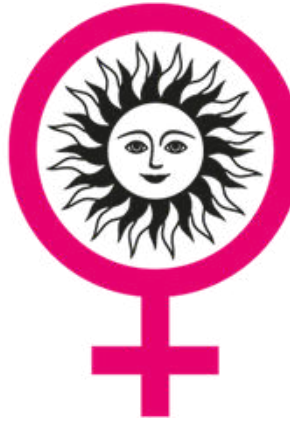
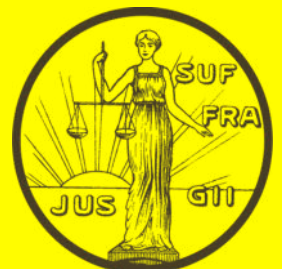


IN PUBLICATION
SINCE 1906

Special Edition International Women's News Édition Spéciale Nouvelles Féministes Internationales



International Alliance of Women Annual
Report 2022-23
Alliance Internationale des Femmes
Rapport Annuel 2022-23



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES RAPPORT ANNUEL

You have before you the annual reports of all parts of International Alliance of Women. Not all possible reports, but only the ones which arrived in our inbox in time to produce this booklet. Nevertheless I hope you are impressed by reading the many actions undertaken by organs of IAW and the membership organisations as I am.

Vous avez devant vous les rapports annuels de toutes les parties de l'Alliance internationale des femmes. Pas tous les rapports possibles, mais seulement ceux qui sont arrivés dans notre boîte de réception à temps pour produire ce livret. Néanmoins, j'espère que la lecture des nombreuses actions entreprises par les organes de l'AIF et les organisations membres vous impressionnera autant que moi.

Alison Brown IAW President /Présidente de l'AIF Editor/Éditrice

Table of Contents Table des Matières

Report of the President
Report of the Treasurer
Report of the Secretary General
Report of the Admission Committee
Report of the Membership Secretary
Report of the Communications Unit

Reports from Commissions Rapports des commissions

Commission on Climate Change Convenor Ruhi Sayid
Commission on Democracy Convenor Jocelynn Scutt
Commission on Digital Divide Convenor Arina Angerman
Commission on Disability Convenor Heleen Jansen
Commission on Education Convenor KG Vijayalekshmy
Commission on Financial/Economic Policies Convenor Munira Jauad Ribeiro
Commission on Health Convenor Uzma Gul
Commission on Human Rights Convenor Marion Böker
Commission on Indigenous Rights Convenor Klara Hansen
Commission on Migration Convenor Rosy Weiss
Commission on Peace Convenor Manju Kak
Commission on Protection of Privacy/GDPR Convenor Lene Pind
Commission on Violence against Women Convenor Rolene Marks

Reports from International Representatives Rapports des représentantes internationales

United Nations in New York Head of Delegation Soon Young Yoon
United Nations in Geneva Head of Delegation Sibylle von Heydebrand
United Nations in Vienna Head of Delegation Rosy Weiss
ESCAP Delegates Charmaine Hidayatullah & Manju Kak
UNESCO Head of Delegation Monique Boaziz
ILO Head of Delegation Antonia Lavine
FAO Head of Delegation Valeria Mangan
HABITAT Head of Delegation Tunica Miranda Rusario
UNIDO Head of Delegation Erica van Engel
Council of Europe Head of Delegation Heleen Jansen
European Women's Lobby Head of Delegation Marion Böker
International Criminal Court Observers Deidre Excell Pirro, Paulette Oyane Ondo
WICC Susanne Riveles
WHO observer Ursula Nakamura
Arab League observer Horeya Megahed
Gulf Cooperation Council observer Horeya Megahed

Reports of Regional Officers Rapports des responsables régionales

Regional Vice Presidents

Afrique – Francophone: Ntakebuka Wene Mwafizi Wilhelmine

Africa – Anglophone: Rita Marque Mbatha

Arab & Gulf Region: Dr. Horeya Megahed

Europe: Yvonne Pokropek

Regional Coordinators

South East Asia: Sheela Kakde

North America: Jessica Pierson

Pacific: Sheila Byard

Affiliate Members Membres Affiliés

Association des femmes de l'Europe Méridionale (AFEM), France

African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA), Nigeria

All India Women's Conference (AIWC), India

All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA), Pakistan

Association Suisse pour les Droits de la Femme – Schweizerischer Verband für Frauenrechte (ADF/SVF), Switzerland

Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Bangladesh

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW-FCFDU), Canada

Country Women's Association of India, India

Danish Women's Society, Denmark

Deutscher Frauenring, Germany

Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband, Germany

Fredrika Bremer Förbundet, Sweden

Greek League for Women's Rights, Greece

Hoda Sharawi Association, Egypt

Israel Federation of the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO), Israel

Kvenrettindafelag Islands – Icelandic Women's Rights Association (IWRA), Iceland

League of Women Voters of Nigeria, Nigeria

Lithuanian Women's Society, Lithuania

Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vrouwenbelangen, The Netherlands

Norwegian Association for Women's Rights – Norsk Kvinnesaksforening (NKF), Norway

ntengwe for community development, Zimbabwe

L'Observatoire Marocain des Droits des Femmes (OMDF), Morocco

Pancyprian Movement Equal Rights & Equal Responsibilities, Cyprus

Naisiasialiito Unioni ry – The Feminist Association Unioni, Finland

Women's Electoral Lobby, Australia

Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development Centre of India, India

Zambia Alliance of Women, Zambia

Associate Members Membres Associés

Alliance of Women of Serbia and Montenegro, Serbia

APWA UK, United Kingdom

Association Féminine Songmanégré pour le Développement AFD, Burkina Faso

Bali Women's Union of Farming Groups, Cameroon

CEFAP – Ladies Circle, Cameroon

Frauen Netzwerk für Frieden, Germany

La Colombe, Togo

League of Women Voters of Victoria, Australia

Olympes da la Parole – Voices of Olympia, Canada

Reseau national des associations de tantines (RENATA) National Network of Aunties Association, Cameroon

Rural Women's Network of Nepal

Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association, India

Solidarité des femmes pour le développement, environnement et droits de l'enfant au Congo (SOFEDDEC), Congo

Sri Lanka Women's Association in the UK (SLWA), United Kingdom

Survie de la Mere et de l'Enfant, Benin

Women's Comfort Corner, Zimbabwe

Water and Pads Project Le Projet Eau et Serviettes WP

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ALISON BROWN

The year began with the second half of the Post-Congress Board Meeting where final appointments to committees and diplomatic posts were made. Once the teams were assembled, I stood ready to hear about issues arising from the work and to offer suggestions based on my rich IAW history.

In March IAW was pleased to be represented by Djamila Assama Sidi at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5). As this event occurs at long intervals, I was pleased to be able to have our representative there.

As every year an IAW team was at the Commission on the Status of Women 67th Session in March. I wrote almost every day on LinkedIn (which posts were amplified on other IAW social media by our social media maven, Sanja Jeraj) about the impressions of CSW67 on “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” and “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”.

IAW presented or co-sponsored many parallel events:

- Women fight Harassment: The Courage to End Impunity with Rita Marque Mbatho and Marion Böker;
- Women with Disabilities and Older Women – Improving Rights in Times of Crisis with Ernestine Ngo Melha and Marion Böker;
- Recovery of Women's Memory is the Bases For Freedom and Equality with Antonia Levine;
- Storytelling: Women Influencers Take Stage in Securing Human Rights, Using Technology to Fight Modern-Day Slavery of Women and Girls with Antonia Levine.

I also attended some events by our member organisations or activists:

- Evening the Odds in Digital Education for Marginalized Women and Girls (CFUW),
- Innovations for Equity – Cities for CEDAW, Creating Grassroots Movements for CEDAW Adoption, Ratification, and Implementation

I followed that up with a report that should be published along with other reports in the next edition of the International Women's News.

Currently a working group has created a clear timeline to guide our future work at the Commission on the Status of Women, which will be presented to the Board for approval in September. This will guide us and future IAW leaders on the path to effective representation, especially during times of transition after Congress.

I have spent hours editing the documents that came out of Congress, integrating the amendments into the existing text of the Constitution and the By-laws. They are still not all available in both official languages, but I am working on that. I found a way to get the new texts for the Action Programme and prepare that document for publication, since it is the basis for activities of the Commissions and the International Representatives. I have been advising our Webwizard on possible additions to the content of the website, and I encourage every woman reading this to send relevant news or qualified opinion pieces on current women's issues to our IAW e-communications group to open minds to what is happening with women in the world.

I am part of the search for new Editors of the International Women's News so that regular quarterly publications can appear again after a pandemic-related hiatus. We have excellent candidates in view. I am also a focal point for gathering the Annual Reports from officers and organisational members. No editors had been chosen and no one volunteered for that job, so, it fell to me this year. In the coming year, I hope we can find a bilingual team to do this important work, since these Annual Reports are presented to the UN and to the official seat of IAW in Geneva to prove both our existence and also our non-governmental and non-profit status.

In the interest of greater transparency, the Executive Committee has been experimenting with monthly meetings, open to all members of IAW. After a technically bumpy start, we have ironed out the internet problems, but need to improve attendance moral, as those who attended as observers received interesting information, but actual executive decisions could not be taken. This experiment will continue into early 2024 and then will be reevaluated.

IAW must be a cooperative enterprise, so I have called Zoom meetings with our Commission Convenors and International Representatives as well as the Regional Coordinators and Vice-President. Attendance was not as complete as I had hoped, but those who did attend, enjoyed the opportunity to share experiences.

A major change in IAW's communication methods took place when we moved our e-mail correspondence to Google Workspace, which is given to us at no cost as a not-for-profit organisation. This Workspace will also offer us other group meeting formats like "Meet" for short private meetings. Not all transfer problems have been solved. We will also upgrade our Zoom Account to one which provides translated captions that will improve the understanding between our Anglophone and Francophone members as discussions continue on-line. The cost of simultaneous interpretation exhausts our budget every year, but we remain committed to being the bilingual organisation which we were founded as in 1904! We also continue to point out translation facilities offered by the internet platforms we access, which give, not only our two official languages, but also many national languages used by our Affiliates and Associates. For example, if one views the Newsletter in one's browser, in the upper right hand corner there is a Translate utility which provides the texts in Arabic, Kiswahili and many more options.

In the coming year I expect to review what has worked well for International Alliance of Women and what has not produced any results. I love the history of our organisation and cherished concepts, but will not hesitate to suggest eliminating those things that no longer serve it, but rather drain energy to no end. IAW needs to be an active, growing and thriving organisation, not an assortment of mirages. Promises made to our membership to address their issues must be kept, not left to languish on paper.

TREASURER'S REPORT

DR. ANTONIA LAVINE

Dear Board Members,

We ended Fiscal Year 2022 with 10% percent increase of our total assets and a prevailing part of our net income invested in IAW's inspiring "Water and Pads" and "Hydro" programs. The two programs together raised over 30,000 Euro fully dedicated to supporting women in developing countries via advocacy, technical assistance, training, and educational/marketing materials. We acknowledge the excellent work of these programs' chairs. Their example is an inspiration for us all!

While the fundraising for this great cause was very successful, our efforts to increase donations directly supporting the operation of IAW fell short. Only one third of the projected donations for this purpose were actually made. We did not reach our goal to double the income from individual membership fees either. The increase in funds collected from organizational fees came from payments that were past due from the preceding year. On the balance, the funds collected through membership fees and general donations are far from being sufficient to support IAW's operation, growth, and ability to develop new programing.

On the other hand, we acknowledge that good efforts have been made to increase the amount of these funds in 2022, which led to a higher net income result compared to the previous fiscal year.

This trend continued in the current fiscal year and here is the place to recognize those who made this possible by generously increasing the amount of their donations, the frequency of their contributions and the level of their membership through the newly created options of supporting and contributing member. In addition, the dedication and hard work of our Membership Secretary in collecting the fees and tracking their submission from multiple sources is to be especially recognized.

We need to keep these efforts going and sustain the encouraging trend of improving our fundraising abilities. The work of the newly created fundraising committee on diversifying our fundraising methods and sources serves as a powerful platform to achieve this goal. Another venue will be expanding our programming to projects that directly support IAW's advocacy and policy work and bring to our work passionate activists willing to invest funds and volunteer time in our organizational future.

In addition, we need to continue our efforts to fully ensure effective system of check and balances by separating the executive work on financials from the financial oversight, currently both placed in the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer. The support and advice of the Financial Advisory Committee in looking for ways to achieve this result has been critical and will continue to guide our considerations and decisions in ensuring IAW's financial health and prosperity.

Thank you for the key support of this important committee and our Executive! Thank you all for your contributions and dedicated work toward the success of our great organization!

FINANCES IAW 2022 - All figures in EURO										
Code	INCOME 2022			Code	EXPENDITURE 2022			Actual	Budget	
		Actual	Budget							
AF	Affiliated Fees	4020.00	3200.00	DU	Dues Organizations		1046.00	1000.00		
AS	Associated Fees	903.45	1000.00	EP	Translations		800.00	1500.00		
IM	Individual Member Fees	6656.35	12000.00	ED	Editors (IW/News)		600.00	300.00		
SC	Subscriptions	165.00	260.00	PR	Printers (Special Printing)		0.00	780.00		
DO	Donations	1618.74	6000.00	CB	Congress/Board		2555.88	1000.00		
CB	Congress/Board	3400.00		AD	Auditor		1059.30	1300.00		
WP	Water and Pads	17282.75		MC	Miscellaneous		221.61	600.00		
UN	UNESCO-Hydro	14448.00		WB	Website		480.00	600.00		
IT	Interest EU-CH-BCA	0.00		OC	Office Costs		297.00	500.00		
IT	Interest Deposit	0.00		WB	Databank		1800.00	2100.00		
				BC	Bankcharges		1206.55	1005.00		
				AC	Accounting		4509.59	3000.00		
				DO	Domiscile		594.00			
				WP	Water and Pads		12546.53			
				UN	UNESCO-Hydro		7775.00			
	Total Income (IN)	48494.29	22460.00		Total Expenditure (EX)		35491.46	13685.00		
					BALANCE = IN- EX		13002.83			
	ASSETS 2022				BALANCE 2022					
Code		1.1.2022	31.12.2022				01.01.2022	31.12.2022		
GA	Euroaccount	110945.95	120352.58		CREDIT		124221.67	137224.50		
CH	Swiss Account	13275.72	16871.92							
TA	Treasurer Account Cash	0.00			BANK BALANCE		13002.83			
CA	Barclays Community Account	0.00								
HIBA	HIBA	0.00								
DEPA	Treasury Deposit	0.00								
	Total	124221.67	137224.50		Total		137224.50	137224.50		
		01.01.2022	31.12.2022				01.01.2022	31.12.2022		
	Total bankaccounts	124221.67	137224.50		IAW ASSETS		122295.24	124013.45		
WP	Water and Pads Project	-1926.43	-6538.05		IAW RESULT		1718.21			
UN	UNESCO - Hydro Project		-6673.00							
IAW		122295.24	124013.45				124013.45	124013.45		

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

TUNICA MIRANDA RUZARIO

After election in Congress as the Secretary General, in January I embarked on my duties, which began with circulating minutes of the Post-Congress Board Meeting(s), as well as registering IAW United Nations Representatives to the offices in New York, in Geneva, in Vienna, Paris and at other international bodies, insuring that all the representatives had the annual or temporary passes. This is an on-going process as delegation membership changes.

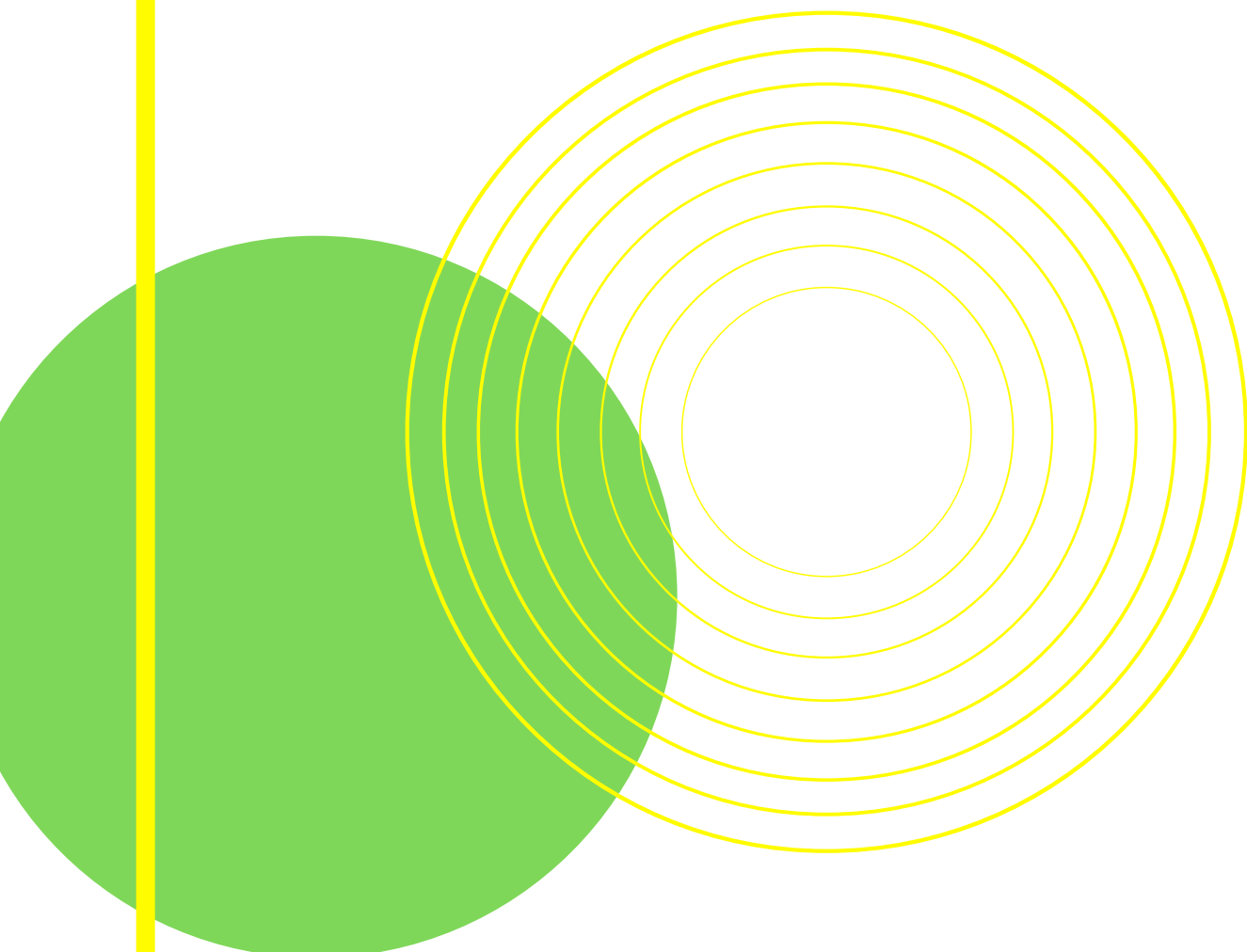
I also updated the IAW Board and extended Board contact list with the help of Membership Secretary Lene Pind.

In February we, as the executive, had to ensure that our CSW67 delegation included as many diverse members as possible.

In March I attended the CSW67 event and submitted my report to the President and the International Women's News.

In April I sent out appointment letters to the Regional Vice-Presidents and Coordinators, as well as the Commission Conveners.

I also worked with the President on the required Quadrennial Report and submitted it to the United Nations.



REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND THE ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

LENE PIND - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

HOLLY HERBERT -ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We wish that members would pay their membership fees when they receive the first invoice. This would make our lives so much easier!

Work of the IAW Membership Secretary:

- Is responsible for the database
- Is responsible for the info about members in MailChimp
- GDPR
- Correspondence with national collectors
- Invoices members in cooperation with the Treasurer
- All kinds of exchange of information in IAW

1. Lists must be checked against

- a. Lists of Secretary General
- b. IAW President
- c. Other lists. It is a never-ending process

Status of membership payments as of August 29 2023:

Affiliates:	Associates:	Individual members:
5 are paid up incl. 2023 13 have paid incl. 2022 4 have paid incl. 2020 1 has paid incl. 2019 1 has paid incl. 2016	5 paid up incl. 2023 6 paid incl. 2022 2 paid incl. 2021 2 paid incl. 2020	2 paid incl. 2025 10 paid incl. 2024 130 paid incl. 2023 52 paid incl. 2022 24 paid incl. 2021 52 paid incl. 2020 20 paid incl. 2019 12 paid incl. 2018 5 paid incl. 2017 Approximately 10 – no payments

Question for the Board

What do we do to improve payments?

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT REPORT

LENE PIND

2023 has been a very active year in the Communications Group.

Following her announcement that she would resign as editor of the Newsletter, Lene Pind proposed that IAW conduct a review of all IAW media. This proposal garnered support from the Executive Committee, and consequently a group was formed to execute this task.

The following members embraced the invitation to contribute to the work: Priscilla Todd, Sanja Jeraj, Anjana Basu, Klara Hansen, Rolene Marks, Holly Herbert, Lyda Verstegen, Yvonne Pokropek, Rosy Weiss, Djamila Assama Sidi and Lene Pind. IAW President Alison Brown is a member ex officio.

In pursuit of this initiative, the group decided to conduct a survey to gather information from members about their expectations concerning the IAW media.

Klara Hansen managed the work, and the outcomes were reassuring. The members who replied to the survey seemed largely content, and there were no revolutionary suggestions for change. Among the members of the working group however, there was a consensus that it was necessary to focus on improving the standard of International Women's News. The survey and other sources revealed that many members lacked clarity on the distinction between the Newsletter and International Women's News. Furthermore, International Women's News had experienced irregular publication for the past couple of years.

Early in its deliberations, the group concurred that the website and social media were functioning effectively under the stewardship of the new editor, Sanja Jeraj, and at its 5th meeting on May 9 2023 the IAW Media Group came to **the following conclusions** as to the identities of the Newsletter and International Women's News:

IAW Newsletter

Purpose and content of the IAW Newsletter

***The Newsletter** provides regular current news for and about the IAW. It functions as a connecting link among all members and especially between IAW officers and members.*

It contains:

- *announcements*
- *up to date information about, and decisions by, the Board*
- *immediate news, such as short reports from IAW international representatives involved with the UN and other institutions*
- *notes about women involved within IAW and sister organisations.*
-

The Newsletter is closely connected with the Website, and, using links to articles, it informs members of the latest news on the website.

