December 2019

Dear readers

Welcome to the IAW December Newsletter.

In this issue, we ask you to pay special attention to Project 21.1. - a new initiative to raise money for projects to empower women in disadvantaged regions of the world to self actualize. You can support this initiative by donating, using the donate button on our website.

We would also love for you to run your own race (walking is also OK), invite friends and family to follow your example and don’t forget to send your story to lenepind@gmail to be included in the upcoming Special Edition Newsletter.

The Water And Pads Project has grown into a big success. 7 IAW organisations are involved and more are eager to join. Donations are needed.

Commission on the Status of Women 64 Beijing + 25

The sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2020. The main focus of the session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the
Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC including IAW are invited to attend the session.

Please, note the following interesting websites:

1. Official UN Women website for CSW:  
   https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020 this is where you find all the information about the meeting of the official commission, preparations, agendas and other documents.

   This is also where you find information about attendance and participation of NGOs. From that page you may link to http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/ngo-participation, where you find information about the different kinds of participation including registration.

2. The NGO CSW/NY website https://ngocsw.org/ is where you register for the Forum, apply to host a parallel event, register for Consultation Day etc. If you register for the Forum you will receive updates from the committee.

Registration to be a delegate
Each IAW member who wants to attend CSW 64 must register in the so-called INDICO system. The procedure is explained on the page just mentioned, INDICO: https://reg.unog.ch/ Registration is open from now until January 27th, 2020. Note that CSW comes under Economic and Social Affairs.

Please register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We are only allowed a maximum of 20 delegates it is very important to note that if you register and then change your mind you must go to INDICO again and cancel to make room for others.

Miranda Ruzario, IAW Assistant Secretary General, is the conference focal point and consequently the one to approve your registration on behalf of IAW.

Please notify IAW if you go
Please, note that often more IAW members wish to attend than the maximum of 20 delegates that each organisation is allowed. If you have the possibility of registering as a member of one of our affiliates or associates who have consultative status, please do so to make room for everybody. If you come to New York as a representative of one of our affiliates or associates or if you are a member of a government delegation, please notify me at assist.secgen@womenalliance.org. I wish to circulate a list of all IAW members attending CSW.
Side events and parallel events
Please, notify me about any side event or parallel event that is organized by IAW, any affiliate and associate, so that a complete IAW schedule can be circulated to all attending IAW members.

Statement for CSW64
IAW has submitted a statement for the event. It is available on the website:
https://womenalliance.org/iaw-statement-csw-64

Miranda Ruzario
Assistant Secretary General
assist.secgen@womenalliance.org

Video Contribution Guidelines for IAW Vlog Commemoration Beijing +25

Thank you for being a part of the Beijing +25 celebration! We are 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.


NB! DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TILL THE END OF DECEMBER

IAW International Meeting Geneva
Cheryl Hayles, VP North America.

On October 24-28, 2019 the International Alliance of Women met for its International Meeting and annual Board Meeting. Members from Africa, North America, Europe and Asia met to have news from our member organisations to prepare for CSW64, receive reports from Commission Conveners, discuss the theme for Congress in 2020, address matters arising from the minutes of the 2018 Board meeting, and more generally move the organisation forward. In the year since the last business meeting it must be said that all hands were on deck ensuring the operation of the organization continues with rigour and fervency.

A proposal by Anuarite Sirewabo Muyuwa to organize an IAW Regional African Peace Conference of French-speaking organizations in Kinshasa Democratic Republic of Congo in July 2020 to celebrate the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Dr Denis Mukwege in 2018 was accepted by the Board. Members are looking forward to attending this important meeting to support our sisters in the region.

Reports on UNESCO, The IAW Water and Pads for Schoolgirls initiative, European Women’s Lobby and COP24 conference were given. Upon returning home I was happy to learn that Spain has made a generous offer to hold the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid from 2-13 December 2019.

