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## IAW • AIF NEWSLETTER

### October 2019

Dear readers,

This year we lost a cherished member, Kay Fraleigh

The Members Login is a fairly new facility on the website: This is where IAW can have a kind of archive with documents from meetings and other events. Please note the section on IAW history.

In this Newsletter, we have excellent reports from our international representatives in Geneva, Vienna, European Women's Lobby, FAO and the Council of Europe.

Note also the report on climate change from Natalie Kostus.

The Water and Pads Project continues, and Ursula Nakamara and Gudrun Haupter are looking for sponsors.

**Deadline for contributions to the December Newsletter is November 15**



### In Memoriam Kay Fraleigh

Kay Fraleigh, IAW Board Member, Vice President, Honorary Vice President but first and foremost IAW main representative to the UN in New York.

*Kay was one of the most inclusive and generous people I ever met in every sense of those words.*

- Lene Pind, former Secretary General

*Kay was a powerhouse for Women's Rights and a boon to the International Alliance of Women (IAW).*

*Her work as Representative of the IAW at the UN in New York was invaluable. When I began as a rep at the UN in Vienna, she showed me around the NYC headquarters and gave me tips about the ins and outs of the organizations.*

- Alison Brown, former Secretary General

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## Members Login

### Publications on IAW

Several times the Members Login has been mentioned in the Newsletter. This time the Editor invites members to go to the Members Login. Go to [www.womenalliance.org](http://www.womenalliance.org) > Home> Members Login. Then you are asked to use a password. The password is Berlin1904.

Now you are in the Members Area. There you'll find important documents, documents related to IAW meetings, and last but not least a list of publications about IAW.

The list is based on the personal collections of Rosy Weiss's and Lene Pind. Now all members are invited to study the bibliography and add titles that are not listed so that members can find a complete bibliography of IAW on the website.

Also - it would be a great help if somebody among our member would lend a helping hand to Lene Pind and produce a better-organised list of publications.

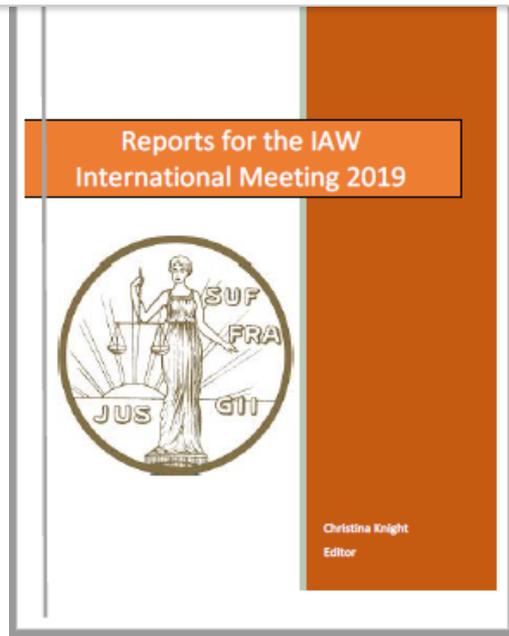
Please, send your contributions to Lene Pind at [lenepind@gmail.com](mailto:lenepind@gmail.com).

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the International Alliance of Women website. The navigation menu includes: HOME, ABOUT IAW, OUR WORK, PUBLICATIONS, and JOIN US! IAW MEMBER. The 'HOME' link is highlighted in gold, and the 'Members Login' link is highlighted in black with two red arrows pointing to it. Below the navigation bar is a banner for a 'SPECIAL IAW PROJECT WATER AND PADS FOR SCHOOLGIRLS - E...' with a link to 'Learn more and get involved'. Below the banner is a section titled 'IAW NEWS:' featuring a video thumbnail for 'THE VILLAGE PROJECT OF DER IN'.

Access to Members Login: Password Berlin1904

## International Meeting 2019

The International Meeting is scheduled for October 25 to 27 in Geneva. All relevant documents: Registration forms, agenda etc are available in the website's Members Area.

