

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities

Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter December 2018 No 6

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**'Towards a Feminist Security
Council'**

Dear readers,

IAW's German affiliate, Deutscher Frauenring, had organised a very successful Peace Seminar, Celebrations of their 100 years of the vote and was the hostess of the Board Meeting 2018.

The editors of this Newsletter wish to call special attention to the very last article in this newsletter, where Lyda Verstegen, Honorary President of IAW, appeals to members, friends and family to make a donation to the upkeep of Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa's office in DR Congo. Life there is very difficult for women, and Anuarite is doing a lot of work to help women. Please [donate](#), so that Anuarite can continue her important work.

Board Meeting and Peace Seminar 2018, Berlin

IAW's German affiliate, Deutscher Frauenring, was the hostess of the Board Meeting 2018. They organised a very successful Peace Seminar to Celebrate their 100 years of the vote.

Many thanks!

The Peace Seminar will be reported in the next issue of International Women's News.

On Friday October 26, IAW delegates were invited for a reception at the Berlin House of Parliament to celebrate the 100 years of women's vote in Germany.

We were welcomed by Ms. Fatime Topac, Delegate and member of the Presidium, greeted by Derya Caglar, delegate of the Berlin House of Parliament and others.

Professor Ruth Silke Laskowski, University of Kassel, spoke passionately about the need for a parity electoral system to ensure the influence of both women and men in politics.

Water and Pads Project

Ursula Nakamura and Gudrun Haupter reported on the progress of the project. Members who are interested may now go to the top of the website www.womenalliance.org to get more information about the project and how they can support the work being done by the working group. Membership organisations that are involved in the project are from Cameroon, DR Congo, Pakistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe. [Read more](#)



Gudrun, Ursula, Anne, Ruhi, Signe:
Water and Pads

Working Groups

The Board established a number of working groups on the following issues

Migration

Shrinking space for civil society

Fundraising

Updating of guidelines for international representatives, regional coordinators, commissions etc

A group of young women



Lene Pind presenting the new IAW database

New Commission on Protection of Personal Data

The work of this new commission will be to ensure that IAW lives up to the new EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This work will be compiling, maintaining and safeguarding the data needed to serve our membership. .

Lene Pind was appointed Convener of the Commission and new Membership Secretary with the following email: members@womenalliance.org . As membership secretary she is also the administrator of the new IAW database, which was presented at the meeting. The database will help IAW achieve efficient and professional administration. Hopefully this will help IAW grow.

When the database is finally fully operational, all members will receive an email explaining what information we store about members, how we store it and what we use it for. You may review the data protection policy [here](#).

Commission members are:

Alison Brown, USA

Cheryl Hayles, Canada

Holly Herbert, Australia

Lyda Verstegen who was added to the group later.

Farewell to Pat Richardson as membership secretary

After 20 years Pat has now stepped down as membership secretary. IAW owes her a lot. She is the one who has really known our members, both at a personal level and as members who have to pay their fees. Fortunately, we can still use her vast knowledge in this field. The really great thing is that her granddaughter, Holly, is now following in the footsteps of her grandmother.

IAW Website:

A members log-in has been created on the website to lead you to documents of IAW. You find it by touching "Join us" in the top menu. Click on that and on the next page you access the members' section by using Berlin1904 as your password. There you will find relevant papers for members, not many yet, but the collection will grow.

As part of the Board Agenda **Soon-Young Yoon**, IAW main representative to UN headquarters in New York reported on future events and possible action points for IAW members:

CSW 63 takes place March 11 – 22. Deadline was November 9 (EST) for NGO Forum side events. This was pushed up to allow NGOs to obtain visas.

-The Priority theme of the CSW is "Social Protection, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure"; review theme is women's empowerment and



Pat Richardson doing IAW work.



