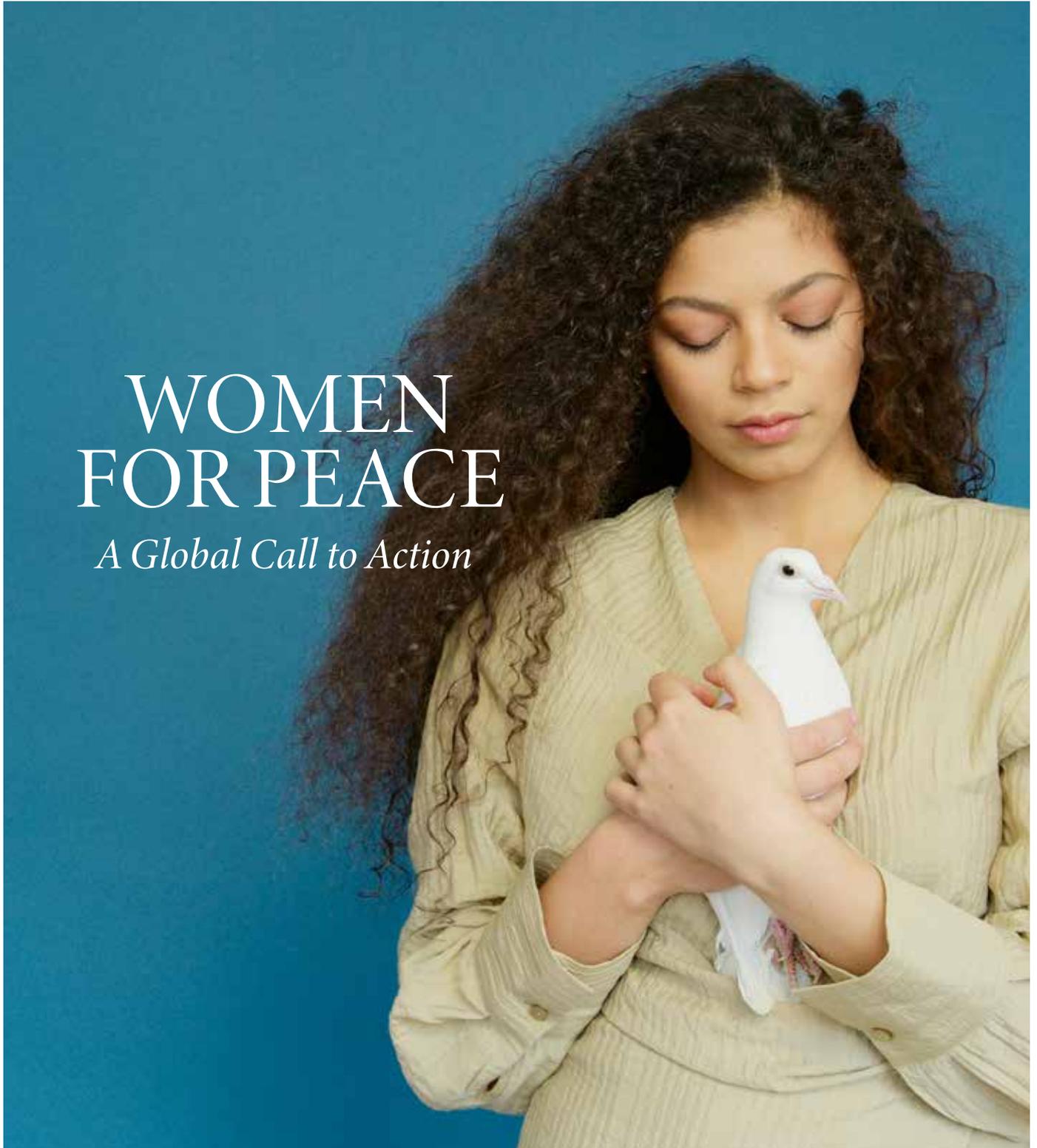


# International Women's News Nouvelles féministes internationales

*Journal of the International Alliance of Women*

## WOMEN FOR PEACE

*A Global Call to Action*



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## CONTRIBUTORS

*German economic correspondent Karin Finkenzeller (left) contributed to this issue with an interview with a Ukrainian reporter documenting the war in her country. Our member Kathleen Montgomery was once again kind (and tireless) enough to proofread all non-native texts. And magazine designer Katrin Hoffmann (right) did the layout.*



## EDITORIAL



Kerstin Löffler  
IWNEWS EDITOR

Dear reader,

many women's rights activists were also peace activists, and the International Alliance of Women has a long history of peace work. In this issue, we focus on the inseparable link between women's rights and peace, which is more relevant today than ever – with an interview with a Ukrainian journalist, a young delegation at an anti-nuclear weapons conference and an activist who looks back on several decades of peace work.

Despite the numerous conflicts worldwide, we see encouraging signs: Women are increasingly taking on key roles in peace processes and their voices are being heard more and more clearly in international forums.

We are convinced that a just and peaceful future can only be achieved through the full inclusion and equal rights of women. Let the contributions in this issue encourage and inspire us.

*Kerstin*

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Alison Brown  
*IAW President*



## Only Peace Nourishes Women's Lives

*For millennia women have instinctively known that*

War takes away the very ground under one's feet, prevents food production, industry, undoes everything women have worked for. Peace promotes growth while war poisons earth, air and water. It robs women of their safety and physical integrity as it is often carried out on their bodies as well as robbing them of the fruit of their wombs. Small wonder then that the women peacemakers are many in history and the women warriors few.

But the litany of Peacemakers seems not as exciting as the few women under arms, like Boudica, who roused the Britons to rebel against the intolerable conditions of Roman occupation in the first century, which ended in a horrible defeat that subjected her and her family to all the punishments patriarchy meets out to women who protest. As history is written by the male winners we see the "sexy" exciting images of warrior women, like this Usbek Queen, even in superhero movies today.



There are fewer "sexy" images of the women who tirelessly march for peace. The name Bertha von Suttner still rings through history as both Mother of the Nobel Peace Prize and its first female recipient. Around that time the women of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA = IAW) were faced with a horrible choice. For its whole existence the organisation had been promoting peace and now, with what is now called World War I breaking out, the members associations of the Alliance had to choose between patriotic support of their homelands and radical refusal to support fighting. Politics suggested that being good patriots would further their cause of achieving the vote, while many women's hearts were set against sending their family members off to die on the field of battle. A schism occurred in the membership: the radical peace activists broke away from the IWSA to form WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which thrives to this day) while the suffragists worked to support their countries on the home front and, indeed, in most countries earned respect and finally the long desired right to vote as a special thank-you. But peace remained a major goal of our organisation through all its iterations and remains so today.

