



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES



Reports for Congress 2020 Brochure du Congrès 2020

Editor

Cheryl Hayles

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From the Editor's Desk...

These last twelve months are unprecedented in terms of environmental, economic, health and emotional impact on women.

Women as influencers rose to the top of the discussion board in global politics. The first female President was elected in Greece. The Prime Minister of New Zealand demonstrated positive leadership in responsibly managing the COVID-19 crisis. The Black Lives Matter campaign, initiated by women, became a global movement. Senator Kamala Harris was nominated VP on the Democratic ticket for the USA Presidential elections. Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsburg was the first woman to lie in state at the US Capital.

Brazil, Australia and America had the worst forest fires in history. The World Meteorological Organization responsible for naming tropical storms ran out of letters in the English language to name hurricanes and had to turn to the Greek alphabet. The planet has literally been raging with fire, water and poisoned air.

Anti-Black systemic racism battled with the global pandemic for most threatening virus this century. Black lives as a demographic was added to the conversation on Human Rights and social justice in a very dynamic way. Racism and cultural exclusion entered the consciousness of the capitalist economic system, forcing companies to recognize that inclusion is a positive market driver and therefore profitable.

Health disparity for marginalized groups had a light shone on it. The mortality rate due to COVID -19 infections for under served communities was dramatic. The term Essential Workers was branded. Home schooling revealed the child care crisis for families.

Lock down exacerbated mental health issues and triggered increased Violence Against Women. Unfortunately stay in place orders suppressed the opportunity for women to escape violent relationships.

What became very clear is that governments can pivot at will. Funds are available to underwrite social support systems and universal basic income is necessary to maintain the dignity and wellbeing of people.

Most importantly, the lesson learned is, "We are all in this together". This statement affirms Martin Luther King Jr.'s words that, "Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere". It is reassuring to be part of an organization such as IAW where women cherish international friendships and the opportunity to support each other in the work to ensure women's rights are protected.

Thank you to the affiliates, associates and individual members who contributed to the inaugural Electronic Congress Booklet. We move forward in this new reality.

Cheryl Hayles, Editor

IAW PRESIDENT

JOANNA MANGANARA

Cancellation of the IM/Board meeting in Lahore, Pakistan

The IM/Board meeting was due to take place in Lahore Pakistan in October 2020. It was very well prepared by Ruhi Sayid and APWA Punjab, who had worked very hard for it. The offer of the hotels was very generous and the program very interesting. However, participation was limited, mainly due to advice from family, friends and various governments/consulates globally cautioning against non-essential travel to that part of the world. As a result, we had to find another place to organize the meeting.

We finally decided to hold the meeting in Geneva, as the dates of the European Regional preparatory meeting for Beijing+25 were immediately after our meeting and there was a lot of interest from our members to participate.

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

Civil Society Forum of UNECE meeting October 28 2019, Geneva

There were 420 participants from 48 countries that gathered in Geneva to participate in the Civil Society Forum of UNECE. The EWL did not endorse the statement of the Forum, because they considered that no consultations had taken place. According to the EWL, this process excluded voices of women, in particular those of survivors of prostitution.

The Beijing+25 UNECE Regional Review meeting

More than 850 participants from Europe, North America, the Caucasus and central Asia participated, including 47 government delegations and 81 civil society organizations. 51 National Review reports were submitted.

Despite progress, many of the challenges addressed in Beijing remain a reality. Environmental protection and climate change constitute the areas with the least advances across the region.

Cancellation of the IAW 38th Congress in Rabat, Morocco

When the Pandemic hit the world, preparations for our Congress had already started and the dates (24-28 Nov. 2020) had been set for Congress in Rabat, hosted by Samira Yassni, President of the Morocco Observatory on Women's Rights. We owe Samira many thanks for the work already done and we hope we shall be able to go to Rabat in 2021 or 2022.

As there was no possibility to meet in 2020, I proposed to our Extended Board that we meet virtually. My proposal was accepted by the majority of the members of the Extended Board.

A task force has been established to look into all aspects of having virtual meetings. The members are J. Manganara President, Olufunmi Oluyede Secretary General, Alison Brown, Soon-Young Yoon, Lene Pind, Lyda Verstegen, Marion Boeker, Ursula Nakamura, Antonia Balanska Lavine Treasurer, Rahima Sajid Assistant Treasurer, Miranda Rusario Assistant Secretary General. The Congress will take place within the time period 24-28 November 2020, with Pre-Congress and Post-Congress Board meetings called separately.

Cancellation of CSW64

After the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, advised by WHO, asked stakeholders to refrain from visiting UN in New York, everything related to CSW was cancelled. UN Women informed representatives of organizations that had registered for CSW64 that CSW will suspend, after one procedural meeting on 9th March. There will be no general discussion and all parallel and side events will be cancelled.

CSW-Caucus. Working methods Resolution

The IAW has taken a position on this Resolution, namely, that the state-centric process followed by CSW best represents state representatives of women and limits NGOs to the Forum rather than giving them voice to deliberate as equals at official proceedings, that is, have a representation of civil society during negotiations. So we asked for this kind of representation.

Political Declaration CSW64 - Comments

I have submitted amendments to the text, in particular referring to a stronger language on women's human rights.

Rosy Weiss commented that there is no reference to the legally binding WPS agenda in the Political Declaration. Also, she pointed out that there is specifically no address to youth in the Beijing outcome. This omission should be remedied, but not at the price of reopening the Beijing outcome.

IAW also sent an idea for a theme for an Action Coalition. The idea was the following: The CSW should institutionalize consultations with civil society before and during its session and give more space for participation to NGOs, by including them to its official processes

Parallel event by Olufunmi Oluyede

Olufunmi Oluyede was planning to organize a parallel event, sponsored by the International Bar Association (women lawyers interest group) and inspired by my statement to CSW64. The title of it was: **Whither women's parity. Neoliberalism: The devastation and institutional legal reformation.** She invited me to speak on the theme **Neoliberal policies and feminist struggles to transform them. An Agenda that puts people over profits.** This parallel event was also cancelled.

Generation Equality Forum, Paris. Parallel event to be organized virtually by IAW and AFEM during the Generation Equality Forum in the first semester of 2021

This Forum, initially due to take place in July 2020, will take place during the first semester of 2021. IAW, in collaboration with AFEM, will organize virtually a parallel event **“Equality between women and men. A human value, a human right, a universal goal. Achievements and challenges, for a change in the global paradigm on power”**. The following members of ours will be speakers in the parallel event: Olufunmi Oluyede, Rosy Weiss, Manju Kak, Jocelyne Scutt and myself.

IAW IM/Board meeting Geneva 25-27 October 2019

Adoption of the 2018 IAW Declaration which was presented at the Board meeting in Berlin in October 2018.

The Declaration titled **“Fighting inequalities, in particular gender inequalities by resisting the shrinking space for civil society”** was unanimously adopted by the Board following a motion for its adoption moved by me and seconded by Lyda Verstegen.

Regional African Conference of French speaking organizations in Kinshasa DRC to make known the Nobel peace prize awarded to Dr. Denis Mukwege in 2018.

It was accepted that Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa would organize this Conference in her capacity as AIF Vice President for the Francophone countries in Africa, in collaboration with a number of women’s organizations from DRC, which are seeking membership of IAW.

Working Agreements by Azi Khalili

Despite the warm acceptance of these agreements by our membership, no decision was taken for their inclusion into our bylaws.

IAW Commemoration of Beijing+25

In order to commemorate Beijing+25, I decided to launch an IAW vlog campaign and ask our extended Board, our member organizations and individual members to answer a number of questions that have to do with the impact of the Beijing+25 Agenda in their country, what remains to be done? What have been the challenges and achievements? How have they been affected or contributed to these achievements? To make a video contribution members should follow the guidelines circulated by our Secretary General and by myself for this purpose.

Statements made by IAW or endorsed by IAW

- IAW’s statement to CSW64: Progressing with our feminist goals through alternative narratives that will allow us to fight effectively against women’s human rights violations.

- An open call by Women's Major Groups for a strong and inclusive civil society engagement at UN virtual meetings. (CEDAW 4 change)
- Invest in the care economy for a just, green, feminist COVID-19. Response and recovery by (CEDAW 4 change)
- IAW signed the final NGO statement on two draft bills banning abortion and sexuality education in Poland, sent to us by Katrine Thomasen from the Reproductive Rights organization.
- Soroptimist International Statement for the Commission on Social Development on supporting homeless women.
- CFUW statement to CSW64, which focuses on education and training of women, women and health and women and the economy.
- Graduate Women International Statement to CSW64.
- Center for women's global leadership. Gendered impact of the COVID-19 crisis, holding governments to account.
- Call for a feminist COVID-19. Policy statement by Feminist Alliance for rights.

Declarations endorsed. Letters signed by IAW

- Mexican Declaration. Women radically transforming a world in crisis. IAW has endorsed this Declaration.
- IAW has signed the UN 75 People's Declaration and call for global Action.
- IAW has endorsed the Women's Declaration to stop Turkey's occupation war against North and East Syria (Marion Boeker, Germany).
- CSO-Letter to UNECE on postponing RFSD 2020. By scaling down the RFSD as it is now proposed UNECE is consciously choosing to leave the participation of civil society behind.
- Women's Major Groups Beijing+25. This letter expresses civil society's serious concern about the marginalization of the women, peace and security and youth, peace and security agendas in the Beijing+25 and Generation Equality Forum processes.
- CSW – caucus letter to UN Women. This is a letter that the core group felt should be sent to UN Women, to raise some concerns on the meetings in Mexico and Paris, the outcome of which is unknown while the costs are great. The question is why businesses and organizations could not support CSW, so that more voices of marginalized women can be heard at CSW.

- Letter to UN Secretary General, on behalf of CSW-caucus expressing our concerns about lack of civil society space. This letter was drafted by the core group.
- Letter from the global feminist civil society groups, calling for specific benchmarks for success of the Beijing+25 process and Generation Equality Forum.

Council of Europe

Heleen Yansen, at the head of the IAW Delegation at the Council of Europe, informed us that the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe invited some INGO members, including IAW, to discuss the impact of the pandemic on their activities, the adaptations made, as well as the actions and steps which need to be undertaken in order to build back better. The video with all the contributions, including ours, was posted on our website and circulated to the extended board.

Prize on Women's creativity in rural life

Ms Akanpo Adja Theresa, President of our member organization La Colombe in Togo, is among the 10 winners of the Prize for women's creativity in rural life – 2019, organized by the Women's World Summit Foundation, based in Geneva.

Women NC parallel event

We have co-sponsored Women NC parallel event and we have sent our logo for the event's flyer. The event took place virtually and was titled Beijing+25 Pivot point for Intergenerational Activism.

EWL Motion to protect women and female politicians in Belarus

IAW has supported this motion.

Quadrennial Report

Our quadrennial Report was received and reviewed on 12 July 2019 on which date it was also duly submitted to the Committee on NGOs which, in its resumed session held from 20 to 29 January 2020, decided to recommend to ECOSOC to take note of our organization's recent Quadrennial Report. This recommendation is subject to the approval of ECOSOC which will consider and take action on the Committee's recommendation.

IWN

During the past year, we have circulated the following issues of our Journal International Women's News (IWN) with the following themes:

- IWN on Digital Violence Vol.114 No3.
- IWN on Change is inevitable, Growth is optional Vol.115 No1

President's Newsletter

During the past year, I have circulated a President's Newsletter on the following themes:

- Beijing+25 Civil Society Forum of UNECE, Regional UNECE meeting 28-30 Oct 2019. January 2020.
- Women's Human Rights and information and communication Technology by Mallaury Cervellera and Joanna Manganara March 2020.

First female elected President of Greece

In January 2020 I informed the Extended Board of IAW about the first female elected President of Greece, Katerina Sakellaropoulou, a high Court judge, a human rights advocate, and an expert in environmental and constitutional law.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICA

Cheryl Hayles



International Meeting in Geneva

Electronic voting was passed at the IAW International Business Meeting in Geneva 2019 as a practical tool for IAW. This facilitated the electronic vote in December 2019 by the Extended Board to adopt Project 21.1. Since then we have received donations from 33 individuals including 7 Extended Board members. Both Lene Pind and myself tapped into our personal networks in order to build the fund. The designated fundraising event for this year was my participation in a half marathon (21.1 km) in March during CSW64. Due to the pandemic both CSW and the Brooklyn, NY half marathon were deferred. I continue to be inspired to run as family, well wishers make donations.

Between training runs I worked on the Charter for Project 21.1. The charter defines the purpose and goals of the initiative. In tandem, a recognition program was developed to acknowledge outstanding donors. For the 2020 cohort of donors, recognition certificates have been mailed to Torild Skard (Denmark), Heide Schütz (Germany), and Antonia Balkanska Lavine (USA). All donors have received a “Thank you” card. We continue to rely on member support to reach the financial goals.

Editorial Committee

As a member of the Editorial Committee, my work to complete the electronic Congress Booklet has been a pleasure. In that capacity I had the opportunity to read about the great work our members are doing. This booklet has been distributed via the newsletter link and posted on the IAW website. In addition to being Editor of the electronic Congress Booklet my contributions to the team includes submitting articles on various topics of concern for women, engaging members to submit articles in their area of expertise and managing the Facebook page.

Facebook Page

Although everyone has access to information on their smartphones the IAW Facebook page remains a point of access for potential members and people who are looking for current international information specific to women’s issues.

Website

I underwrite the bill for the website design and maintenance to ensure IAW has a professional digital presence. It is our digital presence which facilitates communication with the world and our members.

Virtual Townhall Meeting

During the time of the global protests related to “Black Lives Matter” the Canadian Ministers of Parliament, Adam van Koeverden and Greg Ferguson, invited members of the Black Community, including myself, to a Black Community Townhall on June 4, 2020. Feedback from the townhall was delivered to various federal ministers and departments. The conversation was intended to inspire action and change in the political system.

On September 9, 2020 the Prime Minister of Canada pledged \$221 million dollars to encourage Black entrepreneurship in Canada. The first program of its kind in Canada to address long standing barriers to the Black community. Black women entrepreneurs will have access to loans to finance their start up businesses.

NIDO Americas USA Conference

At the invitation of our Secretary General, Princess (Mrs.) Olufunmi Oluyede I attended the "Advancing Nigerian Democracy: The Diaspora Perspective" virtual conference" held on July 19, 2020. The program provided a platform for Nigerians to reflect on the nation's democratic experience so far and brainstorm ideas on how to deepen the nation's democratic culture and infrastructure to build enduring structures and deliver measurable progress for the Nigerian people. 325 professionals joined the virtual conference.

Participated in the following Webinars

1. # MyBeijing 25; Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity & Decent Work on January 7, 2020 (NGO/CSW/NY)
2. Webex with NGO Iangel on January 24, 2020
3. Consultation Day Virtual Meeting on March 16, 2020 (UN Women, NY)
4. Transforming Through Inter-Connectedness: Deep Listening and Creative Collaboration on April 20, 2020 (NGO CSW/NY)

Regional Meeting - North America

Hosted Zoom meeting on “Empowering Women Post Pandemic” on October 1, 2020. Discussion of IAW intervention to support women globally.

Les Olympes de la Parole

As a member of the Canadian Olympes de la Parole Board, I am happy to report that each past winner has their project featured in a page of the «Thank you UN 2020» eBook. Our Chair, Dr. Saôde Savary answered the UN call for contribution and the editor dedicated a full page to each team!

Follow the link to see their work:

<https://www.theonlinebookcompany.com/OnlineBooks/ThankyouUnitedNations/Contributions/ShareAStory/120>

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, ASIA

Smt. Manju Kak, Vice Chairperson, IAW



During the above mentioned period I have taken a few initiatives and tried to understand some areas that could be demarcated for discussion and maybe mutual co-operation in the Asia region.

On e mail I reached out to all our associates and affiliates to share news about their work and region. Not much success was achieved in terms of a response. In India though an effort has been made to promote IAW and its objectives by reaching out to our 500 branches of the AIWC. One of our co-partners in the work towards Peace is IWPG (South Korea) that have expressed a wish to also become

members of IAW.

I also attach a brief Review of some of Asia's pressing needs for your perusal and greater understanding of this region. Since I am a member of AIWC I have highlighted the work of AIWC also in the specific sphere mentioned for India.

An Introductory Note is also prepared that can be used to email potential partners has been prepared. This is to serve a copy and paste as and when queries come for membership. It can also be used to make overtures to desirable partners when requesting their association with IAW.

A Brief: Sustainable Development Goals- India and Asia Region

India has played an important role in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) . Therefore, it is not surprising that the country's national development goals are mirrored in the SDG's. For implementing the SDG agenda, the Government of India has launched several ambitious programmes. State governments are also engaged in developing roadmaps for

achieving the SDGs with several of them having already published their plans. The main messages for India's Voluntary National Review of SDG implementation encapsulates the progress made with respect to Goals 5, 13 and 16

Goal 16 Peace and justice strong institutions: Goal 16 is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building accountable institutions at all levels.

Programme: Communal Harmony and National Integration awareness

AIWC/INDIA: In AIWC we are promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and awareness for access to justice. Through National Integration and communal harmony awareness our AIWC branches promoting peace and working towards SDG 16. In 2020 in Collaboration with National Foundation for Communal Harmony AIWC conducted 2 programs in Rajkot (Gujarat) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

- Rajkot---“Strengthening National Integration Through Collaborative Social Initiatives”
Date: 27th February 2020 Venue: NFDD Auditorium Saurashtra University, Rajkot. Attended by President Smt. Sheela Kakde & MIC Dr. Manju Kak

-Lucknow--“Bound by the Cultural Threads of Creativity: Communal Harmony and National Integration-The Lucknow Model” Date: 2nd March 2020. Venue: College Auditorium, Avadh Girls' P.G. College, Lucknow. Attended by Treasurer Smt. Begum Rehana.

Asia Region: Political disturbance in Indonesia, Communal harmony disturbance

Program: Goal 13– Climate Action:

AIWC/INDIA: On 30th of July 2020, amidst the chaos and confusion of COVID 19 pandemic, the team of new office bearers under the dynamic leadership of Smt Sheela Kakde took a historical step towards making our world greener and the planet healthier by setting an e-waste collection centre in collaboration with Hulladek, within the AIWC premises. The centre is open to public for a safe disposal of their e waste such as; old laptops, computers, and all sorts of old electronic gadgets etc.

It will remain open for public to drop the e-waste from 10 am to 4pm from Monday to Friday.

-As Gender plays a very pivotal role in climate change to justify this statement, AIWC branches are initiating change by spreading awareness on different environmental issue at grassroots level by involving women into the programmes.

Asia Region-Enhance capacities of member countries in the Asia region to implement and monitor measures, adaptation of National policies, enhance resilience and reduce emissions. The regional initiative on climate change and actions plan results

Program-Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- The Supreme Court on Tuesday reiterated that a woman is entitled to equal right over parental property as it in accordance with the 2005 amendment in the Hindu Succession Act. The Hindu Succession Act, which was amended in 2005, gives daughters equal rights in their ancestral assets. The SC on Tuesday said a daughter can claim equal share in family property irrespective of whether her father was alive or not at the time of the amendment. "Daughters will have coparcenary rights even if their father was not alive when the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act," a three-judge bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, said on Tuesday.

