

IAW Newsletter August 2019 No. 4

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IAW • AIF NEWSLETTER

August 2019 no. 4

Dear readers,

The International Meeting was originally planned to take place in Lahore, Pakistan. Very regrettably, it has been necessary to convene the meeting in Geneva.

*President Joanna Manganara is launching a campaign among the members of IAW to celebrate Beijing+25
Enjoy the new format.*

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News from the editorial committee

As announced several times, the plan has been to change the format of the Newsletter from a pdf file circulated by email to MailChimp, which is an internationally used software that provides a format for circulating among other things newsletters. This is our first use of this system, so we are in a learning process and look forward to your comments. One important aspect of using MailChimp is that the Newsletter opens directly in the reader's email, as you have probably noticed. We will continue to save the Newsletter on the website under "Publications"

International Meeting 2019

Venue moved from Lahore to Geneva -
October 25-27

In Berlin, the Board - on the invitation of All Pakistan Women's Association, Punjab- decided that the International Meeting in 2019 was to take place in Pakistan.

However, the fact that this year most governments have been advising advise their citizens not to travel to Pakistan caused members to decide not to go, which meant there was reason to believe that the attendance out would be low.

This situation is most regrettable. The programme developed by Ruhi Sayid and her committee was excellent, and the rates obtained with the hotel extremely favourable, Lahore is an old city with a magnificent culture, and going there would have been an expansion of the experiences of IAW.

IAW is grateful to APWA Punjab and Ruhi Sajid for all the work done and regrets that it has proven necessary to convene the meeting in Geneva instead. Geneva has been chosen, as the NGO Beijing+25 Forum will take place in Geneva from October 28 2019.

Information, registration form etc has been distributed and is available on the website. Go to www.womenalliance.org>memebtrs login (under Home), Password: Berlin1904

Members are encouraged to register before August 1 for the B+25 ECE meeting to participate in the regional conference

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfP0Ej9qStA1bTFynxiMh47kUtvYRtLb86xddAj2gCLt6RbVw/viewform>

Registration for the UNECE Beijing +25 Meeting in Geneva Deadline August 1

Members of IAW who wish to attend the Beijing+25 UNECE Meeting in Geneva are encouraged to register before August 1 using this link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfP0Ej9qStA1bTFynxiMh47kUtvYRtLb86>

xddAj2gCLt6RbVw/viewform

Are you from Central Asia, Caucasus, Europe or North America? Are you under 35 years old? Are you a mobiliser, activist or work on advocacy?

Then we are looking for you! On behalf of the Women's Major Group, we will be hosting a massive regional feminist civil society forum on **Beijing Platform for Action** (you know, the milestone women's rights document). The forum is followed by an intergovernmental meeting with UNECE's member states. The output of our regional forum will be used at the yearly conference on the status of women (CSW64) where decision-makers will negotiate on a text on where we are now in terms of implementing the Beijing Platform for Action.

Why should you apply to attend? Well, the time is now, this is a great opportunity for you to engage in our regional advocacy work, to bring your experiences from the ground or from the local work you do. You can engage in working groups and add your advocacy points into a wide range of topics (such as climate justice, migration, neoconservatism, SRHR etc. etc.). Did we mention that there is some funding available to attend as well!

Register

CSO Forum: 28 October 2019 in Geneva, register – bit.ly/2OI7EaO (deadline: 22 August)

UNECE Forum: 29-30 October 2019 in Geneva – www.unece.org/index.php?id=51017 (if you don't have ECOSOC status, then contact Hanna (hanna.gunnarsson@wecf.org) or Sascha (Sascha.gabizon@wecf.org) for support

Learn more

<https://www.wecf.org/beijing25-world-conference-on-women/>

Thank you, Joke



In 1998 during the International Meeting in Malmö, Sweden, a working group was established to work on the idea of an "electronic Newsletter". The group consisted mainly of Cock Kerling, Joke Sebus, both from the Netherlands and Lene Pind, Denmark. At that time very few members really understood what Joke and Cock were talking about.

