Dear readers

The campaigns to raise money for Project 21.1 and the Water and Pads projects continue. So - campaign among members of your network to support the initiatives. Or "run with Cheryl" as Alison Brown plans to do. The money is out there for IAW when all members reach out to friends, family and colleagues.

Thank you to the many donors who have already contributed.

Thank you, members, for sending your articles for the Newsletter. This is much appreciated. However, in the future, the editors will have to ask you to use no more than 400 words for an article. If you wish to write a longer article, which is very welcome, write a short "teaser" for the Newsletter and the article itself will be published on the website.
Project 21.1 - Running with Cheryl

by Alison Brown

When I first heard of Project 21.1, I put some thoughts on paper:

When we were at the breakout group of NGOs on Monday in Geneva after our International Meeting, President Manganara and I were part of the brainstorming session on attracting young feminists. One of the things we heard there is the desire of the younger crowd to do activities. Cheryl has come up with a clever idea to start a fundraising campaign for the IAW. What makes Cheryl's CSW race idea so appealing is that it puts the IAW in a light of being active, energetic and goal oriented.

I encourage those who are in New York for CSW to join Cheryl

This may be an unusual concept for much of the rest of the world, but the IAW is full of members in North America and many have been writing to us wanting to "do something". While supporting a race with funds going to an IAW cause, like projects in Africa or Asia, does not seem much like "doing" to you, it could to a younger audience. Indeed, the effort could be expanded to include other members running alongside Cheryl - those who are in NYC could join her physically on March 14, 2020, http://www.citytri.com/brooklyn-spring-half-marathon/. Those, such as I, who are not there, can join her virtually, running the distance wherever we are, in races taking place across North America and indeed, around the globe, fundraising as we go, and add to the total raised. Others may not run at all, but contribute €21.1 via the website using a contribute button.

Hopefully, this project will generate excitement and energy in IAW
the IAW is an aged and sluggish organisation.

**I will be running with Cheryl**

Therefore, I will be "running with Cheryl Hayles" on March 14th, not in New York, but rather virtually. I will take part in a race, the Great North Run, that starts from my old High School, North Central in Indiana. Along with Margy Lancet-Fletcher, a friend from the graduating class of 1969 [sic] whom I first met there, I will walk 5K and both of us will donate to Project 21.1. I will also try to get others in my walking and running community to support the effort. I encourage those in the IAW community of feminists to do the same.

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**Donate to Project 21.1**

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**Secret Valentine, Don’t Keep It A Secret Project 21.1**

*Watch and Listen:*

https://womenalliance.org/project 21.1 update

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**The IAW «Water and Pads» Project – Chances for its future success!**

Was it just a chance or the right moment, that the “Water and Pads” project could start so quickly? Let us call back the facts! In 2019 Anuarite Siirewabo from DR Congo made an urgent appeal for better water sanitation, Gudrun Haupter had sexual-health information from Togo and Burkina Faso, Anne Pelagie from Cameroon wrote about discriminated school-girls, and Ursula Nakamura, at a WHO side-event she attended, was informed about the disastrous condition of menstruating girls in Nepal. What could we do? Since the IAW Congress 2017 Gudrun and Ursula, as project coordinators relied simply on some untapped resources of IAW – on the organizational skills, the
The responses to our two questionnaires were overwhelming: the needs were clearly described, and there was a strong appeal for the promotion of menstrual health education. Soon the whole WP project could be established with a reliable project-management regarding the scale of activities, competencies, costs etc. All along we had extremely helpful feedbacks and recommendations from our seven IAW-colleagues involved in the project. We all have worked on a voluntary basis with a minimum of finances, mostly generous small donations.

By now within one (!) year the WP project has been successfully implemented in 8 selected schools in poor rural areas of Africa and Asia. This means, that in all these institutions our IAW colleagues have laid the foundation for an excellent cooperation among the teaching staff and the parents regarding a successful menstrual health education. Not an easy task in places where traditional discriminatory thinking and taboos are omnipresent! Everywhere the schoolgirls were obviously excited about these lectures. Holding our booklets in their hands gives them a lot of self-confidence in places where there are almost no school books and anatomical graphics almost unknown! Actually it turned out that now there is an increased positive curiosity among the fellow schoolboys and a respect for the human body and the biological cycle of women. Thank you all for your engagement! Edah Gondwe, Rebecca Juga, Rita Marque, Anne Pelagie, Anuarite Siirewabo, Julliet Saab and Ruhi Sayid!