A coparcener is the one who shares equally in the inheritance of an undivided property. "Once a daughter, always a daughter. A son is a son till he is married. The daughter shall remain a coparcener throughout life, irrespective of whether her father is alive or not," Justice Arun Mishra said as he pronounced the landmark judgment. The remarks by the Supreme Court were made on Tuesday as it was hearing a batch of appeals that raised the issue of ancestral property inheritance. The pleas raised question if the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 has a retrospective effect. The judgment holds significance as the SC held that rights under the amendment are applicable to living daughters of living coparceners as on September 9, 2005, irrespective of when they were born. In 2018, a Supreme Court bench had said the amended Hindu Succession Act of 2005 stipulated that a daughter would be a 'coparcener' since birth, and have the 'same rights and liabilities' as a son.

Asia Region

Despite achieving gender parity in education, South Asia lags behind in economic and political empowerment of women, as well as other dimensions of gender equality (SDG-5).

Estimates suggest that gender equality could add up to \$4.5 trillion to South Asian countries' GDP by 2025.

With the adoption of 2030 agenda for SDGs Asia region pleaded 'leaving no one Behind' and 'to endeavor to reach the furthest behind first'.

DEMOCRACY COMMISSION

Convener: Anje Wiersinga

Plan of Action 2018-2020

We have been working on the issues the Plan of Action lists : advocating women's equal access to and full and effective participation in power structures and decision making in all fields and at all levels. Ensuring implementation of agreed policies, treaties and commitments. Increasing awareness and recognition that Gender Equality is not only a fundamental Human Right, but also indispensable for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. We have been doing this for all 7 subjects mentioned in the Plan of Action, particularly for Human Rights, Violence against Women and Peace emphasizing that real democracy start with equal participation in decision making.

We work with men and women to achieve these goals, since we believe that it is essential that men understand that full equality is beneficial for all human beings and that without working together we will not achieve it.

International level

On the International level we are doing this by taking part in discussions with Parliamentarians and other politicians; by proposing Recommendations and actions to be taken. Reminding authorities of their commitments and legal duties and insisting on their implementation on the international and national level. We do so for all seven subjects included in the Plan of Action and also for other subjects as needed including the SDG's emphasising that equal participation in decision making is essential for real democracy

In the field of Violence against women we promote the ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating VAW and domestic violence. and access to justice for victims. We are also promoting national telephone lines for men to assist them to overcome their frustration in other ways than violence and we are promoting the "survival kit for men under pressure" which is being developed by "Work with perpetrators of domestic violence"

In the field of peace we are working for women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and state building and holding UN and governments accountable to do so in accordance with the binding UN SC Res.1325. We worked together with the Council of Europe representatives and the Finish Parliamentarian delegation to organise an event on **"Women's Contribution to World Peace by Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, Security"** with the objective to determine what the CoE politicians can do to support the implementation of 1325.

Thanks to the KLM who paid his 9000 euro plane ticket our first speaker was Mr Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, ex-Bangladesh Ambassador at UN, Initiator of UNSCR 1325 in 2000 as President of the UN Security Council and Founder of the Global Movement for the Cultu-

re of Peace. Representatives of women organisations from Syria and Cyprus explained their wishes, demands and priorities whereupon politicians replied what they could do to implement those. Anje Wiersinga summarized and concluded the event.

National level

Most treaties, international agreed conclusions and commitments made have to be implemented at national level. IAW members at national level Affiliates, Associates and Individual Members - were encouraged to use existing opportunities to promote this.

To assist the IAW members the Democracy Commission has formulated those opportunities and distributed those at the International Meeting as follows.

Implementation

We recommend to insist on the **implementation** of International Treaties, and National Equality laws. We recommend to use the existing opportunities. To start with CEDAW : National Affiliates can submit shadow reports on CEDAW. Other issues : equal pay for equal work, UN SC Res. 1325 on Women Peace and Security (see below).

Foreign Policy

We recommend to use the example of the Swedish Feminist Foreign Policy. This policy requires that women and men are equally represented in all activities and that gender issues are addressed in all policies. The Council of Europe is preparing a report on “Gender perspectives in foreign policy”, which can be used. We recommend to include men next to women in this discussion to convince both men and women on the necessity and positive effect of gender equality.

Gender Mainstreaming

Contact your Gender Rapporteur. All 47 European countries have such a Gender rapporteur in its government. For other countries : advocate to get such a rapporteur. Discuss your wishes with them. These rapporteurs have to assist its government to implement gender mainstreaming by explaining its importance and positive effect not only for women themselves but for whole society. As the UN stated “the contribution of women is essential for the solution of problems”.

Violence against Women

For countries which did not yet ratify the Istanbul Convention : lobby for this with your government. For countries which did ratify the Istanbul Convention : take part in the monitoring process by meeting the GREVIO Co when they visit the country and send a (shadow) report to GREVIO, the monitoring body. Contact and work with your country Parliamentarian for Violence against women. Again all 47 European countries have such a parliamentarian. For other countries : advocate to get such a parliamentarian.

Access to justice

Recommend Ensuring equal access to justice for women and men, particularly in the field of Violence.

Peace

We recommend to insist that governments establish National Action Plans on Women Peace and Security as UN Resolution 1325 demands governments to do and take part in its leadership and activities.

Human Right

The Commissioner on Human Rights of the Council of Europe has made Gender Equality one of her focal points. IAW Members can make their opinion known since the Commissioner consults national NGO's during her country visits when she is preparing her monitoring report.

In April 2019 during the GEC the Human Rights Commissioner confirmed that Gender Equality remains the top priority of the CoM Presidencies. She encouraged all to promote gender equality in their countries especially with Ministries of Foreign Affairs, using the policies, Resolutions and Recommendations their governments agreed on. We recommend to follow this advice.

Social Rights

IAW members can also take part in the monitoring procedure of the Social Charter of the Council of Europe again by sending a shadow report with their views and evaluation. IAW can also send a collective complaint to the European Committee of Social Rights in relation to non compliance with the Social Charter.

Equal pay for equal work

A collective complaint on unequal pay for equal work has been found valid and the 12 countries involved charged with correction, which you can insist your government to do.

The work of the Democracy Commission is based on the original objective of the suffragettes as Aletta Jacobs said: using voting rights as a means to get an equal say in decisions making at all levels of society.

HEALTH COMMISSION

Convener: Gudrun Haupter

As Convener of the Commission on Health I wrote 18 Letters to the Commission members on items pursuing to the Commission's Plan of Action for the Triennium:

On Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, SRHR; on No Tobacco for women & girls; on various health issues which Commission members brought up. I am grateful to

° Ursula Nakamura who helped with her profound knowledge on health matters including menstrual health and management; as IAW Main representative to WHO she filled out the WHO template, discussed IAW's status of Collaboration with a view to the new FENSA rules governing relations with NON-STATE Actors. Based on my long experience with WHO I helped her as best I could. The result was negative: as of January 2020 IAW will no longer be on the list of Collaborating NGOs.

° Seema Uplekar who had a most interesting priority, the translation of the WHO mhGAP for mental, neurological and substance use disorders in non-specialized health settings into her native Marathi; She also tried to enlist the government of the Maharashtra state authorities.
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/mhgap-intervention-guide---version-2.0>

° Soon-Young Yoon who, like in the past, still has a focus on Tobacco control. Her bi-annual report 2019/2020 requested by WHO on IAW activities has been accepted in spite of the decision of the EB meeting in January 2020. Soon-Young and Ursula frequently commented on my letters. In the reporting period Soon-Young ably represented IAW at the NGO level of the UN N.Y. Like Ursula she is a member of the taskforce to prepare the IAW Congress.

Other issues I mentioned were top news in the Press dealing with the World Health Organization, WHO, e.g. the Zika epidemic in DR Congo, and flagrant sexual Violence against Women in a number of countries, where the perpetrators are not trialed.

Menstruation and Menstrual Health Management belong to SRHR, and have been an issue I frequently took up in my Letters. The reason:
Since the board meeting in Berlin 2018 IAW finally has a successful Project called Water and Pads for Schoolgirls – Empowerment for Life.
Ursula Nakamura and I are the Project coordinators with Ursula doing most of the work. Here I mention only <https://www.iawwaterandpads.com> the website Ursula created.
Our report on the IAW Project will be included in the 2020 booklet.
My main contribution to the project was proof reading drafts in English and French i.e. lecturing them before they were printed.

I also motivated my organization Deutscher Frauenring e.V. to support the Covid-19 fund and renewed my contact with Thérèse Akakpo from the NGO La Colombe in Lomé. I go into these details because I know from Projects for women and girls I co-ordinate for Deutscher Frauenring e.V. in 2 low-income countries of the Global South what it takes to follow through with a project.

Other issues of my Letters to the Commission re Sexual and reproductive Health Rights, SRHR, were for example:

- ICPD + 25, the Review Summit of ICPD in Nairobi, 12 to 15 December 2018

- The 5th Conference on Family Planning in Kigali, Ruanda <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/icfp-2018/en/>
- The importance of USAid for Preventing Maternal death, i.a. by contributing to finance contraception;
- The consequences of threats by the US presidency to stop financing USAID;
- The President's attacks on WHO;
- Attempts in several countries (Argentina, Poland, some of the US States) to enact more repressive abortion laws;
- Women need access to the methods of family planning of their choice as a goal in itself and to keep unsafe abortion figures low.
- The contributions of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help financing research on contraceptives and highly important as well, research on HPV vaccination for girls.

As to the Ouagadougou Partnership – a coalition of government officials, religious leaders, civil society members, and youth representatives from the countries Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo working in collaboration with donors – among them the Gates Foundation – this partnership helped to improve family planning outcomes in the region. Collectively in 2018, these countries prevented 159,000 unwanted pregnancies, 56,000 unsafe abortions, and 510,000 maternal deaths.

At times I used contacts I had because of my project activities for Deutscher Frauenring in Westafrica to AFD, the IAW member in Burkina Faso and to La Colombe, the IAW Member organization in Togo. In 2018 Claire Gyèbre, President of AFD, Association Féminine Songmanegré pour le Développement was honoured by the Administration in Washington DC as Woman of Courage.

Her main fields of action are FGM/C and family planning, with public celebrations of the International Women's Day including radio messages on issues empowering women and adolescents. Campaigns sensitizing villagers and administrative and religious authorities in the district of Kongoussi on FGM/C relied on 2 councillors working in rural health clinics who were familiar with women's health issues. This is a joint project with LebensChancen Internaional e.V., Dr. Gudrun Eger-Harsch, and an Austrian group motivated by the Sociologist and Ethnologist Günther Lanier who lives in Ouagadougou and advised Claire during the triennium.

I spread the informations and helped with getting the finance needed for the event in March, the sensitizing campaigns and the salaries of nurses who collected data on women's health. The car ride from the capital to Kongoussi takes about 3 hours.

The Togo project is a rural project as well, with a history going back to the 20th century. I travelled to both countries with IAW Vice President Brigitte Pross and delegations of DFR, and as from 1996 have accompanied the building of the rural Educational Youth Centre, CJDA, in a hilly region near the Ghana border. The main activities are teaching young

women how to sew dresses for the local market; improving their math and French knowledge; increasing their knowledge on basic facts of life. A picture box set up by Family Health International was used in the CJDA and in village quarters of Danyi Atigba. The project includes the local health clinic. The pharmacist is on our list of people who get a salary, despite of the shut-down of the CJDA due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Convener/Main Representative to UNGENEVA: Lyda Verstegen
Kafala, the Nefast System for Immigrant Domestic Workers.

Corona leads us to find human rights abuses where we were not aware of them previously. Thus the picture in my newspaper and on BBC showing domestic workers dumped on the pavement in front of their embassy in Beirut brought me into contact with the Kafala system. The Kafala (sponsorship) system emerged in the 1950's to regulate the relationship between employers and migrant workers in many countries in West Asia, particularly in the Gulf States. Under this system all unschooled migrant workers must have a 'sponsor', Usually their employer.

The International Labour Organization is trying to change or abolish this system. It gives rise to inhuman treatment of domestic workers. For construction workers there are different rules but domestic workers have no protection under this system.

Unlicensed employment offices in their home country promise them good working conditions! When they arrive in the country of employment they find out that the rules there are different. Employers can treat the maids as slaves, give them more work to do than they were promised, take away their phones, let them work without rest for hours on end, don't give them a day off in the week, or even the month, don't pay them their wages, sometimes for years! The workers cannot leave or take an other job, they are bound to this employer. If they leave without permission they will be deported. The employer has just to file an absconding (running away) complaint. Without money, without passport or ID card they are completely helpless. And this is the law in many countries.

What to do about this horrible situation? The home country should have an agreement with the receiving country about the way domestic workers are treated. The recruiting agencies should not be permitted to work without a license. The receiving country should make it a crime to withhold passports and telephones. The receiving country should bring domestic work under the labour law, which gives some guarantees and access to justice.

The employers ought to be accountable for breaches of contract. In many countries domestic work is excepted from the labour law. Few countries signed the ILO convention on domestic workers, I know mine did not. It is because domestic work is not considered real work. It is something you can do yourself, maybe even should do yourself. It is considered unskilled

work, which it is not! The employer doesn't make a profit from the work, so it is not considered productive. Equality should start with the appreciation of domestic work!

PEACE COMMISSION

Convener: Heide Schütz

There are a number of different formats how to bring life to the IAW peace commission. I chose to make visible the peace perspective along with IAW topics and reach out to the membership with the help of the newsletters. There, earlier, I had asked IAW women if they were interested to join the peace commission and bring forward their topics in addition to the group that was started three years ago.

When climate topics were being discussed in Geneva 2019, my contribution was to point out the fact that the military is the world's biggest polluter: in times of so-called peace in order to keep the war machinery going and in times of war even more so.

When it came to propose an overarching congress theme for 2020, I suggested "Looking at the SDGs through Women's Eyes". The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 include many goals IAW is focusing on, especially goal No. 5, gender equality as a human right. Goal 16 stresses the importance of peace, justice and strong institutions. My proposal was accepted by a majority vote, but it has rightly been changed now in order to discuss urgent topics in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the special IAW edition on Covid-19, I informed our membership about at least one positive aspect of the pandemic: The immense US maneuver "Defender 2020" with 20.000 soldiers and likewise war equipment that were to be brought from the United States to Europe had to be cancelled because the virus had already started to infect the military. The peace community in Germany and in other countries had in vain worked hard to achieve this cancellation.

For the August newsletter I wrote a small article about the usually poor funding of health systems compared to the generally huge sums of funding of the military ("Fund Healthcare not Warfare"). A draft resolution on this topic will be presented at the IAW Congress 2020.

Manju Kak, a member of the peace commission, brought forward the excellent idea of organizing peace workshops on most relevant topics in India and other countries in close cooperation between AIWC (All Indian Women's Congress) and other IAW members. This project is to be discussed at the congress.

I had been asked to participate in the preparation of a regional AIF peace conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by Anuarite Muyuwa, Sofedec, but unfortunately my French is too poor for being able to contribute.

The 2019 report of the peace commission can be found on the IAW website: <https://international-alliance-of-women.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/19194258/IAW-Report-2019-Peace-Commission.pdf>

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

Convener: Rev. Esther R. Suter, Dr.des.

As IAW commission convener for disarmament I am involved with nuclear disarmament and peace issues especially around reunification of the Korean Peninsula (Peace Treaty). I keep and promote respective contacts in South Korea and with the World Council of Churches. I wrote various articles about these issues, especially in connection with international conferences and with UN-CSW New York.

As IAW-board member I keep the liaison with the Swiss organization “Schweizerischer Verband für Frauenrechte” (SVF/ADF). Preparing for CSW64 in NY their (former) president Josiane Greub and I stood in contact with the official Swiss delegates and Federal Office for Gender Equality as well as with other Swiss NGOs for women’s issues.

Preparing for the jubilee Beijing + 25 this year our extended board member Sibylle von Heydebrand, (new) SVF/ADF Co-president Annemarie Heiniger (beside Co-president Ursula Nakamura) and me each of us prepared a video commemoration VLOG for this jubilee of 90 seconds informing about the achievements within the national organization since 1995, about personal experience as well about success and backlash: violence against women is an issue in each UN member state! A shift of culture is needed and “Me Too” may have given input for it: to raise consciousness for gender based violence. The movement “Thursdays in Black» is working as a campaign for it. Increasing resistance from conservative and right wing side worldwide needs observation and vigilance. On the other hand NGO’s and religious institutions are working for substantial issues and taking stronger positions together to confront these tendencies.

These VLOGS are documents and it would be nice to put them also on the IAW website for our members.

Due to corona pandemic CSW64 session in March did not take place, instead there was a one day session in New York: 25 years of Beijing Platform for Action BPfA, the Generation Equality Forum and CSW64 Review.

The continental conferences in Mexico (May) and Paris (July) are postponed to 2021. Due to corona pandemic the projects for these various jubilees (UN; H.R. Declaration; UN-Women) could not be realized and instead webinars and zoom conferences were prepared: May 14-15: UN civil society partnerships for the UN we need. Together First a global system that works for all. UN75 people's declaration & plan for global action. Humanity at a cross-roads: global solutions for global challenges. Recommendations to UN-member states, to be adopted at GA on Sept. 9 2020 UN-NY. Soon-Young Yoon was moderating the May 15 session, see IAW Newsletter.

18.2.2020: Geneva: 12th annual Genevan Summit for Human Rights and Democracy: Problem of fake news; human rights issues and religious freedom: panel of mainly young people who reported about violence of human rights in various parts and countries worldwide. Prize to Shaparak Shajarizadeh, an Iranian woman who dared to take off her headscarf as an action of civil disobedience against the compulsory laws of hijab in Iran. She is a well-known activist for women's rights and with the "White Wednesday" civil disobedience movement and was invited later to the UN-Geneva Summit of Human Rights May 11, 2020.

I am IAW-H.R. representative at NGO-CSW-Geneva: This commission usually meets once a month. The meeting on January 15, 2020 took place physically. Our new representative Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand and me participated. As there is a kind of restructuring the Bureau, most issues were about internal questions and finding new member organisations. Some former members and representatives had withdrawn, left or died, posts had to be replaced. Questions of future perspectives are raised.

April 20, 2020, Annual General Meeting: First Zoom meeting. Sibylle von Heydebrand, me and our third representative in Switzerland Derya Akinci participated. Sibylle was appointed as financial internal auditor for NGO-CSW-GE. Issues of coping with Covid-19 situation were discussed.

Problems with electronic communication among some of our members (representatives to NGO-CSW-GE) which could be solved but never explained fully why it occurred, so that we did sometimes not get documents in time. So we were not informed why the meeting of May 27, 2020 did not take place.

