULIAS est retransmise sur France 24.

2. à Kuala Lumpur, représentée par sa Présidente d'honneur Teresa BOCCIA au 9e Forum urbain mondial, principal sommet international sur le développement des territoires, réunissant 25.000 participants de 164 pays: « Villes 2030, Villes pour tous : mettre en œuvre le Nouvel agenda urbain », du 7 au 13 février 2018.

Les déléguées de l'AFEM, Monique BOUAZIZ et Danièle LEVY, en qualité d'administratrice de l'ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES (AIF), ont participé et représenté l'AIF en 2018, aux événements ci-après :

- Rencontre avec la mission du Gouvernement et du Ministère des affaires étrangères pour préparer la session à New York de la Commission du Statut de la Femme, le 12 février 2018

- Réunion ONG sur la préparation de la Consultation Collective des ONG sur l'Education le 13 février 2018, à l'UNESCO.

- Rencontre avec Mr FRACAPANE au sujet de la préparation d'un colloque sur la citoyenneté mondiale, le 14 Février 2018, à l'UNESCO.

- Participation à la manifestation devant l'Ambassade d'Iran contre l'emprisonnement d'Iraniennes qui ont enlevé leur voile, le 15 février 2018.

- Colloque sur l'enlèvement des filles de BOKO ARAM - présentation d'un film sur le village où ont été enlevées ces jeunes filles quelques temps après l'enlèvement. Monique BOUAZIZ est intervenue pour relater l'action en France du Mouvement pour la Paix contre le Terrorisme (22 organisations dont la plateforme ONG sur le Darfour et le Rwanda et celles qui s'occupent des filles privées d'école en Afghanistan et au Pakistan), le 7 Mars 2018.

- Rencontre avec l'Ambassadeur du Togo, le 23 mars 2018, pour le Programme d'envoi de Stagiaires au centre de formation 2IE de Ouagadougou au Burkina Faso (formation pour l'eau). Nous sommes fières de la réussite des stagiaires de la République Démocratique du Congo qui ont participé, par notre intermédiaire, au programme de participation de l'Unesco, à cette formation et qui aujourd'hui peuvent former d'autres gens, surtout des femmes. Nous travaillons pour envoyer un autre groupe d'une association du Togo.

- Colloque Education pour le développement durable, le 28 mars 2018, à l'UNESCO.

- Journée du vivre ensemble organisée le 16 mai, à L'UNESCO, par l'Algérie, qui a réussi à obtenir une journée Mondiale du Vivre ensemble par les Nations Unies. Etaient présents les Scouts de toutes confessions et des enfants entre 4 et 18 ans. Chacun, même les tous petits ,

un papier à la main a lu les mots qui y étaient notés : respect, tolérance, solidarité, fraternité, paix, gentillesse, amitiés et amour.

- Rencontre avec l'Institut Européen pour l'Egalité entre les Femmes et les hommes, le 11 juin 2018, au Ministère des Solidarités, à Paris.

- Rencontre interconvictionnelle et déjeuner au Sénat, sur invitation du Sénateur David ASSOULINE et de l'ONG les bâtisseuses de Paix. Présentation du rapport sur la maltraitance envers les enfants et aux réponses de Secrétaire d'Etat chargée de l'Egalité entre les femmes et les hommes, Marlène SCHIAPPA, le 5 Juillet 2018, à Paris.

ASSOCIATES

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)

INTRODUCTION

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH) is a non profit organization which aim is to contribute to the achievement of the education for ALL goals regarding persons with disabilities. AAEEH is based in Cameroon and France. In 2017, Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH) implemented activities in relation with its objectives and action plan. These activities concerned advocacy, support for schooling for children with disabilities and representation. She has also contributed to the activities planned by organizations and networks of which she is member. AAEEH carries out activities in line with the convention on the right of people with disabilities (art. 24), the convention on the right of children (art. 21) and the 2030 agenda for SDGs (goals 4 and 5). The main challenge identified by the organization is education for girls with disabilities ; we are currently running a project on that issue in Cameroon.

ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

We did disability awareness actions throughout the year. Inform about our association, its



activities and registered new members. We also organize our regular meetings and responses to various requests (student internship requests, information on administrative procedures, solicitations for media and school events, requests for help and information, etc.).

We contributed and participated in the international day on women's rights (intervention on Africa radio n ° 1 on March 08, 2017). Intervention on the program "Young at any price" of the Normandy RCF in April 2017. Trainee supervision (convention for 6 weeks in April and November 2017).

Seeking funding through the responses to calls for projects and new partnerships. We participated in the 2017 edition of the Microdon card to raise funds to finance the project "Support to the schooling of girls with disabilities".



ACTIVITIES IN CAMEROON

Our local team held regular meetings in 3 localities and welcomed new members. They followed-up the project supporting the schooling of girls with disabilities (feedback of teachers, parents and institutions, identification of new needs, regular reporting to the international team).

They accompanied and informed families. Responded to various requests (administrative, legal, psychological, financial, health and medical). Monthly animation of the groups of words in the localities of Sa'a, Obala, Sangmélima and Yaoundé.

They undertook actions to raise awareness of the right to education for all, advocate the importance of taking into account the specific needs of learners with disabilities through education services and the involvement of families.

They regularly visit Yaoundé and its surrounding areas and institutions hosting children with disabilities in response to their solicitation to establish collaborative partnerships.

They also Held in August with all stakeholders, an evaluation meeting of the project to support the schooling of girls with disabilities launched in 2015.

The local branch joined the inclusive society platform, which brings together nearly a hundred organizations of the society working on the issue of disability in different aspects in Cameroon. Our national coordinator and some members participated in meetings organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the celebration of the International Day of Disabled Persons (03 December 2017).

ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS

Our founder and president, Dr Ernestine NGO MELHA participate throughout the year in meetings of the EFA Group of UNESCO NGOs. She Contributed and participated, on behalf of the AAEEH, in the climate forum held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 7 and 8 December 2017 and moderated the panel on the theme "The role of civil society organizations in the face of climate change".

She takes an active part in the preparation of the 2018 forums focussed on Migration, Peace and on Girls .

She participated in the 39th General Conference of UNESCO held from November 30 to October 14, 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France).

She Contributed to the activities of the UNICEF Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (Education Task Force).

She also participated in the 18th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held from 14 to 31 August 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES



Our organization is committed for the rights of persons with disabilities with a special attention on girls with disabilities. The project on girls with disabilities is important for us because it highlights the cross-cutting aspect of disability, gender and education and other related issues like the role of parents and the

community; but we are lacking regular fundings in order to cover all the components and issues we have identified. Every year we look for individual sponsorship or organize caritative events in order to provide some children with school materials or devices and respond to family requests. The organization would appreciate and be grateful if IAW could help to mobilize some funding.

Our perspectives are continue to be involved in all aspects concerning education and gender issues, follow up of international conventions and SDGs 4 and 5.

RAPPORT DE L'ACTIVITE DE MUTUEL DE SOLIDARITE, D'EPARGNE ET DE CREDIT (MUSO) -SOFEDC – Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa

Dans le cadre de ses activités, la Solidarité de Femmes pour le Développement, l'Environnement et le Droit des Enfants au Congo a initié le programme des activités génératrices de revenus (AGR).

Nous avons commencé par la MUSO (Mutuelle de solidarité, d'épargne et de crédit) dans laquelle on a réuni 33 membres qui avaient débuté en date du 17 février et clôturé en date du 26 juillet 2018.

Ont participé à cette activité les partenaires suivants de la SOFEDC :

- Le Coordonnateur du programme de renforcement de la famille PRF/SOS Bukavu
- Les différents regroupements des ménages de la communauté de Kadutu/PRF
- Les organisations à base communautaire PRF
- Différents groupes des femmes de développement
- Les Media et certaines autorités locales

En présence de ces couches sociales il a été présenté la synthèse des activités suivantes :

1. Organisation et déroulement de la MUSO

La MUSO avait commencé par trois membres mais après sensibilisation nous avons atteint 33 membres pour tout le cycle. Cette MUSO avait un comité composé de 5 membres

notamment : la Présidente, la vice-présidente, le secrétaire, le caissier et le directeur de discipline.