From then on Joke began collecting emails from our members, which was still a fairly new form of communication for many people. Joke also began producing monthly newsletters, which she circulated to members and others. All her Newsletters can now be read [here](#). From 1998 to 2013 Joke produced and circulated a newsletter each month and - not least - carefully guarded the emails of all IAW members.

in 2014 Lene Pind took over as editor supported by an editorial committee, and Joke continued as the conscientious guardian of the emails and distributor of the Newsletter. Not long ago Joke asked to be relieved of the job, so this is an ideal time to also change the format.



News from the President

President's Newsletter

President's Newsletter on Female Genital Mutilation and strategies to end it is available on the IAW website.

Celebrating Beijing+25

The President has circulated information and proposals for how IAW can contribute to the commemoration of Beijing+25. Go to [the website to the members login](#). Use the password: Berlin1904. Log in, and you'll find information including the most recent information from the President.

In her email President writes among other things:

.....I proposed that we do a vlog project which is another way of doing things that can be of substance and can also be enjoyed during the process. This idea has received warm support, both from the IAW Delegation in New York and from the IAW Extended Board. We have two young journalists who are members of our DPI delegation who will help us with the project, Efua Owusu who will be doing the editing and Jessica Pierson who will be helping her. Please see attached guidelines on how to create a contribution to the vlog. I will launch the project among our members in July, the deadline for submitting contributions will be the end of September 2019. The editing will take three or four months and the final video will be shown at a parallel event during the NGO Forum CSW64. This vlog project will give a lot of visibility to IAW and amplify the voices of our membership, and more generally of women.....

Read more in the Members Area on the website: password is Berlin 1904

Announcement re: IAW Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer



The Ad Hoc Selection Committee convened for the purpose of finding a new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer thanks all candidates for their Expression of Interest and willingness to serve. Rest assured the organizations continue to rely on your friendship and support in all

initiatives.



After a thorough search, the process has come to a conclusion with the following recommendations to fill the positions:

Treasurer: Antonia Balkanska Lavine, Executive Director of the National

Council of Jewish Women San Francisco (NCJW-SF) and Coordinator of the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT)

Assistant Treasurer: Rahima Sajid, Finance Associate at the Malala Fund

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Hayles, Chair of the Ad Hoc Selection Committee,

Vice President North America.

[Read more.](#)

News from IAW International representatives New York

During the High Level Political Forum held at the UN in New York 9 to 19 July, Soon-Young Yoon, UN representative for IAW discussed the 2030 reform agenda during the NGO Major Group Annual meeting. IAW currently acts as an Operating Partner for North America in the NGO Major Group. Yoon noted that improvements needed to be made in the interlinkages framework of the NGO Major Group paper. She recommended that all members of the NGO Major Group learn more about the other major groups by joining them (there is no limit on memberships) so as to keep in touch with MG statements and concept papers.



Geneva

Lyda Verstegen, IAW main representative to Geneva writes:

at the request of Gudrun Haupter and approved by our President I cosigned an oral statement on the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of adolescents and youth delivered by ARROW, the Asian Pacific Resources and Research Centre for Women, at the 41st session of the UN Human Rights Council. The statement was supported and joined by over 300 civil society organisations and networks from across the globe. I am writing to share the final version in case you would like to share it on your social media and disseminate among your networks.

Link to the statement in English: <https://arrow.org.my/hrc41-joint-cso-statement-on-srhr-of-adolescents-and-youth/>

You may remember that a few years ago there was a report by WHO on the same subject, that we supported also. It is very important that young people and adolescents have the opportunity to receive a comprehensive sexual education.

More from Lyda Verstegen, Geneva

I went to the side event on the Human Right to Peace on the 26th of June.
I promised Rosy Weiss to collect the speech of Ambassador Chowdhury for the Newsletter.
Here it is.

