

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Equal Rights—Equal Opportunities
Droits égaux—responsabilités égales



Newsletter April 2019 no 2

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Dear readers,

Susan Sinclair, IAW individual member has been to Lahore, Pakistan recently and will attend the International Meeting in October

Christina Noble Knight has taken over as editor of the booklet.

The Water and Pads Project is very successful. Make a donation!

Help the Membership Secretary keep the membership file updated and correct.

Deadline for contributions to the June issue is May 15.

Enjoy the Newsletter!

Commission on the Status of Women 2019

Once again a large delegation of IAW members attended CSW. Two delegates have sent reports for the Newsletter:

Sandra Shaw, Canadian Federation of University Women, reflects on CSW and her own privileged life in comparison with many women in the world:

"Sessions at the CSW have humbled me and leave me with immense respect for all the resilient women whom I have met, heard and seen who continue to fight for their basic rights in the face of often overwhelming adversity. They are undaunted by setbacks and continue their equality campaigns, not just for themselves but for their sisters, daughters, nieces, grand-daughters and great grand-daughters. Women who have taken up the gauntlet to fight for their 'sisters' (activists, lawyers, social workers, physicians, and on and on) also grapple with intolerable opposition. Murders of women who speak out or write about the fight for equality happen all too frequently. But still, all these women persevere with passion. They come to the UNCSW to tell their stories and light the fire for others."

[Read more](#)



Secretary General Olufunmi Oluyede
President Joanna Manganara (Panel left)

Sandra Thomsen, IAW member reports from a parallel event on **Gender Mainstreaming in Infrastructure, Services, Social Protection: Global Legal Critique**.

This high level event was one of three sessions sponsored by the American Bar Association SIL Government and Public Interest Committee and the International Bar Association Women Lawyers Interest Network. Moderator was Secretary General of the International Alliance of Women (IAW) Board member Olufunmi Oluyede.

[Read more](#)

**International Meeting
Lahore October 23—28**

Invitation

**Visa
Seminar**

International Meeting, Lahore Pakistan, October 2019

The invitation to the International Meeting has already been sent out to members. It is now available on the IAW website. Go to www.womenalliance.org > Home> Members login. The password is Berlin1904. Scroll down and you will find a section called Meetings.

Visa:

If you need a personal invitation, contact Ruhi Sayid at sayidruhi@gmail.com and Secretary General Olufunmi Oluyede at iawsecgen@womenalliance.org

Seminar

As part of the International Meeting 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. Naturally APWA hopes to see all participants in the International Meeting. Observers, individual members or non-members, who are interested in the IAW, are also cordially invited.

The working language of the seminar will be English and Urdu.

Visit to Lahore

Visit to Lahore

Susan Sinclair, Hampshire, UK, individual member of IAW recently visited Lahore. She has sent this description:

Seeing that the next IAW meeting will be in Lahore, Pakistan I decided to write a short piece about my recent travel experiences in the hope that it may help lots of people to decide to sign up for and attend the IAW International Meeting which is due to take place in Lahore, Pakistan in October 2019.

I returned in the middle of March 2019 from my THIRD visit to Pakistan! I first went to the country in 2017 at the insistence of my good friend Bashan Rafique. I was lucky enough to be travelling with her on all three of my trips and have had an amazing time, every time, and, indeed, everywhere I have gone. What experiences! The Pakistani people are hospitable, welcoming and generous, and usually speak some English - whether they be rich or poor - and the country is certainly full of contrasts. But they express their sadness that they do not have many foreign tourists. I believe the new government is trying to change and encourage this.

Lahore itself is a sophisticated city with centuries of history - and buildings and monuments to demonstrate this (although the care of them often appears haphazard!). There are lovely tree-lined streets and green parks in the 19th & 20th century parts of the city and gems of buildings in the old city.

In 2017 I spent a week in Lahore and saw at first hand some of the work that APWA Punjab is doing there and (on International Women's Day no less!) I had the honour to meet several of the hard-working people involved in delivering their projects to give women a better life. The 2019 IAW Meeting is being arranged in conjunction with Ruhi Sayid, Board Member of IAW, who heads APWA Punjab and I feel sure that she will not fail to deliver a good conference/meeting.