Au courant de ce 6 moi les membres se sont bien comporter et ont respecté les règlements du MUSO.

Les réunions se tenaient chaque dimanche à 14h⁰⁰ au niveau de l'AV. Clinique, Q. Nkafu/ commune de Kadutu.

Dans chaque réunion on commençait par le dépôt qui était ouvert et chacun déposait selon sa capacité financière car il n'y avait pas de limite quant au montant à déposer. Après le dépôt on passait au recouvrement de crédit et après on donnait les crédits aux membres qui l'avait sollicité.

Après cela les membres déposaient une somme de 200FC pour la part sociale, cet argent servait à accompagner les membres en situation difficile et souffrant.

Il n'y avait pas des limites du montant à emprunter, chacun prenait selon sa capacité de remboursement et selon l'activité qu'il fait.

Le montant prévu pour l'emprunt était de 10000FC à rembourser dans une semaine avec un taux d'intérêt de 10% qui fait un montant de 1000FC. Ce montant était le minimum de prêt qu'on pouvait octroyer et le maximum pour un remboursement d'une semaine mais quand quelqu'un prenait une somme supérieur l'échéance de remboursement été augmenté selon le montant prise.

Si un membre se trouve dans la difficulté de rembourser le crédit pris le comité avait décidé que ce membre rembourse l'intérêt et fait la demande du crédit du montant qu'il a et il y mettra aussi le nouvel intérêt.

2. Force de l'activité MUSO

Pour ce qui est de force que présente l'activité de MUSO nous pouvons citer :

- Les membres avaient bien accueillis l'initiative de cette Mutuelle de solidarité d'épargne et de crédit
- Cette activité a relevé le niveau financier de nos membres
- Les membres avaient bien compris que cet activité été une opportunité pour assurer leur autonomisation
- La SOFEDEC avait mis une grande importance sur cette activité pour aider les femmes membres ainsi que leur famille
- Bonne perspective pour l'autonomisation de la femme

La réussite de cette activité a été visiblement remarquée face au changement qui s'est observé par le relèvement de la vie économique et l'autonomisation des membres.

3. Faiblesse remarquée lors de l'activité

Nous avons relevé comme faiblesse les points suivants :

- Les femmes membres de notre MUSO n'ont pas une bonne formation dans ce domaine et nécessite une formation ou une capacitation
- Les membres ne connaissaient pas les règlements qui régissent la MUSO
- Difficulté de recouvrer les prêts donnés aux membres irréguliers
- Les membres non pas un montant suffisant pour leur activité commerciale

4. Proposition

Les membres de notre MUSO avaient proposé ce qui suit :

- Continuer a travaillé avec un cycle de 6 mois pour assurer la bonne fonctionnalité de la MUSO
- Faire tout pour que cet argent permette aux mamans de faire un notre activité génératrice de revenue
- Initier d'autres activités au profit des mamans membres de l'organisation SOFEDEC

5. Perspective à venir

L'organisation SOFEDEC compte élargir le champ d'action de l'organisation SOFEDEC pour cette activité de MUSO pour permettre à d'autres femmes vivant dans les milieux ruraux de bénéficier au bienfait que donne cette activité de MUSO. Mais aussi à part l'activité de MUSO l'organisation SOFEDEC compte réaliser d'autres activités comme : la saponification, le tissage des paniers (vannerie), la coupe et couture, l'agriculture et élevage.

6. Plaidoyers

Nous SOFEDEC nous demandons aux personnes de bonne volonté de nous venir en aide d'une façon ou d'une autre notamment dans la capacitation de nos membres mais aussi pour le financement des autres domaine d'interventions pour rendre effective l'autonomisation de la femme Congolaise en générale et en particulier la femme sud-Kivutienne.