The Newsletter is published every two months. Additional issues may be published if need be.

Newsletter Editorial Group

***The Newsletter editor** is the convener of the editorial group. She is appointed by the Board and is responsible for the production of the Newsletter. The members of the editorial group are appointed by the Editor and there must be at least one Francophone and one Anglophone member.*

The editor organises the work in the group and decides on deadlines. In cooperation with the group, the editor contacts relevant IAW members for contributions, receives and edits articles, adapts the material to MailChimp and distributes the Newsletter via Mailchimp.

The editor cooperates closely with the Membership Secretary to keep members' email addresses updated. She protects membership email addresses and must not in any way transfer email addresses to any third party.

International Women's News/ IWNews

Identity of IWNews

IWNews is a journal that is published quarterly, and its articles are of more lasting value than what is included in the Newsletter.

IWNews publishes information about IAW activities and policies, primarily in articles that may include political evaluations of IAW initiatives or events at the regional or global level and other issues that members find relevant and interesting.

Each issue has a main topic with regards to women's rights (violence, STEM, abortion rights, migration or whatever is on international or regional agendas).

The focus of an issue of IWNews may come from Commissions, international representatives, the Board, or other members of IAW

Guest writers may be invited.

Each issue may also include a presentation of one or more IAW affiliates and associates, and/or individuals active within IAW.

Each issue should include articles in French.

IWNews publishes a report from Congress and CSW.

IAWNews Editorial group

The editor is the convener of the editorial group. She is appointed by the Board and is responsible for the regular publication of the journal. A Francophone co-editor is appointed by the Board. Other members are appointed by the editor(s).

The editor organises the work in the group. She decides on and publishes deadlines. In cooperation with the editorial group, she researches topics, contacts relevant members for contributions, receives and edits articles (with proofreading as required), adapts the material to MailChimp and distributes the Newsletter via Mailchimp.

The editor cooperates **closely with the Membership** Secretary to keep members' email addresses updated. She protects membership email addresses and must not in any way transfer email addresses to any third party.

It was also decided to find a new format and layout for International Women's News. Holly Herbert volunteered to be the graphics editor of the magazine and the first issue to be published in the layout is the report from CSW 2023.

A new editor of International Women's News/ IWNews

The focus is now on finding a new editor of International Women's News. In its meeting on June 6 the group decided to advertise for a new editor. A number of qualified women have applied for the position; none of them are members of IAW. Three have been invited to an interview in the middle of September. The interviews will be carried out by Alison Brown, Priscilla Todd and Lene Pind. Other members will be invited to sit in on the interviews.

If all goes well, a proposal for a new editor of IWNews will be presented at the Board Meeting at the end of September 2023.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

SANJA JERAJ

Website

It is with a certain dose of pride that we report here that the website has maintained the vibrancy of the previous period over the past 12 months.

In the period from 20 September 2022 to 20 August 2023, 31 news articles were published on the English page, also thanks to our active members' great willingness to contribute. This is about the same frequency as the last report. We have thus achieved the goal we set internally: not to increase the density at the sacrifice of the high quality of the articles, in the sense of the time invested by our readership.

We have also fulfilled our plan to increase the activity of the French page. In the reporting period, 21 articles were published here, which corresponds to a doubling of the number published in the period of the last report.

However, the website serves not only as a source of news, but also as a place to collect available information.

The contents and thus the navigation are supplemented and adapted to the developments of our Alliance and our environment. This might occasionally challenge our users, but the website team is always mindful of making the website easier to use.

Social Media

The very active social media channels LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were also regularly fed in the reporting period.

Instagram

Our Instagram account has seen a 64% increase in followers. The number of publications is almost identical to the last report (190 stories in 90 publication days): 192 stories in 89 publication days in this reporting period. The difference is that the publication days refer to a 17-month observation period last time, but only 10 months this time.

We love replicating the contributions of our affiliates and associates. Would love to have more of this!

Twitter

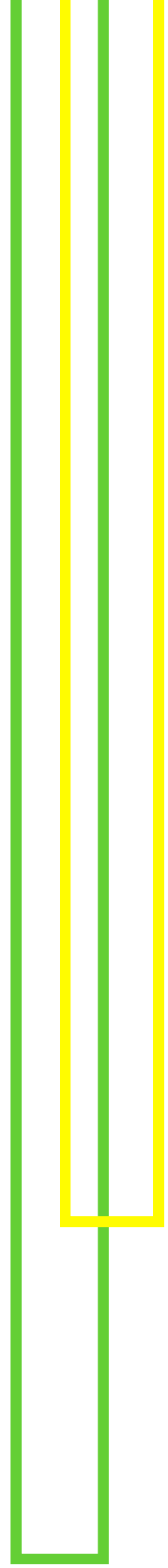
The takeover of Twitter by a private investor pushed this platform somewhat into the background. We halved our activities and surprisingly still managed to increase the number of followers. With 1025, we reach 2% more interested parties with our tweets and retweets than at the time of the last report.

Facebook

With 87 posts we also managed to get more likes (4490) and a larger audience (5110 followers) on Facebook.

LinkedIn

We have significantly increased our reach on LinkedIn. Over 35000 impressions lead to 788 followers and 378 connections.

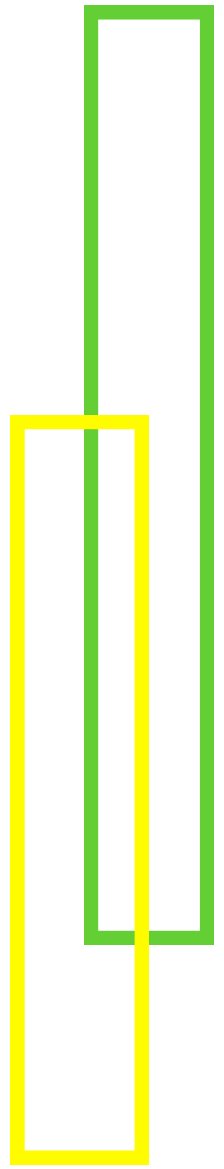


Overall, our reach per social media channel isn't gigantic, but the increase in our readers and followers is a sign that we're working in the right direction. For the fact that we neither give anything away nor contribute to shallow entertainment, but on the contrary work on very uncomfortable topics, it is a great accolade that more and more people are tackling these topics from year to year.

It would be helpful if we had more interactions with our readers/followers. We implore you to respond to our activities: like, comment, share - the way algorithms work is that posts with more effectiveness - where more interaction is documented - are also presented to other users of the social media channel, thus achieving a greater reach of the posts.

Newsletter

After almost a full 10 active years, Lene Pind handed over the baton of the newsletter editor to Sanja Jeraj after approval by the Board. Lene and Sanja have been working very intensively and constructively since Sanja joined the Communication Unit in 2021. As expected, the transition went well, Lene is still available for arising questions. The editorial team (including Anjana Basu, Yvonne Prokopek and Djamila Goumaïwè Assama Sidi) has published 3 newsletters as of August 2023, and assures that the remaining 4 months will not be at the mercy of passivity.



COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

CONVENOR RUHI SAYID

MEMBER LOUISE VINTHER ALIS

IAW recognizes that gender equality and environmental sustainability are interlinked and inseparable. Eco feminism, a philosophy that emerged in the 1970s, highlights the connections between patriarchal oppression, environmental degradation and the exploitation of both women and nature. As the world faces the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, eco feminism provides a critical lens for understanding and addressing these issues. This position paper will explore the importance of eco feminism for achieving sustainable development, climate justice and gender equality.

With severe climate change in the past few decades, many countries have faced drastic changes in weather and the collapse of ecosystem. If left untreated, our world may face inconceivable loss in years to come. Floods and draught are some of the most serious consequences of climate change.

Without solidarity, the issue of climate change cannot be tackled. An incredible initiative in this regard is the Paris Agreement which brings all nations together to combat climate change. This international treaty, signed on December 12, 2015 by 96 parties at the UN climate change conference aims to "limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, above pre industrial levels" This agreement requires the countries to submit their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in which they communicate their actions to reduce the greenhouse emissions. To record the long term goals for global change, the Paris agreement invited the countries to submit their long term strategies (LT-LEDs) to keep in check their greenhouse gas emissions.

Prior to the Paris agreement, Kyoto agreement which came into action in 2005, was working for the collective benefit of the climate. There are currently 92 parties to Kyoto protocol which are actively working in mitigating greenhouse gases. According to this agreement the developed countries are largely responsible for the greenhouse emissions and therefore it is crucial for these countries to keep a check on their activities. United Nations common Heritage of Mankind (CHM) is another step towards global change for the preservation of nature and restoration of stable climate conditions.

Women are disproportionately affected by climate change: Climate change is a global crisis that has significant social, economic and environmental impacts. Women, particularly those in developing countries are disproportionately affected by climate change. They often have limited access to resources including water, land and food. They bear the burden of caring for families and communities affected by climate change.

IAW recommends the importance of:

1. Ecofeminism and climate change

Ecofeminism promotes a holistic approach to sustainability: Ecofeminism asserts that sustainable development requires a holistic approach that considers social, economic and environmental factors. By prioritizing the well being of people and the planet, ecofeminism promotes a more sustainable and just future for all, while emphasizing that women holds many of the critical keys to unlocking a sustainable path for future generations.

2. Ecocide declared as crime

Ecocide is a crime because it not only harms the environment but also has a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, including women. The destruction of ecosystem and loss of biodiversity have far reaching consequences that affect everyone, but they often disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of society including indigenous people and women in developing countries. Furthermore, ecocide is often the result of practices that prioritize profit over

people and the environment. These practices are often driven by a patriarchal and imperial system that values dominance and control over the natural world rather than corporation and mutual respect.

3. Ensure equal gender participation in all development programs so as to minimize financial risks of climate change

Women's participation is essential for sustainable development: IAW recognizes that women's participation is critical for achieving sustainable development. Ecofeminism highlights the need to prioritize the participation of women in decision making processes related to environmental sustainability and sustainable technologies and crops. Women's perspectives and experiences are essential for developing effective and equitable policies and practices.

COMMISSION ON DIGITAL DIVIDE

CONVENOR ARINA ANGERMAN

I became Convener of IAW Commission The Digital Divide in January 2023. At that time I was a proud member of IAW since the 90's in the last century. I still favor it and my motto 'equal rights means equal responsibilities'.

My actions as Convener were to inform my 4 members – Ursula Nakamura, Danielle Levy, Rénée Girard and Beverly Thompson - with insights with a cc to IAW president Alison Brown and Board Member Artemis Westenberg from the Netherlands and sometimes to Marion Böker, IAW representative in the Board of EWL. As a Commission we exchanged all relevant information about the great bias in AI and the need for an ethical approach to AI.

Most important were:

1. The result of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW in March 2023) from a debriefing in the Netherlands.

2. Chat GTP's definition of The Digital Divide (thank you Beverly). "The Digital Divide refers to the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. It is the unequal distribution of information and communication technologies (ICT's) such as computers, smartphones, internet access, and other digital tools. The divide can exist between different regions, countries, communities, or even between individuals within the same society. Those who lack access to digital technologies may face significant barriers to accessing information, education, job opportunities, health care services, and other benefits that come with being connected to the digital world.

The Digital Divide is a complex issue that can have profound social, economic, and political implications, as it can exacerbate existing inequalities and limit opportunities for those who are left behind. It is an important challenge that needs to be addressed to ensure that everyone has equal access to the benefits of digital technologies."

3. Becoming a member of the Alliance for Universal Digital Rights (April 2023)

"The Alliance believes in a future where all citizens of the global digital ecosystem, no matter who they are or where they live, can enjoy equal rights to safety, freedom and dignity...Only 1 in 5 people working in the AI industry are women. And 80% of content generated for Wikipedia is made by people who identify as men."

Equal digital rights as a goal remain very important in times of climate change and the lack of reliable electricity for many, many women. Closing The Digital Divide remains a GREAT project to do!!!

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

CONVENOR HELEEN JANSEN

MEMBER RITA MARQUE MBATHA



The position of women with disabilities can vary depending on the country, legislation, social norms and available facilities. In general, women with disabilities face a variety of obstacles that can affect their access to equal opportunities and participation in society. Women with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty. Here are some issues to look at or /and investigate further.

1 Discrimination and Prejudice: Women with disabilities words often face discrimination and prejudice based on both their gender and disability. In some countries, traditional beliefs and stigmas surrounding disability can isolate women with disabilities and exclude them from social and economic activities.

2 Accessibility: Physical and social barriers can limit accessibility for women with disabilities. This applies to public buildings, transportation, information and communication. A lack of accessible often limits their mobility and social interaction.

3 Employment and economic independence: Women with disabilities often find it more difficult to find employment than women without disabilities and also more difficult than men with disabilities. Discrimination and lack of workplace accommodations contribute to this inequality. In some countries, women with disabilities often have limited opportunities for economic independence.

4 Education: Access to quality education is a challenge for women and also for men with disabilities. In many countries, schools, universities and other educational institutions are not adapted and it is often not even possible to enter the building.

5 Health care: Women with disabilities may have specific health needs and may encounter obstacles in obtaining appropriate medical care. In some countries, access to health care is problematic due to physical barriers and inaccessibility of health services for women with different types of disabilities.

6 Violence and Abuse: Women with disabilities are at increased risk of violence, abuse and sexual harassment.

7 Policy and Legislation: Although many countries have introduced legislation to ensure equal rights and opportunities for people with disabilities, the implementation and enforcement of these laws is not always effective.

8 Social Welfare and Support: Social welfare and support services vary from country to country.

Poverty, Gender and Disability - The African Perspective

The shunning of disabled people results in them refraining from accessing health care. In some sections of the community there is belief that disability is a result of witchcraft as stated in Bunning et al. 2017. Claassens (2013:56) avers that the 'Hebrew Bible often uses language and imagery related to disability to denote some kind of negative quality.' This perception unfortunately creates fear and stigma for those with disability. The disabled people in general feel unwanted by the church and the community

Disability is more prevalent in the rural areas

Older people especially women are prone to disability. The issue of poverty and lack of access to health care worsens the situation. In the rural areas for women to travel to remote areas to access health care is a challenge. Limitations to mobility due to aging has serious negative impacts on women. The untreated medical problems can worsen to the point of impairing function simply because of financial constraints. An interview with **Ruth* (not her name pictured below)** details life of extreme poverty which has forced her beg for money in the streets. The money she received from the welfare is not adequate.



Patriarchy and disability

Limited protections and rights contribute to a higher occurrence of disabilities among women. In most cases pregnant women in the rural areas have no choice but to give birth at home. Lack of pre-natal care contributes to disability. As Women's Comfort Corner Foundation we are increasing awareness and placing a spotlight of the situation of women and children with disabilities and to promote their protection from violence and abuse. It is not in dispute that women with disabilities are at a higher risk of being victims of violence.

Employment with disabilities

The primary barriers to employment include discrimination and lack of facilities to assist the disabled. Disabled women although qualified have problems in obtaining employment and most of them are on welfare programs because of limited job opportunities. Social welfare grants does not cover their needs and place them in a vulnerable position which is not of their own making.

Disability and mental health

In a recent school meeting on the issue of disability and mental health **Christine* (not real name)**, said, **"I wish I was not born, disabled people are treated as lesser human beings"**



The comments by the young girl who is only 12 years old is heartbreaking and highlights the importance of including disabled people in all programs. No child should be exposed to such trauma. The International Alliance of Women is to be commended for the creation of the Disability Commission. On the matter of disability and mental health we work with both girls and boys. Boys are equally affected. A Bishop of a Church hid his paraplegic son in a locked room for two years. <https://www.manicapost.co.zw/bishop-locks-son-away-for-two-years/>

There is crucial need to educate the community in general to be conscious of the despicable way they contribute to discrimination. It takes a lot of courage, will and knowledge for people to take on discriminatory practices effectively and make a difference. This is a long term educative process.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In 2006, The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was drafted by the UN. The purpose of this Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full enjoyment by all persons with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis and also to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Persons with disabilities include persons with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments that, in interaction with various barriers, may prevent them from participating fully, effectively and equally with others in society. Many countries including all EU countries have signed this convention.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities>

The Council of Europe

Promoting and protecting human rights of persons with disabilities is central to the Council of Europe work and action to protect and promote the human rights of all citizens. The work is based on the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) and other legal standards. The Council of Europe endeavours to enhance equal opportunities, improve the quality of life and independence of people with disabilities, guarantee their freedom of choice, full citizenship and active participation in the life of the community.

In 2006, the Council of Europe adopted the 2006-2015 Action Plan and sent it to all governments of Council of Europe member countries.

The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CAHDPH) was set up to steer the intergovernmental work in the field of disability rights, assigned to it by the Committee of Ministers. The Ad Hoc Committee has given advice, guidance and support to other Council of Europe bodies and to member states on disability related issues. The Ad Hoc Committee has been entrusted with the preparation of the **Council of Europe Disability Strategy for 2017-2023** and support of its implementation.

<https://rm.coe.int/16806fe7d4>

The Council of Europe has published several reports on the topic of Right of persons with Disabilities. Although these reports do not deal specifically with women with disabilities, they are of interest to our working group and herewith some examples that can be downloaded for free.

[Download "A study on Awareness Raising on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"](#)

[Download "A study on Freedom from Exploitation, Violence and Abuse of Persons with Disabilities"](#)

[Download "A study on Promoting Equality and Non-Discrimination for Persons with Disabilities "](#)

These are just a few examples. The topic of women with disabilities is so large that we as a committee will have to make a choice and determine the topic in which we will work in the coming years. It is important to note that there are positive developments and initiatives to improve the situation of women with disabilities.

COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

CONVENOR VIJAYA LAKSHMI

IAW Regional Education Project

A. Introduction

Education has always been at the centre of women's movements all over the world. Schools are at the forefront of every revolutionary change. Thus, addressing fundamental structural issues with education is crucial to the growth of women's movements all over the world.

It is proposed to lay down a roadmap to investigate the structural and comparative issues with education in various regions.

General guidelines should be determined. Examples are:

- Initiate a consultative process with policymakers, researchers, activists, public intellectuals, civil society groups, advocacy groups etc. within and outside IAW. Since the socio-economic order, power structures, social and cultural hierarchies of various regions differ from each other, the material experience of these groups also differ. The issues that will need to be addressed through an education program will also therefore have to be specifically developed to respond to the needs emanating from material socio-economic and cultural and political conditions of these regions.
- As part of this consultation process, it is suggested that the regions be divided into Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin American, North American and Europe.
- A series of webinars would initially bring together the women's movement to investigate the structural and comparative issues facing education in their respective regions.
- Based on the dialogue, we can develop a detailed advocacy document for pressuring the global community to address issue and undertake further action.

B. Fundamental Issues

1) Last mile connectivity: Access to education continues to be a glaring issue all over the world which is distributed disproportionately along the lines of rich and poor, marginalised communities, etc. Identifying the marginalised communities and specifically addressing their education needs to be undertaken structurally.

2) Cultural sensitivity and representation: The educational needs of various communities whose material reality and needs are shaped by the unique circumstances around them needs to be specifically addressed and well represented in the discourse.

3) Social justice discourse through education: How education programs should reflect the social justice needs of the region, be it gender justice, racial justice, environmental justice, class-caste justice.

4) Education as a means-platform to materially deliver productive forces directly into the hands of communities. This is important in the current pandemic ridden world where inequalities between communities have started to become more stark. Further, education in the current educational system focuses on mobility.

Mobility in all cases is not something that can be leveraged by all sections of the world equally. The socio-economic and cultural privileges of communities and groups play an important role in helping them leverage their way through competition in the marketplace.

This results in furthering inequality and stagnating growth and improvements in marginalised sections. Any effort to structurally reform education should also bring with it solutions to encourage entrepreneurial options and to deliver means of achieving those options within communities.

One good example is the Indigenous business incubation programs undertaken by Latin American governments which put the means of production in various sectors in direct access to communities through educational institutions.

In this way, we need to link education systems and other frameworks for economic resource creation.

A consultation process has to be initiated to consolidate the existing knowledge, movements and discourse around the same issue from the standpoint of the material needs of various communities.

5) Enabling education systems to ferment a culture of political, social and grassroots mass involvement in students that is driven towards achieving justice, equality, scientific rationale within the specific circumstances they live in.

6) Strategies need to be incorporated into education systems to equip current and coming generations for worldwide problems such as pandemics, global warming, etc.

C. Conclusion

It is suggested that this consultative process be initiated through regional webinars that will bring the voices and knowledge of IAW member organisations and Individual members. This would be directed towards building regional networks with known institutions and individuals and holding further webinars to work towards expanding and achieving the aims of the IAW Commission on Education.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

CONVENOR MARION BÖKER

The IAW Human Rights Commission has its jour fix on each last Tuesday in a month. The next meeting will be on September 26th at 3pm CEST, 9am EDT online. *The Commission consists of eight nominated members and has already invited three more guests. The meetings always start with a round of introductory reports of the members' work for the Commission. In some sessions invited guests will provide us with inputs i.e. in the next meeting we will hear speakers on Afghan women's situation and the new organisation Afghan Women Coordination Umbrella (AWCU) and on United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).*

The agenda of the term 2023-2025 so far is defined by human right topics chosen by our members:

1) The advocacy and drafting of a new UN Human Rights Convention on the Protection and Rights of all Older Persons and in support of the UN HRCs Independent Expert, [Claudia Mahler](#), on this issue

2) a. The monitoring of the will to ratify and advocacy for ratification of the Rome Statutes of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

We are also open to advocate for necessary amendments of the Rome Statutes. The Rome Statutes of the ICC can, under its procedures, regularly be amended. We follow new improvements of the ICC's work on its coverage and range of justice, especially for women, by more and easier access and participation in Den Haag and to the procedures.

b. Monitoring and advocacy for Human Rights in Israel/Palestine and the region

3) Human rights of religious minorities via monitoring primarily the UN HRC Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, [Nazila Ghanea](#), and the UN HRC Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, [Irene Khan](#).

4) The Elimination of gender based violence against persons, especially against women and girls of minorities such as migrant women, refugee women, including trafficking in human beings.