Very recently also the IAW member organization Rural Women’s Network RUWON from Nepal has joined the project.

At the beginning of 2020 we see that the WP-project is very healthy. It is alive thanks to its now eight IAW member organizations in Africa and Asia. It works on a give and take basis: IAW as a well-known international NGO provides the necessary teaching materials plus some basic financing and our IAW colleagues can promote sexual health education in poor remote areas – empowerment for life!

Isn’t his one of the basic goals of IAW?

For 2020 we need your help- Please, support the WP-project by an online-donation!

For more information about the WP-project go to www.iawwaterandpads.com

“I am pleased to say that RUWON is very active in rural areas of Nepal and has a very good access to the people there... We, from RUWON Nepal strongly support the girl’s issues... We wanted
countries of Nepal there is a very great need to make girls better aware of the issue and familiar with their menstruation....”

Goma Devi Bastola,
President of RUWON.

All Pakistani Women's Association

APWA in collaboration with Fatima Jinnah Medical University jointly organised a medical camp on awareness of Breast Cancer on 24th October, 2019. 80 women were examined. The doubtful cases were referred to hospital for advance check ups and treatment accordingly.

More than 100 sanitation kits were distributed among the community women workers in the township. The booklet developed by IAW " ABC of being a girl " was also given for awareness raising. The most appropriate items are included in the kits as designed keeping in view the cultural norms, and distribution is carried out in a manner that minimizes the risk of GBV against women and girls.

CSW 2020

A delegation of at least 20 IAW members will attend the Commission on the Status of Women in New York March 9 - 20.
IAW will be co-sponsoring the Women NC's parallel event on youth and "Whither Women's Parity" (Scroll down to the event list)

Never underestimate the power of a small committee!
The International Relations Committee of the Canadian Federation of University Women from 2015-17 consisted of 6 women representing clubs from British Columbia to Newfoundland-Labrador. They produced two important reports that have had considerable influence in a ripple effect all over Canada. The first was a report on Violence vs. Women with the horrifying statistics in Canada that of 1000 assaults on women reported to the police, only 3 resulted in a conviction of the perpetrator.

Many clubs took up the fight. In Ontario, the city of London formed a committee to study their policies and the CFUW International Relations Report was submitted to them. They produced an excellent new policy on how police interview women victims of abuse through the lens of the effects of trauma on their testimony. This new policy was shared with other police services throughout the province, including my town of St. Thomas. The advocacy committee of the St. Thomas Club then met with the police chief armed with the London policy. The result of the visit was a partnership with the police services, serving as advisers and supporters of all issues dealing with women.

CFUW sent out an advocacy report on Violence vs. Women, urging women to wear orange during the 16 days between the International Day of Violence vs. Women and the anniversary of the massacre of the women at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. This too was shared with the chief of police. The result was that the police services wore orange epaulets, and lowered the flags to half-mast on the anniversary of the massacre. Let us hope these examples will spread all over Canada.

The second far-reaching effect was the report on the Survey of Challenges to Rural Women. Not only was it presented in a Parallel Event at UNCSW62 by our VP International Relations, Cheryl Hayles who Chaired the CFUW International Relations Committee for two terms, but it has been shared with members of provincial and federal parliaments, and mayors of cities. When a column in an Ottawa area newspaper criticized the new cabinet position combining Rural Economic Development and Women’s Issues, the reporter was sent the executive summary of the CFUW survey. It pointed out how women are far more influenced negatively by rural economics, and the reporter offered to share it with anyone interested. That led to requests from all over Canada, from a tiny island with tremendous transportation issues in British Columbia, to a rural area in Quebec where children rode school buses and could not participate in extra-curricular activities at school.

From a small committee of six women (Cheryl Hayles - Chair, Dr. Saode Savory, Dr. Nancy Mayberry, Audrey Thomas, Valerie Hume and Gillian Brown), working by teleconference, to all over Canada, these examples prove not only the value of committee work, but the efficacy of the power of women working together. We must not work in silos but share our work to advance the status of women not only throughout our country of Canada but the world.

