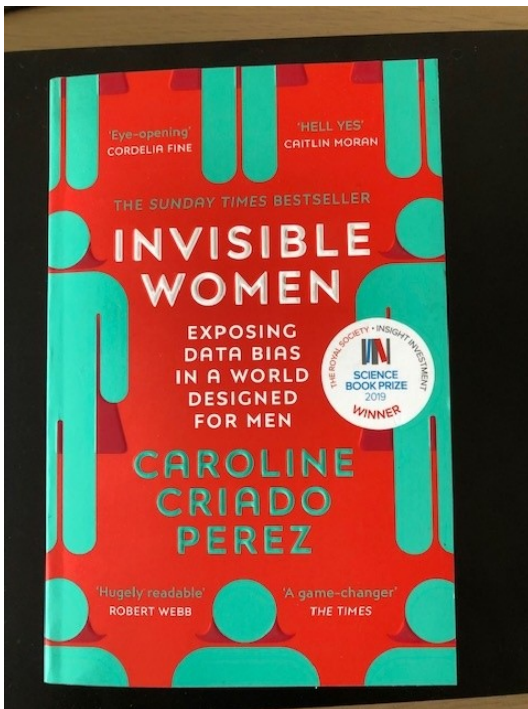


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# IAW • AIF NEWSLETTER

## IAW Newsletter December 2022 no.6



## Congress 2022

### **INVISIBLE WOMEN**

Congress 2022 was held virtually on 26 - 28 November.2022. 20 affiliates and associates were represented at Congress and the total number of participants was approximately 65. This was the biggest turnout for Congress in a long time.

## New Executive Committee

President. Alison Brown, USA

Secretary General: Miranda Ruzario, South Africa

Treasurer: Antonia Lavine, USA



Elected Board Members

**Ernestine Ngo Melha**, France/ Cameroon - appointed Executive Vice President  
**Goma Bastola, Nepal** - appointed Executive Vice President

Anne Pélagie Yotchou Tzudjom, Cameroon

Artemis Westenberg, The Netherlands

Hege Loevbak, Norway

Holl Herbert, Australia

Horeya Megahed, Egypt

Louise Vinther Als, Denmark

Marion Böker, Germany

Rita Marque Mbatha, Zimbabwe

Sibylle von Heydebrand, Switzerland

Souad Houssein, France/ Djibuthi

Uzma Gul, USA

Wene Wilhelmine Ntakebuka, RD Congo

Yvonne Pokropek, Sweden

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## President Alison Brown's first President's Letter

I thank the voters at IAW Congress XXXIX, held virtually, for having given me their trust and raising me to the office of IAW president for the coming Triennium. As I said at Congress, I am charged with “herding cats”. Every woman who is active in IAW is a powerhouse herself, tirelessly and with enormous knowledge and skills, leading efforts to achieve our common goals, “Equal Rights – Equal Responsibilities”. From very basic rights such as food security and bodily integrity to more than the typical woman’s responsibility for the home, but rather extending their “housekeeping” to all levels of government and industry.

As IAW President I am called upon, not to rule, but to encourage, to hold the ship steady, no small challenge after the recent turbulence that has marked the past Triennium, while the wonderful women of the organisation pursue their passions and work to satisfy the needs of their communities as they themselves perceive them. I am not here to satisfy my ambition, but to support the ambitions of all the activists of IAW.

[Read the full letter](#)

## Lettre de la Présidente Alison Brown

[Lire la letter complète](#)



## Aide d'urgence pour les jeunes mères et bébés déplacés

**Appel urgent aux dons par Anuarite Siirewabo  
Muyuwa  
Organisation SOFEDEC RD Congo :**

Anuarite Siirewabo, coordinatrice de l'organisation SOFEDEC basée dans le sud-est de la RD Congo, lance un appel urgent à l'aide.

Mais comme le décrit A. Siirewabo, un jour avant cette date, un énorme événement horrible s'est produit.

"Les affrontements entre le M23 et les soldats des FARDC sont extrêmement brutaux et terribles.

La population du territoire de Rutshuru a dû fuir le 4 novembre, et maintenant elle a trouvé refuge dans les écoles et les églises du territoire de Nyiragongo.

Donc pas d'école ! Tout cela est très difficile. Mais nous n'abandonnons pas ! Nous nous rendons sur place et apportons une aide aux enfants et aux mères en termes de nourriture, nous assurons leur protection, nous les sensibilisons contre la violence sexiste et contre l'exploitation sexuelle.

Pour les enfants déplacés, nous organisons des activités d'urgence et nous essayons de prévenir la malnutrition.

En ce moment, j'ai désespérément besoin de dons pour l'alimentation de ces enfants.

À la fin du mois de novembre, la situation ne s'est toujours pas améliorée. Je ne peux qu'aider à un seul site sur 62, et notre équipe ne peut pas réussir partout.

Donc, je fais appel à vous pour une campagne de collecte de fonds parmi les femmes de l'AIF. Je dois trouver de la nourriture de toute urgence. Nous n'avons même pas de porridge pour les petits enfants et les mères qui allaitent. Merci pour votre donation."

Faire un don

## Disaster relief for displaced young mothers and babies

**Urgent Call for Donations by Anuarite Siirewabo Muyuwa SOFEDEC  
Organisation DR Congo:**

[Read more](#) and donate

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The future of IAW media



## Note from Lene Pind, Editor

In 1998 Joke Sebus, became the first editor of the IAW digital newsletter, then called the E-Newsletter. The E-Newsletter was the result of the work of a small group of members during the International Meeting in Malmö: Joke Sebus, Cock Kerling, both from the Netherlands and myself, Lene Pind, Denmark. From 1998 until 2013 Joke Sebus edited 12 issues of the Newsletter per year, one each month. Along with this she collected an increasing number of email addresses of members, so that they could receive her IAW Newsletter. Joke guarded these email addresses very carefully and in that way helped create trust among members in the new digital world.