An important solution in response to the question, “Do our Regions function well?” was presented by myself, Cheryl Hayles on behalf of Priscilla Todd, convener of a working party established at the Board meeting in Berlin 2018 to examine the issues and prepare a proposal for the Board. Members of the working group include the aforementioned members and Vijaya Lakshmi, Christina Knight, Anne Pelagie, Lene Pind, Signe Vahlun and Brynhildur Heidar Omars. The aim of this initiative is to establish regional networks to build and maintain lines of communication and to assist in planning action and projects with each region. The proposal can be read in full [here](https://mailchi.mp/d52a197e6b3c/iaw-newsletter-december-2019-no-6?e=6c735c6f64)

Changes in administration have taken place. Most importantly, two new positions have been filled by the Ad Hoc Selection Committee, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Our elected and interim Treasurer, Rosy Weiss kept that portfolio alive until a suitable replacement was found. Rosy, who served as President from 2004 to 2010, offered her support and thus ensured oversight of our finances. New Treasurer, Antonia Lavine has been working closely with Rosy to ensure a smooth transition of the portfolio.

The website redesign was completed which attracts new members both individual and organizational to the Alliance, and the database is now in place.

The gathering was held in Geneva, one of the most expensive cities in Europe. Monique Bouaziz, our UNESCO Rep in Paris, worked hard to keep hotel costs reasonable. The meetings were held at the Novotel, a couple blocks away. Lunch and dinner at the Novotel were superb offerings of clean food which
Monday, October 28, 2019 was a significant day because Feminist NGOs were invited to the Centre International De Conference Geneva to discuss “Gender Equality - Realizing Women’s Rights For An Equal Future” in preparation for the Beijing +25 actions to take place in 2020. Many IAW members joined the rally which followed the panel discussions. Photos and videos are posted on the IAW Facebook page. Of significance is the fact that the joint text between AFEM (Association of Women of Southern Europe) and the IAW was presented and adopted by the plenary of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe. (see below).

The meetings reinforced relationships and established new connections with first time attendees and observers. Given the size of the meetings, it can be interpreted that regional meetings will be instrumental in building engagement and supporting productive collaborations within the Alliance. As well, much discussion occurred regarding alternatives to a Eurocentric location for future meetings. The second topic of consensus is the commitment of long time feminists and the encouragement and mentorship they can provide for generations of women from all points of the globe through their work with the International Alliance of Women.

The marker of success for me was the fact that the teachers at my school in Canada were very interested in my participation in Geneva. They see the importance of the work and support the conversations that are happening to amplify their voices in many forums. This reinforced for me that not every woman could travel to Geneva to be heard but all women want to be part of the conversation.

I am grateful for the friendship so freely given in Geneva; this sets the stage for continued collaboration with my international sisterhood.
IAW Vice President Cheryl Hayles
Support her Project 21.1 Campaign

Project 21.1
by Cheryl Hayles

While in Geneva for the 2019 IAW International and Board meetings, I ran along the lake to appreciate the spectacular view of the imposing Alps in the background and the still, calming water in the foreground. For me, running is a meditative practice, and on my lake side runs I reflected on how I can support special IAW projects to empower women. The intention is to foster women’s engagement in projects which specifically benefit women.

The humble question came to meet me on my run, “How do we as an organization pay for projects?” It’s important to remember that financial goals involve a commitment to building abundance and therefore we must be proactive and collaborative in building a fund to support projects, led by women for women.

To that end, I have decided to initiate a fundraiser connected to my next half marathon. A half marathon is 21.1 kilometres long. I would like to ask members to donate 21.1 € to the International Alliance of Women Project Fund. This donation honours the spirit of freedom which running gives a woman and is a symbolic gesture toward freeing women from devastating situations through project funding.

A donation category Project 21.1 has been placed on the website for Alliance members and friends to donate 21.1€. The magic is that 21.1€ is an affordable gift.
21.1 Reasons to Give

1. Christmas
2. New Year
3. Chinese New Year
4. Valentine’s Day
5. Purim
6. Passover
7. Easter
8. Ramadan
9. Mother’s Day
10. Father’s Day
11. Eid al-Fitr
12. Eid al-Adha
13. Labour Day
14. Jewish New Year
15. Yom Kippur
16. Thanksgiving
17. Your Birthday
18. Your Anniversary
19. Your children’s birthdays
20. Your grand children’s birthdays
21. Paying it forward
22. You decide

The race I am training for will take place in Brooklyn, New York, USA at the end of the first week of CSW64 (2020).

