

Reports for the IAW International Meeting 2019



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Editor

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President Joanna Manganara's report



Initiatives by the President

CSW63

This year I participated in the CSW63 at the head of an IAW Delegation of 33 members. The CSW63 session focused on issues at the heart of what matters in the daily lives of women

and girls. Issues included care challenges such as affordable child care, as well as healthcare, education, maternity protection, pensions, safe transport etc. This year CSW saw a record number of attendees, participants included more than 5000 representatives from civil society organisations around the world, nearly 2000 member state delegates and 86 ministers.

Amendments to the Zero Draft text CSW63

With the help of Cheryl Hayles and Lyda Verstegen I elaborated amendments to the CSW63 Zero Draft text which were submitted by Lyda Verstegen to the coordinator of NGOs for the Dutch Delegation.

Evaluation of CSW63 Agreed Conclusions

During the negotiations on the text of the agreed conclusions the US continued, as it did in the last two years, to undermine common international goals like those around reproductive rights, healthcare, climate change and family planning. A contentious issue was language on family. The US aligned itself with countries such as Poland, Hungary, Russia, some Gulf countries, Iraq, Malaysia, and some conservative African countries.

Protecting women's rights against this alliance were long time supporters of multilateral democracy such as Canada, Mexico, the European Union, and the Caribbean Latin America region. Africa remained a regional supporter of the rights of women. China waited until the document was approved to disengage itself from language around human rights, in particular, the rights of women human rights defenders. The Vice Chair of the session Ambassador Koki Muli Grignon from Kenya, who also facilitated the negotiations, publicly declared she had been cyber- bullied through a blog directed at her and her work at the CSW63.

Denial of visas

The problem of visa denials continued this year; 980 signatures against the denial of visas were collected during CSW63 including IAW's signature and a petition was delivered to Cherith Norman Chalet, US Ambassador.

Commemoration of Beijing +25

The fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 took place at a moment of great global optimism, when a new world order of cooperation was emerging after the end of the cold war. In this moment of optimism the Beijing Platform for Action set in place a set of global commitments to gender equality based on fundamental human rights, with a clear statement about state responsibility in delivering on the commitments that were made.

25 years after the Beijing conference we have seen much progress but also deep regression and polarisation of the gender equality agenda.

IAW vlog (video) project

During the meeting of the IAW Delegation at the Greek mission in New York in March 2019 we discussed the idea of an IAW vlog project to commemorate Beijing+ 25. This is another way of doing things that can be of substance and can also be enjoyable during the process.

We will be collecting a series of vlogs from our IAW affiliates and associates as well as individual members to raise women's voices at the global level. In particular, the setbacks, challenges, and achievements made in their countries during these 25 years on gender equality and women's human rights, as well as contributions by themselves or their organisations to these achievements. We will be collaborating with two young journalists who are members of our DPI Delegation, Efua A-H Owusu and Jessica Pierson, to do this job.

IAW Declaration 2018

- 'Fighting inequalities, in particular gender inequalities by resisting the shrinking space of civil society.'
- The Declaration was presented by me to our Board meeting in Berlin, 23rd - 28th October 2018. No amendments were presented to the text by our membership, so the text should be adopted by the IAW at IM/Board meeting in Geneva in October 2019.

CSW63 Statement by IAW

- IAW written statement submitted to CSW63 'Sustainable infrastructure as a driver for gender equality and women's human rights'.

CSW63 Statements signed by IAW

- NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Vienna
- Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas
- ECOSOC members of NGO CSW/Vienna
- Graduate Women International
- Women's Federation for World Peace International
- Make mothers Matter 'Making Social Protection Work for Mothers
- Canadian Federation of University Women 'Promoting gender equality through quality public education systems and services'
- Widows for Peace in Democracy

CSW63 Parallel event by Olufunmi Oluyede

Parallel event by Olufunmi Oluyede 'Gender mainstreaming in infrastructure, services, social protection: Global legal critique' Sponsored by the American Bar Association section of international law, government and public interest committee. Supported by the International Bar Association women lawyers interest group.

Statement by President Joanna Mangana: 'Mainstreaming Gender in Sustainable Infrastructure: A powerful driver for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights.'

Presidents' Newsletters

- Education and Gender Equality
- IAW Delegation meeting in New York during CSW63 - minutes
- Evaluation of CSW63 Agreed Conclusions
- CSW63 Summary of Discussions
- 'Tackling FGM: Mobilising Women and Communities to end this abhorrent practice', FGM is a global phenomenon that requires grassroots, locally led activism for sustainable attitude change.

IWN Journal

Vol. 114 No 1 Women and climate change

Women's Rights historical monuments

In March 2019 we were informed of a historical women's rights monument which was approved by the Public Design Commission of New York to be installed in Central Park depicting Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth C Stanton, both well known activists for the rights of women to vote. In 1902, together with Carrie Chapman Catt, they invited representatives from international suffrage societies to a meeting of the American Suffrage Association in Washington, the outcome of which was the formal inauguration in Berlin in 1904 of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance which evolved into the International Alliance of Women.

I have congratulated Signe Nielsen, President of the Public Design Commission and Pam Elam, President of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B Anthony Statue Fund for this initiative. We consider that the installation of these statues in Central Park represents a broader push to increase the presence of women in the statuary of New York.

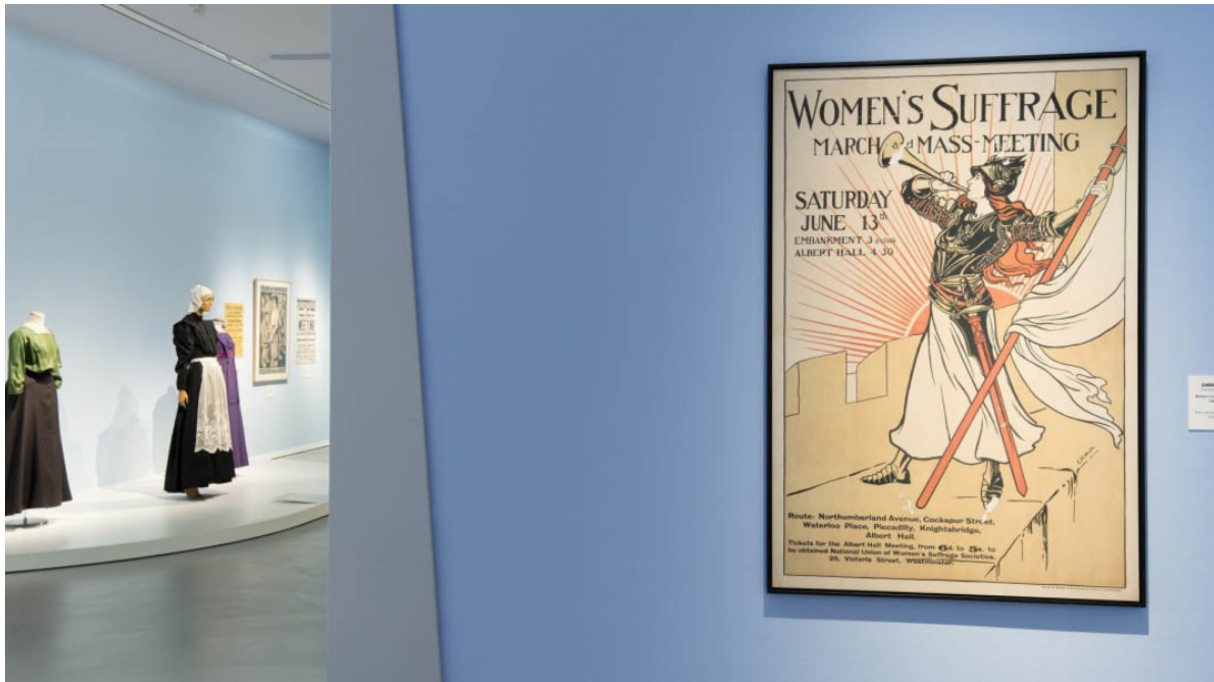
International Women's Day

To commemorate International Women's Day on the 8th of March 2019 we posted on our website a statement from Pakistani and Indian feminists which calls for peace in the region. Among their recommendations to both governments is a de-escalation of the current situation, prevention of armed confrontation, and insurance that the rhetoric of hyper nationalism and religious fundamentalism is curbed in both countries.

Human Rights Day

On the 10th of December 2018 I posted a statement on the IAW website about the need to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights not only on one day but to make an effort to realise women's human rights every day of the year.

IAW Banner exhibition in the Groninger Museum



Struggle! 100 Years of Women's Suffrage. Courtesy of Groninger Museum & the photographer Marten de Leeuw

The exhibition took place on the occasion of 100 years since the Dutch Parliament adopted women's suffrage. The exhibition was accompanied by a book by Professor Mineke Bosch. The banner was handcrafted in the Art-Centre HV in Stockholm, Sweden in gold and white silk embroidery. The banner was initiated at the 6th International Congress of the Women's Suffrage Alliance in Stockholm in 1911. After being circulated to a number of places where we have our annual meetings the banner suffered some damage. The Groninger Museum offered to repair the damage at a low cost and paid the insurance agreement and the transfer of the banner to the Groninger Museum in the Netherlands and back to Athens.

The Groninger Museum sent us the condition report of the IAW banner before and after reparation as was specified in the loan agreement with the Museum. This report is very important for any future problems with the banner and informs us the best way these should be handled.

Change of IAW Address

The IAW is registered in the Geneva Canton in Switzerland and has received tax exoneration from the fiscal authorities in Geneva. IAW is a long term accredited NGO at the UN and its agencies and has general consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947. IAW has recently been asked by the Welcome Centre/Geneva International to establish a new official address. The one we had up to now belonged to a member of ours who was Indian and has left Switzerland for her native country after her husband, who worked for WHO, retired. We were informed that a fiduciary agency could be mandated as an official residential address (domiciliation) in Geneva. We had a domiciliation offer by a Swiss agency with which we made an agreement at 100 Swiss Francs a month for about three months. As there was a lot of resistance to this decision by our membership we asked our Swiss affiliate in Lausanne if they could help us, which they did. IAW now has a Geneva address of a member of ours that we have communicated to the Geneva authorities.

Draft Global Compact on Migrants and Refugees.

Rosy Weiss took the initiative to circulate the above texts to the Extended Board of IAW which agreed that the draft Global Compact on Migration is consistent with IAW policy in this area. This text was adopted at a UN conference in Marrakech, Morocco, at the beginning of December 2018. The Extended Board also agreed that the draft Global Compact on Refugees was consistent with IAW policy in this area. This document was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 as part of the 2018 report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Ad-hoc selection committee for a Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer and two members of the Financial Advisory Commission

Rosy Weiss, who was elected interim Treasurer during our Congress in Nicosia, Cyprus, informed the Board she wanted to step down if possible after IM Lahore. As a result of her decision we had to look for a new Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer as well as two members of

the Financial Advisory Commission. For that reason I constituted an ad-hoc selection committee with Cheryl Hayles at the head; Rosy Weiss, Austria; Kalyani Raj, India; Azadeh Khalili, Iran as members and myself as ex officio member. In early February we launched the recruitment process and circulated the relevant documents. We also publicised on LinkedIn. All positions are voluntary and the candidates must be available to attend Board Meetings and Congress. The process was finalised in July, letters of appointment were sent by the President to the two candidates who had been selected, Antonia Balanska Lavine from Bulgaria as Treasurer and Rahima Sayid from Pakistan as Assistant Treasurer.

DPI

DPI, the Department of Public Information at the UN was established in 1947, official relations between DPI and NGOs date back to 1968. ECOSOC resolution 1297 called on DPI to associate NGOs with effective information programs in place and thus disseminate information about issues on the UN's agenda and the work of the organisation. IAW has held general consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947. Each year NGOs associated with DPI have to produce an annual report of their activities. In 2017 IAW failed to submit such a report on time because we were not given our login details. In order to sort out this problem I arranged an appointment in New York with Mr. Jeffrey Brez, who is the new chief of NGO Relations and Advocacy at DPI and Mr. Felipe Quiapo, NGO Relations and Advocacy. During this meeting misunderstandings were cleared up. I am now the focal point of IAW for DPI and I was given login details. On the 3rd of June 2019 I submitted the IAW 2018 annual review report to DPI which was accepted. The five members of our DPI Delegation have now collected their badges.

Conferences

Conference on the education of women and girls in the francophone space to ensure gender equality in and by education, Ndjamen, Chad 18-19 June 2019.

The Executive has agreed to an exception to finance Anne Pelagie's participation in this meeting and pay her travel and expenses in Chad to allow her to make a presentation of the project 'Water and Pads' and try to win support for it from other countries.

Conference invitations to President Joanna Manganara

World Council of Churches

I was invited to a Conference by the World Council of Churches on 14th May 2019 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Families.

Canadian Federation of University Women

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2019 and has invited me, as IAW President, to attend the event. CFUW AGM and Conference will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Fort Garry Hotel from August 15 to 17, 2019.

Winnipeg is the location of their meeting since it was in Winnipeg in 1919 that representatives of the University Women's Clubs of Canada met to organize the Canadian Federation of University Women.

UNESCO Prizes

UNESCO Prize for Girl's and Women's Education (GWE)

On the 20th May 2019 IAW submitted the nomination of NGO MELHA Ernestine Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH) for the project "Appui à la scolarisation des filles handicapées au Cameroun" for the 2019 edition of this prize.

UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy

On the 13th June 2019 IAW submitted the nomination of Dr. Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa for the 2019 edition of the prize.

Yearbook of International Organisations

Liesbeth Van Hulle, Editor-in-Chief of this Yearbook requested that IAW review the text on our organisation that was included in it. We have revised and corrected the information

included. This text could be helpful to us on many occasions; we can also send it to other Yearbooks of International organisations.

Letters, petitions signed by IAW

Shortfall of funding, CEDAW session 2019

We have signed a letter to the Permanent Representatives to the UN in Geneva and New York and to UN Secretary-General António Guterres. This letter has to do with the likely postponement of the CEDAW session in the final quarter of 2019, due in large part to delays of member states in paying their contributions. This comes in the wake of a pushback against human rights, in particular a major pushback on women's rights on a global scale. The CEDAW review session is an increasingly rare space in which civil society organisations and women's human rights defenders can articulate and access support for the struggle they face in their countries. At a time when civil society spaces are shrinking in many national contexts it is all the more crucial that impunity for human rights violations can continue to be challenged at the UN level.

Resolution on the commemoration of the UN's 75th Anniversary in 2020

IAW endorsed a sign-on letter addressed to the co-facilitators, appointed by the President of the GA, responsible for organising the negotiations of the GA resolution mandating the modalities for the 75th anniversary commemoration event in 2020 at the UN, asking for civil society inclusion.

Amnesty International

IAW signed an Amnesty International petition in support of ten women human rights defenders' cases in November 2018.

Women and Climate Change Act - USA

Soon-Young has signed a letter in the name of IAW concerning the re-introduction of the Women and Climate Change Act by Congresswoman Barbara Lee. The Act aims to develop coordinated strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on women and girls around

the world. Senator Mazie Hirono supports the bill, marking the first time that a US Senate member publicly supports the bill since its original introduction from Congresswoman Barbara Lee in 2018.

WHO statement

We have signed a statement towards a more meaningful engagement of WHO with civil society.

Global Statement on the 20th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders IAW signed this statement by CIVICUS.

Human Rights Council 41: Joint CSO Statement on sexual and Reproductive health and rights of adolescents and youth. IAW signed this statement by Arrow.

New applications for membership/partnership with IAW

Mandy Asagba, President of African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA), has applied for organizational membership/partnership with IAW.

Obituary - Alice Marangopoulos

I have written an obituary for Alice Marangopoulos, 10th President of the IAW (1989 – 1996) who passed away in September 2018 and circulated it to our membership.

President of the European Court of Human Rights

I have sent a letter of congratulations to Mr. Linos Sicilianos nephew of Alice Marangopoulos, past President of the IAW on his election as President of the European Court of Human Rights.

South Africa Rural Women's Movement continues advocacy against the Traditional Courts Bill to protect their land rights

Two months before the May 2019 elections the ANC led Parliament passed, for the third time, the traditional courts bill which would allow chiefs of the former apartheid established homelands to have legislative, executive and judicial powers all rolled into one. The women's and human rights movements (including Sizani's Rural Women's Movement) have previously blocked this bill at the stage of provincial consultations. Now they have to do the work again. Sizani Ngubane was invited to speak on the radio, TV etc on how they have challenged the king of Zulus at the high court for forcing people to enter into lease agreements on land they already own.

Joanna Manganara

**Report on Activities of the Executive Vice President of IAW 2018 - 2019 by
Natalie Kostus**

Executive Vice President, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, and Representative to the United Nations, IAW- International Alliance of Women



As the Executive Vice President of IAW, I raised the profile of IAW and provided strategic leadership in the Board Meeting in Berlin, delegation meeting in the Greek mission, and online discussions.

To better fulfill the IAW mission of promoting women's rights, I supported the diversity of views in IAW. I advocated that different opinions lead to better outcomes. I promoted a culture of respect and appreciation for the work of many extraordinary IAW women, who are experts and leaders in their fields. I focused on strengthening a culture of transparency in taking decisions, openness, and inclusiveness, where every member feels valued, supported, and safe to express her or his views.