Peace-making is a slog, hours spent petitioning authorities, having reasoned words fall on deaf ears. Few action scenes to put into movies plays and novels. Pointing out the fallacy that war never really solves anything does not catch on. Ultimately even the "victorious" Romans withdrew to leave the Britons to their own devices. Then the next war began. For some reason, men like their war games and destructive toys, which have only become more deadly as technology advances. This makes implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 imperative.

We have seen in Afghanistan how war can take everything from women. Educated, professional women who had achieved positions under a Soviet system and then again under a Western supported peace, were repeatedly thrown with force back into the dark ages of their region, deprived of all that civilization had offered them, by violent and jealous men who misinterpret their own religion. In Iran, bellicose men take women's freedom, but still women and girls march and chant "Woman. Life, Freedom" for the rights that peace would give them. In Africa, women ceaselessly agitate for peace, in which they can raise their children, till their fields and live without fear of attack. This is the situation in the regions of many IAW member organisations: The Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Cameroon, and those without, like Sudan. The clash between Palestinians and Israelis seems fated to be ongoing, with war making the lives of women miserable on both sides, each military attack making peace less likely.

There are armies, where women have taken up battle positions, but they find themselves to be the enemy of their comrades, suffering rape and murder in the ranks and the patriarchal structures of war machines fail to make them either safe or whole. One wonders that these women do not leave their ranks and march for peace as well, because peace supports prosperity for women and children.

We say with Bertha von Suttner "Die Waffen nieder!" Lay down your weapons! Take up books and plowshares for a peaceful and optimistic future.

*Alison Brown is IAW's president. She is a member of our Commission on Protection of Privacy/GDPR.*

## OUR MISSION

*IAW supports the efforts of the United Nations in working on a universal declaration on the human right to peace.*

*The unique feature of such a declaration would be that once agreed upon it would represent a substantive commitment of the UN family of nations to build a preventive culture of peace.*

*It would help to protect the human rights defined in so many important UN documents, but so often endangered or lost in conflict; and especially for women.*

*IAW supports the world-wide implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325 and subsequent United Nations Security resolutions for women, peace and security.*

*We are convinced that a UN-wide Declaration on the Human Rights to Peace would strengthen their implementation and enhance women's engagement as advocates, partners and agents of change, FOR PEACE.*

*The work of the IAW Peace Commission is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations, International Humanitarian Law.*

*It concentrates on the implementation of the UN Resolution 1325 on women peace and security and its following resolutions.*

*The International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA), now International Alliance of Women, from its inception in 1904, stood for the right of women to vote, for equal citizenship, and the equal sharing of rights and responsibilities.*

# INTERVIEW

with Oleksandra Novosel

## Bearing Witness on the Front Lines: A Ukrainian Journalist's Journey

*Sascha's transition from local TV to war correspondent reveals the personal cost and importance of reporting in conflict zones*

**Sascha, you were working as a local journalist for television in your hometown of Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine when the war began. Now you've been a frontline reporter for two years. How are you doing?**

Thank you, I'm doing well. I know that my work is important and meaningful. Basically, I'm still a local journalist. It's just that since February 24, 2022, I've been reporting from the front very often. I want people to see that they and I are alive because other, braver people are dying for us. I am determined to show how our soldiers protect us.

When the Russian invasion began, Kharkiv became one of the main targets of the Russian troops.

My city was under constant fire for six months. This only stopped – at least in terms of intensity – with the counter-offensive in September 2022. Since then, I have also been helping to document Russian war crimes in the region.

**What are you doing there?**

I talk to people about what they have suffered under the Russian occupation. It's important to collect as many details as possible and make these details available to human rights organizations and the public prosecutor's office. We hope that one day we will be able to bring the perpetrators to justice in a court of law and that the material we are collecting can contribute to this. I also report on the everyday lives of the people who are still holding out in the war zone on the



border with Russia, often without electricity, gas, or drinking water — and repeatedly under frequent fire. A few days ago, another drone attack killed a young couple and their three small children.

**Are you afraid when you are on the frontline?**

Of course I'm afraid. I'm always scared. But that's a good thing. If it were any other way, I would have to quit. That's one of the rules of frontline reporting. If you're not afraid, you risk dying. Especially in this war, because the Russian army doesn't care about international rules that give special protection to journalists and humanitarian aid workers. On the contrary — they want to eliminate us.

**You stayed in Kharkiv with a colleague to report after the Russian invasion. Why did you make this decision?**

We reduced the size of the team at the time for security

reasons and also because we couldn't broadcast that much due to the constant shelling. But Kharkiv is my city. Leaving it was out of the question for me. I didn't set out to be a war reporter and I don't like being called one. In my opinion, war reporters are people who travel to war zones to report on the fighting there. My colleague and I are simply reporters who stayed in our region to report on the war.

**You originally had completely different career plans.**

I had always been interested in journalism, but at first I wasn't sure if it was the right thing for me. That's why I initially studied systems analysis at the Technical University. The fact that I changed my course had a lot to do with the Maidan Revolution between November 2013 and February 2014. In Ukraine, by the way, we call it the Revolution of Dignity. I saw how propaganda was supposed to manipulate our population. I realized that we had to fight back. That hasn't changed. Propaganda is a dangerous weapon of war.

**What do you wish for?**

I wish for Ukraine to win the war. That people with different interests and lifestyles can live in peace in a free country and that their rights are respected.



Oleksandra "Sascha" Novosel is a reporter in Ukraine. Our author Karin Finkenzeller spoke to Sascha at an event in the Republic of Moldova.

## Two weeks up close and personal with global politics

*Youth voices rise at landmark nuclear weapons ban treaty conference*

2022 was a special year for me: in June, the historic first Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) took place at the United Nations in Vienna, Austria, and I was there as part of a youth delegation.

The name sounds a bit unwieldy, but it is impressive: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was largely driven by the international peace movement, above all the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2017 and came into force in 2021. Among other things, the TPNW prohibits the use, possession, stockpiling, and deployment of nuclear weapons. Even though the nine nuclear weapon states are not part of the treaty, the treaty has already had an impact and sends a clear signal that the majority of states around the world are no longer willing to accept the possession and threat of nuclear weapons.

