

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter February 2019 No 1

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[IAW statement for CSW63](#)

[CFUW statement for CSW63](#)

Dear readers,

2019 will be the year when we meet first in New York for CSW and in October in Lahore, Pakistan for the International Meeting.

*From 1964-1970 **Begum Anwar Ahmed** of Pakistan was IAW president. Does anyone have a good photo of her?*

The Water and Pads Project is looking for sponsors? Do you know someone who might like to support the girls, so that they can go to school?

WE have two reports from members. Cheryl Hayles writes about education for all and in Zimbabwe violence against women and girls is still a burning issue.

IAW is looking for a new treasurer.

Commission on the Status of Women 2019

New York from 11 to 22 March 2019.

20 members of IAW have registered for CSW 63. In addition we have members who are registered as members of Government delegations and as representatives of other organisations.

Priority theme:

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

Review theme:

Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)

For more information <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019> and <https://www.ngocsw.org/>

Lahore, Pakistan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzcvn9unFrQ>



International Meeting 2019

23—29 October 2019, Lahore, Pakistan

All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) has generously invited IAW to hold its 2019 International Meeting in Lahore, Pakistan.

The International Meeting is the meeting where Presidents of IAW affiliates and Associates meet with the Board to exchange information and to discuss the next Congress, so it is an important meeting.

Issues to be discussed are among others how to commemorate Beijing+25 and how to implement the IAW resolution on accountability of govern-

ments from 2017. The board will be very interested to have reports from the regions on such issues as women refugees in Europe, aboriginal women in Australia, indigenous women in North America, violence against women in Asia etc.

Lahore, Pakistan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzcvn9unFrQ>

The meeting will take place in Lahore. **Ruhi Sayid**, chair of the Punjab section of APWA and our hostess in Lahore writes about the city:

Lahore is one of the oldest cities of the subcontinent, situated on the bank of River Ravi, its history can be traced as far back as the 7th century. Since then, Lahore has been a hub for a diverse range of cultures, from the Mughal Empire to the colonial era. During the Mughal Empire, the city became a place of royal residence, gardens, mosques and pavilions; all magnificent. Boasting architectural marvels such as Badshahi Mosque and Lahore Fort, as well as the breathtaking Shalimar gardens, it was this beauty of Lahore, coupled with its rich culture that attracted the British too. Under their rule, Lahore further grew to become a city where traditional Mughal architecture merged beautifully with the Western and Victorian styles.

Today, Lahore can be compared to any cosmopolitan city in the world, in terms of amenities available. Everything from theatres and restaurants, to shopping malls are present, resulting in a truly unique blend.

IAW and Pakistan:

Begum Anwar Ahmed of Pakistan was IAW president 1964-1970. Before becoming president "she was a vice-president and had served as chair of the of the **UN Status of Women Commission**. She brought to the IAW the realisation that if women's status in the "third world" was to be raised, then attention must be paid to family planning".

Seminar:

As part of the meeting APWA will organise a 2-day seminar titled **"Holding up Half the Sky! Women of Change in a Transforming Society"** will be organized by APWA. This seminar will be held on October 24th and 25th, with heads of different NGOs, parliamentarians, local organizations, academic Institutions, government departments & civil society alliances.

An invitation will be sent to all affiliates and associates, and more information about accommodation, how to travel, agenda etc will follow as further planning develops.

Dress code in Pakistan

Dress code in Lahore

Head scarves are not mandatory. Jeans, t-shirts are widespread, but no shorts and no miniskirts. The legs must be covered.

More information will follow in the the coming newsletter and will be circulated by the the Secretary General.

R I P

Agnes Rearden
1914—2019



Agnes Rearden was a keen supporter of IAW and Treasurer 1979—1986.