"To all IAW Members and Friends, a big thank you for your hard work. Thank you for organizing and going to governmental and civil society meetings and for staying late to strategize. Thank you for providing your expertise, writing, editing, and translating reports, articles, and position papers. Thank you for contributing your resources and your time. It is

thanks to your important work that IAW can to advocate for women's rights and empower women around the world. I continue to be inspired by you." – Natalie Kostus

My highlight of 2018-2019 was my keynote address at the City of Buenos Aires event on economic autonomy of women, and my contribution to the labor inclusion of women strategy for the city. The Argentinian TV interviewed me, and I spoke at an event with women government leaders. It was an honor to be invited to the EU Parliament by prof. Bogusław Liberadzki, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), who spoke on the state of play of women in the EU. I was the point of contact for new members interested in joining IAW that rose in numbers compared to previous years:

- AWLA-Africa - African Women Lawyers Association Africa is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-sectarian, professional organization of women lawyers in Nigeria and Africa generally.
- ACRIDES - Associação Crianças Desfavorecidas (Disadvantaged Children Association) from Cape Verde is a national non-profit organization focused on helping the most vulnerable children, youth, and families.
- OMDF- L'Observatoire Marocain des Droits des Femme (the Moroccan Observatory for Women's Rights) is a Moroccan NGO committed to the promotion of women's human rights.
- MMF / ANBF- Marche Mondiale des Femmes Action Nationale du Burkina Faso (World March of Women National Action of Burkina Faso) has 168 member organizations spread across the provincial committees of the national territory of Burkina Faso. MMF / ANBF is a movement of women in Burkina Faso for the reduction of female poverty, violence against women and girls, the promotion of peace, and the protection of the environment.
- WILPF Sierra Leone- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom National Section in Sierra Leone is an advocacy organization for women's rights, better legal protections for women, and women's participation in civil society.
- Crown-SL - Christian Response Women's Network Sierra Leone is a non-profit organization committed to fighting against trafficking in persons, and protection against all forms of discrimination, abuse, and exploitation, as well as promoting

peace, human rights, socio-economic empowerment of youth, disadvantaged people, women and children, including girls.

- ABCD - Actions pour le Bien-être Communautaire et son Développement (Actions for the Community Wellbeing and its Development) is a non-profit organization in Burundi. ABCD is promoting the integration of the gender perspective in strengthening peace for sustainable development in Burundi.
- SheFFA- Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting is a non-profit organization in the USA. SheFFA works to educate college students about FGM/C through educational advocacy workshops and providing healing cultural-based support group for women who have undergone this practice (over half a million girls and women in the United States).
- HVU- Healthcare Volunteer Uganda is a non-profit organization located in the central part of Uganda. HVU empowers all individuals, focuses on orphans, vulnerable children, HIV positive children, and women. HVU works to create an environment where quality health care services are accessible to the entire community.
- Hope for the Future Organization is a charity in Uganda and a non-profit organization. Hope for the Future works with women, young girls, and orphaned children to empower them to live productive, self-sustaining, and improved lives.

IAW Asia-Pacific Regional Report by Sheila Byard



Sheila Byard OAM

Over 60 percent of the world's women live in the Asia-Pacific Region, one of the five regions recognised by the United Nations. In terms of the Sustainable Development Goals and the issue of climate change the countries of the Asia-Pacific face many challenges especially those nations along the Ring of Fire. The Asia Pacific Region has five sub-regions. Central Asia, East Asia, Pacific, S.E.Asia and South Asia. Despite much work women are still under-represented in the Parliaments of the region.

The issues facing the Pacific Region are highlighted in the reportage through the UN Information Centres. UNIC Canberra is a formal UN presence in Australia and the principal local source of information about the United Nations system for Australia, NZ and Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu. Similarly, local office of UN High Commission on Refugees is responsible for the promotion and protection of refugee rights in the region which includes Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific; the World Bank's Pacific island member countries have a population of about 3.4 million people, spread across hundreds of islands, and scattered over an area equivalent to 15 percent of the globe's surface. UN offices also exist in Fiji, including UNICEF with three field offices in Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The Joint Country Presence has seen UNICEF Pacific also present on the ground in Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Nauru with partner UN agencies, UNDP and UNFPA, and the UN Women

Pacific Sub Regional Office which works alongside the 19 other UN agencies in the region and in 15 countries: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

While these entities and government across the region supply a variety of reports those working for equality, development and peace in the region rely on the other links developed Civil Society Organisations, and individual feminists across the region in the Pacific for example FEMLINK Asia Pacific and via overseas development aid agencies working in partnership with local NGOs in recognising the links between health, education, social services, housing stability, economic justice, land ownership and cultural sources of violence against women. Through program partnerships, advocacy, research and coalition work seek to encourage 'women and peace' approaches to armed conflict and post conflict settlements. International Asia Pacific Women's Watch monitors, reviews and reports on the status of women in the Asia-Pacific Region. APWW is a large voluntary activism network based in the Asia and Pacific Region who work on Women's Rights and the Advancement of Women, and is Non-Governmental Organisation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (since September 2007). Its member groups monitor and collaborates with the United Nations, national governments and non-government organisations (NGOs) in empowering women and advancing their human rights.

With the coming of with the 25th anniversary of the 4th World Conference in Women and the Beijing Platform for Action, CSOs seeking to revisit critical areas of concern have benefited greatly from the careful preparatory work by the NGO CSW NY group to ensure CSOs/ NGOs will be ready for Beijing + 25. This is a vital opportunity to examine progress, look at challenges, and make recommendations on how their countries have implemented the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). [NGO Guidance for Parallel Reports](#) has a very useful section comparing the Beijing PFA with CEDAW and the Sustainable Development Goals. With the passing of each decade from the 4th World Conference, it is vital for new generations of active women to take up the challenge of getting a balance between

addressing the broad question of sustainability and the application of a gender lens to the issues of the day.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has the responsibility of leading the regional review of Beijing+25, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and with the support of the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (RCM-TWG-GEEW). The regional review will culminate in the *Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review*, which will take place in November 2019, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok. Across the region CSOs are hard at work preparing their country reports in time for the Bangkok meeting and submitting proposals for side events.

Thanks to IAW members and friends who share their knowledge of what is happening across the region including Carole Shaw(Asia Pacific Women's Watch), Dr Helen Hill (Associate Professor, Universidade Nacional **Timor** Loro Sa'e), Judith van Unen (JERA International), Melba Marginson (Australians for Philippine Human Rights Network), Pat Richardson, OAM, and Priscilla Todd IAW News.

Regional Vice President Cheryl Hayles' report – North America



Cheryl Hayles, Regional Vice President

- Met with the Canadian delegation to UNCSW63 at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York.
- Encouraged articles for the IAW newsletter from Canadian women on their experiences at the UNCSW63.
- Attended IAW Board meeting in New York in March 2019.
- Networked and built relationships at UNCSW63 to strengthen the mission of IAW.
- Sent congratulatory letter to winners of the “Concours de la Parole” initiated by the University Women’s Club of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Chaired the Ad Hoc Selection Committee which successfully filled the positions of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Used technology as a tool to support the search; LinkedIn, Skype. As a result IAW now has a LinkedIn account.

- Made contributions to the website and newsletter as a member of the Editorial Team.
- Collaborated with the Chair of the Editorial Committee on the continual improvement of the website.
- Updated and kept IAW Facebook page active with current issues/news. Page has 2, 582 followers.
- Contacted individuals and organizations to introduce IAW and encourage membership to expand the IAW family.
- Reviewed, updated and submitted the 2019 Quadrennial Report for IAW (March 2019) in consultation with key stakeholders of IAW.
- Promoted vlog project in preparation for UNCSW64.

COMMISSIONS

Report of the Health Commission by convener Gudrun Haupter

General information

Presently the Commission has **ten members from different regions and countries**, most have been with the Commission for many years.

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

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

Core issues of the AP have been focused on and have been brought to the attention of my networks in Germany and elsewhere.

Highlights of the work of the Commission

A. Menstrual health management, MHM, has become a well-known concern to IAW member organizations, and – thanks to Ursula Nakamura’s systematic activities to promote the IAW project and thanks to our, the coordinators’ close collaboration – the IAW Project on **Water and Pads for Schoolgirls – Empowerment for life** – advances step by step.

<https://iawwaterandpads.jimdofree.com/> in English and French has plenty of information about the IAW Project. The site is linked to the IAW Homepage.

The texts are partly reports from the coordinators of our partnering member organizations.

The IAW Project has been conceived as an educational activity, and we focus on working with print material.

The status quo is the wide-spread ignorance of schoolgirls and their environment about menstruation. It hampers their development and prevents them from leading a self-determined life. Existing taboos, myths and pre-conceived ideas are obstacles on their way to leave traditional pattern behind.

So far 3 member organizations, Cefap/Ladies Circle Cameroon, SOFFEDEC, RDCongo and RENATA, Cameroon have successfully staged sensibilization events at schools to inform about the necessity for change. Our African partners collaborated with teachers of the schools they selected. Both Anne, the coordinator of CEFAP and Anuarite, coordinator of SOFFEDEC, report that students were eager to receive a booklet, answer questions and be

involved. Due to fears of military unrest activities had to be put off in Zimbabwe. Events organized by other IAW partner organizations will follow after the summer recess. By then all the booklets Ursula shipped should have arrived. Quality copies of 4 booklets have been printed in Switzerland.

The booklets in French and English for the elementary level selected from the internet are:

ABCs d’être une Fille respectively **ABCs of being a Girl**.

The booklets in French and English for the secondary level based on information used by SSH are:

“Hé-Les Miss!” Entering Womanhood respectively **“Hé-Les Miss!” Devenir Femme en toute confiance**.

Fitting in the logo of IAW/AIF, as well as getting beautiful photos of African children for the booklets adapted from Swiss Sexual Health (a member of IPPF) and a very pleasant layout – all this was achieved by Ursula, with the help of Swiss friends.

Seema Uplekar proposed to translate the booklets into national languages as well, but this exceeds our means. We are grateful for the amount of voluntary work at all levels and keep hoping for more funds.

Copyrights needed efforts from both Ursula and me. We used private channels to obtain them.

B. At the International UNESCO Conference on *Girls' Education in Francophone Africa and professional training of Women* Anne met her IAW colleague, Commission member Rakia Kabia Diakite from Chad.

They informed participants about the WP-project. Anne who was funded by IAW had brought along plenty of information. This turned out to be a very successful PR-action for our project documented on

<https://iawwaterandpads.jimdofree.com/> I was involved in the planning and happy that we succeeded.

Other IAW information channels

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

The April Newsletter had a progress report on the IAW Project Water and Sanitary Pads for Schoolgirls.

In the June Newsletter several Commission members wrote articles on health issues:

- Seema Uplekar and Ursula Nakamura reported on the WHA, the yearly meeting of WHO Member States, and side-events. Their report for the booklet has details about IAW at WHO. Agenda items they attended were Universal Health Coverage UHC, Mental Health, Health emergencies like the Ebola epidemics in North Kivu, DR Congo; a panel on a new book: “WHO recommendations on adolescents sexual and reproductive health and rights”. Due to a sudden change of the agenda Seema could not present the IAW statement, but Ursula and Seema distributed a leaflet on the WP-Project.
- I wrote in English and French on progress in the IAW Project Water and Sanitary Pads for Schoolgirls.

In the August Newsletter and on the IAW homepage Anne reported in detail in English and French on the Conference in Djamena/Chad.

My report on the history and the present state of the Project of Deutscher Frauenring in rural Togo can be read in both IAW media, too.

The series of **Letters to the Commission has been continued.** Currently we are at No. 41

As to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) widely known concerns of the IAW are Female genital Mutilation/cutting; Sexual violence and exploitation; The Zika bug; Child marriage; Improved access to family planning including access to safe and legal abortion to prevent, inter alia, Maternal death and Maternal morbidity. A less-widely known threat to women’s and girls’ rights and safety has been a standard issue in all Letters: **Menstrual health management**, MHM, and progress in carrying out the IAW-project.

Women’s Health Rights often fail to be met in those non-communicable diseases (NCD) that hit only women, such as cervical cancer. This women-specific issue needs to be urgently

dealt with. Prevention and early detection tools exist but are not available to women in countries that lack the required medical infrastructure. A less demanding alternative to regular pap smears exists but is not propagated.

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

Information on some of the issues has been signaled to me by Commission Members. In agreement with the IAW President we also endorsed initiatives to improve the lot of women and girls who are unable to act on their own.

Other IAW members like Alison Brown mailed me inquiries she received. Among them a questionnaire by a scientist of the University of the City of London on issues like "Key advancements in SRHR since the ICPD", and "Loss of gains because of a less active transnational feminist Sexual and reproductive health and rights movement".

Report on Activities of the Commission on Climate Change 2018 - 2019

by Natalie Kostus



During the 2018-2019, I led our work on climate change, working closely with members of the Commission on Climate Change on the implementation of the IAW Action Programme on Climate Change 2018-2020.

Fulfilling part 1 of the Climate Change Programme that focuses on implementation actions within the IAW, such as exchange of information and support to member organizations to engage in climate change policy:

- I spoke at the CSW 63 side event organized by the Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (CECOEDECON), Movement for Action & Understanding on Sustainability and Mutuality (MAUSAM), and Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values in India (PAIRVI), on Gender Critical to Climate Change Response. I spoke on the just transition and gender-responsive mechanisms in the context of Katowice COP 24. Solutions targeted rural women's leadership on climate change adaptation and mitigation on key sectors: energy, water, and agriculture.
- I led a thematic discussion during the IAW Board Meeting in Berlin, together with Commission Member Soon Young Yoon. The discussion focused on CEDAW- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women General Recommendation No. 37 on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change and UNFCCC- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 24 in Katowice. The Recommendation is a crucial policy tool to hold governments and other stakeholders accountable for their obligations for concrete actions, specific

laws, policies, and budgets to address discrimination against women in disaster risk reduction and climate change. CEDAW addressed women and climate change and disaster risk reduction in concluding remarks on Solomon Islands, Guinea, Grenada, Jamaica, Seychelles, Togo, Algeria, New Zealand, Chile, Belarus, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Tuvalu. We strategized for advocacy at the UNFCCC COP 24 in Katowice - a major industrial and coal-producing region in Poland. IAW members, Chairs of Commissions, and International Representatives shared their experiences to enhance our work on climate change and women's rights across all areas. IAW Members can use CEDAW Recommendation in their work on the national and local levels.

- I provided expertise and support to IAW Members so that they can effectively engage with governments, and participate in policy processes on climate change.
- I achieved a transformation of IAW on climate change. Regarded as a crucial issue for IAW, climate change is receiving much attention and support within the IAW leadership and in the IAW member organizations. Members of the Commission are taking up climate change initiatives. IAW published International Women's News on climate change with articles on climate justice and women's leading role in mitigation and adaptation, alternative energy, as well as advocacy and policy, with concrete examples of actions in Vietnam, Uganda, and Sweden.
- Fulfilling the implementation of part 2 of the Climate Change Programme that focuses on the policy that IAW promotes, and recognizing women's priorities, specific indicators, and adequate financing:
- I advocated during the CSW 63, working with governments to enhance climate change language in the outcome document, together with Commission Members.

Fulfilling the implementation of part 3 of the Climate Change Programme, that focuses on engagement in climate change negotiations:

- I advocated for women's rights at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties

COP 24 in Katowice, Poland, together with Commission Members

- I spoke at side events, including on the role of the private sector, women's access to climate finance, and strengthening the participation of women in climate change decision making.
- I joined efforts with the women's groups at COP 24, together with Commission Members.
- I am active in the preparations process for the Climate Action Summit in New York.

Commission on Human Rights by Lyda Verstegen, Convener

Geneva Human Rights

For 115 years, IAW/AIF has been fighting for suffrage for women. Has much changed since we got the vote in most countries, the last being Saudi Arabia where women can vote in local elections?

Well, yes, women have become more visible in public life, often they work, be it not paid the same as men, or in what they have always done: informal unpaid work. But there are teachers and police women, ministers and members, even Presidents of parliaments. There are conferences of women like the Congress of African Women Artisans in Morocco in November. They speak in the CSW, we have UN Women to speak for us.

We have the Sustainable Development Goals promising to leave no one behind. We have CEDAW and Cities for Cedaw there where the country does not ratify it. Many of us work tirelessly to eliminate Early and Forced Marriages, FGM/cutting, violence against women and girls and statelessness.

We have much to be proud of, and many governments, like Sweden and Canada, saying the right things. But not without women, who insist on their rights, their own and those of people who are not heard.

We have the United Nations as our allies, especially Unicef, UNHCR, WHO and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

And yet, there is a call to sign Feminist Benchmarks for a Successful Beijing+25 Process that are so utopian that I would not sign them.

I believe in advocacy and legal literacy for all!

There are groups who risk to be left behind: widows, grown ups and children.

There are the child widows about whom I wrote in the August Newsletter (on top).