July 2, 2020: Second Zoom-meeting: Sibylle, Derya and me participated. We did not notice any participation from other elected IAW Representatives to UN Geneva. Apparently UN-Geneva was strongly affected by the Covid-19 virus and Zoom meetings will continue. Proposal of inviting a guest speaker, Christine Löw (Switzerland) was suggested.

Due to exam preparations for my doctoral promotion in Systematic Theology I had to reduce my activities in June and the time before. I am representing another NGO, a H.R. Interfaith organization at UN-Geneva and for this reason I will in future also participate in the H.R. NGO-Commission.

IAW MEMBERSHIP/COMMUNICATION OFFICER

Lene Pind



When she was IAW Membership Secretary Pat Richardson often said; “ I am sure that that board members including the Executive Committee have no idea how much work and how many hours it takes to keep membership files updated and basic communication in IAW open. I agree with her. Even though IAW is a small organisation, it is complex for a number of reasons: It is global, bilingual, consists of different types of members with different kinds of status in IAW, it is an umbrella, consists of volunteers, and though volunteers are often highly dedicated they are not always quite reliable when it comes to getting the work done, the fees paid etc, it has many commissions and committees etc.

IAW needs paid staff

In the meeting in Geneva I said that IAW spends too little time discussing and sharing information about the administration of IAW.

If Congress 38 were an ordinary congress, I would have insisted on having an hour at my disposal to report on what is involved in the work of the Membership Secretary. I would have given you examples of the details of the work to try to make it clear that if IAW is to be sustainable, it is absolutely necessary that we work towards getting paid staff to handle the database. It is urgent.

The database

The database is working, and there is no doubt that it supports a development towards better and easier administration. It can be improved or developed further. That will cost money, but it will be worth it. The problem, however, is that IAW members are not yet used to having more efficient administration and the importance of the personal relationship even when it comes to invoicing members cannot be overestimated. The importance of the National Collectors shows this. Where we have national collectors, we have the most individual members.

Work connected with the database

- Keying in the relevant information about new members
- Transferring email addresses to MailChimp

- Keeping up the board list (really this should be done by the secretary general in cooperation with the MS)
- Pulling out lists for the use of the president, Secretary general, coordinators, national collectors etc.
- Cooperating with the providers in Portugal
- Chasing bouncers
- Working with the Treasurer
 - Keeping lists of online payments (fees, donations, congress payments)
 - Invoicing members (affiliates, associates, and individual members)
 - Sending out reminders
- General communication with members

Fortunately activity in IAW is going up. This means more work for the person in charge of the database. I therefore repeat my serious proposal that we start looking for paid staff to run the database and work with the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary.

Membership:

33 affiliate members

21 associate members

369 individual members

Many of these members are not fully financial, so we shall have to discuss how we proceed with his situation. This will be part of my oral report at Congress.

Communications Unit, head of Communications.

Work involved:

- Collecting IAW news for six Newsletters per year
- Working with members about their contributions
- Producing the 6 Newsletters
- Keeping up the mailing lists in MailChimp
- Producing the Congress Bulletins
- Administration of Social Media
- Administration of website

- Uploading news and other information
- Keeping the members area updated with Newsletters, meeting documents, history books/ publications etc
- Cooperation with webmaster
- Working with members about their contributions to the website

It has been a pleasure to see how more and more members send contributions to the Newsletter. For many it has become important to see their work reflected in the Newsletter. Some really understand that internal communication about IAW activities and views is extremely important, and so they send news on a regular basis. Many thanks to you! None mentioned, none forgotten!

Also many thanks to Danielle Levy for being the IAW French translator and administrator of the French section of the website.

Special thanks to Scott Dempster for being such a caring webmaster. The importance of his work is beyond words. And special thanks to Cheryl Hayles for financing his work. Without these two people we would not have had such a nice website, so dynamic and modern, and what is best of all – technical problems are solved quickly.

What do we know about readers' response?

Unfortunately IAW has never carried through a survey of what our readers/ members think about the publications. It was suggested and decided at the Board meeting in Switzerland to do a survey of International Women's News. It never happened.

One of the advantages of using MailChimp is that it provides statistics, and here are some:

Congress 2020 Bulletins:

Percentage of readers who have opened the Bulletins:

Bulletin 1: 53%, Bulletin 2: 55,5 %, Bulletin 3: 46%

Newsletters: 2020

February: 48%, April 51%, June 43,8, August 40%

International Women's News

IWNews vol 114 no 2: 66%

IWNews vol 114 no 3: 73%

49% of members open the publications often, 24% sometimes, 26% rarely

We need an evaluation of our media and contributions from our members as to what they want in the Newsletters, in International women's News and on the website.

I plan in cooperation with the editorial committee to carry through a survey of the Newsletter and International Women's News.

Finally. –

The website is primarily for external communication and the Newsletter primarily for internal communication.

International Women's News

– **editor Priscilla Todd** with articles and advice from Joanna Manganara.

It's great to have support and ideas from our young IWN Team, Lea Börgerding in Berlin, Jessica Orban in Paris and Holly Herbert in Sydney, who produce *Feminists around the Globe* for each edition as well as providing other input and proof reading. Three editions for 2019 were produced, albeit the third stretching into 2020. Readers may well see a late 3rd edition for 2020 too as it will include comments and details about the Alliance's first ventures into online videoconferencing.

Next step

The Communications Unit is planning to present a report with recommendations to the post-Congress Board meeting about all our publications. What is the purpose of each of our publications? What do members wish to read about in the the Newsletter and IWNNews? How should the publications support each other? How can they encourage discussions and membership engagement? Contact Lene Pind at lenepind@gmail.com

WATER AND PADS PROJECT

Coordinators: Gudrun Haupter and Ursula Nakamura

June 2019 - July 2020

Implementation – implementation – implementation!

Thanks to the excellent start of the WP project in the first semester of 2019 the other IAW member organizations were eager to carry out similar activities within their own reach. Here are some impressions of the WP activities!

The team of **RENATA** drove up to the isolated region of Maroua in Cameroon and visited the rural public primary school of Louggéo Doubai. «*We held an educational talk on the theme of "Puberty and Menstrual Hygiene" with the school-girls of two classes*»

Anuarite Siirewabo of **SOFEDDEC** had a joint venture with the SOS Village School at Bukavu DR Congo:

"Menstrual hygiene management is a topic related to more than one human rights...It is a completely normal biological process...During this event the girls brought up a lot of questions about menstruation. They started discussions that showed the problems they have to deal with..."

As the coordinators of WP project we were very happy, that obviously the educational booklet for primary schools **"La puberté"** which we had been shipping to these countries was so well received by the pupils, their parents and their teachers in francophone Africa. We finally also got the authorization for disseminating the English language booklet **"ABCs of being a girl"**. With its nice illustrations it is well adapted for girls at the primary school.

In October Ruhi Sayid, President of All Pakistan Women's Association **APWA**, Pakistan, could

present this booklets to a class of girls at Lahore. *"I am sharing the picture of our activity we had with school girls on menstruation and hygiene. Young girls come up with various questions, which were responded by our trained staff».*

We, the coordinators of the WP project faced a lot of challenges finding a menstrual health booklet for the secondary schools. Thanks to the spontaneous support of SWISS SEXUAL HEALTH and others we could finally edit and produce the brochure "Entering Womanhood" in English and "Devenir femme en toute sérénité" in French.

On 1st October 2019, the day of the girl child, Rita Marque President of **WCCF** in Zimbabwe presented the booklet at Epworth High School Zimbabwe. *"...Most residents in Epworth live in abject poverty and are devastated by the HIV Aids pandemic. We strongly believe it is useful that the boys can be involved and in future they can be of assistance to the girl child in the event of their parent's demise."*

Soon Zambia Women Alliance **ZAW** followed. At Chibwe and Kabwe Schools too, the acceptance of the WP project was overwhelming. Edah Gondwe: *"We visited the school-girls at Chibwe secondary and primary schools at Kabwe, a rural area of Zambia....The grade 7 pupil Olipa explained in her native language the difficulties learners go through during their menses, including the lack of proper toilets or no running water. She explained that girls end up missing school for as long as 6 days due to fear of messing themselves up around others. She also highlighted that one big problem the girls face is being mocked and bullied by others especially boys during their menses....The visit was characterized by open and honest discussion, which allowed the girls to freely ask questions regarding menstrual health....The pupils were elated to receive the books as they would use them to learn more. Wow! They are so happy !»*

2020

In February 2020 Rita Marque with WCCF visited again the Epworth High School in Zimbabwe.

Two girls spoke on behalf of the girls: “...Although the times are changing it is generally taboo in most homes, especially in rural areas, to speak about the issues related to menstruation. The girls expressed gratitude to the International Alliance of Women for providing oral guidance reinforced by the booklets with informative details about menstruation...” Quite spontaneously also the boys got involved. Getting to know the female biological cycle impressed them very much. At the end the boys even made an official pledge to respect the dignity of girls and women: “Sanitary pads are more important to girls’ health because menstruation is a natural phenomenon. It is very essential for us as males to make sure that every girl is supplied with sanitary pads. Availability should be free to prevent the use of rags infected with bacteria which will result in avoidable health complications. It is important for the boys to support girls as their school mates or siblings during the menstrual periods and assist by buying pads...”

In February 2020 the organization RUWON of Nepal organized WP activities at Shree Jana Jagriti Secondary School in a remote region of Nepal. Goma Bastola, President of RUWON writes:

“Rural Women's Network Nepal RUWON could implement this very meaningful and interesting project...The girls who have reached the age of menstruation were provided with an ecological sanitary kit and the educational booklet “ABC’s of being a Girl”...We have provided sanitary kits to 195 girls and school notebooks to all together 470 students of the school, and we distributed the booklets for the girls and boys “Entering Womanhood”.



Due to the worldwide Covid-19 crisis the planned water and pads events were blocked. During the lock-down the IAW member organizations organized emergency activities fighting against the pandemic.

In Africa and Asia many people live in precarious conditions such as cramped housing and no easy access to water. Therefore one has to rely on protective masks and on hand-disinfect-

tants. Due to the strict lock-down many women could not produce vegetables and other agricultural products, nor sell them on the markets. Without any income they could not buy any food for their families.

Here some IAW member organizations involved in the Water and Pads project stepped in providing emergency aid. They helped to alleviate the harsh conditions of vulnerable people and to organize extensive public sensibilization campaigns against the Covid-19 virus: CEFAP and RENATA in Cameroon, SOFEDEC in DR Congo, RUWON in Nepal, LA COLONBE in Togo and WCCF in Zimbabwe.

The WP project – more needed than ever!

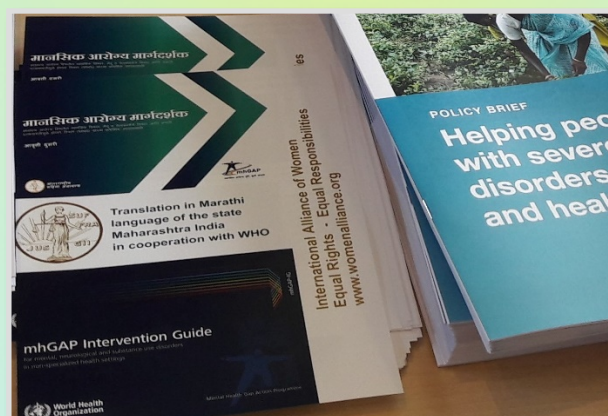
Now in summer 2020 all WP participants clearly want to carry on the WP project, as soon as the Covid-19 crisis is better controlled. In most places the schools will open again in autumn 2020. The pupils are shocked by the lockdown. More than ever they will need a good education and self-confidence – Empowerment! The teaching authorities and the IAW organizations are waiting for us.

Although our WP finances are very precarious we want to carry on this successful and very much needed project. We hope that in autumn many primary schoolgirls in Cameroon and DR Congo will hold their copies of “La puberté” in their hands!

Read more information about the WP project in English or French on the special website: [**www.waterandpads.com**](http://www.waterandpads.com)

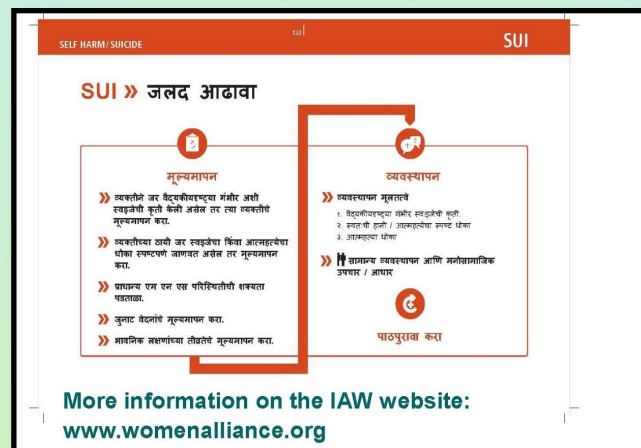
WHO ANNUAL REPORT July 2019-Feb 2020

Submitted by IAW Representatives; Ursula Nakamura and Seema Uplekar



After the summer-break WHO was organizing a two days “Mental Health Forum” in October 2019 – among other items also launching a Community Tool Kit for using the mhGAP Guide. Of course this was an excellent chance to promote Seema’s translation into her native

language Marathi. A year before Seema had it already officially presented at WHO. So meanwhile I, Ursula, was attending this highly interesting forum I disseminated an especially created flyer. It was on the tables everywhere, in the cafeteria, in the hall etc. and several participants told me that they wished they had a similarly helpful translation in their own country!



But despite previous intensive talks with the relevant WHO team unfortunately the WHO Executive Board decided in February 2020 to discontinue the official relations with IAW due to the very strict regulation of the new WHO framework FENSA. This describes the collaboration with the non-State actors NSA in official relations with WHO. IAW as an NSA cannot meet anymore the highly increased demands for keeping its privileged status. The current list of around 220 NSA comprises international health-organizations, some selected universities and renowned foundations... Due to its very limited financial resources WHO wants to focus strictly on universal health care issues.

So, for WHO at present IAW just meets their interest regarding sexual and reproductive health rights, e. g. menstruation. Therefore the “Water and Pads” project was highly appreciated. But although WHO welcomes all efforts by IAW addressing gender-based violence GBV these activities would need to be more coordinated within IAW.

For Seema, Gudrun and Ursula this is very sad, because we have represented IAW at WHO. I want to recall, how intensively Gudrun and later on Seema have worked together with WHO; Soon-Young Yoon has actively participated in an important tobacco prevention programme. I myself had the chance to watch closely the recent developments of WHO from within. This was highly interesting.

Provided IAW can intensify its successful menstruation education in poor areas, present a more coherent policy on its international efforts on GBV and disseminate other health-programs, too among its IAW membership possibly IAW may get accepted again as a NSA.

UNESCO TEAM REPORT 2018-2019

Submitted by: Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy et Monique Bouaziz

NGOs at UNESCO are involved in the preparation of two forums every year and of a few international Days. On 26 and 27 September 2018 a forum on migrants was held in Tunis. It was associated on the 28, to an international day on peace, which implied a design and an art competition on this theme "Drones and Robots at the service of peace". This event was followed by another celebration day, on the 29 as it was the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The second forum "Science as a common good of humankind" took place in Moscow on 27 and 28 November. Its panels on science for peace, on the social responsibility of science and on the quest for sustainable solutions for ensuring peace stability in the 21st century were led by the Russian Academy of Sciences. It was of extremely high quality. As we belonged to the group that had worked to prepare the forum we were invited, all expenses paid, by the Russian Peace Foundation and the Russian Academy of Sciences who were in association with UNESCO for this event.

17 to 19 December was the occasion of the International Conference of NGOs, (ICNGOs), which was the moment of the election of the Liaison Committee and of its President (a woman). These events offered a real occasion to discuss on the necessary changes in the manner of preparing forums and were at the origin of a group who decided to prepare documents on reinforcing the INGO partnership with UNESCO.

In 2019 only one forum is scheduled. It was meant to be hosted in July but will only be held in December because of the election of the Liaison committee last December. As the Liaison Committee has to agree on the themes of the forums, the time was too short to have good speakers free for the event and to find a state willing or able to host a minimum of a hundred people during 2 to 3 days. This forum will deal with "inequality".

Two forums should be held in 2020. One on "Global Citizenship" and one as a follow up to the Days of Peace and we are already working on them.

For the second time we have received money from the Participation Programme to send African people to get trained in hydrology. They are back from the training and ready to train other people. We are happy to tell that out of 30 people trained, 15 were women (3 out of 6 in the group from Togo sent by IAW).

2019 was rich in events at UNESCO but, to attendance and preparation of special Days such as the one which is to be a follow up to the International Day of the Girl, and of colloquiums organised by other UNESCO NGOs and partners. This was the case for the colloquium on water and oceans in the framework of the UNESCO commitment for sustainable development and climate change.

Thanks to the association of the former UNESCO staff, we appreciated the progress of the work of UNESCO in the framework of sport. Annie Sugier, President of the Paris 2024 group, who had been invited by IAW, explained the problem of Muslim women who are unable to undergo the sport tests in their inadequate clothes.

When the Women World Cup of football took place in France early in May, the Director General Ms AZOULAY organized an event with seven sportswomen from different countries. Sports at the top level are areas where talented women are strongly discriminated. This year a woman won for the first time the award Gold balloon. Her salary was equivalent to the one of a male football player, first division. The struggle for equal salary has a long way to go before reaching equality

The meetings preparing the G7 and the Beijing + 25 events were added to this list.. Some of these meetings were held at the UNESCO headquarters, such as the one held on May 9 by the W7 (this movement brings together associations that defend women's rights in the G7 countries and all over the world). In the presence of more than 400 feminist NGOs, recommendations "towards a truly feminist and transformative G7" were handed to the ministers, among which were the French Secretary of State for Gender Equality and for the Fight against Discrimination, and the G7 Ministers for Gender Equality and Women's rights

Another event was held on July 5th. NGOs were invited by the Minister of Europe and foreign Affairs, the minister of National Education and Youth, of France and Mrs Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, to a UNESCO world conference: "innovating for girls and women's empowerment through education". Conference concluded by the President of the French Republic Mr Emmanuel Macron who is also President of the G7 this year.

We also attended the C7 (the Civil Society summit) on July 23 at the CESE (Economical, Social and Environmental Council). The theme of the meeting was the role of the G7 in the fight against inequality: It proposed to face up the challenge of development, to act in health and education and to find funds to answer the needs in these fields. The second half of this meeting was the occasion to draw up a survey of the Sahel region within the context of the security and climate crisis.

Recommendations from the C7 for the G7 were signed by some associations. Monique signed them in the name of IAW and AFEM, The recommendations were handed to the Secretary of State for Europe and Foreign Affairs who was to give them to President Macron.

In spite of all these meetings, while many of the G7 statements have lots of references to women's empowerment and gender equality, Women were disappointed by the G7 itself by the fact that there was no adequate funding nor timeline for implementation. and that consensus was prioritised to feminist policy.

Monique was also invited at " L'Elysée", place of residence of President Macron on the occasion of the "1er prix Simone Weill de la République "(First Simone Weill Price of the Republic). It was awarded to a Cameroon woman who works on Violence against women.