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## Booklet of Annual Reports 2019

**Dear Presidents of Affiliates and Associates and Members of the Extended Board,**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the IAW member organisations, international representatives, commission conveners and other office bearers for their reports to this years edition of our booklet. Your reports form a vital basis for the collaboration between the Board and the membership and the preparations for Congress.

All the reports that were submitted in time for the booklet have been included in the publication and all delegates will receive a copy at the beginning of the meeting.

A presentation of the booklet including a presentation of the major issues emerging from the reports will be given at Congress, this time by Cheryl Hayles as I will unfortunately not be able to attend in Geneva. The booklet is also available on the IAW website: <https://womenalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Annual-Reports-2019.pdf>

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lene Pind for her invaluable support . As this was my first time as Editor for the production of the booklet, it has been quite a demanding exercise. Without the help of Lene it would have been impossible.

Wishing you all a good read and many interesting discussions in Geneva.

Yours sincerely,

Christina Knight  
Editor

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## Lyda Verstegen, IAW representative to Geneva, writes:

*'In my report for the Booklet I was not very pessimistic about Human Rights. But there are many real concerns. Mrs Bachelet, the High Commissioner, gave a press conference before the 42nd session of the HRCouncil in which she voiced her misgivings, especially in relation to conflicts, like Syria and Yemen.'*

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24945&LangID=E>



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



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## News from the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

by Rosy Weiss, IAW main representative to Vienna, former IAW President



**General** : UNCAC came 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

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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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 have led to a temporary compromise at the COSP4 (Conference of State Parties 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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.**

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## Natalie Kostus, Convener of the IAW Commission on Climate Change reports from COP24 in Katowice, Poland

A unique feature of the Katowice COP 24 was the Talanoa Dialogue, based on the Pacific storytelling tradition, initiated by the Fijian COP 23 Presidency. Talanoas brought together Parties and stakeholders with divergent interests focusing on forging a way forward for the common good: “Where are we?, Where do we want to go?” and “How do we get there?” Many were disappointed that the Talanoas were not used to effectively strengthen the NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) and that the COP merely “took note” of them. The Talanoa Call for Action called everyone to “act with urgency,” recognize that we are in a “race against time” to preserve “the life on earth as we know it.” For the IAW: “We call upon civil society leaders to marshal the public and political will needed to drive action. We call upon them to engage political leadership, influence and challenge norms, enhance awareness, and mobilize action at the regional, state and local levels.”

[Read the whole article](#)

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## News from the Council of Europe

by the team Heleen Jansen, Anje Wiersinga, Monique Bouchet, Renée Gérard

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The annual World Forum for Democracy is organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with among others the French Government. This year it was on Women and Democracy. Its focus was meant to be on women’s public, political and economic participation and on combating violence against women.

Positive 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, few workshops, called labs, were on the need of equal participation or on women as decision makers in democratic

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this emphasis on women as victims instead of on women as contributors to society was a missed chance to introduce the younger generation to opportunities in the democratic field, how to achieve equal participation in political processes and in decision taking at all levels.

The programme was titled "Gender Equality: Whose Battle?" The reply came at the evaluation when the organiser concluded that the solution will come from the grassroots – not the politics. Fortunately one of the parliamentarians responded and said : both are needed.

This brought us to recollect the discussion within IAW about its future Plan of Action, about the history of the feminist movement and the creation of IAW. And the relevance of our present choice between becoming a project-organisation at grassroots level or an organisation which influences gender equality in policies at local, national and international level - since voting rights have been obtained.

About our role as representatives at the Council of Europe:

In 1880 the International Council of Women started with projects; the first one aimed to combat women trafficking from Yugoslavia. Between 1880 and 1904 there were discussions and fierce battles among feminists whether achieving voting rights should be a priority to obtain better working conditions for women. Grassroots women needed food on the table and work. Voting rights were considered an elitist problem. In 1904 the Suffragettes made their choice and started the IAW with its priority to fight for voting rights and thereby obtain political influence.