Margaret Owen, an 87 year old British lawyer, is actively promoting widows' rights, and those of 'half widows', the women whose husbands are abducted or missing in action or

forcibly disappeared. Yesterday, August 30, was the International Day of Victims of Forced Disappearances, millions of these halfwidows are there in so many conflict afflicted countries. They need information, justice, reparations and support. So she is a peace activist as well. I met both Mohinder Watson and Margaret Owen in Geneva when I attended the side event on Peace. And I promised them to tell their stories.

Others who are risking to be left behind are children without birth registration and consequently without nationality. They do not have a legal personality and so are not eligible for health care, don't receive an education, can't open a bank account, can't get a passport, among other things.

'Gender Discrimination and Childhood Statelessness' is a document of a global coalition to end gender discrimination. UNHCR, UNICEF, the Francophonie and many others are members. They have catalogued the laws that discriminate against women and sometimes men in passing their nationality to their children. I have been concerned about this for years, IAW has a resolution to do away with the lack of birth registration. There are many initiatives in this field:

In 2016 WHO and Unicef wrote a paper on how birth registration could take place in the hospital where the baby was born. I went to WHO in Geneva and found a woman who was trying to get death registration off the ground. I had a contact in New York but did not hear from her after I told her this. In the WHO paper I read that the World Bank is giving lessons in how to establish a Civil Registration System. There was not much information on their website about this. Now there is this new approach through trying to change discriminatory laws.

With Mohinder Watson, who did not have a birth certificate when she was taken to England by her parents, we plan to bring all those organisations together in a side event in March.

Committees

Constitution committee, convener Lyda Verstegen

When we sent the bylaws adopted in Berlin to all the members, we said that the bylaw on privacy would probably have to be changed. Now it has indeed been added to to make it more compliant with the GDPR.

You can find it on the website, to be confirmed in the board meeting.

**Report from The Communications Unit by Lene Pind,
Head of Communications Unit**



Reports by Lene Pind for the International Meeting in Geneva 2019

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

IAW Membership Secretary

At the Board Meeting in Berlin I presented the database, which was then quite new, and I was not yet quite familiar with it.

Since then the data of all members and subscribing libraries have been keyed in, and we now have a complete register of our members and subscribers. The data stored in the database are: name, address, country, year of joining, information about membership fee and for members who occupy/ied a position in IAW (President, Board member, international rep etc.) information about what position and year(s).

It has been a tremendous job to collect all the data, to key them in, get the corrections etc. Fortunately, I have had the archives of Joke Sebus and Pat Richardson, former Membership Secretary, just as Rosy Weiss, Treasurer has been a great help.

I have been in contact with all the National Collectors. The national collectors are vital to IAW, and I look forward to a continued good working relationship.

Members have been invoiced through the database and, once we get a routine established, this will work well.

As I expected, after this first round of invoicing of individual members, quite a few have been deleted. Many have not been invoiced for years and are surprised to be invoiced. Others just don't respond, and if they don't pay, I believe they should be deleted. I'll spend some of the autumn sending reminders to individual members in arrears.

It will be necessary to describe in detail how the work of invoicing should be shared between the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary.

I welcome Holly Walker as my assistant. I am teaching her how to work with the database, so that IAW is not dependent on one person only. Thanks, Holly for being so anxious to learn!

There is still a lot to be done with the database if we really want to use its potential. Holly and I are working on some plans.

GDPR commission

GDPR commission:

In Berlin the IAW protection of privacy policy was adopted. The Commission has made contributions to the expanded texts on the IAW privacy policy. The Commission will monitor changes in GDPR rules or interpretations and the flow of data in IAW.

Communications Unit

Newsletter

The Newsletter has been sent out six times a year. It focusses on news about IAW for IAW and by IAW members. It is a members' newsletter, and I hope it serves its purpose.

Until August this year Joke Sebus sent out the Newsletter and International Women's News from her personal computer. She has done this for many years, and earlier this year she asked to be relieved of the job. The job of sending out these rather big numbers of emails has caused her many problems including crashed computers and virus attacks. Also, her provider started complaining, and so it was time to change the procedure.

The August Newsletter was sent out using MailChimp, an internationally used tool for mailings. The advantage of using this is that email addresses are not stored in my personal computer or anybody else's personal computer, but transferred from the database to MailChimp, where it is safely stored and protected according to the privacy policies of MailChimp. MailChimp provides analyses and statistical information about how the Newsletter is received by the readers/members.

With the growing Francophone activities in IAW, I propose that we find a French co-editor of the Newsletter.

Website-editor: Lene Pind

Scott Dempster is our webmaster. His work is sponsored by Cheryl Hayles. THANK YOU, CHERYL. Having a professional webmaster has meant an awful lot to the website in terms of both design and security. The website as such has been running smoothly since the relaunching in September 2018. Ursula Nakamura–Stoecklin has added a special website related to the Water and Pads project.

Danielle Levy is the editor of the French section of the website.

The online payment system has been reorganized. When the online system was first set up, IAW used FirstPoint in Switzerland to provide the service of establishing the connection between the website and the bank. The website is kept updated but the plugin created by FirstPoint was not. The result was that at a certain point it broke. To have it updated we would have to pay FirstPoint, and this would have to be done regularly – at a horrendous price.

After consultations among Scott Dempster, Rosy Weiss as treasurer, Alison Brown as the person responsible for the domain, Cheryl as the donor of Scott's pay, Christina and Natalie as experienced IT users, Lyda Verstegen as a member of the GDPR Commission and Lene Pind as editor of the website and convener of the GDPR commission, it was decided to use Stripe (instead of FirstPoint and Aduno). Christina and Natalie have suggested that we add PayPal as an option. This is still under consideration. Stripe is cheaper than PayPal.

Scott Dempster handles the technical aspect of installing the new system and keeping it updated. This is a much cheaper solution in the long run than FirstPoint, and what is even more important, we are independent of FirstPoint. Stripe and the way Scott has set it up is much clearer and is much more helpful to the Treasurer.

International Women's News

- editor Priscila Todd

One edition has been produced during 2019. The second edition has been delayed due to a malware attack on Priscilla Todd's computer system.

Social Media

-Editor: Anne Pelagie

Booklet of annual reports

- editor Christina Knight

Christina Knight took over as editor of the Booklet at the Board meeting in Berlin 2018. The 2019 edition will be presented at the International Meeting in Geneva.

Working Group:

Water and Pads for Schoolgirls – Empowerment for Life

by the Coordinators Ursula Nakamura and Gudrun Haupter

Let us recall the goals of the IAW WP project – they are

dismantling

- all barriers which prevent girls from attending school during their menstrual cycle in the African, Asian and South-American region, with special regard to IAW-member countries

promoting

- provision of washable and reusable sanitary pads, if possible produced in a local project,
- health education, particularly addressing the taboo aspects,
- self-confidence of girls about womanhood and the knowledge about equality of men and women,
- knowledge about the full sexual and reproductive health rights of girls in particular in rural areas,
- alertness about the precarious situation at the local, national and international level.

IAW October 2018 in Berlin

One milestone was the IAW International Seminar in Berlin, where Gudrun Haupter and me we could present our project “Water and Pads for Schoolgirls” to a large international audience. Unanimously the participants welcomed it – indeed menstrual health education for schoolgirls can also be a step towards peace!

We were very happy that Anne Pelagie, the coordinator of CEFAP Cameroon, was among us. Thanks to her experience of working with women in isolated rural areas she could give us lots of advice. At Berlin she had to answer many questions on precarious life-conditions.

Due to visa-problems unfortunately Anuarite Siirewabo from DR Congo, the coordinator of SEFEDEC, could not join us in Berlin. However, thanks to her video-message the audience of the seminar got an idea about the everyday struggle of women amidst permanent military attacks and cruelties targeting innocent civilians. For Anuarite menstrual health education is

very important because it strengthens the self-confidence of girls and young women. The time frame was very limited but afterwards we could distribute our WP-documentation in English, French and German.

For us as coordinators of the WP project it was even more important to know how our presentation was accepted by the IAW Board Meeting . Fortunately all IAW members present were well informed and right away unanimously supported our future planning. The positive response and helpful recommendations were simply overwhelming, and together with the WP Steering Group we could proceed with our job.

IAW is built on solidarity among its members

Yes - we got much positive feedback from our IAW colleagues during the following months! Thank you all so very much! We got mails and hints on helpful incentives be it working with companies producing disposable pads, be it on cooperating with other organizations which advocate for sexual health education in Africa or Asia, or be it on joining initiatives of women students in industrialized countries, etc...

Of course we collected all this information but with our very limited financial resources and all the voluntary work ahead of us, we had to focus clearly on the original WP-project.

Official fund-raising and its alternatives

Highly motivated by the support in Berlin we started a fund-raising campaign in November 2018.

We tried the official way of approaching potential donors: we contacted many well-known humanitarian foundations based in Switzerland sending them all relevant papers (concept note, background information etc.) in English and French, but without much positive response. So more than ever we had to rely on voluntary work. Fortunately, the 7 IAW member organizations actively involved with the WP-project could accept this situation. They all confirmed to us that the WP-project was extremely important for them, and therefore they will be working on a voluntary basis except for their costs. For them most important was to start as soon as possible!

Then Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand, an individual IAW member, stepped in. She organized a very festive yearly meeting of women's organizations in Basel Switzerland and could collect more than three thousand US dollars in one evening! More donations mostly from private people came in so that all together with the seed-capital given by Deutscher Frauenring and others we now had a budget of around twelve thousand US dollars.

This has to cover all the costs of editing, printing and shipping the booklets for primary and secondary schools in English and French to their destination, and also all expenses related to the local activities of the 7 IAW member organizations.

This budget is extremely tight, and we are very thankful to our 7 IAW colleagues for their truly careful handling of the costs. We are also thankful to Rosy Weiss, the IAW treasurer, for her support.

Well Adapted Educational Tools for School-Girls

We both were probably a bit naïve thinking that it was easy to get the copyrights for well-adapted menstrual health booklets.

In fact, to begin with we were only allowed to print 200 booklets of "La puberté et l'hygiène menstruelle » edited by UNICEF and the government of Burkina Faso. Later on, to print more copies we used a short track getting help from an old connection of Gudrun and were allowed to print another 1000 pieces! Getting the copyright for "ABCs of being a Girl" edited by UNICEF and the authorities in Malawi was unbelievably complicate. Here again, thanks to Gudrun's old connection we finally succeeded! In both booklets we inserted an IAW leaflet with thanks and acknowledgements, also mentioning President Joanna Manganara.

Actually, heaps of international studies on how to teach menstrual health in developing countries can be found online but almost no suitable booklets for secondary schools.

Fortunately, again we got help from colleagues members of ADF-SVF Suisse.. Barbara Berger the managing director of the Swiss branch on International Planned Parenthood Federation IPPF gave us the full permission to adapt their excellent brochure "Hé-les Miss!" for our purposes.

We have edited it now. It is called "Devenir Femme en toute sérénité" in French. Our English translation is titled "Entering Womanhood". Francine Perret, also a member of ADF-SVF

Suisse, gave us the copyright of her excellent pictures about schoolgirls. She had taken them during her extensive trips through Africa and Asia.

Once again we could rely on the graphic designer Claudia Pauletto who already had designed the layout of the WP-flyer edited by Sibylle in German. This leaflet was also translated into English and French and widely disseminated at the CSW conference in NY in March 2019. We would also like to mention our collaboration with the World Health Organisation. At WHO menstrual health education is a very important health issue.

The Water and Pads Project Online

We are very grateful to Lene Pind who gave us the chance for regular updates of our activities in the IAW Newsletter. She also promoted it prominently on the IAW website adding very helpful hints about the donation-button (IAW Website <https://womenalliance.org/donation>).

At the beginning of 2019 we got aware that we needed a specific website for the WP project, be it for the 7 IAW member organizations or for PR in general.

We had no difficulty at all to find the “good” texts or the “typical” photos – our IAW colleagues provided us regularly with text inputs and pictures about their work on the local level. Setting up this website was really very joyful. Actually we were getting pictures sent by Whatsapp taken somewhere in a lonely African, and mails forwarded at night-time when the internet or the electricity was connected...

We often wondered, how our IAW colleagues can do all their everyday activities under such difficult conditions.

Please visit the Water and Pads website: <https://iawwaterandpads.jimdofree.com/>

Most of the texts are in English and in French.



Entering Womanhood

A Project of International Alliance of Women IAW/AIF



Devenir femme en toute sérénité

Un projet de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes IAW/AIF

Water and Pads Project – in Action!

Anne Pelagie who also was our advisor regarding the edition of the booklets started with a pilot-project. During a two-days event the girls learned all about menstrual health and participated at the end at a quiz. 200 booklets “la puberté” were distributed at Medjo Primary School, Cameroon, in February 2019. As an exception reusable pads were distributed. With more donations we might be able to provide other IAW organizations, too, with pads. Anne had a well planned program of activities at this selected school. Beforehand she had organized some volunteers from CEFAP, contacted the teachers and informed the regional medias. The event was a full success for the girls and their parents as well as for the teachers. The radio broadcast prompted such a large response that Anne was invited to give further lectures at several schools!

Exactly on May 28th, the International Menstrual Hygiene Day, Anuarite Siirewabo had organized her event at the Bunyakiri Primary School, in a very isolated rural area of DR Congo with lots of military conflicts. There too the acceptance was really great. On 9th July Anuarite was invited for a similar event at the SOS Children Village School Bukavu. Unexpectedly more school-girls and teachers than expected wanted to attend! Very recently the IAW organization RENATA, with Julliet Saab, has been distributing the booklets “La puberté” at Kongola Primary School and Luggéo Dubai Primary School in

Cameroon. This too was very successful. All activities with pictures and reports about the happenings are uploaded on the Website - “Water and Pads WP website Activities

<https://iawwaterandpads.jimdofree.com/home/english/activities-and-events/>



CEEAP with Anne Pelagie Yotchou at Mejo Primary School Cameroon

Unfortunately BALI, another IAW member organization in Cameroon, cannot get active at the moment, because in the English speaking North of Cameroon schools are now closed due to military attacks. The booklets “Entering Womanhood” for the GBHS secondary school are ready here, but now we are waiting with sending, until the students can again continue their education.



SOFEDC with Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa at Bunyakiri Primary School DR Congo

Talking about the upcoming WP-events several parcels are on their way directed to APWA Pakistan, ZAW in Zambia and WCC in Zimbabwe. We hope that all of their well-planned activities can take place in autumn 2019.

Yes – we think that our assumptions at the beginning of the WP project were right: Our IAW colleagues in developing countries are the best experts for teaching menstrual health. They are fully engaged in promoting women's rights in their countries and they know perfectly how to approach people and how to get the media interested in the issue.

Lets us look forward to the next steps – the further development of the WP project! We need more financial resources to allow the promotion of reusable pads for teaching purposes; for continuing the WP-activities also in the future – and to move towards a sustainable world!

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES



New York, USA

Soon-Young Yoon, main representative to New York

In preparation for Beijing + 25 and UN's 75th anniversary, the IAW sits on the Advisory Committee Working Group for Beijing + 25, the selection committee to decide members of the UN Women advisory committee, and is collaborator with the Center for Women's Global Leadership to steer a Feminist and Women's Movement Action Agenda. It also sits on the UN2020 committee, a group of civil society organizations advising the UN and NGOs on the celebration of the UN's 75th anniversary in 2020.

In 2019, IAW members assisted to disseminate information about the NGO DPI conference, and worked with the CoNGO committees. The IAW is a member of the NGO Major Coordinating Mechanism as an Operating Partner, assisting in disseminating information to NGOs and civil society on the SDGs. During the HLPF, IAW members participated in the NGO major group and women's major group preparatory meetings for the SDGs and helped to ensure communications with CoNGO committees.

Throughout the UN calendar year, IAW members support the work of the UN DPI through its newsletters and website related to regional and international meetings on ageing, human settlements, social protection, health, the environment, gender equality and women's empowerment, and cities. UN Women includes the IAW in its expert consultations on strategies and movement building in preparation for Beijing + 25 and that allows the IAW to act as a key information source on gender equality and women's empowerment.

During CSW63 and the High Level Political Forum and preparations for the GA, the IAW in New York participated actively in side-events. As a member of the NGO CSW/NY Executive Committee, IAW helped to guide the substance and logistics related to the NGO Forum and worked with members of the CSW Bureau to ensure a successful Agreed Conclusions.

The IAW in NY has actively followed preparations for Habitat III on human settlements, including communications with the Secretariat on civil society participation. The Cities for CEDAW campaign expands its importance in the USA with more than 55 cities that have resolutions or city ordinances in support of CEDAW. Most recently Miami-Dade County passed another resolution that called for an in-depth study and reporting from all county departments on implementation of CEDAW. Other cities like Los Angeles are taking the Cities for CEDAW to the level of implementation, monitoring and financial evaluation.

Report on UN Activities in New York 2018 to 2019 by Natalie Kostus

Executive Vice President, Chair of the Commission on Climate Change, and Representative to the United Nations, IAW- International Alliance of Women



During 2018 to 2019, I was at the United Nations in New York at High-level Meeting on Financing the 2030 Agenda, Circular Economy for the SDGs: From Concept to Practice, CSW 63, High-level Meeting: Climate Protection for All, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Informal Plenary Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Leadership for a Sustainable World, and the HLPF High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The guiding document for my work at the United Nations in New York was the IAW Action Programme. I focused on promoting our priorities, and I was successful in highlighting IAW in many United Nations stakeholder events and discussions.