I plan to be there myself - especially as my February 2019 visit to Lahore was cut short by an increase in the tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. But with the help of the 'umbrella' of well-wishers, when all the commercial flights had been cancelled for the foreseeable future and we could cope no longer with the frantic phone calls from the far South of the country begging us to head back there to be safe (!),



Susan Sinclair



Lahore Fort

Bashan and I managed to join with some other ladies to fill a compartment for an over-night train journey back to Karachi. We had a great time, laughing, singing, picnicking and sleeping – not to mention being met by the Stationmaster and a posse of porters when we finally arrived in Karachi 2 hours late !!

I'm sure that same 'umbrella' will be there for any of you too, should you need it in October. That is part of the generosity and hospitality of Pakistanis.

Always when you travel you just have to make a few foreign travels rules for yourself and stick to them in order to have good memories ... Remember that you are away from home so be extra aware and sensible about what you do and where you go (seek advice before you head out), look after yourself and your possessions and keep safe. Above all, be strict and sensible with your diet! Use only bottled water, even for brushing your teeth. Avoid all salads, uncooked vegetables and fruit that you cannot peel yourself. Be assured, you need not starve, there is lots of delicious food that you will be able to manage. Beware of ice.... Bashan and I have spent almost a month regretting the crushed iced & fresh strawberry smoothie we couldn't resist in a restaurant after two happy intellectual days at the Lahore Literary Festival with our water bottles ! It also makes sense to consult with your doctor before travelling to see what inoculations are important.

Hopefully I'll see you in Lahore in October.

Women are on the march in Pakistan

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/15/pakistan-torn-as-womens-day-march-sparks-wave-of-masculine-anxiety>

The booklet 2019

New editor

New editor of the booklet:

Christina Noble Knight is the new editor of the booklet. By way of introducing herself she has sent this message to all members of IAW:

Dear All,

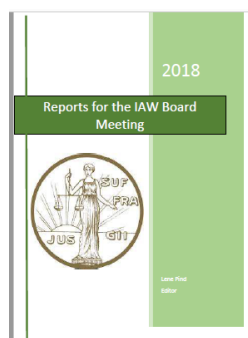
I am honoured to take over the work with our booklet and hope I can live up to and deliver in line with Lene Pind's excellent work and standards.

A short introduction - I grew up in Stockholm, Sweden as well as in the south of England as my mother was Swedish and my father is British. From a very early age writing became my mode of expression; my childhood was filled with books and storytelling. I studied at the University of Sussex, England and at the University of California/San Diego and graduated with a degree in American Studies/Literature and Film. I continued with further studies in Stockholm and started my career as a Copywriter of advertising in the communications industry in 1986. Ever since I have helped companies, organisations and brands with their communication together with some of the world's leading networks within communication like Lowe and Ogilvy. I have run my own agency and I am currently working as a Creative Director at the Stockholm-based agency The Amazing Society.

As the ad industry is predominantly a male-dominated industry I felt very alone as the only female creative at the table and this was the case for decades, and is still predominantly the case for women in advertising - the ad industry is primarily white, male and middle-class. This inspired me to write my first book "Mad Women - A Herstory of Advertising" in 2013 and my second book "Not Buying It - A New Era of Advertising", to empower and inspire the industry to be more inclusive and embrace equality, diversity and several more perspectives. The books have opened doors to lecturing and teaching all over the world on the importance of equality and diversity - from Mexico City and Bogotá to Milan, London and New York, to mention a few. I have also founded the



Christina Noble Knight



organisation 'TakeTwo' together with gender coach Viktoria Saxby, to further the gender balance and diversity in all media - advertising as well as film and news media.

My absolute conviction that gender equality is the prerequisite for all development and evolution in society, has also led to an active involvement in organisations like Fredrika Bremer Förbundet/Sweden where I have been a board member since 2014, WaterAid/Sweden (2013-2019) and the International Alliance of Women as from 2017.

I live just north of Stockholm with my husband and our dog Chelsea. We enjoy seeing our two sons, Tom, 29 and Oliver, 22 for Sunday dinners as often as is possible.