By Dr Manju Kak

As Hon. Treasurer All India Women’s Conference I attended the deliberations of CoP 25 held at Madrid, Spain. It was scheduled to be held at Santiago, Chile but because of internal unrest, the Government of Chile had to cancel it. This was the longest climate COP meeting ever in 25 nearly annual editions. The 25th edition of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ended without any outcome on the creation of a system of credits for reduction of emissions for the second year in a row. Earlier, COP24 at Katowice (Poland) 2019 also couldn’t decide on issues like the creation of new carbon markets, emission reduction targets, etc.

Some Key Points

- "Chile-Madrid Time for Action" declaration: The summit passed the declaration calling on countries to improve their current pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- It also endorsed to help poor countries that are suffering the effects of climate change, although any new funds were not allocated for the purpose.
- It called on the “urgent need” to cut planet-heating greenhouse gases in line with the goals of the 2015 Paris Climate Change Accord.
- The Paris Accord established the common goal of avoiding a temperature increase of more than 1.5 degrees celsius by the end of the century.
- So far, the world is on course for a 3 to 4 degree Celsius rise, with potentially dramatic consequences for many countries, including rising sea levels and fiercer storms.

- Disagreements:
Carbon markets allow for buying and selling of carbon emissions with the objective of reducing global emissions.

- On the definition and composition of **Climate finances**.
  - Climate finances refer to local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change.

- The **voluntary commitments** to be made by nations towards emission reductions.

- The key **polluting countries** responsible for **80% of the world’s emissions** did not make any substantial announcement while smaller countries announced their targets to reduce emissions in the coming years.

- It backtracks on a principle of the **1992 convention of the Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)** that states that rich countries have the biggest historical responsibility for emissions and should pay to help the poor to fix the problem.

- The **next Climate Summit will be held in Glasgow (Scotland) in 2020** which will decide about the liability for damages caused by rising temperatures.

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**Step by Step towards #GenerationFeminist**

*by Arina Angerman, representative to the Board of the European Women's Lobby*

**Celebrating centenary in the Netherlands (NL)**

I wish you all a Healthy and Happy 2020! After my IAW holiday I travelled 15th of January 2020 together with Joke Sebus to Groninger Museum in order to bring her two copies of *The Banner of the IAW* books. (PHOTO) She compiled with Paul Latour a book, which was edited by Priscilla Todd, with Joke’s beautiful pictures from IAW Board Meetings in Burkina Faso in 2005 and in Melbourne (Australia) in 2012, and IAW Congresses in Delhi (India) in 2007 and in South Africa in 2010. The following day I attended the last meeting of the Committee 100 years of voting rights for women in Amsterdam. The Goal of the Committee was to stimulate celebrations of this important step towards equal responsibilities for women and men. It was a great success. At least 50 events or exhibitions took place in 2019. I made 30 vlogs and shared them at Twitter or in a blog.
Step towards #GenerationFeminist
European Women’s Lobby facilitated a workshop on young women’s engagement. You can read the background and result of this meeting with an intergenerational group of women at the website of EWL. These 30 ‘phenomenal’ women had a shared commitment to feminist politics. EWL represents over 2000 organisations across Europe. @ClaireShrugged writes a.o. ‘without the serendipity of Twitter, she had never found out about ...’ and ‘conceptualise learning as a lifelong experience’. I loved her written contribution about this workshop very, very much and these two sentences too!

Step towards Ending violence against Women and Girls
EWL welcomes ‘new’ European Parliament (EP) resolution calling the EU to accede now to the Istanbul Convention. EWL delivered more than 180,000 signatures to the Croatian Permanent Representation to the EU. Croatia has the Presidency of the EU in the 1st half of 2020. The EP resolution and signatures show ‘the extensive support that exists across Europe to the Convention on combatting and preventing violence against women’. You can still add your signature here

EWL pushes Gender Budgeting through project "Chanelling Resources to Women’s Rights in Europe"

Lobbying to be intensified with the new European Parliament and Commission
by Marion Böker, IAW,
Members of the EWL Gender Budgeting expert group in front of the main entrance to EP in Brussels

During our work to represent International Alliance of Women (IAW) in the European Women's Lobby (EWL) in Brussels Arina Angerman (IAW delegate, member of working group Women in Politics, current board member of EWL) and I (proxy, observer, since 2018 member of the EWL working group on Feminist Economy) during program planning and reviewing processes have been insisting that Feminist Economy and Gender Budgeting should become a multi annual area of action. In 2017 it was adopted as a goal from 2018 on. Gender Budgeting especially shall be implemented in the European Union (EU) through the EU’s Multi Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2020-2027.