During the High-Level Political Forum, I focused on climate change, the role of foreign affairs and diplomacy, and access to justice and finance for the implementation of Agenda 2030, as well as, analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews. I joined efforts with the WMG. The HLPF 2019 addressed "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality" and conduct an in-depth review of SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), in addition to SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

I led advocacy during the CSW 63 and participated in the IAW delegation events. During the CSW, I focused on reporting on the outcome from Katowice COP 24 and recommendations for strengthening the language on climate change in the CSW Outcome.

In the Agreed Conclusions, the Commission recognized Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and recalled the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, including the UNFCCC gender action plan and commitments on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in climate change actions. Specific issues included water scarcity, natural disasters and environmental degradation, as well as, the increasing challenges caused by climate change, that exacerbate the disadvantages, vulnerabilities, and inequalities that women and men, and girls and boys face in accessing social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructure, the Commission recognized reducing the risk or loss and damage, women's active role as agents of change in safeguarding the environment, and specifically the contribution of indigenous women.

On strengthening women's and girls' access to social protection, governments agreed to ensure that social protection measures are effectively incorporated into natural disasters response and disaster risk management strategies to build the resilience of communities, including through the transition of short-term emergency response to long-term social protection.

On making infrastructure work for women and girls, governments agreed to develop gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation, through the provision of essential infrastructure, appropriate financing technology, while ensuring women's meaningful participation in decision-making and integration of specific needs of women and girls in urban and rural infrastructure and land-use planning.

The CSW Outcome lacked commitments to ensure that women have access to and benefit from climate change finance, which is a lost opportunity, given the enormous scale of financing for climate change that is currently being mobilized from public and private sources, USD 100 billion annually by 2020. A key language that was included in an earlier draft and subsequently taken out in the final agreed outcome was the reference to the CEDAW General

Recommendation No. 37 on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

I spoke about non-regression in the NGO CSW North America Europe Regional Caucus at the Ford Foundation. Unfortunately, the final CSW Agreed Conclusions lost this crucial principle of non-regression that was proposed by the Buenos Aires Group, 27 countries and territories in Latin America and Caribbean (Anguilla, Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay and Venezuela). The opposition was led by Russia, the Holy See, and the United States. Here is the lost landmark text that we should advocate for going forward “7.1 [Buenos Aires Group ADD: Acknowledging the principle of non-regression, according to which the promotion and respect of human rights recognized in International Law should not be reviewed if this would imply reversing the levels of protection previously achieved, especially with regards to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity.]”

I spoke about the IAW Water and Pads Project at the UNFPA events on Women’s Rights and Menstruation. I advocated for a further rise in countries that are lifting the tax on menstrual hygiene products and distributing sanitary pads for free in schools. A major outcome of the discussions on this issue from the CSW was that it is a women’s rights issue, we need to change how society views menstruation, and think about distributing free sanitary pads to girls and women, who are not in school. The IAW Water and Pads Project received welcoming attention.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

by Ursula Nakamura and Seema Uplekar, Representatives of IAW at WHO

Two events organized by WHO

WHO is regularly inviting the member states and the Non-State Actors NSA (such as IAW) to consultations on urgent issues. Twice in autumn 2018 Ursula could attend such meetings in Geneva, where experts from around the world try to find a common approach to global health-problems. The first meeting in October dealt about antimicrobial resistance. This is an enormous threat to all humankind. Therefore WHO established a global framework for development and stewardship to combat antimicrobial resistance. Regarding the gender perspective it is great that among the people in charge of this ambitious WHO project there are many women specialists.

In November WHO invited to the 50th anniversary of its Programme for International Drug Monitoring. Here again there were very out-spoken warnings of specialists about the enormous dangers of drug misuse beginning with the production, the distribution and wrong prescriptions.

WHO Executive Board January 2019

Because IAW is a NSA in official relation with WHO we also can attend the yearly meetings of the WHO Executive Board EB. Here the important issues for the upcoming WHO general assembly WHA in May are usually discussed:

How can WHO achieve its goal of Universal Health Coverage UHC when it has to deal with very conflicting interests among member states, the pharmaceutical companies and others? Fortunately there was an unanimous consent about a better cooperation among all member states for the prevention and cure of non communicable diseases NCD such as heart-problems, respiratory diseases or diabetes, leave alone the dangers of pandemic influenza etc...!

Finally there were also statements concerning girl's and women's health, e.g. the lack of qualified nursing personnel, the unpaid care by mostly female care-givers etc. 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. A better menstrual health management in schools was also 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. Finally another topic concerning women was brought up: In all its important documents WHO wants to use a gender sensitive language. Surprisingly after a few positive votes of delegates coming from various language regions this was quickly adopted!

World Health Assembly May 2019

It was great that Seema Uplekar, representative of IAW at WHO, could come from India to Geneva for the WHA in May!

Our focus was on women's and girl's health, be it regarding mental health or the sexual and reproductive human rights SRHR.

Dr. Tedros in his opening remarks at the WHA mentioned that all 194 member countries have approved the Universal Health Coverage UHC. Dr. Richard, Lancet chief editor at the outset appealed to all present to support this agenda by good financial aid. Among other there was mention of mental health - No health without mental health! Seema was very pleased about this inclusion and the due attention it is getting.

The technical briefing on scaling up mental health was hopeful and informative. The princess of Belgium is an ambassador for the sustainable development goals SDG's. She was present among other stakeholders to show her solidarity and support for mental health.

Both of us attended the ILC side event on ageing and vaccine at the Red Cross Museum. Unfortunately Seema could not present our IAW statement in person as the items of the program had been changed at a very short term. However we made a lot of propaganda for IAW wherever we met other representatives at WHA. Both the IAW statement and the leaflets about the Water and Pads project were very well accepted.

Obviously UHC cannot be reached easily. Although the member states had agreed on primary health care for all, at the same time they are drastically reducing the necessary financing. More than once Dr. Tedros also warned about the rise of nationalism and military

conflicts as seen with the recent new outbreaks of Ebola epidemics in North-Kivu DR Congo. In fact WHO is well prepared for emergencies, e. g. vaccinations, but the WHO teams sometimes cannot work there due to mortal risks by brutal gangs. “The spread of these extremely dangerous bugs can only be stopped by concentrated international collaboration!”

In behalf of 42 states Sweden made a strong appeal for more public spending on health for all. This will foster the economic growth and reduce poverty. The speaker also very convincingly pleaded for an easy access to family planning for all girls and women around the world. The SRHR must be at the core of the high-level meeting and UHC in general! Definitely WHO is standing up for these goals. At a side-event “Let’s get real” organized by Mozambique, Portugal, Slovenia and Uruguay, the focus was on adolescents. More research should be done about their knowledge and attitudes about SRHR. The participation of the young people “at the discussion-tables” is crucial.

Dr. Chandra Mouli, whom we had already contacted before now presented a new book “WHO recommendations on adolescents sexual and reproductive health and rights”¹.

Finally Dr. Tedros joined the panel and confirmed once again the strong engagement of WHO on the implementation of the SRHR for all.



Photo: Seema Uplekar, Ursula Nakamura and Dr. Chandra Mouli WHO

Last but not least, we want to mention that IAW like all other NSA has got to work very closely with WHO if we want to maintain the privileged status as an NGO in “official relation”. Therefore we are very happy that the IAW project “Water and Pads” fits perfectly to the efforts of WHO for a better menstrual management reaching all women and girls around the world.

¹ <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/adolescent-srhr-who-recommendations/en/>

FAO - Report 2018 from the international institutions in Rome : FAO- CFS- WFD by Jessica Kehl-Lauff

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) with a membership of 194 Member States that leads international efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and for the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources. More than 130 FAO offices worldwide are working with partners to achieve this goal and the wider Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG).

Beside my (later: our) ongoing activities inside the two networks: *the Ad Hoc Group of International Non Governmental Organizations* (www.ahgingos.org) – the network of many international NGOs having ECOSOC-status and formal status with FAO; and the *Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM)* which has been created to give better space for all NGOs having interest to work closely with the Committee on Food Security (CFS), I had the pleasure to meet a member living in Rome who has a large proof of interest in questions of nutrition: Valeria Mangani who was accepted by our IAW meeting in Berlin to become a member of our IAW delegation.

During those days overfilled with meetings in the FAO HQ, it was important for me to attend the farewell-party for our former representative late Bettina Corke in L'Aquila. Each of the four feminist friends which surrounded her in the last days got a small present in the name of IAW. They gave us some of the papers Bettina had been able to save from the earthquakes since 2009.

The most important activity was to attend the annual meeting of the Committee on Food Security in Rome. For the first time I got my badge without any problems – inter alia a follow up of the impressiv letter which I got by our SecGen.

The Committee on Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive international platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all. The CFS Plenary session is held annually and is the central body for decision-taking, debate, coordination, lesson-learning and convergence by all stakeholders at a global level on food security issues. CFS 45 was held in the FAO HQ (Rome, Italy) from 15-20 October 2018.

The CFS has been ramping up its focus on nutrition since 2015 and the terms of reference to develop voluntary guidelines on food systems were approved at CFS 45. Several nutrition-relevant discussions were held in plenary throughout the week.

(Already during the High-Level Political Forum 2018, CFS and the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) joint in a side event. The recommendations which included the implementation of different SDG, asked for support to agroecological production methods, agricultural biodiversity, family-farming and small-scale farmers.)

During the plenary of CFS, several noteworthy side events focused on food and nutrition. Worth a particular mention is the UNSCN and the UN Network event Bringing policies to life held on 18 October. Panelists from Egypt, Mali, Pakistan, the research community and civil society shared their experience on how policies have been translated into enhanced

action for impact. The importance of placing people at the center, employing context-specific solutions and enhancing an enabling environment for implementation were common threads that emerged from the discussion.

World Bank and UNSCN teamed up to discuss ways of Improving Food Security & Nutrition Through Innovative Fish-Based Agri-Food Solutions. This event highlighted the need for small fish species to be put on the food and nutrition policy table as these are a rich source of essential acids and proteins and have a lower environmental footprint when compared to other fish species and most other animal sourced proteins. Norway used the opportunity to highlight the work underway through the Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition as part of the overall Nutrition Decade.

Women's organizations once again put high interest in the link between climate change and food production. As about one fifth of the global greenhouse gas emissions are generated by agriculture and land use, including forestry, fisheries and livestock production according to FAO, and at the same time the effects of the climate change are threatening global food security and – as we all know – populations are rapidly growing – great difficulties to produce healthy and sustainable food for all mankind could arise soon.

What can women do?

- Inform yourself about the <Zero Hunger> initiative of late Bettina Corke on our website. Although this manifest is elderly, it is still a good tool for everybody.
- Recommend yourself and your family a healthy and sustainable diet.
- Support reduction in food waste and food losses.
- Farmers and households should reduce the use of harmful pesticides.
- Women care about the future of mankind: they have to become active in their communities for healthy soils and safe water.
- Understand that the money trail is not the way to feed families worldwide.

- Support women who are willing to expose themselves in favor of healthy food and clean water.

In 2019 Valeria Mangani and I had many e-mails on questions concerning our IAW activities. Our representative Valeria Mangani was introduced in the international network and attended most of its meetings. As a beautiful example you find a photo from Valeria during the U.N. conference <The future of Food> held in June 2019. The representatives of our network have been honored by the presence of former Director General José Graziano da Silva (2011-2019).

In August 2019 His Excellency Qu Dongyu, China, was elected Director General of the FAO. He will step up global efforts to achieve <Zero Hunger> and puts inter alia a focus to sustainable agriculture, as well on poverty eradication. We are looking forward to the next CFS in October and hope to be invited to the WFD on October 16th in Rome!

IAW SHAKES HAND WITH DA SILVA - A Roman Farewell

One of the privileges of living in Rome the eternal city, is also to have the honour to serve IAW as alternate Representative to FAO. We meet every month with the others NGO's at the Ad hoc group meeting at FAO headquarters.

Last June we joined the International Conference "The Future of Food: High level event on the Mediterranean Diet".

It was very interesting listening to FAO Director General José Graziano da Silva, speaking about the Mediterranean diet which has successfully combined the available food in the region, often grown by family farmers, for thousands of years. *"If we allow it to disappear, what will be lost is not only the Mediterranean diet itself but also all the culture and the environment that enabled its development,"* he said.

Graziano da Silva stressed that UNESCO's inclusion of the Mediterranean diet on the world's Intangible Cultural Heritage list, denotes not only its health and safety dimensions, but also

emphasizes the cultural, environmental, social and economic benefits it holds, and not only for the territory.

General of UNESCO-Audrey Azoulay Director and Plàcido Plaza-Secretary General of the CIHEAM, discussed how to preserve the Mediterranean Diet. He warned about the important cultural, social, environmental and heritage loss linked to the loss of sustainable local diets, including the Mediterranean diet.

At the end of the conference, we had quick chat with Mr da Silva to congratulate for the amazing job he did in his two mandates, knowing that in one month from now, the new DG will be nominated.



Valeria Mangani-IAW alt. Representative to FAO, Cristina Gorajski Visconti-ICW, Nanda Nobile-BPW, José Graziano da Silva-Director General FAO, Roberto Fresia-Lions Int., Liliana

Mosca-Soroptimist, Luciana Delfini-FWLC Legal careers.



José Graziano da Silva-FAO Director General and Valeria Mangani IAW alternate Representative to FAO.

Valeria Mangani

Valeria Mangani is an Italian best-selling author in Nutrition and Women's Consciousness sectors. She published 10 books for the "*Nature&Health*" series, by Tecniche Nuove editor in Milan. She also taught the "*Quality of Life*" master class for postgraduate students in Occupational Medicine at La Sapienza University of Rome.

She founded and directs INNOV8 IN ITALY FUND, an incubator fostering *Sustainable Fashion* with innovation technologies such as block chain, luxury up-cycling, crispr and brand digitalization; with the mission to create a more sustainable planet, hence disrupting the old polluting systems for the sake of human well-being.

At the centre of interests there lies the protection of the well-being of women, for a physical and cultural integrity.

European Women's Lobby

Report by Arina Angerman, representative to EWL

Title Important Steps towards a Feminist Europe by Arina Angerman, Representing IAW in Board European Women's Lobby



The New European Parliament with 40% (plus 8%) women as Members voted July 2019 in favour of the first female President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. Both can be seen as important steps and result of 50:50 Women for Europe campaign by European Women's Lobby (EWL). The General Assembly of EWL in Brussels, June 2019, was attended by me as IAW representative to Board of Administration 2018-2020 and by Marion Boeker, the elected Alternate as Observer. Marion and I are talking on average every two months by Skype or WhatsApp. During EWL's General Assembly we adopted Working Programme 2020 and elected two women for Island in the Board. In the photo above you can see me, Marion and Brynhildur Heiðar- og Ómarsdóttir who as Alternate Board Member is representing IAW's affiliate Icelandic Women's Rights Association.

EWL membership extends to more than 2000 women's associations in 28 EU member states. IAW is one of 10 European-wide non governmental organizations in this Board. EWL is an umbrella network. (like IAW is an umbrella organisation).

My important activities (story) are related to pillar 7 = Democracy in IAW Action program. Together we achieved an increase with 8% in women as Members in European Parliament 2019-2024. My most important and urgent issue is how our IAW members use social media. Do you want to share information and knowledge too at Twitter? Please follow EWL, IAW, Arina Angerman or Marion Boeker at Twitter. IAW's presence at social media can improve a.o. during IM in Geneva and celebrating Beijing+25!

My **1st GOAL** representing IAW in EWL's Board is to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter in order to strengthen the visibility both of IAW and EWL at social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week (social media mobilization). These doable social media actions I did every week. As you can read below both IAW & EWL have increased their social media presence 2018 → 2019 at Twitter

Social media presence seen at 19.09.04	EWL @EuropeanWomen	IAW @womenalliance	@ArinaNoel & @MarionBoeker Followers at Twitter
Twitter 2018	14.200 Followers	694	1.015 & 1.394
Twitter 2019	16.700	779	1.108 & 1.558
Result	Plus 2.500	Plus 85	Plus 93 & 164

2nd GOAL Another way to share information with members of IAW is to write a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL. I published five stories in the IAW digital Newsletter since my last IAW report in 2018.

1. Important Steps in Women for Europe campaign

100 feminist activists (including Marion Boeker and me) from all over Europe attended 'Making Europe Work for Women' EWL's Public Event June 6 2019 in Brussels. Barbara Hendricks who has become one of the world's most loved musicians and has worked to promote Human Rights told that she has learned from her mother: 'never be dependent on a man'.

2. Action Vote For a Woman in May 2019

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'.

As you probably know in the Netherlands we are celebrating 100 years of voting rights for women. By voting for a woman we are honouring many never ever give up efforts of our (great) grandmothers / grandfathers!

3. 50/50 Women for Europe, Europe for women in European Elections



Quote from EWL's manifesto

"Women are still seriously underrepresented at 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."

4. Fight against the rise of anti-feminist forces in Europe.

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 representing 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.