We follow developments, like proposed new laws, implementation of existing laws and Treaties, and additionally we add other human rights issues of urgency or interest to our agenda. As such we have some short term actions in mind regarding Afghanistan and Iran targeting the support of women and their rights in their uprisings in gender apartheid systems and regimes. We will look into possible updates for the IAW Programme of Action before the next Congress. Action will be taken in coordination with the Executive, the Geneva representative team, other Commissions, especially the IAW Peace Commission, and other respected units of IAW.

In reference to the priority and review issues of CSW68, the Commission will consider hosting a Parallel Event (online) and add to the statement of IAW on the inter-linkage of the issues we are working on and the themes and what language and outcome the Agreed Conclusions should contain regarding human rights standards.

COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

CONVENOR MARION BÖKER

La Commission des droits de l'homme et des femmes de l'AIF/IAW son jour fixe chaque dernier mardi du mois. La prochaine réunion aura lieu le 26 septembre à 15h CEST, 9h EST en ligne. La Commission est composée de huit membres nommés et a déjà invité trois autres personnes. Les réunions commencent toujours par une série de rapports introductifs sur le travail des membres de la Commission. Ainsi, lors de la prochaine réunion, nous parlerons de la situation des femmes afghanes et de la nouvelle organisation Afghan Women Coordination Umbrella (AWCU), ainsi que des principes directeurs des Nations unies relatifs aux entreprises et aux droits de l'homme (UNGP).

L'ordre du jour du mandat 2023-2025 est défini par des thèmes relatifs aux droits de l'homme choisis par nos membres :

1) Le plaidoyer et la rédaction d'une nouvelle Convention des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies sur la protection et les droits de toutes les personnes âgées et le soutien à l'experte indépendante du Conseil des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies, [Claudia Mahler](#) (page non disponible en français), sur cette question.

2 a.) Le suivi et la défense de la volonté de ratifier les Statuts de Rome de la Cour pénale internationale (CPI).

Nous sommes disposés à plaider également en faveur des amendements nécessaires aux statuts de Rome. Les statuts de Rome de la CPI peuvent être régulièrement amendés dans le cadre de ses procédures. Et nous suivons les nouvelles améliorations du travail de la CPI sur sa couverture et sa gamme de justice, en particulier pour les femmes, en facilitant l'accès et la participation à La Haye et aux procédures.

2.b.) Suivi et défense des droits de l'homme en Israël/Palestine et dans la région

3) Les droits de l'homme des minorités religieuses par le biais d'un suivi principalement du rapporteur spécial du CDH sur la liberté de religion ou de croyance, [Nazila Ghanea](#), et du rapporteur spécial du CDH sur la promotion et la protection du droit à la liberté d'opinion et d'expression, [Irene Khan](#).

4) L'élimination de la violence fondée sur le sexe à l'encontre des personnes, en particulier des femmes et des filles appartenant à des minorités, des femmes migrantes, des femmes réfugiées et de la traite des êtres humains.

Nous suivons les nouveaux développements, c'est-à-dire les nouvelles lois en cours d'élaboration, les diverses lois et traités en cours d'application et nous pouvons ajouter à notre agenda d'autres questions relatives aux droits de l'homme qui présentent un caractère d'urgence ou d'intérêt. Ainsi, nous avons en tête quelques actions à court terme concernant l'Afghanistan et l'Iran, axées sur le soutien aux femmes et à leurs droits dans leur lutte contre les systèmes et régimes d'apartheid fondé sur le sexe. Nous examinerons le programme d'action de l'AIF/IAW en vue d'éventuelles mises à jour avant le prochain congrès. Les actions seront menées en coordination avec l'exécutif, l'équipe de la représentante à Genève, les autres commissions, en particulier la commission de la paix de l'AIF/IAW et les autres unités respectées de l'AIF/IAW.

En ce qui concerne les questions prioritaires et d'examen de la CSW68, la Commission envisagera d'organiser un événement parallèle (en ligne) et de compléter la déclaration de l'AIF/IAW sur les liens entre les questions sur lesquelles nous travaillons et les thèmes, ainsi que sur le langage et les résultats que devraient contenir les conclusions concertées concernant les normes en matière de droits de l'homme et femmes.

COMMISSION ON MIGRATION

CONVENOR ROSY WEISS

At present, the Commission has the following members: Dr. Djamila Assama, Ilyassou Diallo, Antonia Lavine, Horeya Megahed, Anne Pelagie, Susanne Riveles, Ruhi Sayed, Lyda Versteegen, Samira Yasni, and myself.

Thanks to the committed cooperation of the participants - Dr Djamila ASSAMA, Ilyassou Diallo, Antonia Lavine and Lyda Versteegen - it became a successful virtual meeting on 2 August 2023, despite organizational difficulties, for which I – computer zero – am responsible.

In accordance with IAW priorities and principles, and in line with IAW advocacy, it was decided to prepare two substantial papers, to be submitted to the relevant UN bodies and national authorities.

The first concerns the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration:

Based on the treatment of migrant women limited to the category of "migrant workers, especially in domestic work and lower-skilled occupations", it was decided to set up a small working group under Antonia's leadership. By autumn, this group will endeavour to produce a text that will focus on full acceptance of the training, technical expertise and professionalism many migrant women already possess and which should be welcomed and employed in their new homelands, independent of immediate language competency, as such skills are much in demand. All IAW members are cordially invited to participate.

The second text is a direct reaction to the agreed conclusions of the CSW67, in particular PP 20, where the Commission notes "the vital importance of birth registration ... and expresses concern at the low levels of birth registration among ...migrant women and girls". With regard to the review topic of CSW68 (2024) "social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls" (agreed conclusions CSW63), the members of the Migration Commission present at the meeting of 2 August decided to set up a drafting group under Lyda's leadership to prepare a corresponding IAW resolution for the upcoming CSW session. All interested members are warmly invited to participate.

Another meeting of the commission is planned for autumn 2023. Preparations will start in due course.

COMMISSION DE MIGRATION

CONVENOR ROSY WEISS

Actuellement, la Commission comprend les membres suivantes : Dr Djamila Assama, Ilyassou Diallo, Antonia Lavine, Horeya Megahed, Anne Pélagie, Susanne Riveles, Ruhi Sayed, Lyda Verstegen, Samira Yasni et moi-même.

Grâce à la coopération engagée des participantes - Dr Djamila ASSAMA, Ilyassou Diallo, Antonia Lavine et Lyda Verstegen - la réunion virtuelle s'est déroulée avec succès le 2 août 2023, malgré les difficultés d'organisation, dont je suis responsable - ordinateur zéro !.

Conformément aux priorités et principes de l'AIF, et conformément à ses expériences, il a été décidé de préparer deux documents substantiels, à soumettre aux organes compétents des Nations Unies et aux autorités nationales.

Le premier concerne le Pacte mondial pour des migrations sûres, régulières et ordonnées : sur la base du traitement des femmes migrantes limité à la catégorie des « travailleuses migrantes, notamment dans le travail domestique et les métiers peu qualifiés », il a été décidé de créer un petit groupe de travail sous la direction d'Antonia. D'ici l'automne, ce groupe s'efforcera de produire un texte qui mettra l'accent sur la pleine acceptation de la formation, de l'expertise technique et du professionnalisme que possèdent déjà de nombreuses femmes migrantes, qui devraient être accueillies et employées selon leurs compétences, peut-être recherchées dans les divers pays d'accueil, et ceci indépendamment des compétences linguistiques immédiates. Toutes les membres de l'AIF sont cordialement invités à y participer.

Le deuxième texte est une réaction directe aux conclusions concertées de la CSW67, en particulier PP 20, dans lequel la Commission note « l'importance vitale de l'enregistrement des naissances... et exprime son inquiétude face aux faibles niveaux d'enregistrement des naissances parmi... les femmes et les filles migrantes ». En vue du thème de révision de la CSW68 (2024) « les systèmes de protection sociale, l'accès aux services publics et les infrastructures durables pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles » (conclusions concertées de la CSW63), les membres de la Commission de migration présentes à la réunion du 2 août ont décidé de créer un groupe de rédaction sous la direction de Lyda pour préparer une résolution correspondante pour la prochaine session de la CSW. Toutes les membres intéressées sont chaleureusement invitées à y participer.

Une autre réunion de la Commission est prévue à l'automne 2023. Les préparatifs commenceront en temps voulu.

COMMISSION ON PEACE

CONVENOR MANJU KAK

IAW is deeply committed to a Culture of Peace, to working at multilateral levels for creating networks of support for the protection of women and children in a world where there is escalating rearmament and where disarmament is a priority. It strives continuously towards making women's oft neglected voices heard, to create support groups and platforms for women to collaborate for the advocacy and strengthening of the Women Peace Security, WPS agenda so as to facilitate a sustainable Culture of Peace.

In a series of meetings held from February to July 2023, the Peace Commission of the International Alliance of Women (PCIAW) took important steps towards promoting world peace from the perspective of gender. From sharing profiles to facilitate better collaboration between various groups to comprehensive planning and programs, IAW is dedicated to advancing this mission.

The PCIAW strategic approach includes holding monthly/bimonthly meetings for a more detailed, in-depth understanding of critical issues linked to the deepening crisis in specific global areas. The structure of the year was to have 8 discussion meetings that will work on the lines of track 3 diplomacy that include perspectives on terrorism, border conflict, war, displacement, and refugees – all aimed at promoting a Culture of Peace. The PCIAW's focus on women's empowerment is evident in its critical response to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, aimed at evaluating members' experiences on the ground on the efficacy and helpfulness of the implementation, and/or whether inadequacies needed to be improved. Furthermore the PCIAW's commitment to enabling women is evident in its prioritization of CSW67 themes of innovation, technological change and digital education to achieve empowerment of girls and women and gender equality, as well as considering the challenges in achieving the goal for rural women.

The PCIAW's response to the shortcomings of CSW67's peace objectives is significant. PCIAW noted with concern that the UN mandate for keeping peace had failed, and there was urgent need for reform in the UN, as well as global and regional initiatives for disarmament. The invitation to women's NGOs and peace NGOs from South Asia (Afghanistan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan) in particular reiterates IAW's commitment to bring together various peoples as well as the creation of support hubs and platforms for mutual action. It is in this vein that the establishment of a new forum for women in West Asia especially from Syria, Yemen and Iran gains importance. The discussion and advocacy for disarmament and peacebuilding iterates the PCIAW's comprehensive approach towards a culture of peace.

The PCIAW's aim of consultation and knowledge exchange on peace building from women's perspective, and pursuit of a Feminist Foreign Policy reflects its determination to manage global crisis and escalating rearmament.

Additionally, the focus on the interconnected and multiple effects of conflict and the establishment of support centers underscores PCIAW's commitment to sustainable peace and gender equality.

The PCIAW's call for UN reform and the Indian representative's call to the UN Women's Peace Fund underline IAW's determination to bring about positive change on a global scale. With its positive attitude, IAW sets a strong precedent for shaping a more harmonious world.

The upcoming International Day of Peace webinar on 21st September organized by members of PCIAW will highlight the planning of CSW 68 and the Africa Conference and reiterate IAW's positive stance. IAW strives towards a harmonious world by addressing critical concerns, promoting interfaith dialogue and advocating for reform.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA

HEAD OF DELEGATION SIBYLLE VON HEYDEBRAND

DR. LAOURA ALIPRANTI

LL.M MLAW DERYA AKINCI BRIAND

Preliminary remarks

The IAW Human Rights Team at the United Nations in Geneva is pleased to present its report on its activities during the period October 1st, 2022 to August 31st, 2023.

We report on the main activities that are directly related to the **human rights of women and girls**, as described in the IAW's [Action Programme 2022 - 2025](#) in paragraph 2. Human rights of women and girls are at the heart of the activities and commitments of both the IAW and the UN Human Rights Team in Geneva.

Meetings and sessions at the United Nations in Geneva were conducted with personal attendance or in hybrid form.

Members of IAW's Human Rights Team at UN Geneva:

Main Representative: [Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand](#)

Representatives: LL.M, MLaw Derya Akinci Briand, Dr. Laoura Alipranti, Sanja Jeraj

Ex officio: IAW's President [Alison Brown](#), IAW's Secretary General Miranda Tunica Ruzario

1. IAW's internal meetings of UN Geneva's Human Rights Representatives Report by Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand

Internal Meetings: IAW's main representative Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand invited IAW's HR Team UN Geneva to assist at two internal team meetings: one Zoom meeting on January 9, 2023 and one in person meeting at UN Geneva on March 31, 2023.

Action Plan updated: In 2022, we have created an action plan. It describes our main goal, which entities of the UN Geneva we monitor and report on and the working methods we use. We revised this action plan at our meeting on January 9, 2023

2. Human Rights Council (HRC) Report by Dr. Laoura Alipranti

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations in Geneva and holds at least three regular sessions per year.

52nd regular session of the Human Rights Council: 27 February - 4 April 2023

In this session, panel discussions included:

- Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child and
- Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities

Reports referred on:

- Reparation for child victims and survivors of sale and sexual exploitation
- Sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material (A/HRC/52/31/Add.2)
- Women, girls and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (A/HRC/52/33)

53rd regular session of the Human Rights Council: 19 June - 14 July 2023

In this session an “Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women” was organized:

Panel 1: Gender-based violence against women and girls in public and political life

Panel 2: Social protection: women’s participation and leadership (child-friendly version).

Reports:

- A Report by Special Rapporteur [Reem Alsalem](#) on “Custody, violence against women and violence against children” was presented (A/HRC/53/36). The report addresses child custody issues, particularly the parental alienation defense in child visitation litigation. The special Rapporteur and child custody specialist [Dr. Elizabeth Dalgarno](#) criticized on the occasion of the side event of 23 June 2023 at the United Nations in Geneva namely, that husbands who commit violence against their children invoke Parental Alienation when they are denied visitation rights. Then they get visitation rights again - there are several cases of children who subsequently died due to the father’s violence. The issue is controversial. President Alison Brown submitted a written statement criticizing the Special Rapporteur's position that Parental Alienation is a pseudo-concept, showing rather that it is a real phenomenon that also strikes at mothers whose partners alienate their children from them, and this aspect needed to be included in the report.
- A Report was about the protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (A/HRC/53/37).

Relevant resolutions that were approved:

- Trafficking in persons, especially women and children (53/9)
- Child, early and forced marriage: ending and preventing forced marriage (53/23)
- Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls in criminal justice detention (53/27).

Preview 54th regular session of the Human Rights Council: 11 September - 13 October 2023.

In this session among others are scheduled:

- Annual Discussion on Integration of a Gender Perspective (HRC res. 6/30). Theme: “Revisiting gender parity and its contributions to the integration of gender into the work of international human rights bodies, including the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.”
- Biennial Panel Discussion on Youth and Human Rights (HRC res. 51/17)

3. NGO CSW Geneva part 1

Report by LL.M MLaw Derya Akinci Briand

NGO CSW Geneva is a coalition of ECOSOC accredited NGOs, promoting human rights and the empowerment of women and girls with currently 24 member organizations, including the IAW. The following is a summary of the main activities:

December 14, 2023: Holiday Luncheon. NGO CSW Geneva Representatives celebrating solidarity and future collaboration. With [Prof. Dalia Leinarte \(CEDAW\)](#), [Adriana Quinones \(UN Women Geneva\)](#) and [Nathalie Fontanet \(Cantonal Government of Geneva\)](#).

February 8, 2023: Annual General Meeting. IAW with Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand was re-elected as financial auditor of the NGO CSW Geneva.

February 28, 2023: Consultation Day for the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women New York. Under the title “Geneva- Heart of Human Rights & Service to Humanity” NGO CSW Geneva organized interactive sessions and panels on technology and education, rural women and girls, women’s empowerment during multiple intersecting crises with prominent speakers from NGO’s and youth, ITU, WHO, UNICEF and governments.

News in Brief: The newsletter, usually bimonthly, fosters communication between the Bureau and member organizations. It contains important news and updates.

I'm looking forward to participate to the 50th anniversary of NGO CSW Geneva which will be held on September 21st, 2023. I believe only working and sharing will move us further in our lives.

4. NGO CSW Geneva part 2

Report by Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand

February 8, 2023: First Ambassador Breakfast Briefing. Informal exchange with Ambassadors and representatives of NGO CSW Geneva under [Chatham House Rules](#). Among others: Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand. Topic: "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". – [CSW67's](#) priority theme.

June 21, 2023: Second Ambassador Breakfast Briefing. Informal exchange with Ambassadors and representatives of NGO CSW Geneva under [Chatham House Rules](#). Among others: Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand. Topic: "Ending cycles of poverty through empowerment and education of women and girls". – Following [CSW68's](#) priority theme.

NGO CSW Task Forces: NGO CSW Geneva has formed five task forces. IAW is represented by Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand in the Review, Development and Training Task Force. She is also leading the task force to prepare for the 50th anniversary celebration of the NGO CSW Geneva on September 21, 2023, at the [Anna and Jean-Gabriel Eynard Palace in Geneva](#).

5. Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Report by Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand

In line with IAW's Human Rights Team's [Action Plan](#), this report focuses on the states of IAW member organizations.

Two CRC sessions took place in 2023 covering the following states of IAW member organizations.

[92nd Session \(16 January – 3 February 2023\)](#). With concluding observations on the state party report of [Sweden](#) among others.

[93rd Session \(8 May – 26 May 2023\)](#). With concluding observations on the state parties reports of [Finland](#), [France](#) and the [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](#) among others.

[Preview 94th Session \(4 September – 22 September 2023\)](#). With state party report of [Togo](#) among others.

6. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Report by Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand

In line with IAW's Human Rights Team's [Action Plan](#), this report focuses on the states of IAW member organizations.

Three CEDAW sessions took place from the fall of 2022 to the summer of 2023 covering the following states of IAW member organizations:

83rd session October 10 – 28, 2022. With state parties reports among others:

Switzerland: Experts of the CEDAW congratulate Switzerland on its global gender gap ranking, ask about the visibility of the Convention and gender stereotypes

Finland: Experts of the CEDAW commend Finland on national efforts to promote the rights of women and girls, express concern about violence against women.

84th session February 6 – 24, 2023. With state parties reports among others:

Norway: Experts of the CEDAW praise Norway's efforts to close gender gaps in employment and education, ask about rape legislation amendments and measures to prevent trafficking of women and girls.

85th session May 8 – 26, 2023. With state parties reports among others:

Germany: Experts of the CEDAW commend Germany on receiving Ukrainian refugees, question the state on discrimination against Muslim women and threats posed to women by artificial intelligence.

Iceland: Experts of the CEDAW commend Iceland's strong gender equality policy, ask about women's representation in leadership positions and health services for women.

7. Meeting with Valeria Mangani, IAW's Main Representative to FAO Rome

Report by Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand

On **May 9, 2023**, Dr. Sibylle von Heydebrand met in Rome with **Valeria Mangani, the main representative of the International Alliance of Women at the three Rome-based Agencies of the United Nations: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).** They exchanged insights on the challenges of advocating and empowering women and girls at the United Nations.

Valeria Mangani is the President of the [Sustainable Fashion Innovation Society](#), the largest European community of sustainable fashion and design, with more than 2,000 registered brands. It is a hub for the ecological transition of the fashion and design industry. She is also the founder of the [Phygital Sustainability Expo](#), a institutional partner of the European Parliament and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, among others. – With her commitment to women and girls at the UN Agencies in Rome and her dedication to sustainable fashion, Valeria is an inspiring role model.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - UNESCO

HEAD OF DELEGATION MONIQUE BOAZIZ

RENÉE GERARD

DANIELLE LEVY

Due to Covid, the Year 2022 hasn't really been an easy year. Most conferences were held on-line, which meant difficulties to submit registrations and sound cuttings during the Zooms. Anyway we could follow a certain number of webinars, for instance "En route pour Dakar" (Starting out to Dakar) which finally developed into a conference aired at the beginning of 2023. There, Monique explained the project of a group of NGOs in partnership with UNESCO and including the IAW team, who had decided to try to get money from the UNESCO Participation Programme and as a follow up to the Yamoussoukro Forum,, to send trainees, with as many women as possible, to the ZIE water Institute in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

We only received congratulations for the work of our trainees. 3 groups of trainees have followed the trainings and a fourth one is planned. So we are grateful to Ms Intissare and to the UNESCO Participation Programme.

The year 22 was not as much dedicated to on-line conferences. Because of the Covid UNESCO was closed most of the year and the conditions to listen on-line were not so good in much of the states, especially in Africa. We, rather received mails to inform us of the actions of UNESCO, to help the people from Ukraine to escape from the county at war, and people from Africa to get out of the problems due to Covid, especially because of the lack of medical treatment.

Yet 9 March 22 was rich in Zooms as expected, and in mai there was a webinar: "Science, Technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in support of the SDGs" (Sustainable Development Goals). Technology becoming for UNESCO, a priority theme added to those of Africa and women.

In September (on 19th and 20th), regretfully, Danielle and Monique did not succeed in registering for the bioethics session from the UNESCO SHS group (Social and human Sciences Sector) but we were able to follow, in presence, the International Conference of NGOs: "Breaking the Barriers: What Role Towards a Sustainable Future for civil society organisations". (14-16 DECEMBER 2022)

We also followed quite a number of the "Monthly meetings" by NGO/CSWNY, such as on 19TH January 2023 "Exploring Innovation in technology: Fostering Digital Education Towards Achieving Gender equality"; and the advice from Marion and Alison, as on 12th February 2023, on the way to write a letter to address CSW on a problem that we want to see solved.

Monique and Danielle were meant to participate to CSW67, but they were not able to do so, because they had another engagement taken a few month before: (being present in 10 classes in a school in Toulouse for testimonies about the Shoah). The dates have been changed, and they could not postpone to go to New York for this CSW, as it has been the case since a few years, a certain number of NGOs, among which IAW, are received by the Minister in charge of women 's rights, at the Ministry of Foreign affairs, where the French delegation as well as the NGOs present what they will propose for CSW. They also present the date of their event, if they are ready, so that the others can support and attend them.

The French Government, as well as many French NGOs are active on the problem of gender equality and a hundred of NGOs who wanted to press for equality between men and women before 2030, have created "Génération Egalité" (Equality Generation)

In France, now, women must be presented on an equal footing with men, on electoral rolls, on high level functions in Firms and must receive the same salary as a man for the same work.