On the international scene of the Women Forum CSW, at the United Nations, we were not able to participate this year but we attended the preparatory meetings organised by the French Governmental delegation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the CSW issues to be debated.

We were happy to be invited on Women's day, at the National Assembly to meet French Oscar award film maker Agnes Varda a few days before she died . She commented her 1977 film: " l'une chante, l'autre pas" (one sings, the other doesn't). Probably the most feminist of her films.

Groupe UNESCO : Rapport 2018-2019

Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy et Monique Bouaziz

Les ONG à l'UNESCO ont chaque année à préparer deux forums et des Journées Internationales. Les 26 et 27 septembre 2018 un forum sur les migrants a ainsi été présenté à Tunis. Il a été Jumelé avec une journée de la paix le 28 qui impliquait un concours de dessin et une compétition artistique sur le thème "Drones et Robots au Service de la Paix. Cet événement a été lui-même suivi le 29 par une autre journée de célébration pour le 70e anniversaire de la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme.

Le deuxième forum " Science bien commun de l'humanité" s'est tenu à Moscou les 27 et 28 novembre. L'Académie des sciences de Russie et les ONG ont magnifiquement conduit des panels de haute qualité sur la science pour la paix, pour la responsabilité sociale et la quête de solutions durables pour assurer une paix stable au XXIe siècle. Comme nous avons fait partie du groupe ayant préparé le forum nous avons été invitées, tout frais payés par la Fédération de la Paix et l'Académie des Sciences de Russie, en association avec l'UNESCO pour cet événement;

Du 17 au 19 décembre a eu lieu la Conférence Internationale des ONG (CIONG), moment où sont élus le Comité de Liaison et son/sa président-e (une femme pour cette biennie). Cette conférence nous a offert une véritable occasion de discuter sur les changements nécessaires à la préparation des forums et a été à l'origine d'un groupe désireux de préparer des documents sur le renforcement du partenariat ONG -UNESCO.

En 2019 un seul forum est prévu. Il aurait dû avoir lieu en juillet mais ne le sera qu'en décembre, suite à l'élection du Comité de Liaison en décembre dernier, car celui-ci doit être d'accord sur les thèmes des forums retenus et le laps de temps entre la décision et le démarrage des travaux a été trop court pour trouver de bons intervenants libres au moment où nous en avons besoin, ainsi qu'un Etat désireux ou capable d'accueillir au moins une centaine de

personnes pendant deux ou trois jours. Le forum prévu cette année aura pour thème l'inégalité et deux forums devraient avoir lieu en 2020: l'un sur la citoyenneté mondiale et un second qui serait un suivi des journées de la paix. Nous sommes déjà en train d'y travailler.

Pour la seconde fois, nous avons reçu de l'argent du Programme de Participation pour envoyer des gens d'Afrique se former en hydrologie. Ils ont terminé leur stage et sont prêts à former d'autres gens autour d'eux. Nous sommes heureuses de dire que sur les 30 stagiaires formés, 15 étaient des femmes (3 sur 6 dans le groupe togolais envoyé en stage par l'AIF).

L'année 2019 a été riche en événements, mais à la participation et à la préparation des journées Internationales, telles que celle du suivi de la Journée de la Fille ou des colloques et réunions organisées par des ONG et des partenaires UNESCO autres que ceux auxquels nous appartenons, comme le colloque sur l'eau et les océans dans le cadre de l'engagement de l'UNESCO pour le développement durable et le changement climatique.

Grâce à l'Association des Anciens de l'UNESCO, nous avons apprécié les avancées du travail de l'UNESCO dans le cadre du sport. La Présidente Annie Sugier du collectif Paris 2024, que l'AIF avait invitée, a exposé le problème des femmes musulmanes qui ne peuvent subir les épreuves de sport en tenue adéquate pour cette pratique.

A l'occasion de la Coupe du Monde de Football Féminin, en France, Madame Azoulay a organisé un événement avec des femmes de sept pays ayant atteint un niveau élevé dans le sport. C'est un domaine où les femmes sont encore fortement discriminées en particulier au plus haut niveau. La seule femme élue cette année Ballon d'Or pour la première fois reçoit un salaire équivalent à celui d'un joueur de première division: L'égalité salariale a encore un long chemin. Par contre des femmes de pays conservateurs ont trouvé là un moyen d'être appréciées en représentant internationalement leur pays.

Se sont ajoutées les réunions préparant le Sommet du G7 et Beijing + 25. Certaines de ces réunions se sont tenues à l'UNESCO, comme celle du W7 (WOMEN7, mouvement qui rassemble les associations qui défendent les droits des femmes dans les pays du G7 et dans le monde entier) du 9 mai. En présence de plus de 400 ONG féministes, des recommandations "Vers un G7 véritablement féministe et transformatif" ont été transmises aux ministres préparant le G7, dont la Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Egalité femmes/hommes et à la Lutte contre les Discriminations et Les Ministres en charge de l'égalité hommes/ femmes et des droits des femmes.

Un autre événement s'est tenu le 5 juillet. Les ONG ont été invitées par le Ministre de l'Europe et des Affaires Etrangères, le ministre de l'Education Nationale et de la Jeunesse de la République Française et Madame Audrey Azoulay, directrice Générale de l'UNESCO à une conférence mondiale: "Innover pour émanciper les filles et les femmes par l'éducation". Conférence conclue par Mr Emmanuel Macron, Président de la République française qui est aussi cette année président du G7.

Nous avons aussi participé au C7 (sommet de la société civile) le 23 juillet au CESE (conseil économique, social et environnemental). Le thème du meeting était le "rôle du G7 dans la lutte contre l'inégalité". On y proposait de "faire face aux défis du développement, d'agir en santé et en éducation et de mobiliser les ressources pour répondre à ces enjeux". La seconde partie de cette réunion a permis de faire un état des lieux de la région du Sahel dans le contexte des crises sécuritaires et climatiques.

Les recommandations du C7 pour le G7 ont été signées par des associations. Monique les a signées au nom de l'AIF et de l'AFEM avant qu'elles soient remises au Secrétaire d'Etat auprès du Ministre de l'Europe et des Affaires Etrangères pour qu'il les remette au Président Macron

En dépit de toutes ces réunions, alors que les déclarations du G7 fourmillent de références à l'autonomisation des femmes et à l'égalité femmes/hommes, les femmes ont été déçues par les conclusions du G7, car il ne prévoit ni fonds adéquats ni dates pour une mise en oeuvre et qu'on a privilégié le consensus aux dépens d'une politique féministe.

Monique a été invitée à l'Élysée, résidence du Président de la République, à l'occasion du 1er prix Simone Veil de la République. Ce prix a été attribué à une Camerounaise qui travaille sur la violence envers les femmes.

Malheureusement nous n'avons pas eu la possibilité de participer à la CSW cette année mais nous avons participé aux réunions organisées par la délégation française et le ministère des affaires étrangères sur les sujets la concernant.

Dans le cadre de la journée de la Femme, nous avons eu la chance d'être invitées à l'Assemblée Nationale pour y rencontrer la réalisatrice Agnès Varda, (qui a reçu un Oscar pour son oeuvre). Elle nous a commenté son film de 1977 " L'une chante, l'autre Pas "qui est probablement le plus féministe de ses films

UNESCO TEAM REPORT 2019-2020

Submitted by: Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy

Cette année, 2019 - 2020 a commencé comme à l'accoutumée par les séances de travail inachevées de nos groupes, en présentiel, suivies, en Novembre par la Conférence Générale de l'UNESCO, qui adopte notamment, les décisions pour les deux années à venir; puis de la Conférence des OING partenaires de l'UNESCO: 16--18 décembre 2019 où il a été décidé de nous atteler aux questions du renforcement du partenariat entre les ONG et l'UNESCO, ce qui a donné la formation de groupes pour préparer des documents sur *le renforcement du dialogue entre les O.N.G. et l'UNESCO* ainsi qu'un *guide des Forums* pour améliorer nos préparations des 2 forums annuels que les ONG ont à préparer.

Comme tous les quatre ans, nous avons répondu au questionnaire de l'UNESCO, sur la préparation du projet de stratégie à moyen terme, et du projet de programme et de budget pour 2022- 2025.

La suite du travail a changé avec le confinement et le travail de groupes en présentiel, s'est transformé en séances virtuelles: Nous avons poursuivi les travaux de groupes et sont venues s'ajouter des séances ZOOM dont la session spéciale du Conseil Exécutif de l'UNESCO des 4-5 juin. Malgré les grands efforts des Ambassadeurs du Maroc et de Suisse, les membres des états n'ont pas réussi à se mettre d'accord sur la tenue du Conseil Exécutif de fin juin, en virtuel, vu que- certains états n'ont pas de Wi-Fi ou très peu, donc ils ne reçoivent pas, ou mal les informations et ne peuvent s'exprimer que dans des conditions difficiles et qu'il n'y a plus de vrais débats mais des monologues car chaque pays est appelé un par un par le Président du Conseil, il n'est donc pas aisé de travailler ensemble depuis les pays respectifs .Difficile aussi de voter dans de telles conditions. Aucun consensus n'ayant été trouvé il a été décidé que la prochaine réunion se fera à la fois en présentiel limité et en virtuel .

Nous avons suivi une série de webinaires proposée par la Commission des Sciences Sociales et Humaines de l'UNESCO sur les Villes Intelligentes et Inclusives: 55 métropoles, qui régulièrement visent à échanger des expériences et des compétences sur les mesures à prendre pour faire face à la crise COVID19, au niveau local et mondial, "avec accent mis sur les dimensions sociales de l'idée de "ne laisser personne de côté" et sur les mesures prises pour lutter contre les incidents croissants de racisme, de discrimination et d'exclusion"

Pour la troisième fois nous allons essayer d'envoyer des gens d'Afrique dont, si possible, plus de la moitié de femmes, faire un stage de techniciens/techniciennes de l'eau à l'institut 2IE de Ouagadougou, Cette année nous y enverrons des gens de Mauritanie. Nous avons été très bien reçues par l'ambassadrice de Mauritanie, qui nous a assurées de son soutien.

Comme les autres années nous avons participé à une séance de travail avec le Secrétariat au Droit des Femmes, chargé de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes et de la Lutte contre les Discriminations pour préparer la 64e CSW. Nous devions aussi, comme certaines d'entre vous, y participer cette année mais elle a été annulée, la veille de notre départ. Pour compenser notre absence à New York, Me Schiappa, Secrétaire d'état, chargée de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, à l'époque, a invité notre groupe d'ONG (90 françaises) incluses dans la délégation prévue pour la CSW, à participer à une réunion sur le futur Forum Génération Egalité, le jour même, 9 mars 2020, où aurait dû avoir lieu l'ouverture de la CSW.

Depuis quelques la mois nous préparons la célébration de l'anniversaire de la Plateforme de Pékin., célébration de la Conférence Mondiale des Femmes de l'ONU à Pékin, en 1995. Il était prévu que l'évènement débute les 6 et 7 mai 2020 à Mexico et se poursuive du 7 au 10 juillet 2020 à Paris. 5000 femmes du monde entier devaient être invitées (35000 étaient présentes à Pékin, dont Monique Bouaziz.). Ces Événements ont été reportés en 2021, par le

Président Macron qui en précisera la date en septembre-octobre. Evènement, où le Président de France désire porter l'égalité entre les Femmes et les Hommes.

Pour marquer le 7 juillet, nous avons, néanmoins, été invitées par le gouvernement français à un évènement: " Notre Génération Egalité" qui s'est intéressé à l'impact de la situation actuelle sur les femmes à travers des témoignages d'actrices de la réponse à la crise. Les thèmes de cet évènement ont porté sur:

- Les violences sexistes et sexuelles en confinement
- Crise sanitaire, droits et santé sexuels et reproductifs
- Inégalités économiques et répartition des tâches domestiques
- Les femmes aux avant-postes
- Construire ensemble notre monde d'après.

Nous travaillons à la préparation de ce Forum international, Génération Egalité et nous faisons partie du secrétariat d'une coalition nommée pour faire parvenir à l'Ambassadrice pour les ONGs, Mme Delphine O, les retours des différentes associations. Mais des divergences de valeur ont obligé un certain nombre d'associations, à quitter ce groupe et il a été décidé, de former une nouvelle coalition, créée par l'AFEM, la CLEF et le Lobby Européen des Femmes, qui portera nos valeurs d'égalité Femmes/Hommes, de défense des Droits des Femmes et des acquis de Beijing. La représentante de L'AIF avait décidé de rester jusqu'à la rencontre avec Mme Delphine O. L'AIF rejoindra la nouvelle coalition à la rentrée.

A l'occasion de La Journée Internationale pour l'Elimination de la Violence à l'Egard des Femmes, nous avons assisté à deux événements importants à propos de la RDC. Le matin, nous avons été invitées par la délégation aux Droits des Femmes du Sénat, à une table ronde sur les *violences sexuelles dans les territoires en crise et les zones de conflit*, en présence de Madame Justine Massika Bihamba, fondatrice et présidente de l'ONG *Synergie des femmes pour les victimes de violences sexuelles* (SFVS), qui a témoigné.

Le second élément, en fin d'après midi, était une conférence à l'AFD (agence Française de développement), *sur la lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes : un enjeu mondial pour l'égalité*, en présence du Docteur Denis Mukwege, gynécologue, Prix Nobel de la paix, "le Dr qui répare les femmes qui ont subi le viol", "arme de guerre" ou ont été excisées., que Monique avait prévu de rencontrer pour la Conférence de la Paix qu'Anuarite avait l'intention d'organiser à Bukavu en RDC, mais qu'elle n'a pu approcher, car le Docteur ayant perdu sa mère dans l'après-midi, avait quitté la salle dès la fin de la réunion.

Depuis longtemps nous suivons les travaux de la CSW. A cette occasion nous avons suivi des séances virtuelles, pour une discussion interactive " North America and Europe: CSW Caucus Consultation dont un avec Madame Phumzile Mambo Ngcuka, Directrice Exécutive de ONUfemmes.

Les Forums et les journées UNESCO, qui étaient prévues pour 2020 sont repoussées à 2021 ou 2022, comme la journée de la fille, le forum sur la Citoyenneté Mondiale et la Journée de la Paix...



UNESCO TEAM REPORT 2019-2020

**Submitted by: Monique Bouaziz,
Renée Gérard, Danielle Lévy**

As usual the year 2019 -2020 started with the face-to-face working sessions that had been left unfinished before the holidays. These were followed, in November, by the UNESCO General Conference, which generally adopts decisions for the next two years. Then, on 16-18 December there was the Conference of INGOs

Partners of UNESCO where we, NGOs, decided to tackle the reinforcement of the partnership between NGOs and UNESCO. This led to forming groups that prepared documents on *the reinforcement of the dialogue between NGOs and UNESCO* and a *manual on Forums* to help preparing the two annual forums NGOs, in partnership with UNESCO, have to prepare every year.

As every four years, we answered the UNESCO questionnaire for the project on the medium - term strategy and the project for the program of the budget for 2022 -2025.

The following work was a total change because of Covid19. We had to replace face-to-face meetings for videoconferences. We continued the e-mailed group documents and added working Zoom sessions, among which we attended a special session of the UNESCO Executive Council on 4-5 June. In spite of great efforts from the ambassadors of Morocco and Switzerland, the member-states couldn't agree on the way to manage the next Executive Council at the end of June. A virtual Conference didn't satisfy them since some states don't have Wi-Fi or only a little bit, and so don't receive information or receive it very badly and then talking is not easy. It is not easy either to work together, since debating is impossible when the president of the Executive board must call each country one by one, and so the speech of the ambassador is a monologue. It is also difficult to vote in such conditions. No consensus being found it was decided that the next meeting would combine limited "face to face" and "virtual" presence.

We also followed a series of webinars, proposed by the UNESCO Social and Human Science Sector, on the "Smart and Inclusive Cities: 55 towns "that aim to exchange experiences and expertise on the measures to address the COVID19 crisis at the global and local levels, focus-

ing on the social dimensions of leaving no-one behind and on actions taken to fight against the growing incidence of racism, discrimination and exclusion."

For the third time, we will try to send people from Africa with, at least, if possible, half of them being women - to be trained as water technicians, at the 2IE Institute in Ouagadougou, This year we will send people from Mauritania. We have been received by the Mauritania Ambassador who assured us of her support.

Like previous years, we participated in a working session at the French Secretariat for the Rights of Women, in Charge of Equality Between Women and Men and of the Fight Against Discrimination, to prepare CSW64. We perhaps like many of you, were about to participate in CSW, but couldn't because it was cancelled on the eve of our departure.

In order to compensate our absence in New York, Ms Schiappa, who, at the time, was in charge of gender equality, invited our group of the 90 NGOs included in the French delegation that should have gone to CSW, to a meeting on the future Equality Generation Forum, on March 9th, 2020, the very day, CSW should have started.

Since a few months we have been preparing the celebration of the anniversary of the Beijing +25 platform, a celebration of the World UN Conference of Women in Beijing in 1995. The event was expected on May 6 and 7, 2020, in Mexico and should have restarted from 7 to 10 July 2020 in Paris. 5000 women should have been invited (there were 35000 in Beijing, with Monique Bouaziz among them). These events have been postponed to 2021 by President Macron, who will tell the precise date by September/October. An event where the President of France aims at bringing gender equality forward.

To mark July 7th, the French government invited us to an event Our Equality Generation, focused mainly on the impact of the current situation of women, based on the testimonies of the actresses who had responded to the crisis. The themes of this event were:

- Sexist and sexual violence in confinement
- Sanitary crisis, sexual and reproductive rights and health
- Economic inequality and distribution of domestic tasks
- Women in the front line
- Building together our future world

We are working to prepare this international, Equality Generation Forum and are part of the secretariat of a Coalition in charge of submitting the various associations' feedbacks to the Equality Generation Ambassador for NGOs Ms Delphine'O. Divergences of values have compelled a number of associations to leave this group and they have decided to form a new Coalition, which was created by AFEM, CLEF and the European Women's Lobby and will defend our values of gender equality, defence of woman's rights and of Beijing's gains. The

IAW representative had decided to stay until the meeting with Ms Delphine'O. IAW will join the new Coalition after the holidays.

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we attended two important events on DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo). In the morning we were invited by the Senate Woman's Rights Delegation to a round table on *sexual violence in Territories in crisis and conflict zones* in the presence of Ms Justine Massika Bihamba, founder and president of the NGO *Synergie des femmes pour les victimes de violences sexuelles* (SFVS), who provided testimonies.

The other event, in the late afternoon, was a Conference in the AFD (Agence Française de Developpement) premises, on *fighting violence against women: a global issue for equality*, in the presence of Dr Denis Mukwege, a gynaecologist, Nobel Prize winner for peace: "the Doctor who Repairs Women having been raped" (rape a war tool), or excised. Monique had planned to meet the Doctor for the Conference on Peace that Anuarite intended to organise in Bukavu in DRC, but she wasn't able to do so because the doctor's mother had died in the afternoon, so he had left the room before the end of the meeting.