5. Gender Budgeting: Do Follow The Money!

Why is Gender Budgeting so important? As we know *“recommendations framed as gender ‘equal’, such as aligning the retirement ages of women and men, are not accompanied by measures to boost older women’s employment rates”* (Quote from EWL’s Mary Collins Senior Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, August 2018)

I as IAW representative focused on AIM 7 of Our Future Starts NOW! In EWL’s Programme 2016-2020: To position women at the heart of political participation and decision-making i.a. developing in Working Group ‘Women in Politics’ a campaign strategy to achieve parity democracy - meaning 50 % women in the European Parliament in the 2019 elections. The 50:50 campaign is inspired by celebrations of 100 years of voting rights for women in Germany and UK in 2018 and the Netherlands in 2019.

3rd GOAL working in a smooth manner together as a small IAW team within EWL with Marion Boeker (IAW member of Feminist Economics Working Group and expert Gender Budgeting) and Jocelyne Scutt (IAW expert in EWL’s Observatory on Violence Against Women). IAW signed a Membership Agreement with EWL and answered questions for EWL Review Strategy 2019.

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

Report on the Council of Europe activities by Heleen Jansen

The Conference of the INGOs at the Council of Europe gathers twice a year for one week in Strasbourg. The spring session 2019 was 8-12 April, the autumn session 28-31 October. At both meetings the IAW was represented by Anje Wiersinga, Monique Bouchet, Renée Gerard and Heleen Jansen.

All four IAW members attended the INGO conference, the relevant Committee meetings, some of the working groups and the two side events: *Freedom of religion/Belief and LGBTI rights Migration: Duty or offence of solidarity?*

We always work as a team and split the tasks, but it should be pointed out again, that Anje Wiersinga, who has most experience and most knowledge of the procedures, has done a lot of extra work. She attended the CoE Parliamentary Sessions and some of the Parliamentary Committees, the Ministerial Committee of Equality and also the meetings in the Hemicycle on the Istanbul Convention and on the situation in Syria.

At this moment there is a problem for the NGO members, as they are no longer admitted to the parliamentary commission meetings. This raises the question of the space left to civil society, especially the OING in the Council of Europe. Our IAW president raised that question about the space left to CS in the IUN, but we must also question this new trend in the interparliamentary organisations.

In January we already have asked questions about this subject to the Chairwoman of the INGO Conference. We did not yet get an answer, so we have pressed this point in the interview, organised this spring about the functioning of the INGO Conference. It would be worthwhile to know the rationale of this decision of the deciders.

Because of the number of workgroup meetings, we split the tasks; our team has regular contacts during lunch time to exchange information and make decisions about sharing tasks and for complicated questions we decide on a common strategy. For the rest there is frequent contact by mail or phone.

Anje Wiersinga and Monique Bouchet attended the World Forum for Democracy, organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with a. o. the French Government.

The subject this year was Women and Democracy, with the title “Gender Equality: Whose Battle?” The focus was meant to be on women’s public, political and economic participation and on combating violence against women.

A positive point was the participation of many young persons, women and also men, from all over the world. This was an opportunity to discuss with the new generation the importance of equal decision taking at all levels and how to achieve this. However, only a few workshops, called labs, were devoted to the need of equal participation and to women as decision makers in democratic processes.

Most workshops were on 'excellent' projects and grassroots initiatives on combating violence against women. However excellent these labs were, this emphasis on women as victims, instead of contributors to society, was a missed chance to get the younger generation introduced to opportunities in the political field.

The programme was titled “Whose battle?” The reply came at the evaluation, when the organiser concluded that the solution will come from the grassroots – not from the politics. Fortunately one of the parliamentarians responded and said : both are needed!

Monique Bouchet has received an invitation to be present at the seminar "Renforcer la protection des droits sociaux en Europe pour plus d'unité et d'égalité", that will be organised 19 October.

The Department of the European Social Charter organises, under the [French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers](#) of the Council of Europe, an expert seminar to discuss the protection of social rights in Europe, so as to achieve greater unity and equality. The seminar will also follow up on the [Committee of Ministers](#) declaration at its Helsinki session in May 2019. At that session, the Committee of Ministers invited all the member States concerned, to consider signing and ratifying the revised European Social Charter and its Additional Protocol, providing for a system of collective complaints, as a starting point for a resolutely proactive and collective drive to combat inequalities and achieve greater social justice.

Renée Gerard is working on the problem of Violence against women. She attended a meeting to demonstrate against the 99th femicide (women killed by a partner) since the 1st of January. She is also member of the Platform *Gender and development*, organized by the MAE (Ministry for Foreign affairs and NGOs), that give special attention to sustainable development and climate change. She belongs to the transversal group Social Cohesion. She got involved in a feminist coalition to defend the rights of women in a forum during the G7 summit in Biarritz.

She also represented IAW in the ***Commission démocratie*** and the **Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee**.



Renée Gerard together with the Vice-President in charge of Equality, Anne Nègre

Heleen Jansen represented IAW at the INGO **Education and culture Committee**. She is member of the workgroup Lifelong learning and the Transversal group Digital Citizenship. She has been chosen as treasurer of OING service. INGO-Service has been set up to receive voluntary financial contributions from INGOs. As stated in its revised statutes, adopted at its Extraordinary General Assembly in June 2015, "The purpose of the association shall be to support the Conference of INGOs holding participatory status with the Council of Europe and its structures within the Council of Europe, particularly as regards external relations, by raising and making available the necessary resources."

In November she will represent IAW at the Children Rights conference in Strasbourg.

November 13-14, 2019, the Council of Europe organises, under the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers, the Children Rights Conference to mark the 30th anniversary of the

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) and at that moment the Council will undertake the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021).

Anje Wiersinga represented IAW at the INGO Democracy Committee working on Equal Participation

April 10, 2019 the OING-conference adopted the CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

The text of this important document can be found at the website of the COE:

<https://rm.coe.int/code-of-conduct-adoption-plenary-100419-en/168093b8bd>

Further it should be noted that the International Alliance of Women is accepted on the list of INGOs entitled to submit collective complaints in relation to the European Social Charter.



In April 2019 Anje Wiersinga received a royal decoration for all the work she has done, among which her activities at the Council of Europe. We, as a team, congratulate her and we hope that she will continue to spend her energy for our common ideals. I repeat here her saying: “you can always use my brains”. And we'll continue to do so, as long as she wants!

For more detailed information and references concerning the functioning of the NGO conference, a leaflet is available at <https://rm.coe.int/leaflet-conference-ingo-en/1680955aea>

UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) by Rosy Weiss, Main Representative to Vienna

General : UNCAC entered into force in December 2005. Presently it counts 186 State Parties. It recognizes the importance of both preventive and punitive measures and addresses the cross-border nature of corruption. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna serves as its Secretariat.

Interestingly the UNCAC does not define corruption as such. It rather lists and defines a series of offences that should be criminalised and covered by legal provisions, including bribery of national and foreign public officials and in the private sector, embezzlement, money laundering, concealment, and obstruction of justice. Concerning the agents of corrupt practices, UNCAC Art.2 uses a functional definition of the term “public official”, which covers anyone who holds a legislative, administrative, executive or judicial office, or performs a public function or provides a public service.

The UNCAC has eight chapters and 71 articles. Four chapters contain substantive provisions, such as preventive measures, criminalisation and law enforcement, international cooperation, and asset recovery. UNCAC Article 13 is of particular importance for civil society organisations (CSOs) as it highlights their important role. It is being debated by governments and is the basis for advocacy by the UNCAC Coalition (of civil society) and Transparency International.

Impressions from the NGO briefing held “on the margins” of the 10th resumed session of the Implementation Review Group (IRG) of the Convention, recently held in Vienna.

The IRG sessions are open to UNCAC signatory states and intergovernmental organisations. Civil society organisations have not been permitted to participate as observers, due to opposition from a small but influential group of countries. This is problematic and inconsistent with international human rights standards, Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals and with transparency and participation standards in the Convention itself.

Government debates about the admission of CSOs as observers has led to a temporary compromise at the COSP4 (Conference of State Parties 4th session in Marrakesh in 2011), in which Governments agreed on a “briefing” for CSOs “on the margins” of the IRG meetings on the outcomes of the review process, including the technical assistance needs identified. Only CSOs admitted to participate as observers in the COSP previous to the briefing can attend and make oral and written statements. Exceptions can be made for CSOs with ECOSOC consultative status.

These briefings are widely considered to be an inadequate substitute for observer status and has been a subject for CSO advocacy.

Apart from the Briefing, CSOs are permitted to make **written submissions** to the IRG of up to 1500 words. However, these submissions **may not contain evaluations of country implementation of UNCAC or focus on the conduct of the review in a single country.**

Governments can object to specific NGOs attending the COSP, if the applicants do not have ECOSOC status. At the last COSP in 2017, two Hungarian NGOs were not accredited due to an objection from a government. The UNCAC Coalition and Transparency International has repeatedly criticised this non-objection approach, which lacks transparency as the objecting State Party remains anonymous.

For further reading:

<https://www.unodc.org>

<https://uncaccoalition.org>:

Growing Civic Space: UNCAC Coalition Statement to the 10th Session of the UNCAC
Implementation Review Group Meeting.

REPORTS FROM AFFILIATES

ADF-SVF Suisse Report June 2018 - August 2019 by Josiane Greub, Esther Suter and Ursula Nakamura



National demonstration for equal pay 28 September 2018.

At the yearly assembly of ADF-SVF Suisse in June 2018 it was unanimously decided to participate at the national demonstration for equal pay. This turned out to be an unexpectedly huge event taking place in front of the Swiss parliament building at Berne. We were protesting vehemently for equal pay and against a weak legislation leaving many loopholes for discriminatory practises.

In 2018 one of the main issues for ADF-SVF Suisse was also the **equal representation of women and men in the top positions**. When in 2018 among the seven members of the federal council, Swiss government, two persons retired, just one woman was left in the highest body. So ADF-SVF Suisse wrote an open letter to the electing body, the lower and upper chambers of the Swiss parliament requiring strongly the election of two women. The wide-spread protests brought a positive result – now there are again three women in the Swiss government!

Nationwide Women's Strike June 14 2019

ADF-SVF Suisse and its sections in the regions of Basel, Lausanne and Neuchâtel worked intensively from the beginning on the planning of a national women's strike taking place on June 14 2019. On the same date already in 1991 the Swiss women had been on strike requesting the implementation of the constitution regarding equal rights.

Some flashes on this biggest political demonstration of women in the recent history of Switzerland

It sets a clear signal for rapid progress in gender equality – looking back we from ADF-SVF Suisse fully agree with Union Syndicale Suisse, that 14 June 2019 will be the biggest political demonstration in Switzerland's recent history. The rallies reached historic dimensions in all major cities. The enormous number of young women was particularly remarkable. All this shows that the equality of women in working life and in society must move forward and will now move forward.

Already in the morning, hundreds of thousands of women took part in strike brunches, coffees and picnics, or took part in company strikes, work stoppages, extended breaks or similar strike actions. The variety of forms of action was overwhelming. It ranged from the Swiss radiofrauenstreik.ch to pram demos and rollator races. This shows the strength of this movement. Through months of preparation, new networks were established. The Women's* Strike 2019 is thus the beginning of a newly strengthened networking and thus an even stronger movement for equality.

Basel - "If woman* wants, everything stands still!"

frauenrechte beider basel frbb, the Basel section of ADF-SVF Suisse was actively participating. In fact around 50,000 women attended the largest rally Basel has ever seen, and the city really stood still for hours! So many women took part that not even all frbb members made it to the meeting point by the "clothesline" in front of the huge purple covered Serra sculpture. There were 19 posters with selected resistant women, starting with the disobedient Beguines 1411 until June 14, 1991, the first women's strike. frbb was involved in creating this special document about the history of Basel women: These resistant women are our role models. Women have been protesting in Basel since the Middle Ages. Much attention was also paid to the frbb-banner "Recognition in money and word – immediately!" Annemarie Heiniger from frbb explains in an interview with Telebasel that women's demands for equality are still not implemented in everyday life, and that it is therefore necessary to continue fighting for it.

Neuchâtel – The women will not give up!

ADF section Neuchâtel also presiding ADF-SVF Suisse, was very actively engaged within the Collectif Neuchâtelois for the feminist strike.



Their open letter gives an excellent review about this huge event.

Hundreds of thousands of women - of all generations, origins, status and professions - participated in the feminist strike of 14 June 2019 throughout Switzerland in a creative and determined manner. Purple were our many demands displayed everywhere, in the street, in neighbourhoods, in schools, in the workplace: equal pay, denunciation of femicide, sharing of domestic and care work, non-sexist education in schools, fulfilled sexuality, etc. 17 demands were recorded in a common appeal read in all cities at 11 am. A work stoppage largely followed at 15:24, a symbolic time since on average in Switzerland women are no longer paid from that moment on.

The scale of this mobilization, which culminated at the end of the day in gigantic street demonstrations that were cheerful, colourful and noisy, surprised everyone. Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators, young girls, sometimes even very young, everywhere with their elders, mothers and grandmothers, but also their brothers, fathers and friends. Never seen before! However, in several cities, Neuchâtel is no exception, the press has published approximate downward figures...

But one thing is certain: as the photos and videos taken nationwide show, the streets of the cities have never seen such a social mobilization. From Euronews to the Financial Times (USA), the Guardian (London), newspapers in Zimbabwe, Thailand, Spain, Poland and elsewhere, the press reports, well beyond our borders, on this formidable Swiss feminist tide for equality.



Women's strike 14 June 2019 at Berne – many members of the Swiss parliament are joining the event.

Yearly Assembly of the delegates of ADF-SVF Suisse on 22 June 2019 at Neuchâtel.

Quite symbolically it took place in the halls of the time-honoured prestigious university of Neuchâtel. We congratulated the sections Vaud and Neuchâtel celebrating their 60th anniversary of the cantonal women's vote.

Equal presentation of women and men on all political levels!

We are also convinced that the huge women's strike will have a remarkable impact on the Swiss politics. The next crucial point will be the upcoming national elections on 20 October 2019. In fact never before there have been so many women candidates! ADF-SVF Suisse and its sections are strongly promoting their members by organizing special election events and giving them Online PR platforms.

Josiane Greub, President ADF-SVF Suisse, Esther Suter and Ursula Nakamura

The League of Women Voters, Victoria's Report 2019 by Dr Deborah Towns



Dr Deborah Towns OAM, in the middle, with Carolyn Ingvarson and Jane Stewart, celebrating receiving the OAM for Education and Gender Equity.

This is the League of Women Voters Victoria's Report to the IAW for 2019. Dr Deborah Towns AOM

I chose three areas of importance to women's employment and economic wellbeing to monitor and report on.

1. Victorian Government's Gender Equality Strategy: Safe and Strong. It published a major report in 2018, <https://www.vic.gov.au/gender-equality-strategy-achievements-report-year-1>

Ongoing strategies include:

- The Equal Workplaces Advisory Council which provides expert advice on practical ways to achieve gender pay equality in Victorian workplaces.
- Advocating for an increase to award and minimum wages to tackle stagnating wage growth, rising inequality and reduce cost of living pressures on Victorian families as part of its submission to the Fair Work Commission Annual Wage Review 2017-18. Low award wages disproportionately affect women.

2. In 2018 and 2019, the Australian Government's Human Rights' Commission conducted the first national workplace sexual harassment enquiry, 'Everyone's Business, National Workplace Sexual Harassment Inquiry'. Consultations were held throughout Australia including in Melbourne and Albury/Wodonga and 200 submissions were received from individuals and organisations across Australia. Submissions can be accessed on-line <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/national-inquiry-sexual-harassment-australian-workplaces-submissions-national-inquiry>.

[Please note the final report is not available yet.](#)

Recently the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission in Victoria, published *Practice Guidance: Understanding your rights in the workplace and Victorian anti-discrimination law*. It helps employees understand their legal rights to protection from discrimination, sexual harassment and victimisation, and to a safe and healthy workplace. <https://workplace.ourwatch.org.au/resource/understanding-your-rights/>

3. The Victorian Male Champions of Change were established in 2011 and joined with male business leaders across Australia committed to supporting gender equality for women in workplaces.

Their recent reports include *Pathway to Pay Equality*, <https://malechampionsofchange.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MCC-Sport-Pathway-to-Pay-Equality-Report-2019.pdf>, and *In the Eye of the Beholder. Avoiding the Merit Trap*, <https://malechampionsofchange.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/MCC-CEW-Merit-Paper-FINAL.pdf>.

Plans for 2020

Based on the above reports and other findings it has been decided that the NCWV's 2020's annual conference will be about finding out about what governments, employers and unions are working on to bring about equal pay in Victoria. Vida Goldstein supported by women's organisations including the National Council of Women Victoria, established an 'equal pay' committee in 1901. Over a century later it is still an issue. I will be organising this conference for May 2019.

Participation in Related Activities

I assisted with the organisation of the NCWV's *Your Vote Your Voice* in August 2018 and continue to assist with the 2019 event. The League of Women Voters Victoria, through its Bessie Reischbush's Trust Fund partially funds the program to enable students to attend. In September 2018 I attended the ICW-CIF Conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. *See Figure 2*. As a conference delegate I assisted with updating the ICW's action plans for Women and Employment and Education. My participation enabled me to form ongoing networks with Indonesian women entrepreneurs who were involved in Rotary and other women's organisations. As the Economics and Employment Sustainability Advisor for the NCW-Victoria and the NCW-Australia I met other state and national advisors and particularly discussed common concerns with the new international ICW Economic and Employment Advisor.