People often complain that young people are no longer interested or involved in politics. I cannot confirm this. At this and the other UN conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in New York in August 2022, I was able to establish contacts with young people from all over the world — from Japan, who are trying to pass on the stories of the Hibakusha, the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki;



from the Marshall Islands, who reported on the catastrophic nuclear weapons tests there; and with new comrades-in-arms from Germany, who are campaigning for an end to nuclear sharing.

Many young people like me are not prepared to accept the status quo. Especially those of us who were born in the nuclear age, which we neither helped to build nor agreed to, want our generation and all other generations to live in a world without nuclear weapons.



Annegret Krüger is a member of the IAW and Chairwoman of the Women's Network for Peace e.V. in Germany

## Grassroots Movement for Israeli-Palestinian Reconciliation

*Organizations nominated for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize*

In May, Regula Alon-Gruber from Switzerland gave a talk at a Reformed church service about the creation of Women Wage Peace (WWP), the largest grassroots peace organization in Israel (almost 50,000), founded in 2014. Regula has lived in Israel for a long time and plays a key role in this organization.

Her impressive pictures showed a different approach to peace from women's perspective. The interfaith cooperation

with the Palestinian women's peace organization, Women of the Sun (WOS), has been intensifying for three years. Both organizations have been nominated for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize.

This moving story offered me (as part of the International Association for Religious Freedom/IARF) the opportunity to respond to a specific request from the Council of Europe's Committee for Interreligious & Interconvictional Dialogue (CIR-ICD) to take part in an inter-religious webinar. It is planned for November 2024 as an example of peace work at the grassroots level (Israel/Palestine, Ukraine, etc.), including Women Wage Peace and Women of the Sun.

US-Israeli Rabbi Donna Kirshbaum, co-initiator of WWP, immediately expressed her interest and openness to working with other organizations, such as the Interreligious Encounter Association (IEA) in Israel, to which Jews, Christians, and Muslims belong and which is itself a member of the global organization IARF.

The WWP came together with like-minded people on July 1 to define a peace strategy whereby peace initiatives are led and guided by the hope and conviction that change can only come about peacefully — through dialog among all those involved and with the involvement of women. Their jointly formulated "Call of the Mothers" is testimony to their determination to restore hope to both peoples: "We demand that a political solution to the long and painful conflict be reached within a limited timeframe."



Esther R. Suter is a Reformed pastor in Switzerland and holds a doctorate in liberal theology. She is the permanent representative of IARF for Human Rights at the UN as well as a member of our commissions on Peace, on Human Rights and on Indigenous Rights.



# Changing the Culture of War to a Culture of Peace

*A personal journey from war-torn Berlin to global peace advocacy*

**Y**es, I am a war child. Born in Berlin, Germany, in 1941, as a very small child I heard the airplane squadrons rather than my mother. Germany had started the war with a lie and taken it to many European countries. Now the war had come to us, the Germans.

We sat in the cellar, but outside Berlin, where only the occasional bomb hit. I didn't experience the end of the war in the ruins of Berlin, but in the countryside in the American-occupied part of Germany, where my heavily pregnant mother had fled on her bicycle with a friend and my little sister and me.

Before that, we had been very lucky to reach the last Elbe barge carrying people across the river instead of coal. But I had seen how the plank that had been laid from the ship as a bridge to land broke and people and a baby carriage fell into the water. We saw low-flying planes on the way and had to get under a tree quickly, otherwise we would have been shot down.

Is it these experiences as a small child that later turned me into a peace educator and peace activist? Or was it later the realization of the immense guilt that Germany had brought upon itself through this war and the Holocaust? Or the separation from my dearest friend when the Berlin city limits of our Amer-

ican sector became an impenetrable and heavily guarded border to the Soviet zone in the hinterland?

Perhaps it was authors such as Wolfgang Borchert and Heinrich Böll who, through their haunting literature, deepened the young schoolgirl's revulsion at the destructive madness of war. In any case, I had a strong motivation very early on to do everything in my power as a teacher to prevent wars and bring about peace.

I was quite alone in this in my working environment at school; there was no internet and no email. Peace was not a high priority. How liberating it was that a peace movement was formed, even a network of European Teachers for Peace and Human Rights from the end of the 1980s. The second conference took place in 1988 in Bonn, where I lived. As a participant and a host, I got to know women from the Peace Education Commission and from "Women and the Military" of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA).

They sent me to Vienna to report on discussions about the subject of peace that took place at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This was followed by the unforgettable opportunity to attend the World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995. There, in the Peace Tent in Huairou, PeaceWomen from all over the world met for lectures, workshops and networking — soldiers' mothers from Moscow; women from Rwanda (Huti and Tutsi), from North and South Sudan, and from Mali; Japanese PeaceWomen; the "Women in Black" from Belgrade, Serbia; women from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); and "Comfort Women," former Korean sex slaves of the Japanese during the war, and many more went public at this World Conference on Women.

The energy, information, innovations, and networking opportunities at this World Conference on Women were so powerful that many women are still drawing on them today. Women from Germany, who had met in the delegation of the German Women's Council, founded the "Women's Network for Peace e.V." for organizations, groups, and individual women just a few months later.

Translating the idea of peace into practical strategies and projects through voluntary work was exciting and challenging. We participated in the international Swiss project to nominate 1.000 PeaceWomen Across the World for the Nobel Peace

Price in 1995 and later organized the German translation of all portraits as an internet version. From 2000 onwards the advocacy work for the implementation of UN Security Council's resolution 1325 on „Women, Peace and Security“ became a very important task.

In Bonn, we initiated a stele in memory of Bertha von Suttner, the first female Nobel Peace Prize winner, as well as a streetcar in her honor. Other peace initiatives in Bonn have included peer mediation programs in the region's schools, a peace trail through Bonn with a brochure, and so much more.

Over the past 15 years, we have organized many events as part of the UN Peace Day on September 21. These include demonstrations against the nuclear weapons stored in Büchel, Germany, and the annual vigils to demand "Peace is a human right" on International Human Rights Day (now adopted by the UN Assembly).

Most of these projects have involved challenging and rewarding international cooperation, work that I was able to continue in the Commission on Peace within the IAW.

## **Wars are made by people. So is peace.**

People decide which path they want to take and which logic they want to follow. But just as the craft of war must be learned, the craft of peace must also be learned. It is essential to recognize the great potential of peace education and to exploit it by providing time, financial and human resources, as well as a broad canon of know-how, for learning peace skills. We can all contribute, even through small steps, to the goal of creating a culture of peace.



