

[View this email in your browser](#)



IAW • AIF NEWSLETTER

IAW Newsletter August 2022 no.5



Information from the IAW Human Rights Team at the UN in Geneva

by Dr Sibylle von Heydebrand,
Main Human Rights
Representative to the UN Geneva

*photo: Meeting with Soon-Young
Yoon, Geneva June 28 2022*

June 15, 2022: Meeting of the President of the UN General Assembly with Civil Society

The President of the 76th UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid (Maldives) met with civil society representatives at the UN Geneva. IAW was represented by Esther Suter and Sibylle von Heydebrand. The latter gave an oral statement on behalf of the IAW. She appealed to put the rights of girls, in all their diversity, at the center of attention, as they are among the most vulnerable people. See in detail <https://www.womenalliance.org/human-rights-violations-impact-on-girls/>

Read Esther Suter's detailed report on the meeting, including the five Pillars of the President of 76th UNGA and the contributions of other NGOs:

<https://iarf.net/>

June 28, 2022 - Joint oral statement NGO CSW UNG

Carolyn Handschin, President of NGO CSW UNG, delivered an oral statement

disaster risk management, for recognizing women as leaders and agents of change in protecting the environment and she called for the gender dimension of climate change to be included in all reports and policies. - The statement was co-sponsored by IAW.

June 28, 2022 – Soon Young Yoon and Sibylle von Heydebrand met in Geneva

IAW's main representatives to the UN New York and Geneva met in Geneva. They exchanged fruitful information about UN New York and UN Geneva and found points of collaboration for the future.

July 1, 2022 50th Session of the Human Rights Council: Urgent Debate on the Situation of Women and Girls in Afghanistan:

In a resolution, the Council reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women, girls and children in Afghanistan, including the right to freedom of movement, the right to education, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including their sexual and reproductive health, the right to work and the right of access to justice on an equal basis with others.

Summary: <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2022/07/nous-assistons-l'exclusion-progressive-des-femmes-et-des-filles>

July 8, 2022: Human Rights Council concludes its 50th Regular Session after Adopting 23 Resolutions and one Decision

Summary: <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2022/07/human-rights-council-concludes-fiftieth-regular-session-after>

NGO CSW UN Geneva: Newsletter "News in Brief"

Members of IAW may subscribe to the Newsletter by sending a request to the Secretary of NGO CSW UN Geneva, Srruthi Lekha: s.lekha@wfp.org.

The newsletter contains information from the NGO CSW UNG and its member organizations.

UNOG Information - International Alliance of Women (womenalliance.org)

Roe v Wade Gone but

How Much Better off are Women in England and Wales?

By Jocelyne Scutt

[Read the very interesting article here](#)



APWA - The Journey

by Ruhi Sayid
Chairperson APWA Punjab
Former Executive Vice President
IAW

All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) was established in 1949 by the then first Prime Minister's wife, Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan. It is the oldest and the largest women's welfare non- government organisation of Pakistan. The vision of APWA and its founder, Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan, was to eliminate social and economic inequality and injustice against women and the girl child in Pakistan.

Some of the organisation's important achievements:

- 1949 established Nursing Association;
- 1952 first Community Fund; Women's colleges;
- 1954 Craftsmen ; first Rural Education and Skills Training program;
- 1964 APWA had a role in establishing Family Law ordinance and Family Court Act. This was a big breakthrough for legal empowerment of women and children.
- 1972 established Pakistan Nursing Federation;
- 1989 established a division of the Government which led to the Ministry for Women Affairs.

The journey has been long, nevertheless every step brought rewards in the shape of progress in all four provinces of Pakistan.

APWA has spread out in many districts and has become a needs based service provider for grassroots women and children. Our areas of work are in: Education - Primary schools, Adult Literacy classes, and Colleges.

Health - Family Wellbeing Centres, Awareness campaigns and projects.

Economic Empowerment - Scholarship program, Career women Hostels, Day Care services, Skills Centres and Marketing of products.

Legal Aid cell - free counseling, advice and litigation by senior lawyers together with awareness and advocacy on women-friendly Legislation and Implementation.

awareness sessions on the same. We were also the frontline NGO for Home Based Workers Secretariat. Launched first training of 1000 women on DW4DW (domestic work 4 domestic workers) in partnership with the Women Development Department.

Lately we have started SIYB (start and improve your business) program in line with international standards, and are assisting the trainees to take small loans from banks to establish their businesses. This has brought forward many success stories and every passing day more are added. Our future goal is to bring more women under the umbrella of APWA, spread education, awareness, and empower women to become an asset for Pakistan and the world at large.