Water and Pads Project



Water and Pads

News from Cameroon about the project "Water and Pads" for school-girls

Not having toilets and water at school puts girls' education at risk in my country Our challenge with the project : Breaking the menstrual taboo, helping access to water and toilet in schools and providing reusable pads to keep girls in school by Anne Pelagie Yotchou.

This pilot project carried out in MEDJO gave to 250 school-girls the opportunity to talk about something taboo in the community: the menstrual period. The activities were carried out in Medjo with the support of 4 volunteers. At the end we had 54 news volunteers that got involved and told us that they will always support us, and whenever we have a similar activity, they will help. Most of the new volunteers are women that were victims of that taboo around the menstrual period, when they were teenagers. They don't want their daughters to suffer the same stigma.

Read the full text on the [Water and Pads website](#)



Nouvelles du Cameroun sur le projet "De l'eau et des serviettes pour les écolières »

L'absence de toilettes et d'eau à l'école met l'éducation des filles en danger dans mon pays. Notre défi avec le projet: briser le tabou menstruel, aider à l'accès à l'eau et aux toilettes dans les écoles et fournir des serviettes réutilisables pour garder les filles à l'école par Anne Pelagie Yotchou.

Ce projet pilote mené à MEDJO a permis à 250 écolières de parler de quelque chose de tabou dans la communauté: la période menstruelle. Les activités ont été réalisées à Medjo avec le soutien de 4 volontaires. A la fin nous avons eu 54 nouvelles volontaires qui se sont engagées. Elles nous ont dit qu'elles vont toujours nous soutenir. Quand nous aurons une activité similaire, elles nous aideront. La plupart des nouvelles bénévoles sont des femmes qui ont été victimes de ce tabou à l'époque de leurs règles, lorsqu'elles étaient adolescentes, et elles ne veulent pas que leur fille souffre du même stigmata.

Lisez le texte entier sur le site [« Eau et serviettes »](#)

International Representatives

WHO

International Representatives:

WHO – flashes on the yearly meeting of the Executive Board EB
By Ursula Nakamura-Stoecklin

When entering the elegant WHO building in Geneva I am always in a very special mood. It is like an oasis, where state delegates, global organizations and health professionals together are seriously and fact oriented struggling to-



Ursula Nakamura

wards the actual WHO goals of Universal Health Coverage.

Whatever health topic is taken up, it always turns out to have intersectional impacts and is related to the UN Agenda 2030, e. g. climate change... No wonder that an often precarious access to medicines and vaccines not only provoked heated discussions among the attendees, e. g. the delegates of the states versus the pharmacists!

But when talking about the millions of people suffering from preventable Non Communicable Diseases NCDs such as heart-problems, respiratory diseases or diabetes then surprisingly almost all speakers pleaded for a better coordination, more funding and a more equitable access to treatment also in very poor countries. Unfortunately very rarely a state-delegate would announce some generous donations... It became clear that no country can achieve anything on its own when dealing with pandemic influenza, where the exchange of information and expertise among all states and their specialized institutions is decisive for prevention and cure.

Unlike the yearly assembly of WHO in May at the EB meeting I felt like in a huge family. Maybe it is also due to the arrangement of the seats forming a huge circle in the room. For each agenda item there might be up to 50 (!) interventions by state delegates and NSAs followed by a summary of the secretary plus chairperson. Finally the WHO director Dr. Tedros having listened to the whole debate formulates the possible next steps that might be taken.

Finally there were also statements concerning girls' and women's health, e.g. the lack of qualified nursing personnel, the unpaid care by mostly female caregivers etc. Then rather surprisingly the topic "Water, sanitation and hygiene..." was brought up by some African countries. The main focus was on the alarming lack of sanitation-facilities in health-centres and the resulting dangers of infectious diseases. Also a better menstrual health management in schools was mentioned. The request for a much higher funding and more WHO-engagement on water and hygiene was unanimously accepted with acclamation!

WHO also got support from the states to increase its efforts on elimination of cervical cancer.

