



# IAW • AIF NEWSLETTER

## IAW Newsletter June 2021 no.4

### An opportunity to bring your skills to the new Commission on Education

Traditionally IAW has had a Commission on Education. At the Post-Congress Board Meeting in January 2021 a Convener was appointed - Dr. K.G. VijayaLekshmi, Director of Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development Centre of India <https://www.whiindia.org/>

#### Background

- The right to education is a human right enshrined inter alia in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the Convention on the Elimination of all Kinds of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- The right to education is a key principle in the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 4 Quality in Education is rights based and the idea behind is that universal and equal access to education is fundamental to sustainable development, or in simple words: Schools are at the forefront of every revolutionary change.
- Education has always been at the centre of the women's movement.

#### The First Project

Dr Vijayalekshmi is proposing an exciting project to study and compare education systems in different regions. The activities and focal points of this project will be discussed and planned by Commission members. The Working Group on Regional Cooperation (Convener Priscilla Todd) will support and work alongside the Commission.

**The Aim** is to recognise and consolidate the educational needs of different communities and cultures within regions.

**The Goal** is the production of an advocacy document that will influence regional, and perhaps global, communities to address educational issues.

#### How to join the Commission

Dr. KG Vijayalekshmi hereby invites members who are interested in taking part

***Please contact (by 21 June 2021):***

Dr. KG Vijayalekshmi at [whiindia@yahoo.co.in](mailto:whiindia@yahoo.co.in) and Priscilla Todd at [iawpmt@gmail.com](mailto:iawpmt@gmail.com) Working Group on Regional Cooperation.



## The Istanbul Convention Saves Women's Lives

At a time when Turkey has withdrawn from the Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Girls, and Poland has announced that it intends to do the same, the European Women's Lobby publishes a report marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the convention. The conclusion of the report is clear: The Istanbul Convention saves women's lives.

**Towards a Europe free of male violence against women and girls** looks into the state of play of the implementation and impact of the Istanbul Convention within the context of an alarming surge of male violence against women and girls due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The report was developed with expert analysis from the EWL Observatory on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

IAW is a member of EWL and is represented in the Observatory.

[Read more](#)

To withdraw from a human rights convention is an attack on our hard-won rights and a rejection of state's duty to ensure the right to life free from violence for all.

Living without violence is a human right, uphold the Istanbul Convention!



**#United4IstanbulConvention**

On the 10th Anniversary of the Istanbul Convention, international women's and LGBTI+ organisations forcefully protest Turkey's unacceptable attempt to withdraw from the treaty. We consider the decision null and void and urge its President and government to reverse this decision. IAW is part of the campaign.

[Read the whole statement](#)

#### **GET ACTIVE IN THE CAMPAIGN:**

Social media posts : <https://united4istanbulconvention.medium.com/join-our-campaign-91d816d96e8c>

<https://twitter.com/United4Istanbul>

<https://medium.com/@united4istanbulconvention>

<https://www.instagram.com/united4istanbulconvention/>

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**Sanja Seraj, editor and coordinator of IAW at social media**

## IAW at social media

by Sanja Jeraj

On the occasion of the IAW Board / Extended Board meeting on March 27th 2021, it was agreed to increase IAW's presence in social networks.

The activities have started and can be found on the following platforms (the URLs of our accounts in brackets):

1. Twitter (<https://twitter.com/womenalliance>)
2. Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/womenalliance/>)
3. Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/internationalallianceofwomen/>)
4. LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/international-alliance-of-women-alliance-internationale-des-femmes-618a22184/>).

If you want to see our news, you can search for us on the platforms mentioned and browse our activities. It is easier and probably more convenient if you like us, follow us, make a contact request! Depending on your personal settings, our contributions will automatically appear in your timeline or feed.

We would be very happy if you like our posts, share or retweet them. This is how we know whether we have reached you with our messages, and this is how our contributions are made available to a wider audience - your friends and followers on social networks.

If you are active in these social networks, you can link all your contributions that are

welcome to send us directly your suggestions for contributions that are worth a public mention by IAW.

It would be very nice if you could send a short text (with a link and picture if you like, please make sure, that private pictures don't violate data protection regulations).