We have been following CSW works for a long time, and we had the opportunity to attend virtual, interactive discussions: "North America and Europe: CSW Caucus Consultation" one of which with Ms Phumzile Mambo Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director.

Because of COVID19, the UNESCO Forums and International Days, such as the "la Journée de la fille (Day of the Girl)", the Forum on world citizenship, and the Day of Peace, that were to be held in 2020 have been postponed to 2021 or 2022.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ROME: FAO - CFS - WFD

Submitted by Jessika Kehl-Lauff J.D., Switzerland

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) with a membership of 194 Member States that leads international efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and for the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources. More than 130 FAO offices worldwide are working with partners to achieve this goal and the wider Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG). The delegation of IAW has – with the approval of the 37th Congress in Cyprus – decided that IAW will promote women's access to resources in a way that "no one is left behind": we take action for the abolition of hunger and promote the General recommendation No 34 (2016) of CEDAW on the rights of rural women, as well that IAW will promote women's equal access to and control over productive resources as land and property rights, water rights and developments programs, as designed in the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, specially goal 5 "gender equality" and

goal 2 “zero hunger”. **Please take note that 2020-2030 will be the UN DECADE OF ACTION ON SDGs.**

The delegation promotes the information on the UN agencies in Rome amongst its membership. For this purpose we have given some reports on the topics to the IAW newsletter and we tried several times to put the very informative websites on our IAW website under FAO:

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO www.fao.org),

Committee on Food Security (CFS www.cfs.org)

The international financial institution (**IFAD www.ifad.org**)

World Food Program (WFP www1.wfp.org)

The most important reports you may find there in full length: the **CFS Multi-year Programme and Work 2020-2023** which includes thematic work streams on: Food systems and nutrition, Agroecological approaches, Gender equality and women’s empowerment, Youth engagement etc. Not less important the report on “**Food security and nutrition**” with its targets on zero hunger, and the voluntary guidelines on food and nutrition which are intended to support our governments in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the UN DECADE OF ACTION ON NUTRITION (2016-2025), the framework for the Second International Conference on Nutrition ICN2 and the UN DECADE OF FAMILY FARMING. The Covid-19 crisis has shown how important it is to restore in all levels of human lives the right balance between human activity and nature.

Beside our ongoing activities inside the two networks: the Ad Hoc Group of International Non Governmental Organizations (www.ahgingos.org) – the network of many important international NGOs having ECOSOC-status and formal status with FAO; and the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) which has been created to give better space for all NGOs having interest to work closely with the Committee on Food Security (CFS) because of Covid 19 mostly in digital way - we got two new members based in Rome to enlarge our delegation. We have therefore the pleasure to ask the Congress to admit Lawyer Filomena Cusano and Youth activist Delfina Panfili as representatives to the Rome based UN agencies.

With a larger delegation IAW should be ready for the next CFS 47 which is now scheduled for February 8-12, 2021, as well for March 2021 when the Working Group will submit the new Terms of Reference for the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition.

How important the problems of Food Crises are – already before Covid-19 – showed that 135 mio people in 55 countries experienced acute food insecurity in 2020! Almost 60 percent of them having been in contexts of conflict or instability, as the UN Security council told us in April 2020. Even more difficult became the situation during Covid-19 in many states. Happily in July 2020 we got a legal toolkit on “Covid-19 and the Right to Food” by FIAN international, an iNGO very active in the CSM.

Very active were our Rome based delegates too: unhappily we had to postpone the paintings exhibit “**Women to lose - Donne a perdere**”, but Valeria Mangani got a new date **from** March 8th to the 21st. The inauguration is set for March 8, 2020 at 17:00, while the press conference is scheduled for 10:00 in the press room of the Chamber of Deputies. Fifteen works, accompanied by as many stories, which through a modern and direct language denounce the horror of violence and which, by amplifying the emotional impact, aim to raise public awareness on such a delicate issue. We are “sure that this exhibition, too, through the sensitivity of its creator, will make a concrete contribution to stopping a hateful phenomenon such as violence against women”.

Through art and creativity Carla Bruschi and Barbara Sanaldi have created an exhibition that denounces this useless and dramatic daily martyrdom to promote a culture of prevention and non-violence.

While in the green Appenzeller countryside no bigger problems have arisen – vegetables are in the garden, eggs, milk and meat with the farmer, it is indeed very interesting to read the following article of the situation in Italy during the lockdown of COVID-19: **COVID-19 AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE ITALIAN POINT OF VIEW** by our delegate to the Rome based UN Agencies Valeria Mangani; as well as the information about a “women’s problem” - which may have shown up in other states as well and which elderly women actually thought buried since 50 years..



COVID-19 AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: THE ITALIAN POINT OF VIEW

Confinement at home, the only measure so far that has proved effective in slowing down the infection from COVID-19, is not a saving measure for everyone. Crime data reports that, since we have all been home, crimes such as apartment burglaries have significantly decreased. And so it would seem to be, according to the statistics, also for the number of domestic violence. But the reality is quite different: being forced to remain within four walls with a violent person has increased family crimes by about 30% in Europe, although in fact

the reports are lower (in Italy, less than half) because in four mura becomes difficult even to make a call for help.

UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction Mari Mizutori believes it is necessary to include specific measures against domestic violence in the COVID-19 response plans managed by the competent authorities at the national level. This is because, in general women are the greatest victims of disasters (especially natural ones) due to gender inequalities, in the specific context of this pandemic and restrictions on movement, they are placed at serious risk right at home. And given that the police forces and health professionals are already engaged full-time with the emergency, the UN calls for synergies with civil society organizations to deal with women in need. In addition to allocating adequate resources, setting up reception centers spread across the territory and strengthening telematic support, national measures should include innovative solutions, such as the possibility that those who work in supermarkets and pharmacies - that is practically the only open commercial activities - can collect requests for help from women in complete safety.

Echoing Mizutori, the President of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Evelyn Régner said that not only must aid intensify in this period of confinement, but also think about the post-emergency, because women will be the main victims of the economic crisis to come. The European Parliament, which has always been sensitive to the issue, has not limited itself to words and, among other concrete initiatives to deal with the emergency organized in the Brussels and Strasbourg offices, has used part of its own building in the Belgian capital as a shelter for women victims of domestic violence.

Responding to a question from MEP Sandra Pereira, European Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli first reiterated the urgency for the European Union and its Member States to ratify the Istanbul Convention on Combating Violence against Women, a priority on the agenda of the first female President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. He then recalled the various European programs in support of this battle, including various networks for the exchange of best practices and the REC funds (Rights, Equality, Citizens), which finance - among other things - initiatives for the prevention of violence on women and children and for the support of victims. Finally, the Commissioner noted that many Member States have been subject to infringement proceedings for failure or incorrect transposition of the European Directive 2012/29 on the rights of victims. Among these, Italy, which received the letter of formal notice last July.

At national level, France and Spain have already activated ingenious solutions: in pharmacies women in difficulty can ask for a "mask 19", a product that does not exist on the market but is actually a coded help message. In Italy, on the initiative of the Minister for Equal Opportunities and the Elena Bonetti family, information brochures will be distributed in pharmacies and the anti-violence number 1522, active 24 hours, will be displayed.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY I

“Step by Step towards a Feminist Europe” by Arina Angerman



The General Assembly of EWL in September 2020 will be virtual, and will be attended by me as IAW representative to Board of Administration 2018-2020 and by Marion Boeker, the elected Alternate as Observer. Marion and I are talking on average every three weeks by Skype or WhatsApp. EWL membership extends to more than 2000 women's associations in 27 EU member states. IAW is one of 10 European-wide non governmental organizations in this Board. EWL is an umbrella network.

My most important activities (stories) are related to pillar 7 = Democracy in IAW Action program. My **1st GOAL** representing IAW in EWL's Board is to share information and spreading knowledge by Twitter in order to strengthen the visibility both of IAW and EWL at social media by posting or sharing at least twice a week (social media mobilization). These doable social media actions I did every week. As you can read below both Marion Boeker & EWL have increased their social media presence 2019 → 2020 at Twitter. My burning issue is improving visibility of IAW members at Twitter. Please retweet my tweets when I share a tweet with followers of IAW @womenalliance on Wednesday or Friday!

Social media presence seen at 20.08.31	EWL @EuropeanWomen	IAW @womenalliance	@ArinaNoel & @MarionBoeker Followers at Twitter
Twitter 2019	16.700 Followers	779	1.108 & 1.394
Twitter 2020	18.900	795	1.137 & 1.683
Result	Plus 2.200	Plus 16	Plus 29 & 289

2nd GOAL A 2nd way to share information with members of IAW is to write a story about an activity / new knowledge within EWL. I published four stories in the IAW digital Newsletter since my last IAW report in 2019.

1. *Step by Step by Step towards Gender Equality (November 2019)*

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 were [HerNetHerRight trainings across Europe](#) during the 50:50 campaign Women for Europe Europe for Women. As we know 1 in 3 women politicians have experienced some form of online violence.

2. *Step by Step towards #GenerationFeminist (January 2020)*

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. @ClaireShrugged writes a.o. ‘without the serendipity of Twitter, she had never found out about ...’

3. *How we work together in times of corona crisis? (March 2020)*

In hindsight it is very strange: No participant at Board Meeting of EWL - mid-February - mentioned corona at all. We as members, representing 41 National Coordinations or European-wide organisations and EWL staff always share and talk a lot during the meeting in interactive sessions and formal discussions. One of the priorities for 2020 is gender mainstreaming in all EU policies, funded projects and programmes with a special focus on gender budgeting. [For your information please read the report of this EWL Board Meeting.](#)

4. *Feminist power counts! (July 2020)*

EWL shared their new publication on Sexual Education (SE) with Board Members in an on-line meeting at 10.7 You can read an article at this page [EWL’s Feminist Sexuality Education](#) and download the report too. “In 2015 EWL undertook research into members’ views on sexuality education as a tool for violence prevention and ensuring we have the best possible freely-given consensual, desire-driven sexual experiences.”

I as IAW representative 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.

Marion Boeker and I were very busy in June / July 2020 filling in the survey as part of an appreciative Inquiry in order to develop the next EWL Strategic Framework.

3rd GOAL working in a smooth manner together as a small IAW team within EWL with Marion Boeker (IAW member of Feminist Economics Working Group and expert Gender

Budgeting) and Jocelynne Scutt (IAW expert in EWL's Observatory on Violence Against Women).

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

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY II

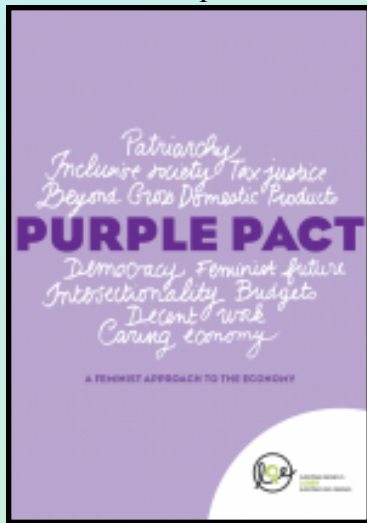
Marion Boeker, Alternate Representative/Observer to EWL

Arina Angerman, representative to EWL, and myself as alternate, continued working together closely by regular Skype video calls in which we prepared and discussed EWL board work from IAW perspective. We exchanged about our work in the EWL working groups. **Our work flow was especially intensified during the COVID-19 lockdown when we both participated in a lot of online board meetings and webinars.** This, on the one hand was to continue EWL work and keep our voice in the political space heard, since we discussed and developed extensive papers on COVID-19 and its impact on women. On the other hand this helped us personally staying focused on our IAW work in EWL and felt connected with each other and the movement. Webinars and online meetings were not new to us. The EWL used to organised working groups and board meetings already earlier than 2017. But, not twice or more a week. But **we learnt a lot and were a lot virtually together.**

While Arina served in the WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN IN POLITICS (see her report) and the Board I was invited sometimes to the board to participated on behalf of the EWL WORKING GROUP ON FEMINIST ECONOMICS and from May 2019 on additional as a nominated member of the EWL GENDER BUDGETING EXPERT GROUP (see my articles on both activities on the IAW WEBPAGE and in the newsletters). The working groups theme is part of the EWL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-2020. We had before the General Assembly in June 2017 worked hard to suggest this strategic issues and get them implemented.

While 2018 the **PURPLE PACT** was drafted from the scratch from June 2019 on we finalized it. I was not only serving in writing but had joined the group of editors. **The Purple Pact sets a feminist master plan for economic change. It is a policy paper for the EU Parliament and Commission to pledge for a new feminist green and care deal for the economy in the EU.** And, every woman or member organisation of IAW can use it freely, I hope, for their own visions to change our dis-functional economics in place. It is not perfect and a living document. We needed to miss out some issues due to our time schedule. In February 2020 it was confirmed by the EWL board and published. Listening the summer discus-

sions of the CSW American & European Caucus online meetings I think, in all regions women came up with such visions. You can find it on [the EWL WEBPAGE](#).



Cover of the PURPLE PACT



Part of the GENDER BUDGETING EXPERT GROUP
20/11/2019 Brussels, Entrance of European Parliament

After a long time we expected to then present it in Brussels to the Member of Parliament and EU Commission. **COVID -19 has thwarted all the plans.**

But, we used the PURPLE PACT from beginning on in the crisis: it was ALL ON CARE !

In substance certainly a lot for the **WOMEN & COVID-19 policy papers** between February and July referred to this works. Additional it prepared us very well for our EWL policy papers and recommendation on the EU Annual Budget, the 7 years Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF and finally the financial COVID-19 EU RECOVERY PLAN in which the Gender Budgeting Expert group delivered further expertise. EWL has send this to the MEPs and EU Commission and had already discussions to find those making commitments.

We had discussed and published on wrongs and our feminist rights for a **CARING ECONOMY**, for an urgent immense investment and improvement of loans, equal pay, work conditions and the high value we as EU and beyond must finally give to the Care Work. And we wrote about the existential need of women for an accessible child care, health care and a caring society, which does not leave care work to women without means and valuing it, without counting it in the economy as an important factor for the well being of all people.

Parallel to this work I can report that the Gender Budgeting Expert Group had a great Seminar still under the Finnish Presidency in Helsinki in May 2019 and here we found great supporters for Gender Budgeting among Finnish women politicians and from NGOs.

On November, 20th the EWL Expert group met in Brussels in the Parliament for a breakfast meeting with a good number of newly elected Members of Parliament and some members of the GD Justice and GD Finances of the EU Commission (I wrote in the IAW newsletter in

spring 2020 about it). The result was not only immediate support but an invitation to come together on the midterm report of the Annual Budget 2020: this was cancelled due to the COVID-19- crisis. But in March we heard that the EU Commission had installed a Sub-Commission on Gender Budgeting implementation.

In March after our first new orientation about the development of EU's finances we developed a petition **#halfofit - We demand half of the Corona funds for women**" directed to the EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission, European Council, European Parliament which was launched online by Alexandra Geese (MEP). Then the EWL focused on the new German EU Presidency (which actually is not making commitment on this approach of Gender Equality and Gender Justice).

Since July we are working on a manual on Gender Budgeting. Additional, a webpage will be designed with materials for all stakeholders on Gender Budgeting. In December we are expected to meet in Brussels (or: online) for a training with the *Fondation Channel* which is funding the Gender Budgeting project for two years. They want to know how as a foundation they can implement Gender Budgeting. A second objective is to establish a new EUROPEAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION which will "channeling resources to the European women". One big goal is to have resources for the fight against all forms of violence against women.

I thank Arina so much for the great years of working in caring friendship for IAW in the EWL. And I thank Jocelynn Scutt, Joanna Manganara, Lene Pind, Joke Sebus, Anje Wiersinga, Lyda Verstegen and IAW Board Members for their support to our work in EWL.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY

Dr Jocelynn A. Scutt, Observatory on Violence Against Women

Introduction

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) Observatory on Violence Against Women has been active over the past three years, principally focusing over 2019-2020 on the Istanbul Convention. Other issues have included Gender Budgeting, Online and Social Media Violence, Skills Training for Detecting and Combatting Trolling, Addressing Defunding & Reductions in Funding of

Women's Services (foremost Women's Refuges/Shelters), Rape and Sexual Offences (Prosecution Failures, Law Reform).

ISTANBUL CONVENTION

Background: The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is known as the 'Istanbul Convention', based on violence against women being a form of gender-based violence to which women are subjected as women.

States' Obligations Every Institution Implicated: The Istanbul Convention recognises the obligation of states to acknowledge violence against women in all its forms and to implement measures directed toward protecting victims/survivors of the violence and prosecuting those perpetrating it.

Violence is Gendered Never Forget: The Convention is framed to acknowledge that men and boy children, too, can be victims/survivors of some of these 'domestic' crimes, but is not designed to equate the levels and forms of violence against women with that inflicted upon men.

Fundamentals: The Convention opened for signature on 11 May 2011 and both member and non-member states of the European Union (EU) can become signatories. Albania (ratified), Andorra (ratified), Armenia, Austria (ratified), Belgium (ratified), Bosnia and Herzegovina (ratified), Bulgaria, Croatia (ratified), Cyprus (ratified), Czech Republic, Denmark (ratified), Estonia (ratified), Finland (ratified), France (ratified) Georgia (ratified) Germany (ratified), Hungary, Iceland (ratified), Ireland (ratified), Italy (ratified), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg (ratified), Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal(all ratified), Republic of Moldova, Romania (ratified) Russian Federation (not signed), San Marino (ratified), Serbia (ratified), Slovak Republic, Slovenia (ratified), Spain (ratified), Sweden (ratified), Switzerland (ratified), Turkey (ratified), Ukraine, United Kingdom – signed and ratified where indicated ... with the Russian Federation not having signed. The European Union has signed but not ratified. So there are twelve states signed but not ratified and thirty-four signed and ratified.

Working Parties: The Observatory established working parties to address: (a) working to persuade those who have not signed, to sign; (b) working to persuade those who have signed but not ratified to ratify; (c) addressing the arguments put forward for not signing or not ratifying; (d) addressing how to ensure that states implement the Convention by introducing domestic legislation. This has been the major work for the last year. The working parties have yet to present their final reports.

States' Obligations The Duty To Protect: A principal issue is that the 'duty to protect' is a recognised UN and international law principle, generally been seen as applying to states' duty to protect citizens from the ravages of war so that civilians are not seen as 'collateral damage' in conflicts. The principle should be applied domestically in the state's responsibility to protect its citizens from systemic violence, as in criminal assault at home and other forms of domestic violence, and rape whether by intimate partners or strangers, etc. This principle can be applied to the states that refuse to sign or, having signed, to ratify, the Istanbul Convention.

GENDER BUDGETING

Why Gender Budgeting? In May 2019 a two-day workshop and including strategy training on Gender Budgeting took place in Helsinki, Finland. This workshop and strategy training was founded in the belief that knowledge of gender budgeting is crucial for all working in the violence against women field, and that it is essential to have the tools and knowledge to strategise.