As for 2019 this choice has returned : is equal participation of women on Boards and in political decision taking elitist, and are women more interested in projects which improve their situation, making it more safe? Has voting rights given us sufficient political influence? Shall equal participation in decision taking in the political field solve women's problems? Or do we have to wait till all violence against women is out before fighting for political influence?

For the moment the IAW representatives at the Council of Europe are continuing to bring the wishes, demands and priorities of grassroots women to the attention of the policymakers and in this way they are influencing in a democratic way the political decision taking.



## Feminists for Europe

**Arina Angerman, Representing IAW in Board European Women's Lobby**

As IAW representative on the Board of European Women's Lobby, I focus 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." IAW gave input for the EWL Work Programme 2020 in an online survey carried out in March 2019. A BIG nice to know: Feminist Helena Dalli (from Malta) is designated to be the next Commissioner for Women's Rights. @HelenaDalli at Twitter: "she looks forward to joining president-elect Ursula von der Leyen's team." In September 2019 EWL's team met her.

### Brexit

During General Assembly of EWL in June 2019 all members approved a motion by which UK National Coordination remains a member of the EWL regardless of Brexit. EWL President Gwendoline Lefebvre from France "Sisterhood and solidarity are the core values of our Feminist Movement".

### Gender Budgeting

Marion Boeker is IAW Alternate Board Member. Marion is a member of Feminist Economics Working Group. In april 2019 I supported Marion in becoming Expert in Group on Gender Budgeting. In 2020, the EWL will "develop and deliver phase 2 of the gender budgeting project: expert working group meetings, communication materials. Conference to launch the digital platform to include resources and online toolkits" in Work programme 2020.

### Observatory on Violence Against Women

Nice and need to know news of July 2019: Jocelyne Scutt remains IAW's expert in EWL's Observatory on Violence Against Women from 2019 - 2021. Jocelyne Scutt is one out of 17 Observatory experts for a second mandate together with 13 newly

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programme 2020.

In July 2020 we are going to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 30th anniversary of EWL in France!

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## Message from Jessica Kehl-Lauff, IAW main representative to FAO

### World Food Day 2019: Time for action!

Celebrated each year on FAO's anniversary, 16 October, **#WorldFoodDay** is one of the biggest days in the UN calendar. Events held in up to 150 countries bring together governments, businesses, NGOs, media agencies, civil society organizations and the general public, and promotional material is shared in over 30 languages.

This year, World Food Day (WFD) is raising awareness of the importance of healthy diets and calling for urgent action across sectors to make healthy diets available and affordable to everyone with the theme "Our actions are our future. Healthy diets for a #Zero Hunger world".

Get involved! You can start by committing to [our actions for healthy diets](#) and inspire your partners to do the same. Share your actions on social media channels and post WFD products such as the [promotional video](#), [human-interest stories](#) or other material from the [WFD trello board](#).

More ideas on what you can do, and the materials available, can be found in the [WFD Communications Handbook and Toolkit](#).

If you are planning an outreach activity or event, you can download many other products (all files are print-ready) from the [WFD work space](#) including an [exhibition package](#), a [children's video animation](#), an [activity book for kids](#), the [WFD brochure](#), [poster](#), [web banners](#), [event backdrops](#) and [graphics](#) for the production of t-shirts, hats and other promotional items. Remember to post your activity or event on the virtual WFD map by uploading information using the [online form](#)!

Stay tuned as new products are added to the [WFD workspace](#), including a video feature on FAO projects, and an op-ed and video message from the Director-General.

Please join in spreading the word and calling for action! For further information, contact the WFD team: [world-food-day@fao.org](mailto:world-food-day@fao.org).