The theme of the CSW67th was particularly interesting and is highly relevant today, since women are the victims of a big gap related to the new technologies and the quick spread and bad control of artificial intelligence make them at risks of being disadvantaged still more. Renée who could only follow what was aired on-line, tried to recall the important work going on at UNESCO to highlight the need of an ethical approach and the need of a "watch" with means to control, track down and avoid the media coverage often left to drift, and which leaves a degrading picture of women. For example, access of very young boys to cyberpornography often leads to violence against girls.

On 13th July we attended the" UNESCO International Conference on the Ethics of Neurotechnology". Danielle in presence and Renée on line. (The number of people on line was more than twice the number of the people in the room at UNESCO).

The Conference which aimed also at being a debate gathered decision - makers, experts as well as people from different civil society strata, medias, teachers, NGO representatives, and people from the private sector.....

Ministers from different foreign countries as well as people with high--level political rank had also been invited. The idea was to prepare, thanks to the rich debate from the numerous advice of an audience coming from different parts of the world " to prepare a solid basis for the making of an ethic frame concerning the governance of neurotechnologies and establish a frame to protect and promote Human Rights, and the Fundamental liberties."

We want to emphasize that this seminar is in keeping with the highly important report produced by UNESCO on" the ethics of Objects, which explains what actions must be taken. They also gathered all sorts of searchers: professionals in education, in medicine, and others, as well as people in power and responsible for the legislative aspects. At CSW, UNESCO, the only International institution having an ethical mandate, presented a "side - event " on this joint report with COMEST and the BIC comity.

We also participate in the work of the NGO group of the Movement for Peace and are preparing an International Day of Peace.

Little by little, people are starting to come again to UNESCO and groups try to resume their work. At the moment NGOs are not allowed a room. And letting a room at UNESCO is very expensive so we gather in the morning at the cafeteria, to work before the people arrive. So, we have resumed our work on " La voix des Filles", ((girls' voice). We hope to make a Forum or an International Day with This theme.

We have also met the group who is working on peace and of course we have kept contact with Marie - Claude Machon - Honoré who is our delegate at the 2030 NGOCC (Collective Consultation of NGOs on education 2030).

As every year, and as the Focal point of the team, Monique answered the UNESCO questionnaire. IT asked NGOs what they considered as priorities in the work of UNESCO . The groups should resume work in September. We hope a room at least will be lent to us.

REPRÉSENTANTES INTERNATIONALES - UNESCO

CHEF DE DÉLÉGATION MONIQUE BOAZIZ

RENÉE GERARD

DANIELLE LEVY

Due au Covid, l'année 2022 n'a pas vraiment été facile. Tout se faisait en Zoom avec des difficultés pour s'enregistrer et des coupures de son lors de vidéos. Nous avons quand même suivi des webinaires. Sur l'eau par exemple : « En route pour Dakar », dont le résultat est une conférence qui s'est tenue en début de 2023, ce qui a permis à Monique d'y expliquer notre projet sur le suivi de Yamoussoukro, qui nous permet d'envoyer des stagiaires, de préférence des femmes, au Centre ZIE de Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

Nous n'avons reçu que des félicitations pour. Le travail de nos stagiaires. 3 groupes de stagiaires ont déjà suivi ces stages. Il en est prévu un 4ème. Merci à Mme Intissare et au Programme de Participation de l'UNESCO.

Mais l'année 22 a été moins chargée sur le plan des conférences. Par suite du Covid, l'UNESCO ayant été fermé la plus grande partie de l'année et les conditions d'écoute en ligne n'étant pas réunies dans beaucoup d'états, notamment africains, nous avons plutôt reçu des courriers de l'UNESCO ou de quelques ONG nous informant de ce qu'ils faisaient pour aider les gens d'Ukraine à fuir la guerre et ceux des pays Africains à sortir des problèmes dus au Covid.

La journée du 9 mars 22 a été néanmoins riche en zooms et en mai il y a eu un webinaire : « Science, Technologie, Innovation et Entrepreneuriat en appui aux ODD. » La technologie devenant un thème prioritaire ajouté à ceux de l'Afrique et des femmes.

En Septembre (le 19 et le 20), à leur grand regret, Danielle et Monique n'ont pas réussi à s'inscrire à la séance sur la bioéthique, du Groupe SHS (Secteur des Sciences Sociales et Humaines) mais nous avons pu suivre en présentiel la Conférence Internationale des ONG : « Briser les barrières - Quel rôle pour les organisations de la société civile vers un avenir durable » (14-16 décembre 2022).

Nous avons aussi suivi un bon nombre des « Monthly meetings » de NGO/CSWNY, comme celui du 19 janvier 2023 «Exploring Innovation in Technology: Fostering Digital Education Towards Achieving Gender Equality» ; ainsi que les conseils de Marion et d'Alison, comme le 12 février 2023 sur le plaidoyer pour la CSW, à laquelle, Monique et Danielle devaient participer mais où elles n'ont pas pu aller car elles avaient un autre rendez-vous, être présentes dans dix classes d'un collège à Toulouse pour des témoignages sur la Shoah, pris plusieurs mois avant mais dont les dates ont été changées et duquel elles ne pouvaient se désister pour aller à New-York.

Pour cette CSW67, d'ailleurs, des ONG dont l'AIF, ont été reçues, comme depuis quelques années, au ministère des affaires étrangères, par la ministre en charge du Droit des femmes, pour une présentation de ce que l'état français, comme les ONG, vont pouvoir apporter à la CSW et se transmettre les horaires des événements parallèles prévus par les ONG comme par l'état Français.

L'état français, et beaucoup d'ONG françaises sont très impliqués dans l'égalité des sexes et la création de « Génération Egalité » par une centaine d'ONG décidées à pousser à l'égalité des sexes avant 2030, en est la preuve. Déjà, en France, Femmes et hommes doivent être présentés à égalité sur les listes électorales, dans les hautes fonctions des entreprises et bien sûr au même niveau des hauts salaires.

Le thème de la CSW67th était particulièrement intéressant et très actuel car les femmes sont victimes d'un grand retard en ce qui concerne les nouvelles technologies et, l'expansion rapide et mal contrôlée de l'Intelligence artificielle risque de les défavoriser plus encore. Renée qui ne pouvait suivre qu'en ligne, a tenté de rappeler les travaux importants que poursuit l'UNESCO pour souligner la nécessité d'une approche éthique et la nécessité d'une « veille » et de moyens de contrôle pour dépister et combattre les dérives d'informations médiatiques qui donnent une image dégradante des femmes, par exemple l'accès des garçons très jeunes à la cyberpornographie, prélude à des violences sur les filles.

Le 13 juillet 2023 nous avons assisté à la Conférence Internationale de l'UNESCO sur « L'Éthique de la Neurotechnologie » : Danielle en présentiel et Renée en ligne. (Il y avait 2 fois plus de gens en ligne, que de gens présents dans la salle.)

La Conférence, qui en fait voulait aussi être un débat réunissant des décideurs et des experts, comme des gens de tous niveaux et professions, des médias, des enseignants, des représentants d'organisations de la société civile, des entreprises du secteur privé.....

Etaient aussi présents, des ministres de plusieurs pays ainsi que des responsables politiques. L'idée était de « préparer, grâce aux nombreux et différents avis, une base solide pour l'élaboration d'un cadre éthique concernant la gouvernance de la neurotechnologie et «d'établir un cadre pour protéger et promouvoir les Droits de l'Homme et les libertés fondamentales».

Nous soulignons que ce séminaire s'inscrit dans la même ligne que le rapport, si important, qu'a produit l'UNESCO : « l'éthique des objets », sur les mesures à développer, avec l'appui de tous les chercheurs, de divers professionnels de l'éducation, de la médecine et d'autres ainsi que des gouvernants responsables des aspects législatifs .A la CSW, l'UNESCO, seule institution internationale ayant un mandat éthique, a présenté un « side-event » (événement parallèle) sur ce rapport joint de la COMEST et du Comité BIC.

Nous participons également aux travaux du groupe d'ONG du Mouvement pour la Paix avec la préparation d'une journée internationale de la Paix.

Petit à petit le présentiel reprend ses droits. Certains groupes se reforment pour poursuivre ce qui est commencé. Pour l'instant les ONG n'ont pas de salle attribuée à l'UNESCO et les locations sont très chères, aussi nous nous réunissons le matin à la cafétéria, avant que les gens n'arrivent. Nous avons donc repris notre travail sur « la Voix des filles » Nous espérons en faire un forum ou une journée Internationale.

On a repris contact aussi avec le groupe qui travaille sur la paix et bien sûr on est toujours en contact avec Marie Claude Machon-Honoré qui s'occupe de la CCONG (Consultation Collective des ONG sur l'Education 2030), et, comme chaque année, en tant que Point Focal du Team, Monique a répondu au questionnaire de l'UNESCO, qui demandait aux ONG ce qu'elles-mêmes considéraient comme prioritaires dans le travail de l'UNESCO.

Les groupes devraient se reformer en septembre. Nous espérons que l'UNESCO nous prêterait une salle

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION - FAO

HEAD OF DELEGATION VALERIA MANGAN

On June 6th and 7 2023th in the German Room of FAO headquarters (Rome, Italy) we had an Informal dialogue on FAO-Civil Society Organizations engagement-towards designing FAO CSO Forum.

How can FAO better engage CSOs for Agrifood system transformation

Background

FAO has a long history of collaborating with non-state actors, including civil society organizations representing the most vulnerable. FAO Members adopted the Strategy for Partnerships with CSOs in April 2013, which recognized that CSOs play a critical role as important allies to enhance FAO's ability to eliminate hunger and malnutrition given their technical expertise, their proximity to, and representation of, the food insecure, land dispossessed and hungry, and their broad presence in the field.

The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 calls for transformative partnerships to contribute to achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda's aspiration of "leaving no one behind". FAO is thus exploring a more strategic engagement with CSOs, capitalizing on the breadth and diversity of expertise and characteristics of CSOs.

In order to discuss best approaches and mechanisms for more participatory and transparent engagement between CSOs and FAO, a CSOs consultation was planned on 6-7 June 2023 at FAO headquarters. This consultation also affords the opportunity to take stock of FAO's engagements with CSOs at various levels and how CSOs can meaningfully engage with the Organization.

Objectives

The objectives of the consultation:

- Take stock on FAO's engagements with CSOs at various levels and how CSOs can meaningfully engage, taking into account FAO's new approach on transformative partnerships.
- Collectively brainstorm on the idea of a new engagement mechanism that is sustainable and inclusive

Expected outcomes

It is expected:

- Enhance understanding on how to promote strategic engagement between FAO and CSOs through the different collaborations at various levels.
- Co-generate the ideas for a new dialogue mechanism between FAO and CSOs (tentatively called the "FAO CSO Forum").

From July 24th to 26th 2023 The UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) in Rome:

The summit marked a pivotal moment in the global effort to address climate action within the realm of agrifood systems.

This high-level event, orchestrated by Italy, centered on the urgent need to create climate resilient agrifood systems that can simultaneously feed a growing global population and mitigate environmental harm by reducing carbon footprints.

Held at the headquarters of FAO, the event saw key leaders such as Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antonio Tajani, Mariam Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates (the host of the forthcoming UN Climate Conference COP28), and FAO Director-General QU Dongyu, all coming together to address this pressing issue.

The urgency of the matter was underscored by QU Dongyu, who drew attention to the latest FAO State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2023 report. The report painted a stark picture of 735 million people grappling with hunger in the past year, with the climate crisis acting as a significant driver of food insecurity. Moreover, agrifood systems currently account for a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating the climate crisis.

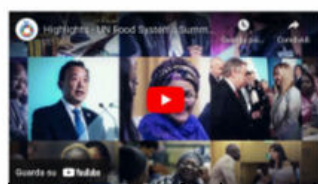
QU Dongyu called for immediate transformation of agrifood systems to make them more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. He emphasized that these systems, which play a pivotal role in addressing food insecurity, poverty, climate change, and biodiversity loss, also disproportionately affect the communities responsible for food production.

FAO's commitment to climate action was prominently featured, with QU Dongyu outlining the organization's initiatives to curb methane emissions, improve value chain efficiency, reduce food loss and waste, and restore ecosystems. FAO intends to present a roadmap of agrifood sector solutions at the upcoming COP28 conference, covering various aspects of agrifood systems to enhance resilience, reduce emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and ensure food security.

However, delivering these solutions necessitates enabling policies, robust institutional frameworks, science-based interventions, inclusivity of youth, **women**, and indigenous communities, cross-sector collaboration, and increased financial support. The event highlighted the potential of agrifood systems to align with climate and sustainable development objectives. It emphasized the need for collective, efficient, and coherent efforts to transform these systems for a better future, benefiting people, the planet, and prosperity.

Italy and the UAE reaffirmed their commitment to climate action, with Italy focusing on pragmatic solutions and innovative technology. The UAE officially launched the COP28 Food Systems and Agriculture agenda, which calls for the integration of climate adaptation and mitigation into national food system strategies, prioritizing livelihoods and the eradication of hunger within the climate process.

FAO remains dedicated to collaborating with countries to ensure agrifood systems play a central role in achieving collective goals related to climate, biodiversity, land degradation, and sustainable development.



UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment

The UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment took place in Rome, Italy from 24 - 26 July 2023, at the premises of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was hosted by Italy, in collaboration with the Rome-based UN Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP), the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and the wider UN system.

<https://www.unfoodsystems.org/fs-stocktaking-moment/>

Issues related to women are always on the table, although land grabbing was not discussed in this summit. It was more focused on poverty and the status of women related to climate change. It seems that men are no longer the cause of direct women's suffering, but indirect, due to their bad policies which cause environmental damage.

In conclusion, in order to transform food systems we need the 4 Better: better production, better nutrition, better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - COUNCIL OF EUROPE

HEAD OF DELEGATION HELEEN JANSEN

Members of IAW's Team at the Council of Europe in 2022:

Main Representative: Heleen Jansen

Representatives: Monique Bouchet, Renée Gerhard, Laoura Alipranti, Esther Suter

Consultant: Anje Wiersinga

The Conference of INGOs holds Sessions each year, preferably during either the ordinary sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe or the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. When the Sessions are physical ones in Strasbourg. Sessions may also be held through videoconferencing.

In 2022, the OINGs conference met twice with personal and online attendance.

Spring session **4-6 April** and Autumn session **4-6 October**.

Spring session 4-6 April

The main topics on the first day were:

- How to ensure respect for economic and social rights in times of war and of declining multilateralism: debate organised by the Conference of INGOs' Action for Social Rights Committee:
- Presentation of the CURE Campaign and how to deal with the human rights defenders and human rights organisations from/in Russia.
- Presentation of the Committee Rights of persons who are migrants on the actual situation.

The second day was spent on the presentations of committees.

Since the reform of the Conference and the creation of committees, it is still searching how those committees should be shaped. By 2022, the following committees were in place:

- NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights (on Istanbul Convention).
- Environment, Climate Change, Heritage and Health.
- Environmental and health crisis: governance and solidarity issues.
- Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence.
- Interreligious and interconvictional dialogue.

More information on the committees can be found on:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/committees>

It is impossible for IAW representatives to participate on all committees and they had to make a choice. In 2022, IAW was active in the following committees. The Committee's webpage provides an overlook on the Committee's goals and objectives.

- NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights.
 - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/ngos-as-advocates-for-gender-equality-and-women-s-rights>
- Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child
 - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/civil-society-committee-on-the-rights-of-the-child>
- Human Rights Committee
 - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/human-rights-committee>

For 2023, we plan to participate also in two new Committees:

- Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges
- Committee of Education.

Autumn Session 4-6 October

The autumn session was taken in Strasbourg and online.

Highlights of this session:

- Networking event: interactive exchange between the committees and the CINGO members.
- Brief reports from the CINGO Committees and discussion with members, inspired by the networking event.
- Oral report by Jeremy McBride, President of the Expert Council on NGO Law. <https://rm.coe.int/expert-council-moneyval-study-17-05-2022-en/1680a68923>
- Debate about Exchange of views on the current developments in the Council of Europe.
- Implementation of the civil participation platform: - BePart Platform. CINGO created and adopted a joint document with the Congress, brought to life through the BePart platform which collects best practice examples of civil participation. This includes examples from Ukraine though some have now been destroyed in the war. - BePart shows how civil society and government sectors can work together. All INGOs invited to visit, promote and consider contributing to BePart. - Awareness raising video shows for BePART: Civil Society: Sustaining Democracy. <https://bepartforum.org/>
- Event Revealing **European Values in Volunteering in Europe**. During this meeting, the first Medals of Honour for Volunteering in Europe were awarded. Heleen Jansen IAW was awarded the medal for her work as treasurer for **OING service**

OING service

The purpose of INGO-Service is to provide financial means to the Conference of INGOs, in addition to the financial contribution of the Council of Europe, to carry out its activities and its missions, to enhance the work of all of the INGOs holding participatory status. By supporting INGO-Service, your INGO is showing solidarity with all the INGOs working together in Greater Europe.

All INGOs with participatory status can support INGO-Service by paying an annual subscription. The basic subscription is 150€ but an INGO can show its support with a subscription of 200€ or more; the minimum subscription is 100€.

Subscriptions go towards paying for the functioning of the Conference of INGOs whose expertise is regularly sought by the bodies of the Council of Europe (Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Intergovernmental Committees ...)

What could IAW representatives do to spread the work of the committees and the communication between IAW representatives and other members of the IAW.

- Publish information about upcoming members' events to make it possible for members to attend webinars and promote them in their own networks if the topic is relevant.
- Share information about results achieved by other members during past events/ projects.
- Using social media

If you have any suggestions for improving communication, please let us know.



Members of the OING conference who were awarded

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CHEF DE DÉLÉGATION HELEEN JANSEN

Membres de l'équipe de l'IAW au Conseil de l'Europe en 2022:

Représentative principal : Heleen Jansen

Autres représentatives : Monique Bouchet, Renée Gerhard, Laoura Alipranti, Esther Suter

Consultante : Anje Wiersinga

La Conférence des OING tient des Sessions chaque année, de préférence pendant les sessions ordinaires de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe ou du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, lorsque les Sessions sont physiques à Strasbourg. Les sessions peuvent également se tenir par vidéoconférence.

Session de printemps du **4 au 6 avril** et session d'automne du **4 au 6 octobre**.

Session de printemps 4-6 avril

Les principaux thèmes abordés le premier jour étaient les suivants

- Comment assurer le respect des droits économiques et sociaux en temps de guerre et de d'affaiblissement du multilatéralisme : Débat organisé par le Comité d'action pour les droits sociaux de la Conférence des OING :
- Présentation de la campagne CURE et de la manière de traiter avec les défenseurs des droits de l'homme et les organisations de défense des droits de l'homme en Russie.
- Présentation du Comité des droits des personnes migrantes sur la situation actuelle.
-

La deuxième journée a été consacrée aux présentations des commissions.

Depuis la réforme de la Conférence et la création de commissions, on cherche encore comment ces commissions devraient être formées. En 2022, les commissions suivantes étaient en place :

- Les ONG en tant que défenseurs de l'égalité des genres et des droits des femmes (sur la convention d'Istanbul).
- Environnement, changement climatique, patrimoine et santé.
- Crise environnementale et sanitaire : enjeux de gouvernance et de solidarité.
- Comité de la société civile sur les droits de l'enfant.
- Droits de l'homme et intelligence artificielle.
- Dialogue interreligieux et interconfessionnel -.

De plus amples informations sur les comités sont disponibles sur le site :

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/committees>

Il est impossible pour les représentants de l'IAW de participer à tous les comités et ils ont dû faire un choix.

En 2022, IAW a été actif dans les comités suivants. La page web du comité fournit une vue d'ensemble des buts et objectifs du comité.

- Les ONG en tant que défenseurs de l'égalité des sexes et des droits des femmes.
 - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/ngos-as-advocates-for-gender-equality-and-women-s-rights>
- Comité de la société civile sur les droits de l'enfant
 - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/civil-society-committee-on-the-rights-of-the-child>
- Comité des droits de l'homme
 - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/human-rights-committee>

Pour 2023, nous prévoyons de participer également à deux nouveaux comités :

- Démocratie, cohésion sociale et enjeux mondiaux
- Commission de l'éducation.

Session d'automne 4-6 octobre

La session d'automne s'est déroulée à Strasbourg et en ligne.

Points forts de cette session :

- Événement de mise en réseau : échange interactif entre les comités de et les membres du CINGO.
- Brefs rapports des comités CINGO et discussion avec les membres, inspirés par l'événement de mise en réseau.
- Rapport oral de Jeremy McBride, Président du Conseil d'experts sur le droit des ONGs. <https://rm.coe.int/expert-council-moneyval-study-17-05-2022-en/1680a68923>
- Débat sur l'échange de vues sur les développements actuels au sein du Conseil de l'Europe.
- Mise en œuvre de la plateforme de participation civile : - Plateforme BePart.

CINGO a créé et adopté un document commun avec le Congrès, concrétisé par la plateforme BePart qui recueille des exemples de bonnes pratiques en matière de participation civile. Il s'agit notamment d'exemples provenant d'Ukraine, bien que certains d'entre eux aient été détruits par la guerre. BePart montre comment la société civile et les secteurs gouvernementaux peuvent travailler ensemble. Toutes les OINGs sont invitées à visiter, promouvoir et envisager de contribuer à BePart.

- Vidéo de sensibilisation créé par BePART : Société civile : Soutenir la démocratie. (seulement en anglais)

<https://bepartforum.org/>

- Événement révélant les **valeurs européennes du volontariat en Europe**. Au cours de cette réunion, les premières médailles d'honneur du bénévolat en Europe ont été décernées. Heleen Jansen IAW a reçu la médaille pour son travail en tant que trésorière du **service OING**.

Service OING

L'objectif d'OING-Service est de fournir des moyens financiers à la Conférence des OING, en complément de la contribution financière du Conseil de l'Europe, pour mener à bien ses activités et ses missions, afin de valoriser le travail de toutes les OING dotées du statut participatif. En soutenant OING-Service, votre OING est solidaire de toutes les OING qui travaillent ensemble dans la Grande Europe.