<http://aeditdh.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Chowdhury-Geneva-26.6.19-2.pdf#page=1>

If you want to know more about the Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace, the speeches of the other distinguished speakers, please contact louisejonard@hotmail.com.
She is with the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law and kindly sent all the links to the speeches and the Draft Declaration.

Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

A/HRC/41/L.5/REV.1

After the International Labour Organisation adopted the landmark **Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (190)** last month, the Human Rights Council passed a resolution on Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in the world of work. It was initiated by Canada and approved without a vote.

The Convention was adopted at the Centennial Conference of ILO.

This new international labour standard aims to protect workers and employees irrespective of their contractual status, and includes persons in training, interns and apprentices, workers whose employment has been terminated, volunteers, job seekers and job applicants. It recognizes that 'individuals exercising the authority, duties or responsibilities of an employer' can also be subjected to violence and harassment.

The resolution is based on all human rights documents and is aimed at women and girls. It asks attention to intersecting instances of violence and harassment. It stresses the role of civil society and human rights defenders in advocating against violence and harassment. It pays attention to women in politics and journalists.

In short, it is a holistic approach to violence and harassment in the world of work, more than a Convention can ever set out to condemn.

Canada deserves congratulations for this all-encompassing resolution.



Reported by Lyda Verstegen



European Women's Lobby

Important Steps in 'Women for Europe' campaign

by Arina Angerman, representing IAW on the Board of European Women's Lobby.

New European Parliament with 40% (plus 8%) women as Members voted in favour of the first female President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. These can be seen as important steps and the result of 50:50 F/ M Women For Europe campaign by European Women's Lobby (EWL). You can find Ursula von der Leyen's [Opening Statement at 16th of July here](#).

*"If 1 in 5 women have already suffered physical or sexual violence in the European Union and 55% of women have been sexually harassed, this is clearly not a women's issue. I (Ursula von der Leyen, AA) will propose to **add violence against women on the list of EU crimes defined in the Treaty**. And the European Union should join the Istanbul Convention."*

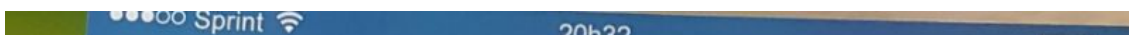
The EWL is delighted to hear this ... the Istanbul Conventions is the most comprehensive legal instrument to prevent and combat Violence Against Women and Girls.

'Making Europe Work for Women' is the title of European Women's Forum Public Event, which took place on June 6 2019 and was attended by 100 feminist activists from all over Europe. Both I and Alternate Board Member Marion Boeker attended this event with among others [Barbara Hendricks](#) who has become one of the world's most loved and admired musicians and has worked to promote and defend Human Rights. In my notebook 'Feminist With A To-Do list I wrote that Barbara Hendricks has learned from her mother: Never be dependent on a man".

During EWL's General Assembly we adopted Working Programme 2020 and elected

Ellen Calmon as Board Member and Brynhildur Heiðar- og Ómarsdóttir as Alternate Board Member for Iceland. In the photo, you can see me, Marion and Brynhildur. Ellen and Brynhildur represent IAW's affiliate Icelandic Women's Rights Association, which has fought for women's rights and gender equality since 1907.

Link to report and pictures from 2019 European Women's Forum's four days of strategising, learning and mobilising for women's rights. This Forum + was full of 'politics and friendship' <https://womenlobby.org/Our-2019-European-Women-s-Forum?lang=en>





News from the Peace Commission

New Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security: 2467
(April 2019)

Report by Heide Schütz, Convener

UN Sec Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security has already been followed by a number of resolutions focusing mainly on one of the three pillars which stress the aspect of women and girls as victims in conflict zones (e.g. 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013)). The agenda has always been to urge member states to commit themselves to end women's and girls' suffering from sexual violence, torture and cruel, racist.

inhuman or degrading treatment in conflict and war zones, furthermore in putting an end to the impunity of perpetrators and to give access to survivors to health services, medical and psychological care. Each resolution has had a small specific added value concerning victimised women and girls.