I organised for Dr Cheryl Day, to be the expert speaker at the NCWV's October meeting which supported the UN's Mental Health Week. Though I was unable to attend the NCWA's annual conference in Canberra I was honoured to be selected as the national advisor on Employment and Economic Sustainability. In December I attended the Australian & New Zealand History of Education annual conference in Sydney and gave a paper about Florence Johnston, a women teacher who was a leader in the quest for women's equal pay in the 1920s and 1930s. Also, in December, I participated in the Centre for Workplace Leadership's Future of Work Conference, at the University of Melbourne.

In March 2019, to celebrate International Women's Day, I was a key- note speaker at the Public Record Office Victoria's celebrations, where I highlighted May Cox's pioneering work during the early twentieth century. In April 2019 I visited Indonesia again and was a guest at a Rotary meeting in Bandung, where I was informed about women in business in Indonesia and made other contacts. In May I spoke to the United Nations Association of Australia's Status of Women meeting about the celebration of Indonesia's Kartini Day and their election day which I had recently witnessed. I am currently contacting other state advisors so I can complete the NCWA's annual report for employment and economic sustainability. I continue to keep up to date with women's employment and economic security issues through my work in the Centre for Workplace Leadership, University of Melbourne.

In June 2019 I was honoured with the Order of Australia Medal on Queen's Birthday.



Dr Deborah Towns OAM (second from left), representing National Council of Women Victoria, at the ICW-CIF, the International Council of Women's 35th General Assembly Meeting, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, October, 2018.

Danish Women's Society by Ulla Müller



Ulla Müller

New president and leadership of Danish Women's Society (DWS)

On May 6th 2019 the Annual General Meeting elected a new president of the organisation, Ulla Müller. Ms. Müller joins the organisation with 20 years of experience of advocating for women's rights, the equal rights of women and access to contraception and safe abortion.

The new board is constituted with Ms. Arsema Mussie and Ms. Helena Hansen as vice-presidents and Ms. Lotte Jönsson as treasurer.

New strategic direction

Under the leadership of Ms. Müller the board is developing a new strategic vision and plan towards 2025. The direction is anticipated to be more focused on policy dialogue, policy change and general advocacy for key human rights and equal participation in all areas of life,

from home to work, and in prolongation of that behaviour change activities, for example to change women's representation in leadership positions and boards.

The 2025 objective is:

- **A strong foundation to create and sustain a more equal world in which women has the same value as men and equal terms and conditions to make the decisions they want to, enabling them to live the life they choose.**

The strategy has four main components:

1. Women, Democracy and Society
2. Ending Violence against Women
3. Women and Body
4. Sustainability

The strategy is being finalised and is expected to be launched in the 4th quarter of 2019.

Political landscape in Denmark

In June 2019 national elections were held in Denmark where the left wing parties won an overall majority. After concluding a deal with the Social Liberals, Socialist People's Party (SF) and Red Green Alliance, Mette Frederiksen became the Prime minister of a Social Democratic government, backed by the above mentioned parties.

Although the new Government is rather progressive when it comes to age of the ministers (the oldest is only 55 years old), there is still some concern about the lack of gender equality. Only seven out of twenty two ministers are women. And apart from the Minister of Defence all of them are working within the more "soft/pink-collar" areas.

For several years the Minister of Gender Equality has also been the Minister of Nordic Cooperation and Minister of Fishery, indicating a lack of priority towards gender equality. Unfortunately this is still the case, and Danish Women's Society will be advocating for this to change.

It is concerning that shifting governments in Denmark continue not to put gender equality on the agenda and prioritise the equal participation and inclusion of women in all areas of society. There is a lack of recognition of the scope of inequality in the country, and a prevalent misconception is that Denmark is in the global forefront when it comes to gender equality. This is one of the key areas to be addressed in the new strategy of our organisation.

Throughout the last year we have seen political measures that we are really happy about. In December 2018 legislation was passed in order to provide the possibility for a tougher punishment in severe cases of image based sexual abuse. Furthermore in March 2019 legislation was also passed in regard to psychological abuse, officially making it illegal. This is a huge achievement and support for the women seeking help at shelters around Denmark.

StopHarassment

DWS's StopHarassment project is still ongoing and in progress. The purpose of the project is to provide help to people over the age of 18 who are experiencing image based sexual abuse.

For the last few years the problem has escalated in Denmark and in other countries as well. We find that this problem is a new form of violence, especially afflicting women. Several of the women seeking help at our two shelters encounter problems of image based sexual abuse in addition to other kinds of violence.

Since March 2019, we have expanded our project to include education for professionals who are in contact with victims of image based sexual abuse. This is, for example people working at shelters, teachers at higher education facilities and students of social work. Through our teaching we want to train professionals to handle the meeting with the victims, as well as raise awareness of the problem and of practical resolutions.

Shelter

A little over a year ago the DWS opened a second shelter in the Copenhagen area. Both of them are completely booked and rooms are rarely vacant for more than a couple of hours. We are happy that we are able to offer help to still more women and their children but finding it concerning that the prevalence of violence against women is so high.



The Fredrika Bremer Association in Sweden by Christina Knight



The new gender-equal alphabet

Fredrika Bremer-förbundet, or the Fredrika Bremer Association, founded in 1884, is Sweden's and one of the world's oldest members' organization for gender equality. FBF has also been a member of IAW right from the start.

The organization aims for equality in society, at home and within professional life and has three main focus areas:

- **More women where there is power**
- **More men where there are children**
- **Equal pay**

During 2018, the Fredrika Bremer Association has arranged and participated in a number of national and international seminars, debates, lectures and campaigns focusing on these issues.

In a collaboration with Rättviseförmedlingen (Equalisters) the Fredrika Bremer Association in September launched a new spelling alphabet: “Adam Berit”. The Swedish spelling alphabet, or phonetic alphabet, founded in 1891 and still in use, consists only of male first names whereas our updated version also includes female names as well as non-traditional Swedish names, thereby reflecting Swedish modern society in a much more relevant way. With consultation from language and phonetic experts, “Adam Berit” is as functional as the previous spelling alphabet, but so more inclusive. The campaign was acclaimed in several Swedish media channels and lead to a widespread discussion about equality and representation.

During the year the association and the volunteer group has continued to run the project “Jämställdhetshistoria”, or the History of Equality, which is a crash course on the development of feminism in the last century. The interactive lecture aimed at Swedish high school-students is an historical exposé of political reforms that nowadays are taken for granted.

In the summer, the tenth Apelryd seminar was held with the theme “Education and Gender Equality”. Over one hundred people participated in the seminar which was opened by the Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy Alice Bah Kuhnke. For five weeks, the association also arranged the Nannylund weeks, through scholarships inviting 107 single women, with or without accompanying children, to a recreational week in Båstad, in the south of Sweden.



Sara Danius, previously at The Swedish Academy, was awarded Eva Moberg Priset 2018

Every year the Fredrika Bremer Association bestows two awards: The BRA Award is given to a company, organization or person who has done exceptional efforts for equality. This year it was awarded to the singer Zara Larsson for being a modern, fearless feminist who expresses her opinion and stands up for women everywhere. The Eva Moberg Award is given to a person who has excelled in areas regarding equality, environment, peace work and human rights. The award was bestowed to former permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy Sara Danius, for being a groundbreaking thinker and an important voice in the dismantling of patriarchal structures.

The magazine "Hertha" is issued twice a year and is distributed to all the members in the Fredrika Bremer Association. The themes for this year's issues were "Election and Education". The election-issue was celebrated with a release event on March 7th which was attended by politicians from both the Swedish Social Democratic Party and the liberal-conservative Moderate Party.

The Fredrika Bremer Association has been a part of the project #allarätt that aims to develop strategies for schools in their work with consent. The association has also been a part of creating a museum in Stockholm dedicated to women's history, [Stockholms kvinnohistoriska](#) as well as contributing to Forum Jämställdhet, the Political week in Järva and the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York and writing five articles.

The nine local districts, spread throughout Sweden, have arranged local meetings, seminars, lectures and field trips. The Fredrika Bremer Association had 1318 members on December 31st, 2018.



The banner was handcrafted in the Art-Centre HV in Stockholm, Sweden, made with gold and white silk embroidery. The banner was initiated at the 6th International Congress of the Women's Suffrage Alliance in Stockholm in 1911.

APWA Pakistan by Ruhi Sayid



More than 8 Million of Domestic workers are involved in the Domestic work; they need protection against all forms of abuse and violence. Female workers are not getting the equal pay as men received for the same work. Globally one out of 3 women has to face Domestic Violence. This situation often leads towards increased financial and psychological burden on domestic workers without any support mechanism.

Despite their immense contribution in Economy of Pakistan, Domestic workers are still unrecognized and undervalued. They belong to a excluded group, who face discrimination of having fundamental labour rights. We cannot achieve the sustainable goals agenda without providing informal economy the respect and recognition.

Pakistan has not yet ratified the Convention C 189 , Therefore different organizations are doing advocacy for the rights of Domestic worker .

APWA in collaboration with PWF arranged a rally demanding the fundamental labour right's for the Domestic workers. In last couple of years APWA also initiated the first skills development program for the domestic workers in collaboration with ILO and women development department.

APWA - Ensuring EQUAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE EDUCATION for All.

Every individual should have the right to a quality education in order to have peace and opportunities in Life, such as good health, employment, access to equal employment opportunities and participation in economic and political life.

Every year APWA's many activities are organized very much in line with the aims of the targets of the SDG's and more specifically to the SDG4. Thousand of girls enrolled in APWA's schools in under privileged areas. The aim of the basic primary schools is to bridge the gap between enrollment children to higher education for all those who unable to attend primary school because of poverty, lack of resource, health or any other issue .APWA provide a standard curriculum in primary schools of APWA to achieve equitable, quality education that leads to relevant and effective learning outcomes of a democratic culture in line with the SDG 4.1.

APWA believe that an educated citizen is a strong pillar for a democratic society and for that no group of people is excluded from access to higher education. Contributing to SDG 4.3 through its Agenda By 2030, ensure equal access for all women to affordable and quality technical, vocational including university Education, Apwa has already started vocational and technical training programs in its multipurpose centers with the help of different donor agencies, mainly ILO and One UN.

The first Technical College of APWA is in process of Registration. This initiative will help more under privileged girls and women to join in the work force ad help the women to earn a decent income. In its work to eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations, APWA has organized activities focused on increasing the capacity of its multipurpose centers to remove prejudices and discriminatory approaches. The purpose of all activities is to build a culture of shared values and harmony and acceptance.

PWA Contributing to SDG 3 specifically to (3.8) ,5 & 8, Empowering young girls and women through its mother & Child Health Centers providing health services to women and girls on reproductive rights, family planning, breast feeding and cancer awareness programs. The last

reported beneficiaries are almost 22,000 to Apwa Punjab health Centers. Every year actively advocate for improving Equity in Health at local and National Level.

APWA recognize that improving people's lives often happens at the local level, where individuals take action in their own communities. Infectious diseases particularly affect the poor and vulnerable communities. To combat with infectious diseases APWA runs different programmes at local communities' level on connecting with Better Health facilities, Medical Camps and Lab Testing programs, introducing commodities on family planning, Positive and Supportive parenting, Hepatitis A, B, C & E, HIV /AIDS are integral part of annual activities.

The path out of Poverty can only begin when our next Generation can have equal access to basic Life skills and Health facilities.

ASSOCIATES

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

INTRODUCTION

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH) is a non profit organization which aim is to contribute to the achievement of the education for ALL goals regarding perswith disabilities. AAEEH is based in Cameroon and France. In 2018, Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH) implemented activities in line with its objectives and action plan. These activities concerned advocacy, support for schooling for children with disabilities and representation. She has also contributed to the activities planned by organizations and networks of which she is member. AAEEH carries out activities in line with the convention on the right of people with disabilities (art. 24), the convention on the right of children (art. 21) and the 2030 agenda for SDGs (goals 4 and 5). The main challenge identified by the organization is education for girls with disabilities ; we are currently running a project on that issue in Cameroon.

ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE

We did disability awareness actions throughout the year. Inform about our association, its activities and registered new members. We also organize our regular meetings and responses to various requests (student internship requests, information on administrative procedures, solicitations for media and school events, requests for help and information, etc.).

We contributed and participated in the international day on women's rights through UNESCO WIKIMEDIA project .

With other partners , we join the steering committee on 2030 agenda on a project focus on inequality, the aim of the project is to highlight various inequalities that need to be tackled in the perspective of achieving UN SDGs.

We organized a fund raising event (30 november 2018) to finance the project "Supporting the schooling of girls with disabilities" and celebrate the international day of people with disabilities (3 december 2018).

ACTIVITIES IN CAMEROON



Our local team held regular meetings in 3 localities and welcomed new members. They followed-up the project supporting the schooling of girls with disabilities (feedback of teachers, parents and institutions, identification of new needs, regular reporting to the international team). They accompanied and informed families. Responded to various requests (administrative, legal, psychological, financial, health and medical). Monthly animation of the groups of words in 3 localities including Yaoundé.

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

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

They also Held in May with all stakeholders and founding president, an evaluation meeting of the project to support the schooling of girls with disabilities launched in 2015. The international team sized the opportunity to give devices to hearing impaired school

The local branch joined the inclusive society platform, which brings together nearly a hundred organizations of the society working on the issue of disability in different aspects in Cameroon.

Our national coordinator and some members participated in meetings organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the celebration of the International Day of Disabled Persons.

ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS

In 2018, AAEEH did advocacy and lobbying in various areas. We have also been involved in collective projects.



Our founder and president, Dr Ernestine NGO MELHA participate throughout the year in meetings of the EFA Group of UNESCO NGOs. She contributed to the project "Drones for peace" and participated to forum on migrations and celebration of 70th anniversary of human

rights held on 26-28 September 2018 in Tunis. She took an active part as coordinator group, contributed and participated on behalf of the AAEEH in the celebration of the girl day on 11th October 2018 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. NGOs focused their activity on barriers faced by girls to get access and participate in education. Our organization highlighted disability as a one of main factors.

She participated in the International Conference of UNESCO NGOs with title ***“Enhancing and promoting the commitment and contribution of UNESCO’s NGO partners”*** held from 17-19 December 2018 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France).

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

She also participated in the 19th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held from 27 August to 21 September 2018 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Our organisation endorsed a priority list of indicators that should be disaggregated by disability with view to achieving SDGs.

CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

Our organization is committed for the rights of persons with disabilities with a special attention on girls with disabilities. The project on girls with disabilities is important for us because it highlight the cross cutting aspect of disability , gender and education and other related issues like the role of parents and the community; but we are lacking regular fundings in order to cover all the components and issues we have identified. Every year we look for individual sponsorship or organize caritative events in order to provide some children with school materials or devices and respond to family requests. The organization would appreciate and be gratefull if IAW could help to mobilize some funding to scale up the project .

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

**Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V. / Women's Network for Peace, Germany
(WNP)A by Heide Schütz**



Heide Schütz

We continued our advocacy work on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 – peace women to the peace table/peace women's participation as peace negotiators. It was a great honor and chance to be invited as a representative of civil society to discuss the "European Strategic Approach to WPS "(Women, Peace and Security), which was finally voted upon in June 2019. (See my report as convener of the IAW Peace Commission)

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu › st15086-en18>

Peer Mediation

We also intensified our support of teachers and students working in school peer mediation programs. 70 participants were able to exchange experiences, best practices and lessons learnt. They also enjoyed further training on conflict mediation, e.g. how to cope with highly emotional situations or with conflicts based on cultural diversity, verbal violence etc. It was sad, however, that we could not accept all those who wanted to come because of the limited space and training personnel. We are convinced that this work is very important since the young mediators will take this know-how and the positive attitude to solve

conflicts with the help of non-violent strategies and skills with them into their life outside and after they have finished school.

Peaceworkers4Future

The members of the Women's Network for Peace, Germany in Bonn will join the global climate strike organized by the FridaysForFuture Movement on September 20th. We will walk together with a newly created group called Peaceworkers For Future to promote the conviction that the efforts to reduce global warming must be linked to activities for peace.

Wars and their consequences are the biggest threat to our climate.



Fight against nuclear weapons

The deadly threat of nuclear weapons which is more relevant than ever these days is the reason why we demonstrate each year in front of the airbase Büchel. Twenty nuclear bombs are stationed there and German pilots are trained to fly them and drop them. For some years activities of many groups of civil society and of the church, including an action camp for young people have taken place during 20 weeks before August 6 and 9, the historical launching of the two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. We know that there are nuclear weapons that can be launched much quicker and quite a number of them almost automatically but these are in front of our door steps and we want to put pressure on our German government to demand the end of their stationing from the US and to sign the UN nuclear ban resolution. We do not believe in the so called peace strategy of deterrence but

we fight this illegal and lethal weapon of mass destruction and fully support all efforts of arms reduction and disarmament. We also spread the ICAN initiative of the Cities appeal (see report of the peace commission).