Toutes les OING dotées d'un statut participatif peuvent soutenir OING-Service en payant une cotisation annuelle. L'abonnement de base est de 150 €, mais une OING peut manifester son soutien par un abonnement de 200 € ou plus ; l'abonnement minimum est de 100 €.

Les cotisations servent à financer le fonctionnement de la Conférence des OING dont l'expertise est régulièrement sollicitée par les instances du Conseil de l'Europe (Comité des Ministres, Assemblée parlementaire, Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux, Comités intergouvernementaux...).

Que pourraient faire les représentants de l'IAW pour développer mieux la communication entre les représentants de l'IAW et les autres membres de l'IAW ?

- Publier des informations sur les événements à venir pour les membres afin de leur permettre d'assister aux webinaires et de les promouvoir dans leurs propres réseaux si le sujet est pertinent.
- Partager des informations sur les résultats obtenus par d'autres membres lors d'événements ou de projets antérieurs.
- Utiliser les médias sociaux.

Si vous avez des suggestions pour améliorer la communication n'hésitez pas à nous le faire.



Membres de la conférence OING récompensés

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY HEAD OF DELEGATION MARION BÖKER LEA BÖRGERDIN (ALTERNATE)

Since our report which covered our work in EWL until Nov. 2022, which you find in the Annual Report of the 39. IAW Congress we herewith only cover nine months. But, in this short time we note some changes and important successes from EWL's work in progress.

At the end of 2022 Dr. Jocelynn A. Scutt completed her term as the expert in the EWL OBSERVATORY On Violence Against Women and Girls and Lea Börgerding joined this high level EWL-body. We once more want to thank Dr. Scutt for sharing her great expertise and the time she invested even though Brexit has removed her fellow women citizens from the EU. Nevertheless, EWL had changed the Statutes so that the women of the UK-coordination, Wales, Scotland and Ireland are still represented in EWL as members. Nothing is lost, and we wait for the UK's return.

We also have to thank Leonie V. Schmit who contributed, from 2022 until its dissolution in June 2023, her expertise and strength in the task force on SRHR on free, self-determined and safe abortion rights. We know her work was not easy, since the Anti-Gender Movement had gained some influence and inserted a crisis into the work of this task force. With our wise collective strategic approach, we women in EWL have together learned and raised awareness about this right wing's movement, dismantled and rejected it, and almost solved the problem, at least in EWL. We might suggest her in future for any other working structure in EWL.

While during the pandemic we had continued our work virtually, and as EWL succeeded to contribute with our PURPLE PACT and **Gender Budgeting** project (2019-2021, see our free [tool box for channeling the resources to women here](#)) to make **EUROPE a GREEN, FEMINIST, CARING region** and to implement **Gender Budgeting** as a general and adopted approach. The EU-Commission and EU-Parliament has adopted and implemented it from **January 1, 2023** on.

Fortunately, in February 2023 we returned to in-person Board meetings.



EWL GA, 7/23, Brussels: Marion Böker (mid left) and Lea Börgerding (mid right side) for IAW

In June 2023, we absolved our first General Assembly as an in-person meeting in Brussels. Lea Börgerding (alternate) and I were re-elected to the Board for our second term. While Lea works in the Observatory VAWG, I serve in the Statutes Review Committee and the Emergency Motion Committee.

Working Group on Feminist Economy (FEWG) 2023

- In 2023 the Working Group on Feminist Economics worked on a follow-up publication of the [Purple Pact](#). It shall be presented before the election 2024 to be endorsed by election candidates across the EU. I am proposed as Chair of this Working Structure (this needs to be confirmed in October) and definitely be co-author of the **new Purple Pact for a Feminist Green Caring Europe**.
- In October 2023 we will also re-start our work on **Gender Budgeting** in a subgroup (project) of the FEWG and start an analysis of the new draft **Multi Annual financial Framework** (MFF) and then try to influence the next Annual Budget Framework of the EU-Commission. This next term we will concretely focus our work on Gender Budgeting towards steering finances for combating Violence against Women and Girls and for women's NGO projects for VAWG survivors.

Moreover, in general we need to push the EU-Commission to improve its Gender Budgeting methodology to move from a few Markers to a qualitative and quantitative set of indicators and benchmarks.

One focus will be that all Women's NGOs on national level shall be regularly involved in the shaping, implementation and evaluation of the MFF's Funds use by EU member states. In the last term during our exchange with the EU-Commission, our finding was that even though the EU -Commission had called on member states- especially during the pandemic - to practice such a participatory approach, only a few member states had actually done so.

Continued work with Ukrainian Women - Establishment of a Peace Hub in EWL

In February 2021, after an alarming letter of the National Council of **WOMEN IN UKRAINE** (NCWU) directed to the German Women's Council (DFR) warning that The Russian Federation (RF) will attack Ukraine since the Minsk agreement was failing and ignored in EWL I organised a Webinar on March 3, 2022 to listen and organise support in the EU for the NCWU. Unfortunately the war had already been started by RF, so we asked to support Ukrainian women. The result was a series of letters to EU and UN entities (EP, EU-Commission, EU-Commissioner Borell, UNGA, UNSCR, UN WOMEN) to support Ukrainian women, to included them in all peace negotiations (see UNSCR 1325 ff.) and act for immediate cease-fire and peace, opening doors for them throughout 2022/23 for reconstruction plans and resources. The EWL staff followed up our decisions. In June 2023, again with Jennifer Menninger of WILPF and a number of other EWL member organisations, especially of the Balkans I organised the 2nd Webinar. There is a report available in the EWL intranet. If you are interested, you can get it (contact me via: marion.boeker@gmx.de). Meanwhile I have circulated it in the IAW Peace Commission. Now, the main focus of NCWU is on reconstruction of Ukraine in all fields of life, on the strategies for when there is peace to reverse the demographic impacts of war and the flight of large numbers of women and children in particular which can be balanced by convincing them to return i.e. by a greater extent of Gender Equality (total equal pay, good loans, housing, excellent education and child-care system, elimination of VAWG- Ukraine has ratified the Istanbul Convention- and more). During the Webinar 6/2023 we connected NCWU with a the European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) which can open them ways for access to resources as women, DG NEAR is facilitator of reconstruction funds donor conferences and its operationalisation. And, moved by a concern that there is preparation to ensure that there will be (sexual reproductive) health care service at stake and later serving women soldiers and veterans who should receive pensions and respect as women.

Since June 2022, EWL's work with them had resulted in the accepted status of Ukraine and Moldova as EU accession candidate states, EWL could adopt the NCUW coordination and the Moldavian women's coordination during the GA in June 2023 as new members of EWL. We also had made further plans for women's preparation for participating in track one peace negotiations. From October on, we will continue to cooperate closely in support in the new EWL Peace Hub which can also open itself to other areas of peace making and other groups of women in the EU and beyond (migrant, asylum seeking and refugee women) coming from war zones and aiming for Peace.

EWL advocated for the two-fold European Union's (EU) response to hesitant member states and Türkiye's withdraw from the Council of Europe's ISTANBUL CONVENTION

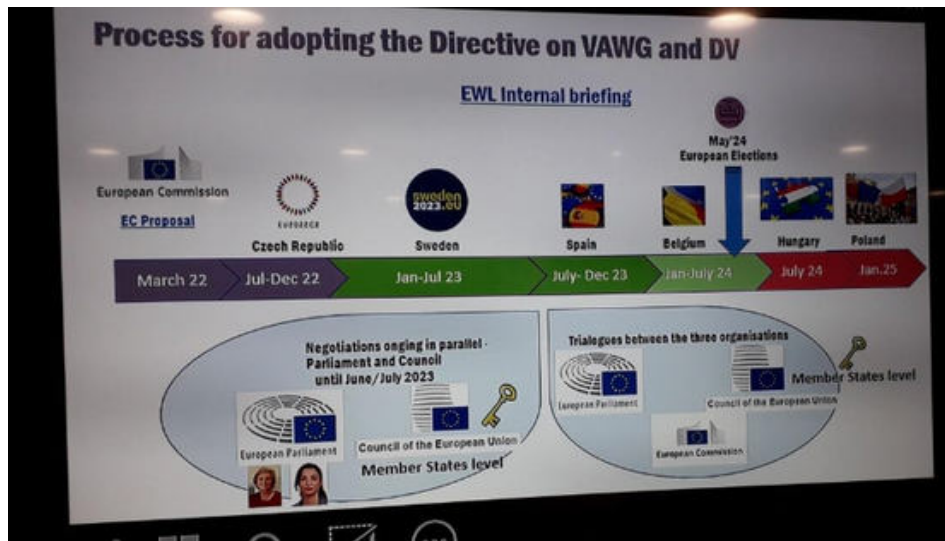
1. Following CSW65 and CSW66's briefings by the EU-Commission, EWL as member of the long term European Coalition against Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) became **PART OF THE NEW UN-COALITION AGAINST VAWG** which was established in the CSW Generation Equality sessions in Mexico and Paris. Following the shock of the withdraw of Türkiye from the Istanbul Convention in March 2021, EWL established with the Turkish Women's Coordination the campaign **#UNITED4IstanbulConvention** which tried first to convince Türkiye to return to the Convention. On another track, EWL tried to prove legally that this act was unlawful and that was confirmed, but Türkiye did not respond. Since the 2023 election reaffirmed the Erdoğan Government, now change for women's security and protection from VAWG was in sight. So we focused all energy on advocacy for a new drive for the EU to ratify the Istanbul Convention. In July 2023 we could finally celebrate that the European Union had decided and enacted this new Directive by its core issue: the mutual EU ratification of the Istanbul Convention. We have to thank the Turkish Women's Coordination, since this was their excellent idea to double this legal instrument in a way that it is now binding for all EU member states including Türkiye.

"Türkiye" is the new standard name for the Turkish state, which initiated this change in English terminology in 2022;

II. EUROPEAN UNION'S Directive against gender based sexualized Violence against Women and Girls and Domestic Violence which set out similar standards as in the Istanbul Convention as an obligation for all EU member and accession candidate states. This EU-Directive on VAWG & Domestic Violence is still in process, needing our bold advocacy. In July 2023, as an interim step, a comprehensive proposal issued by the European Commission was adopted. It is a major step and a key opportunity: it lays down a comprehensive set of rules that addresses the persisting problem of violence against women and domestic violence and response to the specific needs of its victims. It even addresses a wide range of forms of gender based VAWG the EWL's advocacy in the next months ahead - in the trialogue- after years it is still requiring improvement.

The Trialogue negotiations should move ahead under the Spanish Presidency. We need this piece of EU law that is aligned with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention to implement it. The Directive is the tool needed to ensure its adequate implementation. Therefore, the EU Council needs to be ready to improve the text of the Directive accordingly to – at the very least – meet the standards of the Convention. The general approach adopted by the Council you find here : [pdf \(europa.eu\)](#) and the declaration made by Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy and Greece in support of the article on rape you can find here : [pdf \(europa.eu\)](#).

This chart shows the benchmarks for the drafting process, March 2022 - January 2025 (source: EWL)



WORKING GROUP WOMEN IN POLITICS- Heading to Elections 2024 and a 50:50 parity

In 2023 we will try to improve our contacts to the Board members of our IAW member organisations (associates/affiliates) who are of EU member states. I once more repeat to all:

PLEASE, IN CASE YOU ARE AN IAW AFFILIATE OR ASSOCIATE FROM THE EU region and have a member who is interested in being nominated by your EWL delegate for this working group forward the contact information of a person who is willing to serve for exchange to me: marion.boeker@gmx.de.

This Working Group has published a "**Manifesto for the EU Elections 2024: Europe at a Crossroads**" in June 2023 which you find on EWL's webpage [here](#). If you are an EU based affiliate /associate of IAW please forward it, use it at home during elections. Contact EWL for joint events. If you are from another region you might use it as for your elections if you agree with the positions. Members who are interested might organise a Webinar exchange with EWL and the working group on this contact: **marion.boeker@gmx.de**.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE - INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT OBSERVERS DEIDRE EXCELL PIRRO, PAULETTE OYANE ONDO

Deirdre Exell Pirro, IAW Member, Italy

IAW International Co-representative to the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) since 2005

The role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is to investigate and, where warranted, to try individuals charged with the gravest crimes relating to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. As a court of last resort, its object is to complement, not take the place of national courts. It is governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute. To date, 123 countries are States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC which was adopted on 17 July 1998, nearly 25 years ago. These include 33 African States, 19 Asia-Pacific States, 18 from Eastern Europe, 28 from Latin American and Caribbean States, and 25 from Western European and other States. The United States of America, Sudan, China, India, Russia, and Ukraine, for example, are not State Parties and do not recognize the jurisdiction of the Court. It should be noted, however, that under the Biden government, the USA has recently opened the way to several areas of cooperation with the ICC, especially on support for witness protection.

On 14 June 2023, the ICC officially launched four strategic plans for 2023 to 2025: the ICC Strategic Plan 2023-2025; the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2025; the Registry Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2025; and the Trust Fund of Victims Strategic Plan for 2023 to 2025. This is the first time that all four strategic plans have been developed and adopted concurrently, following the same three-year cycle. This approach aims at promoting greater synergies while upholding the independence of the organs involved in the Court's judicial proceedings. In elaborating these strategic plans, the Court sought the input of its staff, that of the States Parties and civil society organizations as well as the recommendations of an Independent Expert Review.

Currently, its statistics show that the ICC is searching for 16 defendants who are still at large, that it is investigating 17 cases, that it has 3 preliminary investigations underway, and that there are 31 cases in course. It is a very full calendar.

Added to this, the situation in Ukraine is one of the major areas of concern for the ICC at present. Although, as already mentioned, Ukraine is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, it has twice exercised its prerogatives to accept the Court's jurisdiction over alleged crimes under the Rome Statute occurring on its territory, pursuant to Article 12(3) of the Statute. The first declaration lodged by the Government of Ukraine accepted ICC jurisdiction with respect to alleged crimes committed on Ukrainian territory from 21 November 2013 to 22 February 2014. The second declaration extended this time period to encompass ongoing alleged crimes committed throughout the territory of Ukraine from 20 February 2014 onwards.

On 28 February 2022, the ICC Prosecutor announced he would seek authorization to open an investigation into the Situation in Ukraine followed on 1 March 2022, by a State Party referral from the Republic of Lithuania. On 2 March 2022, this was followed by a coordinated group of States Parties submitting a joint referral. These were the Republic of Albania, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, Canada, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of France, Georgia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Hellenic Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Iceland, Ireland, the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Latvia, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Malta, New Zealand, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia, the Kingdom of Spain, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This led the Prosecutor to open an investigation into the Situation in Ukraine on the basis of the referrals received. This investigation also encompasses any past and present allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed on any part of the territory of Ukraine by any person from 21 November 2013 onwards. Later in March 2022, Japan and North Macedonia, and then Montenegro joined the group State Party referral, and in April 2022, the Republic of Chile also joined.

On 17 March 2023, ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II issued two warrants of arrest in the context of the Situation in Ukraine: one for Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and the other for Ms Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova, Commissioner for Children's Rights in the Office of the President of the Russian Federation based on reasonable grounds to believe that each suspect bears responsibility for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation, to the prejudice of Ukrainian children.

ICC Prosecutor Karim Ahmed Khan stated on 3 March 2022 that an initial team consisting of *"investigators, lawyers, and people with particular experience in operational planning"* was sent to the *"Ukraine region"* to begin collecting evidence and, on 11 March 2022, a dedicated portal was set to enable any person holding information relevant to the Ukraine Situation to contact the ICC investigators. On 16 March 2022, the ICC Prosecutor visited western Ukraine and Poland in person to assess the situation on the ground in Ukraine.

On 4 March 2022, European Union (EU) justice ministers requested Eurojust to support war crimes and crimes against humanity investigations by national courts and by the ICC. However, as Russia withdrew from the ICC in 2016, after the Court ruled its invasion of Crimea amounted to an *"ongoing occupation"*, Russia maintains that it has no legal obligation to cooperate with the ICC and is unlikely to enforce arrest warrants against suspects located on Russian territory or hand them over for prosecution or trial.

Nonetheless, Australian human rights lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson QC, argues that. With regard to President Putin: *"Invading a country, causing innocent civilians to die in their hundreds and thousands, and by breaching the UN charter that protects the sovereignty of independent countries, there's no doubt that he's guilty of a crime against humanity."*

Undoubtedly, it could take a considerable amount of time to arrive at justice, but as the Yugoslav trials of Slobodan Milosevic, Radovan Karadzic, and Ratko Mladic proved, this is not impossible.

IAW and its member organisations can be invaluable in promoting the ICC's principles and work. If you as an IAW member organisation have direct experience of the issues with the Court's mandate, you can provide the ICC's Prosecutor's Office with that information. If not and your country is not a State Party to the Rome Statute, you can strongly campaign and lobby for it to become one so that the iniquitous impunity gap can finally be closed. If you are not sure where your country stands, you can find out on the Coalition for the International Criminal Court website at: <https://asp.icc-cpi.int/states-parties>. If your country is a State Party, you can promote the Court by providing your members with up-to-date information on its work – just as IAW will continue to do.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT - EUROPE

YVONNE POKROPEK

As Vice-President for Europe, I have written to all the organizations and asked them to contact me so we can discuss how we can deepen our cooperation.

My plan is to try to organise a European meeting, preferably in-person, at least, a hybrid, by the end of 2024 or beginning of 2025.

We discussed this topic last weekend in the board meeting in Fredrika Bremerförbundet. Next year we celebrate 140 years. It would of course be fantastic if we can combine these two events. But for this we need funding, for instance from NIKK: <https://nikk.no/en/home/> It's a co-operation body under the Nordic Council of Ministers. They gather and communicate knowledge about policy and practice, facts and research in the area of gender equality and equal rights for LGBTI people with a Nordic and cross-sectorial perspective.

We shall apply in the Spring, and they make their approvals in Autumn, so, depending on when we get their decision, we can plan for a meeting either late 2024 or Spring 2025.

Our topic should be **"pushing back the push-back"**, which was the theme for the Nordic ministers' side-event during CSW67.

I hope to be able to gather the organisations from the Nordics, and best-case representatives from the Baltics during Spring so we can start the planning.

Until now I have heard from Norway (The Norwegian Association for Women's Rights - Norsk Kvinnesaksforening, NKF), Sweden (Fredrika Bremerförbundet), Germany (German Women's Council - DFR, Switzerland - SVF-ADF) and from EWL in Bulgaria via the call Treasurer Antonia Levine and I had with Iliana Balabanova. The Bulgarian Women's Lobby will have a meeting in their board in September and we hope they will make the decision to join IAW.

I collaborate with Lene Pind in this (she has become my mentor, which is so helpful), she was involved in conducting a large meeting in 2001 focusing on CEDAW – Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR - SOUTH EAST ASIA

SHEELA KAKDE

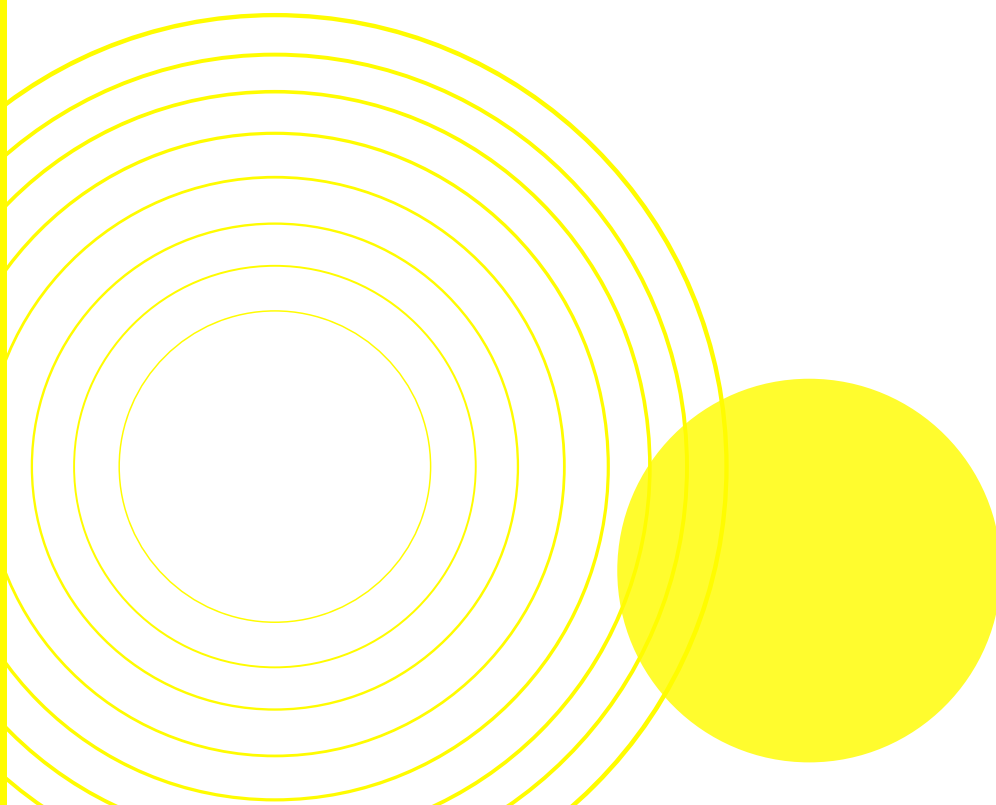
As IAW Regional Coordinator, I reached out in April to the six Affiliates and Associates in the region to introduce myself. In part I said “I am sure exchange of few emails will break the barrier and we can discuss freely the various issues regarding challenges faced by women in your region and try to help them and to resolve their problems. We also need to document the work done properly and report your activities to IAW before the Annual meeting. Awaiting your reply with suggestions and issues. The telephone number given below is on WhatsApp also for easy connectivity.” That got only responses from AIWC.

I also made contact with a prospective member from a country without an affiliate or associate organisation in fulfilment of the part of a Regional Coordinator’s function of recruiting new members.

After a first meeting of Regional Vice-Presidents and Coordinators, where it was discussed, my letter was also used as a template by the Regional Coordinator for North America. I also expressed the opinion that I feel formation of WhatsApp group is a good idea for easy and quick communication. And Email is definitely must for final confirmation of the decisions or reporting.

The outreach within the region, including some individuals working in the organisations was repeated in May with the sentence that a Regional WhatsApp group could be established. This also received little response. An attempt to collect telephone numbers for the regional Affiliates and Associates to streamline a connection was unsuccessful, in particular since our Membership Database does not contain that information.