Women's Issues in West Bengal

**by Aditi Choudhury, President
Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial
Association**

A tribute to the pioneering vision of Saroj Nalini Dutt who advocated the empowerment of women through higher studies in the early twentieth century. High studies still remain an issue in modern India.



As per the 2021 census, female literacy in India was 70.30% versus a global literacy rate of 82.70%. Parents in India who have a son and daughter are more likely to send their son for higher education if they cannot afford the cost of education for both children. When a young woman wants to go on for higher education, it usually becomes a problem with the family. However, when a young man wants to go on for higher education, his parents and community will see it as an achievement and an opportunity for the boy to settle well.

The Indian woman has to struggle when it comes to securing employment in her home country. The number of women in the workforce has dropped by 8% over the past two decades. While Indian women are typically restricted to rural work involving agriculture, the men are well represented in technology and manufacturing jobs. This prevents women from moving up in the work force and also in the social hierarchy. The workplace does not provide adequate care for mothers and their children so working mothers are often looked down upon for seeking employment outside the home.

Crime Records Bureau report has recorded 30,000 crime cases against women. 20,000 of these cases include wife beating, demand of dowry and pressure to commit suicide. This kind of violence is more prominent in the lower middle class families.

The late Saroj Nalini Dutt, wife of the late Gurusaday Dutt was a social reformer and a pioneer of the movement for the uplifting of women in Bengal. She pioneered the formation of "Mahila Samities" (women's institutes) in Bengal with the objective of developing friendly cooperation among the "purdah nashin" (hidden by a veil) ladies and helped them receive vocational training to be able to earn for themselves and support their families way back in 1921.

She dedicated herself to the cause of women both inside and outside the home as well as the community. Her dedication to the improvement of the condition of the Indian woman was evident in the great efforts she took to actively participate in the raising of the social status of women, mostly belonging to the Bengal Presidency. She realised that it was not possible to send the mothers to school; they needed to be educated by other means such as the Mahila Samities in the district towns in Bengal.

Education is a basic human right that should be exercised fully in all nations. However, for many girls in India, attending school is not an option. Saroj Nalini realized this, and was of the opinion that due to lack of girls' education, the country is full of male inheritance, early marriage, dowry, honour crimes, witch hunting, violence against women and trafficking and the practice of evil customs. She was of the idea that till we uplift womenfolk, spread education and awareness amongst them, the custom of child marriage, evil customs and untouchability will not be eradicated from our country.

In India, it is seen that most women are unaware of their rights and that continues to remain inherent in society. In India, there is no paucity of laws for women - there are 8 most important rights every woman should be aware of

1. Right to maintenance
2. Right to equal pay
3. Right to dignity and decency
4. Right against domestic violence
5. Rights at workplace
6. Right against dowry
7. Right to free legal aid
8. Right to private defence/self defence

So only if women are aware of their rights, can they fight against injustice meted out to them at their homes, the workplace or in the society.

President

Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association

Quelques nouvelles d'Afrique

par Souad Hossein

De : Mme Rachel MAGALA (Coordonnatrice)

Association : ADAFEV

PAYS République démocratique du Congo (RDC)

Thématique : **Santé sexuelle et reproductive**

L'ADAFEV a réalisé durant le mois de juin 2022 une campagne et des actions de sensibilisation dans le domaine de la santé sexuelle et reproductive en direction des jeunes filles scolarisées en RDC.

[Voir article ci-après \(lien\)](#)

De : Mme Laurença TAVARES (Présidente du conseil d'Administration)

Association : ACRIDES

PAYS : Cap Vert

Thématique : **Enfance défavorisée**

L'ACRIDES a lancé en avril 2022, une campagne intitulée « Solidarité en action » qui a consisté à accompagner les familles défavorisées et affaiblies par la pandémie de la COVID 19 via un soutien financier et matériel permettant de subvenir aux besoins primaires des familles.

[Voir article ci-après](#)

De : Mme Munira Jawad RIBEIRO (Présidente)

ONG: REMEO – GB - UEMOA

PAYS Guinée Bissau

Thématique : **Covid 19**

Le réseau de femmes opératrices économiques de la République de Guinée Bissau (REMEO) a réalisé un vaste programme de plaidoyer et de lobbying auprès des décideurs afin de les sensibiliser aux conséquences sanitaires liées à la pandémie de la COVID 19, dans un pays de surcroît plongé dans une guerre, aux lourdes conséquences pour toute la population et en particulier pour les femmes et les jeunes filles.

[Voir article ci-après](#)

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

environment and climate protection. Abolish Nuclear Weapons!



by Rosy Weiss

Report from an event accompanying the first UN Conference of the partner states of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons[1], taking place at the VIC, Vienna, 21-23 June 2022[2].