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## News about the Water and Pads project

Julliet Saab at Public Primary School Kongola



### Activities at the Kongola and Luggéo Doubai Primary Schools, Cameroon

by Sab Julliet, Program Manager of RENATA (Réseau National des Association des Tantines)

#### The activities

I left Yaoundé for the Far North of Cameroon on 15 May 2019 and arrived there the next day. It started with a brief meeting with two RENATA Aunties. We also prepared our materials and decided on our roles. Our team also contacted a journalist and the directors of the schools.

The first activity took place on Friday 17 May 2019 at the Kongola Primary School and the second one at the Luggéo Doubai Primary School in Maroua. The Far North being mostly a Moslem Region, we had to make sure that we started early to permit the children and the staff to go for prayers. The activities lasted from 9.15 am until 11.45 am.

At Kongola the director of the school plus four teachers (a man and three women) cover the health education of 144 schoolgirls in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade (age 9 - 14). At Luggéo Doubai school three teachers and 35 participated. Besides the two RENATA aunties also Equinox TV was present, to cover highlights of this sensitization.

To begin with, we expressed our thanks to the Director of the school. He answered by welcoming us and appreciating our initiatives.

Each chapter of the booklet was explained in a summarized and understandable manner for all participants.

During these explanations, the use, the disposal and the reusable pads were demonstrated by means of practical experiences. Afterwards, also some teachers had learnt how to do it. The participation of the teachers and school directors was interesting because obviously they wanted to acquire this knowledge for their future teaching of the children.

The RENATA Aunties also wrote a menstrual calendar on the chalkboard. This showed in a practical way to the girls how they could calculate their menstrual cycle. The girls asked questions and followed this activity very attentively. But they were too shy to talk about their personal menstrual hygiene.

In fact, most of the girls use washable pads due to the high costs of the disposable ones.

#### Best practice

The director of the school gave a lecture to the girls on the importance of understanding their menstrual cycle. This was a strong statement within the cultural context of this area: In the Far North of Cameroon, an almost 100% Moslem community, where men hardly discuss sexuality with their daughters or sisters, the director openly encouraged the adolescent girls to talk openly to their parents about their bodily changes.

#### Recommendation

This activity is very important and should be multiplied in many other rural areas, where health services and information about sexual reproductive health rights like menstrual hygiene management are often lacking.

#### General remarks by Ursula Nakamura and Gudrun Haupter

We have shipped the newly printed booklets "Entering Womanhood" designed for the secondary level to Women's Comfort Corner in Zimbabwe, where Rita Marque has received the parcels. Later on another parcel was addressed to Edah Gondwe from Zambia Alliance of Women.

After our long and frustrating attempts to get the copyright for "ABCs being a girl", a primary school menstrual health booklet edited in Malawi, we finally succeeded and got green lights. This was thanks to Gudrun's excellent long standing contacts with a former UNICEF officer! Ruhi Sayid from APWA in Pakistan just signalled that her parcel arrived.

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If you want to know more about the current activities and get informed about menstrual health education, please visit our specific **Water and Pads website**: <https://iawwaterandpads.jimdofree.com/>



.Public Primary School Lougéo Doubaï



## Prince's festival in the Netherlands by Lyda Verstegen

100 Years of Women's Suffrage in the Netherlands

On the third Tuesday in October the King presents the plans of the government in the Knights Hall in The Hague.

This day is called Prince's day, and for 10 years the city of The Hague has made a whole festival of it to celebrate democracy and freedom.

This year, in which we celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage a film was shown, 'the Divine Order'. It is a film about the struggle for women's suffrage in Switzerland in 1971.

In that year a referendum is will be held about the introduction of women's suffrage. A young woman, Nora, reads some folders about a thing she has nothing heard about before. Then she notices in her environment all kinds of injustices which make her believe suffrage will be a solution. When she tries to organize an information meeting the whole village is there to ridicule her. She and a few friends go to a demonstration in the big city and become convinced that the personal is political.

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in favour.

The film is hilarious at times. It is on You Tube. Go watch it!

If you get inspired and wish to see the whole film, go here: <https://www.amazon.com/Divine-Order-Marie-Leuenberger/dp/B078MPYTMX>

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