Heide Schütz is a former teacher and co-founder of the Women's Network for Peace in Germany (Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V.).



## A Wave of Peace from far East

*Fostering dialogue and collaboration for lasting peace*

**B**uilding upon the momentum created by the inaugural forum in 2018, The 2019 PyeongChang Global Peace Forum set forth a vision of a peaceful world wherein focus centered on promoting peace and creating a sustainable future in line with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting the nexus between SDG 16 and Peace.

The PyeongChang Winter Olympics of February 2018 marked the beginning of new hope for peace on the Korean Peninsula, launching a diplomatic process towards dialogue and cooperation. As the two Koreas marched into the stadium under the unified Korea flag, and athletes competed together as one Korean team, the world looked towards the Korean Peninsula with encouragement and solidarity. Since then the PyeongC-

*„Evidence suggests that when women are included and have a say in decision-making, peace is more likely.“*

hang Peace Forum is a global meeting for peace-makers and peace-builders and takes place annually in PyeongChang, South Korea. It is an open platform connecting organizations and individuals who have innovative ideas, expertise, resources and passion for promoting and sustaining peace on a local and global scale.

To mark the first anniversary of this historic moment, a coalition of Korean civil society groups, with the support of local government and KOICA, convened the PyeongChang Global Peace Forum, bringing together over 500 people from 50 countries and 200 civil society organizations. This provided an opportunity for reflection upon the developments of the past year, the challenges still at play, and together develops concrete action plans towards support for the Korean Peninsula peace process, nuclear disarmament, and promotion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This gathering built upon not only the “PyeongChang Peace Spirit,” but also marked the 20th anniversary of the Hague Appeal for Peace.

Being among the top 3 final nominees for the UN peace prize, Regional head for the Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network for the Asia Pacific, Young Women Ambassador, a contributor at UNSCR2250 and strong supporter of UNSCR1325; i was invited as speaker in a range of sessions including the tv interviews and panels on the CVE/PVE, Nuclear Weapons and disarmament, and the establishment of peace and security mechanisms in the Northeast Asian region.

Evidence suggests that when women are included and have a say in decision-making, peace is more likely. Women can promote dialogue, build trust, and bridge divides. For example, women’s participation can increase the likelihood of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20 per cent and lasting 15 years by 35 per cent. However, women are often excluded from

peace processes and negotiations. In 2022, women made up only 16 per cent of negotiators in active UN-led peace processes, down from 23 per cent in 2020.

At the end a Resolution for Sustaining Peace Process in Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia was presented to the Government which highlighted the role of women, on large gender equality, in bringing peace to the region. The majority of the participants in this conference were youth and women from different walks of life. Majority of the session speakers were women. The sessions were speakers were men were observed speaking highly about the role of women doing justice to the concept of Peace in Korean peninsula. “Peace is something that needs efforts from everyone and makes progress step-by-step just like how it unfolded in South Korea past year. Everyone needs to participate in making a peaceful world.” said Director Lee Mi-kyung of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) during her keynote speech at PyeongChang Global Peace Forum and stressed upon how including women in the peace decision making process will help us achieve our goals faster. Women’s participation in peace processes can improve outcomes before, during, and after conflict.



**Our Executive Vice President Uzma Gul is a medical doctor and an internationally recognized and award-winning women’s rights activist.**

# A New Agenda for Peace – Looking Forward

*Advocating for Global Cooperation and Reform in Pursuit of Lasting Peace*

The International Alliance of Women (IAW) is an international non-governmental organization in consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947. It firmly believes that a strengthened well-functioning United Nations, working on the basis of “trust, solidarity and universality” will be able to build peace through “multilateral cooperation and collective security.” IAW strongly supports the New Agenda for Peace and wishes to contribute constructively to Member States’ and civil societies’ deliberations in preparation for the 2024 Summit of the Future.

At its 39th Triennial Congress in 2022, IAW adopted a series of resolutions of relevance to the priority areas, including a culture of peace, greenhouse gas emissions, the military, the necessity of UN Security Council Reform, as well as the fundamental human right to peaceful co-existence.

Various vital issues were raised as matters of profound concern and worry, requiring our immediate attention as an organization committed to world peace at the community level and within nation states, as well as globally and between nations. These issues included migration and displacement of populations due to conflict, violence and unrest, terrorism and border conflict; the resulting dangers faced by women and children, minorities and marginalized groups; the rise of dictatorships and fundamentalism; and the crisis in democratic institutions.

In addition were issues of colonialization and its aftermath,



which exacerbate the predicament of refugees and migrants under de-colonialization and new, sometimes shifting, borders, as well as archaic land-use and forest laws.

IAW recognizes the need to study the impact of war on climate change, economies, livelihoods, education, health care, human rights, and the fundamental ability of individuals as well as communities to survive.

It is in this vein that an invitation to a wide range of women’s NGOs and peace NGOs gains importance — from South Asia (Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Pakistan), from West Asia (Syria, Yemen, Iran, Palestine), from zones in Africa (Sudan, Nigeria and other countries), and from groups in Europe (Ukraine, Russia, Balkans, Nordic countries).

The need to address the economic roots of war, patriarchal budgets, and the role of women in peacebuilding was underscored, with plans to involve women from various conflict zones in future discussions, involving global as well as regional interactions.

Discussion and advocacy for disarmament and peacebuilding reiterates IAW’s comprehensive approach toward a culture of peace. Significantly, IAW noted with disquiet that the UN mandate for keeping peace had failed. IAW recognizes an urgent need for reform at the UN to enable the fulfilment of international peace, together with global and regional initiatives for disarmament.

Against the various issues of a crisis- and conflict-prone world, IAW was determined to build solidarity and support for sustained economic empowerment for women through a care economy, social protection systems, public spending on health-care, and gender-responsive institutions.

IAW’s action plan emphasizes the need for collaboration with human rights defenders toward the goals of empowering youth as agents of change, and ensuring inclusive decision-making processes that include women, local communities, and minorities to foster sustainable development.

**• Conflict Analysis and Advocacy for Ceasefire Initiatives:** Discussions centered around ongoing conflicts, focusing on the situations in Gaza and Ukraine, Cameroon and DRC, and the Great Lakes region, with Gaza and Ukraine of prime concern. In this regard, it was suggested that IAW strengthen collaborations and cooperation with international peace organizations, including WILPF — whose slogan “Make Peace Not War” resonates strongly today, Women Waging Peace, and other human rights activists and organizations.