RESUME DU RAPPORT FINCIER DE L'ACTIVITE DE LA MUSO/ SOFEDEC AVEC LES EPARGNES, LES INTERETS ET LA SOMME PERCU A LA FIN DU CYCLE

N°	Nom et Post-nom	Epargne(FC)	Intérêt(FC)	Total perçu(FC)	observation
1	GISLAINE	28000	1800	29800	
2	MERCI	38500	2500	41350	
3	MAMA BAHATI	15000	1100	16100	
4	ANASTASIE MUGISHO	53500	2300	55800	
5	MARGEURITE	18000	1400	19400	
6	ANNUARITE	47500	4350	51850	
7	REBEKA	7000	700	7700	
8	NADINE	6000	600	6600	
9	NABWIRA	9000	450	9450	
10	MAMAVIVIANE	29200	2900	31900	
11	CIBALONZA	18500	1500	20000	
12	RIZIKI	0	0	0	Viré
13	SIKUJUWA	27500	2500	30000	
14	SIFA MBALE	10500	950	11400	
15	WABIWA WABULAKOMBE	33000	3200	36200	
16	KIBIBI	16000	1400	17000	
17	MAMA FATUMA	5000	500	5500	
18	FURAHA MULASE	11000	600	11600	

19	SIFA NALUGANDA	10000	900	10900	
20	MAMA FAIDA	0	0	0	Viré
21	MAMAN GREGOIRE	7500	600	8100	
22	MAMA NGALYA	12000	1000	13000	
23	GISELE	0	0	0	Viré
24	JEANNETTE	12500	800	13300	
25	REHEMA	28500	2200	30700	
26	CHEKANABO	30300	2650	32950	
27	JUSTINE	24500	1650	26150	
28	ZAWADI	89000	7700	96700	
29	MARTINE	10000	650	10650	
30	KITO	13000	900	13900	
31	MUGOLI ANNY	0	0	0	Viré
32	MAMA LELE	11000	600	11600	
33	AKSANTI	4000	100	4100	
34	BEJAMAIN	1000	100	1100	
TOTAL		626500	48600	674800	

DETTE FAID : 4000FC MUGOLI : 17000FC NADINE : 24000FC	ZAWA : 6000FC TATUMA : 25000FC RIZIKI : 10000FC TOTAL DETTE : 83000FC
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Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V. / Women's Network for Peace, Germany (WNP)A

By Heide Schütz

Report 2017-2018

Key factors to promote sustainable peace are the political will to solve conflicts by the means of non-violent strategies and equal participation of women in all peace processes on all levels. Therefore the implementation of UN SC Resolution 1325 must be given high priority. National action plans (NAP) are very important, but international advocacy, solidarity and national and international networking must also be part of the women and peace strategy.

Peace is more than the absence of war. But during times of war or thereafter, women are not able to enjoy safety at all. Life, education, job, social security: none. Thus, we strongly believe that working for peace on as many levels as possible (local, national, international) is very important if women intend to work for women's benefit and equal rights and responsibilities.

As to women's and girls' safety and security, peace is one of the most important factors. War generates and increases violence. It intrudes and deteriorates societies and families more than anything. In times of war, there is little or no school education, no income, no jobs, and especially: There is no security of life. Peace is not everything, but without peace, everything is naught.

We believe in peace making and wish to promote it as a part of the national and international community. Our message: War is made by human beings, such is peace.

1. Ongoing support of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

For fifteen years the Women's Network for Peace, Germany (WNP) has been a member of the German network of civil society organizations monitoring the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Due to continuous pressure and advocacy work by this network, the Federal Government of Germany finally adopted a National Action Plan to implement UNSCR 1325 in December 2012. Since then, there have been regular meetings between members of several ministries and representatives of civil society. Margret Otto and Heide Schütz have participated regularly in these meetings as representatives of the WNP. Many topics of the resolution have been covered in these meetings, but sadly it must be said that there should be far more dedicated political support by the German government concerning the issue of women's participation in international peace negotiations and peace processes. In January 2017, the government adopted a second National Action Plan for the years 2017-2020. In its preparation, WNP as part of the 1325 civil society network, presented recommendations to be included in the plan.