Please address your contribution to [webwizard@womenalliance.org](mailto:webwizard@womenalliance.org). Publications are all made in the name of the IAW-AIF, the public eye is on the organization, not on individual contributor.

We look forward to a lively exchange with you, which should serve to advance our cause.



## Water and Pads - A Revolutionary Project!

*"The Water and Pads project for schoolgirls is a wonderful project. We can even call it a revolutionary initiative that is really changing the mindsets within the communities. Gradually it is dispelling shame and taboos around the periodic bleeding. The project also helps to keep girls in school and to have good menstrual hygiene, because now they can use sanitary pads during their periodic bleeding and feel comfortable at school..."*

These are the enthusiastic words of **Anne Yotchou**, Coordinator of CEFAP in Cameroon after the third successful event at Medjo Primary School.

Continue reading



Photo from the video:

Who cares: Unpaid carework, poverty and women's/girls' human rights:

## A positive step towards gender equality

by Meenakshi Kumar

A piece of news that is worthy of being shared with everyone who thinks a homemaker's job is simple or lacks value, including homemakers themselves, is the landmark judgement by the Indian Supreme Court

The Supreme court of India recently gave a landmark judgement in favour of women; it said that the value of a woman's work at home was no less than that of her office-going husband. The court enhanced the compensation to relatives of a couple who died when a car hit their scooter in Delhi.

The woman being a "housewife", the insurance company calculated compensation only based on the husband's income. But the court would not accept it and enhanced the compensation to relatives of the couple by adding the contribution of the woman too.

The court stated that a homemaker's work contributes in a very real way to the economic condition of the family, and the economy of the nation, regardless of the fact that it may have been traditionally excluded from economic analyses.

The judgement given by the learned bench gave the hope of a major new change, and it is a great boost towards the achievement of one of the important targets of SDG-5 i.e 'Value unpaid care and promote shared domestic responsibilities.'

The learned judge mentioned that as per the 2011 Census in India, nearly 159.85 million women mentioned "household work" as their main occupation, as against only 5.79 million men. He also referred to a recent report of the National Statistical Office titled 'Time Use in India-2019' which suggested that, on an average, women spend nearly 299 minutes a day on **unpaid domestic services** for **household members** versus 97 minutes by men.

Unpaid work done by women across the globe amounts to a staggering USD 10



women is worth 3.1 per cent of the country's GDP.

As per the 2019 ILO report 'A Quantum Leap for Gender Equality' identified unpaid care work as the biggest impediment to women's formal employment, as it engaged 21.7 per cent of women between 18-54 years of age, as opposed to 1.7 per cent of men.

The judgement is a reflection of changing attitudes and mindsets and of our international law obligations. And, most importantly, it is a step towards the constitutional vision of social equality and ensuring dignity of life to all individuals.

There is a need for more such efforts to ensure gender equality. In order to achieve the objectives, comprehensive care policies should be anchored along two axes: transformative care policy and labour regulation.

The first axis on transformative care policy includes direct provision of child-care, elderly care, disability services, and care-related social transfers.

The second axis of comprehensive care provision is labour policy. The care-component of labour policy such as comprehensive maternity and paternity paid-leave as part of terms employment, is an integral component of family-friendly working arrangements. Flexibility in the employment structure is the second aspect of labour policy related to care providers who intend to join formal employment.

Comprehensive care policies can be rooted in ILO's 'Decent Work Agenda' principles that begin with recognising the value of unpaid care work, reducing drudgery of work, redistributing responsibilities of care work between women and men, remunerating care workers, and representing their concerns.