Pat Richardson: *She was full of vim and vigour.*

Photo:

Agnes Rearden (left) dancing with Pat Goble at Congress 2004

100 years of the vote for women in the Netherlands



Arina Angerman, Lyda Verstegen (Honorary President IAW) and Sandra Doevendans (Member Provincial Council North-Holland) 19.01.25 at Exhibition 'Vote Hopeful'

Arina Angerman, Representative of IAW in Board European Women's Lobby:

50/50 Women for Europe, Europe for women' in European Elections

Members of European Women's Lobby (EWL) are busy with several activities and preparing a 100-day countdown (start 19.02.13) to European Elections to be held in 23-26 May 2019.

EWL is warming up and launched a lobby [Manifesto For a Feminist Europe](#)

Quote **"A Europe that realises women's equality in political decision-making**

Women are still seriously underrepresented in all European Institutions and across all EU Member States when it comes to political decision-making. This means that half the population are missing from the rooms and corridors where decisions are made about all of our lives. Equal representation of women and men, reflecting the diversity of the whole European population must be guaranteed and needs to be fought for by all, as an essential part of transforming our political institutions to put people and the planet at the centre." ...

*By voting during the European elections you decide who represents YOU in the European Parliament. The candidates you choose are your supporters for the next five years. They define European politics, take on the present and shape the future of women and girls in Europe!...**Vote for HER future.**"*

WHY Vote for HER future? Because female members of the European Parliament (MEP) are 36% (Facts and Figures, European Parliament April 2018). The percentage of female MEPs varies between 69% in Finland and 17% in Cyprus.

'Voting is not all you can do. You can play a crucial part in getting more people to vote and set the direction for the EU. [Sign up and play your part in promoting democracy](#)

Action Please spread the information and follow activities at [website EWL](#) or [Facebook European Women's Lobby](#) or at Twitter with the campaign hashtag #WomenForEurope or at [Instagram womenforeurope](#) (new)!

Don't be Shady Vote for a Lady' at Exhibition 'Vote Hopeful'



“Water and Pads” project

Spontaneous fund-raising actions by IAW individual members – reported by the Coordinators

As readers will know, the 7 IAW member organizations are impatiently waiting to implement the project in their selected schools. But in spite of our ongoing fund-raising campaign we have not reached the necessary finances of 18,000 Euros to get started. So we are extremely happy to present to you two dedicated IAW members who spontaneously began supporting this project by fund-raising within their networks, in their region.

Gudrun Haupter writes about Nessrina Zouhair:

After a short mail exchange a year ago to renew an old acquaintance – going back to the IAW Board Meeting in The Hague which both of us attended as new individual members – we returned to everyday work. Nessrina works as a corporate advisor in commercial litigation cases in Doha, Qatar. This implies going on tour, see photo.



Nessrina Zouhair

What was the motivation of our far-away friend? „I admire your information and awareness raising work. Beyond the factors education, dignity, right, health protection including facts about women’s and girls’ health which you explain so well, it also touches me that the project raises awareness for the girls’ suffering due to the lack of simple protective measures during their period”. Her feminist view is „...that women who bear descendants, should not be content with little but should get more than men. Perhaps equality between women and men is not enough”. Nessrina also agrees with us that the monthly periods unite women everywhere. „...Menstruation is an example of generational transmission of traumatic effects. It is a sensitive and an important cause. I shared your information with my friends and the family”. She is confident that donations will arrive on the IAW account.

Résumé Français

Le Projet De l’Eau et des Serviettes pour les élèves – Empowerment pour la Vie, est soutenu avec verve par Nessrina Zouhair, membre individuel de l’AIF. L’avocate qui travaille depuis longtemps au Qatar est une amie retrouvée après un long silence réciproque. Mes bons vœux pour l’année 2018 nous ont remis en contact intensif. Voici quelques citations de ce qu’elle m’a écrit s’adressant également à Ursula :