Soon-Young Yoon

Note these important events in 2018 and 2019:

CSW 63

Beijing Plus 25

20th Anniversary of SCR 1325

75th Anniversary of the UN

10th Anniversary of UN Women

2020 UN reform and renewal.

sustainable development. [Consultation day is: Sunday March 10th](#), 2019 from 9:00AM-3:30PM at Tribeca-Performing Arts Center (Borough of Manhattan Community College), [Reception is March 12.](#)

[The Expert Group Meeting](#) took place 13-15 September and concept paper along with 2 background papers are online. The point of both papers is that social protection—narrowed down to public sector health, education, welfare—is interlinked to gender bias in public services and infrastructure. The example of rural women and problems of transport to access services and sexual harassment in urban public transport were cited.

-Gita Sen's paper on Universal Health Care reviews mostly the issue of financing in low and middle-income countries and the tradeoffs that are happening in countries like Brazil and Thailand between financing for a UHC, quality of services offered, and population coverage.

-Neither deals well with the issue of IT infrastructure or the need for better policies to govern the private sector provision of health, education and work pensions.

[High-Level Political Forum 2018 \(HLPF 2018\) July 9 to 15 \(Tuesday\)](#). This theme feeds well into next year's SDGs under review that includes (Goal 10) inequality and (Goal 13) climate change. Note that we help organize the NGO Orientation that takes place just before the HLPF. I'm quite sure that this will be repeated, so you should arrive a day earlier or July 8. I am representing IAW as an Operating Partners for N. America in the NGO Major Group and will work again on the position paper.

Action Point: Join all or one of the nine major groups online to get information updated and volunteer for statements etc. HLPF does not allow individual NGO statements so major groups are important.

Action Point 2: Contact your government reps drafting their reports (42 VNRs this year, list is on the website) Lack of accountability does not have to happen if we start early interacting with governments. National level consultations are key.

[Beijing Plus 25](#)

We met in September with Asa Regner (replaced Lakshmi Puri as deputy) and Lopa Banerjee of UN Women to discuss Beijing Plus 25. It is 20 anniversary of 1325, 75th anniversary of the UN and 10th anniversary of UN Women. Asa asked what should be our goal for the UN? My answer as to "reestablish the strong relationship between the UN and critical social movements" (not the same as civil society) to counterbalance the backlash from governments to weaken the UN. That requires the UN to be more affirmative about the value of disruptive social change.

We have a 2020 group that met 15 October but is ongoing. Hosted by World Federalist movement-Institute for Global Policy, The Stimson Center, CIVICUS, Workable World Trust, UN association-UK and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in NY. This is a coordination group to plan 2020 UN reform and renewal. You can get on list serv.

29 November, NGO CSW/NY will have a brainstorming session with UN Women on Beijing Plus 25.

One strategy is to create a Beijing Plus 25 in the cloud. Project is an online book.

Actions: Send us ideas on what you want to do for 2020.

Action 2: sign-up for updates on UN2020.org website.

Action: contact your CSW delegates before 2019 CSW to discuss Beijing Plus 25 in your own countries, focusing on the media and social movements for environment, youth, housing, gender equality, etc.



Margot Wallström

Christina Noble Knight, IAW Board Member, gave this report to the Board:

All governments should be feminist!

The Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie says ‘We should all be feminists’ – but what if this not only applied to individuals, but to whole countries? What would the world look like if governments were indeed feminists?

Well, Sweden might set an inspiring example. As the first and only country in the world, the Swedish government has declared itself as a feminist government and, in 2014, proceeded to present a feminist foreign policy.

After four years of practicing this policy, **Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström** presented a handbook on Sweden's feminist foreign policy on August 23, this year. The handbook shares the lessons and examples of four years of feminist foreign policy, but also carefully states that the work is not done, but constantly evolving.