Gender Budgeting at the Heart of Politics & Government: The EWL Feminist Economics Working Group expertise was at the heart of the workshop/training and the programme focused on: Gender budgeting – as illustrated by Portugal, Sweden, Romania and Scotland example. Gender budgeting – commitments made by states re gender budgeting was presented and led by IAW's Marion Boeker.

Gender Budgeting – Strategising for Budgetary Justice: Recommendations set participants to factor gender budgeting into their everyday work, incorporating the principle into political discussion and lobbying members of parliament and political parties to include it in their manifestos and platforms.

ONLINE & SOCIAL MEDIA VIOLENCE + SKILLS TRAINING FOR DETECTING AND COMBATTING TROLLING

This was covered in the last report, and consultants have been working on this aspect of the Observatories work. Members are encouraged to ensure that their states' domestic laws incorporate criminal and civil law provisions addressing stalking, online harassment, revenge porn, avatar violence – against women's avatars and by male avatars.

DEFUNDING & REDUCTIONS IN FUNDING OF WOMEN'S SERVICES

Stringent requirements for annual submissions for funding were introduced in many jurisdictions (perhaps all) in the 1990s and onward. Lobbying governments – national/central and local and, where the country is a federation, at state/provincial levels for 3-year funding

RAPE AND SEXUAL OFFENCES (PROSECUTION FAILURES, LAW REFORM)

'Consent' in rape and other sexual offences is a focus of the problem of addressing rape and sexual abuse and exploitation of women in investigation and prosecution of these offences. The issue of the 'rough sex' 'defence' needs to be pursued with vigour and I plan on raising this as a key matter for the Observatory's work at the next online meeting.

Conclusion

Thank you particularly to Arina and Marion for their support, always very much appreciated. Thanks also to all at IAW, the Board members' enthusiastic work is admirable and I must thank Joanna Manganara, Lene Pind, Joke Sebus, Anje Wiersinga, Lyda Verstegen, Rosy Weiss particularly and IAW Board Members for their ever appreciated support for the work in EWL.

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Heleen Jansen

IAW Representative, Conference of The OING's at the Council of Europe

The Conference of the INGOs at the Council of Europe gathers twice a year for one week in Strasbourg. The summer session 2019 was 8-12 April, the autumn session 28-31 October. At both meetings the IAW was represented by Anje Wiersinga, Monique Bouchet, Renée Gerard and Heleen Jansen. We always work as a team and split the tasks, but it should be pointed out again, that Anje Wiersinga, who has most experience and most knowledge of the procedures, has done a lot of extra work. This year we unfortunately had to work via telephone and video meetings.

In January 2020 all the NGO's received a questionnaire to complete and to fulfil its reporting obligations covering the period **2016-2019**, to maintain participatory status with the Council of Europe. So, we did and IAW maintained the status.

In February 2020 Anje represented IAW at the World NGO day in Bruxelles.

This seminar was organised by the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe in collaboration with other NGO's.

The most interesting panel was on

“Do activists, changemakers and human rights defenders need NGO's?”.

Main problems world-wide:

1. Demographic change with older and less young persons
2. Migration
3. Climate change

Panel on Expectations - Future Needs chaired by Sandra Pernar Open Government Partnership Anna Rurka Chair INGO Conference and others:

Contribution of Anje Wiersinga Representing International Alliance of Women and Vrouwenbelangen

- On Education we can learn from the campaigns since the late 19th century on Human Rights from their success and from their failures; such as those of the Labor movement, the Voting Rights movement, the Women's rights movement, the Black Civil Rights Movement.
- NGO's are needed by Grassroots groups to bring their wishes and demands to the decision taking level. This was agreed by all present
- Governments and politici also need NGO's to bring those wishes, demands and priorities of civic society to their attention and to be included in their policies

As example she mentioned the invitation of Syrian and Cypriot women as speakers to an event for parliamentarians at the Coe in Strasbourg.

- Next to attention to the rights of minorities there is need to implement the rights of the majority women.

Spring session 20-24 April cancelled.

Summer session 22-23 June

Following the cancellation of the April Session of the Conference of INGOs due to COVID-19, a special short Session was organised in June with four COVID-19 related thematic webinars.

- Let's build a better future together! Strengthening Participative Democracy and Civil Society when building the Post-Corona World.
- What lessons from Covid-19 should be taken for education and the digital era?
- Migrants and refugees facing the Covid-19 crisis, what lessons for the post-pandemic time?
- How to reduce inequalities and poverty throughout the upcoming economic and ecological transitions?

The Webinars are still available at the COE website <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/june-2020>

Video

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe proposed a series of exchanges on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The cycle of conversations is initiated by a short video entitled “**INGOs under lockdown get involved and prepare for the future**”. Our president Joanna was invited to participate. You can watch the film at the website <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/covid-19-response>

Autumn Session 14-16 October 2020

The autumn session of the Conference of NGOs will take place on 14 to 16 October and it will be an **online meeting**. During this session several important documents for the Conference of INGO's, including the Declaration on the Place and the Role of Civil Society in Safeguarding Human rights and Democracy in the Pandemic and Post-pandemic World will be adopted.

You can follow the work of the Conference also on

ADF-SVF SUISSE

Co-presidents: Annemarie Heiniger and Ursula Nakamura

20 October 2019

Results of the national elections - women are on the rise! SVF-ADF Suisse together with other women's organizations had strongly promoted female candidates. The result was overwhelming: The representation of women in the federal parliament will now be almost equal to gender parity in the lower chamber! *"This is a real success for us. This massive victory for women was achieved by the combined efforts of many women's organisations, some political parties and many voters: Instead of 32% now 42% of the parliament members are women!..."*

25-27 October 2019

ADF-SVF Suisse meets International Alliance of Women in Geneva

Women from all over the world came together. On the final evening ADF-SVF Suisse was present also with Josiane Greub ADF-SVF president, and Martine Gagnebin from ADF Vaud.



Together with frauenrechte beider basel frbb ADF-SVF Suisse had invited the IAW colleagues for the festive closing dinner. It was very touching to hear, how Irène Mazza, a professional nurse familiar with African countries and also a singer, together with Anuarite Si-irewabo from DR Congo were singing both together the Congolese song Congomama.

ADF-SVF Suisse is organized with a rotating presidency.

Starting January 2020 the section of Basel frbb took over from its colleagues at Neuchâtel. Annemarie Heiniger and Ursula Nakamura are now the Co-presidents.

Legal issues

ADF-SVF Suisse was strongly engaged on several national legal issues:

- No to a flexibilization of the work-law – protect the work-life balance of women!**
- Revision of the law on sexual offences:** the Istanbul Convention Art.36 must strictly be implemented! The victims of gender based violence must be better protected. "A no is a no – is a no!" A second appeal was supported by many women's organizations.
- Reform of the occupational retirement fund:** ADF-SVF Suisse monitors that the situation of people with low incomes, mostly women, must be improved.

-Better working conditions for the nurses! ADF-SVF Suisse joined a federal initiative of the Swiss nurses association for a better protection of the nurses, a much higher pay and also more career-possibilities for graduated nurses. Despite of the huge efforts during the Covid-19 crisis the federal parliament denied these requests.

-Gosteli Archive must be preserved! ADF-SVDF Suisse and others called on the government to keep this unique archive about the history of the Swiss women's movement!

Celebrating women's voting rights in several cantons

Of course ADF-SVF Suisse congratulated warmly the cantons Geneva, Valais and Schaffhausen, who were celebrating their 50th resp. 60th anniversary of political parity on the cantonal level. We also could provide historical posters to them.

May 2020

An awareness-raising campaign by the Deutscher Frauenring and SVF-ADF Suisse against Covid-19

ADF-SVF Suisse and Deutscher Frauenring were shocked hearing about the massive and devastating impact of Covid-19 on women and girls in some African and Asian countries. Thanks to the Water and Pads project we always had been in touch with several IAW member organizations and therefore could organize a spontaneous emergency aid. For them it was a very important help in their impressive efforts fighting the pandemic. They actually could help women and girls living in precarious, cramped conditions, often even without any access to water. The IAW colleagues were publicly advocating the official protective measures. They also promoted the use of masks and disinfectants. During the strict lockdown they also were concerned about the daily nutrition of women and girls in miserable conditions.

14 June 2020

Does Covid-19 trigger a massive backlash of equal rights?

"We never wanted to live like this!" Just one year after the second national women's strike in Switzerland ADF-SVF Suisse had launched this public debate. *"We have demanded equal pay for work of equal value. More time and money for care work and more opportunities to reconcile career and family. To this end we have raised our voices against sexual assault and violence against women... And now? These are now exactly the areas around which the biggest discussions have flared up during the Corona pandemic and the protective measures associated with it..."*

Four prominent members of ADF-SVF Suisse were participating at the ADF-SVF online debate:

Barbara Berger, Managing Director SEXUAL HEALTH SWITZERLAND; **Esther Roth**, Cultural Affairs Officer Basel; **Brigitte Rüedin**, committee ADF-SVF Suisse, and former Vice President City Rheinfelden, plus **Annemarie Heiniger**, Co-President SVF-ADF Suisse. **Nadine Brügger**, a well-known Swiss journalist was the presenter.

Summer 2020

ADF-SVF Suisse: Women in the Digital World - Opportunities and Threats – a public Zoom conference

Participants were: **Isabelle Collet**, Professor Université de Genève, specialised in gender issues in the digital field and author of the book "Les oubliées du numérique; **Sibel Arslan**, Basel, lawyer and member of the national parliament focussing on the "Digital Gender Gap", **Annemarie Heiniger** Co-president ADF-SVF Suisse and **Nadine Brügger** journalist and presenter.

"In just a few years, digitisation has fundamentally changed the world. It has opened up unbelievable new opportunities for humanity in many areas of life...But who shapes all these new technologies? Isn't it exactly the women who are "forgotten" in those important key positions? How can we prevent the digital gap from widening and prevent women and girls from being disadvantaged again? ..."

Instead of patriarchal role stereotypes, we want women's power in the digital world!"

For all further information about ADF-SVF Suisse please visit the website:

www.feminism.ch (French and German)

WOMEN'S ELECTORIAL LOBBY

Submitted by Priscilla Todd



Women's Electoral Lobby, established in 1972, is a national, independent, non-party political lobby group dedicated to creating a society where women's participation and their ability to fulfill their potential are unrestricted, acknowledged and respected and where women and men share equally in society's responsibilities and rewards. It is an incorporated association.

The group has worked tirelessly for over 45 years to improve the position of women in Australian society.

WEL applies a feminist approach to all its work from policy analysis and development to campaigning. In proposing and analysing policy solutions we measure fairness and justice for women and fairness and justice for society. WEL lobbies and works with governments at all levels to achieve better and fairer legislative, policy and program outcomes in order to achieve equality for all women. At the State and Territory level, WEL works with peak

organisations as well as seeking information and advice from service providers, particularly those operating women's refuges or domestic violence and related wrap-around services.

WEL works in cooperation with Australian Women against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) and relies on the evidence base created by Australian National Research Organisation on Women's Safety (ANROWS) and peak women's organisations to develop national policy or legislative solutions. It is a member of Equality Rights Alliance (ERA), a network of non government, not for profit organisations and social enterprises coming together to advocate for women's rights and gender equality within a human rights framework and adherence to international human rights principles.

Focus on the next Federal Election

In mid 2020 WEL has started to build its campaigns, a major one being **Women Ageing Well**. This relates particularly to securing housing for women at any age – social, rented or owned. Housing prices have grown to the point where young people in particular see little hope of buying their own home. Meanwhile increasing rental costs affect everybody. The COVID-19 pandemic has more clearly revealed these serious problems, not least the shortage of affordable social housing provided by government and community sectors to assist people who are unable to afford or access suitable accommodation in the private rental market.

Issues include:

- Increasing the supply of social housing through government post-pandemic investment.
- Providing adequate and sustainable funding to meet demand for homelessness services, ensuring they respond to the need of culturally diverse communities, women and children.
- Improve protections for and assistance to renters by amending legislation, with emphasis on protections for vulnerable women of all ages.
- Increase funding of specialist women's refuges and other front-line services dealing with violence against women, based on policy and reform proposals that put the safety and well-being of women and children first.
- Together with our feminist partners. WEL will also address the key policies driving women into social, emotional and financial insecurity.

A frightening increase in Domestic Violence has also been widely revealed during COVID-19. In July 2020 WEL put a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence. The submission stated: "This new parliamentary inquiry would be welcome during this COVID 19 pandemic, were it not for the fact that the recommendations of past comprehensive inquiries and the Fourth National Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2019 - 2022 have not been fully funded. There has not been the strong and consistent national leadership for full implementation of the Plan's strategies and programs in collaboration with states and territories. Funding announcements illustrate a piecemeal

government approach to achieving reductions in violence against women and their children and this provides little long term funding security for over stretched services. These recent announcements have been responses to data produced by women's organisations and agencies like the Australian Institute of Criminology (Statistical Bulletin 28, 20th July, 2020) demonstrating an increase in the number of women experiencing physical or sexual violence during the pandemic. While this funding is welcome as a small contribution, it does not provide a necessary ongoing or recurrent substantial financial commitment for which service providers have been pressing for years".

The submission went on to refer to and quote from earlier hearings, submissions, plans and recommendations, commenting: "*WEL believes that the **Final Report of the COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children** published in 2016 and its recommendations covering six Action Areas provided present and future governments with a blueprint for effectively tackling this social scourge*" "*The COAG Advisory Panel worked over a ten month period to arrive at its conclusions and recommendations. It consulted widely. It is the view of WEL Australia that this report needs to be the starting point for this new parliamentary inquiry*".

The submission also noted the need for investment in social housing as well as funding for women's refuges and emergency accommodation. It referred to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for cultural differences to be acknowledged and integrated into policy and program design for prevention, early intervention and crisis support services.

Abortion law reform is now complete across Australia with New South Wales being the last State to reform a more than one hundred year old law. Abortion is now legal in all States and Territories of Australia although the laws do differ. WEL NSW established the NSW Pro-Choice Alliance representing expert legal, health and community voices from across the State to lobby the NSW Parliament to repeal sections of the NSW Crimes Act, 1900 to regulate abortion as a health procedure and ensure consistency with contemporary clinical practice and public health standards. After a huge community campaign and rallies for and against, the Bill introduced by an independent member, Alex Greenwich, was passed with numerous amendments by both houses of the NSW Parliament. The Abortion Law Reform Act, 2019 became law on 2nd October, 2019.

First Nations Women

WEL supported a group of Aboriginal and Pacific First Nations women planning a parallel event during CSW 64 *Breaking Silent Codes*, meeting with international organisations on their shared goal of ending violence against First Nations women.

Despite the cancellation of CSW meetings and parallel events due to the pandemic and with support from donors, a stage in Manhattan was secured for the women to hold their event on 13 March. WEL Australia was represented by Emma Davidson.

A short documentary about the trip is online: <https://youtu.be/6B5KPJ5shYI>



REPORT OF THE DEUTSCHE FRAUENRING DFR

Submitted by Marion Boeker

In 2019 a group of young women (23-30+) did set up a new network with the name DFR **F*UTURE**. The board established a new advisory committee F*UTURE to ensure the participation of the young women and to attract new members. F*UTURE with aliened NGO networks called for lowering the VAT tax from 19% to 7% on hygienic menstruation products (Bloody tampon tax). In November 2019 the German Parliament voted in favor for this. It went into force 1.1.2020. The adopted European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2019 on gender equality and taxation policies in the EU (2018/2095(INI)) [French version] tabled by the *Committee on Gender Equality between Men and Women (FEMM)* helped a lot to pave the way for this new policy. The resolution is a great piece on gender budgeting: revenues and the impacts on Equality. **F*UTURE** developed a home style workshop format for awareness raising on the variety of hygienic menstruation products. All the products are presented in a "*Bloody Box*". **F*UTURE** identified lacks of information among young women and want to de-construct false information, myths and stereotypes about the menstruation. Due to COVID-19 they had to put in on hold.

PARITY IN ALL PARLIAMENTS BY REFORMING ELECTORAL LAW

The DFR is part of a campaign claiming de facto 50 % parity of women in all parliaments. In 2017, the ratio of female politicians on national level decreased to 30.9 %. In 2017 CEDAW recommended the German Government to take measures for equal representation in parliaments. Two Laender- Thuringen and Brandenburg- have such a new law in place. Other deal with drafts. In January 2020 the first debate was held in the German Federal Parliament on this issue. Until today the male majority ignores the claims of the female MPs.



*From Left: Georgia Langhans (DFR board), Kristina Hänel, Anna-Maria Mechtcherine (DFR Board and Committee F*UTURE)*



In the middle: Franziska Giffey, Minister for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth, receiving the CEDAW statement for the List of Issue of the 77th Pre session 3/2020, Berlin, 20.12.2019

DFR activities for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR)

In 2019, the DFR awarded Kristina Hänel as the *DFR Woman of the Year*. Kristina Hänel, a general and emergency medical doctor, has championed for the fight for SRHR and women's reproductive rights movement. In March 2020, the DFR together with 65 women's NGOs and family planning centers signed the CEDAW-LoIPre-Alternative Statement of the [German Alliance for Choice \(GAfC\)](#) in support. In March 2020 the UN CEDAW responded to an interim report of Germany on abortion: CEDAW stated, the dialogue on this issue had “failed”.

The situation of women's SRHRs especially the access and medical quality of abortion has worsened under the attacks of Pro-life groups. The German Penal Code allows abortion to take place within the first 22 weeks of pregnancy without penalty only after obligatory counseling. A man obtained lawsuits against K. Hänel and other doctors. What had hardly been noticed before: there is a paragraph 219a stating that women doctors are not allowed to advertise abortion. However, Hänel has a description of the termination methods on her website to inform her patients. This was condemned by the lower courts as advertising and thus prohibited. The decision of the German Constitutional Court is expected shortly. At 28.9. "Safe Abortion Day" the DFR Berlin will support the movie preview ["Never Rarely Sometimes Always"](#) (2020 USA/UK, by Eliza Hittman) and a digital panel discussion with medical doctors and activists. During the COVID-19 lockdown medical doctors and counseling centers were allowed exceptional to offer online counseling and to send prescriptions. This is evaluated now and might become a regular service since it could improve access for rural women or women in special settings.

UPVALUATION OF CARE WORK

In October 2019 the DFR held a Seminar on CARE REVOLUTION, on the issue of care for the elderly and the challenge of this in multicultural, diverse communities. On April 29, 2020 the DFR signed a joined appeal for better pay and working conditions for care workers in the light of the COVID-19 crisis.

DFR PROJECT PARTNERSHIP IN WEST AFRICA- COORDINATED BY GUDRUN HAUPTER

The DFR is still supporting together with Life Opportunities International the A.D.F. in Burkina Faso. The main focus is to overcome FGM/C and family planning by community counselors. To this aim A.D.F. provides radio spots on women's health, protection against sexual violence against women and girls and on education and economic development. At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis the DFR provided ad hoc a small grant for these NGOs and those of the IAW project *Water & Pads For Schoolgirls* to adjust with the COVID-19 standards, to sew masks and get little hand washing facilities installed at market places.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS PEACE, Istanbul CONVENTION

Germany as a State Party of the Istanbul Convention in 2020 is in the reporting procedure. At least two NGOs reports will be compiled. The DFR called to lift the reservations on articles regarding asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. Violence against women in many forms has a great prevalence. The DFR is concerned about the COVID-19 lockdown which might have increased numbers of domestic violence. While shelters could not receive all women, and shelter place are always too less (to EU key). Statistics are not yet published.