**• Addressing Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** The urgency of climate change and its implications for global peace and security was addressed as a pivotal issue. Participants acknowledged the critical role of greenhouse gas emissions and war in exacerbating environmental degradation and contributing to conflicts and distress over scarce resources. Discussions underscored the need for sustainable development practices and international cooperation to mitigate climate risks, emphasizing the IAW Peace Commission’s commitment

to advocating for policies that promote environmental sustainability alongside peacebuilding. The contribution of war toward environmental degradation was also noted.

• **Advocacy for Gender-Sensitive Approaches:** Discussions emphasized the importance of including women, local communities and minorities in decision-making processes. This is essential for representing and advancing the needs and interests of all stakeholders.

Further, it was decided to have collaborations with human rights defenders for enhancing accountability, particularly in light of upcoming events such as Azerbaijan, COP29 and the Summit of the Future in September. These gatherings will focus on addressing ongoing issues related to

- Diaspora status
- Gender and Human Rights
- Militarization, peace, and climate concerns.
- Adherence to international standards set by UNHCR, UDHR, UNFCCC using pertinent facts and figures, alongside the commitment to Security Council Resolution 1325 as a way forward.

• **Culture of Peace:** The 39th Congress affirms the commitment to secure and foster a global Culture of Peace by ensuring such a culture within homes, communities, and between nations to ensure human security and sustainable development. IAW believes that gender equality and women's empowerment must be at the center of the UN Secretary General's New Agenda for Peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This would help to ensure that future generations may thrive, and that the spirit of respect, sharing, solidarity, non-violent conflict resolution, arbitration and reconciliation be practiced in everyday life and promoted by peace education.

IAW recalls the banner in front of the NGO peace tent in Huairou during the 4th UN World Conference on Women in 1995 reading „Change the Culture of War to a Culture of Peace.” IAW calls on the UN and all stakeholders to build a peace culture by increasing political and financial resources for social protection, prevention and early intervention in areas affected by violence and conflict, especially for vulnerable populations of women and girls, children, and the sick and aged.

• **Greenhouse Effects and the Military:** The 39th Congress was alarmed by the extent of global warming and the avoidance of concern for the greenhouse effect caused by the military. IAW

believes that the hazardous pollution caused by military activities worldwide and the use of prohibited chemicals like white phosphorus or cluster bombs must be formally recognized and made public.

IAW believes that it is outrageous to scandalize citizens' footprints, while remaining blind to the excessive pollution caused by military action worldwide. IAW is deeply concerned that — despite the Kyoto protocol of 1997, despite the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015, until today — the CO<sup>2</sup> and other climate-relevant emissions caused by the military, either in times of combat or in time of preparations for military activities, are not included in the statistics of worldwide emissions. For the sake of the survival of the planet and of humanity, IAW believes it is essential to highlight and amplify the scientifically proven colossal levels of emissions produced by the military. These data must be foregrounded to bring about a profound change in people's perceptions and the military system.

• **United Nations Security Council Reform:** The 39th Congress is of the reasoned view that UN Security Council structure needs urgent reform on the basis of equal responsibilities and shared power in order to achieve the objectives of the UN Charter. IAW believes that the UN General Assembly should immediately set up a Task Force mandated to propose structural changes in the UNSC.

IAW calls on the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council and all Member States to ensure that the Task Force shall be composed of 50 percent women delegates, and that the stakeholders involved as experts shall also consist of 50 percent women. Further, the Task Force should be enabled to discuss its proposed structural reforms widely within the UN; and further to ensure that a wide representation of young women, youth in general, indigenous women and men, vulnerable groups, and minorities and citizens from regions under war are invited to contribute and given a hearing.

IAW calls on the UNGA, the UNSG and the Task Force to focus their work on developing a structure in which all UN Member States will be empowered to maintain, shape and sustain peace. This would be facilitated by shared and equal power of Member States of all regions, by alternating terms, and in a balanced representation of regions. Veto rights must be eliminated.

*We must ensure the fundamental human right to live in peace and security, with access to food and medical services, without fear of endangerment, oppression and warfare.*

Finally, IAW calls on the UNGA, the UNSG, the permanent and former and current non-permanent UNSC members, all Member States, civil society, and all stakeholders to support these efforts and donate resources and capacities towards this end.

This process should be expedited and a first draft should be initiated speedily.

• **Right to Peace as a Fundamental Human Right:** We must ensure the fundamental human right to live in peace and security, with access to food and medical services, without fear of endangerment, oppression and warfare.

**In conclusion,** in the midst of conflict, violence and war, of the precarious conditions for gender equality, and of the backsliding of democratic institutions and human rights, the IAW stands firmly and steadfastly committed to the Culture of Peace and the planet as the Commonwealth of All Peoples and Beings.



Manju Kak is an Indian writer and holds a Ph.D. in art history. Manju is convener of our Commission on Peace as well as the Honorary Secretary General of All India Women's Conference and the author of *Whose Media, a Women's Space*.



## What is a feminist peace?

*Navigating the Complexities of Feminist Pacifism in a World of Conflict*

**W**hen in 2021, after 87 years, an Austrian section of the Women's League for Peace and Freedom – WILPF Austria – was founded again, it seemed to me only natural, knowing the history of our two organisations, to be there from the very beginning. Why?

In the introduction to her book *Zum Wohle der Menschheit (For the Benefit of Humanity)*, Susanne Hertrampf writes about her choice to compare “two of the oldest and best-known women's organisations, the International Alliance of Women and the Women's League for Peace and Freedom,” in terms of their political and ideological history.

“The Alliance had set itself the goal of realizing equality between men and women through rights and reforms, while the League was primarily committed to freedom rights, peacekeeping measures and the non-violent resolution of conflicts. To this end, it [WILPF] saw it as absolutely essential that women should have an equal say in shaping national and international politics. Both organisations strove for a universal legal order that would guarantee both women's rights and peace and thus serve the good of mankind.”

The history of the 1915 Peace Congress in The Hague and the founding event of WILPF, which was organised with the participation of numerous IWSA (forerunner to IAW) women (Rosika Schimmer, Aletta Jacobs, Chrystal Macmillan, as the best known) was preceded by the editing of the *International Manifesto of Women* by the IWSA, delivered on July 31, 1914, to the Foreign Office and Foreign Embassies in London, thankfully republished in the Centenary Edition of *International Women's News* (page 58).