If you are not a runner, you can join me on a virtual run on Facebook on Race Day and promote Project 21.1 with family and friends. If you are a runner and would like to share your running story through the lens of Peace, Climate Change, Human Rights, Women’s Economic Empowerment, Education etc. please send your story to Lene Pind lenepind@gmail.com to be included in a Special Edition Newsletter. The deadline for submitting your articles is December 15, 2019.

In terms of process, the first year of the campaign will be to build the fund. The application criteria will be shared at Congress in 2020. With your contributions, we will have sufficient funds to support several projects in January 2021. This is a simple initiative which embodies the IAW values. We empower women, we support each other, and we think beyond ourselves for global participation in the work. My sincere appreciation for your donation and support.

DONATE TO PROJECT 21.1
At the International Meeting in Geneva, **Meenakshi Kumar** presented a paper on Unpaid Work - SDG 5. Read the article

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**Council of Europe. Recommendation on Equality between Women and Men : The Conference of INGOs calls on member states to respect and défend this essential Human Rights acquis.**

*Adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 30 October 2019*  
CONF/PLE(2019)REC3


The Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe, bringing together 400 OING, by this Recommendation adopted by the plenary session in Strasbourg:

« Recalling that equality between women and men is a universal value, enshrined in international and European treaties, which prohibit all discrimination, inequality and violence based on gender and require the promotion of a real equality between women and men in all fields ;(...) Gravely concerned to note an increasingly active opposition to the international, European and national achievements in the field of the fundamental rights of women that underpin our European democratic civilisation, (...) Urgently requests the organs of the Council of Europe and the member States, in view of this very worrying situation for Women’s Rights, to take all measures to preserve the existing achievements in the field of equality between women and men, the fundamental rights of women, to act for their effective application, a condition for democracy and the rule of law on the European continent and in the world. »

This recommendation was proposed by the Vice-President of the Conference in charge of Equality with the participation of the Association of Women of Southern Europe (AFEM), University Women of Europe (UWE), and support by: European Centre of the International Council of Women (ECICW), European Network church on the Move (EN/RE), European Union of Women (EUW), Intereuropean Commission on Church and School (ICCS), International Alliance of Women (IAW), Soroptimist International Europe (SIE), Zonta International (ZI), European Buddhist Union (EBU), ANDANTE Europa, European Action of the Disabled, (AEH), Conference of European Churches (CEC)

The proposal for a recommendation comes from the European Conference celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe, organized by AFEM at the Paris Bar on 4 April
The IAW reiterated its support for AFEM’s proposal for a recommendation at its international meeting in Geneva on 27 October 2019. AFEM warmly thanks IAW, all the INGOs who contributed to the adoption of this text of major importance, and in particular the Vice-Presidency of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, Anne Nègre.

Catherine Dimitroulias, President of the Association of Women of Southern Europe, Delegate to the Council of Europe, ex. Vice-President of the INGO’s Conference, 4th pillar of the Council of Europe.

Link to the text in French

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Feminist and Women’s Movement Action Plan

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW representative in New York, worked with Melissa Upreti and Krisha Dhamaraj of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership to hold the first virtual Feminist and Women’s Movement Action Plan conference. More than 1250 participants registered from around the world. Pramila Patten, Representative of the UN Secretary General on sexual violence in conflict opened the meeting with a welcome address on “Why human rights must be central to Beijing + 25”. Sarah Hendriks,

If you are interested to join the FWM Action Plan working groups here is the link to registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSChDVIZSwgVoXu0khPAINQC-Ewb02pI15bMwoZHXmvg-dAOfg/viewform

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**Water and Pads Project**

**Two events in October 2019**

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**A. Girl’s School in Pakistan**
**By Ruhy Sayid, President of APWA Punjab Pakistan**

"I am sharing the picture of our activity we had with school-girls on menstruation and hygiene. Young girls came up with various questions, which were answered by our trained staff."