“In a worsening climate where human rights and women's and girls' rights are increasingly questioned and threatened, and in a world of shrinking democratic space, a feminist foreign policy is needed more than ever. I hope this handbook can be of help along the way for all of us who want to continue fighting for a gender-equal world,” says Ms Wallström.*

The foreign policy focuses on six areas:

1. Full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls
2. Freedom from physical, mental and sexual violence for all women and girls
3. Participation of women and girls in preventing and resolving conflicts and in post-conflict peace-building
4. Political participation and influence of women and girls in all areas of society
5. Full enjoyment of economic rights and empowerment of all women and girls
6. Sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls

Here are some examples within rights, representation and resources that the Swedish feminist foreign policy has led to

R/RIGHTS The feminist foreign policy has contributed to:

Increased focus on women, peace and security in the United Nations Security Council:

In 2017, women, peace and security were referred to in all Security Council presidential statements on crisis situations. This is an increase of 150 per cent since 2015.

Enhanced EU efforts on gender equality and women, peace and security:

Sweden has pushed through a new advisory function and plan for gender equality, and contributed to the EU's follow-up of violence in conflicts and gender mainstreaming in its external crisis response.

New legislation prohibiting the purchase of sexual services in several countries:

Sweden cooperates closely with countries reviewing their legislation on the purchase of sexual services. In recent years, Ireland, France and the region of Northern Ireland have adopted legislation that is equivalent to that in Sweden.

Hundreds of thousands fewer unwanted pregnancies in East Africa:

Sweden has intensified its work on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). One example is that a Swedish-backed programme is estimated to have prevented hundreds of thousands unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions in East Africa.

Thousands of new midwives per year in Afghanistan, Myanmar, South Sudan,

Zambia and other countries. Thanks to Swedish funding, thousands of midwives have been trained every year, which has led to millions of women being able to give birth with the support of trained staff.

R/REPRESENTATION The feminist foreign policy has contributed to:

Increased participation of women in peace efforts in Mali, Colombia, Syria and other countries. There are 12 focus countries in Sweden's national action plan for women, peace and security and Sweden has strengthened women's participation for peace and security in these and other countries.

Increased representation of women on Wikipedia

Sweden, in cooperation with Wikimedia and local partners, has taken a global initiative to contribute to a more gender-equal internet. On International Women's Day, 8 March 2018, edit-a-thons were held in some 50 countries to increase the representation of women on Wikipedia and the work is continuing and spreading more and more.

Stronger women leaders and entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia

Sweden has established a leadership programme for women leaders and entrepreneurs in the Saudi Arabian business sector. The programme also serves as a network for Swedish and Saudi Arabian business sector actors.

Enhanced EU efforts on gender equality and women, peace and security

Sweden has pushed through a new advisory function and plan for gender equality, and contributed to the EU's follow-up of violence in conflicts and gender mainstreaming in its external crisis response.

R/RESOURCES The feminist foreign policy has contributed to:

35 per cent increase in support to women organisations: Between 2015 and 2016, Sweden increased its support to women's organisations by 35 per cent within the framework of development cooperation. The investment in women's organisations will increase under the new strategy.

New billion for gender equality with new development strategy:

A new global strategy for gender equality and women's and girls' human rights will be adopted in 2018 and means an investment in the range of SEK 0.8–1.2 billion over five years.

Multi-million support to SRHR and co-founder of She Decides movement:

Sweden has intensified its work on sexual and reproductive health and rights. In 2017, an extra SEK 200 million was allocated at the same time as Sweden helped found the She Decides movement. In 2018, support to multilateral organisations working on SRHR is being increased.

Increased consciousness of how trade policy decisions affect gender equality:

Sweden has funded the development of tools to analyse the effects of trade policy measures on women and gender equality, which has been received with great interest internationally.

In other words, quite a few inspiring and crucial contributions to equality. Which country will be next? Maybe yours?