The EWL Feminist Economy working group started its work by drafting the ‘PURPLE PACT. A FEMINIST APPROACH TO THE ECONOMY’ June 2018 to December 2019. For its release we awaited the European Parliament (EP) and European Commission (EUComm) to be in place. In February 2020 we will have an online meeting to discuss the dissemination and further steps round activism with it. The EWL will use it as a lobby paper or for a pledge campaign so Members of the EP (MEPs) and Commissioners could sign up as to show
Human Rights including Gender Equality and Peace. I hope, once it is published IAW will make use of it as a model for an IAW version which then has to encompass a global perspective for our IAW membership.

In 2019 EWL got approval for project funds from the CHANEL FOUNDATION which allows work on the above program priorities: More finances for Gender Equality to women and women’s organisations with the tool of Gender Budgeting to adjust budget frameworks and programs of the European Union (EU) to achieve Gender Equality by tailored and proper assessed budgets with taxpayers’ finances working clockwise around the budget year as an ongoing evaluation and adjustment process for women’s human rights. The PURPLE PACT will help to not only focus on social objectives but as well to define economic change by having objectives and indicators.

For the activities around Gender Budgeting (GB) the EWL set up a GB expert group at the GA 2018.

Not only is Gender Budgeting since the PfA Beijing 1995 and more specifically since its first review in 2000 an obligation of UN and EU member states as part of the agreed Gender Mainstreaming strategy. The European Parliament confirmed soon after Beijing+5 in 1997 with its decision for Gender Mainstreaming that Gender Budgeting is part of this important strategy. The Amsterdam Treaty and later some Roadmaps for the EU listed it as a goal. In a whole bunch of documents including the Council of Europe and almost all Agreed Conclusions of the UN Commission Status of Women or the SDGs states rhetorically express commitment. But real work done fell short. Right after the PfA-Beijing+5 review UNIFEM -now UN WOMEN- succeeded in 2000 to get the EU Finance Ministries to commit that Gender Budgeting would be implemented no later than 2015 in the European Union. This benchmark was parallel to the Millennium Development Goal’s (MDGs) deadline of objectives. We all were left with nothing but disappointment.

Meanwhile, we women around the globe never gave up to pressure, monitor, consult and create examples of Gender Budgeting, often on various municipality or Federal state or Province levels while the national governments or parliaments did not decide such policies even they had signed up on international or regional level agreements.

The EWL project is now creating a great chance fuelled by resources to build a dialogue with EU decision makers of the EP and of stakeholders in the EU institutions for Gender Budgeting within the European Union’s annual and multiannual programs such as the MFF, but also to oblige each EU member state to finally operationalise it on national level.

In May 2019 the Gender budgeting expert group was nominated. EWL’s first action was the Helsinki Capacity building seminar, 09/10 May. It was open for participation EWL wide. For IAW Jocelynne Scutt (member of the EWL Violence Against Women Observatory) joined it. As a member of the EWL GB expert group, I was extremely happy after Janet Veitch presentation her contribution was so important because we plan as one priority of Gender Budgeting to make our finances (and measures) work more efficient for the elimination of Violence Against Women and the rehabilitation of survivors and their needs.
Sizani Ngubane receives two awards

News sent by Regina Smit

On 29 October 2019 was the 5th Africa Women Innovation & Entrepreneurship Forum Conference & Exhibition in Cape Town International Convention Center. Sizani Ngubane received the SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR AWARD.

On 19 February 2020 Sizani will receive the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders

Read the whole story

Read more about Sizani

When asked if IAW could publish the news, Sizani replied: “Wonderful…. it is a lovely article that almost everyone would enjoy reading, especially because it's the Alliance that realized this talent of mine. When you wrote an email message asking if the Alliance could nominate me I was tempted to say please don't waste your time because I didn't think I was capable of winning an international award I undermined the kind of human rights work I am doing only because it's like a way of life for me as the kind of work I started doing when I was a young woman of about 15 years of age.