But back to my original question: Do I see myself as a feminist pacifist – and what does that even mean? To me, it means a world of permanent peace built on feminist foundations of freedom, justice, non-violence, human rights and equality for

all, where people, the planet and all its other inhabitants coexist and flourish in harmony. There is nothing wrong with that.

Yes, of course, every war should be rejected. Should defense spending not be better invested in education and health systems? Yes, of course!

But what about civil disobedience against aggressors or gangs of murderers? What about a country's right to self-defense? Does this justify an army after all? And not just for disaster relief operations? Must there be investment in weapons, ammunition and appropriate training after all?

What do I do with Bertha von Suttner's call “Die Waffen nieder” (“Lay down your arms”) in times of a war of aggression in and against Europe and a heart-breaking conflict in the Middle East? Not to mention other conflicts which, although so far away, will certainly have an impact on my seemingly secure existence in the heart of Europe – such as migration flows triggered by military conflicts and/or the climate crisis.

Some European governments have responded to the threat situation by joining NATO, others with the intention of joining the European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI).

After careful analysis, I am in favor of both initiatives. I guess that makes me no longer a feminist pacifist.....? Is that so?



Rosy Weiss is our Honorary President as well as member of our Commission on Peace



## A Life Dedicated to Women's Rights: Joanna Manganara has passed

*Former President of the International Alliance of Women Leaves a Lasting Legacy*

**W**ith great sadness we report to you the passing of Joanna Manganara, President of International Alliance of Women from 2013 to 2020. It is an enormous loss to the women's movement in Greece especially the members of the Greek League for Women's Rights. It is always difficult to lose a mentor who had been guiding the feminist voice in Greece over the course of many years, even decades. Joanna was a worthy successor to Alice Marangopoulos who also made her mark both on the Greek League and International Alliance of Women.

An overview of her activities for IAW can be obtained by reading her President's Reports in the annual booklets from 2014-2020 under <https://womenalliance.org/publications/annual-reports/>

Trained as a sociologist at the University of Kent and the University of Geneva, she advised the Greek government as Minister Counselor for Human Rights at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the course of 25 years. In addition to her work with the Greek League for Women's rights, she was also a board member of the Greek Council for Refugees and the Hellenic Committee for UNICEF

In continuation of her early teaching experience at Panteion University, Joanna was an avid supporter of young feminists, mentoring many through the Erasmus Program. She filled her office with interns who were eager researchers in issues of women's equality in professional life. They provided fresh insights and meaty arguments in declarations she presented to the Board for adoption and articles for publication.

Joanna was always particularly concerned with the economic well-being of women and, in her work in the last years, a great proponent of the „caring economy“ which was much talked about during CSW68. The Commission on the Status of Women was always a particular focus for her as she saw that as a viable way to bring progress to the condition of women internationally.

Her fellow IAW activists remember her fondly: “I was privileged to work under. I will always remember her with gratitude. - When we stand up for the rights of women and girls, we stand on the shoulders of giants. Women like Joanna Manganara are the pioneers on whose shoulders we stand. We reach great heights by building on the achievements of our pioneering women.” (Dr. iur. Sibylle von Heydebrand)

“Je garde d'elle le souvenir d'une présidente très posée et attachée aux valeurs et à la mission de l'AIF.” (Dr. Ernestine NGO Melha)

“Joanna Manganara had enormous foresight. Years ago, now - in the early 2000s - she organised a major conference in Athens on sexual and sexist harassment. Vale Joanna Manganara - remembered as a mentor, colleague and friend.” (The Hon Dr Jocelynn A. Scutt)

Her many writings, preserved on the [womenalliance.org](http://womenalliance.org) website in volumes of the *International Women's News* and the *Annual Reports*, as well as numerous publications in other venues will serve as a perpetual memorial to her devotion to the cause of women's rights.

[Joanna Manganara was our President from 2013 to 2020](#)

## Remembering Nellie Marijke Peters: A Legacy of Feminist Activism

*Dedicated Archivist of the International Alliance of Women*

**A**n active member of the Vereniging van Vrouwenbelangen, the Netherlands Association of Women's Rights and of the International Alliance of Women as remembered by Karen Polak, Marijke's daughter

Marijke was an inspirational link in four generations of women dedicated to feminism. Growing up with a mother who in my teenage years shared the slogan 'vote for a women' with stickers and banners at each and every election, it seemed quite obvious to me that „all women“ (and most or many men) would want be committed to equal rights and equal opportunities for everybody. Paul, my father, certainly supported my mother in her feminist activities. In New York Marijke took me to the United Nations, to meet with Kay Fraleigh-Potts, the IAW's permanent representative at the UN.

Even so, I wasn't really aware of the unique role Marijke took on, when she became active in 'Vrouwenbelangen' and later, as a board member of the IAW. I heard of her trips to Geneva to attend the meetings of the International Labour Organisation and the travels to conference 'all over': Burkina Faso, Santo Domingo, Reykjavik and in 2007 India, with Arina Angerman and her son Douwe at her side.

I'm proud to commemorate Marijke the feminist, the activist and the ardent archivist of the International Alliance of Women. In the early 1990's she asked me if I knew historians who would want to take on the task of writing a book about the Vereniging of Vrouwenbelangen that was to celebrate it's centenary in 1994. It was very special to have two of my close friends work intensively with my mother and other women's historians on the book *Vrouwenstemmen*.

She went on to work with Helen Self (daughter of another

IAW member, Constance Rover) on a publication covering 100 years of the International Alliance of Women that was presented at the Centenary in Berlin in 2004.

When Priscilla Todd shared memories of their friendship which started in the late 1980s while planning the IAW 1989 Congress in Melbourne, I was reminded of a book that was an inspiration for Marijke, edited by Mineke Bosch: *Politics and Friendship*

With Marijke's parting a generation of feminists has left the stage for our generation and the one to come. At least that is what my mother was hoping for. Let's honour her memory by walking in her footsteps: by aiming for equal rights and by taking care of our planet.

9 July 2024, Karen Polak, Marijke's daughter



## Farewell, Gudrun Haupter

*The International Alliance of Women mourns the loss of Gudrun Haupter who passed in February this year.*

**A** loyal friend, companion, source of inspiration and committed comrade has left us. She is already prominently represented in our annals and will probably remain so in future publications.