I was anxious to hear the decisions about the WHO engagement with NSAs, IAW and other NGOs, foundations and academia. Fortunately the official relationship of IAW with WHO has been confirmed in 2018! Many speakers warmly recommended to work closely together with NSAs but they were also warning of hidden special interests of some NSAs namely the tobacco industry.

Then a completely different topic concerning women was brought up: WHO wants to use in all its important documents a gender sensitive language. Surprisingly after a few positive votes by delegates from various language regions this was quickly adopted! One wants to start with the English version first.

New York



Soon-Young Yoon

New York

Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for the IAW, participated via video at the 4th Annual Saint Louis Young Women's Conference on 7 March. The theme of the conference was "Hear Me Roar", focusing on young women's voices. The video includes an interview with Efua Eacqeeb Harrison, former broadcaster for a teen news show in Ghana. The You-tube interview can be seen: <https://youtu.be/GW1AHeptYsg>

Efua Eacqeeb Harrison is a new comer to IAW and IAW representative to the Department of Public Information (DPI) at the UN



Efua Eacqeeb Harrison



Michelle Bachelet

Lyda Verstegen, IAW main representative to Geneva, reports:

Mme Bachelet, the High Commissioner for Human Rights had her yearly meeting with NGO's on March 5. That is why I went to Geneva. The room was overfull, so it was good I went early.

The HC was happy to see so many of us. It is necessary that we raise our voices to the threats to HR everywhere, even in Europe.

"There is a pushback on HR, but we have to push back the pushback.", she said.

Freedom of expression is under attack everywhere, often in the guise of anti-terrorism policies. Foreign funding of NGO's gets forbidden in many countries for the same reason and the fear of money laundering. Every day HR defenders are killed, trade unions are also having a hard time.

The SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) are a chance for HR. In July there is session of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. NGOs must make an effort to have a role there. It is where governments discuss progress on SDGs. The HRC also had a session on SDGs and Human Rights.

The Office of the HC does not have access everywhere, so in their reports they have to use other sources than the government.

In the light of attacks on HR we must raise our voices, there is nothing else. Special rapporteurs face the same difficulty.

There were questions: about age discrimination: The HC said it was a subject near to her heart. She had coined the expression *Accumulated Youth* instead of age, because old people, including herself, were often as vibrant as they were when they were young.

About the death penalty: HC advocates abolishing it, at least have a moratorium. People on death row are mainly poor, uneducated, or indigenous people.

About the HR office in Columbia where its mandate ends in October: Next to her own efforts to keep it there, HC hopes that NGO's use their networks.

Mme Bachelet is very concerned about the IS children still in camps. She is a paediatrician, so she knows what the consequences can be.

The greatest worry is inequalities, she devoted much of her annual report to this regrettable and dangerous phenomenon. Inequalities are at the bottom of migration. HC named Mexico as a country with a good policy for migration and said that US and Australia had bad policies.

She blamed the European Union for not letting boats like the Aquarius rescue people at sea.

European Women's Lobby



Arina Angerman, representative of IAW at EWL

ACTION - Vote For A Woman in May 2019

The European Women's Lobby (EWL), the largest umbrella organisation of women's non-governmental associations in the EU, is leading a campaign, called 50/50 Women for Europe - Europe for Women. Photo 1 At the website www.womenlobby.org EWL has a manifesto describing out detailed demands to both the Member States and the European Union. [The Manifesto is in different languages](#) a.o. French 'Les femmes pour l'Europe - l'Europe pour les femmes'.

One of EWL's transforming priorities for the coming European term (2019-2024) is 'A Europe free from violence against women'. As you know male violence is an expression of structural inequality between women and men and is a daily reality for many women and girls. At 8th of March 2019 Ireland ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The [Istanbul Convention](#) is now ratified by

34 countries!

I visited the Purple, White & Green: suffragettes in museum of London in 1993. “Purple ... stands for freedom and dignity, white stands for purity in private and public life ... green is the colour of hope and the emblem of spring.” Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, 1908 Photo 2



As the style of suffragettes are best described by its motto: ‘Deeds Not Words’ I ask you to take three small Actions.

Action 1. Do you Vote For A Woman too? This time I’m voting 4 gender equality during the European elections from May 23rd to May 26th. I want to decide which (feminist) woman represents me in the European Parliament.