Please go ahead and send it through to the Alliance its a great piece. I am sure they are going to like it id the alliance which identified this talent in me”.
Promoting women’s access to political power

By Torild Skard, Senior Researcher

In this impact case study, Torild Skard shows how her book Women of Power: Half a Century of Female Presidents and Prime Ministers Worldwide, published by Policy Press in 2015, led to the establishment of the UNSCC course on Leadership, Women and the UN to promote a more gender-balanced workplace within and beyond the UN system and strengthen the voice of women at the leadership table.

When the United Nations was created in 1945, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the equal rights of women and men. But it took time to place the question of women’s status centrally on the international agenda, adopt a convention against discrimination of women and agree upon goals and actions to achieve gender equality. And despite the commitments and progress in some important respects, masculine dominance and essential inequalities between women and men have persisted to this day.

Many times, Member States have promised to ensure women’s equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making. But in 2010, less than 1/5 of the Members of Parliament worldwide were women and less than 1/6 of the cabinet ministers. Totally, not more than 18 women were appointed or elected as presidents or prime ministers in independent states. In the UN system, that was supposed to be in the forefront, only 1 of 4 top leaders was female.

Mapping out women’s political power globally from 1945 to 2010 the prevailing picture is one of very little progress until the 1990s. Then there is a marked change with increasing numbers of women getting to the top. What was happening? After so many years of male ruling how could women suddenly obtain high political positions? What made this possible, and what effect did it have?

Existing information was very limited. I therefore decided to investigate the 73 women in 53 countries worldwide, who managed to become presidents or prime ministers from 1960, when the first got to the top, to 2010. The research resulted in “Women of Power”, published in Norwegian by Scandinavian University Press in 2012 and in English by Policy Press in 2014. In 2015, the US Library Journal awarded the book the Choice “Outstanding Academic Title”,...
the International Alliance of Women, IAW, and the Women’s UN Report Network, WUNRN, in addition to Policy Press. It also received good publicity at the large Nordic Women’s Rights Forum arranged in Malmö in 2014. Well attended meetings were further held by the IAW and UN Women in New York in 2015 and 2016, in connection with the UN Commission on the Status of Women, CSW. In Geneva, the UN Library, NGO Forum, IAW and the World Council of Churches organized several talks and debates based on my book during the following years, covered by European radio stations.

In 2014, I was invited to the United Nations System Staff College, UNSSC, in Turin to lecture. UNSSC is the inter-agency learning organization of the UN system with a great number of training programmes every year. I participated among others in a 3-day “UN Leadership Exchange” for Under- and Assistant Secretaries General from different UN units worldwide, women and men, though mostly men. The aim of the Exchange was to develop the vision, courage and skills of the participants by discussing the leadership lessons of renowned speakers in different areas: a business director, a high-ranking police officer, an orchestral conductor, a professor of psychology, a former UN peacekeeper and a UN agency leader. I was requested to present my research on women heads of state and government focusing on the conditions for female top leadership and how the power was exercised. Including a gender perspective in the Exchange was quite novel. Even the two female speakers reflecting on their own careers made no reference to the fact that they were women, and the programme participants gave the impression that the UN mandate to promote equality for women was not an essential part of their jobs, and that they were to a great extent unaware of what it should entail for their attitudes and leadership practices.

The UNSSC emphasizes the importance for the UN to credibly lead global efforts towards social justice and equality, and as a consequence of the UN leadership exchange in 2014 and demand from UN colleagues, the College decided to include among their flagship programmes in 2015 a new course on “Leadership, Women and the UN”. The aim of the training is to promote a more gender-balanced workplace across and beyond the UN system and strengthen the voice of women at the leadership table. A 5-day course was developed, aimed at mid to senior level female UN staff, to explore leadership approaches, gender and cultural dimensions of leadership, dynamics of power and negotiation and deeper personal-professional coherence and self-awareness to develop skills for transformative and charismatic leadership.

Since 2015, the course has been organized several times every year. I have contributed not only by presenting my research on women of power. I have also provided historical overviews of the UN and women’s leadership, analyzing why progress globally is so slow, reflecting on my own leadership journey in Norway and the UN and finally discussing how we can achieve gender equality in political decision-making nationally and internationally? From 2015 to 2019 I have lectured at 8 courses in Turin, 7 in Geneva, 3 in Vienna, 2 in Cairo and 1 in Nairobi.