« J’admire le travail d’information et de conscience que vous faites. Au delà du caractère d’éducation, de dignité, de droit, de protection, de santé que vous avez si bien expliqué; ce qui me touche aussi est le fort caractère de prise de conscience sur la souffrance d’autrui à cause du manque de protection hygiénique simple... » « La femme porteuse de l’existence humaine ne doit pas se suffir de peu. Arriver à L’égalité et l’équité des genres n’est peut-être pas suffisant, il faudrait que la Femme reçoive plus que l’Homme ». « La Menstruation est un caractère féminin, elle est cette chose commune entre toutes les femmes du monde. La science n’est pas encore arrivée à fabriquer pour les transgenres la menstruation pour compléter le caractère féminin qu’elle leur façonne ». Les menstrues et leur caractère de transmission générationnelle dans ce projet se manifeste dans les traumatismes.

J'ai transmis ce document à mes amies et à ma famille. C'est une cause à la fois sensible et importante ».

Nessrina était confiante qu'elle puisse collecter les fonds nécessaires à l'impression et à l'envoi des brochures pour qu'elles puissent être utilisées et distribuées dans les écoles sélectionnées par les 7 ONG, nos partenaires au sein de l'AIF. En fait, elle a déjà eu du succès et veut collecter le total des 5000 CHF.

Ursula Nakamura writes about Sibylle von Heydebrand:

I have known Sibylle from Basel Switzerland for a long time. She is like Nessrina a lawyer and individual member of IAW. Sibylle holds a PhD in law and is working as a lecturer at a college. She is interested in women's political participation. She was presiding over the festive committee of 50 years cantonal women's voting rights in Basel in 2016. At the same time our local section of ADF-SVF was celebrating its centenary.



Sibylle von Heydebrand

What Sibylle had started in 2012 as a small New Year's "Get Together" of the Basel women's organizations has now become a very prestigious yearly event, an excellent place for informal networking and ideas about actions in common. In 2019 even Simonetta Sommaruga, one of the seven Swiss ministers, was invited as a speaker. Sibylle sees a chance for collecting donations at this event.

So when Sibylle was participating in the IAW Board Meeting in Berlin, she also got inspired about the "Water and Pads" project.

Back in Basel she started planning some fundraising.

Sibylle got in touch with me, got a graphic designer for a perfect "Water and Pads" leaflet in German and had it printed all at her own cost for distribution at the New Year Get Together. Sibylle sees a chance for collecting donations at this event.



The Get Together became an unforgettablely successful evening with a highly motivating speech for equal rights by Swiss Federal Council Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga. In their reports the medias highlighted International Alliance of Women and the 'Water and Pads project'.

Photo: Esther Suter

What is the motivation of Sibylle? *"Education is not only the key to the personal development of young women but also essential for the social and economic development of a country. The education of girls is put in question with the lack of knowledge about menstruation: I'm particularly concerned that they miss classes up to 5 days per month and many finally drop out of school and are left without much education."*

The project 'Water and pads for school-girls' pursues among others the objectives of quality education and gender equality, both are among the goals of the UN agenda 2013. "These two aims are also close to my feminist heart."

Résumé Français

Ursula Nakamura écrit sur Sibylle von Heydebrand:

Je connais Sibylle de Bâle Suisse depuis longtemps. Elle est aussi un membre individuel de l'AIF. Sibylle est titulaire d'un doctorat en droit et travaille comme chargée de cours dans un collège. Comme elle s'intéresse à la participation politique des femmes, elle a aussi présidé le comité de fête des 50 ans du droit de vote des femmes du canton de Bâle-Ville en 2016. En même temps notre section locale de l'ADF-SVF célébrait son centenaire.

Ce que Sibylle avait commencé en 2012 en tant que petit "Get Together" du Nouvel An des organisations de femmes bâloises est maintenant un événement annuel très prestigieux. En 2019 Simonetta Sommaruga, une des 7 ministres Suisses, a même été invitée comme oratrice.

Après Berlin Sibylle a tout de suite trouvé une graphiste pour un parfait dépliant “Water and Pads” en allemand. Elle l’a fait imprimer à ses frais pour le Get Together.