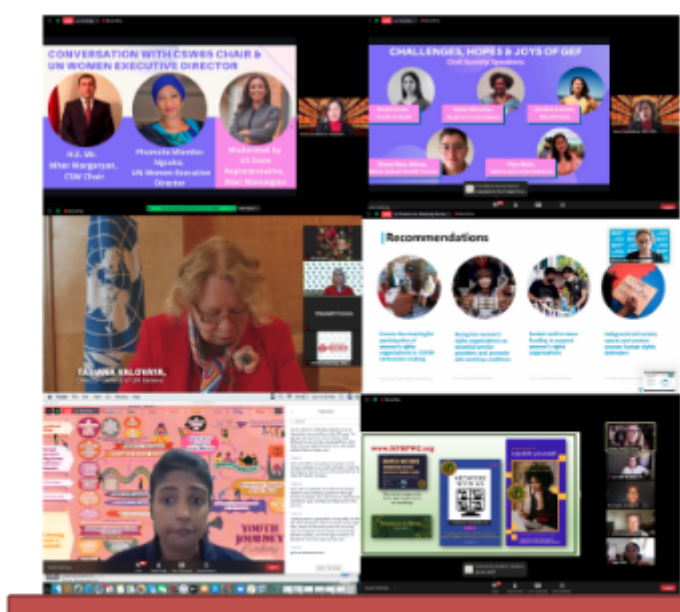
Non-standard work schedules such as part-time, flex-time, and remote working are already emerging as types of employment. the phenomenon witnessed the world over during the pandemic Covid-19.

### **Role of state**

Comprehensive care policies demand/needs state involvement in investing, formalising, and regulating the care economy. In addition to providing care benefits, national accounts should also be sensitive to the contribution of unpaid care to economic growth. Gender-sensitive budgeting, satellite accounts, and tax policy are some of the ways in which economic policy can acknowledge and reward care work. Finally, the state would be an important arbiter in engaging with care workers to realise and expand their rights



## International Alliance of Women Delegates Report UNCSW65



On the initiative of President Cheryl Hayles, IAW this year produced a Delegates' Report on the outcome of CSW.

In her introduction to the report, Cheryl Hayles writes:

*..... Our preparation for UNCSW65 consisted of unpacking the IAW Action Programme, identifying regressive language in the Zero Draft Conclusions and proposing language that supports accelerated gains in the protection of women's rights. The virtual platform allowed me to meet with delegates before the Forum to review the aforementioned as well as the Press Release Template, respond to questions and ensure that everyone was aware of all the UN tools to participate. For the duration of the conference we used technology for instant communication regarding sessions we were in and what was interesting to pay attention to.....*

..... Notre préparation à la CSW - 65 consistait à décortiquer le programme d'action de l'AIF, à identifier le langage régressif dans la première ébauche des conclusions (Zéro Draft conclusion), et à proposer un langage qui promeut des gains accélérés dans la protection des droits des femmes. La plateforme virtuelle m'a permis de rencontrer les délégués avant le Forum afin de coordonner cette préparation, réviser le modèle de communiqué de presse, répondre aux questions, et m'assurer que chacun était au courant de tous les outils de l'ONU pour participer. Pendant toute la durée de la conférence, nous



auxquelles il fallait porter attention.....

The impressive report is available on the IAW website

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## CSW 65 -information from Soon-Young Yoon

During CSW 65, Soon-Young Yoon, IAW representative and member of the Gender Advisory Panel of the PGA, moderated a special session on “Political Leadership and Violence Against Women and Girls: Prevention First” convened by President Volkan Bozkir, president of the 75th session of the General Assembly. Among the speakers were: H. E. Mr. Alie Kabba, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations.

### **Concept note:**

12 March 2021

Excellency,

*I have the honour to inform you that I will convene a Special Event under the theme, “Political Leadership and Violence Against Women and Girls: Prevention First”, to be held virtually on Tuesday, 23 March 2021, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.*

*The Special Event reflects advice from my Gender Advisory Group and feedback from Member States on enhancing the relationship between the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women. It will bring together experts and stakeholders to highlight the importance and urgency of action to prevent violence against women and girls and promote women’s participation and leadership in all spheres. The provisional concept note of the event is attached.*

*Details pertaining to the virtual arrangements for the meeting will be circulated shortly. For further information on the meeting, you may contact Ms. Gail Farngalo, Senior Adviser and Gender Lead in my office ([gail.farngalo@un.org](mailto:gail.farngalo@un.org)).*

*I look forward to your participation. Meanwhile, please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives

and Permanent Observers to the United Nations

New York

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# en territoire de Fizi

par **Christine KAKASHI MAMBO**, membre individuelle RD Congo



Les inondations ont de lourds impacts sur les activités humaines dans les zones touchées sur les rives du lac Tanganyika en territoire de Fizi, mais aussi sur le milieu lui-même et sa biodiversité. La force des vagues provoque d'importants dégâts, auxquels s'ajoutent ceux dus à la submersion prolongée des maisons, biens et à la pollution de l'eau.