Women's village in Kenya and visit in Bonn

We are looking forward to another visit of Rebecca Lolosoli, founder of the first women's village in Kenya. These women have been practicing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) long before they put into force by the UN, reconciling peace and development in a truly admirable way. German website: (<http://www.fk-umojja.org/>)

Peace-Tram Bertha von Suttner



This year's highlight, however, is the launching of a Bertha-von-Suttner Peace-Tram in Bonn, which will be running through the city for one year, branded with her portrait, a quotation, the title of her famous novel "Arms Down" and information on her being rewarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905. The momentum is the 70th anniversary of the Bertha-von-Suttner square, which was named after the famous pacifist and peace activist in August 1949. This square is a very lively traffic junction. It was created after the war in an area of ruins and rubble. The Peace-Tram will start its regular tour as line 62 on the international UN-Peace Day, 21st September.

RAPPORT D'ACTIVITE DE L'AFEM

by Monique BOUAZIZ, Vice-Présidente pour la France, Déléguée à l'AIF

En cette année marquée par la célébration du 100ème anniversaire de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail, du 70ème anniversaire du Conseil de l'Europe, ainsi que la préparation du Sommet Pékin+25 qui se tiendra à Paris en 2020, l'AFEM réitère son hommage à la mémoire et à l'oeuvre de sa fondatrice Micheline GALABERT, ancienne directrice du Bureau de correspondance en France du Bureau International du Travail (1979-1989). Micheline est au fondement de notre fédération en 1996 à l'issue de la Conférence Mondiale de Pékin où elle a représenté le Gouvernement français. Elle a donné à l'AFEM toutes ses «lettres de noblesse». Agir au plus haut niveau pour faire avancer l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes et garantir les droits de la personne humaine, a été la principale mission qu'elle a conduite au sein de l'AFEM avec une grande détermination et un sens politique certain, en menant un combat inlassable pour les droits fondamentaux au niveau du Conseil de l'Europe et de l'Union européenne.

L'AFEM en tant qu'unique fédération féministe de l'Europe méridionale et OING dotée du statut participatif auprès du Conseil de l'Europe, poursuit aujourd'hui son oeuvre vouée à la sauvegarde, l'enrichissement et à l'application effective de l'acquis international et européen en de droits humains fondamentaux, en premier lieu, de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes dans tous les domaines, en Europe et dans le monde. L'AFEM agit pour promouvoir la construction d'une Europe démocratique, sociale et laïque, et pour le renforcement de la société civile euro- méditerranéenne sur la base de ces mêmes valeurs et principes universels. A cette fin, elle poursuit un dialogue permanent avec les institutions des Nations Unies, du Conseil de l'Europe, de l'Union européenne, d'autres organisations internationales ainsi qu'avec les autorités publiques nationales et organisations de la société civile.

On rappellera que l'AFEM est élue aux organes de gouvernance et contribue à l'oeuvre des assemblées et OING de la société civile ci-après : a) la Coordination de la Commission des femmes dans le cadre de l'Assemblée de la société civile partenaire du processus mondial Habitat III, qu'elle assure depuis 2016 conjointement avec Hairou Commission, représentée

par sa Présidente d'honneur, la Professeure Teresa BOCCIA ayant participé à UNHA1 le 27 mai 2019 au Kenya; b) **le Conseil d'administration de l'AIF** où elle est représentée par sa Vice-Présidente pour la France, Monique BOUAZIZ et Danièle LEVY. Réélues par le 34ème Congrès 2017 de l'AIF à Nicosie, les déléguées de l'AFEM participent au Congrès 2018 de l'AIF à Berlin, coordonnent la représentation de l'AIF auprès de l'UNESCO et la représentent aux réunions annuelles de la Commission sur le statut de la femme à l'ONU ; c) **le Bureau du Réseau Euromed France**, réseau national dont elle est l'unique organisation féministe fondatrice, représentée par sa Présidente, Catherine DIMITROULIAS, élue à la Vice-Présidence du REF depuis 2009, et juin 2019.

En outre, l'AFEM intègre depuis 2018 et prend une part active en France où elle a son siège aux nouvelles coalitions civiles Women7 (W7) et Civil Society7 (C7) mobilisées tout au long du G7-2019 sous Présidence française, et culminant avec l'organisation du Forum International Women7, des 10 et 11 mai 2019, et du Sommet du C7 du 1 au 3 juillet 2019, à l'UNESCO, mais aussi du contre-sommet parallèle au Sommet du G7 à Biarritz du 24 au 26 août 2019. L'AFEM participe à l'élaboration du plaidoyer des coalitions et aux événements civils précités, étant représentée par sa Présidente Catherine DIMITROULIAS, Monique BOUAZIZ, Vice-présidente pour la France, Danièle LEVY, déléguée auprès de l'AIF et Rachel SAVIN PUGET, administratrice.

Les déléguées de l'AFEM participent aux événements institutionnels : à la première cérémonie d'attribution du Prix Simone VEIL par le Président de la République française, Emmanuel MACRON, réunissant les personnalités et associations féministes françaises, au Palais de l'Elysée, le 8 mars 2019, à l'occasion de la célébration de la Journée Internationale des Droits des Femmes et du lancement du G7; à la conférence Internationale G7/Unesco *Innover pour émanciper les femmes et les filles par éducation*, le 5 juillet 2019, à l'Unesco; à la restitution de la Ministérielle du G7 sur l'Egalité entre femmes et hommes, à l'initiative de la Secrétaire d'Etat chargée des droits des femmes, Marlène SCHIAPPA, avec la participation des Ministres et ambassadeur(e)s du G7, au Secrétariat d'Etat, à Paris, le 11 mai 2019; à la soirée de lancement du processus Pékin+25 sur invitation de la Secrétaire d'Etat, à Paris le 11 juillet

2019, ainsi que, à la réunion des organisations féministes préparatoire du processus sous l'égide de l'ONU Femmes, à l'Unesco, le 17 septembre 2019.

L'AFEM est à la pointe des mobilisations pour la défense et le renforcement des droits sociaux fondamentaux et de l'égalité des genres, ainsi que pour la lutte contre les violences, les inégalités et les discriminations multiples à l'égard des femmes, à l'échelle de la région Euroméditerranéenne et plus généralement à l'échelle internationale, en particulier, dans le cadre du nouvel agenda urbain mondial et européen. L'AFEM soutient l'objectif de l'adhésion de l'Union européenne à la Convention d'Istanbul et aux autres traités majeurs du Conseil de l'Europe, dont la Convention Européenne des Droits de l'Homme (CEDH) et la Charte sociale européenne révisée. Elle se mobilise pour la signature, ratification et application effective des Traités internationaux et européens, dans les pays où elle est implantée.

L'AFEM met en œuvre à cet effet une série d'actions d'interpellation des décideurs, d'information et formation auprès des OING et des milieux spécialisés. Les événements de l'AFEM sous la direction de sa Présidente Catherine DIMITROULIAS bénéficient de la participation et du soutien de plus de 70 OING, associations nationales, centres de recherche et expertes internationales, dont, notamment, la Vice-présidente de la Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe chargée de l'égalité de genre, Anne NEGRE et la représentante de la France auprès du GREVIO en charge de l'application de la Convention d'Istanbul, Françoise BRIE.

Dans le cadre du Conseil de l'Europe, l'AFEM est la première OING dotée de statut participatif auprès du CoE à ouvrir la célébration du 70ème anniversaire du CoE en France, en organisant le débat européen *L'égalité entre femmes et hommes, valeur et droit fondamental de la civilisation démocratique européenne*, en partenariat avec l'Association Française des Femmes de Carrières Juridiques (AFFJ), avec l'appui de la Ville de Paris, à la Maison du Barreau de Paris, le 4 avril 2019. L'AFEM participe en parallèle en Italie, au Congrès et à la mobilisation d'envergure *Verona libera Italia laica*, Academia di Agricoltura, Science e Lettere, à Verona, le

30 mars 2019, coorganisé par Irène DONADIO, avec l'appui des associations féministes et du monde académique.

A l'issue de ce débat et de cette mobilisation, l'AFEM élabore la proposition de Recommandation *Stop aux attaques contre les droits des femmes et à la régression de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes en Europe et dans le monde*, soumise le 10 avril 2019 pour adoption à la Conférence des OING du CoE, réunie en session plénière à Strasbourg. Elle contribue également aux conclusions de la Table ronde *The Istanbul Convention, current challenges in the implementation*, organisée par la Conférence des OING, le 11 avril 2019, à Strasbourg, où elle est représentée par Monique BOUAZIZ et Lynda DE MATTEO, chercheuse à l'EHESS et membre de l'AFEM. Catherine DIMITROULIAS, Présidente de l'AFEM et ancienne Vice-présidente de la Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe, participe aux réunions et soutien les travaux de la Gender Equality task force instituée par sa successeuse Anne NEGRE, Vice-présidente en charge de l'égalité de genre.

On rappellera aussi les contributions de l'AFEM à la consultation de la Conférence des OING dans le cadre du processus élaboration de la Recommandation du CoE sur la prévention et la lutte contre le sexisme adoptée en mars 2019. Ces propositions présentées depuis 2017 et en septembre 2018, sont élaborées par la Vice-présidente de l'AFEM pour le Portugal, Isabel ROMAO, ancienne Présidente de la Commission pour l'Egalité de genre du Conseil de l'Europe. L'AFEM contribue également aux travaux du Réseau académique sur la Charte sociale européenne (RACSE) dont elle est membre. Sa présidente Catherine DIMITROULIAS est invitée à participer à une Conférence à la Maison du Barreau de Paris en automne 2018, et à présenter une communication portant sur «Les saisines du Comité européen des droits sociaux relatives à l'égalité salariale», au Colloque International, *Justice sociale et Juges. Les juges, nouveaux acteurs des luttes sociales*, organisé à l'Université de Rouen, Faculté de Droit, les 27 et 28 juin 2019 (diffusion web Université de Rouen).

Dans le cadre de l'Union européenne et notamment des élections européennes de mai 2019, l'AFEM est partenaire de la campagne du Parlement européen «cette fois je vote», et

contribue activement à la mobilisation citoyenne par sa campagne transnationale de plaidoyer basée sur le Manifeste de l'AFEM *Il n'y a pas d'avenir pour l'Europe sans garantie des droits fondamentaux des femmes et des hommes. Votez et donnez la priorité à l'égalité entre femmes et hommes, condition de la démocratie au coeur du projet européen.*

L'AFEM organise le débat européen *L'égalité entre femmes et hommes, valeur et droit fondamental de l'identité démocratique européenne*, en partenariat avec le Laboratoire d'excellence LABEX ENHE/ Europe et Genre, Université de Paris 1 - Sorbonne, avec l'appui du Parlement européen, au Bureau de liaison du Parlement européen en France, à Paris, le 28 mars 2019. La Présidente de l'AFEM, Catherine DIMITROULIAS, en qualité de Vice-Présidente du Réseau Euromed France contribue aussi à la campagne de plaidoyer de ce réseau et à la campagne de Coordination Sud à destination des candidats aux élections européennes de 2019. Elle cosigne la Tribune «Solidarité internationale : l'appel des ONG pour « renforcer la taxe sur les transactions financières», publiée dans le *Journal du Dimanche*, 22 juillet 2019.

L'AFEM soutien la campagne sur l'Initiative citoyenne européenne, et participe dans ce cadre au *Jubel festival* à Bruxelles les 6 et 7 septembre 2019, ainsi qu'à l'événement *No democracy without accountability* organisé dans le cadre de la Journée Internationale de la Démocratie le 17 septembre 2019, au siège du Comité des régions à Bruxelles, représentée par Nelly JAZRA, administratrice.

Dans le cadre de la politique euroméditerranéenne, l'AFEM participe à la Première édition du Forum Civil Euromed, co-organisée par le Réseau Euromed France dans le cadre du projet européen MAJALAT dont le REF est partenaire, à Bruxelles, au Comité Economique et Social Européen, les 20 et 21 novembre 2018. Elle élabore la Déclaration conjointe de l'AFEM et du REF à l'occasion de la Journée Internationale des Droits des Femmes, du 8 mars 2019. Par ailleurs elle reçoit une jeune journaliste féministe égyptienne accueillie en mai 2019 à Paris par le REF dans le cadre de son partenariat avec l'ambassade française au Caire. L'AFEM est en outre membre du Comité de rédaction des *Cahiers du Réseau Euromed France* publié avec le soutien du Gouvernement français - Ministère des Affaires Etrangères - Agence Française

du Développement (AFD). La Présidente de l'AFEM est enfin invitée à intervenir au **Colloque Femmes d'Europe et d'Afrique**, événement labellisé semaine de l'innovation publique, organise par Win France, Eurocratia, Casciofee, à l'Assemblée Nationale, Palais Bourbon, à Paris, le 12 avril 2019.

L'AFEM contribue enfin à Paris, où elle a son siège, à l'assemblée des associations dans le cadre du processus d'élaboration de la Charte des engagements réciproques entre la Ville de Paris et les associations, sous l'égide de Pauline VERON, Maire adjointe, signée le 11 juillet 2019, à l'Hôtel de Ville de Paris, lors de la célébration de la Loi 1901 sur la liberté d'association. L'AFEM participe aussi aux actions du Conseil Parisien des Européen-nes, organe consultatif auprès de la Ville de Paris, voué à la promotion des valeurs et droits liées à la citoyenneté européenne, institué avec le soutien du programme européen INCLUDE, en 2019. La Présidente de l'AFEM, Catherine DIMITROULIAS y siège à titre individuel et coordonne le Groupe Egalité entre Femmes et Hommes.

L'AFEM organise ainsi en 2019 avec l'appui du Conseil Parisien des Européen-nes, conjointement à l'association française Les Humoristes, **l'exposition itinérante *Le dessin humoristique au service des droits des femmes***, inaugurée par Hermano SANCHES RUIVO, Conseiller auprès de la Maire de Paris, Délégué Europe, ainsi que la table ronde européenne *Les Européennes. Itinéraires d'art, ou l'art des itinéraires cosmopolites*, dans le cadre de la fête de l'Europe, à la Maison de la Vie Associative de la Ville de Paris, 7ème, le 5 mai 2019, réunissant 50 associations, journalistes et dessinateurs de presse. L'AFEM y est représentée par la Professeure Sophie PAPAETHIMIOU, administratrice. Catherine DIMITROULIAS co-organise aussi le séminaire d'information *Les fonds européens, instruments d'une Europe plus solidaire*, dans le cadre de la fête de l'Europe, en partenariat avec le Pôle Fonds européens de la Ville de Paris, MVAC 12ème, le 6 mai 2019. Elle intervient au débat, *Femmes de la diaspora*, invitée par la Communauté Hellénique de Paris, lors de la Journée Internationale des droits des Femmes, à la Maison de la Grèce, établissement du Ministère Grec des Affaires Etrangères, à Paris, le 8 mars 2019.



L'AFEM représentée par sa Présidente, conjointement à Rachel SAVIN PUGET, administratrice, Dominique RIECAUD et DARIA MOATTI membres de la Coordination de l'AFEM pour la France, contribue au mouvement «Nous toutes» depuis son lancement en 2018, et participe à nombre d'actions de terrain préparatoires de la grande marche à Paris réunissant 30.000 personnes, dans le cadre de la Journée Internationale de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes du 25 novembre 2018, à l'Assemblée générale de ce mouvement le 6 juillet 2019 à la Sorbonne et à la manifestation tenue le même jour aboutissant au lancement du Grenelle contre les violences faites aux femmes. La Coordination de l'AFEM pour la France est par ailleurs cosignataire de la *Contribution pour une transition écologique sociale et féministe*, des associations Adéquations, Commission genre d'ATTAC et Réseau féministe Ruptures, depuis mai 2019.

V. toute l'actualité, « La Gazette de l'AFEM », AFEM / scoop.it

**RAPPORT DE LA PARTICIPATION DE L'ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES (A.I.F.) by
Anne Pélagie YOTCHOU T.**

**La Conférence Internationale sur l'éducation des filles et la formation des femmes dans
l'espace francophone**

Ndjaména, 18-19 juin 2019

L'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) et ses partenaires ont organisé sous le Haut Patronage du Président de la République du Tchad, Son Excellence Monsieur Idriss BEBY ITNO, une conférence internationale pour thème "Education des filles et Formation des femmes dans l'espace francophone : Défis, bonnes pratiques et pistes d'actions" afin de s'assurer l'inclusion et l'égalité des sexes dans et par l'éducation.

Ladite conférence s'est tenue à l'Hôtel Radisson Blu de Ndjaména, capital du Tchad du 18 au 19 juin 2019.

L'Alliance Internationale des Femmes (AIF) a été représentée à Ndjaména à travers deux de ses membres, à savoir:

- Anne Pélagie YOTCHOU T. du Cameroun et actrice d'implémentation projet Eau et Serviettes
- Rakia KABIA DIAKITE du Tchad et membre de la Commission Santé



Anne et Rakia pendant une séance plénière

La cérémonie d'ouverture de la dite conférence du 18 juin 2019 à 11 heures (GMT+1) a connu la participation d'un panel riche composé de Son Excellence Monsieur Idriss DEBY ITNO, Président de la République du Tchad accompagnée de son épouse, de la Secrétaire Générale de la Francophonie, Mme , et du Premier Ministre du Rwanda. A côté de ce panel, nous avons aussi d'importantes personnalités de divers rangs sociaux venus de plusieurs pays de l'espace francophone d'Afrique et du Monde, en l'occurrence : Canada, France, Suisse, Congo, Gabon, Togo, RDC, Guinée Conakry, Seychelles, Côte d'Ivoire, Sénégal, ... La cérémonie d'ouverture, très protocolaire a été ponctuée de discours et clôturée par une photo de famille.