CEDAW In 2019, the DFR became a founding member of the new permanent *CEDAW Alliance Germany*. The DFR's contributed to the [LoIPRE Statement of the CEDAW Alliance Germany](#). It is published at the 77th Pre-session and was submitted to the German Government during the 35th anniversary of the CEDAW convention in Berlin.

UNSCR1325 Currently the DFR as member of the *German NGO Alliance for UNSCR 1325* is involved in the consultations on the 3rd NAP 1325. A joint [policy paper](#) with recommendations was released. A progress is, that the German Foreign Office shows great similarity to 'feminist foreign policy' a term we as the DFR embrace.

CFUW ADVOCACY REPORT 2019-2020

Submitted by Robin Jackson, Executive Director

Advocating for policy changes to improve the lives of women and girls in Canada and globally is fundamental to our work at CFUW. We work with decision makers, like-minded organizations and the public to advance our vision of a more just world. We engage governments – municipal, provincial and federal – through advocacy campaigns on social and economic issues affecting women's quality of life and career prospects. Individual Clubs and the regional councils work with local educational institutions, women's shelters, harm and risk reduction organizations and other community groups on specific projects and fund-raising initiatives.

Over the past year, CFUW undertook many advocacy initiatives that relate to IAW's Action Programme.

Violence against women:

CFUW Clubs across Canada have shown a dedicated commitment to raising awareness on violence against women and girls in Canada. CFUW has conducted surveys of universities and colleges in Canada to evaluate the status of female faculty and students at those institutions. In 2020, CFUW published a [Sexual Violence and Harassment Policies in Post-Secondary Institutions in Canada Final Report](#). The report asserts that universities must continue to improve their sexual violence and harassment policies to ensure a safe post-secondary campus environment. CFUW advocates for post-secondary Institutions to update their policies to support survivors of sexual violence and harassment.

CFUW clubs organize events each year to commemorate the École Polytechnique Massacre and 16 Days campaign to end gender-based violence. CFUW National created a [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign toolkit](#) that details actions to help end violence against women and girls. CFUW stands against anti-feminism and gender-based violence by supporting survivors, challenging negative or inaccurate stereotypes and spreading awareness

Other activities:

- Prepared an information sheet on how to use a gender lens.
- Submitted a press release on gender-based violence and COVID-19.
- Published a press release of the anniversary of the École Polytechnique Massacre
- Organized a Gun Control in Canada webinar in early 2020 for CFUW members in collaboration with the Coalition for Gun Control.
- Coordinated a letter writing campaign to encourage the federal government to ban assault style firearms and implements a buyback program for firearms.

- Collected and sent resources to CFUW members on gender equality and the COVID-19 crisis
- Attended the Sisters in Spirit Vigil to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls which was organized by Families of Sisters in Spirit

Women in the Economy:

Childcare has long been an issue of concern for CFUW. Since 1972, we have been advocating for further investment, structure and support for a national child care system. CFUW strongly believes that education is a public responsibility and a social investment that must start in the earliest years of children's lives.

During the last election, early learning and childcare was on the agenda of all the major parties. Prime Minister Trudeau and the Liberal Party promised to develop a National Early Learning and Child Care Framework to deliver affordable, high-quality and flexible childcare for Canadians. Now, post-election, CFUW has been putting pressure on the government to support early learning and childcare through advocacy letter writing campaigns and strategizing with other national childcare advocates. CFUW works closely with organizations including Child Care Now to advocate for the childcare sector. CFUW and our partners urge the Canadian Government to implement a sound policy framework, substantial financial commitments to licensed childcare, and strong leadership on the issue.

- Monitored information sent by the government in their response to supporting women and girls during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Met Karen Jensen, Canada's first-ever federal Pay Equity Commissioner to discuss how the federal government will be enforcing the new Pay Equity legislation and work her department will be undertaking.
- Attended a Child Care Network call to discuss supporting child care centers during the COVID-19 Crisis and participated in the COVID-19 Child Care advocacy campaign.
- Launched the Grandparents for Childcare campaign in honour of our 100th Anniversary
- Monitored the 2019 federal election party platforms with a particular focus on Early Learning and Child Care commitments.

Human Rights, Democracy & International Advocacy

- Participated in NGO CSW/NY Working Group Beijing +25 - Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan thematic groups
- Organized a CFUW social media campaign sharing information on Beijing +25

- Attended the UNCSW Virtual Consultation Day.
- Networked with other international organizations including Plan International Canada and the Women Peace and Security Network.
- Submitted CFUW's UNCSW64 Written Statement and prepared a parallel event (which was subsequently cancelled due to COVID-19)
- Partnered with Graduate Women International (GWI) to have CFUW's UNCSW written statement shared at their advocacy table at the Civil Society Forum in Geneva.
- Presented a workshop at the GWI Triennial's Peace through Education Conference
- Held several meetings with Women Graduates- USA, the Indian Federation of University Women and the Mexican equivalent to discuss ways of working together on women's issues.
- Hosted a session with Women Graduates USA and Mexico on Global Futures and Foresight: Opportunities for Women's Regional Leadership and Collaboration in North America.
- Submission to IAW of Vlog project commemorating Beijing +25.

DANISH WOMEN'S SOCIETY REPORT FOR IAW CONGRESS 2020

The last year has been full of changes in our organization. But now we are back on track with a new board and a new president. First of all, Signe Vahlun has stopped as our representative in IAW, due to a new job and professional focus, but we do look very much forward to introduce our next representative in early autumn. We have great candidates in the pipeline.

We also just had a new president of Danish Women's Society elected, Helena G. Hansen. She enters the post after a turbulent year, where we said goodbye to our president of 8 years, Lisa Holmfjord, and elected a new president, Ulla Müller, who with her international profile had a different focus on our work. However, she chose to resign in early 2020, and our vice president, Helena G. Hansen, became acting president and has now been formally elected, which we are very happy about.

The political landscape has changed as well. In June 2019 general elections meant a power change when the Social Democrats were voted in as a minority government, and a woman, Mette Frederiksen, became Prime Minister. The government prioritizes welfare, with – among other things - a focus on early retirement for vulnerable groups, better staffing levels in day care, and a strong green profile with an aim of reducing CO2-emissions with 70 per cent by 2030. But the Social Democrats also have an immigration policy that is tighter than the party's previous policies in the area, and the Prime Minister is more sceptical towards the EU than previous governments, resulting in a longstanding opposition to the EU's Recovery

Plan and an attempt to reduce the Danish contribution.

With the new government Denmark now has a male Minister for Gender Equality, Mogens Jensen, who hasn't been pushing a progressive agenda - actually he tried to exempt Denmark from the EU directive on men's rights to two months paternity leave. However, this was rejected by the Prime Minister. Mette Frederiksen has also confirmed that a new legislation on rape must be based on consent. Danish Women's Society – along with Amnesty International Denmark and a number of other organisations – have been working for such a legislation, and on the September 1st the new legislation on rape was presented. Now both parties have to give their consent to a sexual relationship. We are very pleased with this new legislation, as this is something we have been campaigning for for a number of years, and hopefully it will lead to more justice for women.

During the lockdown following the Covid-19 crisis domestic violence escalated. It was expected, it happened globally, and we warned about it and asked for help. The shelters in Denmark were completely full, and it was joyous to see that the politicians listened and acted quickly. Already on April 6th – less than a month after lockdown – we were able to open an emergency shelter in a hotel in Copenhagen, where the women got an entire floor with the capacity to house 25 women and their children. Another 25 vacancies were allocated in the rest of the country. The emergency shelter came to be in a collaboration between the three largest Danish women's shelters: Danner, Kvindehjemmet and Dansk Kvindesamfunds Krisecentre (Danner, The Home for Women, and Danish Women's Society's Shelters).

On Bastille Day, July 14th the French Ambassador in Denmark, Caroline Ferraris, chose to celebrate the day at our shelter to honour the staff who have been working hard every day during the Covid-19 crisis in order to help women and children exposed to domestic violence.

ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

President: Sheela Kakde



All India Women's Conference a 93 years pan-India NGO established in 1927, with the primary focus of women's education and empowerment has steadily grown into a pioneer women's organization working towards socio-economic empowerment of women. The organization has membership of over 100,000 dedicated women volunteers working through a network of more than 500 hundred branches across India. At the International level, AIWC has consultative status with the UN ECOSOC and observer status with the UNFCCC. The organization has been working at the grass root level to make sure that the benefits of development reach the women from lower income groups, marginalized communities and the most vulnerable sections of society.

Aims and purpose of the organization:

Emancipation, education and empowerment of women being achieved through programs designed and implemented through our branches.

Activities of the organization in 2019-2020:

Towards advancing the achievement of the development agenda of United Nations, various programmes have been conducted under capacity building, gender equity, socio-economic empowerment and awareness generation among women's.

- Around 4185 women have been trained in various skills and vocations combined with literacy and computers.
- Towards attaining some of the targets under goals 3,5,6,7,13,16, one day awareness programmes on various topics such as i.e (Health , Legal , Communal Harmony ,National Integration , Gender sensitization, Menstrual Health & Hygiene, Disaster Management, Sanitation and Waste water, Violence against Women, Environment, and Solar energy and efficiency) have been conducted within two years. In total 23100 members of community benefited through 251 awareness programme.
- Health has been a major concern for the women, particularly for underprivileged ones. AIWC has focused eliminating anemia and to achieve that anemia free soci-

ety camp has been hold across India. During the past two years 64 anemia detection camps were organized and through intervention 800 recovered from anemia.

- The organization is equally concerned that the youth energy should be directed towards positive direction and meaningful social issues. Through adolescent life skills management programme , we have been creating awareness on health related problems, social issues, peer pressure, relationship with elders, career counseling, stress management and social media responsibilities . We have reached out to around 14627 youth in the past two years through our youth programmes.
- Member in Charge, Legal Affairs, Mrs. Shubra Mendiratta conducted a programme on the topic - 'Acid Victim Laws & their Rehabilitation' on 31st May, 2019.
- Women & Child Ministry has listed AIWC as official trainers on ‘Sexual Harassment at workplace’. Some government departments have already approached us and we propose to schedule training for a group soon.
- A national dissemination workshop on the GUCCI project was held on May 2, 2019, participated by GIZ India and AIWC members from all the States. Presentations were made by the 4 teams of GUCCI – Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. GIZ also shared the work they are doing within India relating to climate change adaptation.

New programmes initiated

(i) Women Empowerment Cell-Capacity Building Training on Project Management Tools- Training of Trainers

(ii) Gender Sensitization programme to create “Gender Promoters” in co-educational schools introduced in 2019 and training manual circulated to all branches.

(iii)Innovative Programmes

- Non- formal education programme for economically weaker class children
- Nutrition Support for Tuberculosis Patients
- Solar dried product promotion
- Family Wellness Center
- Cyber crime

(iv)In 2020 in Collaboration with National Foundation for Communal Harmony AIWC conducted 2 programs in Rajkot (Gujarat) and Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) .

- (v) On 30th of July 2020, amidst the chaos and confusion of COVID 19 pandemic, the team of new office bearers under the dynamic leadership of Smt Sheela Kakde took a historical step towards making our world greener and the planet healthier, by setting an e- waste collection centre in collaboration with Hulladek, within the AIWC premises.

International Programmes:

- GUCCI- international meeting: International meeting was held in Mumbai ,Feb 2019 participated by the partners
- IAW Meeting in October 2019
- CSW63 in New York March, 2019
- COP25 in Madrid, Spain 2019. AIWC's work was presented in the event organized by INFORSE and the work under GUCCI project in the Gender CC's event.
- APWLD will be using the Development Justice Report prepared by AIWC based on the national and regional level consultations conducted by us during 2016-18 as one of the resource materials for a joint campaign/response of CSOs to VNR session on India.



RAPPORT DE L'AFEM

Sous la Présidence de

Catherine Sophie DIMITROULIAS

(Septembre 2019 - Septembre 2020)

En cette année du 25ème anniversaire de la Conférence Mondiale sur les Droits des Femmes, l'AFEM

célèbre ses 25 ans, créée à l'issue de la Conférence, par des personnalités et plateformes d'associations nationales, en tant que première et unique fédération féministe des pays de l'Europe méridionale à vocation euro-méditerranéenne. Dotée depuis de statut participatif d'OING à l'échelle du Conseil de l'Europe, l'AFEM est reconnue pour son œuvre historique à l'origine de la garantie de l'égalité réelle des femmes et des hommes dans la Charte des droits fondamentaux et les traités de l'Union européenne et pour la consécration de cette égalité parmi les valeurs fondatrices de l'Union. L'AFEM réitère son hommage à la mémoire et à l'oeuvre pionnière de ses fondatrices, dont Jacqueline NONON disparue cette année, qui

a mené un combat décisif pour les droits des femmes au sein des institutions européennes et des associations du mouvement des femmes. Première directrice auprès de la Commission européenne, à la tête de la Direction Générale Emploi et Affaires sociales, elle est à l'origine de la législation sociale européenne en matière d'égalité entre femmes et hommes.

Dans un contexte de crise mondiale sans précédent exacerbée par la pandémie de la COVID, l'AFEM est la première à sonner l'alarme sur la régression grave de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes et sur les attaques violentes contre les droits des femmes et leurs défenseuses, en cette ère de triomphe de la dérégulation et d'un libéralisme économique aux effets brutaux, de montée en puissance de forces réactionnaires antidémocratiques en Europe et dans le monde. L'AFEM est à la pointe des mobilisations à l'échelle de la région Euroméditerranéenne et plus généralement à l'échelle internationale, en particulier, dans le cadre du nouvel agenda urbain mondial, pour les droits sociaux et contre les inégalités, discriminations et violences culminantes à l'égard des femmes. Elle soutient l'objectif de l'adhésion de l'Union européenne à la Convention d'Istanbul et aux autres traités majeurs du Conseil de l'Europe, la Convention Européenne des Droits de l'Homme et la Charte sociale européenne révisée. Elle met en œuvre des actions de plaidoyer, d'information et de formation des OING à ces sujets.

Parmi les moments forts de cette période, au moment où se tient à Genève la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe de Beijing+25, à laquelle une délégation de l'AFEM participe sous la Présidence de Catherine DIMITROULIAS, à son initiative la Conférence des OING du Conseil de l'Europe réunissant près de 300 OING membres, lors de sa session plénière du 30 octobre 2019, adopte une Recommandation demandant «de toute urgence aux organes du Conseil de l'Europe et aux Etats membres, face à cette situation très préoccupante pour les droits des femmes, de prendre toutes les mesures pour préserver les acquis existant en matière de l'égalité entre les femmes et hommes, les droits fondamentaux des femmes, d'agir pour leur application effective, condition de la démocratie et de l'État de droit sur le continent européen et dans le monde».

Le statut participatif de l'AFEM au Conseil de l'Europe est renouvelé en 2020. Après avoir contribué à l'action judiciaire présentée avec succès par l'UWE au Comité européen des droits sociaux contre 15 Etats pour violation du droit à l'égalité salariale entre femmes et hommes, la Présidente de l'AFEM relate cette action pionnière à plusieurs occasions, comme au Colloque International, Justice sociale et Juges, organisé à l'Université de Rouen par le Réseau académique sur la Charte sociale européenne (RACSE) dont elle est membre (ouvrage à paraître en 2020).

L'AFEM prend aussi une part active en France où elle a son siège à la coalition des ONG Women7 mobilisée tout au long du G7-2019 sous Présidence française, et cosigne dernièrement la lettre de cette coalition adressée au Président de la République Emmanuel MACRON le 6 mars 2020 : « L'égalité entre femmes et hommes, une grande cause qui exige des grands moyens ». Après avoir contribué au Secrétariat de cette coalition dénommée Coalition Générations Egalité en préparation du Forum Génération Egalité, à Paris en 2021, l'AFEM fonde en juillet 2020 avec la Coordination française pour le Lobby européen des Femmes (CLEF), l'AIF et d'autres associations du mouvement des femmes, le Collectif féministe pour le Forum Génération Egalité (Pekin+25), dont elle rédige le Manifeste du 3 septembre 2020. La Présidente de l'AFEM en est porte parole.

L'AFEM participe aux réunions de dialogue avec le Gouvernement français sous l'égide de Delphine O, Secrétaire Générale du Forum Génération Egalité et de l'ONU Femmes, étant représentée par sa Présidente Catherine DIMITROULIAS, Monique BOUAZIZ, Vice-présidente pour la France, Danièle LEVY, déléguée auprès de l'AIF, Rachel PUJET et Sonia RIBEIRO membres. La Présidente de l'AFEM suit les travaux de l'Advisory Working Group pour le Forum Génération Egalité depuis sa création en 2019. Elle participe au Forum régional de l'ONU sur le développement durable du 19 mars 2020, au Forum politique de haut niveau 2020: « Regional Forums and the HLPF from the Feminist Perspective » du 9 juillet 2020, et dans le cadre de la commémoration du 75ème anniversaire des Nations Unies, à l'événement du Partenariat de la société civile pour l'ONU UN2020 « The UN We Need », dont la contribution est soumise à la Déclaration UN75 adoptée à la réunion de haut niveau UN75 du 21 septembre 2020.

L'AFEM coordonne la Commission des femmes dans le cadre de l'Assemblée de la société civile partenaire du processus mondial Habitat III, conjointement avec Hairou Commission depuis 2016. Sa Présidente d'honneur, la Professeure Teresa BOCCIA contribue à l'organisation de la 10ème Session du Forum Urbain Mondial 2020 à Abu Dhabi et organise le 12 février l'événement « Women's culture and culture of cities, between tradition and innovation », avec la contribution des Vices-présidentes de l'AFEM pour l'Espagne et l'Italie, Inès DE MADARIAGA et Maria Cristina PISANI et de la Présidente de l'AFEM qui y présente une communication sur « L'engagement des associations féministes européennes pour Beijing+25 » et participe à l'événement « COVID-19 UTC#8: Planning and Design for Urban Resilience #TakeAction4Cities », le 27 mai 2020.

L'AFEM assure la Vice-présidence du Réseau Euromed France étant réélue en juin 2020 et participe aux activités du projet européen MAJALAT dont le REF est partenaire, étant représentée par sa Présidente et par Nelly JAZRA administratrice. Elle préside la session de clôture de la 2ème édition du Forum Civil Euromed, à Bruxelles, au Comité Economique et

Social Européen, les 2 et 3 décembre 2019 et intervient aux sessions du séminaire sur la thématique sécurité et lutte contre les violences avec des représentants de l'Union européenne, les 10 juin, 20-22 septembre 2020. L'AFEM et le REF consignent un « Appel a une réponse politique féministe au COVID » à l'initiative des organisations de défense des droits des femmes des pays du Sud, le 4 avril 2020.