There is a new resolution now on Women, Peace and Security after the German-led bid during its presidency of the UN Security Council in April 2019. It was passed on April 23rd as UNSCR 2467. It should have been a highlight and a breakthrough for victimized girls and women in so far that female survivors of sexual violence in conflict zones should be given access to comprehensive and reproductive health care, in other words: abortion as a choice after rape. This has been demanded by NGOs and some government officials since long but the German move turned out to be a failure which- it has to be said - was to be foreseen in the present political situation. All "abortion language" had to be removed, otherwise, the US would have vetoed against the resolution as such. Russia and China resisted the proposal of a new working group which was to develop measures to address sexual crimes. It also had to be taken out. After difficult negotiations on different wording, Russia and China abstained, the US and the other 12 members of the SC voted in favour of the new resolution. The reaction of the UK was to say that they would continue to "support access to sexual and reproductive healthcare for survivors of sexual violence around the world. This is a priority. If we are to have a survivor-centred approach, we cannot ignore this important priority."

France and Belgium also expressed disappointment at the watered-down text. The French permanent representative to the UN said: "We are dismayed by the fact that one state has demanded the removal of the reference to sexual and reproductive health ... going against 25 years of gains for women's rights in situations of armed conflict." (quote from *The Guardian*).

When the German NGO Alliance 1325 on the implementation of UNSCR (Bündnis 1325) got to know about the eager plans of the German Foreign Ministry to work on a new resolution on WPS to fight all forms of sexual violence against women and girls in conflict and to fill the normative gaps the reaction was not to welcome this project but to warn that this new resolution might weaken what has been gained in years before. It is well known that women's right to self-determination is being denied by the US, China and Russia. The alliance demanded that energy should be focused instead on the implementation of the existing resolutions, first and far most.

Sadly enough, it has also to be pointed out that the implementation of the full participation of women as peace agents "in all peace processes on all levels" (UNSCR 1325) has been neglected at the same time.



**International conference on girls' and
women's education**



WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Report by Anne Pélagie YOTCHOU

The International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) and its partners organized with the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Chad, His Excellency Mr Idriss BEBY ITNO, an international conference on the theme "Education of girls and Training of women in the French-speaking space to ensure inclusion and gender equality in education through education.

The conference took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad from June 18 to 19, 2019.

The International Alliance of Women (IAW) was part of the event through two members: Anne Pélagie YOTCHOU from Cameroon and Rakia KABIA DIAKITE from Chad

[Read more](#)

[Read the article in French here](#)

The village Project of DFR in Togo, Région des Plateaux, in the first place helps women

Report by Gudrun Haupter



Deutscher Frauenring, DFR, for decades kept carrying on this project. In the years 1982 to 1985 I was travelling in Togo with Brigitte Pross, then a Vice-President of IAW. I soon became the main person responsible for the project CJDA, the Youth Centre at Danyi Atigba which first had as its mission to promote young people who looked for work in the cities. Stopping the rural exodus was a priority with UNESCO and, more or less by chance, I got gift bonuses amounting to 6000 Deutschmark. This fund completed funds obtained from the German Development Ministry, BMZ, earmarked for the training of carpenters and for the salaries of two instructors. The buildings, planned and overseen by a German architect whose wife worked nearby for the German Development Service, DED, is the result of all these efforts. Our priority remained the training of seamstresses and the first eight machines were collected by my collaborators and sent to Togo on the sea route. This is the history of the CJDA in short. DFR up to now remained the only sponsor. Julia represented the DFR at the Centennial celebrations of EEPT, Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Togo, District of Danyi Atigba.

Photo: Julia (former intern with DFR) with coordinator and pharmacist

[Read more](#)

[Read the article in French here](#)

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