Brigitte Pross and Inge Heyl knew very well to whom they entrusted the continuation of cooperation with West African member organizations of the IAW. Not only because of Gudrun's excellent knowledge of French, but also because of her dedication to an initiative that had once been recognized as important.

Gudrun was very interested in women's health. Since our 1989 congress in Melbourne, she represented IAW positions at the World Health Organization in Geneva, well prepared by the Health Commission of our organization, which Gudrun chaired for many years in an exemplary manner.

Family planning and the right of women to make their own decisions in all aspects of reproductive health also took Gudrun to Cairo in 1994 for the major UN conference on population and development.

The appalling taboo surrounding menstruation in many countries around the world, with women and girls in Nepal, for example, starving during their periods and being banished to shabby huts, provided the impetus for Gudrun's last project, "Water and Pads", being carried out together with Ursula Nakamura.

The result of surveys sent out to IAW membership organizations on site was overwhelming. They were all aware of the dreadful taboos in their regions, and most of them wanted to get involved. Just a few months later, Gudrun was able to present a rough outline of the project at the IAW Congress in Cyprus in 2017, and the participants were immediately fascinated by it. It quickly became clear that these cruel customs can only be prevented thanks to education and awareness.

Once again, Gudrun's language skills proved their worth, as the project's educational booklets, some of which were designed by IAW, are distributed to several thousand enthusiastic schoolchildren every year by dedicated teachers at special events.

Finally, I would like to refer once again to Gudrun's article in the Centenary Edition mentioned above. In it, she herself concludes with her own philosophy of life, a valuable legacy for us today:

"As we all know it is individuals who weave relationships and hold them up. In my experience they both enrich your life – and keep you very busy".

Thank you, Gudrun!

Obituary presented by Rosy Weiss, Honorary IAW President, at the occasion of the funeral service February 22, 2024



## SUFFs – an award-winning musical about the suffrage movement

SUFFs is the two-time Tony Award-winning musical about the lives of change-makers in the women’s suffrage movement of 1920, like Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt. Although presented as a musical, it tackles a serious topic – and clearly having women be able to vote adds to peace, right? Produced by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Malala Yousafzai, it’s now on Broadway in New York City. I plan to take my granddaughters to see it, so they can learn more about this important chapter in women’s history.  
– Kathleen Montgomery

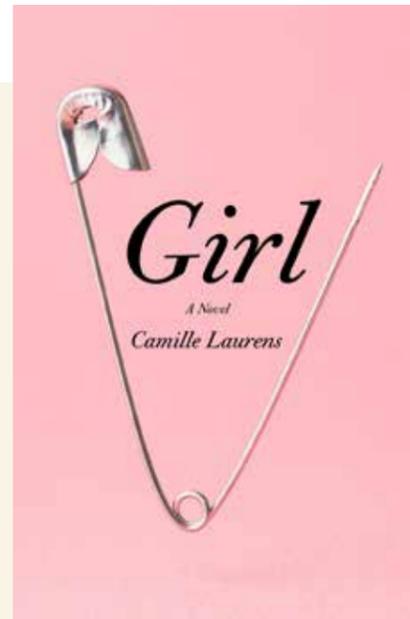
SUFFs now on Broadway, <https://suffsmusical.com>

## „Girl“: A Powerful Exploration of Gender and Identity

„Girl“, while not specifically a book about peace, this is one of the most interesting and best women’s books I have read in a long time. The award-winning French journalist Camille Laurens describes how she had to learn very early in life that girls are apparently worth less than boys. Her father, a doctor, is asked if he has children, and the young protagonist hears him reply: „No, I have two girls.“ Great autofiction in which Laurens takes us back to her childhood in France in the 1960s, to her young adult years and right up to the present day.

– Kerstin Löffler

„Girl“ by Camille Laurens, Penguin Random House



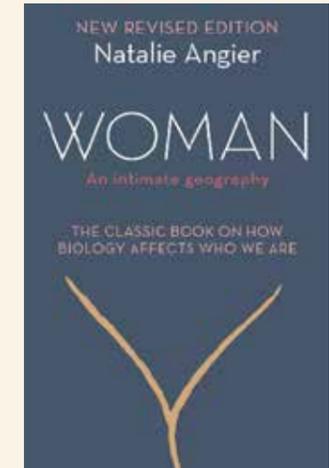
## 1.000 Women and a Dream

A fascinating documentation of an outstanding peace project that never got the international publicity that it deserved – one thousand women to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize back in 2005. In 60 minutes, the film shows the stunning process of the development of a wholistic understanding of peace by a Swiss project team as well as twenty international coordinators. You can learn from five women, dedicated activists from different parts of the globe, who were chosen as examples working in different fields of activities that contribute to peace – reconciliation and reconstruction, good governance, disarmament, peace education, environmental justice and ecological security, humanitarian aid and more. My guess: You will want to see the film more than once. And did I mention you can watch it for free?

– Heide Schütz

[www.1000womenfilm.ch/1000frauen.m4v](http://www.1000womenfilm.ch/1000frauen.m4v)

## Women – An Intimate Geography



It is not about peace, but it is a book I have been recommending to all my friends: „Woman – An Intimate Geography“ by Natalie Angier.

„With the clarity, insight, and sheer exuberance of language that make her one of The New York Times’s premier stylists, Pulitzer Prize-winner Natalie Angier lifts the veil of secrecy from that most enigmatic of evolutionary masterpieces, the female body. Angier takes readers on a mesmerizing tour of female anatomy and physiology that explores everything from organs to orgasm, and delves into topics such as exercise, menopause, and the mysterious properties of breast milk.“ (Google books)

The chapter on the egg in the ovary is already worth buying the book for. The author’s sense of humor is another element that I enjoyed, although some of it may be culturally defined. I have been living in my women’s body and considered myself well-informed (having come of age with the classic Our Bodies Our Selves) but I found much new to marvel at.

– Alison Brown, President

„Woman – An Intimate Geography“ by Natalie Angier, Virago

## NEW MEMBER



### QUESTIONNAIRE

## Maria Longobardi

#### COUNTRY

Geneva, Switzerland  
(originally from Pompei, Italy)

#### PROFESSION

Physicist, University of Basel, Managing Director at the National Center for Quantum Computing (NCCR SPIN)

#### IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE GENDER INJUSTICE OVERNIGHT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

It would be the learning and knowledge gap. Access to education and information are crucial for empowerment, enabling individuals to make conscious choices and progress in life. When one gender is denied these opportunities, it not only limits personal growth but also perpetuates inequality. Education should be a right for everyone, regardless of gender, as it forms the foundation for freedom, self-determination, and societal advancement.