Les inondations des vagues les plus soudaines sont les plus dangereuses pour la sécurité des personnes, parce qu'elles ne laissent pas le temps d'évacuer les zones inondables. Pendant l'inondation, le courant est un danger réel : il emporte des personnes et biens.

Tous les biens subissent des dommages à cause du courant d'eau : les maisons sont emportées, les champs, etc. Les infrastructures de transport sont aussi vulnérables, en particulier les routes qui se trouvent au long du lac.

Pour rappel, ce depuis l'an passé que la quantité d'eau du lac Tanganyika a commencé à augmenter avec une hauteur de 2m. Actuellement, la quasi-totalité des maisons qui se trouvaient à une distance de plus de 150m des rives sont déjà submergées et détruites par l'eau.

Suite à cette catastrophe naturelle, les femmes et les enfants sont plus vulnérables et touché(e)s par ces inondations. Cela est justifié par le fait que plus de 60% de ménages sont gérés par les femmes. D'où, ces dernières ont du mal à subvenir aux besoins de leurs ménages. A cause de ces déménagements inopinés, les sinistrés sont obligés de se réfugier dans les écoles, mosquées, églises, etc. pour se mettre à l'abri des intempéries. Certains d'entre eux passent la nuit à la belle étoile. Les conditions sanitaires dans lesquelles vivent les sinistrés ne laissent pas indifférent. Ils sont confrontés à tout genre des maladies à l'instar des maladies d'origine hydrique.

30% de ces enfants sinistrés ne fréquentent plus l'école à cause des pertes de

besoins qu'ils jugent prioritaires (alimentation, santé et logement), l'éducation des enfants passe à la dernière position. D'autres parents préfèrent prioriser l'éducation des enfants garçons et font abandonner l'école aux filles pour des raisons de charges. D'où, à cause de cette catastrophe naturelle, l'éducation des filles est remise en cause et elles sont condamnées à vivre dans l'illettrisme.

Suite à ce fléau, l'Association d'appui aux femmes et enfants vulnérables, ADAFEV en sigle, essaye tant soit peu de venir en aide à certains ménages touchés par cette catastrophe en leur donnant des vivres (savons, sel, et kits hygiéniques aux quelques filles qui sont indisposées et ont attrapé des infections vaginales) et prend la charge scolaire de 50 enfants (filles et garçons) sinistrés selon nos moyens financiers disponibles.

Signalons de même que nous-mêmes ADAFEV sommes victimes de ces inondations des eaux du lac Tanganyika étant donné que notre champ de manioc de 2 hectares a été emporté par les eaux et 2 de nos pirogues de pêche pour nos activités génératrices de revenus ont été noyées et ont disparu dans le lac à cause des violentes tempêtes.

C'est pourquoi nous lançons un SOS aux personnes de bonne volonté, aux organisations et fondations internationales, aux gouvernements étrangers de venir en aide à ces familles qui ont tant souffert par les guerres à répétition, et qui continuent à vivre dans des conditions inhumaines.



## DR KG Vijayalekshmi signing contract with Mar Gregorius College of Law

Dr KG Vijayalekshmi is managing director of

- Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development Centre of India

they send around 200 students to WHI for their internship. So Mar Gregorios College of Law has signed an agreement with Women Empowerment & Human Resources Development Centre of India, an organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, United Nations since 2014 and an affiliate organisation of IAW and International women's Peace Group, to share effectively the facilities and expertise for collaborative services in skill development, workshops, training and research.



## Summary of the first Nobel Prize Summit

**By: S. Savary, Ph. D. Public Health,  
Voices of Olympia Canada, Founder and Executive Director**

Dr. Saôde Savary has participated in the first Nobel Prize Summit, held virtually from April 26 to 28 under the theme: *Our Planet, Our Future*. The aim was to promote a transformation to global sustainability for human prosperity and equity. The conversation focussed on three key areas:

1. Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss,
2. Reducing Inequality, and
3. Technology's power to meet the challenges of sustainability.