The Women's Network for Peace, Germany, has started advocacy support concerning the women's peace movement and political outreach for participation in the Colombian peace negotiations, the peace treaty and its implementation. Unfortunately the fact and actual contribution of the Colombian Gender Commission (meaning Women's Commission!) is hardly known, at least rarely mentioned or valued in relevant studies or reports. Therefore it needs a lot of solidarity and advocacy to make it known as a good example on the way towards the implementation of UN SC Resolution 1325 and give strong international support.

We are fully convinced that women's voices must be heard at the peace tables all over the world. As a matter of equality and justice their knowledge, wisdom and needs have to be taken into consideration for the well-being of the women and the well-being of societies. It is relevant concerning negotiations to end war and armed conflict as well as in the agenda of new concepts of reconstruction of war-torn societies.

2. Advocating for a gender perspective in the German peace community

A working group on Gender and Peace was founded in 2012 by women and men from different peace organizations as a place to share challenges and best practices concerning the interconnection of gender roles, conflict dynamics and peace work. WNP was among the founding members and has participated since then in all activities and in the agenda setting.

Presently the working group is investigating whether and in what way German organizations who are training women and men to be sent abroad to areas of conflict as peace experts include a gender perspective and information on UNSCR 1325 in their training programmes. We consider this to be a core issue and therefore plan a special event to focus on this issue of gender sensitiveness and gender justice in peace trainings. Moreover, gender watch is still relevant in the field of gender sensitive language, equal representation among panelists, scientist, activists, jobs and political contribution etc. as well as agenda setting in general. Putting on the gender lenses has not been widely implemented within the German peace community yet.

3. Organizing workshops for students and teachers who work in peer mediation in schools

In the Bonn-Cologne region a great number of schools run a peer mediation programme. Once a year the WNP offers to teachers and students who are engaged in these programmes a full day of workshops to exchange challenges and best practices and to enjoy further training by mediation experts, focusing on e.g. body language, intercultural and gender dimensions, strong feelings during the mediation process, the difference between mobbing and “regular” disputes etc. We consider the appreciation of the volunteer peace work of these young people and their supporting teachers to be very important in order to help reduce violence in schools and to lay the foundation of non-violent conflict resolution for their lives after school. There is an increasing interest. 15 schools and 70 students and teachers participated in the event in 2018.. Schools offer their facilities as location and volunteer to cooperate in the organization.

The 7th meeting will be at the beginning of February 2019

4. Activities related to Bertha von Suttner, Austrian peace activist and first woman to win the Nobel peace prize (1905)

Our latest activities are linked to Bertha von Suttner’s residence in Georgia. We cooperated with a group of young people who wish to buy her former house in the old part of the city of Tbilisi and build an International Center for Peace there. (The house is up for sale.) There are a lot of problems to overcome, though. Bertha and Arthur von Suttner’s first residence , however, was in Zugdidi. There a group of young women has already started activities to build a Bertha-von-Suttner- Peace - Center in a part of the old castle. They are also about to start a Bertha-von-Suttner-Peace Prize and reward a Georgian woman with it – hopefully every year from 2018 onwards. We are giving direct support and will help to publicize the outreach.

Since the centenary of Bertha von Suttner’s award of the Nobel peace prize in 2005 WNP has actively worked on the appreciation of her personality, her peace work and her forward-looking strategies to end war and to promote peace, e.g. her dedication for disarmament, the implementation of an International Council on Arbitration etc. Elements of our commemoration work have been the erection of a modern sculpture at the Bertha-von-Suttner-Square in the city of Bonn (2013), quotation postcards (2014) and information flyers (2016) and – last but not least - the online learning tool “Learning with Bertha” for young people (2017), which is running well.

We have shown the Austrian exhibition “A Life for Peace” (available in 16 languages) several times and will do so again this year in our “Room for Peace” during the Bonn Peace Days in September 2018. Our print version of the exhibition is also touring Germany in communities and schools carrying the name of Bertha von Suttner.

This year on the occasion of her 175th birthday we organized an event at her sculpture at the Bertha-von-Suttner square in Bonn.