In the past years, there has been considerable progress in the UN system on the awareness of the role of the organization in promoting gender equality. And
courses, and in-depth interviews with alumnae gave a 100% recommendation rate. The last course was in November 2019, and they will continue in 2020.

http://www.transformingsociety.co.uk/2020/01/14/promoting-womens-access-to-political-power/

**President's letter January 2020**

**Beijing +25 Civil Society Forum of UNECE and Regional UNECE meeting 28-30 October 2019**

Read the letter

**Nigerian League of Women Voters.**

Dame Esther Uduehi is president and founder of Nigerian League of Women voters NLOWV. This organisation applied for membership of IAW and was given preliminary admission at IAW International meeting in Geneva in October 2019

**Nilowv Activities in 2019**

2019 was an exciting year for the League of Women Voters of Nigeria (Nilowv). We implemented our national and grassroots mobilisation structures and activated membership drive activities.

Read the complete report

**RAFEP - Guinée**

Madame Illyassou Diallo submitted the following article:

RAFEP Guinée est affiliée à la coalition nationale de l’Education Pour Tous (EPT)
l'accroissement de la capacité d'analyse critique des enjeux de la situation socio politique basée sur le contexte du changement constitutionnel envisagé et l'efficacité de la participation des membres dans le domaine de la gouvernance et la culture de la paix. Le but est de devenir un contre poids social au niveau des collectivités locales et régionales. Les femmes et les jeunes se sont engagés en politique et dans l'entreprenariat mais sont confrontés à plusieurs contraintes........

Read the whole article
The women are sitting with hijabs and scarves over their heads. They are huddled in coats and blankets against the harsh winter nights of Delhi, Allahabad and Lucknow where the temperature is sinking to 3 degrees Centigrade. They sit there silently all night listening to speeches, ringed round by a protective circle of men in many cases in case the police arrive with batons. What the women are doing is illegal - they are protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizenship declared in a sudden swoop by the Government of India and passed in the upper house in December. The CAA provided for citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians and Parsis from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Indian citizenship. The NRC would require every Indian to prove his/her citizenship. Together the two would filter out Muslims.

The NRC chaos began in Assam where thousands who could not prove their citizenship were herded into detention camps. Behind this of course is the fact that the Muslims who elected to stay in India when the country was Partitioned in 1945 had no certificates to prove their nationality since they had been long time residents of what was then Hindustan.

Murmurs of protest began once the law was passed with the usual accepted marches. However, then the grammar of protest was suddenly redefined in Shaheen Bagh.

The protest in Delhi’s Shaheen Bagh has become an enduring symbol of the demonstrations that have swept India over the new law, which was passed in December. Shaheen Bagh started after the police raided JNU and assaulted protesting student who happened to be unarmed. It began with four women and six men but gradually more joined while the men went to work. No leader was identified, in fact the women declared that theirs was a universal protest. The Shaheen Bagh model was then followed in other parts of the country.

There are men but they restrict their roles to those of protectors going to work in the mornings while the women remain sitting. Children spend the night with their mothers and go to school, returning again later to do their homework. Volunteers provide food.

The Shaheen Bagh sit-in has continued for a month. Prime Minister Modi has been invited to hear women out over tea but so far has declined. Lucknow, Allahabad and Kolkata have added to the ranks of sit-outs. Amit Shah has also been invited to address the women at his Lucknow rally so they can understand his policies better but he too has declined.

Women have always formed part of protests and movements since the time of independence - they joined Mahatma Gandhi’s non-violence marches. Women also hugged trees all night to prevent them being cut down in the Chipko Movement in 1973. There were names that became prominent in these movements - in Shaheen Bagh and the other sit-outs the leaders are anonymous. The women are together in their protest because they know that their households and lives will be disrupted by CAA and NRC.

Many come to share their problems - a girl confessed that her political and personal lives were conflicting because she studied with RSS and BJP students many of whom were her friends and the women listened patiently to her telling...
enduring till the chaos is put to rights and helping others to comprehend and reach a solution without violence or sloganeering.

What alarms the BJP Government is the fact that the movement proves that Muslim women are not relegated to the closeted interiors of their homes. They have a voice of their own and despite measures like the triple talaq bill which the Government claimed was designed to empower them they have come out to protest of their own accord. Shaheen Bagh and its clones have brought together women of all ages ranging from fiery college students, placid homemaking mothers to sedate grandmothers

https://thewire.in/women/caa-nrc-protests-women

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