The Summit ended with experts joining the Nobel Prize Laureates to issue an Urgent *Call for Action*. This document makes an evidence-based diagnostic on the current state of the planet; it proposes solutions for a sustainable and more equitable future.

### A few highlights from the discussions

1. The Earth has entered a new geological epoch: the Anthropocene. It is characterized by an accelerated speed in production, uncontrolled rapid

- epoch.
2. Global warming is at the core of contemporary debates on climate justice, along with exponential losses of habitat and biodiversity. They are the corollary of multiple, intensive experiments that have destabilized Earth's life-support systems that sustain earth's resilience, and determine the state of our planet.
  3. The asymmetric distribution of wealth and resources has widened the inequalities gap, engulfing the most vulnerable persons, mainly women and racial minorities. These inequalities are exacerbated by climate change; they have catalyzed a quest for social justice, in terms of a new equity-based social contract, to prevent successive violations of rights that destabilize structures, and institutions in several countries.
  4. The decade 2020/2030 is a decisive one that is urging for immediate solutions. We need to develop effective planetary stewardship through:  
(i) Equity - informed policies that help narrow the gaps while increasing resilience for the Planet (ii) Sustainability driven innovations (iii) Education oriented towards planetary stewardship (iv) Convergence - focused economic models (v) Production and sharing of scientific knowledge, as per article 27 of the Human Rights Declaration, with regard to the right to credible information.
  5. The acceleration of the technological revolution requires deliberate and strategic guidance to support the transformation towards sustainability. Otherwise, this revolution will be a disruptive force detrimental to sustainable development.
  6. The future of humanity depends on the ability to make long-term, collective decisions to navigate the Anthropocene period.
  7. The long-term potential of humanity depends upon our ability, today, to reconcile ourselves with Nature, to become effective stewards of the Global Commons and to value our common future.

### About Voices of Olympia Canada

Voices of Olympia Canada/ Olympes de la Parole Canada is a not-for-profit Canadian corporation involved in organizing a yearly school competition open to high school girls in Canada since 2017. It proposes participants to reflect on the central theme of gender inequalities and its impact on the empowerment of women and girls, using a human rights approach. Laureates are awarded bursaries, along with support to implement their winning project in their communities. Participating schools since 2017 include: The Study, the Sacred School of Montreal, the Villa Maria College, the Collège International Marie de France, and the Villa Sainte-Marcelline. Their projects can be viewed at: "[Thank You United Nations, UN 2020](#)" eBook.

For more information:

Website: <https://www.olympesdelaparolecanada.ca/>

[Olympes de la Parole Canada | Facebook](#)

[Olympes de la Parole Canada | LinkedIn](#).

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**Par Dre. S. Savary, Chimiste, Ph. D., (Santé Publique)**

**Fondatrice et Directrice générale des Olympes de la Parole Canada**

Dre. Saôde Savary, a participé au premier Sommet du Prix Nobel, qui fut tenu virtuellement du 26 au 28 avril 2021, sous le thème : Notre Planète : Notre Avenir.

Ce sommet visait à promouvoir une vision transformative du développement durable à l'échelle mondiale, laquelle serait au service de la prospérité humaine, et de l'équité.

Les discussions ont porté sur les points suivants :

1. Les changements climatiques, et la perte de la biodiversité ;
2. La réduction des inégalités ; et
3. La pouvoir de la technologie face aux défis du développement durable.

Le sommet déboucha sur un appel d'urgence à l'action, signé par les Lauréats (es) du prix Nobel, et les experts (es). Ce document : *Urgent Call for Action* pose un diagnostic factuel sur l'état de notre planète ; il propose des pistes de solutions pour un avenir plus durable et équitable.