International Representatives

Geneva: ILO



Evgenia Tsoumania

* Quote from regeringen.se: <https://www.government.se/articles/2018/08/handbook-on-swedens-feminist-foreign-policy-launched/>

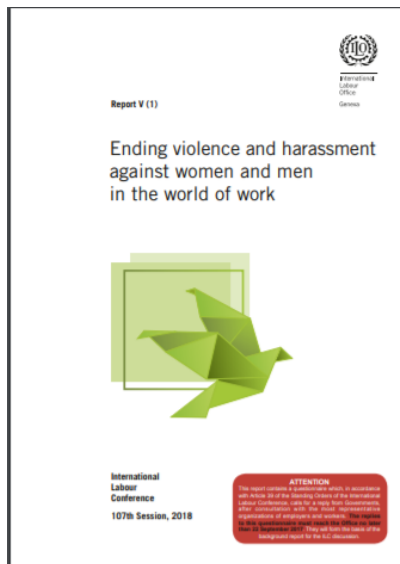
International Representatives

International Labour Organization

Eugenia Tsoumania, IAW Board Member and representative to ILO, Geneva, reports on

ILO Draft Convention & Recommendation on “Violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work”

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in its last General Assembly (June 2018) proposed- as a first step- the adoption of a draft Convention and Recommendation which are going to be finally adopted next year. As we all



know these instruments can be ratified by member states and be valid as national law of high legal potential.

In these draft texts “Violence and Harassment” should be understood as a range of unacceptable behaviors practices or threats that aim or result in physical, psychological, sexual, or economic harm including also gender based violence. The instruments cover persons in all sectors both in the formal and informal economy in urban or rural areas. It is worth pointing out that it covers situations not only in workplace but also in rest break, when commuting in and from work, work related trips, events, social activities, even in employer provided accommodation!

It also covers employers, workers and their representatives as well as third parties, i.e. clients, customers, patients etc.

In the proposed Convention and Recommendation is noted that violence and harassment in the world of work is a form of human rights violation, a threat to equal opportunities incompatible with decent work.

Each member state that ratifies the Convention should recognize the right to a work free of violence and harassment and adopt inclusive integrated and gender responsive measures for elimination of violence; that means relevant strategies, monitoring measures, support of victims, sanction, education and training, inspection and investigation through relevant national legal framework, ensuring at the same time the right to equality and non-discrimination especially for women workers. Member states should also require employers to take steps after consultation with workers, including measures in their health and safety policies.

It is also worth underlining that even domestic violence effects are recognized in the world of work with measures to be taken to address them.

ILO is going to finally adopt these two important instruments in its next 108th session (International Labor Conference, June 2019).

As for IAW role and interests it is very crucial to be aware of all this progress especially in the world of work and in labor relations issues. Next year we will be able to shape our policy and strategy in the field.

European Women’s Lobby



Maria Hadjipavleu, peace activist, and Arina Angerman in front of a painting of Anne Frank during the Peace Walk in Berlin

Arina Angerman, Representing IAW in Board European Women’s Lobby (EWL)

Fight against the rise of anti-feminist forces in Europe

The following quote is from the EWL Strategic Framework posted on November 16th on their Facebook page; “Together For A Feminist Europe, strengthening our collective voice, women are at the forefront of the fight against the rise in populist and separatist forces in Europe”

During EWL’s General Assembly in June 2018 IAW was a supporting organisation of adopted Emergency Motion (EM) ‘Reinforcing EWL’s position against anti-feminist extremism and populism’ by Austrian Women Ring. Political context ‘We have all noticed the development of anti-feminist extremist and populist movements all across Europe during the last decade. They have been growing tremendously in the last year, as evidenced by the result of the recent national elections in Austria, Germany, Italy or Hungary.’ This EM also was supported by the national coordinations of Cyprus, the Netherlands, France, Portugal, Germany, Denmark and Czechia.

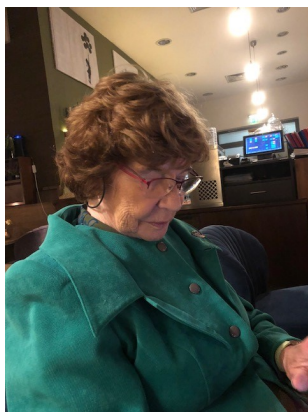
End Violence against Women and Girls

One Action against the rise of anti-feminist forces in Europe was sending a strong letter of continued support by the European Coalition to End Violence against Women and Girls - supported by more than 3.800 organisations repre-

Geneva: Human Rights



UN logo for GCM



Lyda Verstegen

senting millions of voices in 49 countries - to the Council of Europe in support of the [Istanbul Convention](#). [IAW is a member of this European Coalition](#).