Before the proposed next joint meeting of Regional Vice-Presidents and Coordinators in August, I sent out third message to the Asian Affiliates and Associates, using the IAW Secretary General’s call for reports of activity for the IAW Annual Report. This, after an encouraging follow up from the IAW President, generated one actual report from WHI.



REGIONAL COORDINATOR - NORTH AMERICA

JESSICA PIERSON

During the summer of 2023, I surveyed the North American members to discover what issues are most pressing to them and how they are working to promote women's rights in the region. Five individual members expressed interest and were connected to Convenors to work on Commissions. Below is a summary of their responses which align with the IAW Action Programme 2022-2025.

Climate Change

Our youngest North American member reported climate change as one of the most pressing issues facing her community. Indeed, according to IAW's Action Programme, climate change threatens the realization of women's rights and human rights.

IAW's Canadian affiliate, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), is ramping up their advocacy work around climate change due to the urgent threat it poses. CFUW reports:

Canada's beautiful landscape, like many places in the world, is experiencing significant changes in risks. Canadians are seeing the effects of a rapidly warming climate in out-of-control wildfires, smoke and air pollution, landslides, flooding, heat waves, extreme weather, and melting permafrost. These changes are causing widespread health risks, uncertainty, and displacement. At the national level, CFUW has been monitoring COP27 and COP15 on Biodiversity, as well as the Canadian government's policies and action plans on climate mitigation and adaptation. CFUW clubs are also very active locally on environmental matters. CFUW North Delta/Surrey has created an interest group on researching their local peat bog and bog conservation, CFUW Markham-Unionville hosts a social justice book club, and CFUW West Vancouver as well as CFUW Cornwall and District both dedicated their year to raising awareness on environmental matters with a new topic for each month, amongst other clubs making a tremendous effort.

Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

Human trafficking is a major issue North America is facing. As one member from California reported:

According to a March 2023 report released by the San Francisco Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking, most human trafficking cases in the city involve victims under 25, women, and people of color. The task force also identified the commercial sexual exploitation of children as another major issue.

More data will help accurately identify the problem, which in turn will help the city better prevent the problem and provide appropriate support to the survivors (Sung Sohn).

In fact, two more San Francisco members (Rebecca Cormack and Andrea Carlise) reported working to combat human trafficking through the National Council of Jewish Women - San Francisco, which hosts educational panels, advocates for legislation that protects women and children, coordinates the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking (SFCaHT), and operates the 24/7 SF Bay Area Human Trafficking Hotline. Carlise is also working with Berkeley Law Students to draft state legislation to de-criminalize prostitution.

In Canada, rates of gender-based violence are on the rise. The Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability has reported that in 2022, 184 women and girls were violently killed, primarily by men. CFUW's work on ending gender-based violence is focused on awareness-raising about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), gender-based violence on post-secondary campuses, the realities of intimate partner violence, gun violence, and the necessity of fully funding and implementing Canada's National Action Plan to End GBV.

Women in the Economy

IAW's North American members are working hard to promote women's economic and social rights, equal access to and control over economic resources, and equal access to employment and appropriate working conditions.

Nina Corder, member from Ohio, founded the Women of Toledo, an organization that offers programs and services that help tackle issues critical to women's economic advancement, workforce development, and empowerment.

Leticia Latino from Florida cares deeply about proper representation at the C-Level and at Board Levels of corporations. She serves on the Federal Communications Commission Equity and Diversity Council, which works to bring more equity and representation of women in the Telecom Industry.

Sulekha Frank is the Lead Advisor of Low-wage and Domestic Workers at the Commission on Human Rights, a New York City agency tasked with enforcement and education of the Human Rights Law that says that discrimination is illegal in the city. She knows that the women (trans+) who are low-wage workers experience wage theft, harassment, discrimination, fear of retaliation, sexual harassment, and time violations. Sulekha educates workers on their rights and protections, and advocates for changing the work culture and raising the standard of working conditions for all low-wage worker industries.

Human Rights

The United States has yet to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Therefore, since 1998, more than sixty local jurisdictions have led a grassroots effort to implement the principles of CEDAW in cities, towns, counties, and states. IAW members have been at the forefront of recent advocacy to adopt CEDAW in their localities.

In Fairfax, Virginia, Jill Follows convened the Fairfax County for CEDAW movement that led to the County's adoption of a Resolution for CEDAW. Anu Sahai represented the coalition that convinced the Fairfax Board of Supervisors to pass the resolution. In Toledo, Ohio, Nina Corder serves as a Commissioner Member of the City of Toledo CEDAW Gender Equity Commission.

Kathleen Montgomery, along with Follows, founded the Human Rights Special Interest Group (HRSIG) which writes briefing books and offers free presentations to groups on UN human rights conventions, artwork at the UN headquarters, and the SDGs. At the CSW/NY 67 Forum, the HRSIG premiered the *CEDAW Trilogy*, a series of video plays that present women's struggle for human rights from drafting the UDHR and CEDAW, to the Cites for CEDAW movement.

IAW UN Representative Soon-Young Yoon founded and co-directs The Cities for CEDAW History and Futures Project with Jessica Pierson. The project, which includes research from members Abby Hasselbrink and Natalia Paradineiro, is documenting the Cities for CEDAW movement, analyzing its impacts, and developing future campaign strategies.

Yoon also serves on the steering committee for C4UN, ensuring that IAW is active in the Summit of the Future. This summit will look at reinvigorated multilateral systems and lay the foundations for a UN for future generations. The most important document for this is the SDG's Our Common Agenda. IAW was a co-sponsor of the Feminist Framework for the Our Common Agenda report. IAW was a co-sponsor of the Global People's Forum that took place in March 2023 in preparation for the Summit of the Future. Yoon was also a panelist at HLPF side event: *Towards the Summit of the Future: aligning the 2030 to Agenda 2063*.

Health

One of the most pressing issues we face is the fight for reproductive justice in the United States. As abortion and reproductive rights become more restricted across the country, the health and safety of millions of people who can become pregnant are endangered.

IAW members are fighting back. Nancy Newman, reporting on behalf of IANGEL (an international network of lawyers dedicated to harnessing pro bono power to protect and advance the rights of women and girls), is partnering with Berkeley Law's Reproductive Justice Project to develop a new curriculum to educate high school students about their reproductive rights. Individual member Abby Hasselbrink is a junior at Denison University in Granville, Ohio and the treasurer for Denisonians for Planned Parenthood, an on-campus reproductive rights organization. Ohio is a state where the right to an abortion is at serious risk, and her organization organizes events throughout the year to promote reproductive health, engage the community in advocacy work, and educate peers on sex and reproductive justice.

Maternal health disparities for BIPOC Women (trans+) in the U.S. have persisted and been exacerbated by Covid-19. Implicit bias in pain management has been one of the leading causes of the alarming rate of Maternal Mortality of Black and Brown Women. IAW member Sulekha Frank works with hospitals in New York City to review their protocols from a human rights and gender justice framework so that they may think more broadly about the assumptions made against the communities they serve.

Democracy

One of the most urgent issues facing the United States are the threats to Democracy due to the current political climate and the Republican supermajority on the Supreme Court. IAW members across the country are organizing voters to turnout for candidates that support women's rights.

AFFILIATE MEMBER - ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (AIWC), INDIA

PRESIDENT SMT. KALYANI RAJ

SECRETARY GENERAL DR. MANJU KAK

Introduction:

All India Women's Conference a 96 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 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.

Activates of the organization in 2022-2023:

SDG 5

During this period the Head Office participated in a number of webinars organized by the AIWC- Head Office, branches and other institutions.

- Gender Sensitization Program and Sexual Harassment presentation at Maulana Azad Medical College- 1st week of March 2022
- Surrogacy: A Human Right Violation for Branches-13th June 2022
- Gender Sensitization Program for AVI & IGNOU students and faculty members- 15th June 2022
- Sexual Harassment at workplace program – Ministry of Petroleum.
- The United Nations is marking the 16th Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence – Orange Campaign Programmes- Conducted Students of Dental College-Delhi with AIWC Eastern Zone (B)
- "My Body My Choice"- Sansad TV- The new direction given by the Supreme Court regarding abortion law was discussed in the meeting. The programme was telecast on 17th October 2022
- Gender Sensitization & Sexual Harassment Physical Meeting- December 2022-Ministry of Rural Department. (Govt. of India)
- Gender Sensitization & Sexual Harassment physical Meeting- 29th th November 2022- Maulana Azad College with the medical students.

International Women's Day

AIWC celebrated International Women's Day at Head Office at Aga Khan Hall on 3rd March 2022. The function was inaugurated by President Mrs. Sheela Kakde. Ms. Kuljit Kaur and Ms. Rehana Begum. The program was started with a welcome song by staff members. Ms. Chanchal Pant from AVI recited a poem on Nari Shakti. For the first time, AIWC staff performed the first time a Role Play on "Gender Discrimination-" If you educate a woman, you educate a whole family".

Communal Harmony

AIWC Women's Indian Association Branch, Chennai successfully conducted a **one day seminar on 09.03.2022** at Dr. MGR Janaki College Arts and Science for Women. Chennai branch shared that according to our ancient belief the entire world is one family "**Vasudeva Kudumbakam**". We need to cherish and uphold this concept and take it to the next generation. Today's entire cultural programme will depict the theme of the day- **National Integration and Communal Harmony**.

SDG 13

Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative Project 2022-2023

1. "Safe Veggies- a Capacity Building Initiative in Organic Farming"-
Suvarna -AIWC Calicut Branch
2. Kitchen Garden- Thitthamanglam Branch- Kerala
Jute and Bamboo Product Making project-Raiganj Mahila Sammilani-Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal
3. Kitchen Garden- Ujjawal Women's Association Branch, Delhi
Green Drive Plantation under Environment and Climate Change Project (GUCCI)- Sahaspur Rural Branch- Dehradun, Uttarakhand
4. Smokeless Cookstoves for the Rural Poor Women- Priyadarshini Mahila Samajam- Trivandrum, Kerala
5. Safe veggies/kitchen garden Capacity building of women- Akhil Mahila Parishad, Maninagar ,Gujarat
6. Skill Development Training with Polyvalent Educational Program- Dausa Branch- Rajasthan
7. Cleaning water bodies- Women and Child Development Branch- Jammu & Kashmir

CSW 67

Empowering girls through digital education – 17th March 2023

AFFILIATE MEMBER - ALL PAKISTAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (APWA), PAKISTAN

PROJECT DIRECTOR ROZINA KHUWAJA

APWA, Pakistan is a registered Non-Governmental Organization, Non-Political, non-religious working in partnership with both local and international Partners on women's empowerment and rights. APWA is working since 1949 initiated by Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan a renowned personality in the history of Pakistan and the first Asian woman to receive UN Human Rights Award. At present, APWA is running education, health, skill development, youth and women empowering programs in all the provinces of Pakistan. Especially in Karachi, APWA is running 6 education projects and 5 health projects providing quality education and better health care facilities at nominal fees. Additionally, in Punjab APWA extends its services across various districts in Punjab, covering a total of 12 regions.

1. **Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls:** The All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) has been an instrumental force in advocating for the elimination of violence against women and girls. Through awareness campaigns, workshops, and legal advocacy, APWA has raised awareness about gender-based violence, provided support to survivors, and lobbied for stricter legal measures to combat this issue. Their efforts have contributed significantly to a more gender-inclusive and safe environment for women and girls.

2. **Women Empowerment and Women Inclusion in the Economy:** APWA has played a crucial role in empowering women economically. They have provided skill development training, microfinance support, and entrepreneurship opportunities to women from diverse backgrounds. Through these initiatives, APWA has helped women become financially independent, reducing gender disparities and promoting women's active participation in the economy.

Economic Empowerment Of youth Under Prime Minister Skills program in Collaboration with NAVTTC:



APWA has embarked on a collaborative endeavor with NAVTTC (National Vocational & Technical Training Commission) under the Prime Minister Youth Program. The project's core objective revolves around imparting training to an inclusive class comprising 25 students. This unique class composition is characterized by 15 girls and 10 transgender individuals. The project's overarching goal is to generate meaningful employment opportunities for vulnerable and unemployed segments of the community.

Economic Inclusion of Women



APWA being the ambassador for empowering women, organize chain of programs including session for “Gender Equity and Women’s socio-economic Inclusion” with the collaboration of State Bank of Pakistan. The President APWA Ms. Charmaine Hidayatullah’s efforts and coordination with the stakeholders of State Bank, we have achieved to develop awareness regarding financial assistance for women entrepreneurs among approximately 200 women from the remote areas of Karachi. The program was launched in March on the occasion of Women’s Day by the Governor State Bank of Pakistan Mr. Reza Bakir and since then numerous Help Desks for Women’s financial assistance have been placed in the APWA Projects in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. These sessions provide support to the beneficiaries of APWA in terms of promoting “Women Entrepreneurs” through the provision of loans on easy installments.

3. **Climate Change:** Recognizing the urgent need to address climate change, APWA has actively participated in environmental awareness programs and initiatives. They have organized tree planting drives, workshops on sustainable practices, and educational campaigns highlighting the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, particularly women. APWA's involvement has contributed to a more eco-conscious society and increased demand for climate action. APWA organizes numerous conferences and workshops to exchange experience, knowledge and mobilizing all major players including citizens, in order to join strengths and influence decision makers to put environmental issues as political priority.

Additionally, in the recent years APWA has tried for the implementation of energy efficiency measures through establishing good energy efficiency practices which makes an economic and energy savings contribution and has an influence on development of the society. This includes installation of energy efficiency light bulbs in its schools and health centers.

Furthermore, APWA emphasizes on increasing public knowledge about climate changes issues, promotion of renewable energy sources and saving energy for the youngest people and citizens through organizing seminars for the community members, students and its other beneficiaries.

In APWA schools every year Earth Day is celebrated to develop awareness among students regarding Environmental Protection and to inculcate the habits of utilizing Environmental friendly products to save environment. Through numerous activities including **A Nature Walk and recycling** are some of the activities organized in schools to save our planet Earth.

4. **Human Rights:** APWA has been at the forefront of promoting human rights in Pakistan. They have engaged in advocacy, education, and empowerment initiatives to raise awareness about fundamental human rights. Their work includes campaigns to ensure the right to education, healthcare, and freedom of expression. APWA's efforts have not only improved public understanding of human rights but have also put pressure on institutions to uphold these rights.

5. **Health:** In the field of health, APWA has undertaken various initiatives to improve healthcare accessibility, especially for women and marginalized groups. They have organized medical camps, awareness sessions on reproductive health, and advocated for better healthcare infrastructure. APWA's efforts have helped bridge gaps in healthcare services, particularly in underserved areas. APWA's dedication to promoting women's and children's health is evident through a comprehensive range of initiatives. Alongside establishing 13 Mother and Child Health centers that have reached over 26,000 beneficiaries, APWA has taken further steps to ensure the well-being of women. Regular medical camps for women have been thoughtfully organized as part of their holistic health approach.

6. **The Human Right to Peace / Peace and Security:** APWA's commitment to peace and security is evident through their efforts to foster social harmony and resolve conflicts through dialogue and understanding. They have organized peace-building workshops, community dialogues, and educational seminars to promote peaceful coexistence. By addressing the root causes of conflict and advocating for peaceful resolutions, APWA has contributed to a safer and more stable society.

The All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA), in collaboration with technical assistance from the International Labor Organization (ILO), has initiated a significant project under the PRS/STRIDE Project, which is generously funded by the Government of Japan. This project aims to empower women by providing them with essential training on the ILO Convention C 190, focusing on workplace harassment, and the eradication of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

As part of this comprehensive effort, a meticulously designed project was launched to train 300 women workers. This initiative acknowledges the adverse impact that harassment and GBV can have on women's participation, contribution, and overall empowerment within the workforce. To address these critical issues, APWA, with support from ILO and PWF, developed a specialized and approved curriculum.



7. **Democracy:** As advocates for democracy, APWA has promoted civic engagement, voter education, and political participation. They have organized workshops on democratic processes, encouraged women to participate in elections, and advocated for policies that promote democratic values. APWA's efforts have contributed to strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring a more inclusive political landscape.

In conclusion, the All Pakistan Women's Association's impactful work across various sectors demonstrates their commitment to promoting gender equality, human rights, and social progress. Through their multifaceted initiatives, APWA continues to make a positive difference in the lives of women, marginalized communities, and the broader society.

AFFILIATE MEMBER - BANGLADESH MAHILA SAMITY, BANGLADESH

REPORTED BY TAMANNA RAHMAN

Introduction:

Bangladesh Mohila Somity was established in 28th February, 1972 through a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh. Our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman realized that a country cannot prosper leaving the women population behind as they represent fifty percent of the population. It was his earnest desire to empower women, and, consequently, Bangladesh Mohila Somity was established in 1972.

The glorious journey of Bangladesh Mohila Somity commenced under the able leadership of Dr. Neelima Ibrahim, founder President of Bangladesh Mohila Samity. In addition, with the strong organizing capacity of founder General Secretary Mrs. Ivy Rahman, Bangladesh Mohila Samity succeeded in making significant contributions to the welfare of women and children all across the country. BMS is also a member of several International organizations.

Golden Jubilee Celebration:

It is a moment of pride and happiness for BMS to celebrate Golden Jubilee narrating the history of five decades of BMS, a book titled "50 Years of Bangladesh Mohila Samity: Towards an empowered tomorrow" is being prepared for publication.

A Round table discussion titled, "The Sequence of Women's Development and Empowerment connecting from the Sunrise of Bangabandhu's Sonar Bangla to Today's Digital Bangladesh", was organized on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebration of Bangladesh Mohila Samity (BMS) on October 29, 2022.

Following programs are carried out by BMS over the years:

Dr. Neelima Ibrahim Memorial Primary Education Assistance Department: Since inception, BMS runs two co-education primary schools at Dhaka for the underprivileged children. One school is located at the premises of the head office in New Baily Road and the other is at Aga Nawab Dewri, Lalbag.

New Baily Road Primary School:

This School has 100 students. Books and uniforms are provided to the students free along with tiffin. The tiffin is provided to children maintaining healthy dietary requirements. During pandemic, teachers were provided training for conducting on-line classes. Thus, students were able to carry on their education through on-line classes during the Covid pandemic. Important national days are observed and students received prizes by participating in different competitions.

National Mourning Day is observed in memory of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and all the martyrs of the 15th August, arranging Dua and Milad Mahfil. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's daughter Sheikh Rehana's gift was distributed among the students on the occasion.



Aga Nawab Dewri School:

The school building, built in the sixties, became very risky due to its dilapidated condition. After assessment, Civil Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology declared it unsafe. Preparations are undergoing for the construction of a new school building.

IVY Rahman vocational training programs for professional women: a) Under this program, two classes are offered for the waiting mothers of the students. The two classes are - 'Boishakhi mothers club' and 'falguni mothers club' where they receive general education, health education trainings and awareness building on social problems. The vocational training is divided into two parts.

1. Training programs with course fee for the women of moderate income and affluent families are offered to make them self-reliant and financially independent. Classes on tailoring, handicrafts, machine embroidery, block and batik painting, ikebana and dry flower, jute products, cane and bamboo products etc are offered.



2. Free training programs are offered for the underprivileged and low income families on tailoring, leadership, adult education, awareness on cleanliness and reproduction health etc.

b) Ivy Rahman Mother and Child Health Care Project started from June 2018. A female doctor provides free treatment to women and children thrice weekly. From December 2021 to December 2022, a total of 512 patients received treatment.

Sitara Ahsanullah (S.A) Breast cancer Detection and Awareness Department: Free detection and advice are provided to patients by an experienced doctor thrice weekly. Patients are facilitated to diagnose from government hospitals or private diagnostic centers at subsidized rate. Since 2006 Breast cancer awareness and free medical camps are held at Dhaka and all over the country regularly.

Renu Ahmed Memorial Computer Training Department:

Two month long training on computing and information technology and Basic English course is provided to interested women. From December 2021 to December 2022, a total of 30 women received training.

5. Advocate Sahara Khatun Memorial Legal Aid Department:

Under this program, since 1981, BMS is extending free legal aid service to women facing violation at home or at workplace, through its lawyer members by way of counseling, mediation and if necessary, through court procedure.

On the occasion of celebrating golden jubilee of BMS a round table discussion was held on 29 October 2022 under this department.

Special Child Support Department:

BMS has set up a club named 'Uttaran' in 2014, where parents of special children can share and communicate their problems with trained teachers and professional counselors and also interact with their peer group. At present, the club has 97 members. More than a decade, financed by women council UK, BMS has been annually arranging with an institution in Mumbai named ADAPT (Able Disabled All People Together) to send one teacher on a three month course on specialized training.

On The occasion of "Mujib Barsho", 10 mothers with special children who are members of the club were given financial donation of Tk 50,000 (Fifty Thousand). This donation was received from the Department of Women and children Affairs of the Bangladesh Government.

Women and Children Development Department:

All kinds of research related reports are published by this department.

Art and Culture department:

BMS makes great contribution in the artistic theater practice of the country. Dr. Neelima Ibrahim Auditorium was the main center of staging theatrical productions since 1973. At the newly built complex building, following facilities are available for art cultural activities: Dr. Neelima Ibrahim Auditorium - 242 seats, IVY Rahman Auditorium - 170 seats, Conference hall - 45 seats and Anando Angan - open space at ground level.

Relief Fund Department:

During natural disasters BMS undertakes relief operations through this department. Donations of cash, medicine and other necessary items are collected from its members and sent to the people of the affected areas.

Publicity and Publication Department:

Activities and programs of BMS are published through this department. Brochures, publicity materials on different programs are circulated for information and awareness purpose.

Women Entrepreneurship Project:

Aim of this project is to create women entrepreneurship and to provide support to the business women for their self-reliance. This project started in 2016.

Participants of the project in most of the cases are the only earning member in the family. By selling their products the entrepreneurs get a chance to become financial solvency and independence.

Conclusion:

The aim of the projects run by BMS is to empower and develop women and towards the education and wellbeing of the underprivileged children. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the activities of BMS was forced to slow down for a year. Till date 20,873 women and children have been benefitted by the programs conducted by BMS which is 1,897 persons per year. BMS believes, even if 30% of these women become self-reliant, educated and financially solvent, that is where its success lies.