[Read the whole article](#)

## Recent CORONA Relief activities carried out by AIWC – Rajkot

by Dr. Joshipura Bhavana, All India Women's Conference





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*Everyone above the age of 18 years will be vaccinated at our centre and to date over 20,500 vaccine doses have been administered to the people,*

The second wave of Corona is being seen all over the country, of course this time the wave is proving to be very dangerous. The numbers of patients are also much higher. The Government of India and the State Governments are working tirelessly but given the prevalence of the epidemic, the government alone cannot reach it and NGOs will have also to play a vital role in the fight against the epidemic.

Vaccination has been given special priority by the government of India. In addition, the government has devised a strategy to fight the epidemic of corona through the threefold method of tracing testing and treatment.

It is also noteworthy that AIWC, the oldest and largest organisation in the country, has contributed very well in community efforts and welfare activities during the pandemic. I feel a sense of delight and pride in humbly presenting a brief report and salient features with highlights of welfare activities undertaken by the Rajkot Branch of AIWC.

[Continue reading](#)

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## Anne Pélagie Yotchou, Cameroon, has sent these two articles

### Article 1

**Clin d'œil sur l'impact du COVID-19 sur les femmes dans le secteur informel au Cameroun et options pour le renforcement de leur autonomisation afin de réduire leur vulnérabilité aux violences basées sur le genre dans le contexte de la pandémie.**

[Read the article by clicking the link](#)

### Article 2

**Access to and ownership of *land* for women is often problematic, especially in rural areas.**

[Read the article](#)

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## Call for support for two urgent actions in Cameroon

**By Anne Pélagie Yotchou, President of CEFAP**

**critical situations on the streets of Yaounde.**

In Cameroon, we don't have such safe places where women and children can go when they are in danger, be it in the family or in the society. We call on people of goodwill who can support this project, which we really want to put in place by December 2021. It will be a great Christmas gift for those vulnerable persons who need our help urgently. The budget for this project is estimated at 15.000 Euros, which we have to collect by October because we need two months to find a space and build the shelter. Any person that can help by giving a contribution or supporting us in organizing a fundraising online to help us to achieve our goals to have 15.000 euros by Sunday 31 October 2021 can contact us at

email: [cefap97@yahoo.fr](mailto:cefap97@yahoo.fr)

phone number (whatsapp +237675484225)

**Any donation** can be made by bank transfer to

IBAN: CM211002926010013123720019

SWIFT CODE: ECOCCMCX

Name of Account: Association CEFAP

Name of the Bank: ECOBANK CAMEROON

[www.ecobank.com](http://www.ecobank.com)

**2. Create a community farm in Yaounde to feed 75 internally displaced and desperate women and children from the conflict zone in the NOSO**  
**Donate to Support Internally Displaced Women in Cameroon**

As of 30 June 2020, 1.8 million people were displaced within Cameroon, either internally displaced, refugees or returnees. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Far North is steadily increasing because of the armed conflict, which forced over 559,000 people to leave their homes.

Food security is often defined in terms of food availability, food access and food utilization (USAID 1995). Food availability is achieved when sufficient quantities of food are consistently available to all individuals within a country.

Successful food security and poverty-oriented programmes not only assist poor rural populations to produce more and diversified products but to produce a surplus that can be marketed and thereby generate income to improve quality of life through improved diet and nutrition, investment in productive activity, and as collateral for credit to purchase inputs and/or other supplies to enhance agricultural or non-agricultural enterprise.

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## Small steps to a Feminist Europe will make a difference!!!

by Arina Angerman, IAW representative on the EWL Board 2014 - 2021

This is my last contribution to the electronic IAW Newsletter as a Board Member (BM) of European Women's Lobby (EWL). I want to thank Marion Boeker, Lene Pind, Jocelyne Scutt and Joanna Manganara very much. They supported me after I was elected to the board in Lisbon in October 2014. I have reread my IAW report of 2019 and will list five small steps to celebrate and continue!