Members of IAW have a very strong tradition in working for participation of women in peace and politics. So let's together continue ... because as we know both former IAW Board Member Rosa Manus and [Anne Frank](#) (*The Diary of a Young Girl*) are victims of the Nazis in the Second World War. Link to my blog [Connecting international herstories](#) about Jewish Dutch Feminist Rosa Manus (1881-1942).

The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

What is the Global Compact?

[Read more](#)

IAW has adopted the Global Compact as its strategy.

Lyda Verstegen, IAW main representative to Geneva, writes about the Global Compact

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The Global Compact is to be signed in Marakech on 10 and 11 December 2018 by Heads of States and Government, reaffirming the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

That was the plan, before several heads of government, retracted their decision: U.S.A., Australia, Hungary, Austria and several are hesitating.

What is this Global Compact?

It rests on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and a number of Human Rights Treaties and declarations including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Abeba Agenda. And of course, the Declaration of Human Rights.

This Global Compact refers to Migrants, not to Refugees who have a special international protection as defined by international refugee law.

The Global Compact is a milestone in the history of the global dialogue and international cooperation on migration. It presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework that builds on the commitments agreed upon by Member-States in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It understands that no State can address migration alone and upholds the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law.

In article 16 there are 23 objectives for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Many are about statistics and information, some are practical: ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation. Countries commit to improve civil registry systems and strengthen measures to reduce statelessness. Regional cooperation is considered more feasible than global co-operation.

Objective 8 is to save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants. Smuggling must be prevented and countered, as must trafficking in persons.

Access to basic services for migrants must be provided, and immigration detention used only as a measure of last resort. Integration should be furthered and discrimination avoided.

Skills and diplomas should be recognized so that migrants can contribute fully to sustainable development in all countries.

There are commitments to the portability of social security benefits and to trying to reduce the cost of migrant remittances. This is important because family in home countries rely on these monies.

There is nothing in this Global Compact that hasn't been agreed to before. It has all been written down again in an orderly and regular manner, just as it hopes to do for migration.

It is a shame that some countries don't want to sign the compact, where most of international migration is concentrated in Asia and Africa.

The Compact is to be found at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

Vienna

Rosy Weiss, IAW Treasurer and main representative to the UN Vienna, calls attention to this important publication

Femicide Volume X: Contemporary Forms of Enslavement of Women & Girls

International organisations, NGOs and independent researchers have come together to help produce this awareness-raising publication on contemporary forms of slavery, which touches upon many important and, sadly, overlooked issues.

Arthie Schimmel, IAW Board Member, reports:

The Women's Bank in Germany

Fifteen years ago two women, Angelika Huber and Astrid Hastreiter established The Women's Bank. They collected the capital needed to establish a bank in Germany – 5 million euro.

Why a Women's Bank?

The German consumers' organization 'Stiftung Warentest' discovered that banks were providing male customers with better service than women, because they had less trust in women's competence in financial matters. In the ten years since, banks have recognized that women represent a special market, and they now offer services and advice to attract female customers. In recent years, finance seminars for women have become common, and some banks even advertise better rates for women.

But that was not enough. It was and is still much harder for women to get loans. One of the goals of the Women's Bank is to offer small loans of up to 15,000 for company start-ups or university studies. The Grameen bank in Bangladesh (Nobel Prize in 2006) and SEWA in India have been operating in this way since the 1970s, providing microcredit to assist women in getting small projects off the ground. Profits from the German Women's Bank have been invested in environmental and social projects because women are much more interested than men in investing ethically. What distinguishes the Women's Bank from 'ordinary' banks is that it caters to the needs of a particular group, rather than simply selling products. But the Women's Bank is not a social service or a charity. It has been managed by a small team, so as to keep costs down. The offices have been based in Munich, but services are offered online.