In 2014 I took over, made some editorial changes and have since produced six issues of the IAW Newsletter each year.

My idea was that the Newsletter was to publish news about IAW for IAW, and I thank all the members who on a regular basis have contributed to this exchange of information within IAW. I also thank Souad Houssein and Anjana Basu, sub-editors for the past approximately two years, for their excellent contributions to the development of the Newsletter.

Now is the time for a change and this will be the last Newsletter edited by me.

## Zoom- get-together on the future of the IAW media

IAW uses following media: International Women's News in publication since 1906, IAW Newsletter, IAW website, FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

The different media have developed rather independently of each other.

Therefore, I would like to invite members to take part in a get-together on Zoom where the future of our media will be discussed, how we use them, for what purposes, what future formats, contents, etc. It is planned to hold this on-line meeting in mid to late January.

Participants will be members of the current Communications team and other members who are interested. Please, send an email to Lene Pind at

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# New developments at the UN Vienna[1]

by Rosy Weiss

## **Stop non-State torture**

Yesterday an interesting thematic discussion took place here in Vienna in the context of the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration[2], organized by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the relevant NGO committee, the Alliance of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in cooperation with interested governments like Honduras and Finland. The topic: **Non-State Torture[3]**. While many people across the globe have endured non-State torture, only a few countries have so far enacted laws addressing torture committed by private individuals and groups. The aim of this initiative is to have non-State torture named as a human rights crime in the frame of an official UN document, be it a declaration, a draft resolution, or a draft protocol to the Convention against Torture[4].

**UNODC, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**, located in Vienna, is not only serving the Commission and the Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) reviews and analyses the global drug situation under consideration of the interrelated issues of prevention of drug abuse, rehabilitation of drug users and supply and trafficking in illicit drugs.

Important crime-related Conventions and protocols are being dealt with in Vienna:

The UN **Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** and its important protocols

- the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;
- and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

the UN **Convention against Corruption**.

- **All this of imminent interest to the work of IAW's substantial commissions.**

Working relations exist with the Vienna NGO Committees on the Status of Women, on Peace and with the Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Other areas of NGO concern are sustainable development (UNIDO), Family, Drugs, and Ageing.

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[1] UNOV (UN Office Vienna): IAEA, UNIDO, CTBTO, UNODC, UNOOSA, UNODA, UNIS .

[2] Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law:

Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2021-24.

[3] NST: Non-State torture (NST) is torture committed by parents, spouses, other kin, guardians, neighbours, trusted adults, strangers, terrorists, human traffickers, johns, pimps, or pornographers in various public and private places.

[4] Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, General Assembly resolution 39/46. These behaviours are sanctioned under the Convention "when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity" (Art. 1, para. 1). This wording, de facto, leaves out large numbers of victims of various forms of torture, especially gender-based violence, if perpetrators are non-State actors.

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## Célébration de la journée de la fille

par Ernestine Ngo Melha

A l'occasion de la célébration de la journée de la fille , Association d'Aide à l'éducation de l'Enfant Handicapé a donné une conférence sur le thème "***l'éducation de la fille handicapée : défis, enjeux et perspectives***"

**Parmi les obstacles relevés:** les facteurs sociaux économiques, les facteurs liés à l'environnement scolaire, l'absence de données désagrégées sur le handicap et les besoins spécifiques, les facteurs connexes (pauvreté, violence, santé de la reproduction)

**Parmi les actions entreprises par AAEEH :** les appuis multiformes aux filles handicapées et leurs familles à travers diverses initiatives, le **plaidoyer avec ses partenaires à tous les niveaux pour la prise en compte des filles handicapées dans les politiques publiques et les programmes de développement.**

**Réécouter la conférence sur Youtube**

**Soutenir l'éducation de la fille handicapée par votre don DEFISCALISE**

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## .Medal of Honour for Heleen Jansen, IAW representative to the Council of Europe

**Text and photo by Esther Suter**

During the Autumn session of the Conference of INGOs at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the delegates were invited for a special evening program. The event was the presentation of the Volunteer Medal volunteering in Europe and awarding of Medals (MHVE) and Ambassadors of Volunteering/European Volunteering. It took place at the Salle de Rencontre, 20 rue de la Charité in Strasbourg. The event was organized by Association for Voluntary Action in Europe, Centre for European Volunteering, under the aegis of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGO): "Revealing European Values in Volunteering in Europe" Seminar. The seminar was not a lecture, but an award celebration for about 15 awardees, their friends, families and organization delegates. For the first time this award was given, and the special celebration took place in the presence of the president of the International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO), Gerhard Ermischer, on October 5 in Strasbourg. Heleen Jansen, IAW main representative to Council of Europe, was among the awardees. Heleen, touched, expressed her thanks and addressed the public. She was very surprised at the news, which she had just learnt about a few days before, and which in fact had crossed her plans of vacation in the Netherlands. She enjoyed the celebration in a relaxed ambience and mailed these words:

"I always find it difficult to say anything about myself. I like to do things in the background. I got the medal for my work as treasurer of OING service. OING-service is an association that asks all associations for a fee. The IAW was asked 4 years ago if they would provide a candidate and after elections I was elected. The president of the IAW had to approve and support this candidacy. Last year, we had another election and I was re-elected. The entire team of OING-service is made up of volunteers. I feel the medal is not only for me but also for the other members of the office."

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