Moreover we were invited to participate in the birthday celebrations in the Peace Palace in The Hague and make a contribution concerning our activities to bring this dedicated peace woman “back to life”.

5. Promoting women’s peace work

Promoting and advocating for the important roles that women play as peace makers has always been one of our main focal points. We make use of our website, facebook and instagram to distribute information and reach out for solidarity.

We continue our support of the Kenyan Women’s Village Umoja, we want to increase our engagement in Zugdidi with the young women there, we keep close contact mainly with the women of the “1000 PeaceWomen Across the Globe” who were nominated from the German side and we try to start networking wherever support is needed. Since our budget is small we mainly do volunteer work and our resources are limited. But it is important to mention that we take great care to give close insight into our kind of feminist peace work to the young women who continuously work with us as interns. Thus we hope to build a foundation for the future of women’s peace work in the years to come. These young women are very motivated and help us a lot to cope with our daily challenges.

Networking with our member organizations and individuals is also part of our peace work and there are numerous questions from different parts of Germany that reach our office via email or telephone.

We promote women’s peace work that is closely linked to UNSCR 1325 (see above) and distribute information on Women’s international peace activities and networks.

6. Engaging in the “Logic of Peace” versus “The Logic of Security” and in the “Culture of Peace”.

The scientific symposium on the culture and logic of peace as alternative and counterparts to a culture of war and violence and the logic of military security took place in November 2017 in Bonn. It was a great success . Many young people participated. It was discussed intensively how to bring about the necessary paradigm shift. A printed German edition is available at our office but it can also be read and downloaded from our website under

“Aktuelles”. An English version of the concept of the logic of peace is to be found on the website of the Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung www.konfliktbearbeitung.net. The culture of peace was promoted by Heide Schütz in several workshops and will be taken up in the IAW Peace seminar in Berlin in October 2018. The idea of a necessary paradigm shift was a strong message outside the peace tent in Huairou, China, during the 4th World Conference on Women. It read: “Change the Culture of War to a Culture of Peace.” In 2000 the UNESCO “Decade of the Culture of Peace – for the Children of the World” generated world wide attention – either positive or critical. The WNP chose it as its overarching value.

Nuclear weapons are part of the so-called “security agenda”. This summer we designed again a banner and demonstrated in front of the American nuclear base in Germany against these weapons. We also demanded that the German Government sign the UN treaty to ban nuclear arms (General Assembly 2017).

7. Promoting the UN International Day of Peace (September 21).

In 2002 the UN General Assembly decided upon an International Day of Peace. Since then many peace activities have been taken place all around the world especially on or around this day to emphasize the international message of peace and the importance of its implementation. There is also an international website where all this is collected. For twelve years this event has been coordinated in Bonn by a number of organizations as a series of attractive peace events of a very diverse format.

The “Peace Boat” sailing to the anti-war museum of the famous Remagen Bridge in September 2017 was a great success. People from all walks of life, from the “peace community” in the Bonn/Cologne region as well as “ordinary” citizens enjoyed a full program and good music on a boat decorated with banners and peace flags. A lot of information on anti war (e.g. Stop the Arms Trade), anti-nuclear weapons and pro peace activities (concerning Syria and other war and conflict sites) were provided and aroused people’s interest.

In September this year we will open a “Room for Peace” for a whole week (18 -24) with theatre plays (in three languages), discussions, workshops, films, open-mic session, and the exhibition of Bertha von Suttner’s life and peace work: “A Life for Peace” (Austria 2004). Among the theatre plays the highlight will be the world premiere “Zäsur - Caesura – Césure – written and performed by an international theater group of young professional actors in three languages dealing with the subject of World War I and the ways it changed the lives and attitudes of ordinary people – including a strong gender dimension. The “Room for Peace” is organized by WNP and G.I.F.T., German-Italian-French Theater.

In order to realize all our project ideas fundraising has been a very important and time-consuming task.

Ntengue for Community Development

Read the Beautiful report here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fcFMXqx8tjz4DrUmOaiMGq3NdGrbpLWZ/view>