Action 2. 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. Please invite 3 woman / 3 men to go with you to the polling station and cast your votes together in order to contribute to a Feminist Europe.

Action 3. Do sign this petition [Time to \(RE\)shape Power](#) By signing you support ‘a truly equal, diverse and inclusive political agenda with women’s rights at the heart of it.’

As you probably know in the Netherlands we are celebrating 100 years of voting rights for women. As did IAW members in Denmark, Germany and Lithuania before. By voting for a woman we can honour the never ever give up efforts of our (great) grandmothers / grandfathers. Enjoy this equal citizenship right with other wo(men)!



IAW around the World



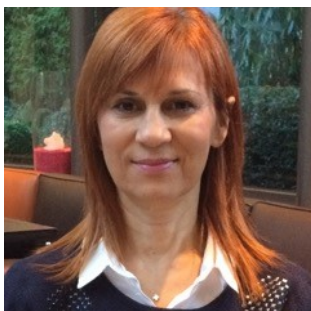
Dr. Denis Mukwege Buvaku

Nobel Prize for Peace 2018

- hope for raped women and girls in DR Congo

For the first time this year’s award deals with gender based violence, the most appalling crime against humanity. It is a strong voice condemning rape and other sexual assaults of women particularly as a weapon in military conflict and war. This unspeakably terrible brutality is often systematically used to threaten innocent people and to break the will of resistance of a whole population. Until now, unlike other offenses, this crime is usually belittled or covered up –the perpetrators get away with impunity, because the victims are just only women and girls...

[Read more](#)



Elli Christodoulou

Cyprus

[Women take the lead](#)

By Elli Christodoulou, Secretary General of the Pancyprian Movement Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities

Board Member - IAW

Earlier this year, UN Secretary-General António Guterres made a revealing announcement. He said that for the first time in UN history a peacekeeping mission is completely led by women. That mission takes place in Cyprus and consists of

Mrs Elizabeth Spehar Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of the Peacekeeping forces in the island

Major General Cheryl Pearce, Commander of the peacekeeping Force; and Mrs Ann-Kristen Kvilekval, Senior Police Adviser.

These three women oversee more than 1,000 military, police, and civilian staff supervising the ceasefire line, maintaining the buffer zone, and working to find a political solution to [the ongoing conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and Turkey](#).

Since 1964 UNFICYP has been working to provide humanitarian assistance and contribute to the restoration of law and order in the daily life. In 1974 after the [Turkish invasion](#), the [UN Security Council](#) expanded the peacekeepers' mission to prevent the dispute turning into war. They undertook the surveillance of the buffer zone and assisted in the maintenance of the status quo. They have also helped the UN Secretary General in his efforts to bring together the two communities and reach a solution to the issue.

Good news is always welcome, but numbers are not always good. According to the UN, between 1957 and 1989, only 20 uniformed women served as UN peacekeepers. In 2014, that number grew to 3% of the total troops. And in 2015, the Security Council called for the doubling of the number of women in peacekeeping operations by 2020. Despite this well-intentioned goal, today just 5% of all uniformed personnel are women.

The mission in Cyprus deserves special attention, given that it took almost 60 years to reach this point. But it is clear that the rest of UN peacekeeping missions have a lot of progress to make.

As female peacekeepers in a male-dominated field, women bring different life experiences and perspectives. They are also in an ideal position to encourage more women to follow their paths. The presence of female peacekeepers has indeed encouraged local women to follow their path and proved that they could do the same jobs as men do.

Research shows that women's participation in peace processes yields better results. According to the International Peace Institute, peace agreements are 35% more likely to last more than 15 years when women are at the table.

It is therefore expected that with women in leading positions in Cyprus peacekeeping a different perspective will be created to resolve the long-term conflict. Last year an addition to the team was made by Mr Antonio Guterres , Mrs Jane Holl Lute appointed as the UN Special Envoy to Cyprus. She is an American leader who has worked both in the UN and with the US government on national security issues. She and her team are tasked with mediating peace talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

It is too early to tell what effect these women have in Cyprus. Nonetheless, it is thrilling to see women's perspectives rising in a sector where they used to be excluded. Given the recent pressure from the Security Council to find a solution to this long lasting conflict, one thing is certain: These women can make the difference and will be the key for a solution to Cyprus political problems.