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**B. Preparatory Event at Epworth High School Zimbabwe, Day of the Girl Child**
**By Rita Marque Mbatha, President of WCC Zimbabwe**

"The children at Epworth High School have been extremely busy with examinations but happily we have been advised that we can work fully with them any time from 05 November, 2019. We have visited the school to talk to the children and teachers about the project during break time and many, including boys, have expressed an interest to participate. We believe the latter’s participation will decrease stigma. Most residents in Epworth live in abject poverty and are devastated by the HIV Aids pandemic and we strongly believe it is useful that the boys can be involved. In the future they can be of assistance to the girls in the event of their parents' demise."
place at the beginning of October, just in time before the IAW International and Board meeting at Geneva. Due to an accident Gudrun Haupter unfortunately could not participate. Thanks to a power-point presentation at the assembly the delegates could follow the whole development of the Water and Pads project during the last year. For all of us it was a great chance that Rita Marque from Zimbabwe and Anuarite Siirewabo of DR Congo were present. Anuarite told about the security problem when visiting lonely villages, and Rita Marque pointed out how difficult menstrual hygiene management is in regions with almost no water. Both of them are convinced that the project must continue also into the future because its positive impact on girls and young women in isolated rural areas is extremely important.

After “Geneva” we keep asking all IAW members for their helpful solidarity. **We are very thankful for any inputs, ideas, contacts and money** .... and possibly more IAW member organizations in Asia may join the promising WP project.

Read the whole article:  
**Water and Pads website:** [https://www.iawwaterandpads.com/](https://www.iawwaterandpads.com/)

**DONATE TO THE WATER AND PADS PROJECT**

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**Step by Step by Step towards Gender Equality**
By Arina Angerman representing IAW in the Board of European Women’s Lobby

Gender Equality Index 2019
Gender Equality step by step from 2017 to 2019 is one point up and that’s ‘snails pace’. The benchmark for gender equality in 6 core domains of Work, Money, Knowledge, Time, Power and Health shows European Union (EU 28 countries) has 67 points with Sweden 84 and Greece 51. In the domain of Power 28 EU countries have 52. Sweden has 83 and Greece 24. You can select a country and compare them here.

Cyber Violence Against Women and Girls
EWL ‘will continue to build on our work on cyber violence against women as well as strengthening our engagement with technology companies to integrate measures to protect women from online abuse and violence” in Work programme 2020. Step by Step awareness raising are #HerNetHerRights trainings across Europe for women’s civil society, social justice and political organisations in Belgium, Germany, Turkey and Wales. As we know ‘all forms of violence against women are linked and form a continuum of violence and 1 in 3
She Decides and Every Cunt Counts
As a feminist from the Netherlands I strongly support the She Decides movement which has as her vision “A world where every girl and woman can decide what to do with her body, with her life and with her future. Without question.” That’s why I loved to raise ‘My clit counts’ (photo) in the Rally at Generation Equality Regional Civil Society Forum event in Geneva 28 October 2019 #Beijing25. A very important step is to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population Development, Cairo 1994: #ICPD25 Please meet The 25x25 feminist leaders - all born in 1994 - here.

Breaking the Glass Ceiling in the Corporate World
Dr Roshan Ara
Centre for Women Studies and Research
University of Kashmir, Srinagar, India & Member, International Alliance for Women (IAW)
If companies are serious about bringing in greater diversity in their management and encouraging competent women to overcome the hurdles that society places in their career path, there need to be systemic changes.

Read the whole article

After 24 years as President of Women’s Network for Peace, Heide Schutz has retired. She will continue to be a mentor for these young feminists.
Stay Mad, Sweetheart
New book by Heleen Kist
Available on Amazon from November 19 2019
After the suicide of her best friend, triggered by trolls on Twitter, Laura shares stories about harassment, disparaging remarks, unjust remuneration, and workplace discrimination, with two friends. The three decide to seek revenge. How they succeed is described in this feminist novel.

Heleen Kist is an individual member of IAW. In her acknowledgements she thanks "the many valiant women battling for equality and freedom from sexual harassment so that her Delphie, and all our daughters, can shine unencumbered."

Feminists Want System Change.

From the 28-30 October 2019, feminists, gender equality activists and civil society organisations gathered in Geneva, Switzerland for the #Beijing+25 UNECE Regional Review meeting.

Listen to the voices of these young feminists:

https://anchor.fm/feministswantsystemchange

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