This hybrid meeting[3] organized by ABFANG[4], WILPF[5] Austria and the IPB[6] took place on June 19 and was supported by IPPNW[7] Austria, Frieden./.attac, ITUC[8], transform!europe, forum wissenschaft&umwelt, ICAN[9], the Vienna NGO Committee on Peace and the International Department of the International Trade Union Confederation.

Politically correct beginning with voices on the situation in Ukraine for peace from *Yurii Sheliashenko*, executive secretary of the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement and *Oleg Bodrov*, chairman of the Public Council of the Southern Shore of the Gulf of Finland, Russia. Apart from the call for immediate ceasefire and for dialogue, they stressed the importance of youth involvement into the peace process. Confronted with the propaganda, which only makes enemies everywhere and thereby contributes to divide people, it is important to tell the truth, in particular for youth as part of one society on our planet. For this the peace process should become operational on regional level.

This was followed by a passionate presentation of the most important paragraphs of the Treaty and of practical ways of implementing it by *Rebecca Johnson (UK)*, co-founder of ICAN. She addresses nuclear weapons and climate destruction as the major extinction threats of our time. Nuclear weapons have to be banned as they are enabling war, not preventing it. Power should be shifted from nuclear players into the international community and international law. NFU, no first use, a problematic concept, the aim should be no nuclear weapons at all. No military attacks on nuclear facilities. Importance of victim assistance and environment remediation.

Vanessa Griffin from ICAN Pacific spoke of fighting for peace in the Global South and in particular of the long term effects of nuclear testing of the USA, GB and France in her part of the world. In this regard, she sees the whole world today as a colony of the nuclear powers.

The conclusion was a stirring, eloquent presentation of trade union peace work, peace struggle, struggle for security and workers and people human rights by

*Bureau (IPB) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) on
Common Security 2022: For Our Shared Future.*

The meeting ended with a **Panel Discussion** in cooperation of peace and environmental movements – **Way to an eco-social society?** Participants: *Helga Kromp-Kolb*, environmental meteorologist, Professor BOKU, *Phill Gittins*, Education Director WBW (World beyond War), *Heidi Meinzolt*, Europe Regional Representative, WILPF, *Alex Praça*, Brazilian Journalist, *Alessandro Capuzzo*, Trieste Non-Nuclear Movement. *Heinz Gärtner*, political scientist, OIIP (Austrian Institute for International Affairs).

Editor's note:

*We – IAW Communicaton Unit – recently uploaded two of our **parallel events** from the CSW66 to our YouTube-Channel:*

- ***WOMEN, PEACE & CLIMATE CHANGE IN A 'DIVIDED' CYPRUS***
- ***Climate change: Women's Wisdom vs Military Contribution to Disaster***

Both online events attracted a lot of interest and luckily can be watched in full on YouTube.

[1] TPNW, into force since 2021. 86 signatures, 56 ratifications (global south! No nuclear powers, no NATO member states, not Iran, not Saudi-Arabia).

[2] Not to be mixed up with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) of 1970, initiated by the five nuclear powers, with its aims to prevent to spread nuclear weapons and weapons technology; to foster peaceful use of nuclear energy and to further nuclear disarmament.

[3] with excellent voluntary interpretation German-English

[4] Aktionsbündnis für Frieden, aktive Neutralität und Gewaltfreiheit

[5] Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

[6] International Peace Bureau

[7] Intern. Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

[8] International Trade Union Confederation

[9] International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

[Link to article on IAW website](#)

SE Asia - the lack of a focused women's strategy

Anjana Basu, member of the Newsletter Editorial group has collected a number of newspaper articles about gender issues in South East Asia:

empowerment, among other things, is a key factor in this. The issues that affect women in SE Asia, specifically their ability to participate equally in existing markets, their access to and control over productive resources, their ability to access decent employment, their ability to control their own time, lives, and bodies, and increased voice, agency, and meaningful participation in economic decision-making at all levels, from the household to international institutions, are all rooted in this. The lack of an overarching guideline policy for women is one of the main problems, despite the fact that in all regions there are institutions trying to empower those within their ambit. It is to be hoped that with time patriarchy will decrease while economic strength will increase in the region - though that may seem to generalise too broadly.

Women Empowerment - Khadi employment sustains 'Tiger widows' of Sunderbans - Telegraph India

Assessing the Need for a Feminist Foreign Policy in Sri Lanka

The String Women of the Tea Gardens

Tribal Woman in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district set ablaze over land dispute

Enjoy reading!

Send your contributions to the October Newsletter no later than September 20.

Newsletter Editorial Group:

Anjana Basu

Souad Houssein

Lene Pind

Content

Heading

Content

Copyright © 2022 International Alliance of Women, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