Quelle est la motivation de Sibylle? *“L’éducation n’est pas seulement la clé du développement personnel des jeunes femmes, elle est aussi essentielle pour le développement social et économique d’un pays.*

L’éducation des filles est remise en question par le manque de connaissances sur la menstruation: Je suis particulièrement préoccupée par le fait que les cours jusqu’à 5 jours par mois et que beaucoup d’entre elles abandonnent finalement l’école. Le projet Eau et serviettes hygiéniques poursuit entre autre les objectifs d’une éducation de qualité et de l’égalité des sexes, deux objectifs de l’agenda 2013 des Nations Unies.

Ces deux objectifs me tiennent aussi au coeur en tant que féministe.”

Education for All, Including the Marginalised

IAW around the World

In this article, Cheryl Hayles, Regional VP for North America , writes among other things:



Cheryl Hayles

At all levels of education it is noted that, “There are many individuals and organizations that continue to resist any suggestion that racism exists in employment policies and practices in Ontario school boards and classrooms. This continued resistance ignores the mounting evidence of racial disparities in educational outcomes between African Canadian and other students” (VOICES OF ONTARIO BLACK EDUCATORS An Experiential Report – May 29, 2015). The same challenge is further validated by student voices at the university level as reported in a Toronto Star article on February 3, 2016 by black students Sandy Hudson, Brie Berry, Yusra Khogali and Sefanit Habtemariam of the Black Liberation Collective. “At our own institution, there are no courses where you can study black people at the graduate level. The school of Global Affairs is completely devoid of programs and courses that focus on the continent of Africa. This is the largest school in Canada (University of Toronto), often touted as the best. It’s difficult to imagine such an omission with regard to, say, Europe or Asia. Canada itself has a long and vibrant black history. Should we not be able to study it?” <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2016/03/01/canadian-campuses-have-a-racism-problem.html>

[Read the whole article](#)

Activities report from Zambia

Monitoring & Mentoring

Lisa Lunga

National Youth Co-ordinator, Women’s Comfort Corner Foundation

Women’s Comfort Corner Foundation conducted a Monitoring and Mentoring session on 02nd of January 2019 – 03rd of January, 2019 at Epworth High School, Harare. The purpose was to assess the impact of WCCF training programme conducted in November - December 2018 during the sixteen days of activism.



Lisa Lunga
National Youth Co-ordinator

There were 20 peer educators from various towns. The Monitoring and Mentoring session was facilitated by Mildred Wudebwe. The rights stated included the right to prompt provision of birth certificate, the right to family and parental care, the right to have a name, the right not to be forced to enter into political activities among others. The Peer educators are reporting cases of abuse to the police thereby helping access to justice in the community.

From 02 January, 2019 – 12 January, 2019 peer educators had reported 43 cases of child abuse. Culture and religion may violate one's rights by pledging a girl child to placate the ancestors of the offended person. The Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe ruled in favour of banning child marriages particularly children under 18 in 2016 but to date the law has not been aligned with the Constitution. The delay in aligning the Constitution may be associated with the fact that men usually have relationships with very young girls and usually get away with the violations. At Women's Comfort Corner Foundation we have not been daunted and continue pursuing the matter of aligning the child marriages ruling with the Constitution. On the issue of prostitutes who have increased dramatically as the country continues to deteriorate, it was encouraging to note that there was a consensus that every person has right to be protected by the law despite the fact that they are promiscuous. Generally the perception is that if one is a prostitute the issue of sexual violence is not a big issue.

Ms Rita Marque Mbatha assisted a girl who was barely 14 to get justice from the Rotten Row Criminal Court. The child was brutally raped and the Senior Magistrate incredulously sentenced the family man, a rapist to community service. The perpetrator had no permanent address and disappeared but was seen by the uncle of the rape victim whilst selling his wares and immediately alerted our organisation who in turn alerted the police. The Prosecutor General's Office had lodged an appeal at the High Court at our instigation and the man had since been sentenced and is jail.