AFFILIATE MEMBER - CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (CFUW-FCF DU), CANADA



About CFUW

CFUW is a self-funded, non-partisan organization of over 6,600 women and 94 clubs across Canada that works to improve the status of women by promoting human rights, public education, social justice and peace in Canada and abroad. CFUW is a member of the National Council of Women of Canada. CFUW also holds special consultative status with the United Nations "ECOSOC" and is a member of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO network. CFUW is the largest of the 61 affiliates of Graduate Women International (GWI) and is a member of the International Alliance of Women (IAW).

CFUW's Current Advocacy Work

CFUW advocates to all levels of government and encourages its members to use their expertise to bring about positive social change, with particular reference to our five national priorities: gender-based violence, Indigenous Peoples' rights, early learning and child care, long-term care, and climate change.

- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** Unfortunately, rates of gender-based violence are on the rise in Canada, like many parts of the world. The [Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability](#) has reported that in 2022, 184 women and girls were violently killed, primarily by men. Our work on gender-based violence is focused on awareness-raising about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), gender-based violence on post-secondary campuses, the realities of intimate partner violence, gun violence, and the necessity of fully funding and implementing Canada's National Action Plan to End GBV.
- **Indigenous Peoples' Rights:** CFUW recognizes the past and ongoing forms of colonialism experienced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, who have taken care of Turtle Island, where we now call home, for time immemorial. We aim, through research, learning projects, calls to action, events and partnerships, and more, to support Indigenous Peoples' rights and move truth and reconciliation forward. CFUW has a designated scholarship that aims to support Indigenous women undertaking graduate studies. For CFUW, reconciliation means learning about the historical discrimination and dispossession faced by Indigenous Peoples. Our organization is committed to building relationships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.
- **Early Learning and Childcare:** CFUW has been advocating for a public and universal early learning and child care system for over 50 years. In 2023, Bill C-35 was introduced and passed through the Canadian House of Commons (not yet enacted into law) to ensure that the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) system would be a permanent fixture across Canada. CFUW has continued to monitor the implementation of the system as it has started to roll out. You can read CFUW's brief to the Parliamentary Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development, and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.
 - Read [CFUW's March 2023 brief \(ici en Français\)](#) on child care
- **Long-Term Care and Older Persons' Rights:** CFUW's work on Long Term Care (LTC) and Older Persons' Rights identifies decisive actions to improve the quality of life of seniors and improve care in the congregate settings of LTC facilities. CFUW hosts a national study group on LTC, where participants study LTC policy and law, and learn about positive models of LTC. Annually we host two events on Elder Action Day and regularly engage provincial and federal Senior Advocates.
- **Environment and Climate Change:** CFUW has long advocated for the preservation and stewardship of the environment and has over 45 adopted resolutions on the environment. This year, CFUW's national sub-committee on Environment and Climate Change started ramping up action by sending out stories, resources, and events for Earth Day, organizing a pre-AGM workshop, submitting input on Environment and Climate Change Canada's plastic consultation, as well as creating an Environmental Action group on facebook to share environmental news and action across Canada.
 - [Read our Special Earth Day Edition here!](#)

International Work

At the international level, CFUW participates annually at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. This year, CFUW sent 17 delegates to New York to participate in two weeks of immersive learning about this year's theme of digital education. CFUW submitted a written statement, supported by various partners ([read here](#)), and hosted two events, one in person and one virtually with CAMEUS, a partnership with our Mexican (FEMU) and US counterparts (WG-USA). [See more about our events here.](#)

Additionally, CFUW participated in the fourth cycle of the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR monitors human rights by reviewing countries every five years - receiving input from states, individuals, and civil society. Our research into human rights in Canada revealed that two of the most prominent human rights violations in Canada are violence against Indigenous women and environmental racism. These two violations are also inextricably linked and require system change. [To read CFUW's recommendations and report, visit our website here.](#)

In addition to advocacy, CFUW hosts an annual International Service Project Fundraiser, which coordinates fundraising from clubs across the country. The past few years, CFUW raised over \$24,000 for the [Darakht-E Danesh Library \(DDL\)](#) of the [Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan](#), which provides free and open educational resources for teachers and students in Afghanistan. For 2023-2024, CFUW will be fundraising for the 60 million girls project ["She Belongs in School"](#) in Mozambique.

Pressing National Issues

In line with our national priorities, in practicality, two of the most pressing issues in Canada are gender-based violence and climate change. In terms of GBV, we have seen several municipalities declare epidemics of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and women's shelters having to turn women and children away because they are at capacity. Further, despite the national inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the federal government promising funds, little meaningful action has been taken on the [231 Calls for Justice](#).

CFUW annually participates in the 16 Days of Activism against GBV (November 25-December 10th), which raises awareness about GBV with social media, events, vigils, and more. We also put out resources for CFUW clubs at this time in hopes that they will host local events. This past year, many clubs took action - from CFUW Kelowna hosting a vigil and a candlelight walk in memory of victims of the [Polytechnique Massacre](#) and MMIWG, CFUW Welland and District hosting several events such as a flag raising and mayoral address and lighting up local monuments in orange to raise awareness of GBV, and CFUW West and North Vancouver hosting a vigil and march with the local women's centre, First Nation, and police, amongst many other events. CFUW also was part of an effort on behalf of the University Women's Club North York's resolution on tightening bail restrictions to protect victims of intimate partner violence and CFUW Orillia for creating a petition with their local member of parliament, Adam Chambers, who read the petition in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Our advocacy work around the environment and climate change is ramping up. Canada's beautiful landscape, like many places in the world, is experiencing significant changes in risks. Canadians are seeing the effects of a rapidly warming climate in out-of-control wildfires, smoke and air pollution, landslides, flooding, heat waves, extreme weather, and melting permafrost. These changes are causing widespread health risks, uncertainty and displacement. As we continue to grapple with these effects, Canada is ramping up its efforts to achieve its Paris agreement commitments and net-zero by 2050. At the national level, CFUW has been monitoring COP27 and COP15 on Biodiversity, as well as the Canadian government's policies and action plans on climate mitigation and adaptation. CFUW clubs are also very active locally on environmental matters. CFUW North Delta/Surrey has created an interest group on researching their local peat bog and bog conversation, CFUW Markham-Unionville hosts a social justice book club, and CFUW West Vancouver as well as CFUW Cornwall and District both dedicated their year to raising awareness on environmental matters with a new topic for each month, amongst other clubs making a tremendous effort.

If you'd like to stay up to date with CFUW events and advocacy, you can [subscribe to our newsletter](#) and follow us on social media ([facebook](#), [twitter](#), [instagram](#), [linkedin](#) and [youtube](#))!

AFFILIATE MEMBER - DANISH WOMEN'S SOCIETY (DSK)

REPORTED BY LOUISE VINTHER ALIS

The work as prioritised in DKS is aiming mainly to address the IAW actions #1 ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, #4 HEALTH and #6 WOMEN IN ECONOMY

In below our ambition as well as our activities are listed:

#1 ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

For years there has been a focus on femicide and we have now finally received commitment from the minister of equality to prepare a national action plan to start preventing femicide and addressing violence against women. DKS is expecting to be invited to become an active player in the work of developing this to the extent possible.

We already know what is needed and what works, and it is very positive that the Danish government now acknowledges their role and the importance of this area.

#4 HEALTH

Family planning and abortion is a secured right for Danish women and DKS has a watchdog role in regards to ensuring that the right is not diminished. Additionally we are supporting our sister organisation in the Faeroe Islands, as abortion is legal in this part of the Danish Kingdom. Additionally we are making sure to support protests and SoMe agitations when abortion laws are being changed in the world around us.

DKS has also taken part in an Abortion Alliance which is a collaboration of various NGOs to promote an evaluation of the current abortion legislation to make it more progressive and more in line with medical practices.

Invisible Women; There is a focus on "invisible women" and the data gaps described in this book. A workshop has been conducted with various DKS members and it was decided that especially the data gaps related to medicine, anatomy and female diseases/symptoms is an area DKS wish to focus on in starting lobbying for bridging the gaps, and creating a wider awareness of the issue.

#6 WOMEN IN ECONOMY

During the fall of 2022 a number of debates were setup as a partnership between DKS and Thiemer Magasin (a Copenhagen Bookstore & -community). All debates were centered on a newly released book and all of these related to diversity and inclusion in the professional sphere.

In addition DKS is a member of the alliance against sexual harassment.

AFFILIATE MEMBER - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GERMANY (DFR)

CHAIR OF DFR-COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MARION BOEKER

The DFR still operates mainly remotely, virtual video meetings and webinars. Only a few meetings are back to onsite meetings such as the protest against Mahsa Amini's death by the Iran's regime (Sept.28, 2022) and consultations in Ministries. The Federal Seminar 2023 - this is a premiere - will be hybrid, in person and online Oct. 24.-26. 2023 in Erkner, near Berlin. Many partners, institutions, ministries, NGOs still use virtual meetings. The pandemic has changed the face of work: where possible, people work in home office which is the new normal. The DFR's activities are all in the scope of IAW's Action Programme's pillars as you can easily see.

German CSO Network for UNSC Res 1325 focus 2022 - 2023 on FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

Our **German CSO Network for UNSCR 1325 WPS** focused in the second half of 2022, besides monitoring the NAP 1325 III, on consulting on the making of the Feminist Foreign Policy. For us, the concept must be strongly connected with the *Agenda Women, Peace and Security* (WPS), Human Rights, intersectionality and decolonialisation. We published a Policy Paper "[Approaching a Feminist Foreign Policy in Germany](#)" (7/2023) and discussed it with the Bureau of the German Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock, with State Minister Tobias Lindner, the WPS and Human Rights units. At the end of 2022 and 2023 we advised the Foreign Office in a series of workshops. A great achievement is that the German Government's Guidelines on "Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy" (3/2023) include Gender Budgeting. As usual, our CSO concept is much more far-reaching. We outlined the lacks and gaps we observed so far in our current policy paper "The Guidelines on Feminist Foreign Policy of the Federal Foreign Office. A statement from a feminist perspective" (7/2023) which, as others, is on the [DFR webpage](#) and was announced in a press release (in German).

March 2023, Presentation of the Feminist Foreign Policy by the German Foreign Office,



*German CSO Network 4 UNSCR 1325 WPS
Delegation, among others, Marion Böker
Picture: Marion Böker, for the Network 1325...*

Still campaigning for Parity in all Parliaments - Next in upcoming EU-Elections 2024

The DFR conscientiously continued campaigning for 50% parity for women in all parliaments. The Munich section ([Verein für Fraueninteressen e.V.](#) Association for Women's Interests) submitted a second complaint to the German Federal Constitutional Court in 2021, supported by the Action Alliance under the umbrella of the National Council of German Women's Organizations of which DFR is a member. DFR members signed it as co-plaintiffs. The Commission on Electoral Law Reform of the German Federal Parliament dealt with the issue 2022/23, but rejected a positive decision. Our next step will be campaigning for "50:50" parity in the upcoming elections to the EU-Parliament in concert with the European Women's Lobby's (EWL) campaign.

2020-2022 CARE WORK as existential must be paid better and up-valued

The DFR has joined the National Alliance of Women's NOs in advocating for better, green and gender justice adjusted Equal Pay and Pension Pay, for the expansion of childcare in companies and public child care coverage which is still limited: 400.000 child care places are needed and not available due to the lack of qualified educators in the German labor market (see CEDAW CO May 30, 2023). The Alliance calls for the elimination of cost to be paid by parents for child care since many women, especially mothers, cannot afford this and call for end of spouse splitting and for individual taxation and the promotion of a fair distribution of gainful employment and care work.

DFR project partnership in West Africa - coordinated by Julia Schiller

The DFR is still supporting the A.D.F. in Bukina Faso. The main focus of this women's NGO is to overcome FGM/C, and promote family planning by community counselors. We are extremely concerned about the current destabilization in Bukina Faso, the negative impact of the pandemic and of the Russian war against Ukraine which results in poverty, the threat of Russian military influence and more attacks by militias, as well as attacks against Christian women. The DFR's second partner is the Youth Education Center (CJDA) in Atigba, on the Danyi plateau, in Togo. The focus is on education for economic independence. Meanwhile, the projects are connected to the IAW project Water & Pads which Gudrun Haupter had initiated and managed at the beginning.

Work under the international human rights conventions and Istanbul Convention

The DFR took note of the first review process of Germany under the **Istanbul Convention** in 2020 and in October 2022 participated in the German Istanbul Convention Alliance's event on a critical analysis of the [GREVIO Baseline Evaluation Report Germany](#) to decide on future advocacy work. The DFR is represented in the GERMAN CEDAW ALLIANCE and co-drafted the alternative report to the 9th State report to CEDAW. For the GERMAN CEDAW ALLIANCE Marion Böker among others participated in May 2023 in the 85th CEDAW session, informed the CEDAW committee in the private briefings on parity electoral law, institutional mechanisms and monitored the review session.

END FGM/C in Germany and beyond

Within the national NGO network [INTEGRA](#) the DFR is fighting for better protection, provisions and finances to assist women targeted by FGM/C. Our new representative is Hasina Azizi.

2022- 2023 Ending criminalisation of abortion

The DFR continues its advocacy with many other NGOs in an alliance for a free and self-determined decision for abortion, full sexual reproductive health and rights according to CEDAW, CESCRC and WHO standards and safe and financially accessible abortion in all health services and clinics, as well as de-criminalisation. In summer 2022 the government deleted §219a from the German Criminal Code which violated the right to access safe abortion and criminalized those who provide the surgery. Now **§ 218 of the Criminal Code** which has been criminalising women for 150 years and sets controls over women's right to self-determination and reproductive health rights is the focus and we call on the government to remove it completely. See the DFR's [Position Paper](#). The DFR supported along with 85 NGOs the alternative report under CEDAW for the 9th State Report's review in the 85. Session in May 2023 by [German Alliance for Choice \(GAfC\)](#) - published in English.

Sept. 28, 2022 in solidarity with Mahsa Amini, 'Jin, Jiyan, AZADI'

Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman, was arrested by the Guidance Patrol on 14 September 2022 because of an "improper hijab." The police were accused of beating her and inflicting a fatal head injury; Amini was pronounced dead on 16 September. After a CT scan confirmed that Amini had sustained head injuries, the head of the Guidance Patrol was allegedly suspended, a claim that was denied by Tehran police. She became the face of a whole movement of resistance of women and in support of men, too, in Iran against the misogynist and criminal regime to this day. When the news of the brutal killing of the courageous Mahsa Amini arrived in Berlin immediately the National Council of German Women's Organisations - of which DFR is a member- organised a protest with many Iranian Women and Members of the National Parliament.

LEFT PICTURE: On the poster an Iranian woman demands banning of Iran from the CSW Bureau of CSW 67; finally UN decided that Iran had to withdraw from CSW Bureau in spring 2023; Picture: Marion Böker

RIGHT PICTURE: Claudia Roth, Minister of State, attached to the Fed. Chancellor and Fed. Government Picture: Marion Böker



You can find the [DFR's Statement to this on our webpage here](#) (in German) The DFR's Committee on International Affairs cooperates further with activists like the Ezidi women in Germany and Shengal/ Iraq, with the Women's Library, Archives and Research Center in Suleymania/Iraq and will intensify its cooperation together with Ezidid Women's NGOs in Germany, with Afghan Women in Germany More and more groups in our communities who summarize collectively their fight for women's rights in their home countries and in exile under the **"Jin, Jiyan, Azadi"** slogan. Iranian women are role models. The DFR understands its solidarity concretely in opening doors for these women to have their voice heard and for access to our networks, movements, institutions.

Annual Federal DFR Webinars 2022 and 2023

The DFR's Federal Seminar **2022** highlighted **Climate justice and feminism**. Prof. Dr. Maja Göpel, a political economist, researching on transformation and sustainability was nominated the DFR Women of the Year 2022. She was a speaker in the Federal Webinar which took stock of this burning issue in October 2022 under the title **"Climate – Justice. Gender perspectives for a sustainable Future"**. The report is not yet available but will be published in DIE GRÜNE REIHE No 84 soon. Gotelind Alber, GENDER CC; was a speaker who elaborated on a project, which is impressive and had also been operated by AIWC, another IAW member. Outcome is that the DFR advocates for an acceleration of a green climate change policy, which means only using regenerative energies, lower consumption, sustainable growth and production (SDGs) and the inclusion of all women in decision making on this.

The 23-26 of October 2023 DFR - Federal Seminar is a response to the raise of the Anti-Democracy and Anti-Gender Movement and activities in Germany and beyond. It aims to built strong coalitions and resistance against the right wing and other threats against democracy and boldly advocate for an all inclusive society. The DFR stands for a strong democracy, an inclusive democracy of gender justice and gender parity. The theme is **"Democracy under Pressure – Strengthening the Feminist Perspective for a just and inclusive society"**. IAW members are warmly invited to attend the German language event. You can find the [PROGRAMME](#) and [REGISTRATION DETAILS](#) (p. 5; virtual participation 15 EUR for 3 days) here.

AFFILIATE MEMBER - NEDERLANDSE VERENIGING VOOR VROUWENBELANGEN, THE NETHERLANDS

PRESIDENT ARTEMIS WESTENBERG

Hidden poverty, Tax inspectors' bias – The realities of the 10th richest country in the World

Poverty and especially hidden poverty is a persistent problem in the Netherlands. And while access to banking for males and women has been guaranteed since women became fully emancipated actors in 1958, obtaining a loan as a self-employed entrepreneur is still much more difficult for women than for men. This problem of not being viewed as a bona fide 'entrepreneur' is exacerbated by the attitude of the tax inspectors who view the way of setting up a business by women as 'less serious'. This mindset is mainly based on the fact that women tend to set up shop the Google way (at home in the garage, or in a very low priced rental facility) and not take out a bigger loan (or none at all, operating within their savings budget) than is strictly necessary to bring their business idea into reality.

CSW & UN conferences – How to leverage the full width of the Dutch NGOs

The Netherlands Association for Women's Rights, Female Labour and Equal Citizenship (est. 1894) is deeply vested in the Commission on the Status of Women and has been sending and sponsoring representatives for decades. Next to that, and even before Covid-19 made face to face meetings forbidden, the Netherlands wide field of women's emancipation-striving groups have been using a WhatsApp group to inform each other quickly and efficiently of what is going on in the Netherlands where it the field of women's liberation is concerned.

The NLs Ass. For Women's Rights (Vrouwenbelangen, VB for short) has been instrumental in bringing problems to the attention of the Dutch government in the preparation for the CSW and in general. Truth be told, due to very active and knowledgeable members our organisation has had and still has an outside influence on the CSW preparations, the text of the Zero Draft in the Netherlands and the subsequent Zero Draft of the EU.

VB is always present been present at the Kick-off meetings and preparatory meetings for the CSW at the UN HQ. This year was no exception. The Covid-19 years had been online, due to considerations of the rules around Covid-19 for in person meetings. In 2022 and 2023 in person meetings were again allowed and thus had a strong representation of the VB board and a number of active members.

In the Netherlands, we, women groups, are lucky that as far back, as I personally witnessed, as the 1980 2nd conference on the decade of Women in Copenhagen the official government delegation has kept the NGO representatives abreast of what was happening at the UN meeting proper. During the CSW there is a daily meeting at the UN exhibition area on the ground floor, usually at 5pm, where members of the official Dutch Government delegation meet up with Dutch NGO representatives to the CSW. Noteworthy is that this year the exhibition in that area was on The Dutch History of Slavery. A good thing this is out in the open, even if it is a part of our Dutch story that few will feel good about.

In 2023 International Women's Day, 8 March, was the third day of the CSW67 and the United Nations Office for Outer Space organised an online side event, in which panel of Space experts, I as president of VB & as former president of Explore Mars, Inc. was invited. This is one of the rarer moments where my space activities meet my women's rights activities, although every white paper I collaborate on for the Women in Aerospace association is another of such rare convergences.

CSW68 – Every Theme is worth fighting for

Concerning the Commission on the Status of Women #68 theme VB has been very vocal in keeping the weekly sessions in preparation (and in debriefing of the CSW67), and strengthening their usefulness by inviting experts on the various financial topics that are encompassed in the theme of the CSW68: “(..)addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.” These expert sessions are what is needed to come up with useful ideas for the Zero Draft well before the draft is written by the Foreign Office

Netherlands Women’s Council – Cooperation strengthens our national messaging to politics

The Netherlands Women’s Council (in Dutch: Nederlandse Vrouwenraad, NVR for short) is an umbrella organisation representing over 1 million (on a national population of 17.5 million in total) female inhabitants in the Netherlands. Meetings, workshops, events, General Assemblies, and meetings of the presidents of the member organizations of the NVR, are always well attended by (board)members of VB. And attendance means always and foremost : active participation. That being so the cooperation between VB and NVR has strengthened over the last year.

PrincessesDay (a spiel on the word ‘PrincesDay’ for the General Assembly of Dutch Parliament every year’s third Tuesday in September) is a yearly event that the VB membership heavily participates in, making up 10% of the attendees each year.

Special Parliamentary elections on 22nd of November 2023 – a chance for change for the better

The Netherlands Women’s Council (NVR for short), a national umbrella organization of which VB is an active member since the start of the NVR 125 years ago has acquired a new president, an entrepreneur, with a daring mind and manner. VB and NVR are setting out to talk with each and every political party leader on the poverty, hidden, but also entrenched in the Netherlands due to the many rules and regulations regarding social security and unemployment benefits that keep people, especially single mothers, trapped in poverty. As a result of the disbanding of the cabinet there are special parliamentary elections for the lower chamber in the Netherlands on 22 November 2023. Surprisingly, most political parties (there are about 28 in the Netherlands) have opted for a new political leader for the nomination, which presents a unique opportunity to discuss the wishes and needs of women in the Netherlands with each of them. This is what VB, NVR with the support of many other women’s lib organizations is setting out to do in the next 2 months.

VB is the founder of the ‘choose a women from the nomination lists, regardless of the political affiliation you fancy’ events and propaganda materials. Also, VB is proposer of, and the champion of, the idea women/men 50/50 representation in Parliament. Both ideas were staunchly supported by many other NGO organisations in the Netherlands for the Municipal Elections of March 2022 and the Dutch Provincial Elections of March 2023, and will be promoted for the special parliamentary elections in November.