News about administration:

- database
- Holly Herbert, assistant to the Membership Secretary
- Invoicing

Administrative news from IAW:

Database:

The IAW database is now in full use. The contact information of all IAW members (affiliates, associates and individual members) has been keyed in, and the database is now the only complete file of the IAW membership.

The personal data we store in the database is name, address, email, year of

joining and of course information about payment of annual fees. For members who have taken up positions in IAW we also store that information.

We take good care of your personal data and we do not sell or in any other way transfer information to any third party.

The database is administered by

Membership Secretary Lene Pind at members@womenalliance.org

and her assistant Holly Herbert at iawmembership.holly@gmail.com

Holly Herbert



Holly Herbert

Holly Herbert is IAW's new assistant to Membership Secretary. Joining IAW last year, she attended IAW's meeting in Berlin as a proxy for her grandmother Pat Richardson. She took a keen interest in IAW and volunteered her time to help assist Lene Pind with the membership process. Holly is from Sydney, Australia. She is a High School Music Teacher, currently undertaking her Masters in Special Education. She has a passion for education and believes in equality of education. All children have the right to learn, Special Education allows students with disabilities and learning difficulties to have their needs cared for, which empowers and encourages them to continue learning. Holly volunteers her time for a charity in Australia called 'Share the Dignity' which brings dignity to women who are homeless, at-risk and those experiencing domestic violence through the distribution of sanitary items.

Invoicing 2019

Those of you who have received an invoice for your membership of IAW for 2019 were probably surprised to see it and to note that it came from Lene Pind.

This is the result of an agreement between the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary, by which the invoices are sent out using the database.

Members Login

The minutes from the Board Meeting in Berlin are now available on the Members area of the website. go to <https://womenalliance.org/> >Home>Members Login> Berlin1904

PLEASE NOTE

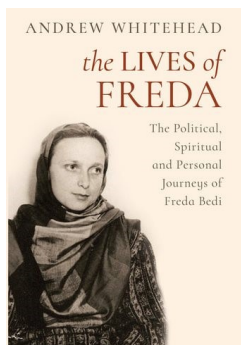
We need the assistance of all members to keep the file of our members updated and correct.

Any change in name, email, postal address must be sent to the Membership Secretary at members@womenalliance.org or to the assistant to the Membership Secretary at iawmembership.holly@gmail.com

Only in this way can we make sure that you receive the Newsletter, International Women's News and other information from IAW

Holly & Lene

Book Review



Anjana Basu, Individual member of IAW, has sent this book review:

The Lives of Freda

The political, spiritual and personal journeys of Freda Bedi

Andrew Whitehead

Speaking Tiger INR 499/

A Hollywood star and a Buddhist nun – a combination that seems rather strange unless you consider Richard Gere. In this case the movie star is Kabir Bedi, famed for cameos in the James Bond *Octopussy* and the Buddhist nun his mother Freda. Neither he nor his sister approved of his mother's devotion to the Buddhist cause and felt that she had abandoned her children but nonetheless his mother was adamant.

The Lives of Freda outlines the life of an unusual woman, an English woman who married a Sikh fellow student who she met in Oxford at a time when interracial marriages were frowned on in the British Empire.

[Read more](#)

G7: no more Nasrins!!

Lyda Verstegen sends this appeal:

Please sign this:

148 lashes on her body and nearly 4 decades in prison. This is the awful punishment Nasrin Sotoudeh will face for peacefully advocating for women's rights in Iran. But our voices can help shine a light on this horror and help women everywhere.

Join me here: https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/free_nasrin_loc/?khhQGjb



Valeria Mancinelli

Valeria Mancinelli, Mayor of Ancona, Italy, awarded the 2018 World Mayor Prize

The 2018 World Mayor Project was dedicated to women in local government. It features the achievement of female mayors from across the world and honours the best of them. They entered local politics not because they wanted or needed to prove that women can succeed in an environment shaped by men, but because they believed they had the right ideas, skills and ambitions to help their communities to flourish.

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