[Read more](#)

***Membership log– in:
Publications on IAW***

***Publications on IAW in
members area***

News on the IAW website:

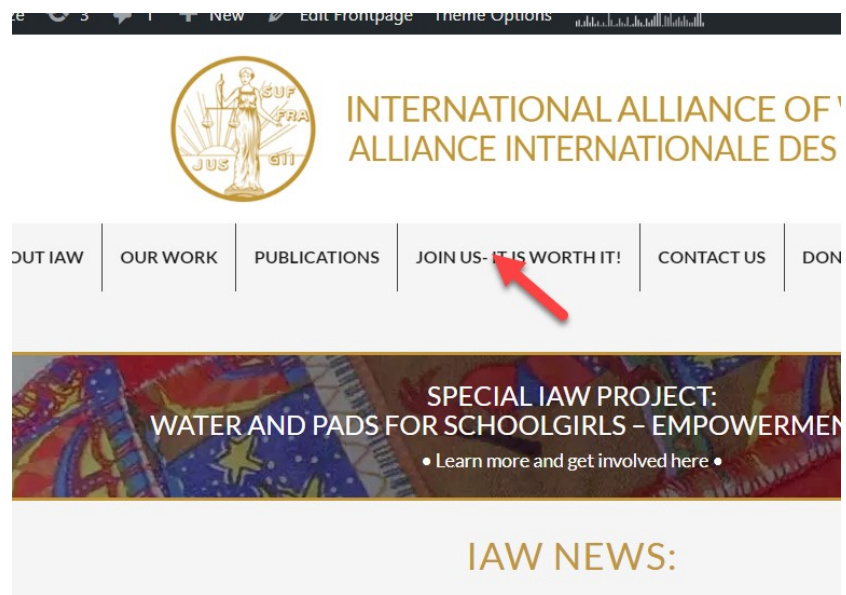
There now is a section on the website for information that is interesting mainly for members.

It will be used for documents of general interest for members such as agendas and minutes from meetings, by-laws, etc.: A list of publications about IAW. It consists of publications that Rosy Weiss, former president of IAW, has on her shelves.

Other members are invited to send to Lene Pind at lenepind@gmail.com additional titles, so that we can gradually have a more or less complete bibliography.

You'll find the members' login in this way:

Go to www.womenalliance.org



Touch Join-us , and a black square appears. Click and you will be taken to a page, where you have to log in, using a password: the password is:

Berlin1904.

Log in, and you'll find everything there.

If there are other documents that you would like to have access to in **the Members' Area**, send us a message..

**Would you like to be
the next
IAW Treasurer?**

IAW is looking for a new treasurer, assistant treasurer and members for the financial advisory committee

The Ad Hoc Selection Committee responsible for filling the positions of Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Members of the Finance Committee has started the process. Member organizations would have received the package on February 7, 2019 which includes the form for the Expression of Interest for these positions.

Please share with all eligible members.

The timeline established to fill these positions is as follows:

- Expressions of Interest with Resume due April 16, 2019
- Interview of shortlisted candidates completed by April 22, 2019
- Recommendations finalized and sent on to the IAW Executive Committee/ Board on April 29th, 2019

We look forward to working closely with potential candidates.

Cheryl Hayles, Chair of the Ad Hoc Selection Committee

To know more: Go to [Members Login](#)
or contact Cheryl Hayles at cherylhayles@sympatico.ca

Make a donation to the Water and Pads project



HOME ABOUT IAW OUR WORK PUBLICATIONS JOIN US- IT IS WORTH IT! CONTACT US DONA

Denmark County / State

I would like to pay membership fee / grant my donation to the following project:

Water and Pads

Choose Water and Pads

Agree to Terms? ☐

Donation Total: 20 €

choose amount

CONTINUE

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International Alliance of Women is funded by membership fees and private donations. We are grateful f any contribution to our work to promote women's equal rights throughout the world.

FOR MEMBERS – IAW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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Associates: 55 €

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