Après la cérémonie d'ouverture officielle, nous avons continué avec le programme de la conférence qui s'est étendue sur deux (02) jours comme précisé ci-dessus.

La conférence de Ndjaména nous a donné de nous rappeler que les inégalités dans l'éducation se manifestent à travers tous les aspects du processus éducatif (accès, rétention, achèvement, collecte et traitement des données, résultats d'apprentissage, choix éducatifs et professionnels, ...) et de formation tout au long de la vie, touchant les filles et les femmes de façon disproportionnée, en particulier celles qui se trouvent en situation de vulnérabilité.

Il a été question durant les deux (02) jours des travaux tant dans les sessions plénières que pendant les différents ateliers, d'explorer les causes profondes des inégalités, des disparités et des diverses formes d'exclusion et de discrimination touchant les filles et les jeunes femmes, ainsi que les politiques et stratégies pour accroître l'accès, réduire le taux d'abandon scolaire, de redoublement et d'échec et éliminer les inégalités de genre dans l'éducation, et dans les dispositifs de formation et d'apprentissage.

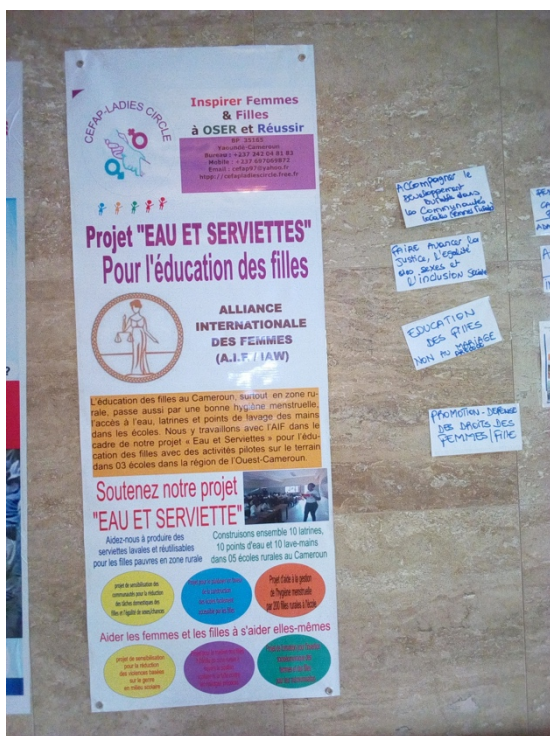
La conférence a été sectionnée en plusieurs segments, à savoir:

- Un volet Ministériel où nous avons eu des ministres des différents pays en charge des questions relatives à l'éducation, la formation, l'autonomisation et le développement socioéconomique des femmes et des filles, qui ont partagé les expériences de leurs pays et toutes les bonnes pratiques en faveur de l'éducation des filles, la formation des femmes, l'inclusion et l'égalité des sexes ; la problématique de la révision des politiques en faveur de l'éducation des filles et de la formation des femmes est revenu dans les échanges.
- Des tables rondes thématiques :

- Celle relative à l'examen des progrès et défis de l'éducation des filles et de la formation des femmes a donné lieu à des interventions sur l'état des lieux général concernant les enjeux et les politiques d'éducation qui doivent être dans la plupart des cas être réévalués et redéfinis en fonction des exigences actuelles pour maintenir les filles à l'école. Il y a aussi durant cet atelier des discussions croisées sur les progrès et les défis. Les panélistes et les participants-
es ont partagé des expériences et il a été convenu que les gouvernements doivent revoir leur système éducatif et prendre en compte les besoins spécifiques des filles.

- La table ronde concernant le renforcement des systèmes éducatifs pour bâtir des politiques multisectorielles sensibles au genre a donné lieu aux débats sur la nécessité d'une meilleure prise en compte du genre dans les systèmes de gestion et d'information de l'éducation.

- La dernière table ronde sur la société civile a été l'occasion de repenser la marge de manoeuvre de la société civile qui est très déterminante dans l'amélioration de l'éducation des filles et la formation des femmes. Cette activité a été très interactive, un rendez-vous de partage d'expériences sur des initiatives en faveur de l'éducation des filles et ça été une opportunité pour l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes de partager son expérience avec le projet « eau et serviettes » qui a été très bien applaudi et nous avons reçu environs 80% des participants-es à notre stand d'informations qui sont venus pour avoir plus amples détails sur le projet et s'en inspirer pour aller dans leurs pays implémenter un projet similaire.



La banderole du projet Eau et Serviettes

Ateliers

Les ateliers ont aussi été des moments du donné et du recevoir en terme de bonnes pratiques pour renforcer l'éducation des filles et des femmes dans l'espace francophone. Au terme des deux (02) jours de travaux, des recommandations ont été élaborées et il en ressort clairement que la question de l'éducation des filles et la formation des femmes doit être adressée par les divers états avec une approche multisectoriel et égalité des sexes pour implémenter des actions plus efficaces pour le maintien des filles à l'école et la formation des femmes ; la société civile a aussi été interpellée de continuer à se mobiliser et s'activer sur le terrain pour accompagner et se rassurer que des politiques adéquates soient mises en place pour faire de l'éducation des filles et la formation des femmes, une priorité dans l'espace francophone. Ce rendez-vous du donner et du recevoir a permis aux participants-es aussi de nouer et développer de nouveaux réseaux spécifiques sur l'éducation des filles en Afrique francophone avec un accent sur celles vivant en milieu rural. Le projet « Eau et Serviette » a été remarqué comme une bonne pratique à étendre dans d'autres pays ; des dépliants du projet, imprimés au Cameroun, ont été distribués aux participants-es et aux officiels-es pendant la conférence avec l'espoir que le projet retiendra l'attention des uns-es et des autres pour un retour positif en terme de financement pour nous aider à étendre et renforcer les activités de notre projet eau et serviettes » dans les différents pays identifiés en Afrique.

La Conférence de Ndjaména s'est achevée le 19 juin 2019 autour d'un dîner de Gala offert par la Francophonie et le Gouvernement du Tchad.



Anne accueille des visiteurs au stand de l'AIF et présente le projet « Eau et Serviettes »

Water and Pads Project - Activities in Bunyakiri DR Congo by Anuarite Siirewabo

PREPARATIONS

I had to organize the activities at Bunyakiri during a period of insecurity. Dubious elements of the FDLR, Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda, have infiltrated this region threatening children i.e. families, with their heavy weapons. The motive of their presence is not known; it is rather sure that they will commit crimes any day now.

On Sunday 25 May 2019, at 1 p.m. I left Bukavu direction of Bunyakiri. The road through the National Park Kahuzi Biega was almost impassable but at 5 p.m. I reached the site of the activities. There I was welcomed by the population, mainly by members of the association SOFEDEC.

Monday morning at 8 o'clock we went to the Institute Bunyakiri in order to greet the head prefect and prepare the room for the activity; then we called on the office of the staff supervisor to get his o.k. on my agenda. We also informed the office of ANR, the National Agency of Information, of our arrival, so they could take safety measures during our activity. Finally we went to the office of the head inspector for elementary schools, for the authorization of the activity. We thanked each of the authorities for their support.

CONDUCTING THE ACTIVITIES

The day of our activity on puberty and the menstruation was May 28, exactly on the International Day for menstrual hygiene.

The activities on May 28 **at Institute Bunyakiri started at 7.30 and lasted until 11 a.m.**

40 schoolgirls of the elementary school Bunyakiri et Mulala, as well as from the Institute Bunyakiri participated.

All of a sudden 40 more schoolgirls, from the elementary school Bunyakiri, appeared at the entrance, showing up unannounced. The number of participants was too high. However, their interest was apparent and sending them away would have been frustrating.

The subject fascinated the children, above all the 45 % who had already their period. We noticed that the majority of the participants did not have any knowledge about the menstrual cycle. We saw that only 45 % had already the menstrual period.

RESULTS

The schoolgirls followed the teaching, highly motivated and interested.

Afterwards they recommended:

- distribute sanitary pads
- set up clean and separate toilets
- continue with the teaching.

The schools that had not been invited begged us to extend the program to them as well.

All activities have been broadcast by the local station Amka (RCA) BUNYAKIRI.

Report of the Deutsche Frauenring DFR for the booklet 2019 by

Gudrun Haupter and Marion Boeker

Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the organisation

DFR turns 70 – the jubilee October 11/12 is on the programme of the 2019 meetings in Bad Pyrmont. Our organization was founded in 1949 by Theanolte Bänisch, a German lawyer and feminist. In Bad Pyrmont a square with her name will be inaugurated.



Motive: Theanolte Bänisch, DFR founder, Bad Pyrmont, 2018

The yearly meeting in October 2019 has a full program: the celebration of the jubilee, the statutory meetings, a Seminar on Care in old age and the meeting of the Commission on International Affairs. And as a highlight, the DFR will honor "Woman of the Year 2019", MD Christina Hänel, who advocates the self-determination of pregnant women and the deletion of § 219a which punishes MDs for informing about abortions as incriminated "advertisement for abortion". She published "Diary of an abortion doctor".

The Seminar Squaring the Circle – Women Peace Security on UNSCR 1325



Pramilla Patten, UNSG SR on VAW in crisis & conflict, welcoming speech (video)

Berlin International Seminar with IAW and many other

The team of the IAW project "Water & Pads"

Follow-up work kept our Berlin headquarters with managing director Françoise Greve busy. A documentation of the Seminars speeches and contributions in German will be published when the

set of documents is complete. It will be online and completes the series of DFR seminars "Grüne Reihe". Marion Böker had a few month ago send her longer report in English to the president Joanna Manganara. Among many Issues in various panels in Panel 5 the IAW project "Water and Pads for Schoolgirls – Empowerment for Life" was presented. Many IAW members and Organisations contributed to the lively discussions of UNSCR 1325 and some of its special aspects. The DFR as the German host invited representatives of the Foreign Office to offer discussion and contact of the German Government which is currently in the non permanent UNSC seat. One important Panel was about the IAWs long term *herstory* fight for the *Human Right to Peace* which finally was adopted in an UNGA declaration end of 2016 and how we all can strengthen this still very weak new human right to make it a complete Treaty with a Treaty Body and an Optional protocol. Another important section was dealing with the need for live long education for peace and conflict solution which still is not implemented as a regular element in most of the countries educational and training sector: IAW and all other NGO guests identified this as a key element for daily life and global peace keeping. The seminar was financed by three official German sources, participants' fees and donations. For German participants who were not required at the DFR statutory meetings, attendance of the IAW Seminar and of the IM/BM was a great occasion to get updated on our umbrella organization and to have met IAW members. Marion Boeker was the main organizer of the Berlin week and extends many thanks to everyone who made it happen due to the many generous donations and contribution.

The current DFR Board has 5 members, from different Federal States. Marion Boeker left the board but is still active as chair of the Commission on International Affairs (AIA) and in the board of the DFR section of Berlin. She still represents DFR in the national NGO-UNSCR-1325-Alliance for the implementation of the National Action Plan on the UNSCR resolution 1325, "Women, Peace and Security" and in the steady CEDAW Alliance Germany.

The board had 6 meetings in the period of reporting, issues were i.a. preparing the yearly Meeting in Bad Pyrmont (near Hannover), nominating the members of the 5 Commissions – among these the newly founded Commission and section of young women *DFR F*UTURE* with an attractive programme in Berlin: Presentation on March 7 of the film "The Nomination, Fighting for Justice" on Ruth Bader-Ginsburg, Judge at the US Federal Court. Next issue will be the request to abolish the tampon tax of 19 %.

Activities of the Board

External activities: Board members participated in several meetings on "100 years of Women's vote"; Members also represented us at meetings of DF, the German Women's Council; at celebrations of the "Day of German Unity", to quote but a few occasions. Updating our homepage needed attention, too. It informs i.a. on a) national and b) international. The DFR continues in its campaign claiming for #50% parity of women in parliaments.

Projects and Exhibitions

One of our international projects is the Burkina Faso project against FGM and Family planning, in the Departments Kongoussi and Sabcé. African partner is IAW member *AFD, Association Songmanegrè Feminine pour le Développement*. German Partner is *LI, LebensChancen International*. Another project is the Togo project in a hilly region near the border to Ghana, an Educational Centre with a vocation to serve and empower young women. A Project Committee chaired by Gudrun Haupter, member of the AIA, respectively a WG on Development Policies is doing the work and helps obtaining the

donations to keep the projects alive. The DFR continues to be a member of the German Network INTEGRA against FGM/C.

As such the DFR hosted a joint Seminar on Feb. 8 in Berlin in which experts, African and German MDs and from Iraqi Kurdistan Region presented medical and human rights aspects especially on restoration surgeries. Our exhibition on FGM/C was presented.



1st. Photo: (Left to right) Ibrahim Guèye, Jàppo, Frankfurt/INTEGRA; Dr. Anna Lena Götsche, Fed. Women's Ministry, Dr. MD. Rozhgar A. Saleem, Sulaimanya/ Kurdish Autonomous Region Iraq, Team leader Multiple Indicator Cluster Service, Unicef, health of children and women; Dr. MD. Dan mon O'Dey, Luisenhospital Aachen/Germany; Dr. MD Manuel Pina, Dakar/Senegal; **2nd Photo:** Dr. MD. Dan mon O'Dey, Luisenhospital Aachen/Germany explains his methodology of cosmetic restoration surgery; **3rd Photo:** Gertraude Kämpf, DFR/INTEGRA (exhibition of DFR in the background) and participants



Since December 2018 the DFR together with the Ezidi Women's NGO *WOMEN FOR JUSTICE* and the *BERLIN EZIDI WOMEN'S COUNCIL* developed an **exhibition on Yezidi Women "About Survival"**. It was sponsored by UN WOMEN GERMANY and it can be rent out. It was shown in various towns already. It is being promoted by Marion Boeker who is the contact person and motor of this component of DFR work. The cooperation with Ezidi Women started in the Local section of the DFR in Celle many years ago and was supported by the national board. After the femicide against Ezidi women started in Aug. 2014 the DFR and the mentioned Ezidi women's NGOs started a long term close cooperation.



12/2018 1st launching in Women's Museum, Bonn



Visitors reading testimonies of Ezidi women about slavery by ISIS, survival and their claims, demands and hopes for a peaceful mutual future in the midst of the International Community

Publications and PR

The e-newsletter, mailed twice a month to all members, had current news on our foci but also on political and social developments in Germany and beyond. URL on the issues guided the reader through the fortnight.

Two INFORM Letters edited by the board and the Berlin office were our source of information e.g. on the Berlin seminar, on the upcoming event in Bad Pyrmont, on events like the FGM/C meeting at the DFR seat, on news from local and regional groups, on honors bestowed on members.

Press releases: 25th Nov. 2018 on Violence against women on, invitation to the opening of the exhibition on Yezidi women at the Women's Museum in Bonn; on the DFR Woman of the year, MD Katarina Hänle; on FGM/C and the Istanbul Convention; at the occasion of March 8.

Membership of DFR at IAW, International Alliance of Women and ICW, International Council of Women

Contacts to the International Alliance of Women are frequent at all levels of DFR. This is also due to the fact that we have more than 40 IAW individual members IM and pay the fee for 3 German Women's Libraries. IAW's budget profits from the membership fees. Contacts have been intensified by the "Berlin Week".

For the IAW's delegate to the European Women's Lobby (EWL), Arina Angerman, Marion Böker of the DFR serves as the proxy. She was nominated in 2018 for the working group on 'feminist economy' and in May 2019 to serve for two years in the EWL Gender budgeting expert group. This supports with expertise the EWLs Project on "Channeling resources to European Women" sponsored by the Chanel Foundation. While the feminist economy WG has written the Purple Pact and submitted this outline of a caring economy to the new MPs of the European Parliament and the new Commission, the GB expert group will reach out and lobby the EP and the EUComm to deliver more outspoken on EU members states implementation of Gender Budgeting to steer expenditure in a systematic methodology based approach for Gender Equality and design the budget allocation (taxes) better for the same purpose. The objectives: More resources are needed for the fight and a change of mind set to eliminated all forms of violence and discrimination against women, to make women economical independent and change the economy into a feminist and care driven sustainable economy *which no one leaves behind*.

The Committee on International Affairs of the DFR (AIA) is also responsible for contacts with ICW. There exist contacts of local groups with National Councils but we cannot participate in their constitutional meetings, this goes also for ECICW. Some National Councils mail their Newsletter which is also a good way to keep contact.

The year from October 2018 to September 2019 has been a very busy time for our organisation at all levels. Contacts with board members including the treasurer, the DFR Office manager and interns have been frequent and effective.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed generously with their reports and a special thanks to Lene Pind who so kindly assisted me in my work with the Annual Report 2019.

***Best wishes,
Christina Knight
Editor***