L'AFEM participe aux campagnes de plaidoyer transnational : « Europe: le fait de ne pas garantir un accès sûr à l'avortement met en danger la santé des femmes et des filles au milieu de COVID-19 » et « Polish parliament must reject regressive proposals sexual and reproductive rights ». Elle répond à la consultation publique de la Commission européenne sur l'initiative législative « strengthening the principle of equal pay between men and women through pay transparency » en mai 2020, et participe à divers événements institutionnels. Lors de l'événement « Regional inequalities: the underestimated risk for Europe », du 23 juin 2020 organisé par les euro-députés Niklas NIENAB et Sven GIEGOLD, coordinateurs des Commissions REGI, ECON, Catherine DIMITROULIAS interpelle la Commissaire européenne à la Cohésion Elisa FERREIRA sur la mise en oeuvre de l'objectif de l'égalité des genres dans le cadre de la politique régionale.

L'AFEM est élue au Conseil d'administration de l'AIF où elle est représentée par sa Vice-Présidente pour la France, Monique BOUAZIZ et Danièle LEVY. Les déléguées de l'AFEM coordonnent la représentation de l'AIF auprès de l'UNESCO et participent avec Catherine DIMITROULIAS, Présidente et Rachel PUJET, administratrice, à la réunion de l'AIF à Genève à la veille du Forum régional Beijing +25. La Présidente de l'AFEM contribue au film de l'AIF pour la célébration de Pekin+25 et co-organise avec la Présidente de l'AIF, Joanna MANGANARA, un événement international conjoint à l'Hôtel de Ville de Paris pour le Forum Génération Egalité (reporté en 2021). V. toute l'actualité, « La Gazette de l'AFEM », AFEM / scoop.it

WHI

Submitted by Dr Vijayalekshmy

WHI conducted series of activities for women and school children during the year 2019 - 2020.

On 11th February 20 WHI conducted session on Individual Social Responsibility - Role of students. As a part of the program, students made their financial contribution by supporting a person who is HIV + and has cancer.

Mrs Sheela Thomas IAS, Additional chief secretary (Rtd), Govt of Kerala made a talk to the students on the role and responsibility of youth to support and help society at large.

WHI conducted a programme on Women and Disaster Management with relevance to flood and other natural calamities.

26-02-2020 WHI in association with Satgamaya, constituent branch of AIWC organized a lecture cum demonstration class on how to protect our body from an external attack. Dr.S-tanley, head of the unit of emergency department from Ananthapuri hospital, Trivandrum conducted a comprehensive demo session emphasizing the need to keep safe from unwanted assailants..

There are two programs conducted for International Women's Day. One was organised jointly by AIWC Chirayinkeezhu branch, International Alliance of Women and Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development centre of India on 03/03/2020. Aiswarya Dongre IPS Officer was the chief guest. She exhorted the students to not buckle under pressure and be fearless.

08-03-20 WHI celebrated International Women's Day by organising a rally of 250 students to the museum and the police station. The Circle Inspector Mr. Santhosh Kumar addressed the students.

WHI organised a program on gender based violence and violence against women. Hence conducted program on self-defence which was conducted by the women's self defence team from the Kerala police. They gave practical tips on how to defend oneself while being attacked.

Tips:

To always shout loudly so as to attract attention

Stare at the perpetrator as the first line of defense

Be alert when you are alone

Never trust anybody besides your immediate family

When confronted with an assailant hit on the vulnerable body points such as Eyes, Nose, Ears, Throat, Sternum, Groin etc.. and weapons that we can use in an emergency are teeth to bite, head and forehead to butt, nails, elbow, knees, feet and heels. They also provided the women's helpline number and cyber cell number.

22-4-20 WHI conducted two programs. Branch virtually celebrated Earth Day through slogan writing competition for senior students of classes V to X.

23-04-2020: WHI conducted reading day for school children who were missing social interaction due to Covid 19. They were asked to select a book of their favourite author. A Hundred and fifty students participated in the reading competition. The winners will be awarded with merit certificate.

05-06-2020 WHI conducted World environment day (virtual). Branch always gives utmost importance in maintaining an equilibrium in the eco system . The pandemic forced the branch to celebrate it in a virtual way.

We had selected schools where the members planted saplings on behalf of their class. Each member represented each division and class. Video was taken and shared with students . This was followed by a meeting to address the need to heal the environment and also emphasis the dangers of the climate change; A resolution to ban the use of plastic was taken.

COVID - 19 Lock Down Activities:

WHI organised a number of initiatives to alleviate the suffering of the needy. As a result the following support activities had been conducted other than the programs mentioned above from 10th march 2020 .

1. Mask making and distributing full day meals to the needy.
2. Supporting Grama Panchayat by distributing essential commodities and raising money for the community kitchen
3. Providing support systems to the residents of coastal areas by food and grocery kits distribution to the community.
4. Counselling facilities for the women and children in the Covid affected coastal belt. WHI mental health sessions for creating safe spaces for the youngsters of the community for talking about their mental health struggles during the time of the covid pandemic.
5. Distribution (still continuing) of sanitizers, soaps, cleanliness accessories and masks to the needy people.
6. Distribution of seedlings, fertilizers, vegetable grow bags, saplings etc...from agriculture department Govt of Kerala and distributed to the women who are distressed during triple

lockdown period. They were also provided with aid to better agricultural practices more than 150 women benefited from this scheme.

7. Free medicine distribution in the coastal areas.

8. WHI created a data base of women who need medical, financial and mental health related support. The Database is managed and shared with the cooperation of the police assistance, grass root level I Asha workers who are actively consulted for the implementation, distribution and dissemination of the assistance.



FRAUENNTZWERK FÜR FRIEDEN/ WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR PEACE, GERMANY

Submitted by Heide Schütz

Our mission statement: "Wars are made by people. So is peace."



Last year's most outstanding event was **the complete change of the board of our organization – except for the already young treasurer – at the membership meeting in November 2019**. The "oldies" were all too happy to hand over the peace baton to the young generation of dedicated women while offering expertise and a helping hand if needed. All of the new board members had been interns throughout the years, thus they are insiders and they know about the challenges and the potential of the organization. They already started to update and reorganize a number of things. Jennifer Ingenleuf became the new president of the Women's Network for Peace, Germany (WNP/ FNF).

This change meant for me, Heide Schütz, to step back from the presidency of this organization after 23 years. I had been waiting for this chance for several years until there was the opportunity to organize and create a solid future. I also agreed to continue to be the link between IAW and WNP.

The WNP was founded in February 1996, right after and as a follow-up of the 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing and Huairou), which stressed the goals equality, development and peace. We believe in this interdependence until today and I am very happy, that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, other than in 2000, now include gender equality (goal 5) and peace (goal 16).

What tasks and topics did we choose last year?

We followed the lines of our long dedication to advocate for the **implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace, and Security”** as a member of the German Working Group “Alliance 1325”. The alliance wrote a policy paper to be handed over to the German government before taking over the presidency of the Council of Europe (https://www.gwi-boell.de/sites/default/files/policy_briefing-foreign_policy_based_on_gender_equality.pdf). Annegret Krüger, new deputy head of WNP, was a member of the drafting group.

Our peer mediation programme has gained more interest than ever. Students from all different kinds of schools and their mentors enjoy coming together once a year, exchanging experiences and learning from each other and from our experienced group of trainers. Each year, a different school hosts the meeting. We feel that it is very important to give young people strength in this important field of peace culture and support their trust in the tools of non-violent conflict resolution in school and later on throughout their life. The teachers, who are mentoring them, mostly work with them on the basis of volunteer extra work. We want to give them appreciation of the importance of their work, too. In 2021, we unfortunately cannot organize in the same way we have throughout the years. We think of an online exchange among teachers on the challenge to keep up the mediation programme under the pandemic restrictions.

In last year’s report, the **Bertha-von-Suttner tram (“Bertha-Bahn”) in Bonn** was mentioned as an outstanding peace project in the city of Bonn, initiated by the WNP. It is branded with the portrait and a quotation of Bertha von Suttner including the reference to her famous book “Arms Down” and, most important of all, to her being a Nobel Laureate. Only few people know that Bertha von Suttner was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905 as the first woman. Due to fortunate circumstances, the tram will now run much longer than we planned, hopefully another year! People who recognize the tram are always quite enthused and many of them send us their photos.

In 2013, we had initiated a beautiful sculpture to memorize **Bertha von Suttner** at the Bertha von Suttner Square in Bonn. Since then, we regularly use the sculpture as a venue for political actions and to remind passers-by on the name-giver of the square. Bertha’s birthday on June 9 has become a constant date for these activities in our calendars. This year, it was more difficult to organize because of the pandemic restrictions, but we managed. We offered passers-by to take Polaroid pictures next to the sculpture with posters of Bertha’s quotations. Moreover, two tablets were installed where people could watch a slide show about Bertha von Suttner’s life and work.

In Georgia, we support the young women's project of the Bertha-von-Suttner Peace Prize. It was inaugurated last year and organized for a second time this year. I was asked to be a member of the jury. The award was given to Julia Karashvili, a Georgian peace activist and humanitarian.

2020 was the year to remember 75 years of the launching of two nuclear bombs on **Hiroshima** (August 6) and **Nagasaki** (August 9) with tens of thousands of deaths and terrible destruction in the course of seconds and disastrous long-term consequences still being felt today. The German peace movement initiated a poster campaign with more than 275 huge posters all over the country to urge politicians that a nuclear war should never occur again and that all nuclear bombs and missiles must therefore be abolished. The WNP took actively part in this campaign.

The WNP is also a member of the German campaign “atomwaffenfrei.jetzt” (“nuclear-free.now”). It advocates for the **abolition of all nuclear weapons** and demands from the German government to sign the United Nations Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and to remove the last 20 (US American) nuclear warheads from German soil. The **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**, or **Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty**, is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons. It was passed on 7 July 2017. Three years later, it only needs six more countries to make the treaty come into force!

Outlook

In 2021, we are looking forward to at least two highlights: one being our 25th anniversary, in the course of which we like to bring together peace women of different generations in order to share their views on peace and conflict, the other being a peace ride with the Bertha tram in September. We hope that the pandemic allows us to stick to these plans.

CYPRUS

Elli Christodoulou, Member of the IAW Board

“Preparation of National Action Plan 2020-2024 of the Republic of Cyprus for Implementing The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 for the Women, Peace and Security”

The Republic of Cyprus as Member State of the United Nations (UN), the Council of Europe and the European Union, has undertaken and fulfilled all relevant obligations which determine human rights standards and protection of fundamental freedoms.

Defined as a state under the rule of law and as a Member State of the European Union, the Republic of Cyprus respects the principles and values of the European Union (EU) and is committed to the objectives of 2030 Sustainable Development which create a stable connection between peace, respect of human rights, financial development, participatory governance and institutions and, mainly, gender equality.

Ensuring the national peace and security, resolving disputes by peaceful means and promoting reconciliation have been flagship objectives of the Republic of Cyprus over time.

As a result of the Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974, 36,2% of the Republic of Cyprus territory is under Turkish military occupation, while 160,000 Cypriot citizens, i.e. 1/3 of the population, have been violently forced to abandon their homes and have been living as refugees for 46 years now.

The gravest obstacle concerning the implementation of human rights for the Cypriot people remains the continuing illegal occupation of over one third of the Cypriot territory since 1974. The United Nations (UN) Council of Human Rights investigates the violations of human rights on an annual basis during the presentation of the Report by the UN Human Rights' High Commissioner in relation to the situation of human rights in Cyprus.

The case-law of the European Court of Justice for Human Rights clearly states that Turkey, as the occupying power, is held accountable for the violations of human rights at the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus. The government of the Republic of Cyprus is in no position to apply and safeguard the compliance with the Treaties of Human Rights or the policies and rules in compliance with human rights laws in areas of the Republic of Cyprus which are beyond its effective control.

In most cases, women were not involved in inciting historical conflicts, yet they have suffered and continue to experience the most devastating consequences following these conflicts. Women have also undertaken the burden to restore social communities and societies after conflict.

Countless conflicts and long-term efforts had to take place so that the consequences on women resulting from armed conflict would be recognised by the international community and that it would be admitted that women are an integral part of any effort concerning the prevention of conflicts, any peace agreement, the promotion of reconciliation and reconstruction of indigenous communities in the aftermath of conflict.

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 entitled «Women, Peace and Security» according to which women should participate in creating and maintaining peace at local, national and international level. This is the first time ever that this international body, which is a more markedly male preserve, acknowledged the effects of warfare on female population, as well as the importance of maintaining peace and security for the vulnerable social groups. The unanimous approval of this document is a

recognition of gender inequalities as well as the contribution of women in prevention and resolution of armed conflicts worldwide. Additionally, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is facing the impact of war on women, regardless of age. Therefore, part of it is devoted to the protection of women rights, the protection of women from gender violence, especially from rape or other forms of sexual abuse. It also highlights the central role that both women and girls play during conflicts, in order to achieve sustainable peace, as well as the importance of recognising women as leaders and active players.

Resolution 1325 on «Women, Peace and Security» constitutes an important milestone, since it is the first time ever that the UN Security Council focuses exclusively on women, as part of society, who are directly affected by armed warfare.

The Resolution is not only significant because it acknowledges the disproportionate and specific impact of conflicts on female population regardless of age, the prevention and resolution of conflicts, but it also highlights the underestimated role of women in building peace and in reconstructing and rebuilding actions following community or military operations. Republic of Cyprus has gone through conflicts for most of its history. Almost 60 years have passed since its independence, yet it remains forcibly divided, while 36,2% of its territory remains under Turkish occupation and military control.

Despite the continuing occupation by the Turkish army and the grave challenges that it imposes on the island, the Republic of Cyprus remains fully committed to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all citizens and persons who are under international protection, regardless of origin, gender, social status, language, religion or personal convictions, sexual orientation, disability etc.

The Republic of Cyprus believes that the proper implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 as well as subsequent relevant resolutions, cannot be achieved in isolation. The effective participation of women in peace procedures is a powerful process aiming at women's integration and equality. This effective participation is particularly important within the traditional security field, which is a more markedly male preserve, where issues concerning the circle of conflicts are investigated.

The preparation of this National Action Plan was coordinated by the Institution of Gender Equality along with the contribution of the National Mechanism for Women's Rights, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Police and the Equality Unit, the Ministry of Defense, the Cyprus National Guard, the Ministry of the Interior, the Asylum Service, the Civil Registry and Migration Department, the Cyprus Civil Defense, the Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights Office, the Office of the Greek Cypriot Negotiator for the Cyprus issue, Non Governmental Organizations as well as civil society in general. The National Action Plan covers the period 2020 – 2024.

Actions, measures and policies undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus following the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 as a means of ensuring and complying with these

and other relevant Resolutions on the Peace Process in Cyprus and fully implement Resolution 1325. Republic of Cyprus is committed to undertaking the following four pillars of actions under the first National Action Plan to ensuring, complying and implement the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 :

- 1) Participation and Reinforcement: Enhancing active participation of women in political decision making in order to take part, in conflict prevention, reconstruction and maintaining peace.
- 2) Protection: Enhancing the protection of women and girls from gender violence and sexual abuse during armed warfare.
- 3) Prevention: Conflict prevention, including gender violence, as well as sexual exploitation and abuse on women/girls during armed conflicts which is of crucial importance.
- 4) Promotion and Information on Resolution 1325: Information and awareness-raising about Resolution 1325 in our country, directed at civil society in general, with particular emphasis on rural areas and schools.

The initiative and coordination regarding the first National Action Plan by the Republic of Cyprus on the implementation of Resolution 1325 was undertaken by the Institution of Gender Equality, which prepared this plan on the basis of procedures as a result of a wide-ranging cooperation and consultation process. This strategic plan was drawn up in cooperation with all relevant government departments, women organizations and other NGOs, academic institutions and human rights bodies. The CEDAW report (2019) comments were taken into consideration, as well as those by the UN Secretary General about Cyprus in relation to the agenda «Women, Peace and Security».

At first, the Commissioner of the Institution of Gender Equality informed all relevant Ministries/Departments, political parties/trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as civil society in general, about initiating procedures to prepare the National Action Plan, while at the same time inviting them to actively participate and contribute to its development.

A comprehensive consultation process between all bodies mentioned above preceded the preparation of the plan. After the completion of the first draft in an open procedure, the final draft is published for further broad public consultation. During the consultation process, all opinions/proposals were recorded, processed and included in the draft accordingly.

A Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of the National Action Plan will be established by the Institution of Gender Equality. The Committee's role will be advisory with the purpose of providing help and guidance on the implementation of Resolution 1325.

source: Cyprus National Mechanism for Women's Rights

‘KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES!!!’.

BY AUSTRALIAN COLLECTOR PAT RICHARDSON

I was wondering what little IAW item I could entertain you with and as I am busy thinning out the papers in my archive boxes, it came to me, how our technology has changed in the IAW work.

From ‘horse and cart’ typewriters to Zoom, boom, boom!

My organisation, the Women’s Electoral Lobby of Australia joined the IAW as the Australian affiliate in 1982 at the Congress in Finland. At that Congress, Pat Giles and myself were elected to the Board and correspondence came to us by airmail from the then President, Olive Bloomer, in little typed notes from where she lived in Malta. Olive had a typist come in once a week to do her correspondence. The IAW administration was done in London until the office was closed owing to financial restraints in 1988. The Alliance has always been run by volunteers, but even more so now there is no central office.

Everyone taking office in the IAW, has to be prepared to be totally computer literate.

By the time I became the IAW Membership Secretary in December, 1996, the master files arrived to me in Australia from Marijke Peters in Holland on a disk. As I had an old Apple Mac and a very early version at that, I had to buy a new p.c. to replace it. Our beloved journal, ‘The International Women’s News’ was still being printed in the UK and with the postage was becoming too expensive to produce. The Journal finally went to totally PDF in 2014...however, our publicity was now beginning to include a website, which is immensely flexible, and contains our back journals and e-newsletters and Herstory and allows people to join and pay as well. Happily, our member organisations began to get websites too, which made it easier for me to contact their office holders, rather than having to send letters to make contact. Which with the turnover of many office holders, fails to elicit any response.

Also, letters in 1996 were still sent between everyone, and sometimes faxes. By the Board meeting in Malmo in 1998, it was decided to produce an email newsletter every two months...Joke Sebus in the Netherlands, was the editor of it for the next many years. We had about a dozen email addresses for our members to begin with, and of course nowadays all our members have emails and are instantly contactable. I used to call email the ‘Women’s Web’ around the world....and inexpensive too...but it meant that all our members had to be online or not keep up with the times!!!

So now in the face of the pandemic, we have been forced to meet the challenge of meeting in cyber space for our Congress in November...so once again we will be asking all our mem-

bers to make a flying leap into this modern world. The good thing about it is that many more of our members will be able to 'attend' via the internet than have been able to afford to do so in the past.

We will be 'Zooming' into the future.

My kindest regards to you all,



Pat Richardson, Australia.

Previously IAW Board member 1982-1989.

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INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

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