#### WHAT WAS YOUR "AHA MOMENT" IN TERMS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS?

My 'aha moment' came while running the Distinguished Students (DS) Program at the American Physical Society in 2021. I have had the privilege of chairing this program for the

past decade, dedicated to nurturing young talent in physics. In 2021, the program focused on regions like Jordan, Pakistan, and North Africa—areas where women often face significant barriers to pursuing careers in science. To my great delight, almost all the winners that year were female students from these regions. Seeing these talented young women excel in physics, a field traditionally dominated by men, made me realize just how much potential is out there when women are given equal opportunities.

#### WHICH WOMAN FROM YOUR PERSONAL ENVIRONMENT INSPIRES YOU THE MOST AND WHY?

Mildred Dresselhaus, often celebrated as the "Queen of Carbon Science," is a towering figure in the world of physics and a source of immense inspiration to me. As a physicist myself, I deeply admire her groundbreaking contributions to materials science and nanotechnology, particularly her pioneering work with carbon-based materials. Her role as an educator and mentor has had a profound impact on countless young scientists, especially women, encouraging them to pursue careers in STEM fields.

If you are a new member and would like to introduce yourself in one of the next issues, please write to us at [iawiwn@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawiwn@womenalliance.org)

## PREVIEW

### SEPTEMBER

## We're meeting in Bulgaria

Our International Meeting is approaching! We will gather from September 5-9 in Bankya, outside the Bulgarian capital, Sofia. Bulgaria is home to our newest IAW member organization, the Bulgarian Platform – European Women's Lobby, and we will be welcomed by European Women's Lobby President, Iliana Balabanova.

A central topic will be our Congress, which takes place every three years. The IAW Board will meet with the leaders of Associate and Affiliate organizations to discuss the direction, plans and goals of the organization's members and their directions to

One item on the opening program that we are particularly looking forward to is a presentation by Honorary President Rosy Weiss from Austria entitled, "Traveling in Politics and Friendship." Rosy will talk about her memories of three decades in the IAW. "What I wanted first and foremost was to pay tribute to the women of the Alliance, who in the past made dreams of franchise and equality become true," writes Rosy in her almost 70-page memoir. Younger members of the IAW also will have the opportunity to discuss with Rosy during our meeting.

Our next issue will focus on health. If you would like to write something, have a good idea for a topic or would like to contribute to the issue in any other way, please get in touch – we look forward to hearing from you at [iawiwn@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawiwn@womenalliance.org)



their umbrella organization. Afterwards, the Board will meet to take actions guided by the advice. Dr. KG Vijayalekshmy, founder of IAW Affiliate Women Empowerment and Human Resource Development Centre of India, will invite us to the south of India in 2025, offering Thiruvananthapuram as venue of the XL Congress.

Additional activities on the program include a seminar on the tradition of women's networking, to be held as a roundtable featuring the two newest organizational members and a keynote address by Susan M. Breall, judge in the Superior Court for the City and County of San Francisco and Co-Chair of the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking.

Ursula Nakamura will present the status of our lighthouse project, "Water and Pads for School Girls," which reaches girls through Affiliates and Associates in Africa and Asia.

Looking back over the 120 years of International Alliance of Women, President Alison Brown will speak about the great potential of the Alliance as an international network, highlighting IAW's key achievements, as well as future organizational and political development. We will of course report on everything afterwards.

# International Women's News

## Nouvelles féministes internationales

*Journal of the International Alliance of Women*

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS is an open Forum for information and opinion on matters of importance to women. It is published by the International Alliance of Women. Items for publication in English should be sent to the Editor: Kerstin Löffler, email: [iawiwn@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawiwn@womenalliance.org)

Individual membership of IAW includes an annual subscription to International Women's News.

You can easily make a payment directly to IAW bank account by using the online payment system on our website. To do so, please go to the website: [www.womenalliance.org](http://www.womenalliance.org), choose JOIN US! MEMBERSHIP > Membership fee+Donation in the top menu and follow instructions.

You may prefer instead to submit the fee via bank transfer. If so, please send the amount due to: Alliance Internationale des Femmes: Droits égaux-Responsabilités égales | Genève PostFinance, CH-3030, Bern, Switzerland | EURO account: IBAN: CH96 0900 0000 9182 4969 4 BIC/SWIFT : POFICHBEXXX | Bank address : Mingerstrasse 20, 3030 Bern, Switzerland.

To avoid possible difficulties in the identification of the payment, we would be grateful if you could mention your name and purpose of payment in the subject of the transfer.

Membership enquiries, change of address, and back numbers: contact the Membership Officer, Lene Pind, email: [members@womenalliance.org](mailto:members@womenalliance.org)

Les NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES INTERNATIONALES, publiées par l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes, constituent un forum ouvert pour l'information et l'opinion sur des questions importantes pour les femmes. Les textes en français destinés à la publication dans les NFI doivent être envoyés à la rédactrice: Kerstin Löffler, email: [iawiwn@womenalliance.org](mailto:iawiwn@womenalliance.org)

Merci de choisir l'une de ces options pour envoyer votre cotisation. Il est facile de faire un versement direct sur le compte de l'AIF en utilisant le système de paiement en ligne sur notre site Web. Pour cela merci de vous rendre sur le site: [www.womenalliance.org](http://www.womenalliance.org) et de choisir JOIN US! MEMBERSHIP Membership fee+Donation du menu en haut de la page et de suivre les instructions.

Vous pouvez aussi envoyer votre cotisation par transfert bancaire. Dans ce cas envoyer la somme à l'adresse suivante: Alliance internationale des femmes. Droits égaux - responsabilités égales Genève | PostFinance, CH-3030, Bern, Switzerland | EURO account: IBAN: CH96 0900 0000 9182 4969 4 | BIC/SWIFT: POFICHBEXXX | Adresse de la banque: Mingerstrasse 20, 3030 Bern, Switzerland.

Afin d'éviter des problèmes d'identification du paiement nous vous serions reconnaissantes de bien vouloir mentionner votre nom, avec l'objet de votre transfert.

Pour des informations concernant l'adhésion à l'AIF, pour informer des changements d'adresse, ou pour se procurer des vieux numéros particuliers, contacter l'Officier des adhérents, Lene Pind, email: [members@womenalliance.org](mailto:members@womenalliance.org)