1. My 1st GOAL representing IAW in EWL's Board was to share information and spread knowledge by Twitter in order to strengthen the visibility both of IAW and EWL by posting or sharing at least twice a week (social media mobilization) at this social media platform. I carried out these doable social media actions every week.
2. My 2nd GOAL was to write a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL. I published many, many stories and my most important insights are:
3. In July 2019 the new European Parliament with 40% (plus 8%) women voted in favour of the first female President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. Both can be seen as important steps and the result of the *50:50 Women for Europe, Europe for women campaign* initiated by EWL. In May 2020 EWL membership was extended to comprise more than 2000 women's associations in 26 EU Member States, three Candidate Countries, one former EU Member State and one European Free Trade Association country (incl. UK, Turkey and Iceland). IAW was one of 10 European-wide non governmental organizations in the EWL Board (October 2015-June 2021).
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 Coalition. IAW is a member of this European Coalition. In the approved EWL Work Programme 2021 "EWL would have organised

5. I enjoyed being a representative of IAW in the Board of EWL very, very much! I will miss strategizing, learning and mobilising together for women's rights. In the Charter for EWL Women's Forum June 2019 I like the core value 'Equality between women and men' and the key principle 'Women's Rights are Human Rights'. My years from October 2015 - May 2021 were full of 'politics and friendship' and I hope IAW representatives to EWL: IAW Vice-President Marion Boeker and 'young' feminist Lea Boergerding will have the same experience!
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## PEACE & SECURITY IN CYPRUS

by Elli Christodoulou, Cyprus

**Member of the Financial Advisory Committee**

The informal 5+1 meeting on Cyprus held in Geneva Switzerland from April 27 - 29 with Guarantor Countries Greece, Turkey and UK.

At the Press Conference by the United Nations, the Secretary General Antonio Guterres announced the following:

"The meeting ended without finding common ground and an agreement and UN S.General pledged to fight for all Cypriots and would continue to represent the interests of all Cypriots in future talks on the divided Mediterranean island.\_

The position expressed by the Turkish Cypriots was that the many efforts made to solve the Cyprus issue over the years have failed, including the most recent attempt made in Crans Montana. They believe that efforts to negotiate the bi-zonal, bi-communal federation have been exhausted. They believe the Turkish Cypriots have inherent sovereign equality and have an equal international status and the solution in their view should be based on two states cooperating with each other.

The position expressed by the Greek Cypriot delegation was that negotiations should resume from where they left off in Crans Montana. They should aim to achieve a settlement based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality on the basis of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Joint Declaration of 2014, the existing body of work, the six elements presented in Crans Montana, and in line with the EU acquits.

This was not an easy meeting. They conducted extensive consultations in a succession of bilateral meetings and plenary meetings in order to try to reach common ground.

The truth is that, in the end of their efforts, they have not yet found enough common grounds to allow for the resumption of formal negotiations in relation to the settlement of the Cyprus problem.

But the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, does not give up. His agenda is very simple, is strictly to fight for the security and well-being of the Cypriots,

And being so, they have been able to agree that the UN Secretary General will convene in the near future another meeting of the 5+1, the five plus the United Nations, again with the objective to move in the direction of reaching common ground to allow for formal negotiations to start.

They are determined to do everything to make this dialogue move on and to be able to reach positive results.

Of course, there will be consultations before the next meeting and their intention is to try to create as much as possible the conditions to allow for the next meeting to be successful.

Probably two to three months should be the kind of the time framework that could be useful to allow for any meaningful positive development and help in common search for a solution for a settlement.

The UN Secretary-General has a mandate given by the Security Council for negotiations. But this informal meeting was convened without preconditions in any formal meeting, it is, UN S.G would say, useful that all delegations are able to express their positions and that would allow us naturally to interact with each other. He pointed that the "two state solution" is not part of his UN mandate. We must be focused and act diligently to find common ground with the UNSC mandate. We should not miss this opportunity for a federal solution to the Cyprus problem within the EU. Thus, the EU will safeguard the security and implementation of a solution, along with the UN and European Human Rights. UN S.G will also report to the Security Council on the different positions expressed in this meeting.

The Secretary-General is giving the parties one more chance for consultation to reach the common ground required to start the negotiation process."

Further to the announcement above, I would like to add that "The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace & Security" provides equal and effective participation of women in peace negotiations' processes." Let us hope that women will be included in future peace negotiating teams to reach a peace agreement in Cyprus."

source: Press

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This Newsletter was edited by Lene Pind  
Proofreading and advice: Priscilla Todd  
Proofreading: Alison Brown and Danielle Levy

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