The Women's Bank is intended to be woman-friendly, not hostile to men. And yes, men can use its services.

<https://www.frauenvermoegen.de/index.php>

Cheryl Hayles, Regional Vice President for North America, reflects on the law and masculinity:



Dr. Christine Blasey Ford

The legal system: Chained to the male ego

September 2018 was a dismal period in American History. More precisely in the scripting of the feminist American History. While Democrats and Republicans battled over Donald Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh, an ultra conservative Justice, to fill the vacant seat on the Supreme Court of the United States, the public had a front row ticket to a drama that was troublingly impactful on the lives of women.

Senators on either side of the nomination asserted themselves in a battle that polarized the right of a woman to reveal the trauma she suffered through sexual exploitation years after the event. This was a demonstration of why so many women carry their personal stories in shame. Both the political and the legal frameworks of society are void of non-judgmental or supportive reactions to trauma. It continues to be a risk for woman to speak her truth. Anita Hill and Dr. Christine Blasey Ford have testified to that fact.

[Read the whole article](#)



Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa's Office

Since our Congress in Cyprus Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa has been the IAW coordinator of Francophone Africa. She is doing a great job, retrieving old member organizations and finding new ones. She does that with two projects: 'water and pads' and the 'observatory of violence against women' in Francophone Africa.

As president of Sofedec, our associate member, she helps violated women build a future for their children. She teaches them to cut and stitch clothes which they sell to earn school fees for the children.

She teaches the children about children's rights at special parties.

Anuarite is a lawyer who vowed to get justice for violated women at the risk of her own life. This summer she had to hide and then move house to be safe from threatening soldiers.

She cannot do all she does from her own house. For the last two years a friend paid for a simple office. It costs \$150 a month. Now he stops paying and the owner wants to finish the lease. We cannot let this happen!

Please, if you have some money to spare, donate it towards Anuarite's office. I paid the first month.

Thanks very much,
Lyda Verstegen, IAW Honorary President.

How to send money: go to 'donations' on www.womenalliance.org and follow instructions. Please specify what your donation is for.

Make a [donation](#) towards Anuarite's office, so that she can continue her work for women in DR Congo

Le Bureau d'Anuarite

Depuis le Congrès à Chypres Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa est la coordinatrice de IÁIF

pour l'Afrique Francophone. Elle a réanimé d'anciennes organisations membres et en enthousiasme de nouvelles. Elle le fait avec deux projets: 'Eau et Serviettes' et l'Observatoire des viols

[Donnez](#) un peu d'argent pour
aider Anuarite

dans sa région.

En tant que présidente de Sofedec , notre associée, elle aide des femmes violées à construire un futur pour leurs enfants. Avec son projet coupe/couture elle leur enseigne à faire des vêtements qu'elles peuvent vendre pour payer les frais d'école.

Pendant des fêtes enfantines elle et son mari sensibilisent les enfants à leurs droits.

Devenue avocate pour aider les femmes violées à trouver justice, elle ~~se~~ risque sa vie. Cet été elle a dû se cacher et déménager pour échapper aux soldats qui étaient venus la tuer.

Elle ne peut pas faire tous ses projets de chez elle. Depuis deux ans elle a un bureau très simple 'payé par un bienfaiteur, mais il ne continuera pas ces paiements. Le propriétaire ne veut pas continuer le loyer sans garantie qu'il sera payé. Ça coûte \$150 par mois. Nous ne pouvons pas tolérer cela.

S'il vous plaît, si vous avez un peu d'argent pour aider Anuarite, donnez le par le bouton: Donations sur le site web de l'ÁIF: www.womenalliance.org. Moi, j'ai payé le premier mois.

Merci infiniment,

Lyda Verstegen
Présidente Honoraire

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