LEFT: Artemis Westenberg meets Nelson Mandela in UN HQ

RIGHT: UN HQ exhibit on Dutch Slavery



NAP1325 – Women need to be at the table, always, as equals

Over the last years, VB, has been involved with the National Action Plan resolution 1325 and with the annual reports on the subject as submitted by the Dutch government on the progress of implementing its articles in the Netherlands' policies. VB is an active participant in any meeting concerning peace and consultations in accordance of the NAP1325. VB pledged its contributions for the NAP1325 again this year.

Also, VB contributes to the shadow report on the NAP1325 by the government, and will speak up at national meetings concerning this important subject of incorporating women in forging peace and in designing what their country will look like after peace has been established. Note: we are so well known for speaking up that in international NAP1325 meetings in the Netherlands Atria and Wo=Men will attempt to curb the amount of time VB speaks up, which just means that we are getting really good at making our point in under 20 seconds like this year.

'Peace needs women at the table in equal weight as the men, which also holds for meetings discussing rebuilding the country after peace' spoken as delegate input at the start of the NAP1325 meeting at the Foreign office with 150 participants in the room.

This year VB participated in a special international meeting in Den Haag on the situation of women in Yemen, which was very informative and indubiously conducive for networking and strengthening of ties with NGOs from Yemen.

Convention of Istanbul – The Dutch government reporting and the reality

Again, VB contributed extensively to the GREVIO (Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, for which the Dutch Aleid van den Brink is First Vice-President) on what we, the NGOs in the Netherlands, see that our government is really doing vis a vis the Convention of Istanbul.

Regrettably, the Dutch NGOs collectively had to conclude that our Dutch government is mostly providing lip service to many of the Convention's articles. Femicide and other violence against women is not named as such which results in lacklustre measures and actions to curb both abominations in the Netherlands. Next to that, research into the practices of the Foreign Office regarding NGOs/Women in countries that the Netherlands supports, financially or with advice brought to light that gender discrimination is rife both within the Foreign Office workforce as well as within the execution of policies by the Foreign Office in the world.

Furthermore, problematic in the Netherlands itself is the unwillingness to report violence against women accurately by government agencies, among which the police, which leads to national statistics that are far from reality, which in its turn leads to unwillingness to enact better policies and laws to curb violence against women. Couple this with the truly bizarre fact that the police and other government agencies point to computer programs not being able to take a more precise input on who perpetrated violence and against whom violence was perpetrated. Basically, stating that it is the software's fault that the Netherlands lacks precise numbers on violence against women. A bizarre claim, as the Netherlands as a whole is a very IT/Internet savvy country where the population as a whole is concerned.

As always, lack of numbers, clear subdivision in statistics between violence against whom perpetrated and who the perpetrators are, turns the plight of women invisible.

In contrast to the findings of the NGOs in the Netherlands, the report by the Dutch Government on the Istanbul Convention practices by the Netherlands paint a far too optimistic and laudatory picture is the conclusion of the NGOs in the Netherlands.

AFFILIATE MEMBER - NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS – NORSK KVINNESAKSFORENING (NKF), NORWAY

The report will summarize the most significant activities in Norwegian Association for Women's Rights in 2022/2023, including the chapters in Oslo, Bergen, Drammen and Gina Krogh's Association for Women's Rights at Haugalandet and Karmøy.

Oslo Association for Women's Rights

In 2022/23 the Oslo Chapter of the Norwegian Association for Women's rights (OKF) maintained close relations with other women's organizations through joint events, including the annual 16 Days Campaign to end violence against women and the annual march in the capital for Women's International Day, 8 March. OKF has a special responsibility on IWD to honor one of the greats in Norwegian women's history by inviting a current pioneer for women's rights to give an address by the statue of the author Camilla Collett. This year's speaker was Iranian author Soudabeh Alishai, in a tribute to Iranian women's struggle for freedom.

During the year, the Oslo Chapter organized members' workshops on current topics of special relevance for women, such as a new white paper on the criminal code regarding consent in sexual relations, and on the current process of amending the abortion legislation.

The Oslo Chapter is committed to promoting women's rights also through cultural expressions, and special film screenings followed by debate have been organized – e.g. Margarete von Trotta's feature film Hanna Arendt, introduced by philosopher Helgard Mahrtdt, and a new Norwegian feature film, "Night", addressing men's violence against women.

Violence against women was also the topic of an op-ed OKF was invited to submit to an Oslo newspaper for International Women's Day. Another op-ed accepted by a major national paper addressed the need for better abortion legislation and was jointly drafted by several women's rights organizations.

An important role of the Oslo Chapter is also to offer members the opportunity to socialize while learning about interesting aspects of women's history in Norway – this was also the case in 2022/23 with four such informal gatherings.

Bergen Association for Women's Rights

The Chapter in Bergen works together with other Women's Associations to bring up themes connected to women's rights in public discourse and among politicians. We are particularly concerned with cases connected to women's everyday in the present as well as the past, and among the foci has been to address the challenges among immigrant women.

We also cooperate with the theatre "Den Nationale Scene" in Bergen and with Bergen Public Library, where we have organized public events.

Women's health issues and Violence against women has been addressed, in particular at the yearly conference on Women's health. We were directly involved in the hearing in Bergen municipality on local plans for gender equality and domestic violence, and have facilitated direct meetings between the municipality and women with experiences of violence.

We have participated in the joint celebration of 8th of March, as well as organizing our own arrangements.

Our new project on intercultural women's politics gathers women with different cultural backgrounds every month and discuss human rights, democracy and gender equality. The aim is to establish new knowledge and networks.

Drammen Association for Women's Rights

Drammen Association for Women's Rights has arranged meetings on Women's health, and a guided tour in Drammen with a focus on the city's women, in the past and in the present. In February, the organization celebrated its 125 years jubilee which occurred during the pandemic in 2021.

Gina Krog's Association for Women's Rights at Haugalandet and Karmøy

In 2023, Gina Krog Kvinnesaksforening has been concerned with the municipal elections and the fact that we have too few women elected to our municipal councils. We have had a couple of reader posts in the local media to focus on this.

Furthermore, we have organized the Gina Krog Festival in June, where the author Kristin Valla gave a great lecture about her book "Egne steder" which was published this year. We had also created a great exhibition during the festival, in collaboration with the female owners and artists of Formbar glassworkshop, Haugesund.

Due to the fact that we had to cancel the second day of the festival, we plan to carry it out now during the autumn. The date is not quite set yet, but the theme is "Violence in close relationships".

The national chapter of Norwegian Association for Women's Rights

The national board of the organization arranges the yearly meeting points for the entire organization. In 2022 it was the general assembly, where our former chair Karin Bruzelius was appointed a honorary member, and the two ski jumpers Annette Sagen and Maren Lundby were given the Gina Krog Award for their brave representation of women in ski jumping and ski flying, and their struggle for women's participation in these games. Later the same year, the first World Cup Ski Flyer event ever were organized in Norway. In 2023, a joint meeting of all the boards from the different chapters will be organized, and there will be discussions on legislation on abortion as well as the current debate on women, gender and transgender issues.

The national board applies for financial support from the government and distributes a large part of this support to the local chapters. It generally has board meetings every month.

In 2022/23 the national board has on behalf of the organization responded to several hearings on governmental white papers, among those the white paper on women's health, on the pension system, NOU 2022:21 on legal protection of sexual autonomy, NOU 2022:9 on freedom of speech.

The national board has also initiated and started a project on intercultural women's rights, where we have contacted potential partner organizations to include a broader perspective in the work of the organization.

AFFILIATE MEMBER - WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY (WEL), AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL CONVENOR JOZEFA SOBSKI AM

Future of WEL Australia

Over the last decade, some WEL branches have closed and members have transferred to WEL Australia membership. This year we have been investigating our work and our structure. We are holding meetings of members to consider the options, leading to consideration of closing our State Branches and having one single national body. As one national body, our ties with IAW and active involvement would continue.

During this century and earlier WEL New South Wales, with the largest number of active members and strong networks, has taken on the major responsibility for lobbying, submissions and website for the State Branch as well as leading the work of WEL Australia. A range of State and Territory members are involved, some as part of the National Coordinating Committee of WELA, and others by maintaining a regular communication with Federal parliamentarians and national women's organisations.

WEL is a member of the **Equality Rights Alliance (ERA)** and a member of the NCC represents WEL on its governing body and we will be represented in the restructured **ERA** under the **YWCA** on its Advocacy Policy and Advisory Council meeting in September, 2023.

WEL's Work

With a new Federal Government having a strong women's policy agenda, WEL is working with other women's organisations by contributing to the development of a **National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality**. This strategy is intended to guide whole of community action to help make Australia one of the best countries in the world for equality between men and women. The Strategy will be the overarching architecture for driving gender equality across the country.

WEL members have been involved in consultations and roundtables as well as being part of **ERA's** important work with government agencies. WEL lobbied with many women's organisations for the reinstatement of the Parenting Payment (single) to parents of children aged between 8-15 and the abolition of a regressive program Parents Next. WEL will continue to lobby the Federal Government for the abolition of the Childcare Activity Test and payment of superannuation on Paid Parental Leave as urgent priorities. We wrote to the Treasurer, joining a national campaign to abolish the legislated Stage 3 tax cuts under the previous government assessing that these will overwhelmingly advantage the better off members of the Australian community. WEL continues to monitor the government's policy agenda against its **Federal Election Policy Priorities 2022**. WEL continues to campaign for pay equity, freedom from harassment, decent incomes and secure work, eliminating domestic and sexual violence against women, reproductive choice, safe and affordable housing, free and universal child care, equal representation on bodies of all our communities and accessible and affordable education and vocational training.

Through our National Convenor, we were involved in the **National Foundation of Australian Women's Gender Lens Federal Budget Analysis** as we have been for many years.

WEL is supporting the YES to a **Voice** for Indigenous people in a national referendum to be held in October. It resolved to support the YES vote for recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and to enshrine a **Voice** to the Federal Parliament to make representations to the Parliament and Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to these peoples. The Voice will be an advisory body enshrined in the Constitution if the referendum passes in a majority of states and in a majority of the population across the nation.

WEL's work continues and we join with other women's organisations in campaigns for a more equal society.

WOMENS ELECTORAL LOBBY



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

AFFILATE MEMBER - WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE OF INDIA (WHI), INDIA

Introduction: In the period from 2022 to 2023, our organization, the **WHI**, remained committed to its mission of fostering positive change through various programs and studies aimed at addressing critical issues affecting our society. These initiatives spanned a wide spectrum, ranging from education and health to environmental conservation and women's empowerment. This report outlines the key programs and studies conducted by WHI during this period, highlighting our impact and contributions towards a better future.

Education and Empowerment: One of our flagship initiatives was centred around education and empowerment. We organized a series of intervention programs aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for underprivileged children. These programs included after-school tutoring, scholarship opportunities, and mentorship initiatives. In parallel, we conducted seminars on global economic dynamics, such as the G20, to equip the youth with a broader understanding of the world.

Health and Well-being: In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, we took a comprehensive approach to women's health. Our research study on the health status of women post-Covid shed light on the challenges faced by women in the wake of the pandemic, allowing us to formulate targeted support strategies. Furthermore, we organized a series of medical camps to provide essential healthcare services to underserved communities, prioritizing preventive care and awareness.

Sustainable Development: Our commitment to sustainable development was evident in our efforts towards waste management, climate change, and organic farming. We conducted workshops and awareness campaigns on waste segregation and recycling, encouraging communities to adopt eco-friendly practices. Additionally, we promoted organic vegetable farming as a means to ensure food security while mitigating the adverse effects of conventional agriculture on the environment.

Women's Empowerment and Social Issues: Understanding the critical role women play in society, we initiated studies focused on the lives of fisherwomen in coastal areas and the impact of alcohol-related violence on women. These studies guided the development of targeted interventions to improve the living conditions of fisherwomen and combat violence against women. Moreover, we organized workshops that provided women with the skills and knowledge to become economically independent.

Migration and Global Awareness: Our commitment to global awareness and cross-cultural understanding led us to undertake a study on student migration for studies abroad. Through this study, we aimed to identify challenges faced by students pursuing education abroad and provide recommendations to facilitate smoother transitions. Furthermore, we organized seminars on digitalization in education, enhancing students' ability to adapt to the evolving educational landscape.

The year 2022 to 2023 witnessed a myriad of impactful programs and initiatives undertaken by the WHI. Through a holistic approach to education, health, empowerment, and sustainability, we sought to create positive change in our society. We believe that our efforts, ranging from educational interventions to empowering women and promoting sustainable practices, have contributed significantly to improving the lives of many. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to our mission and look forward to a future where our initiatives continue to inspire and uplift communities across the globe.

Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Initiatives

The Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development Centre of India (WHI) continued its tireless commitment to advancing women's empowerment and youth development in the year 2022-2023. Through a range of impactful projects, WHI empowered young individuals, addressed pressing issues, and promoted education on international policies and programs to address women's challenges on a global scale.

Youth Initiative: The core of WHI's vision lies in the youth – the young women leaders of tomorrow. The youth initiative focused on empowering adolescents with essential life skills, leadership training, and knowledge about their rights. Through workshops, mentoring, and interactive sessions, we aimed to build a generation of confident, informed, and responsible young individuals poised to contribute positively to society.

Water and Pad Project: Recognizing the significance of menstrual hygiene and accessibility to clean water, WHI launched the Water and Pad Project. This project aimed to provide women and girls in underserved areas with access to clean and safe water sources, as well as distributing eco-friendly sanitary pads. By addressing these basic needs, we aimed to empower young women to lead healthy and dignified lives.

Education on International Policies and Programs: Awareness is a powerful tool for change. WHI organized educational programs to enhance understanding of international policies and programs that focus on addressing women's issues globally. Workshops and seminars highlighted the importance of international cooperation in tackling challenges such as gender-based violence, economic inequality, and access to education.

Promoting Women's Empowerment: The Center's flagship initiative focused on promoting women's empowerment through skill-building, entrepreneurship training, and gender-sensitive education. By equipping women with skills that enable them to participate fully in the economy and society, we aimed to break the cycle of poverty and gender-based discrimination.

Impact and Outreach: During the year, WHI's initiatives directly impacted hundreds of young people and women across various communities. Through our collaborative efforts with local partners, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations, we were able to extend our reach and ensure the sustainability of our projects.

Future Outlook: As we move forward, WHI remains committed to its vision of creating a society where women are empowered, youth are inspired, and communities thrive. We plan to expand our initiatives, reach new communities, and continue raising awareness about global policies that can positively influence women's lives.

Conclusion: The Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development Centre of India's endeavours in 2022-2023 reaffirm our dedication to fostering a world where gender equality is a reality and every individual, regardless of gender, has the opportunity to lead a life of dignity and respect. Through our youth initiative, water and pad project, and education on international policies, we have taken steps toward achieving this vision, and we remain committed to our journey of positive change.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER - ALLIANCE OF WOMEN OF SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SERBIA

The Alliance of Women of Serbia and Montenegro was founded in 1991 under the name Alliance of Women of Yugoslavia and was registered within the system of citizens' associations at the Ministry of Justice.

The Alliance of Women of Serbia and Montenegro is an associate member of the International Alliance of Women (IAW), headquartered in New York, and a member of the International Committee for Connecting Women's Organizations at UNESCO, headquartered in Paris.

It is a partner of the UNESCO Center for Women and Peace in the Balkans, headquartered in Thessaloniki.

Based on the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, which proclaims the principle of gender equality for the purpose of developing a policy of equal opportunities, in the Republic of Serbia, the National Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Women and the Implementation of Gender Equality (Official Gazette of RS 15/09) has been adopted, expressing commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations in order to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and to provide a comprehensive protection system for women victims of violence.

Our Association advocates for the removal of various stereotypes in the media and the elimination of hate speech. Through various forms of activities, we work towards achieving set goals, relying on the national strategy, especially in the area of promoting women's professional and leadership potential.

Other institutions and state authorities also need to be dedicated to further improving the situation of women in the Republic of Serbia.

Our Organization also has a humanitarian program consisting of organizing and conducting humanitarian activities of importance for achieving the basic goal of the Alliance. The Alliance of Women collaborates with the Government and non-governmental organizations, women's peace and environmental movements in the country and abroad.

Within the Legal Program, there is engagement in the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which our country has ratified, too.

Also, the ratifications of European and global Conventions on the rights of women and children, as well as other Declarations of Human Rights, are being monitored.

The basic goal of action of our non-profit, non-governmental organization is advocacy for social affirmation and improvement of the position of women in society.

Within the Alliance, there is also the activity of organizing roundtable discussions, surveys, etc., as well as taking positions on all relevant issues of interest for the position of women.

Efforts are also being made to establish networks of organizations in the territory of Serbia and Montenegro within the Alliance of Women.

Within the Alliance of Women, there is also a multimedia program of activities (speech, publishing, literary, musical, visual, film, and documentary programs) through lectures, seminars, promotions, etc. And through special programs that encompass the implementation of business education (management, tourist arrangements, etc.)

WATER AND PADS PROJECT

REPORT OF OCTOBER 2022 TO AUGUST 2023

REPORTED BY URSULA NAKAMURA CO-COORDINATOR

New perspectives opening up!

During the reporting period, the WP project again developed very well.

Our IAW colleagues were able to reach out to 10 schools. It is often difficult for them to find the best possible time with the respective school management.

It is great that now 5 more schools are participating in the WP project.

As there are always school exams to be taken into account and as also sufficient brochures must be available, the WP activities are often delayed: Therefore some WP events from 2022 had to be postponed to the current year

List of WP events from Sept. 2022 until August 2023: (AP 1,2,4)

WP activities postponed and carried out 1st half-year 2023:

RUWON Nepal

LA COLOMBE Togo

CEFAP Cameroon

WP activities carried out 1st half-year 2023:

SOFEDDEC DR Congo

CEFAP Cameroon

WP activities carried out 2nd half year 2023:

WCCF Zimbabwe

SANDEPANI India

WP activities planned 2nd half year 2023:

RENATA Cameroon

ZAW Zambia

RUWON Nepal

BAWUFAG Cameroon

LA COLOMBE Togo

List of New Schools reached 2022-2023: (AP 1,2,4)

BAWUFAG Cameroon Akam Bilingual Academy Yaoundé (planned)

CEFAP Cameroun Lycée Guider and Gribi, / Lycée Technique de Bafoussam / Lycée bilingue d'Edéa

RUWON Nepal Bal Uddhar Secondary School Kathmandu

SOFEDDEC RD Congo Complexe scolaire Le Bouclier Saint Joseph Goma

WCCF Zimbabwe Gemini Galaxy School/ St Giles Special School /Speciss College

ZAW Zambia Dzikomo Primary and Secondary School Ndola

When we see this impressive list of participating “new schools”, we get aware how great the commitment of our IAW WP colleagues is. They also continue to work closely with the already known schools.

What has changed within the reporting period? (AP 1,2,4,5)

WP participants in Africa and Asia

SOFEDDEC was unable to carry out its WP activities due to brutal military incursions into the town of GOMA DR Congo on 4 Nov. 2023. In the wake of this disaster Anuarite Siirewabo and her colleagues were intensively involved in first aid. They supported especially mothers and small children.

In Kathmandu Nepal, schools had to close in June 2023 because of a heatwave of 45°.

Goma Bastola from RUWON together with the school-management organized mobile phones for online schooling at the Bal Uddhar Secondary School

WP team

Unfortunately, **Gudrun Haupter**, co-coordinator of the WP project since its beginning had to resign in spring 2022 for health reasons. Her great experience, her relentless dedication and her many contacts with women in Africa were invaluable. We express our great gratitude to her.

Now **Heidi Bodmer**, Switzerland, with her great know-how in development projects, is the new co-coordinator. The WP team consisting also of **Anne Yotchou**, Cameroon and **Pascale Vallée** France has met regularly by Zoom, but Anne has to struggle with a poor internet connection.

What is new – what is in the doing?

Networking among IAW organizations

Since the end of 2022, **BAWUFAG** with Rebecca Juga is also domiciled in Yaoundé, as it was no longer possible to remain in the north of the country due to the constant military attacks.

BAWUFAG is in close contact with CEFAP and RENATA.

This made it possible to print the required brochures for 2023 together at low cost for all 3 organizations all together. Anne organized it all and invited her colleagues for the distribution in February.

Publicity to a larger public on site (AP 2,4,7)

More than ever, our IAW colleagues are trying to reach a wider audience with the WP project.

Instead of just holding WP events in a school, they also invite the responsible community persons to the events. This increases the impact.

Rita Marque from **WCCF** recently even convened a **national conference** with politicians and other responsible persons to the WP activities at the school in Bulawayo. Obviously, this had a great impact, and officials now want to promote a better menstrual health management in Zimbabwe.

Dr. Vijaya Lakshmi from **SANDEPANI** School recently not only carried out some WP sessions with the students, she also invited the members of WHI, the women's organisation she is its president.

This will help to disseminate this important information about menstruation widely.

Start pilot project for the production of reusable sanitary pads (AP 1,2,4)

For some time now, our IAW colleagues in the field have started to distribute also pads to the schoolgirls living in precarious condition. Above all, they want to distribute low cost reusable sanitary pads.

Since the WP budget is extremely tight, new ways had to be found. Thanks to Anne Yotchou the first efforts are now underway in a micro-enterprise in Yaoundé, Cameroon. In this one-year pilot project, the three IAW organizations based in Cameroon will receive locally produced sanitary pad sets for "their" schools.



LEFT: BAWUFAG, CEFAP and RENATA organisations at Yaoundé Cameroon receive the WP booklets printed for 2023

RIGHT: WCCF National Conference 16 August 2023 at Bulawayo Zimbabwe

You can support the WP project by a donation:

Alliance Internationale des Femmes
IBAN : CH96 0900 0000 9182 4969 4
BIC/SWIFT Code: POFICHBEXXX
Intended use: "Water and Pads Project"

Thank you very much in advance!

BAWUFAG, CEFAP and RENATA organisations
at Yaoundé Cameroon receive the WP booklets printed for 2023.
WCCF National Conference 16 August 2023
at Bulawayo Zimbabwe

IAW Action Programme AP:

1 Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls / 2 Human Rights / 3 Climate Change / 4 Health / 5 Peace - Security / 6 Women in Economy / 7 Democracy;

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